

**GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Granard Municipal District held via MS Teams**

**on Tuesday, 23rd March 2021 at 3.30 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Garry Murtagh

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Paraic Brady, Colin Dalton, P.J. Reilly,

and Turlough McGovern.

**IN ATTENDANCE**: Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services.

Mr. David Coppinger, Senior Executive Engineer.

Ms. Linda Higgins, Administrative Officer. Ms. Ann Marie Mc Keon, Administrative Officer.

Ms. Nora O’Farrell, Senior Executive Officer.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Anne Lee.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – circulated.**

Cathaoirleach Garry Murtagh requested that, under Granard Art Feature, the minutes be changed to reflect:

*Councillor PJ Reilly will contact the Granard Area Action Group to see if they will take on this project and will provide an update at the next meeting.*

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the amended Minutes of Granard MD Meeting held on the 26th January 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

Councillor PJ Reilly explained that the Granard Area Action Group are currently not working at present due to COVID-19. He will contact them regarding the Art Feature to see if they will take on this project and Councillor Reilly will provide an update at the next meeting.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS.**

None.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT INCORPORATING AREA ENGINEER’S PROGRESS**

**REPORT – circulated.**

The Management Report, as circulated, was noted.

Barbara Heslin updated the members on the following –

* Longford Tourism
* Covid 19 Emergency Fund 2020
* Housing Capital Programme
* Higginstown Granard leases
* Regeneration projects in the Municipal District
* Environment
* Library Services

David Coppinger detailed the Area Engineer’s Progress Report –

* General Roadworks
* Road Programme for 2021
* Community Involvement Funding
* Local Improvement Schemes
* Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021

David Coppinger responded to questions raised by the members in relation to the Engineer’s Progress Report. He also provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 and provided clarity on the essential works being carried out during the Level 5 restrictions. David acknowledged and thanked Harry Rogers and Joe Gorman for their input into the Road Scheme Schedule and their work on the procurement and health and safety programme for 2021. He also acknowledged the Area team for their work on delivering the roads programme.

David outlined funding announced under the Community Involvement Scheme and provided details on the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund.

District Drainage Programme

Councillor Paraic Brady asked that the members would be kept up to date on this programme.

Spring Clean

Councillor Garry Murtagh praised all the good work that was on-going with the Spring Clean-up and looked for an update on the mobile cameras to tackle the black spots.

Barbara Heslin replied that the litter picking by communities and groups is making a massive improvement to the environment. Barbara will get an update from the Environmental Awareness Officer.

ORIS

Councillor Paraic Brady expressed disappointment that ORIS funding was not secured for the Monaduff to Ballinamuck project.

**GRANARD PUBLIC ART FEATURES.**

Item to remain on the Agenda.

Councillor Murtagh informed the meeting that Leader Funding is now available. Councillor Reilly to have update for next meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE 2021 COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME – LIST CIRCULATED**.

Barbara Heslin briefed the members on the 2021 Community Grant Support Scheme applications and informed the members that there is a sum of €90,000 available for distribution.

It was recognised at the meeting that several new groups submitted applications, and this was welcomed.  It was also noted that a number of groups, who applied in previous years, did not submit applications by the published deadline.

Applications totalling €42,626 received under the Community Grant Support Scheme 2021 were considered in detail and on the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton the Community Grant Support Scheme applications 2021 were adopted by the members - as per attached appendix.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING 2021.**

**Councillor Garry Murtagh’s Projects**

**Dromard GAA.**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, it was unanimously agreed that €1,000.00 be allocated to Dromard GAA.

**Mullinaghta Community Development.**

On the proposal of Councillor Paraic Brady seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, it was unanimously agreed that €500 be allocated to the Mullinaghta Community Development.

**Colmcille Area Development.**

On the proposal of Councillor Colin Dalton seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady, it was unanimously agreed that €500.00 be allocated to Colmcille Area Development for public realm enhancement.

**Councillor Paraic Brady’s Project**

**Colmcillle Area Development.**

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor PJ Reilly, it was unanimously agreed that €4,000 be allocated to Colmcille Area Development for public realm enhancement.

**CONSIDERATION OF 2021 SCHEDULE OF GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**WORKS – AS CIRCULATED.**

On the proposal of Councillor PJ Reilly and seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Schedule of Granard Municipal District Works 2021,

as circulated.

**WALKS AND TRAILS IN GRANARD MD**

Barbara Heslin introduce the agenda item and explained that, following a proposal from Councillor Paraic Brady at the last Municipal District, a representative from the Regeneration Team was invited to attend the meeting. Barbara welcomed Terry Rooney to the meeting to give a presentation on walks and trails in the Granard Municipal District area.

