

MINUTES OF BOYLE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN BOYLE AREA OFFICE, BOYLE ON THURSDAY THE 20TH AUGUST, 2015 AT 10.30A.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
Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer
Mary Grier, Senior Planner
Brian Farragher, Assistant Planner

28.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Amendment to Minutes:

Councillor Byrne stated that her proposal at the July meeting to allocate a percentage of next year's roads budget to LIS & CIS Schemes was seconded by Councillor Cummins and "Agreed". However, the wording "agreed" was omitted from the minutes.

Councillor Byrne stated that the procedure for agreeing proposals needs to be reviewed in Roscommon County Council in line with that of other local authorities whereby once an item is proposed and seconded the item is automatically agreed.

Councillor Doherty said that general consensus was that an item should automatically be agreed if there is no opposition to the statement. If a proposal is not agreed, the reason for not agreeing same should be documented. If there is another proposal, then a vote is required.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning suggested that the matter should be referred back to CPG for discussion and the procedure confirmed going forward. He highlighted that the procedure must be implemented at county level and not at individual Municipal District level.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Byrne

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** to bring the item for discussion at CPG level in line with the Standing Orders.

Councillor Doherty requested that the presentation of minutes for the Boyle Municipal District meeting be changed and the issues raised by individual Councillors be attributed to the relevant Councillor in the minutes rather than be generalised as is the current practise.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning stated that the responsibility lies with the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District meeting to provide the structure to deal with this process at meetings.

Councillor Byrne conveyed her disappointment that no money was allocated to LIS from the additional allocation of funds received in June 2015.

Councillor Eugene Murphy agreed that LIS Schemes have to be done as the people living on these roads are paying their development contributions and motor tax and yet getting nothing in return.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning confirmed that the Engineering staff used the additional allocation of funds in such a way as to ensure value for money for public roads, based on an updated condition survey to choose public roads in most critical need.

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that the NRA and Department guidelines state that the additional allocation be used on roads with high volumes of traffic to ensure a return on investment.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Boyle Municipal District Meeting held on 27.7.2015.

29.15. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT BOYLE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2015 – 2021

A copy of the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions received on the Draft Boyle Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021 was previously circulated to the members.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning summarised each submission received for the Boyle Local Area Plan from the following groups:

1. Environmental Protection Agency
2. Geological Survey of Ireland
3. National Roads Authority
4. Cyril McMorrough and Elizabeth Benison
5. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
6. Department of Education and Skills
7. Irish Water
8. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
9. Northern and Western Regional Assembly
10. Office of Public Works

The members raised the following issues:

- Will the NRA have an input in planning applications received for the town of Boyle
- Welcomed the re-zoning of lands with the removal of the "industrial uses" zoning on lands
- If Local Area Plan is adopted with residential zoning and land requirements will the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government accept there being sufficient land zoning for the future?
- Was a survey carried out on unfinished housing estates?

- Have Roscommon County Council made adequate future provisions for the economic development of Boyle Town.
- Boyle is a great town and hope the plan allows for future development of the area.
- Moylurg Rockingham Company is at conflict with Boyle town in terms of tourism
- Opportunity for Town Teams to work closely with Moylurg Rockingham
- People need a reason and motivation to visit Boyle Town
- There is public perception out there that the Royal Hotel Building is a protected structure
- Waterways Ireland attracts huge interest and high volumes of visitors to the area.
- Compliment the work of Moylurg Rockingham in attracting visitors to the area.
- More facilities required in Boyle Town especially for the older generation in the evening.
- The existing facilities in Boyle Town need to be highlighted and promoted to visitors

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning replied as follows:

- Lands are adequately zoned to allow for future development
- Work needed by businesses in Boyle Town to attract visitors
- Absence of hotel in Boyle is a huge problem in the town
- The old Royal Hotel building is not a protected structure and Roscommon County Council has made many provisions to attract a new owner to the old hotel site.

Mary Grier, Senior Planner confirmed that no survey was carried out on unfinished housing estates.

Councillor Cummins requested the inclusion of part of the old N4 and the areas around Silver roe are included in the urban zone to allow for future infrastructural development such as public lighting and footpaths. He also suggested the inclusion of a footnote to state that no inspection was completed on unfinished housing estates.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to include the area on old N4 and areas around Silver roe as highlighted as transitional agriculture

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning explained that the plan will go on public display for a minimum of four weeks. Following on from this, the Chief Executive must prepare a report based on submissions and observations received. He confirmed to the members that there may be need to call a Special Meeting within the required timeframe.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Hopkins

It was **AGREED** to put the Boyle Local Area Plan forward for public display.

30.15. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT LOUGH KEY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2015 – 2021

A copy of the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions received on the Draft Lough Key Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021 was previously circulated to the members.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning summarised each submission received for the Lough Key Local Area Plan from the following groups:

1. Environmental Protection Agency
2. Geological Survey of Ireland
3. National Roads Authority
4. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
5. Department of Education and Skills
6. Irish Water
7. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
8. Northern and Western Regional Assembly
9. Office of Public Works

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning explained that the plan will go on public display for a minimum of four weeks. Following on from this, the Chief Executive must prepare a report based on submissions and observations received. He confirmed to the members that there may be need to call a Special Meeting within the required timeframe.

