

MINUTES OF ATHLONE Municipal District HELD IN THE COUNCIL Chamber - Áras an Chontae, ON TUESDAY, 30th January, 2024 AT 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillor Emer Kelly **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr J. Naughten and Cllr L. Fallon.

OFFICIALS: Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services
Susan Loughnane, Municipal District Co-Ordinator
Enda Mulryan, Senior Executive Office
Damien Loughnane, Senior Executive Technician
Shelia Glennon, Staff Officer

Apologies:

3.24 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

No Disclosures

4.24 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the Proposal of: Cllr L Fallon

Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

It was **AGREED** by the Members to adopt the minutes of Athlone Municipal District meeting held on 21st November, 2023.

On the Proposal of: Cllr J Keogh

Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

It was **AGREED** by the Members to adopt the minutes of Athlone Municipal District Special meeting held on 11th January, 2024.

5.24 SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT PART 8 - PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED), PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (2001) (AS AMENDED). CONSIDERATION OF THE CE REPORT FOR MONKSLAND COMMUNITY PARK

Enda Mulryan, Acting Senior Engineer and Damien Loughnane, Senior Executive Technician Regeneration Department presented the Chief Executive report to the Members.

Part 8 – Permission for the proposed development of a Community Park in Monksland, which will include the following.

1. A Public Amenity Area with Car parking.
2. Shared Surface and Walking pathways.
3. Play Areas to include playground apparatus, micro skate park and multipurpose play areas.
4. Outdoor performances area with tiered seating.
5. Public Lighting and Park Furniture to include shared seating dwell areas, picnic tables, seating and benches, cycle stands and signage and site boundary fencing
6. Soft and Hard landscaping to include top soiling, grass seeding along with shrub,

Hedge and tree planting.
7. All other ancillary site works.

Members expressed their thanks to all involved in the preparation of the Plan and welcomed the Proposed Development as the first steps towards the strategic vision to develop facilities for the growing population of Monksland. Cllr. J Keogh requested that the tiered seating for the outdoor performance area represent an amphitheatre style seating and not linear as in the Plans. Enda Mulryan agreed to consider this change in the final plan.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr. J Naughten
Seconded by: Cllr. J Keogh

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to approve the Part 8 for the Development of a Community Park in Monksland, Athlone.

6.24 MATTERS ARISING

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- 1 An update on the Survey requested at the last MD Meeting to be carried out on the condition of footpaths in older estates in Monksland and the wider Athlone MD area, many are in need of repair and replacement.
2. Missing section of footpath on the Curraghboy side of Athleague, request to consider including it in the programme of works for footpaths 2024.
- 3.The timeframe for erection of the remaining reflective signage for the R363. It was also requested that reflective signage on the road from Ballyforan to Brideswell be considered.
4. Request to carry out verge reinstatement on the Cam, Brideswell R363 road, and also between 4 Roads and Dysart.
5. Cllr L Fallon proposed that a proportion of Planning & Development charges received from quarry developments be retained to help with the cost of reinstating damaged road verges due to large volume of heavy vehicles using the road.

On the Proposal of: Cllr L Fallon
Seconded by: Cllr T Ward

Members **AGREED** to send a letter to Planning Section requesting that a proportion of Development levies from quarry developments be retained to reinstate damages road verges from large volumes of Heavy Vehicle use.

6. The survey on the Coolusty Bridge, is it completed.

Members discussed the reply from NWPS in relation to the culling back of deer numbers in Athlone MD area. NWPS advised that the Motion would be best directed to Department of Agriculture as they can only manage the deer herds within the National Parks border.

Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services informed the Members that NWPS did replied to the Motion forwarded to them and that a National Programme is being put in place at the moment.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Naughten
Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

Members **AGREED** to send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture requesting him to intervene as a matter of

urgency, as this is a serious matter of increasing numbers of wild deer roaming freely that needs to be addressed immediately in Athlone MD, Roscommon area, as the National Programme to be rolled out could take a year or more.

