

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON
ON MONDAY, 27th September, 2021 AT 2.15 pm.**

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| PRESENT: | Councillor Joe Murphy, Cathaoirleach 2021/2022 | PRESIDED |
| MEMBERS: | Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr M. McDermott, Cllr A. Waldron, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher and Cllr L. Callaghan. | |
| OFFICIALS: | Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive Majella Hunt, Director of Services Shane Tieman, Director of Services Caitlin Conneely, A/Director of Services Sean Mullarkey, Acting Head of Finance Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator Claudette Collins, Asst. Staff Officer Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator | |

Apologies:

90.21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Crosby

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of 26.07.2021

91.21 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

92.21 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Management Reports for July and August 2021 noted.

93.21 LAND DISPOSAL - ASSETS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor McDermott

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 of:

The Property: 0.2091hA (0.517a) at Loughlackagh, Ballydangan, Athlone, Co. Roscommon

The person(s) from whom the lands was acquired: TII for construction of M6 motorway

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed to: Rackzone Ltd, Ballydangan, Athlone, Co. Roscommon

The consideration in respect of the disposal: €10,000

The proposed disposal is Subject to Contract, Contract Denied and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed in the Contract for Sale.

94.21 LEASE OF LANDS - ASSETS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the lease 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 lease 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 lease:

The Property: Site comprising 1.6143 hA (3.99 acres) at Lisnamult Td., Roscommon

The person(s) to whom the land is to be leased: Lisnamult Resident Association CLG, Lisnamult, Co. Roscommon

The consideration proposed in respect of the lease: €100

Term of the Lease: 10 years

95.21 PRESENTATION - STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN ROSCOMMON TOWN

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Eamonn Seydak of S3 Solutions Ltd. to give a remote presentation to the Elected Members on the Strategic Plan that was commissioned by Roscommon County Council:

The terms of reference for the plan were as follows:

- Establish the requirement for community sports and recreational facilities in Roscommon Town from the perspective of local community, sporting bodies, schools and any other identified stakeholders.
- Consult with sporting bodies and schools to prepare draft masterplan outlining proposed facilities, considering existing sports and recreational facilities.
- Conduct an initial audit of available zoned suitable space within the town and prepare a shortlist of suitable locations for the possible establishment of community sports and recreational facilities based on the draft masterplan. A technical specification conducted by an architect or similar is not required as part of this tender brief.
- Carry out broad inclusive community consultation based on the draft masterplan.
- Recommend preferred site for location of agreed community sports and recreational facilities, a sustainable business model with defined development costs, operational costs and the key income generating projects/ elements that will sustain the project.
- Identify possible funding streams for development of the facility and include possible prioritised phases of development of the facility

Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- a web based survey (34 responses received)
- 10 individual meetings with key stakeholders including Roscommon County Council, Roscommon Local Sports Partnership, Development Officers for IFA, IRFU and GAA in Roscommon, Roscommon Community College, Lisnamult Community Association, Convent of Mercy School, Roscommon County GAA Board, Roscommon CBS, Roscommon Town Teams
- Site visits to various sporting and recreational facilities across Roscommon Town
- Overall, 42 different organisations contributed to the consultation process

The Masterplan is a vision for sports facilities:

Capital Vision:

- Development of an indoor four court sports hall with run off capacity, the building will also provide a small number (2) of flexible multipurpose studio spaces and changing provision
- One outdoor, multi-sport, multi lined and floodlit 3G pitch
- Development of one grass pitch
- Development of a perimeter trail that enables recreational walking, but offers suitable provision for athletics training and cycling

Strategic Objectives:

- To develop a hub of community sport and recreational facilities on one site that facilitates participation opportunities for a minimum of 5000 individuals per annum
- To provide a minimum of 50 additional hours per week of playing pitch access on the 3G pitch for local clubs
- To provide a minimum of 16 additional hours per week of floodlit grass pitch access per week for local clubs
- To reduce travel time to other facilities by local clubs by 20% per annum
- To become a self-sustaining sport and recreational facility by year 3
- To promote partnership working and collaboration between local authority, statutory agencies, NGB's and local sport and community providers to enhance participation opportunities for Roscommon Town and beyond.

