**BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District held in Edgeworthstown Library and via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 23 May 2022 at 3.45pm**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Mick Cahill.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Colm Murray, Gerard Farrell, Mark Casey

Pat O’Toole and Paul Ross.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services.

Mr. Seamus Lough, Senior Executive Engineer.

Ms. Claire Mc Dermott, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District meeting held on the 25 March 2022, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole, seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the Committee Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District meeting held on the 25 March 2022, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING**

None

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

The following members declared an interest in the following applications received under the Community Grant Support Scheme 2022:

* Councillor Colm declared an interest in Kenagh and District Development Association application
* Councillor Pat O’Toole declared and interest in St Patrick Day Parade application
* Councillor Paul Ross declared an interest in Legan Tidy Towns application

**MANAGEMENT REPORT - circulated**

Noted.

**PRESENTATION – ‘STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TO**

**AN BORD PLEANALA FOR 100 NUMBER RESIDENTIAL UNITS (50 NUMBER**

**HOUSES, 50 NUMBER APARTMENTS) AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT**

**BLOOMFIELD PARK, BRACKLIN ROAD, EDGEWORTHSTOWN’**

Rita Connaughton briefed the members on the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Application to An Bord Pleanala for 100 number residential units and associated site works at Bloomfield Park, Bracklin Road, Edgeworthstown and explained that Strategic Housing Developments (SHD) are applications that go directly to An Bord Pleanála for decision. As required by section 9(1) of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, before An Bord Pleanála makes a decision on a SHD application, it will consider, amongst other matters, all valid submissions and observations received.

An Bord Pleanála will provide the planning authority with copies of all valid submissions and observations shortly after it receives them and no later than 3 working days following the closing of the public consultation period. Rita explained to the members that the local authority as this time had not received this report. The Planning Authority is required to submit a report to An Bord Pleanála which shall set out, amongst other things, a summary of the points raised in the submissions or observations, and the view of the Chief Executive of the Planning Authority on those submissions or observations.  The Board will consider the Planning Authority’s report, including its views on the submissions or observations, before it makes a decision on the SHD application.

The following was raised by the elected members: -

**Cllr Paul Ross**

* Cllr Ross informed the meeting that this type of an application is new to the elected members as its for housing of a different scale.
* Cllr Ross stated he was shocked to hear there is capacity (Wastewater Treatment System) in Edgeworthstown for a development of this size.
* 20 houses and one primary care centre was recently refused planning permission in Edgeworthstown.
* There are a number of representations from people who don’t want this development in Edgeworthstown.
* The town has numerous unfinished estates.
* The three-story houses are not suitable for families.
* The development is close to bungalows which is not suitable.
* Cllr Ross wanted to know if any of the units were planned for social housing. The Planner informed the members the Chief Executive’s report is for reporting only and Part V would have to be met.
* Several new large unfinished housing estates in Edgeworthstown have been built over last number of years. History of setting up resident associations in towns are difficult so one hundred houses are not welcomed.

**Cllr Colm Murray**

* Cllr Murray has concerns with water and sewerage capacity as recently a planning application for twenty houses to Longford County Council has been turned down.
* Cllr Murray asked what the position is with the creche, and the planner confirmed there was no creche in the application.

**Cllr Pat O’Toole**

* Cllr O’Toole also stated he has concerns with water linking to sewerage in the development.
* Cllr O’Toole informed the meeting that Ballymahon needs housing for example about 25 houses are needed.
* Cllr O’Toole stated that if there are twenty houses should a creche not be included?

**Cllr Mark Casey**

* Cllr Casey stated that he has concerns with regards to the number of houses being built in Edgeworthstown.
* Cllr Casey asked the question, how many of them would be affordable houses?

**Cllr Mick Cahill**

* Cllr Cahill informed the meeting that he has concerns about the social issues that this number of houses would bring to Edgeworthstown. He also stated that he has concerns with regards to grass areas not being kept.
* He stated that he did not want three story buildings in the town.

Rita thanked the elected members and informed them that all their points would be incorporated into the report.

