

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 27th APRIL, 2015. AT 10.00 A.M.

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

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

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

23.15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on 23.2.2015.

24.15. HOUSING REPORT – UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT FUNDING UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITY INITIATIVE PROGRAMME.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services, circulated to the members copy of a letter which had been received from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, re targets for delivery under the Social Housing Strategy for 2015, 2016 and 2017. He stated that the number of housing units under the Capital Programme targets 2015 – 2017 for Roscommon was 152. The estimated cost of delivery (Current and Capital) is €5.6m. A target of 25 units has been set for Roscommon County Council to be delivered under Capital Programmes, encompassing local authority housing (Construction & Acquisition, including Part V acquisitions). Capital Assistance Scheme and the return of void properties for the period 2015 - 2017

The Provisional Capital Allocation to support this target is €4.7m. The drawdown of this funding will be contingent on the delivery of social housing units across all capital programmes within the relevant timeframes. The Department will be monitoring progress on delivery of units under the Social Housing Strategy and reserves the right to reallocate funding between local authorities where satisfactory progress is not being made, in order that national targets can be achieved. A target for Roscommon County Council of 18 units for delivery under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme during 2015 to 2017 has been determined with 15 of these units for delivery in 2015. A target of 55 RAS units to be delivered by Roscommon County Council has been set for 20156 with the number of units estimated to be delivered under the scheme in the period 2016 – 2017 at 54 units subject to the availability of funding.

Members noted the contents of the letter and raised the following issues:-

- Clarification requested on 'void units'.
- Concern at the diminishing supply of houses for rent – need for revision of the Roscommon Town Plan.
- Queried where the 15 units were being leased.
- The Government are front loading the programme.

- The allocation was described as ‘a token gesture’ by the Government to deal with the social housing crisis in the county.
- Queried whether social housing tenants were left in a vulnerable situation when the five year lease under the RAS initiative expired.
- Query the differential cost in other counties.

John O’Rourke responded to the queries raised:-

- Social housing allocation is welcome but is not enough.
- ‘Void units’ are empty houses that have been vacated.
- Funding under the Capital programme funds the renovation of ‘void units’.
- The Social Housing Strategy needs to be read and understood as it underpins all that is outlined in the target letter.
- Every local authority has got different funding.
- Housing will be provided where the need is.
- Front loading of leasing will allow time for new houses to be built.

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

It was **AGREED** that a letter issue to the Department of Environment , Community & Local Government requesting that Capital funding be made available to allow local authorities to provide social housing based on their extensive knowledge of house building.

26.15. HOUSING LIST UPDATE.

John O’Rourke, Acting Director of Services, informed the members that at present there are between 600 and 620 people on the list for housing in County Roscommon. This is not an accurate figure for the housing list as applicants for social housing can identify three areas in which they wish to live. At present there are 290 applicants for Roscommon Town, 43 for Ballyleague, 78 for Castlerea, 13 for Ballinlough, 8 for Castleplunkett and 14 in Loughglynn. There is a high refusal rate of social houses.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Queried if there were empty houses in Castlerea/Loughglynn area.
- Queried if people availing of RAS are taken off the housing list.
- Lack of housing stock in towns.
- Queried how many unoccupied houses are in the Roscommon Municipal District.
- Will tenants in Council estates have to pay water rates?
- Department list for housing needs for County Roscommon is based on the most recent Housing Needs Assessment and is now out of date.

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

It was **AGREED** that the Roscommon Municipal District members of Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for Environment & Local Government requesting that an up to date housing list be used for the allocation of funding for housing as the current departmental allocation is based on out of date figures.

John O'Rourke responded to the queries raised and confirmed that -

- There are 25 unoccupied houses in the Roscommon Municipal district.
- Tenants of Council houses will have to pay water rates.
- HAP will reduce the housing list.

27.15. CASTLEREA SWIMMING POOL.

Councillor Fitzmaurice complimented Roscommon County Council on the fantastic outdoor Swimming Pool in Castlerea and enquired when it is due to open to the public and queried its financial status.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services responded that the Pool is due to open in mid June. The recruitment of Life Guards is taking place at present, a Manager is being sought and a Caretaker is in place. The budget for the Pool is similar to what it was last year. There is a need to replace one of the filters in the Pool but it is hoped to secure an allocation for this.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Pool should be open for as long as possible during the year.
- Need to set up a face book page to promote the Pool.
- Need to look after the customers and take on board their thoughts.
- Asked that the entry fee for the Pool remain unchanged from last year.

John O'Rourke responded that Roscommon Leisure Centre has a face book page. Roscommon County Council is in the process of employing a graduate who will be employed as a Communications and Marketing Officer and the matter of setting up a face book page for Castlerea can be looked at.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Councillor Leyden

That a Face book page is set up for Castlerea Swimming Pool.

28.15. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

The Roscommon senior Football team on winning the Division 2 League
The Roscommon U21 team on winning the Connacht final

29.15. VOTES OF SYMPATHY were extended to:

The Hennigan family, Fuerty, on the death of Mae Hennigan.

30.15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Members Miscellaneous Issues:

- Update requested on funding for works on the dangerous open drain in Ballyleague Village.
- Queried what proposals Irish Water have to reinstate and resurface roads following the installation of water pipes etc.
- Disappointed that Area Engineer is still not attending the Municipal District Meetings.
- Queried what progress has been made on the matter of road realignment at the Convent Primary School?

- Asked if Electric Skyline could be requested to light up Roscommon Courthouse and the County Library for the upcoming 'Join our Boys' event.
- Signage at Rathmoyle Cross still in need of urgent attention.
- An allocation of funding is required to clear out the rubbish in drains in Corlis bog.
- Lighting and footpaths on the Sli na Slante road needs urgent attention.
- Yellow line markings at SuperValu very faded and need to be renewed.
- Queried the up to date position on the Speed Limit review.
- Queried when work will start on the road surfacing programme.

Members thanked Roscommon County Council for the work done on the bridges at Ballinagard and Baslick.

Councillor Fitzmaurice wished to express appreciation for the work done on the Termon road in Castlereah with the removal of a dangerous corner at that location. There was great co-operation with Fas and the landowners.

John O'Rourke responded to queries raised and informed the members that he would get further updates from his colleagues on matters raised. He continued that the process of the implementation of the new Municipal District structures is still ongoing.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned