

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON, ON MONDAY THE 28TH JULY, 2014 AT 2.15 P.M.

PRESENT **Councillor John Cummins, Cathaoirleach** **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: V. Byrne I. Connaughton D. Connolly M. Creaton
 N. Dineen R. Doherty L. Fallon P. Fitzmaurice
 M. Hopkins P. Kilduff J. Keogh O. Leyden
 M. Mulligan E. Murphy J. Naughten K. Shanagher
 T. Ward.

OFFICIALS: Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive.
 Majella Hunt, Director of Services.
 Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning
 Eugene Dwyer, A/Director of Services
 John O'Rourke, A/ Director of Services.
 Fiona ní Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach addressed the meeting and requested an adjournment of the meeting for 20 minutes to allow the members of the Roscommon Municipal District to take a break as they had been involved in meetings since 9.00 a.m. this morning and it was now 2.45 p.m.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
 SECONDED by Councillor Shanagher
It was **AGREED** to adjourn the Council Meeting for twenty minutes.

98.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy
 SECONDED by Councillor Ward
It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14.4.2014.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon
 SECONDED by Councillor Connolly
It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 28.4.2014.

Amendment: Councillor Ward referred to list of nominees to Regional Health Forum West which should record Councillors Creaton, Kilduff & Ward.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton
 SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan
It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6.6.2014 as amended.

Matter Arising

Councillor Fallon addressed the meeting and informed the members of the decision of the HSE to cease operations at Teach de h-Íde which operates a day centre mental health service.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Teach de h-Íde gives a great service to the people who use it.
- Changing patients to an alternative location proves very stressful to the lives of the persons who use the facility.
- A senseless decision on the part of the HSE.
- Need to do everything possible to ensure that the services are continued at Teach de h-Íde.
- Need to highlight the closure of 22 beds at St. Brigid's Ward

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to request the H.S.E. to rescind their decision to close Teach de h-Íde.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council request Ms. Catherine Cunningham P.C.C.C. to attend a meeting of Roscommon County Council to update members on the current state of mental health services both in Roscommon and also at St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe .

99.14. CONSIDERATION OF MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2014 SUBJECT TO SECTION 51, SUB-SECTIONS (3) & (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT, 2014:

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, informed the members that subject to Section 51, sub-sections (3) and (4) of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, the Chief Executive shall prepare, on or before the seventh day of each month, or such other date in each month set by resolution of the Council, a report to be known as the Management Report in relation to the performance of his or her executive functions during the preceding calendar month. The monthly Management Reports are intended to assist the elected members discharge their governance responsibilities and to oversee the executive in the delivery of the policies that the elected members have decided on and also to have oversight of the Chief Executive's discharge of his or her executive functions.

Members noted the Management Report of Roscommon County Council in accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Reform act, 2014 for the period June 2014.

100.14. REVIEW OF DATE FOR ISSUE OF MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughton
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** that the date for issue of Management Reports would be the fourth Monday of each month.

101.14. REVIEW OF COMPOSITION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) – NOMINATION OF THREE ELECTED MEMBERS:

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that having regard to the regulations and guidelines issued, the table outlined below sets out the recommended revised membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for County Roscommon which was agreed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting on the 22nd July. The revised composition of 17 members as set out complies with the regulations and guidelines for the establishment of an LCDC. The matter is now on the Agenda for establishment of the revised committee and nominations of three elected members.

Tommy Ryan informed the members that it was a requirement of the guidelines that local authority members' representation on LCDC should reflect, as far as is practical, the different Municipal Districts and every effort should be made to ensure an equitable gender balance.