**POLLING SCHEME REVIEW**

Administrative Officer, Ann Mulligan explained to the elected members that the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2021, were issued in December 2021, and it was suggested that all Local Authorities consider carrying out a review of their existing Polling Schemes. These Regulations provide for updated procedures in the making of a polling scheme, the main changes being:

• The revoking of the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations, 2005 (S.I. No. 108 of 2005)

• Extending the methodology that the Council may use to publicise the making of a draft scheme “give public notice, by any method which the local authority thinks necessary or desirable” of the preparation of the draft Scheme and

• Provision that we shall publish a notice on the Council website

The follow points were noted:

* Amalgamation of: Ardagh East + Ardagh West
* Kenagh + Ledwithstown
* Newtowncashel + Tipper
* Ease of reference on polling day
* Electors can be re-distributed between booths if numbers increase
* Aim to have full Electoral Divisions within a Polling District
* Avoid, where possible, electors moving to a new Polling Station

The elected members welcomed the presentation and changes. Councillor Paul Ross raised

concerns about Chestnut View housing estate and could clarity be sought whether it is in

Ballymahon or Granard Municipal District. Ann responded to questions raised in relation to

the criteria for polling booths, cleaning up of register, Lanesborough polling station.

**COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME 2022 –AS CIRCULATED**

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O’Toole, seconded by Councillor Colm Murray the Community Grant Support Scheme applications 2022 were adopted by the members - as per attached appendix.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS/EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

None.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Fast-charing point**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross –

“I call on Longford County Council to install a fast-charging point at the carpark in

Lanesboro”.

**Response**

Longford County Council currently doesn’t have an adopted policy for the installation of EV charging points in the County. Current indications are that Rapid EV charging stations cost in the region of €50k-€60k and suitable sites are dependent on the ESB network capacity.

**Play Area**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor –

“I call on Longford County Council to upgrade the old play area at the back of Church View

in Lanesboro to a sensory garden”.

**Response**

If this motion is adopted, it will be referred to Community & Enterprise for consideration for an application for funding.

**Parking Spaces**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray –

“I call on Longford County Council to provide additional parking spaces in front of the

houses at Knock Manor Lanesboro and to address the drainage issue in the estate”.

**Response**

If this motion is adopted, it will be referred to the Housing Department for consideration.

**Bus Shelters**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill –

“I call on Longford County Council in consultation with the National Transport Authority to

consider providing 2 bus shelters at the bus stops located at Upper Main Street Ballymahon”.

**Response**

If this motion is adopted Longford County Council will make contact with the National Transport Authority regarding the prospect for the provision of bus shelters at the public bus stops at Upper Main Street, Ballymahon.

**Weight Restriction**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross–

“I call on Longford County Council to consider placing a weight restriction on trucks using

the L1131 at Rathmore, Ballymahon (maybe 3 or 5 tonne) as this road is being used

extensively as a bypass of Ballymahon Town and is not fit for the volume off heavy trucks

and lorries using it”. If a restriction was to be placed on the road local landowners would be

exempt as would trucks delivering home heating oil to farms and dwellings etc.

**Response**

If this motion is adopted Road Design will undertake a traffic survey to determine the volume of vehicle usage including trucks on the L-1131 and will use the data collected to consider the benefit of imposing a weight restriction on the road.

**Speed Ramps**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pat O’Toole and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill –

“I call on Longford County Council to provide speed ramps in the Creevaghbeg Estate off

the Mullingar Road Ballymahon, in the interest of public safety and to reduce excessive

speeding through the estate”.

**Response**

If this motion is adopted a traffic survey will be undertaken in the Creevaghbeg Estate and based on the findings appropriate measures will be considered in accordance with the Longford County Council Policy Statement on Traffic Calming and the Provision of Ramps, Raised Tables, Speed Cushions (29th July 2021)

Councillor Colm Murray proposed, and Councillor Paul Ross seconded that the Infrastructure, Housing and Strategic Policy Committee carry out a review of the traffic calming policy.

**Signage**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill –

That Longford County Council erect signage to clearly signal and promote the new

free car park in Edgeworthstown behind the library.

**Response**

Signage will be erected to direct vehicles to the new car park at the rear of Edgeworthstown library.

**Streetscape**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill –

“I call on Longford County Council to immediately prioritise the installation of the new

streetscape in Edgeworthstown as the unfinished works with the lighting poles are dangerous

to pedestrians and cars alike”.

**Response**

Regeneration Section are currently finalising tender documents for the appointment of a contractor to finalise the streetscape works. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in Q4 of 2022. In the interim consideration will be given to implementing arrangements to enhance the visibility of the public lighting columns

**Bus Parking Lines**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole –

“I call on Longford County Council to repaint the bus parking lines in Ballymahon town as

the existing lines are now worn off and the road on main street be resurfaced as a matter of

urgency”.

**Response**

The bus parking bays were recently re-marked during line marking works undertaken in the Ballymahon Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Ann Marie Mc Keon

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

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 28 July 2022.**

Mick Cahill

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

**Cathaoirleach.**