It is estimated that approximately 15-20 acres are required to deliver the project. The following were considered in the identification of potential development sites:

- Land falling under the ownership of Roscommon County Council as project promoters
- Lands zoned for amenity and recreation as per the area plan
- Lands with identified or established plans for sporting and recreational activity
- Other planned developments and potential to connect sport and recreation
- Lands with proximity to infrastructural works such as road improvements or new development

The preferred Option is Site 5:

Lands under the ownership/management of the Sisters of Convent Mercy school and Roscommon County Council, existing provision includes grass and shale pitches, outdoor basketball/ tennis courts and an indoor hall. Located adjacent to existing leisure centre.

The recommendation is that Roscommon Leisure Centre Ltd take on the management and operation of the facility as an extension of existing remit.

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association, Volleyball Ireland, Basketball Ireland, and Special Olympics Ireland have offered letters of support indicating regular use of the facilities as well as facilitating regionally significant events and activities.

29 clubs responded to a follow up usage survey, they identified that the facilities provided would enable an additional 161 hours of sport and physical activity provision per week. Consultation respondents represent 4962 people

The initial feasibility study conservatively indicates revenue in the region of €111,480 - €131,480 per annum from year 1 vs estimated expenditure of €118,479- €138,479. Roscommon Leisure Centre Ltd currently receives council subvention. The new facilities will also create a requirement for 122 additional employment hours, 3.25 FTE roles

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- Application to Stream 1 of LSSIF – recommendation accepted and secured partial funding towards the detailed design process
- Proceed to procurement of a design team to develop detailed design and secure planning permission

- Engage with the Department regarding a future LSSIF stream 2 application towards the capital costs of the project
- Reaffirm NGB support for the project, in particular, follow ups with development officers from LGFA, Special Olympics, Basketball, Volleyball and others to would add weight to future stream 2 applications
- Continue to consult with wider community to generate support and buy in for the project, as well as connecting project to other strategic developments (i.e. URDF)

The members welcomed the presentation and this project that will be of great benefit to Roscommon town and its environs:

- The recommended site is a great choice which will benefit the adjacent school that has no indoor facilities.
- The jobs it will create will be welcome and self-sustainable.
- This will be a huge investment for the town and much needed.
- These facilities are vital in every community – has there been any consultation with Roscommon GAA who are looking for a site of excellence.?
- Voluntary groups that have their own facilities cannot be affected by this project
- When the project was at the initial stages an athletics track surrounding the 3G pitch was included in the proposal – why has this been omitted?
- People have been doing a lot of walking in the past two years and an athletics/walking track is a needed facility
- Were local athletics clubs consulted?
- There is still a site in Lisnamult that can be developed and athletics can be grown in the county.

In response to the questions Mr. Seydak said that the need for an athletics track was not raised as much as the need for an indoor sports hall and outdoor pitch and it was not prioritised. Demand for pitches outstrip supply in the area and an indoor hall is the biggest priority. All local organisations including athletics clubs were consulted.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fallon

SECONDED by Cllr. Leyden

It was **AGREED** that a review of the Strategic Plan for the Development of Community, Sport and Recreational Facilities in Roscommon Town be undertaken to assess if an athletics track can be included as part of the project.

96.21 UPDATE ON DRAFT BUDGET 2022

Mr. Sean Mullarkey, A/Head of Finance updated the members on the Draft Budget for 2022.