Sector	Number	Members	Selection Process
Local Authority Elected Members	3	Elected Members – to be nominated	Roscommon County Council
Local Authority Officials	2	Chief Executive – Tommy Ryan Head of Local Enterprise Office – Louise Ward	Prescribed
Public Authorities (including state agencies)	3	Dept of Social Protection – Des Henry, Principal Officer. Education & Training Boards – David Leahy, CEO Teagasc 1 - nomination awaited	Nominations sought by Chief Officer in consultation with CPG
Public Sector Total	8		

Local development and community development bodies	1	Roscommon Integrated Development Company – Martina Earley	Nominated through agreed local arrangements
Community & Voluntary	5	Community & Voluntary and Social Inclusion 4 – Tara Farrell Cyril McDermott Niall Rogers Environment 1 – Michael Ewing	Nominated through Public Participation Network. These nominations will need to be reviewed upon the establishment of the Public Participation Network
Other civic society or ‘local community interests’	3	Employers/Business – Benny O’ Connell Agriculture & Farming 1 – nomination awaited from Farming Pillar Trade Unions 1 – Nomination to be sought from the National Trade Union Pillar	Nominations sought by Chief Officer in consultation with CPG
Private Sector Total	9		
Total Membership	17		

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Keogh

SECONDED by Councillor Hopkins

It was **AGREED** that the total revised total membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) be 17 as outlined.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Connolly

SECONDED by Councillor Hopkins

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Laurence Fallon would be nominated to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in accordance with the grouping system of Councillors Connaughton, Hopkins, Fallon, Creaton, Naughton and Mulligan.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff

SECONDED by Councillor Keogh

That Councillor Tony Ward would be nominated to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh
That Councillor Eugene Murphy would be nominated to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kilduff
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh
That Councillor Orla Leyden would be nominated to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Councillor Ward withdrew his name from nomination.

The Meetings Administrator declared Councillors Fallon, Murphy and Leyden to be the elected members of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

102.14. LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP):

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members on a point of information that under Section 66C of the Local Government Acts 1925 to 2014 Roscommon County Council is required to make a six year Local Economic and Community Plan for county Roscommon. The plan will include two elements;

- Local Economic Element – prepared and adopted by the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.
- Community and Development element – prepared and adopted by the LCDC.

Both elements of the plan will be presented as a single Local Economic and Community Plan for consideration and approval of the Elected Members by reserved function.

There are a number of stages in the process of development of the LECP, one of which is the Appointment of an Advisory Steering Group by the Local Authority to oversee the process of preparation of the plan.

The draft guidelines suggest that the Advisory Steering Committee should consist of the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC, the Chair of the Local Community Development Committee, the Chief Officer of the LCDC and the DOS supporting the SPC as well as any others that both the SPC and LCDC agree by resolution to be suitable.

While the SPC will not be formally formed until after the September meeting the Chairs of the SPCs are meeting this week to agree who will be the chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC and will therefore be a member of the Advisory Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has a significant role to play in the coordination of an integrated consultation process, reducing duplication and overlap, assistance and advice to the SPC and LCDC. The next meeting of the LCDC is due to take place on Monday 11th August 2014. It is then intended to commence the consultation process. It is envisaged that the

overall consultation, preparation and adoption process will last for a period of approximately 6 months from the commencement of consultation on the LECF

Members noted the information.

103.14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK:

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that under Section 127 of the Local Government Acts 1925 to 2014 the Council is required to adopt a Framework for Public Participation in local Government for the purposes of promoting, developing and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to participation in decision making process of the local authority by the local community. A working group on citizen engagement was set up by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, in September 2013 under the Chairmanship of Fr. Sean Healy to make recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into decision making at local government level.

Roscommon County Council has been in contact with Roscommon Community Forum Ltd to outline the process to be followed to set up the PPN as follows;

1. Request to issue to all Community & Voluntary Groups in the county to register as members of the PPN and to opt to be part of the relevant Electoral College i.e. Community, Social Inclusion or Environment.
2. A community information meeting will be held in each of the Municipal Districts to inform the community, voluntary and environmental sectors about the new structures that are being put in place and inviting them to participate as follows;
 - Athlone 12th August at 7.00pm in the Athlone Springs Hotel
 - Boyle 13th August at 7.00pm in the Boyle Enterprise Centre
 - Roscommon 14th August at 7.00pm in the Roscommon Library
3. Registered Groups will be requested to nominate a Representative and an Alternate to attend the County Plenary which it is proposed to hold in September 2014.
4. Following the establishment of the County PPN the establishment of the Secretariat and of the Municipal District PPNs will take place.
5. Nominees will then be sought for the LCDC and other Local Authority Committees

Members raised the following issues:-

- Could meetings be postponed until September as August being the holiday month may not have the best uptake.
- Will there be notice of the meetings in the local newspapers so that all community groups are aware?
- Who will be chairing the meetings?