Councillor Cummins sought clarification regarding any issues that may arise if an application is submitted in an SO1 area.

Mary Grier, Senior Planner confirmed that once a SO1 area is indentified at local area plan stage, she assumes the National Roads Authority would have no difficulty.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** to put the Lough Key Local Area Plan forward for public display.

The members complimented the work of the staff in the preparation of both Local Area Plans.

31.15. UPDATE ON LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

A list was circulated to the meeting of all outstanding Local Improvement Scheme applications for the Boyle Municipal District as at 31st July 2015.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning explained that some applications are on the list since 2005 and these may no longer be viable. He confirmed to the members that there is no additional money available for local improvement schemes and should the members decide to allocate some funding this will come from their 2016 general municipal allocation for local roads.

BOYLE	Date rec'd	Location of Scheme	Engineers Estimate 2010	Length in Metres	No. of Dwellings	No. of Landowners	No. of Users (Bog Road)
1935/Ba	28/10/2005	Tivannagh, Tivannagh ED	6,000.00	500	0	3	
1959/Bo	15/06/2006	Tullytawn, Keadue ED	8,000.00	600	0	3	
1995/Bo	26/01/2007	Ardgallagher, Kilmore ED	2,000.00	176	0	2	
2009/Bo	27/06/2007	Knocknagowna, Kilmore ED	9,000.00	575	0	3	
2016/Ba	21/08/2007	Killaster, Bellanagare ED	2,700.00	400	0	3	
2031/S	13/11/2007	Clooncraff, Elia ED	20,000.00	830	0	2	0
2033/Bo	30/11/2007	Cordrehid, Carrick-on-Shannon, Danesfort ED	7,144.00	180	1	2	
2035/Bo	04/12/2007	Aghacarra, Carrigeenroe, Boyle, Kilbryan ED	10,000.00	700	0	3	
2045/Bo	01/02/2008	Aghagowla, Kilbryan ED	5,000.00	400	0	2	0
2052/Ba	04/02/2008	Carrigeenynaghtan/Tonaknick, Mantua ED	9,000.00	1675	0	2	38
2059/Ba	10/03/2008	Slieveroe, Frenchpark ED	1,170.00	200	0	2	0
2061/Bo	03/07/2008	Eastersnow, Rushfield ED	9,000.00	700	0	3	0
2078/Ba	03/07/2008	Drury, Cartron Beg, Frenchpark ED	450.00	85	0	2	0
2066/Ba	21/07/2008	Creggane, Edmondstown ED	8,550.00	1287	0	0	3
2075/Ba	04/12/2008	Askey/Derrean, Bellanagare ED	4,500.00	403	0	0	18
2082/Bo	24/02/2009	Knockroe, Boyle, Rushfield ED	13,000.00	1500	0	0	31
2084/Bo	24/02/2009	Tullyhahaw, Altagowlan ED	7,000.00	450	0	2	0
2092/Bo	06/07/2009	Ballymore, Rushfield ED	10,000.00	1200	0	5	0
2094/Ba	30/07/2009	Crenane, Cloonavulaun, Ballaghaderreen ED	2,700.00	460	0	3	0
2098/Ba	08/09/2009	Drummin, Bellanagare ED	5,130.00	926	0	2	20
Total Value of all schemes in Boyle Municipal District =			140,344.00				

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer explained to the members that separate funding for local improvement schemes ceased in 2010 and the circulated list of schemes were not completed at this time.

He outlined that a Department circular issued in 2013 stated that an allocation of funds may be spent on local improvement schemes but there was no separate allocation for this. Roscommon County Council did not commit any funding to local improvement schemes during this period due to the works required on the public road network. He confirmed that members will have a choice to allocate funds to this scheme for 2016. A 20% contribution from the applicant is required under the guidelines.

The members raised the following issues:

- What is the update on the applications received in 2015
- How many roads on the existing list are still viable?
- It is unacceptable that the Department do not allocate separate funding due to the amount of charges paid by the public
- Can Roscommon County Council follow up with all applicants on existing list
- Can list be dealt with in chronological order
- Will allocation for local improvement schemes be given to Boyle only or will it be divided between the three operational areas of the Municipal District?
- Manpower required to inspect roads and assess if they still qualify based on the required criteria.
- Only one road on the list has a dwelling, the remaining roads are for land owners and bog users.

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer responded as follows:

- No applications have been accepted since 2010
- There would be a time element involved in the updating of the existing list

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

It was **AGREED** to write to the Department seeking an extra allocation to deal with local improvement schemes.

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

It was **AGREED** to follow up on the existing list of local improvement schemes and see if applicants were still interested in the scheme.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning confirmed that the roads allocation had reduced since 2010 and there are no new allocations on the way. He stated that members need to discuss how to allocate the funds appropriately as there will be a consequential knock-on effect to other services if funding is apportioned to local improvement schemes for 2016.

Bernard Murray outlined to the members the existing criteria for assessing local improvement schemes as follows:

1. Special needs/limited mobility
2. Number of dwellings
3. Public used road
4. Agricultural holdings
5. Bogs used for harvesting turf

The members raised the following issues:

- Scrap existing list and start scheme again in 2016
- Make allocation first before inviting applications
- Criteria needs to be fine tuned and updated

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning suggested that when the allocation is agreed at the Budget meeting, the criteria for local improvement schemes could be discussed at the October Municipal District meeting.

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer will prepare draft eligibility criteria for October meeting.

It was unanimously agreed by the members to put the issue of local improvement schemes on the Agenda for the October Municipal District meeting.

32.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verge Trimming

The members stated that the issue of verge trimming was a huge problem in the county with many overgrown grass verges at dangerous junctions and bends leaving it dangerous for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Bernard Murray informed the members that the topping of hedges is a land owner function. The trimming of verges on public roads is a function of Roscommon County Council. He confirmed that there is one tractor and mower in each operational area presently but manpower, machinery and money are all issues for Roscommon County Council. He stated that rural roads were originally not built or designed to accommodate large volumes of traffic. Roscommon County Council are trying to deal with the issue of verge trimming on a case by case basis including dealing with representations and incorporating the issue into the works programme.

Councillor Rachel Doherty stated that it was not feasible for one man and one tractor per Operational Area to cover such a large area given that the Boyle Municipal District has the largest network of roads in the County. She confirmed that many roads are in a dangerous situation and queried how the situation could be improved. The members will be faced with the decision whether to allocate money to verge trimming or improve a road on the works programme. Councillor Doherty queried how much has been spent on verge trimming in the Boyle Municipal District.

Councillor Michael Mulligan complimented the work of the hedge trimmer in the Ballaghaderreen area. He stated that this issue is an important issue for the public. He also queried the possibility of a weed-killer to get rid of the wild white weeds on road sides that can obstruct views of motorists. He stated that one option would be to scrap the LIS issue and put the funding towards verge trimming and pothole repairs.

Councillor John Cummins queried how Eircom can cut large volumes of hedges due to their overhead lines but Roscommon County Council cannot commit to cut the verges or hedges. He stated that the onus is on Roscommon County Council to maintain sight views at by-roads and junctions. He said that a decision should be made for 2016 to allocate funding for verge trimming.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council be responsible for the cutting of hedges on roads for public safety.

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that Eircom have a separate brief to that of Roscommon County Council's in terms of their legislation for the maintaining of hedges where they have overhead lines, and that the Roads Act requires landowners to be responsible for ensuring that roadside boundary hedges are not prejudicial to the public roads

2. Engineering Staff

Councillor Eugene Murphy conveyed his disappointment at the news that Mr. Finbar Quinn is leaving the Strokestown Operational Area and that Ms. Natasha Kelly is leaving the Ballaghaderreen Operational Area to take up positions on a roads project. He sought confirmation from Roscommon County Council that both staff members would be replaced by bringing in other engineers as they will both be a huge loss to their respective areas. He stated that there must be engineers in the area offices.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning informed the meeting that the two members of staff applied for these positions through an interview process. These are promotional opportunities for both members of staff. He confirmed that he will discuss the matter of their replacement with Majella Hunt, Pat Murtagh and Eugene Dwyer and revert back to the members. He stressed that Roscommon County Council have finite financial and human resources to deal with issues.

3. Roads Programme

Councillor John Cummins sought an update on the Roads Programme for 2015.

Bernard Murray, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that all surface dressing is now complete as per the programme and road reconstruction is ongoing.

4. Staff – Irish Water

Councillor Rachel Doherty raised the issue of the increasing list of housing repairs in all areas that are being delayed due to the high number of staff that have been seconded to Irish Water. She said it was shameful that Irish Water have given no credit to the work of the local authority in their publicity in relation to the lifting of boil water notices. She feels that Irish Water has ignored the goodwill and hard work of the elected members and the Executive of Roscommon County Council.

She said that the general public are at the net loss of the lack of man power with an increasing workload. She stated that there are many safety issues in housing estates that have not been addressed as a direct result. She queried the number of staff that transferred to Irish Water.

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning confirmed that Roscommon County Council is in a service level agreement (SLA) with Irish Water for twelve years. Irish Water are paying the salaries of the staff as part of the SLA. He confirmed that approximately 86 out of 400 staff are part of the SLA. He informed the members that Eugene Dwyer, Senior Engineer is currently dealing with the issue of staff for general maintenance.

6. Letter of Sympathy – Mr. Padraig Noone

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

It was **AGREED** to send a letter of sympathy to the family of the late Padraig Noone, Ballyfarnon (late staff member of Sligo County Council) who died following a tragic road accident.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned