

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 23rd FEBRUARY, 2015. AT 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Pascal Fitzmaurice, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: M. Creaton, N. Dineen, O. Leyden, K. Shanagher,

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor D. Connolly.

OFFICIALS: John O'Rourke, A/Director of Services.
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

Amendment to Minute Re Pedestrian Crossing:

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

It was **AGREED** that a detailed road design Plan be drawn up for the area and funding for same to be allocated from development contributions.

19.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on 8.12.2014. as amended.

20.15. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET PLAN 2015:

Eugene Dwyer Senior Engineer highlighted to the members the Municipal Districts Budget Plan including the Draft Works scheme 2015 for the Roscommon area. He referred in particular to previous meetings held with the Councillors and the Area Engineers at which stage all requests had been discussed at length and agreement in principle had been reached regarding the document before them today.

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

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the NRA for funding for the dangerous drain in Ballyleague .

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

It was **AGREED** that if funding is not available from Irish Water to reinstate the roads following repairs to leaks that Roscommon Municipal District members would request the Department of Environment to make a separate allocation for roads resurfacing following pipe laying by Irish Water

Members raised the following issues:-

- Asked for an update in relation to the Ballinagard Bridge.
- Bridge at Baslick is closed and needs immediate attention.
- Drain at Ballyleague needs to be attended to as a matter of urgency.
- A lot of road signage is in a very poor state at present.
- Roscommon town is not getting adequate funding for roads and footpaths.
- Need for an update on the Bridges programme.
- Work needs to be carried out on the 15 ft drain at the side of the road at Meelickaduff which has been neglected by the NRA .
- Need for emergency signage at Moyne Cross.
- Need for an extra allocation for the County town.
- Query on works on the Walk road – work was supposed to be done last April.
- Serious flooding issues around McCrann's in Roscommon Town.

Eugene Dwyer responded to the queries raised :-

- There are two lorries in Roscommon area working on the Winter Maintenance Programme, however, the budget is down by 40% on the 2008 figure which continues to have a major impact on Winter Maintenance.
- Prices have been received for work on the Ballinagard road before Christmas however, a derogation order must be put in place before carrying out works on site during the spawning season.
- A road realignment at the Car park would cause a serious reduction in parking at the Church cark park
- An Engineer is currently working on an update on the Bridges Programme – inspections are still being carried and will take a further month.
- NRA are currently setting up a Roads data base.
- No funding to carry out works on the Lanesboro Road.
- Culverts for the Bridge at Baslick are now in the Yard in Castlerea and Eugene Dwyer will be taking a look at it.
- Roscommon County Council will make a submission to the NRA regarding Meelickaduff.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Municipal District Budget Plan 2015 as circulated.

21.15. EPA NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN:

John Mockler, Senior Executive Engineer in the Environment department briefed the members on the background to the EPA National Inspection Plan and outlined the two pronged approach that is being taken in relation to Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems i.e. Engagement (awareness) and Inspections.

He stated that a number of systems were inspected in the first 12 months of the plan and the number that related to Roscommon Co. Co. was 33. The failure rate for the first 12 months was 24 out of 33 and 8 out of 17 for the following 6 months leading up to December 2014. He indicated that a minimum of 28 inspections were due to be carried out in 2015.

He also gave a summary on the site selection process and the risk based approach that was used.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Clarification sought on the reasons for the different failure rates.
- Why is the failure rate so high in Roscommon compared to other counties.
- What is the time frame for people to carry out remedial works.
- Queried why Roscommon County Council is using the EPA Code of practice in order to achieve solutions for problematic sites.?
- Are failure rates mostly in the high risk areas – what type of tanks failed?
- Some of the older tanks are now not fit for purpose.
- What is the average cost to people having to carry out works and what grant aid is available to them.
- Crypto problems is not caused by the septic tanks.
- The ability of people to pay to rectify issues is not there and ask Roscommon County Council to take this into consideration when they are asked to do major works.
- More work needs to be done at the planning stage so that people are not having issues with their septic tanks.
- If someone fits a tank in accordance with the planning conditions and the tank fails who is in the wrong.
- If someone fails on a percolation area why do they need a new treatment area as well as a percolation area.
- Prior to planning percolation tests need to be done.
- Need for grant aid assistance for social welfare recipients.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Dineen

SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

That more funding is required in the grant aid area.

John Mockler responded to the queries raised and explained in full the range of costs of remediation to the members. He confirmed that no two sites were the same and that different tanks would present with their own unique difficulties. However Roscommon County Council was working with the owners to ensure an effective solution in order to comply with the Water Services Act 2007 as amended. He also confirmed that to date there were zero non compliances in relation to advisory notices issued.

- Where testing has been done residents receive an advisory notice depending on how much works have to be carried out.
- Roscommon County Council pick areas based on problematic/high risk ground conditions.
- Remedial works can be from €100 to €13,000 and grant aid is available to a maximum of 80% of the works and the maximum grant is €4,000.
- Grant aid is income related up to €75,000.
- A number of issues may cause a tank to fail and it may not necessarily relate to the planning conditions or the fitting of the tank.
- A septic tank itself only carries out ~30% of the treatment – the percolation area carries out ~70% .
- Roscommon County Council use EPA Codes of Practice to look for solutions to be designed to eradicate the problem.
- The cost of up to €13,000 is where all of the system has to be replaced.
- There is no correlation between people's liability to pay and non compliance.

- People are engaging with the Environment Department and we are very proactive in coming to different solutions for each site.
- Engineers working on behalf of the residents are trying to deal with the issues with their best and most cost effective solution.

22.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Ballinagard Road:

Councillor Leyden thanked Eugene Dwyer for securing funding for the Bridge at Ballinagard Road.

Irish Water:

Members queried what proposals have Irish Water to reinstate roads where works have been carried out.

Road Realignment at the Convent Primary School:

Councillor Leyden referred to the agreement at a recent meeting to proceed to road realignment and road design stage at this location and queried what the up to date position was. She confirmed that she had spoken to Martin Lydon on the matter of development contributions where he outlined the process for applying development contributions as follows:-

The relevant Director of Service, requests the funding and in doing so needs to ensure the following conditions are met:

1. The scheme is included in the 3 Year Capital Programme – which is approved by Members as part of the budget process
2. The funds are actually available within development contributions
3. The expenditure will not impact negatively on Roscommon County Council's General Government Borrowing (GGB) return to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

The allocation of funds is the last element to be considered. The Roads section need to consider the cost of the project and produce detailed drawings, it is at this point we can then have discussions regarding development contributions and if there is an impact on points 1 to 3 above. He confirmed that it is not possible to identify funds until the costs involved are known.

Members raised the following issues:

- How much will the road realignment cost.
- Need to provide for the safety of children.
- Is the school willing to provide any land.

Eugene Dwyer confirmed that he will speak to Martin Lydon on the issue. There would be a need for more resources to carry out work on plans and based on a rough sketch that has been prepared in relation to the matter about 40% of car parking spaces would be lost if the realignment and road design went ahead.

County Hospital:

Members raised the issue of tickets being given to people who are illegally parked on the footpath and queried how this can be resolved. The need for additional car parking at the Hospital was highlighted

Eugene Dwyer confirmed that he had spoken to Aidan O'Brien of the Traffic Corps on the matter and it is hoped to mark out a new route next week.

Members Miscellaneous Issues:

- Queried when Speed Limits will be reviewed again. At present traffic for the N60 is coming through the town at a fast speed.
- Need for right-hand turning lane at Elphin junction

Labour Relations Commission: -

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services read a Statement updating the members on the Implementation of new Municipal Structures as follows:

“At the request of SIPTU/SIPTU LAPO, the Council has agreed to revert to the LRC to clarify issues raised by the Union. A further LRC conciliation meeting has been arranged to progress the implementation of the new structures. It would not be appropriate to make any further comment while this process is ongoing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned