



MINUTES OF ATHLONE Municipal District **HELD IN THE COUNCIL** Chamber - Áras an Chontae, **ON TUESDAY**, 12th March, 2024 **AT 9.30** am

PRESENT: Councillor Laurence Fallon **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr J. Naughten and Cllr E. Kelly.

OFFICIALS: Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services
Susan Loughnane, Municipal District Co-Ordinator
David Carty, Executive Engineer,
Shelia Glennon, Staff Officer

Apologies:

19.24 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

Declarations of conflict of interest by Members were disclosed in relation to Item no 4 “Athlone MD Funding 2024”. Each Member left the meeting during the discussion of the relevant application. Ballyforan Hall – Cllr. Donal Kilduff and Cllr. Emer Kelly.

20.24 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. L Fallon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr. J Keogh
Seconded by: Cllr. J Naughten

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Athlone Municipal District meeting held on 30th January, 2024.

Members welcomed David Carty, Executive Engineer who has now joined the Athlone MD team and look forward to working with him.

21.24 DRAFT ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ROAD WORKS SCHEME 2024 AS PART OF THE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr. J Keogh
Seconded by: Cllr. T Ward

The Draft Athlone MD Road Works Programme 2024 as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented to the Elected Members. The MD Schedule of works was approved by the Elected Members. The Members thanked the staff involved in the preparation of the Programme.

Members welcomed the allocations for Climate Change and Resilience Works allocated budget of €310,000 this year and the new allocation for Public Realm Town and Village Team Athlone of €50,000.

Issues raised by the Members:

1. Drainage works needed on two roads listed on the road programme 2024, before surfacing dressing is carried out.
2. Drainage allocations for Rivers – consult with Inland Fisheries before selecting what areas to clean this year.

3 Proposed by: Cllr L Fallon

Seconded by: Cllr J Naughten

Members requested roads that have disintegrated after the road programme was agreed, would get priority should extra funding become available, in particular the L2039 Falty, Oldtown, Athlone.

4. Proposed by: Cllr E Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

Members agreed that a request for regular updates in relation to flooding at Lough Funshinagh from the working group be provided for the next meeting.

5. Proposed by: Cllr D Kilduff

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

Members agreed that the design team for the St. John's Church junction optimisation, should actively engage with St John's Pastoral Council during the design stages of the project. Members also agreed to request the design team to consider including the junction on the N61/L2004 (NolansCorner) during the design stage in the interest of safety.

6 Proposed by: Cllr T Ward

Seconded by: Cllr D Kilduff

Members agreed to request that the Design Team for the Strategic Review of the N61 should progress the 5 junction optimisation proposals this year. The members also requested that the Kiltoom Junction at Cornaseer should be prioritised and that a roundabout should be considered at this location

7. Request to look at the Taughmaconnell Drain, the sides have slipped in several areas causing blockages.

8 LCSS funding from own resources location has yet to be decided

22.24 ATHLONE MD FUNDING 2024 - APPLICATIONS

There were 24 applications for MD Funding 2024 , Members agreed that six applications were not eligible for funding under the MD funding Guidelines 2024.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

Members agreed that the MD Funding Guidelines needs to be reviewed prior to advertising of MD funding for 2025.

Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services informed the Members that this request would have to go to the appropriate SPG first for review, and then to the CPG. She also informed the Members due to the range of grants available to groups, should there be any double funding granted the project may not remain eligible under the funding criteria to be drawn down.

The following allocations were unanimously agreed by all the Members.