The dates for the Municipal District Budget meetings are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Boyle MD: | Friday 22nd October 2021 at 2.30pm |
| Athlone MD: | Thurs 21st October 2021 at 2.30pm |
| Roscommon MD: | Tues 26th October 2021 at 2.30pm |

Projected Loss of Income 2022:

- Rates €450,000 (Provision for 50% of debt to 2020)
- Rents- currently 2% below 2021 levels
- Goods and Services Income – overall uncertainty post Covid 19 economic environment
- Uncertainty regarding Government supports
 - Q4 2021 Rates Waiver & 2022 support unlikely
- NPPR Income reduction €35,000

Projected Increased Expenditure 2022:

- Pension Increases €500,000+
- Increased salary costs of €244,000 or 2%
- Library funding €75,000 required
- Climate Action & Active Travel
- Match Funding of €5m required for approved totaling €25m
 - Town & Village
 - Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)
 - Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)
- Covid-19 ongoing costs €150,000 (Leisure Centre €100,000; PPE €50,000)
- Lough Funshinagh €150,000
- Survey Inspection of RCC Buildings €50,000
- Town Team Funding of €60,000 (maintained at 2021 levels)

The Elected Members welcomed the update.

- In relation to the rates rebate from the Government that has been in place from January to September, it was suggested that ratepayers cannot be expected to pay the final 3 month tranche for 2021 as they get back on their feet following lockdown and incentivise businesses to stay open. All Oireachtas members should be lobbied by the elected members to ensure this happens.
- The Council must continue to support the matched funding schemes in 2022
- MD Funding is a vital lifeline for the communities and it was suggested it be restored to €100,000
- In response to a query on any LPT shortfall, no further updates have been received from the Department. The model is at very early stages of development.
- We should borrow to invest in our towns and villages due to the current low interest rates and look at fixing the interest rates.
- The way people are doing business has changed and we need as a county to find a way to tax companies selling online.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Naughten
SECONDED by Cllr. Ward

It was **AGREED** that a letter be written to the Minister of Finance to extend the rates waiver for businesses to the end of 2021.

97.21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

- **Lough Funshinagh:** The Chief Executive stated he had intended to give an update on Lough Funshinagh but the RTE Prime Time Programme last Thursday set out everyone's position on the situation including the difficulties for the local community and he has nothing further to add at this time.
- **Housing Award; Roscommon County Council's new** housing development at Cluain Faogh, Lanesboro Road, Roscommon won the category prize of 'Housing for Families' small projects at the ICSH Allianz Biennial Community Housing Awards. The Awards showcase innovative and sustainable social housing projects that Approved Housing Bodies and Local Authorities deliver for communities across the country. The Chief Executive commended all of the housing staff for their contribution to this scheme and their success. The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Members congratulated all involved in the project.
- **Municipal District Area Offices:** Cllr. Crosby asked the Chief Executive if he would be making an announcement with regard to the status of the Strokestown, Castlerea and Ballaghaderreen Area Offices. The Chief Executive confirmed that a report was presented to the Corporate Policy Group this morning on recent audit of the Municipal District Area offices and that three of the offices have been closed to the public for the past 18 months due to Covid.

The Director of Services Mr. Shane Tiernan informed the members that the Audit Report will be presented to the next Audit Committee meeting. The Auditor completed a detailed report solely on the

administrative workflow including timesheets and payments. This was carried out in the six-month period prior to Covid (March 2020) and a total of 21 recommendations were made. The report found that 82% of the work of the area office is back office work, and footfall accounts for less than one person per day.

The Council must consolidate the administrative functions of the area offices and therefore cannot guarantee offices to be open every day. There is a continued focus on progressing Digital Transformation using online services. There is also very limited money being collected in the offices and there are no protections in place for staff dealing with money in some of the offices. In addition, there is a continued focus on remote working and there would be a substantial investment in health and safety measures required in some of the offices. The Boyle, Roscommon and Athlone offices would continue to be open to public but the other three offices closed but with technical staff remaining to work there.

In response the Cathaoirleach expressed his disappointment at the proposal to close three of the area offices to the public because once the offices are closed they will never reopen. Some people need face to face interaction with staff to carry out their business and to take this away would be a big blow to some people.

The elected members all spoke on the issue and supported the Cathaoirleach.

- This is a retrograde step – for example people living in Mount Delvin are 50km from Roscommon town which will be their nearest office.
- There is still a large proportion of the population that is not up to date on technology
- When Covid came, it was difficult to get through to area offices as the calls were diverted to HQ.
- All services should at the very least be provided in the local libraries
- The area offices should have been invested in years ago to make the fit for purpose
- This is a very sad day for Roscommon County Council as we are sending a bad message to our small local communities – this is the start of closing all area offices.
- Want a guarantee that area offices will not close completely. The Council is down engineering staff in the Boyle Rea in and Castlerea. The big towns will survive but the small ones will not and this decision should be reversed
- All of these towns and villages are paying tax and have reducing services.
- Are figures available for cost savings?
- Statistics can be presented in any way to make any case you want but you must remember the disenfranchised.
- Footfall is a loss to a small town.
- The area staff are so helpful to the people in the local area and it's not fair on them – there is no need to change what's working.
- Phones diverted to HQ for area matters is not working.
- We cannot have a disconnect between Roscommon County Council and the people of the county.
- The terms of reference for the Audit Report should be circulated to councillors.
- The Bank of Ireland in Elphin is closing on 7th October and this is another blow to the local community.
- The area office is the first point of contact for people with Roscommon county with a local problem and while an online system for complaints is in place there is not always follow up. Statistics are one thing – reality is different.
- It is sad to think that as a Local Authority we are centralising services when as local politicians we want decentralisation.
- Town and Village renewal means people want services and need them – we should be able to see the value in our local offices.
- Even accepting that the pandemic forces a lot of services online and in many cases quite successfully, there is still a considerable proportion of the population left behind because they are unable to use of have access.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Crosby
SECONDED by Cllr. Murphy

It was **AGREED** that a small group of public representatives form a working group to look at this proposal.

The Chief Executive replied that he flagged the move to Digital Transformation three years ago. In the past 18 months the Council were able to look after everyone through the community forum and digital transformation projects and the improvements to broadband infrastructure facilitated this. At the presentation of the draft annual budget, it is stated that services are provided efficiently and we strive to spend money in the most efficient way possible. Modernisation will continue and we have scarce and busy human resources that must provide services in the best way possible. There is no hidden agenda and members are welcome to set up a working group. This is a good news story where we are creating efficiencies and Staff will be assigned where they are most effective and it is not envisaged that there will ever be a time when there will be no technical staff in area offices.

98.21 APPOINTMENT OF PPN NOMINEE FOR THE ATHLONE MD VACANCY ON THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Ward
SECONDED by Cllr. Naughten

It was **AGREED** to appoint the PPN nominee Mr. Jack Cunniffe of the Drum Heritage Group to the Joint Policing Committee to represent the Athlone MD.

99.21 NOTICES OF MOTION

99.21a 18.21 UPDATE ON 2021 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - CLLR. NAUGHTEN

“That Roscommon County Council outline how many applications were received in 2021 for the Local Improvement Scheme and when Roscommon County Council will open the scheme up for new applications.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

A total of 69 applications were received in 2021. There were also six applications on hand from 2020. Following an examination of the applications and elimination of ineligible applicants, 32 projects received offers of grant assistance. Of these, two applicants declined their offers of grant assistance leaving a total of 30 projects progressing across the six Operational Areas. In total Roscommon County Council received an overall allocation of €445,495.00. There are six applicants remaining on the secondary list. The total value of the works on the secondary list is €150,293.

An update on the Scheme was presented to the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held on 15th September 2021. A decision was made to advertise for expressions of interest in December 2021, subject to and in anticipation of funding becoming available in 2022

Cllr. Naughten welcomed the reply and the reopening of the scheme in December. He queried the fact that there were 69 applications and only 30 deemed eligible for the scheme and asked that the SPC look at the scheme application process and the amount of information requested in order to simplify the process.