Tommy Ryan responded to all the queries raised and stated that these meetings were only information sessions and would be ongoing. It is a requirement to establish the Public Participation Network as quickly as possible. Further updates will be provided to Members as the process outlined above progresses.

104.14. SECTION 85 AGREEMENT – GALWAY TO DUBLIN GREENWAY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREA OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Eugene Dwyer, Acting Director of Services informed the members that the NRA has been engaged to assist in the delivery of the nation's first off-road cycle-way between Galway and Maynooth. Upon completion, this project will deliver a substantial component of the first cross-country national cycle way from Galway to Dublin and establish a significant tourism investment that will assist in regional and local employment. Westmeath County Council is proposed as the lead authority to progress the development of the Greenway between Athlone and Galway City using the National Roads Authority's Regional Design Office in Mullingar. To facilitate this, Section 85's are required with Galway City Council, Galway County Council and Roscommon County Council. He informed the members that a Presentation will be made to the Councillors in the three local authorities in September, 2014 on progress to date and on the proposed corridor for the Greenway. This will be followed by public consultations in September, 2014.

Eugene Dwyer informed the members that a lot of European funding is available for cycling routes around the country and that to progress this stage it is necessary to have a Section 85 passed at the Council Meeting today.

Members raised the following issues:

- Positive development as Roscommon is a key strategic location.
- Like to see an exit out to the Hodson Bay
- Disappointment expressed at withdrawal of €400,000 for cycle lane from Monksland to Cornafulla.
- Need for clear consultation on the matter.
- N61/old N5 should have a cycle way.
- Hope initiative will include a new bridge over River Suck.
- Want assurance that speed limits will be discussed at September meeting.

Eugene Dwyer responded to the queries raised:

- In a study of 15,000 cyclists interviewed to determine which they preferred the top two were:
 - 1) Landscape cycling
 - 2) Road free cycling
- 13 routes have been identified and Limerick to Carrick is one of them.
- An Executive Engineer from Roscommon County Council is currently working on the project and Steering Committee meeting will be held monthly.
- It is anticipated that speed limits will be ready for September meeting.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council make contact with Longford County Council in an effort to extend the cycle route from Longford to Clondra.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Shanagher
SECONDED by Councillor Ward
That the N61 be included as a cycle way from Athlone to Roscommon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh
It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council enter into a Section 85 Agreement with the lead authority, Westmeath County Council, so as to progress the development of the Greenway between Athlone and Galway City using the National Roads Authority's Regional Design Office in Mullingar.

105.14. DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME – 2014:

Martin Lydon informed the members that Roscommon County Council has prepared a Draft Development Contribution Scheme with a deadline for implementation by the end of the year. He continued that the Draft Scheme is on the Agenda today for information purposes only and it will be going on public display in August. He confirmed that the document takes account of the information provided in the Guidelines for Planning Authorities. The headline will be a reduction in Development Contributions in an effort to assist economic development. Examples of such reductions are as follows:-

- Price on a residential Unit is down from €4,400 to €4,000.
- Commercial Development €26 per square metre down to €20 per sq. metre.
- No development contribution for a change of use.
- 50% development contribution only on derelict sites –
- Tiered levels of town's contributions.

He confirmed that previous to this Agriculture had a 'no charge' of Development Contribution's which meant that Roscommon County Council had to provide subvention of €2m. and that the Draft Scheme proposes to implement €10 per sq. metre development contribution instead of agricultural development being exempt.

Members raised the following issues:

- Welcome reductions in development contributions in an effort to stimulate economic activity.
- Agricultural charges are a retrograde step.
- Need a tiered structure for agricultural charges
- Concerns about the residential charge - rural dwellers do not get the benefit of the services provided.
- Can amendments be made to the document.
- Household Charge/Development Contributions a double penalty.
- Need to be more creative for tourism development.
- Move required for the rural communities.
- Need for clarification on the succession of land issue.
- Need for an exemption of 500m on agricultural land.

Martin Lydon responded to all queries raised:

- If development contributions keep reducing, there will be no money for capital works.
- Roscommon County Council will continue to work with customers on payment plans for charges.

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

That €2,000 of a development contribution is paid per domestic dwelling when the facilities are in place.

Martin Lydon confirmed that this should be part of the public consultation process.

106.14. UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2013:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **RESOLVED** that Roscommon County Council authorise the following over expenditure under the Divisions set out below pursuant to Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the transfers to/from Capital Revenue accounts. The amounts of over-expenditure are counterbalanced for the most part by an increased yield in income over budget.

Division	Level of Over Expenditure €
Housing & Building	34,838
Road Transportation & Safety	527,893
Water Services	1,207,945
Recreation & Amenity	356,875
Miscellaneous Services	1,479,846
Total	3,607,397

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** that the unaudited Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2013 be adopted

107.14. REPORT ON UNCOLLECTED RATES AT 31.12.2013:

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

It was **AGREED** to note the Report on Uncollected Rates at 31.12.2013 as circulated.

108.14. APPOINTMENT OF THREE EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Martin Lydon informed the members that there is a need for Roscommon County Council to agree three names of external members to sit on the Audit Committee. Following discussion with the Corporate Policy Group the following names have been put forward for ratification –

Sinead Devine, Accountant, James Fitzmaurice, Accountant and Derry O'Donnell Retired County Manager.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton

SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** that Sinead Devine, Accountant, James Fitzmaurice, Accountant and Derry O'Donnell would be appointed external members of the Audit Committee.

109.14. REPORT ON THE TRANSFER OF ASSETS/LIABILITIES OF BOYLE TOWN COUNCIL:

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services informed the members that the Local Government Reform Act 2014 states that on the designated Transfer date, all assets and liabilities of a dissolved authority shall be transferred to the successor authority from such dissolved authority without any conveyance or assignment. The Transfer Date is June 1st 2014. (Reference: Schedule 4).

Boyle Town Council Assets.

1. Houses.

On the Transfer Date Boyle Town Council held fifteen (15) residential properties. (Numbers 2,7,15,18 & 21 Marian Road, Numbers 4,8,10 & 11 Saint Josephs Terrace, Numbers 27,28,30,37,44,& 49 Termon Road).

2. Land.

The records on file show that on the Transfer Date Boyle Town Council own three parcels of undeveloped land measuring 0.8918 Hectares in total (0.0038 Ha in Termon (Quarry Lane), 0.158 Ha in Bellspark and 0.73 Ha in Termon (Town Park).

3. Financial

On the Transfer Date Boyle Town Council held three Bank Accounts containing a total amount of €302,537.54. All three Accounts are held in AIB and administrative work is required to transfer the amounts into accounts held by Roscommon County Council.

Account Details are:

- Account 45549028 €62,619.88
- Account 45549-101 €18,149.02
- Account 35036472 €221,768.64.

4. Staff

No staff was directly employed by Boyle Town Council so the issue of staff transfer does not apply.

5. Boyle Town Council Liabilities.

On the transfer date records show that Boyle Town Council had no outstanding liabilities but there was a sum outstanding to Roscommon County Council for housing works.

Councillor Doherty raised the issue of funds of €302,500 and that it was previously agreed at a Boyle Town Council Meeting that this money would be spent on housing in the Boyle Municipal District.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services acknowledged that a resolution had been passed by Boyle Town Council that monies would be spent in the Boyle Municipal District.

110.14. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME – 2014 – 2019:

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services, briefed the members on the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme which was circulated to them for adoption. He stated that the Draft Scheme had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group. Once the Draft Scheme is adopted by the Council same has to be advertised and circulated to the Sectoral Representation/National Pillars to enable submissions to be made within four weeks. Following receipt of submissions the Council will then consider all submissions, if any, and adopt the Scheme with or without amendment. Nominations will then be sought from the National Pillars and Community, Voluntary, Disadvantaged and Cultural Sectors.

He highlighted the significant changes to the scheme from the previous scheme:

- Members will be on 2 committees to fulfil the requirements of nominees from sectoral interests and members.
- Minimum of nine of each Committee.
- One Committee must support economic development.

Members raised the issue of how sitting on 2 SPC's will increase their work load.