Group/Project	Project Details	Amount Granted	Proposed by	Seconded by
Athleague Community Centre	We wish to purchase a portable stage for our Community Centre.	8,250	L Fallon	J Keogh
Athleague Tidy Towns & Development Association	To continue the Streetscape that was drawn up in conjunction RCC & Athleague Tidy Towns in 2019. N63 Open Spaces/Public Realm. Proposal: to Continue circular theme and mill wheel reference by installing curved path & curved seat to rear of raised feature with ground level planter to the front creating a usable open space. W	2,000	L Fallon	E Kelly
Ballyforan Area Transition Team	Construction of 5km, off-road shared walkway and cycleway (Greenway) located to the North of Derryfadda Bog. This bog was formerly used for peat harvesting by Bord na Móna and has recently been rehabilitated by Bord na Móna as part of the Peatland Climate Action Scheme (PCAS). Construction of a car park and entrance upgrades from local road L3406 and safe access from the village to the proposed recreational development.	10,500	L Fallon	E Kelly
Ballyforan Hall	Refurbish stage enclosure to include fitting of stage backdrop structure and side props Install platform lift for disability access to stage Upgrade electrical appliances and lightning including instillation of wall mounted heater	7,500	L Fallon	J Keogh
Brideswell Pattern Festival	We are proposing to repurpose the handball alley, which has been lying idle for many years in the village. Our proposal involves installing a green house to allow community members to grow flowers, which will be planted around the village to coincide with our events, reducing the annual cost of buying flowers substantially.	*4,000	L Fallon	T Ward
Culleen Hall Committee	To enhance the appearance of Culleen Hall the committee proposes to complete paint works to the main area of the hall.	600	L Fallon	D Kilduff
Curraghboy Parents Support Group	Lee Williamson if shuttermaniac productions will Ais the pupil population in interviewing local residents, creating a short film and a dramatisation of an event that occurred in the old school house. This films aim is to celebrate the unique rural and cultural heritage of the village of Curraghboy. .	2,550	L Fallon	T Ward
Drum Community Centre	Athlone Special Olympics Club has ubeen based here since the club was established over 20 years ago. They have earned many trophies and awards over the years but don't have a proper place to display/store them or the club gear/equipment. It is proposed to create a safe space for the Club in the former lounge (now meeting room) through new storage, along with new chairs, tables and a dishwasher.	9,375	L Fallon	J Naughten
Kilbegnet Development Association	.We want to upgrade the cottage and the surrounds so it can be used to hold kayaks .The structure is good but the window , doors and floors are in bad condition so we will start the process to make this a very high standard area where people can use this facility .	6,500	L Fallon	J Keogh
Lecarrow Walking Club	To enhance our community by integrating the pathway with the existing public footpath which will create a loop walk. To foster a sense of community pride and social connectedness through shared recreational activities. Safeguard the walker as we had a number of near misses on the public road. Enhanced community pride and social cohesion. Harmony Trails represents a significant investment in the well-being and vitality of our community.	5,000	L Fallon	D Kilduff
Midlands Polish Community CLG	we would like to purchase a desk and some additional equipment so our video volunteers and yet everyone else who is using Drum Community Centre have properly fitted studio desk for video edition. We would like to install this studio desk in the back room of Drum.	500	L Fallon	J Naughten
Moore Community Council	We are applying for assistance to: a) Upgrade the external lighting at Moore Community Hall Carpark b) Install external CCTV at Moore Community Hall	2,000	L Fallon	J Naughten
Mount Talbot Village Enhancement Group	Purchase and erection of signage at access points to the village	*2,600	L Fallon	D Kilduff
Rinn Duin Youth club	Youth inclusion social interaction and Arts project - Purchase a Avant grande 2.0 pool / Meeting table for youth collaboration projects - meetings - and social inclusion and interaction.	2,500	L Fallon	D Kilduff
St Johns Community Centre	We propose to run a weekly/fortnightly bingo in our centre from September 2024. We held a trial bingo in January 2024 which was extremely successful . We currently only have 180 chairs and 10 tables.	3,000	L Fallon	D Kilduff

St.Brighids Handball Club, Curraghboy Community Hall	To enhance the appearance of the Hall, the committee proposes to powerwash and paint the exterior of the Hall.	1,500	L Fallon	T Ward
Taughmaconnell Community Centre	Non slip flooring for Kitchen, entrance hall and office. Industrial Dish Washer, Kitchen Equipment(Thermo Flasks, Teapots, Burco Boiler) Insulation of ladies toilets and attic and walls of meeting room.	9,375	L Fallon	J Keogh
Taughmaconnell Development Company	Taughmaconnell Development Company (TDC) are seeking funding to complete a section of footpath in the village between and Junction of the L2025 & R357 ("The Pound") . TDC are seeking funding for the placing of the macadam footpath over the 220m section.	4,250	L Fallon	J Keogh
Tisrara Community Sports Park	The works will include the installation of a new wastewater treatment system and percolation area with all necessary ancillary site-works, replacing the existing sanitary system.	3,000	L Fallon	E Kelly
	Total Allocations	85,000		

*Conditions Applied to 2 Grants approved

23.24 MATTERS ARISING

No Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 30th January,2024.

24.24 NOTICE OF MOTION

There were four Notice of Motions for discussion.

25.24 CLLR. J NAUGHTEN- NOM 4.24 - ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON OLD TUAM RD.

That Roscommon County Council install a second Pedestrian Crossing on the Old Tuam Road between the Cushla Estates junction and the junction with New Tuam Road at St Coman's Park.

Response:

The provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Old Tuam Road will be investigated and funding opportunities explored.

Cllr J Naughten thanked the Members for their support.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr. J Naughten

Seconded by: Cllr. J Keogh

The Members **AGREED** that the pedestrian crossing being considered should incorporate a raised table/ramp.

26.24 CLLR T WARD- NOM 5.24 - FUNDING FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES

I am calling on Roscommon County Council to provide the necessary funding for the active travel scheme for the following villages: Curraghboy, Brideswell and Ballyforan.

Response:

The NTA Allocation for Active Travel Schemes in Roscommon County Council for 2024 is €3,050,000. Unfortunately the active travel schemes for the villages of Curraghboy, Brideswell and Ballyforan were not selected for funding in 2024. Roscommon County Council will explore other funding opportunities in the future to assist in the delivery of schemes in these areas.

Cllr T Ward thanked the Members for their support. He was disappointed that they were not included in the allocations this year under Active Travel and asked should any further funding from other resources become available to prioritise these villages.

27.24 CLLR E KELLY -NOM 6.24 - FILLING IN VERGES IN DYSART

"I am calling on Roscommon County Council to expedite the filling of verges in Dysart, on the Four Roads road. I have raised this issue directly with the council; however it needs to be done quickly. There have

been accidents along this stretch of narrow road and it is dangerous for all vehicles".

Response:

The R357 to the north of Dysart is a narrow section of road with limited verges and dry stone walls. There are no current plans to widen this road and any widening is likely to require the acquisition of private land. Further investigation including possible trial holes is required to determine if filling of the limited existing verges is feasible without road widening. Athlone MD will revert once investigations have been undertaken.

Cllr. E Kelly thanked Members for their support and asked if any temporary measures could be taken in the interest of safety in the immediate future.

28.24 CLLR D KILDUFF- NOM 7.24- CAPITAL WORKS FUNDING FOR CEMETERIES

"That Roscommon County Council calls on the Taoiseach and Minister Heather Humphreys at the Department of Rural and Community Development to immediately establish an annual fund for necessary capital works projects at our nations cemeteries to specifically address the deterioration of pavements, boundary walls, overgrown trees and other similar capital works requirements in the interest of health and safety, stimulating local economies, pride of place at these sacred public spaces, but most importantly in deference to the memory of our deceased loved ones throughout the county".

Response:

The above NOM requires a resolution by the members of the Athlone MD to write to the Taoiseach and the Minister for the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Cllr D Kilduff thanked Members for their support

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr D Kilduff

Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

The Members **AGREED** to send a letter to the Department of the Taoiseach and Local government requesting them to consider establishing a National Fund to address capital works issues in cemeteries, that local authorities have no budget for in their maintenance grants.

29.24 QUESTIONS

There were two Questions for noting.

30.24 CLLR J NAUGHTEN - Q3.24 -TII REVIEW OF AQUAPLANNING ON THE M6

Has Roscommon County Council received the outcome of the review that TII committed to undertake, in relation to the issue of aquaplaning on the M6 between the Kilbegley Overbridge and Junction 14 both East and West bound.

Response:

TII responded to NOM raised in the November 2023 MD meeting requesting a timeline to address aquaplaning on the N6 with the below response. It is expected that a design will be progressed in Q2 of 2024. A copy of this correspondence was included in the Agenda pack for the January 2024 MD Meeting.

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 December 2023 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII can confirm that a design is being prepared to address this section of the M6 and it is anticipated that progress will be made in Q2 of 2024.

31.24 CLLR T WARD -Q4.24 - TREES ON THE R446

Can Roscommon County Council cut back the trees that are overhanging onto the R466 road at Crannagh/Summerhill. I have raised this concern in the past.

Response:

The trees on the east side of the R446 adjacent to Coláiste Chiaráin were cut back by our landscaping contractors in Q4 2023.

32.24 CORRESPONDENCE

Four Correspondences were circulated to the Members.

1, Minister for Public Expenditure Mr Pascal Donoghue T.D. correspondence in relation to (Motion 92.23) funding for flooding in Clonown, advised that proposals and design schemes and minor works fall under the remit of the OPW.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Naughten

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

Members **AGREED** to send another letter to the OPW requesting a review of the unique circumstances in Clonown and to allocate sufficient funding to elevate the flooding issues.

2. Minister Heather Humphery, T.D. Department of Rural and Community Development correspondence in relation to (Motion 10.24) Capital Works funding for a number of cemeteries in Athlone MD. Members were disappointed with the reply. Minister Heather Humphery informed the Members that the Department has responsibility for policy and legislation, while the operation of burial grounds is the responsibility of the Local Authority.

3. Minister Heather Humphery T.D. correspondence in relation to (Motion 8.241/2) changes to the CE Scheme, Members welcomed the changes made to the scheme to increase participation.

4. Mr. Charlie McConalougue T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine correspondence in relation to (Motion 6.24) culling back of the wild deer herd numbers in Roscommon, He referenced the Deer Management Strategy Group that are working to progress the recommendations towards implementation.

33.24 CIVIC RECEPTION REQUEST

No Civic Reception Request

34.24 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / SYMPATHY

No Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

35.24 A.O.B

No AOB for discussion

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 20th May, 2024.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator



Cathaoirleach



Countersigned