On the Proposal of: Cllr L Fallon

Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

Members also **AGREED** to send a letter to the Minister for Forestry in relation to the large number of wild deer leaving the forest area, which are presenting a serious danger to road users in the Athlone MD area.

Susan Loughnane, Athlone MD Co-Ordinator informed the Members:

1. That footpath reinstatement funding is included in the general roads budget programme funding and job code will be set up in Q1 of this year to progress with the works.

2 Signage on the R363 will be completed as soon as resources to do so is available, works had been delayed as works due to flooding and storm damage had to be prioritized.

3. The Location in question will be examined and emergency works completed where needed. Extensive verge widening reinstatement on the R363 would be very costly and additional funding may need to be secured.

4. A survey of the Bridge at Coolusty was carried out by Roads staff. Further surveys during the Summer time are required for accuracy. Any proposals will need to be examined carefully to determine any unintended consequences downstream of the bridge.

5. It was agreed to examine the footpath request in Athleague and consider including it in the programme of works in 2024.

6. A survey of Burnbrook Estate has been carried out. A number of pinch points have been identified. A design and costing will be progressed and opportunities for funding explored. Susan Loughnane informed the Members that Public Lighting funding is managed by the Assests & Energy Section.

7. Survey of footpaths in all the older Estates in Athlone MD is not possible as there is not the resources at moment to do it. During the course of other works in the area footpaths that are in poor condition will be noted.

7.24 NOTICE OF MOTION

Three Notice of Motions for discussion.

8.24 CLLR E KELLY- NOM 1.24- DEVELOP A COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

“I am calling on Roscommon County Council to liaise with the Department of Social Protection to develop a community employment (CE) scheme for the area of Ballyforan, Dysart, Four Roads and Mount Talbot”

RESPONSE:

Roscommon County Council does not manage Community Employment Schemes in any area of the County. As part of its role and functions, the Council works with communities on an ongoing basis developing and maintaining local areas.

On the Proposal of: Cllr E Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

Members supported the Motion, They agreed that it was important to Community groups to help fund projects in their area. They acknowledged that the terms of the CE scheme needs to be revised. Income threshold needs to increase to give incentive for people to take up a position, extend the 12 month term to

3 years with no age limit and remove the requirement to be from farming background.

On the Proposal of: Cllr T Ward

Seconded by: Cllr E Kelly

Members **AGREED** to send a letter requesting that they consider revising the terms of CE scheme as outlined above.

On the Proposal of: Cllr D Kilduff

Seconded by; Cllr E Kelly

Members **AGREED** to write to the Minister for Social Protection, Deputy Heather Humphreys, to request the following: Where an area is eligible for a CE scheme but cannot fill posts, that groups can use the funding allocated for the CE scheme to procure the required services, which would otherwise have been carried out by CE participants, from the private sector.

Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services informed the Members that the CE Scheme is run by department of Social Protection as an employment incentive, for long term unemployed and may not be compatible to change the terms of the Scheme as requested.

Cllr E Kelly thanked the Members for their support and will work with the Community Groups to see how they can develop a CE Scheme in their villages.

9.24 CLLR. J NAUGHTEN - NOM 2.24 - ADDITIONAL FILTER LANE ONTO THE EAST BOUND CARRAIGEWAY OF M6 AT JUNCTION 13

“That Roscommon County Council immediately requested TII to install an additional filter lane onto the East Bound Carriageway of M6 at Junction13 to alleviate the significant traffic congestion on daily basis, between the Daneshill Roundabout and the Junction 13 Roundabout.”

RESPONSE:

The above NOM requires a resolution by the members of the Athlone MD to write to TII.

The Motion was discussed by the Members. They agreed that the volume of traffic coming in to the Roundabouts at junction 13 entering and exiting M6 motorway has increased significantly over the last few years and needs to be addressed.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Naughten

Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

Members supported the Motion

Members **AGREED** to send a letter to TII requesting on foot of the report “Athlone Transport Based Study” to address the traffic congestion by putting in an extra lane for traffic entering the roundabout from Daneshill side to exit onto the M6 .

