



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



**MINUTES OF ATHLONE** Municipal District **HELD IN THE COUNCIL** Chamber - Áras an Chontae, **ON TUESDAY**, 25th March, 2025 **AT 10.00** am

**PRESENT:** Councillor John Keogh      **PRESIDED**

**MEMBERS:** Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr L. Fallon and Cllr V. Duffy.

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

**Apologies:** Cllr D. Connolly

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

No Disclosures

**14.25 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Keogh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr T Ward  
**Seconded by:** Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to adopt the minutes of the Athlone Municipal District meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

**15.25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT- ON A SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 179 SUBSECTIONS 3(A) AND 3(B) OF PART XI OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED AND PART 8 OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (S.I. NO 600 OF 2001) AS AMENDED**

Vincent Walsh SEE, Housing Section presented the Chief Executive's report to the Members. Fiona Ní Chuinn Acting Director of Services, Ann McHugh SEO and Mark Finneran EE were also present.

Members welcomed the development and expressed their thanks to all involved in preparing the Part 8 for this new development in Monksland. The Members complimented the Staff of the Housing Section for their high level of engagement with the residents and to the residents for the large number of positive submission submitted for consideration.

Members expressed some concerns regarding safety issues on the main Slí an Coiste access road (L-7641-0). Concerns were noted regarding the increased volume of traffic and issues regarding the existing School Bus stop area needs which needs to be addressed. The Members requested if possible to move the junction at the entrance of the new estate a few meters within the scope of the red line boundary.

On the **proposal of:** Cllr L Fallon

**Seconded by:** Cllr E Kelly

It was proposed to remove the proposed speed table at the entrance to the new estate and implement other traffic calming measures. Susan Loughnane informed the Members that the Athlone MD is happy to work with the Members outside the red line boundaries to address their safety concerns.

Members requested if the issues at the entrance to Sli an Cloiste Estate from the Old Tuam Rd. during winter season could be addressed. It is very difficult to get out of the estate at this junction during severe weather conditions. Susan Loughnane informed the Members that while it is not on the Winter Maintenance route, it has been gritted using a smaller gritter and antiskid measures are included in the programme of works in the coming months.

On the Proposal of      Cllr V Duffy  
Seconded by            Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to adopt the Specified Development by a Local Authority in accordance with section 179 subsections 3(A) and 3(B) of part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and part 8 of Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No 600 of 2001) as amended. With the removal of the Speed Table at the entrance to the estate and to replace this with alternative traffic calming measures.

#### **16.25 DRAFT ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ROAD WORKS SCHEME 2025 AS PART OF THE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS.**

On the **Proposal of:**      Cllr E Kelly  
**Seconded by:**            Cllr V Duffy

The Draft Athlone MD Road Works Programme 2025 as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented to the Elected Members. The MD Schedule of works was approved by the Members. The Members thanked the staff involved in the presentation of the Programme.

Members requested an up to date List for the Drainage Programme 2025.

Cllr J Keogh inquired about funding to repair street lighting in Estates not taken in charge. Funding was put in place in 2014 after elections to address these issues.

Caitlin Connelly, Director of Services informed the Members that the Assets team have a limited budget and is prioritising works due to the substantial increase in costs.

Cllr J Keogh requested that the overgrown hedging and litter around the Monksland outside GYM area be addressed.

Cllr L Fallon inquired when will the new Public Lights in Athleague village be connected.

Susan Loughnane agreed to inspect the area around the Gym, and informed the Members that ESB connection at Athleague has been certified and is with the ESB for connection.

#### **17.25 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROAD WITHIN THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CORRAN RIADA,**

### **MONKSLAND, ATHLONE, CO ROSCOMMON.**

Section 11 (2) (b) of the Roads Act 1993 and Roads Regulations 1994, Part 2

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Section 180 Local Government Reform Act 2014  
Schedule 3. Declaration of public road within the housing development at Corran Riada, Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr. L Fallon

**Seconded by:** Cllr. T Ward

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to have the road located within housing development at Corran Riada, Monksland, Athlone, Co Roscommon be declared to be a public road.