John O'Rourke responded that in the interest of fair distribution of work, members were placed on 2 committees. If a reduction was made at this time, the sectoral interest would have to be reduced accordingly. He re-iterated that the scheme was still at draft stage and members were entitled to make submissions if they so wished.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Creaton
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

111.14. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS:

John O'Rourke informed the meeting that the Standing Orders Committee had met on the 11th July and at that stage they were circulated with draft Municipal District Standing Orders and revised Plenary Standing Orders. It has now become apparent of the need for more municipal district meetings which will be discussed further at the next standing orders meeting he confirmed that although notices at today's meeting relate to municipal and county issues, going forward they will be dealt with at the appropriate meeting, i.e. area issues at municipal district and county issues at plenary meetings. It was agreed to circulate all draft Standing Orders to members for submissions and comment to all members who were requested to submit their submissions by the 11th August at which stage all submissions will be compiled and presented to a further meeting of the Standing Orders Committee.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Need to have the number of Plenary Meetings reduced and the number of Municipal Districts Meetings increased.
- Ongoing motions should be dealt with at plenary meetings.
- Need for municipal district meeting in September.
- Need for flexibility on notices.
- Location of meetings needs further discussion.

Tommy Ryan informed the members that there are many issues to be ironed out yet. He continued that there is scope within the legislation to devolve more functions to municipal districts (Schedule 3 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) which will be given greater discussion another day.

112.14. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2013:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Annual Report 2013.

113.14. PRESENTATION BY DONAL HEALY & MARTIN GILLEN ON IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK:

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Donal Healy and Martin Gillen of Ireland West Airport, Knock, to the Council Chamber to give a Presentation to the members on Ireland West Airport, Knock.

Donal Healy addressed the meeting and outlined the growth and success of Ireland West Airport, highlighting the enormous financial success it has been to the region to date. The Airport accounts for –

- Direct employment - 150.
- Jobs supported in the wider region - 900.
- Number of tourism bed nights - 900,000.
- Regional tourism spend of €133m. Annually.
- Employee tax/PRSI paid to the Exchequer - €1m.
- Annual contribution to GVA - €17m.
- Regional jobs supported by the Airport in pharmaceutical/medical devices/IT/engineering and tourism etc.

Mr. Healy also outlined that Ireland West Airport Knock remains determined to double its contribution to the West, North West and the Midlands regions and asserts its renewed determination to achieve its objectives to increase routes, passengers, business, tourism and jobs for the region and to win Government backing for this.

Joint strategic planning requested by the Airport for financial growth and job targets is:-

- Grow passenger numbers to 1.25m.
- Double tourism spend to €240m.
- Support a total number of jobs - 1,900.
- Increase Government tax revenues to €45m.
- Attract new enterprise park jobs 500.

He outlined to the members that Ireland West Airport Knock is seeking agreement in principle from Roscommon County Council for an investment with 6 other local authorities into the Airport to deliver on the Government commissioned Study Group Report recommendations.

Members raised the following issues:

- Knock Airport is the brightest star in the West of Ireland.
- This is a continuation of the partnership agreement.
- Is there any other funding avenue available?
- Signage to Knock is very poor.
- Airport is vital for Roscommon.
- Should be developing light industrial around the airport with easy export access.
- Are there any proposals for commercial flights out of Knock.

Donal Healy and & Martin Gillen responded to the queries raised:

- The plan is to waive all regional airport subvention.
- Airport is lobbying NRA hard on the signage issue.
- 10% increase equates to 40,000 passengers.
- Confident that new route network is sustainable.
- The objective of the plan is to make the airport self-sustainable after 10 years.
- Investment from the County Council has not yet been decided.

Tommy Ryan informed the members that today's presentation was for information purposes. He outlined that the regional airports are drivers of economic and tourism development and from the prospective of the local authority, it is very important that the airport continues to grow.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council support in principle an agreement for an investment into Ireland West Airport Knock to deliver on the Government commissioned Study Group Report recommendations with other regional local authorities.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Donal Healy and Martin Gillen for their very informative Presentation and wished them every success with Ireland West Airport in the future

114.14. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

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

It was **AGREED** to extend Standing Orders to the close of business.

115.14. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 135.

Replies to the Questions submitted by members were circulated (see schedule).