10.24 CLLR T WARD -NOM 3.24 TAUGHMACONNELL CEMETERY

“I am calling on Roscommon County Council to resurface the carpark area at Taughmaconnell cemetery and also resurface the road into the cemetery and install footpaths. I am also calling on the council to check the trees in the cemetery, if the trees have dry rot and decay I want the council to remove them in the interest of safety?”

RESPONSE:

The works requested are substantial and will require significant funding and resources. Additional funding, beyond what is currently available to the Athlone MD for graveyards, will be required to carry out these works in totality. The cost of the works will be calculated to determine if any portion of the works required can be addressed within the currently available funding.

Members discussed the condition of the Road and carpark into the graveyard in Taughmaconnell Cemetery, Roots of trees have risen up along the driveway in and along the outer pathways. There is an urgent need to have the trees surveyed to identify how many need to be removed in the interest of safety. There is substantial funding needed to be sourced to carry out the works involved.

Susan Loughnane informed the Members that quotes would be sought for a tree survey to be carried out. Where resources and funding are available, works would be carried out on a phased basis.

On the Proposal of: Cllr T Ward

Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

Members supported the Motion.

On the Proposal of: Cllr D Kilduff

Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

Members **AGREED** to send a letter to the Minister for Rural and Community Development to request funding for the works required at Taughmaconnell Cemetery.

11.24 QUESTIONS

Two Questions for noting

12.24 CLLR J NAUGHTEN Q1.24- SRSP APPLICATION BY CORNAFULLA N.S.

Can Roscommon County Council provide an update on funding under the Safe Route to School Programme applied for by Cornafulla N.S. To date they have received no funding to carry out urgently required works to improve safety for pupils and parents surrounding the school?

RESPONSE:

Cornafulla NS was not selected in Round 1 or 2 of the Safe Routes to School programme, however Cornafulla NS is on the overall schools list and may be chosen as part of further SRTS rounds.

13.24 CLLR J NAUGHTEN -Q2.24 ACTIVE TRAVEL SURVEY REPORT ON CLOONAKILLA NS TO COLAISTE CHIARAIN

Can Roscommon County Council provide a detail report on the outcome of the Active Travel Survey that was carried out between Cloonakilla N.S. and Colaiste Chiarain, including a timetable for provision of integrated walking and cycling routes between the schools?

RESPONSE:

The Creation, Enhancement and Integration of Active Travel Assets in Athlone West Preliminary Options Assessment Draft Report has been prepared. This report is with the NTA for comment prior to being finalised.

The implementation of any recommendations within the report is subject to funding. The NTA have yet to publish the allocation for 2024.

14.24 ATHLONE MD FUNDING EXTENSION

Athlone MD funding extensions requested by seven groups

On the Proposal of: Cllr T Ward
Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

Members **AGREED** to an extension of 6 months for all seven projects until end of July 2024.

Athlone MD 2024 funding has now been advertised in the Roscommon Herald 30th January, 2024.

Group Name	Year	Amount
Clonown Community td	2016	15,000
Clonown Heritage Group	2021	4,500
Midland Polish Community	2021	3,250
Tisrara Community Centre	2022	9,500
Jamesie Murray Memorial Committee	2022	15,000
Suck Valley Way	2022	4,500
Emlagh-Cargins Action Group	2022	10,000

15.24 CORRESPONDENCE

Four correspondence noted.

Correspondence from the NWPS was discussed by the Members under matters arising.

16.24 CIVIC RECEPTION REQUEST

No Civic Reception Requests

17.24 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / SYMPATHY

No Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

18.24 A.O.B

Members expressed their thanks to the Community & Enterprise Staff of Roscommon County Council for their information evening in relation to the launch of the Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, Rahara Community and Economic Plan 2023 – 2028.

Next Athlone MD meeting agreed for Tuesday 12th March, 2024

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Seamus Lough, Executive Engineer for all his work and co-operation with the Members and public during his time with Athlone MD office, they wished him well in his new position in Active Travel.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 12th March, 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator



Leas-Cathaoirleach



Countersigned