Cllr J Keogh requested if something could be done to address caravans left parked there for long period of time.

### **18.25 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROAD WITHIN THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CUSHLA VILLAGE, MONKSLAND, ATHLONE, CO ROSCOMMON.**

Section 11 (2) (b) of the Roads Act 1993 and Roads Regulations 1994, Part 2

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Section 180 Local Government Reform Act 2014  
Schedule 3. Declaration of public road within the housing development at Cushla Village, Monksland, Athlone, Co Roscommon

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr T Ward

**Seconded by:** Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to have the road located within the housing development at Cushla Village, Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon be declared to be a public road

### **19.25 UPGRADE OF THE R362/L75603-0 JUNCTION, MONKSLAND.**

Planning application Ref PD/23/60195 for the development of a residential development consisting of 82 houses and apartments in Monksland was granted permission, subject to a number of conditions, on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

Condition No. 5 outlined a requirement that a signalised junction is provided on the R362 at the Junction with the L75603 and the proposed development access prior to the occupation of any unit. The applicant, in consultation with Roscommon County Council, has examined the junction options and developed a design for the junction.

The proposed junction design incorporates elements of the proposed Active Travel Scheme for Bealnamulla that is currently being developed by Roscommon County Council's Active Travel Team.

It is now intended to carry out a Statutory Process to implement the junction upgrade proposals as required by Condition 5 of the grant of planning. A statutory procedure in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 will be commence shortly in this regard.

Notice of the Procedure will be published in a local newspaper outlining that representations may be made in relation to the proposal with a prescribed period.

Members were unhappy that Roscommon County Council granted planning permission with Condition 5 for a signalised Junction, to be designed with the approval of Roscommon County Council using section 38 of the Traffic Act 1994. Therefore there will be no part 8 to allow their input as public representatives on the signalised Junction on a Regional Road R362.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr L Fallon

**Seconded by:** Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to request an 'In Camera Meeting with the Planning Department' be arranged as a matter of urgency.

#### **20.25 UPDATE N61 ROSCOMMON TO ATHLONE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**

Optimisation Priority Intervention 1 St Brigid's Junction. and 2 St John's Junction

Both projects are currently at Options development Stage and a number of options have been identified for both locations. Draft options reports are currently being prepared. The options will assess the options and identify a preferred options for each junction.

Members thanked Susan Loughnane for the update and look forward to the commencement of the projects as soon as possible.

#### **21.25 MATTERS ARISING**

There was no Matters arising from the Minutes of the March MD Meeting.

#### **22.25 NOTICE OF MOTION**

There was one Notice of Motion for discussion NOM 5.25.

NOM 4.25 was deferred until the next MD meeting due to Cllr D Connolly absence.

#### **23.25 CLLR. D CONNOLLY -4.25 CALLING ON RCC TO ABANDON ROAD PROGRAMME 2025 , ADDRESS DAMAGE DONE TO ROADS BY STORM EOWYN.**

I call this Municipal District to abandon the Roads Programme 2025 to address the damage done to the roads across the region by Storm Eowyn.

We must allow the local engineers and supervisors to address the roads most in need following storm damage before returning to the 2025 road programme.

Members **AGREED** due to Cllr D Connolly absence to defer this Notice of Motion until the next MD meeting.

#### **24.25 CLLR E KELLY -5.25 REQUEST FOR MORE FREQUENT SPEED CHECKS ON R357 NEAR BALLINASLOE.**

I am seeking the support of my fellow councillors and Roscommon County Council to write to the policing unit of An Garda Síochana to request more frequent speed checks on the R357 near Ballinasloe. There is a high volume of traffic using this road and there have been multiple concerns raised regarding the speed of traffic and safety on this section of road.

#### **REPLY:**

The above NOM requires a resolution by the Members of the Athlone MD to write to the policing unit of An Garda Síochana.