116.14. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter dated 12.5.2014 from the Office of the Minister for Education & Skills re Cloonakilla National School, Bealnamullia.
2. Letter dated 5.6.2014 from the Department of Agriculture , Food & the Marine re the setting up of a working group of all interested parties in the equine sector.
3. Letter of Acknowledgement from the Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine re resolution proposed in relation to bull beef production.
4. Letter dated 9.6.2014. from the Department of Social & Family Affairs re the restoration of the Telephone Allowance for senior citizens.
5. Letter dated 10.6.2014 from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport re the reclassification as national primary routes of the N60 and N61.
6. Letter dated 18.7.2014 from An Garda Siochana re Elphin Garda Station.
7. Letter dated 25.7.2014 from Irish Water re Local Authority Elected Members Liaison.

117.14. NOTICES OF MOTION

1.14. REMOVAL OF FUNDING FROM THE NCCWN:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Leyden & Fitzmaurice –1/14.

“That Roscommon County Council condemns the government's removal of funding from the NCCWN which impacts on Roscommon Women's Network and seeks for it to be reinstated and for the NCCWN to be retained as a national community programme for disadvantaged and vulnerable women and families”.

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Members raised the following issues:-

- RWN is one of 17 projects funded by the DEC&LG through the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks.
- The network engages with women from the most disadvantaged communities in the country.
- The work of the RWN has transformed the lives of marginalised and disadvantaged women in the county.
- The proposed Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) will replace the Community Development Programme.
- Under measures announced by Minister Phil Hogan, groups will have to tender for the SICAP work. It was announced that tendering for this programme (SICAP) will not be permitted by national organisations. This means that the NCCWN cannot tender for the work with women from disadvantaged communities.
- Ask the Minister that €1.3 million will continue to be ring fenced for work with women's groups through the National Collective of Community based Women's Networks.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden

SECONDED by Councillor Fitzmaurice

It was **AGREED** “That Roscommon County Council condemns the government's removal of funding from the NCCWN which impacts on Roscommon Women's Network and seeks for it to be reinstated and for the NCCWN to be retained as a national community programme for disadvantaged and vulnerable women and families”.

Tommy Ryan responded that the LCDC & SICAP will be managed by a committee of LCDC & SICAP currently out to tender.

2.14. N61 – UPGRADE:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Naughten –2/14.

"That Roscommon County Council progress the request to upgrade the N61 from a national secondary route to a national primary route and that an update on progress to date be provided".

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

The Council has already submitted a request to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to have the N61 National Secondary route upgraded to National Primary status. The matter is being considered by the Department as part of their ongoing review of reclassification of National and Regional Roads on a national basis. The Council will seek an update from the Department in due course.

Members raised the following issues:

- Is response likely to come soon?
- No upgrade in the last 15 years.
- No right turning lane for businesses on Roscommon to Athlone Road.
- Like to see traffic calming at Kiltoom/Ballybay
- Like to see a cycle route.
- Would a traffic count at Kiltoom be possible.

Eugene Dwyer responded that a traffic count will be carried out at Kiltoom

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Naughten

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** to proceed as outlined.

3.14. CATTLE SALES TO NORTHERN IRELAND & THE U.K.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Fallon –3/14.

"That Roscommon County Council requests the Minister for Agriculture to ensure that the current restrictions on the sale of Irish cattle to Northern Ireland and the UK is removed immediately to allow the traditional sale of weanlings and store cattle to continue as normal."

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Members raised the following issues:

- 90% of farmers in Roscommon are affected by the restrictions.
- Functioning live trade is vital for competition.
- Seems to be a labelling issue.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** "That Roscommon County Council request the Minister for Agriculture to ensure that the current restrictions on the sale of Irish cattle to

Northern Ireland and the UK is removed immediately to allow the traditional sale of weanlings and store cattle to continue as normal.”

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fallon

SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** “That Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to support and work with the Northern minister to agree a labelling system.

4.14. BUDGET 2015:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Connaughton –4/14.

“That Roscommon County Council provide a specific budget for road side trimming in 2015. Since elected, I have received numerous calls from concerned road users and my Motion is put forward in the interest of road safety.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

The 2015 Budget will be prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and Municipal District Members before approval by the Plenary Council in 2014. As in previous years this item will be discussed as part of the process, but, Members will need to be mindful of the reduced resources available and the need to prepare a budget within the parameters identified as part of the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014.

