

**MINUTES OF BOYLE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE
PERCY FRENCH HOTEL, STROKESTOWN ON THURSDAY THE
18TH JUNE, 2015 AT 2.30P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor Rachel Doherty, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: V. Byrne, J. Cummins, E. Murphy, M. Hopkins & M. Mulligan

OFFICIALS: Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning
Fiona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator
Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer
Austin Beirne, Executive Engineer
Finbar Quinn, Assistant Engineer
Natasha Kelly, Assistant Engineer

16.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Boyle Municipal District Meeting held on 27.4.2015.

17.15. PRESENTATION BY LOUISE WARD, LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Louise Ward, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office outlined:

- The role and function of the Local Enterprise Office
- The assistance, advisory services and enterprise support available to business
- Training available to small businesses
- Mentoring services available
- Grant types available to businesses in the County
- Business Initiatives planned for 2015

Louise highlighted that grant assistance is available through Enterprise Ireland and the deadline for applications for funding is the 18th July next.

The members raised the following issues:

- Any sign of further reduction in the interest rate
- Do community groups qualify for funding
- Qualifying age of applicants?

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that a letter sent to the Department of Enterprise to include small businesses that are currently excluded from assistance from the Local Enterprise Office.

Louise Ward, Administrative Officer responded to the queries as follows:

- Community groups do not qualify for assistance through Local Enterprise Office
- The age of qualifying applicants is governed by company law
- Roscommon County Council website is linked to Local Enterprise Office website

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** that Louise Ward give an update to the full Council meeting by the end of the year

18.15. LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

Caitlin Conneely, Administrative Officer presented an update to the members of a report on questions previously received on the Local Community & Enterprise Plan.

She outlined the following:

- The purpose of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the local authority area by both itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.
- The process involved in creating the Local Economic and Community Plan
- Goals of the Socio-Economic Statement to create jobs, increase tourism, attract industry.
- Timeframe for completion of LECP
- She requested that any question or submission from members should be submitted by the end of June 2015.

The members complimented Caitlin on her presentation and raised the following issues:

- Presentation in September/October to give update on draft actions based on data gathered
- Important to keep graduates in the County
- Problem in town centres with empty units, anti-social behaviour
- Roscommon has the facilities but not the services
- Transport links a huge issue in County Roscommon
- Big effort made by voluntary groups to help the elderly in the county
- Lack of broadband hindering development
- Need to promote tourism, attract business and create jobs

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance responded to the issues as follows:

- A more positive attitude has to be adopted to promote the County of Roscommon and this is everybody's responsibility
- County Roscommon has some of the following key attractions:
 - Lough Key is a major visitor attraction in the county
 - Low crime rate
 - Free parking in county towns
 - Rates Incentive Scheme

19.15. BOYLE GARDA STATION

A reply dated 22nd May 2015 from the Minister for Justice and Equality was circulated to the members in relation to Boyle Garda Station confirming that Boyle Garda Station will remain a fully functioning station with Garda members providing service seven days a week. There will be no reduction in the number of Garda personnel assigned to the station and the same level of resources and Garda patrols will continue to be deployed to the area.

The members raised the following issues:

- Rural areas suffering due to lack of Garda resources
- Lack of Garda presence in Frenchpark
- Problems with anti-social behaviour

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy
SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that a discussion be held at next JPC meeting on how effective the reduced hours at Boyle Garda Station

20.15. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to

The members wished the Irish Famine School all the best with the events planned. They acknowledged the work done by the committee and complimented them attracting both national and international tourists.

Keadue Tidy Towns on winning Best Kept Village in the recent Tidy Towns Competition and commend the work of Pdraig Noone on the Committee.

21.15. VOTES OF SYMPATHY were extended to:

The Beirne family, Elphin on the death of Pdraig (Dolly) Beirne
The McCrann family, Elphin on the death of Gerry McCrann

22.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Area Issues

The members welcomed the Area Engineering staff to the meeting and queried going forward the best approach in dealing with area issues at the meetings

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance confirmed that the Area Engineering staff have a big part to play at Municipal District level now that staffing issues have been resolved. He suggested that members make the Area Engineers aware of any issue they want discussed at Municipal District level via the submission of a question or notice of motion prior to the meeting as per the standing orders to ensure the benefits of the Municipal District meeting. This will ensure the relevant staff have sufficient time to prepare an adequate response for the meeting.

The members raise the following issues:

- Provisions for winter maintenance on old N5
- System for checking requested works are complete
- System for informing applicants of planning decisions

- Extension to Kilronan and Caldra Cemetery
- Safety Issue at Ballinameen School
- Signage & bus stop issue at Andy Mulligan's shop
- Works and signage required at Liberty Hill, Cortober

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance informed the members of the following:

- The introduction of a Customer Relation Management System in the new Civic HQ will improve service to members and the public. This will allow members to track their query with the area staff until completion.
- Planning information is available online on the day permission is granted

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer stated the Area Engineering staff were going through a period of transition and requested the members to allow them time to familiarise themselves with their new larger municipal districts. He confirmed that area maps, boundaries and budgets are currently being finalised.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

That Roscommon County Council form a policy regarding works on rivers

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

That a consideration be given to the allocation of a percentage of roads funding to the improvement of local roads and cul-de-sac roads.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that Boyle Municipal District of County Roscommon calls on the Minister for Agriculture to re-introduce a land drainage scheme for the West and Midlands of Ireland

Staff Recruitment

Members queried the letter issued to Gateway staff offering them employment with Roscommon County Council.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance confirmed that the letter issued to Gateway staff was offering them an opportunity to be placed on a panel for positions that may arise over the next 6 months for temporary positions in Irish Water projects.

Roscommon County Council's workforce plan is not approved and therefore the Council is unable to recruit externally for staff.

Housing Update

The members requested a discussion on housing be put as an item on the Agenda for the next Boyle Municipal District meeting.

This should include:

- Information on housing adaptation grants
- Number of people of the housing waiting list
- Update on the refurbishment of local authority housing
- Number of people on rent allowance offered housing and did not accept offer

- Breakdown of information per town in Boyle Municipal District, i.e. Boyle, Strokestown, Elphin, Tusk

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:**

Meetings Administrator

Cathairleach

Countersigned