Cllr E Kelly thanked the Members for their support.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr L Fallon

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to write to An Garda Síochana requesting an increase in Garda monitoring of speed on this stretch of road on the R357.

## **25.25 CIVIC RECEPTION REQUEST- CLLR E KELLY 1.25 FOR UÍ MÁINE KINGDOM GROUP**

I would like to propose a civic reception for the Uí Máine Kingdom Group (Karst Farming Group / Celtic Eye Group). This group were successful winners of the FBD Better Farming award, winning the Cormac Tagging Best Community / Public Group Engagement or Incentive Scheme for their work in protecting the unique Karst landscape's biodiversity, nature, water, heritage, mythology and folklore. The group have also been successful in the Bloom competition, winning another award, to name but a few of their successes.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr V Duffy

It was AGREED by all the Members to honour the Uí Máine Kingdom Group(Karst Farming Group/Celtic Eye Group at the next Civic Reception.

## **26.25 ATHLONE MD FUNDING - EXTENSION REQUESTS.**

Members were informed that MD funding 2025 will be advertised in the coming weeks.Members also discussed the outstanding MD funding grants.

Ballyforan Hall Community Group informed Roscommon County Council that they were not in a position to use the funding granted to them from Athlone MD funding 2024 of €7,500.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr T Ward  
**Seconded by:** Cllr E Kelly

It was agreed by all to the following extensions:

Athlone MD funding – 6 Extensions granted at MD meeting Mar 25.

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Funding year</b>	<b>Amount Granted</b>	<b>Approved Extension</b>	<b>Approved /Seconded by</b>
Clonown Heritage Group	2021	4,500	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 25	Prop: Cllr T Ward Sec: Cllr E Kelly
Suck Valley Way	2022	4,500	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 25	“
Ros Rapid Response Group	2023	5,000	31 <sup>st</sup> Jul 25	“
Lecarrow Walking Group	2024	5,000	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 25	“
Midland Polish Community	2024	500	31 <sup>st</sup> May 25	“
Tisrara Sport Park	2024	3,000	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 26	“

Athlone MD funding- 3 Change of Project with Extensions granted at MD meeting Mar 25

Group Name	Funding Year	Amount Granted	Original Project	Change of Project request	Approved Extension	Approved/Seconded by
Creagh Community	2023	15,000	Erect a structure at Beagh Roundabout	New Design-Landscaping and Paving at Beagh Roundabout	31 <sup>st</sup> Jul, 25	Prop: Cllr V Duffy Sec: Cllr T Ward
Kilbegnet Dev	2024	6,500	Upgrade of an old cottage at Donamon – to be used for storage for kayaks	Replace fencing damaged during storm Eowyn at Donamon	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct, 25	Prop: Cllr L Fallon Sec: Cllr E Kelly
Mt Talbot Enhancement Group	2024	2,600	Erect new signage at entrance to the Village	Purchase of plants and hanging baskets for the village	31 <sup>st</sup> Jul, 25	Prop: Cllr E Kelly Sec: Cllr L Fallon

#### **27.25 CORRESPONDENCE- NTA REPLY NOV MD 83.24**

Members were disappointed with the reply from NTA in relation to attending a meeting of Athlone MD to discuss extension of Bus services in South Roscommon.

They did however inform the Members that they were at present in discussion with Galway Local Link

regarding provision of a bus service between Ballinasloe and Athlone. When discussions have been concluded, they will update stakeholders.

#### **28.25 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / SYMPATHY**

Members extended their congratulations to the newly selected Member of Athlone MD, Cllr Valerie Duffy and look forward to working with her over the next four years.

Caitlín Conneely Director of Services on behalf of the Chief Executive and MD staff also extended congratulations to Cllr Valerie Duffy, and is looking forward to working with her as a Member of Athlone MD.

#### **29.25 A.O.B**

No AOB for discussion

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 27th May, 2025.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are  
Confirmed and Signed:



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Meetings Administrator



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Cathaoirleach



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Countersigned