It should also be noted that under the Roads Act, 1993, land owners are responsible for the cutting, trimming and maintenance of roadside trees and hedges which are a hazard or potential hazard to road users or interfere with the maintenance of the public road. Dead and unsafe trees should be removed & hedges should be cut and trimmed by the landowner at their own expense. Limited resources in every area.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Connaughton

SECONDED by Councillor Fallon

“That Roscommon County Council provide a specific budget for road side trimming in 2015. Since elected, I have received numerous calls from concerned road users and my Motion is put forward in the interest of road safety.”

5.14. CONSTRUCTION WORKS WITHIN CO. ROSCOMMON:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Hopkins – 5/14.

“That Roscommon County Council call on the National Roads Authority to engage in meaningful consultation with residents who have been affected by construction works within the county”.

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:-

The National Roads Authority is the funding agency for national road projects and does not generally engage in consultation with individual landowners on roads projects. Roscommon County Council as Roads Authority consults with landowners and residents.

Members raised the following issues:

- There has been distinct lack of communication with residents on the Ballaghaderreen By-pass.
- Issues around the pond.
- Concern over 8ft high embankment beside one residents house.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hopkins
SECONDED by Councillor Ward

It was **AGREED** “That Roscommon County Council issue a letter to the NRA requesting them to engage in meaningful discussions with residents affected by construction on the Ballaghaderreen by-pass.”

6.14. CLOONAKILLA NATIONAL SCHOOL:

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward – 4/14.

“I am calling on the Minister for Education & Skills, Ms. Jan O’Sullivan, T.D., to provide the necessary funding to build a new sixteen teacher National School at Cloonakilla, Bealnamullia.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:-

This Notice of Motion requires a Resolution of the Council.

Members raised the following issues:

- Monksland has the biggest growing population in County Roscommon.
- Car parking inadequate at the school.
- School was removed from the programme by the present Government

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Kilduff

It was **AGREED** “to call on the Minister for Education & Skills, Ms. Jan O’Sullivan, T.D., to provide the necessary funding to build a new sixteen teacher National School at Cloonakilla, Bealnamullia.”

118.14. COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the lists of Conferences as circulated to the members.

Cllr. E. Keenan	Local Authorities Role in Environment Protection, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Cllr. S. Beirne	Chamber of Commerce Building Business, Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarberry. MABS & the Insolvency Service of Ireland, Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarberry.

Cllr. T. Ward	Improved Protection for Consumers with New Building Regs which come into
Cllr. T. Crosby	effect 1/3/2014, The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway. Education to drive the economy, The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway
Cllr. J. Kenny	Service Provision in Local Authorities, Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Rd, Galway.
Cllr. O. Moore	Valuation Process for Rating Properties, Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Ave, South Circular Road, Limerick Sport & Community Planning, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. ACCA Annual Conference, Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan.
Cllr. M. Mulligan	The Councillor & Irish Water, Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
Cllr. J. Naughten	Alternative Energy & Local Government, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
Cllr. L. Fallon	European Elections Information Seminar for Cllrs, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth Seanad Reform & The Councillors, Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

119.14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Recycling Facility:

Councillor Shanagher highlighted to the members that as and from Monday the 29th September the Civic Amenity Sites in County Roscommon will only be open three days per week on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Members stated that the reduced opening hours are unacceptable when the county is trying to promote tourism and keep the countryside free from illegal dumping.

Majella Hunt, Director of Services responded that it was necessary to look at the usage in all the civic sites in the county, the frequency and times they are used and the cost of running the sites with the usage that we are dealing with. She confirmed that the number of users does not justify the current opening hours at the sites.

Wind Turbines – High Court Ruling

Martin Lydon circulated the decision of the High Court which overturned An Bord Pleanála's decision on the wind turbines.

Members queried whether this will have a bearing on our County Development Plan. Martin Lydon responded that he did not wish to comment on a High Court case as the developer may appeal. He referred to the direction given by Minister Kelly which Roscommon County Council will be adhering to.

Statement of Donations & Election Expenses

Fiona ní Chuinn reminded members to make their return to her on/before 21st August 2014.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Mayor

Countersigned