The motion received widespread support from the members and noted:

- The application process is too strict and needs to be simplified and manual applications accepted.
- The Council should draw down as much money as possible from the Department to fund applications.
- Support the proposal that where there is one landowner and one house, the application should be

- deemed eligible
- Open laneways in towns and villages that are not eligible for CIS or LIS – the scheme should be expanded to include provision for these situations.

In reply Mr. Shane Tieman, Director of Services stated that the LIS was discussed at the SPC. Roscommon has the best system in place nationally to deal with applications and the Area expertise to carry out the schemes. The criteria is set down nationally and applications that are refused are not in compliance with the scheme. Work will be done streamlining the maps in the application process and an email point of contact is sufficient. He also noted that there were national changes to the scheme during the year.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Cllr.

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister to expand the Local Improvement Scheme to include for laneways with multiple users.

99.21b 19.21 PERMITS TO FISH THE RIVER SUCK - CLLR. WALDRON

“That this Council propose to the Minister with responsibility for Inland Fisheries Ireland that the current necessity for a permit to fish the River Suck be withdrawn”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

This Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Cllr. Waldron stated that the River Suck is 200km in length with all its tributaries and the requirement for a permit to fish the river is a barrier to tourism while also a great activity uniting all generations.

The motion was welcomed by the members as this is a legacy permit from the Central Fisheries Board. It is a barrier to tourism and difficult to organise festivals with the extra costs of permits. Young people are also taking up fishing and should be encouraged as this is a skill and art that is dying out.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Waldron
SECONDED by Cllr. Leyden

It was **AGREED** to write to Minister Eamonn Ryan to request that the requirement to have a permit to fish the River Suck and its tributaries be immediately removed as it is a barrier to fishing tourism. It was further agreed that the Motion be circulated to the Ballinasloe Municipal District and to Westmeath County Council.

99.21c 20.21 CCTV ON SHANNON BRIDGE RIVER CROSSINGS - CLLR. CROSBY

That Roscommon County Council call on the Minister for Finance and the Government to provide funding for the installation of CCTV on all Shannon River Bridge Crossings and fund a pilot scheme for CCTV for all Villages and Towns in County Roscommon.

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

This Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Cllr. Crosby stated that CCTV is a major asset in combatting crime. This has been shown to be effective in most towns and villages across the UK and Europe.

The members supported the motion stating that this should be funded centrally and new technology will make such an initiative easier to achieve.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Crosby
SECONDED by Cllr. Naughten

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Finance and the Government to provide funding for the installation of CCTV on all Shannon River Bridge Crossings and fund a pilot scheme for CCTV for all Villages and Towns in County Roscommon.

100.21 QUESTIONS

100.21a 02.21 N5 SIGNAGE HIGHLIGHTING HISTORICAL AND TOURISM ATTRACTIONS- CLLR .CROSBY

Would the Director of Services inform the meeting what plans are in place to erect adequate information and marketing signage highlighting the many historical and tourist attractions on the N5 National primary road from Tarmonbarry to Ballaghadreen I.e. the National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park House, Rathcroghan, Percy French Birthplace, The Douglas Hyde Centre etc. This marketing is essential to promote the towns and villages along the route to reduce the economic impact of the new N5 bypass.

The following reply was circulated by the Meetings Administrator:

Directional road signage (including tourist and leisure signage) in respect of the National road network must be developed fully in accordance with TII Standard, "Traffic Signs Approvals Procedure" and is subject to the approval of TII. Furthermore, the provision of signage in respect of tourist attractions, is governed by national policy as set out in the publication entitled "Policy on the provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads." (copy attached).

I can confirm that all proposed road signage on the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramogue road project has been developed in full consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and in accordance with all relevant Standards and Policy. The approved project signage strategy includes key tourist attractions in Roscommon.

100.21b 03.21 CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW N5 - CLLR. CROSBY

Would the Director of Services inform the meeting of the start date and approximate completion date for the construction of the new N5 and confirm that the construction works will commence at the Scramogue Strokestown side? Furthermore at what stage will planning restrictions ease on the old N5 which will of course lose its national primary status?

The following reply was circulated by the Meetings Administrator:

The main construction contract is using the Design and Build Form of Contract whereby the Contractor carries out the Design, Construction and Execution of the Works. The main construction contract was awarded on 16 June 2021 and the Design process and preparatory works, including the development of the detailed construction programme are currently ongoing. The expected construction completion date is June 2024. At this stage it is not possible to advise as to where actual works will commence on-site. This is a matter entirely for the appointed Contractor and his construction methodology and programme.

The existing N5 will be reclassified to Regional road status between Frenchpark and its junction with the new N5 east of Strokestown subsequent to the opening of new N5 (anticipated to be June 2024). It is anticipated that following the opening of the new N5 in 2024, and the redesignation of the various sections of the existing N5 from National road to Regional road status, planning policy will reflect this new reality.

101.21 CORRESPONDENCE

Replies to Resolutions from Roscommon County Council:

- **3rd August, 2021** – Reply from Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to correspondence, reference 4.21, concerning the development of a farm and domestic dwelling relocation scheme in response to flooding at Lough Funshinagh.
- **3rd August, 2021** – Reply from Mary Butler, T.D. Minister for Mental Health and Older People to correspondence, reference 24.21d, concerning the Fair Deal Scheme.
- **16th September, 2021** – Reply from Mr. Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State for Community Development and Charities.

Resolutions from other Local Authorities:

- **6th August, 2021 - Resolution from Leitrim County Council**

That Leitrim County Council, in the interests of safety and in light of recent incidents, we bring in a by-law banning all jet-skis and speed boats on the River Shannon. That this motion be forwarded to Roscommon County Council, Boyle Municipal District and the National Parks & Wildlife Services seeking their support.

- **9th August, 2021 - Resolution from Donegal County Council**

Members of Donegal County Council demand that Donegal County Council stop immediately (a) the collection of the LPT and commercial rates from the victims that have been destroyed by Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite and that they refund all monies back to the victims.

- **10th August, 2021 - Resolution from Sligo County Council**

That Sligo County Council write to the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach requesting that without delay the work of Frontline workers be remunerated.

- **10th August, 2021 - Resolution from Wicklow County Council**

Wicklow County Council calls for the National Maternity Hospital to be constructed on land owned and governed by the state.

- **14th August, 2021 - Resolution from Leitrim County Council**

That Leitrim County Council write to the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the Minister for Agriculture seeking to have our river drainage boards reinstated, in this County, in order to alleviate the serious water-logging of agricultural land and very serious flooding in many areas.

- **14th August, 2021 - Resolution from Leitrim County Council**

That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to introduce a comprehensive housing grant scheme for the renovation or reconstruction of old and derelict houses in rural areas and in towns and villages.

- **15th August, 2021 - Resolution from Clare County Council**

That Clare County Council call on Heather Humphries, Minister of Rural and Community Development to extend the date for works for the Streetscape enhancement scheme to be completed from 5th November, 2021 to allow successful applicants sufficient time to complete same.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Shanagher

SECONDED by Cllr. Ward

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister of Rural and Community Development to extend the date of the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for works to be completed from 5th November to allow applicants sufficient time to complete same.

Other Correspondence:

- **4th August, 2021 – HSE Memo**

The HSE have established a dedicated email address for all political representations concerning

Primary Care Services across Community Healthcare West. This email address will be monitored daily and responses will be issued in line with national timelines.

• **7th September, 2021 - Call 2 URDF Preliminary Approval - Roscommon Town Centre**

Preliminary approval from the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the inclusion of Roscommon County Council's Roscommon Town Centre-Putting the Spokes back into the Hub proposal in the URDF supported capital programme and approval to move to the next stage of the project lifecycle, preliminary business case stage.

• **9th September, 2021 – Notice of Commencement from Roscommon County Council**

Notice that the audit of the accounts of the above-named local government organisation for the financial year ended on the 31st day of December, 2020 will be commenced by Ms. Mary Keaney, Local Government Auditor, on the 20th day of August 2021.

102.21 APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCILLOR TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

The following list of training and conferences were approved for attendance:

| | | |
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| AIG Training Programme Module 1: | The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre, Waterford | Saturday 18th Sept 2021. |
| | Co. Wicklow (Hotel venue TBC) | Thursday 23rd Sept 2021 |
| | Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo | Saturday 2nd Oct 2021 |
| | The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway | Thursday 7th Oct 2021 |
| Celtic Conferences The Fair Deal Scheme | Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth | 1 st – 3 rd October 2021 |
| Celtic Conferences Mental Health & Wellbeing | O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork | 8 th – 10 th October 2021 |
| Celtic Conferences A Practical Guide to Budget 2022 | O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork | 15 th – 17 th October 2021 |
| Celtic Conferences 'Housing for All - How will it help people find homes' | Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. | 29 th – 31 st October 2021 |

103.21 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND SYMPATHY

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of congratulations to 11 year old Callum Clarke, a sixth class pupil of Tulsk National School saved his grandfather Sean Stroker from almost certain drowning after a freak gust of wind capsized their boat on Killina lake near Tulsk last week.

104.21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

104.21a ASH DIE BACK - CLLR. FITZMAURICE

Cllr. Fitzmaurice raised the matter of ash dieback that is affecting a large proportion of the ash trees in Ireland and across Europe. This is going to be a huge problem in relation to dying trees on roadsides and it is estimated that 75% of all ash trees will die in Ireland from this fungus.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Cllr. Naughten

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister of Transport to seek funding to remove dead trees off roads.

Cllr. Naughten noted that this matter has been raised by the Climate Action sub-committee.

104.21b NEW TUS UNIVERSITY, ATHLONE - CLLR. SHANAGHER

Cllr. Shanagher informed the members that On Friday next 1st October Athlone IT will open its doors as Ireland's Third Technological University. It will be known as Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest TUS-a new beginning.

As a Board member of AIT, she acknowledged the work of the Chairpersons Frank Ryan, Liam Rattigan the board members, staff and everyone who was involved in this achievement under the guidance and great leadership of Professor Ciaran O Cathain. The achievement of becoming a University is a testament to the great work and commitment of all the staff and the wider community who have made it what it is today and will ensure that it continues to serve the Midlands, providing opportunity, ensuring accessibility and sharing knowledge.

While disappointed that Professor Ciarán O Catháin will not be at the helm, she congratulated Professor Vincent Cunnane in his new role as President of the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Shanagher

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to send a letter of congratulations to the new President and Board Members from Roscommon County Council to wish them all well in the future.

104.21c TAXATION OF ONLINE SALES - CLLR. WALDRON

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Waldron

SECONDED by Cllr. Shanagher

It was **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Finance to implement a tax on online sales profits.

104.21d TURNING OF SOD - N5 SCRAMOGE TO BALLAGHADERREEN PROJECT

The Cathaoirleach informed the Elected Members that a Sod Turning ceremony would take place on 18th October for the H5 Scramoge to Ballaghaderreen Road Project.

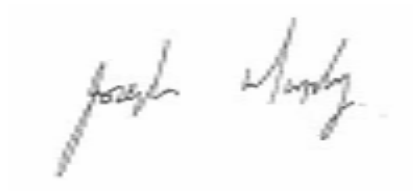
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 18th October, 2021.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Petrizis Bohon
Meetings Administrator



Cathairleach

Petrizis Bohon
Countersigned