Terry Rooney gave a detailed report on Walks and Trails and highlighted the following points:

* 37 Regeneration Projects delivered to the value of €7.9 million in Granard MD
* Trails to the value of €1.1 million
* Cairn Hill, Drumlish
* Drumlish to Monaduff
* Ballinalee Forest Walk
* River Walk in Aughnacliffe
* Lisryan Village Recreational Facility
* Mulleady’s to Drumlish
* Project Shovel Ready
* Monaduff to Ballinamuck - €610,000
* Granard Urban Greenway - €240,000
* Projects under consideration, some of which are dependent on landowner consent
* Ballinamuck to Annagh Lake
* Derrycassin Woods
* Ennybegs to Killoe
* Derragh Lough, Abbeylara
* Old Bog Line, Purth, Aughnacliffe
* 3 Provinces
* Partners
* Elected Members
* Communities
* Landowners
* Coillte
* Department of Transport
* Funding Opportunities
* ORIS - Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme
* Active Travel 2021 - €50 million Walking and Cycling fund announced for Towns and Villages. €380 million over the next 5 years
* Safe Routes to School Initiative - €15 million
* Now being targeted by the Regeneration Team
* Need to identify and prioritise schemes for Granard MD

The members complemented Terry and the Regeneration team on all the work that they have completed to-date.

The members raised the following issues: -

* The members issued their disappointment that the Granard Urban Greenway and Monaduff to Ballinamuck projects were unsuccessful in the recent round of funding.
* Thanked the landowners and Coillte for their support with these projects.
* Link all the Granard trails and walks together and attract tourism to the area with one centre point.
* Map of Granard area showing walks, rights of way, old walking trails, bogwalks and old railways.

Terry responded to the queries raised by the members and agreed to develop a map and circulate to the Elected Members as requested.

Councillor Brady highlighted the urgent need for the development of a Walks and Trails strategy and plan for Granard MD with a focus on joining up existing trails rather than developing new smaller standalone trails or once off schemes. The plan should link trails to the main tourism attractions, for example Gowna, Granard Motte, Ballinamuck, etc.

Councillor Garry Murtagh requested that a meeting be arranged to prioritise projects in Granard MD. Terry to arrange a workshop.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS.**

Bank of Ireland

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern and seconded by Councillor Paraic Brady -

“I call on Longford County Council to negotiate with the Bank Of Ireland (Granard) Management to retain the ATM in the Town until such time that we can secure another operator to facilitate an ATM Machine for the People, the Businesses and Wider Community of the Granard Area”.

**Reply**

Longford County Council will write to Bank of Ireland outlining the request of the Municipal District to retain the ATM in Granard until an alternative operator is secured.

Derrycassin Woods

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

I would like to call on Longford County Council's Regeneration Team for to upgrade the paths in Derrycassin Woods (re surfacing all the paths) and install dog fouling/litter bins at the entrance and at the picnic area”

**Reply**

Terry Rooney informed the members that Regeneration has commenced talks with Coillte around the scope of work required and that an application will be ready for submission under the next round of Outdoor Recreational Funding and this will cover Councillor Mc Govern’s request.

Cairn Hill Car Park

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

“I call on Longford County Council and Regeneration team to look at providing car parking facilities at Cairn Hill as it is a huge success story that needs adequate parking”.

**Reply**

Terry Rooney stated that if a suitable location can be identified then Regeneration will work with the community and Elected Members to seek funding to develop the car park however, the Department will not fund the acquisition of land.

Play Area at Dromard

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh -

“I call on Longford County council to have a look at providing play area at the Dromard GAA grounds and adjacent to the crèche”.

**Reply**

Longford County Council has been working with the community group in the preparation of plans to develop a playground including sensory area and are identifying possible funding opportunities including a possible application for Clár. Barbara has circulated details on the 2021 Clár programme to the members.

Cycle Path Ennybegs

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paraic Brady and seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton -

“I call on Longford County Council and Regeneration team to look at providing a cycle path from the village of Ennybegs to Killoe national school as Killoe area development have put in a huge amount of work into this. Joint motion with Colin Dalton”.

**Reply**

Terry Rooney outlined that this project had been previously identified by Councillor Brady and Councillor Hagan and the Regeneration team have worked with them to identify all the landowners. Maps have been prepared along with land agreements and once the signed land agreements have been returned to the office, the team will then proceed with the Part VIII which will come back before the Elected Members later in the year. The Regeneration team will also look at applying for funding under the next round of Outdoor Recreational Funding.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Granard Municipal District Meeting held on the**

**25th May 2021.**

**Garry Murtagh**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cathaoirleach.**