

**BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District held in Ballymahon Library on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 4pm**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Paul Ross

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Pat O’Toole, Mark Casey

Mick Cahill, Gerard Farrell, Colm Murray,

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

Mr. Brian Mc Neela, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Darren Lennon, Technician

MS. Claire McDermott, Administrative Office

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**: Mr. Gerard Dennigan

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
2. On the proposal of Councillor Paul O’Toole seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 28 September 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.
3. On the proposal of Councillor Gerard Farrell seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill, the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 26 October 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.
4. On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the Minutes of Ballymahon Municipal District Committee Meeting held on the 26 October 2023, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted
5. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None.

1. **MANAGEMENT REPORT - as circulated**

The members noted the Management report.

1. **COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

Linda Beirne – Community Climate Action Officer provided the members with a high level overview of the Community Climate Action Fund. Some of the key points covered were:

* €328,000 has been allocated to Co. Longford under the Community Climate Action Fund
* Main Objectives of the Programme:
  + To help contribute to national climate and energy targets
  + Support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in Longford
  + Support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action
  + Direct engagement with communities to promote and assist in the scale up of community climate action regardless of the starting point of the community
  + Community Climate Action Fund
* Framework for the Community Climate Action Programme
* Five Main Themes of the Programme
  + Community Energy
  + Travel
  + Food & Waste
  + Shopping & Recycling
  + Local Climate and Environmental Action

Linda answered any questions raised by the Members.

1. **COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME**

Administrative Officer Claire McDermott provided the members with an update on the non drawdown from the Community Grant Support Scheme.

Lanesboro Food Hub and Lanesborough Tourism Co-op Society Ltd have rescinded their application and will not drawdown funding approved in 2023. This money was reallocated and grants awarded to the following groups - the remaining balance of €1,275.58 will be carried over and allocated to groups in 2024.

1. Not so Old over 55 €750.00
2. Mostrim Youth Players €900.00

On the proposal on Councillor Mick Cahill and seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell the members agreed on the contribution to be made to the local communities following a surplus /non drawdown from the Community Grant Support Scheme.

1. **SCHOOL TRAFFIC WARDEN – LANESBOROUGH NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Director of Services Samantha Healy provided the members with an update on the School Traffic Warden, outlining that LCC has not had a Traffic Warden in place for period of time.

1. **PROPOSED DATES FOR 2024 MD MEETINGS**

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill and seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell the members unanimously agreed for the Ballymahon MD meetings to take place bi-monthly in 2024.

1. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS**

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

**(i)** That a footpath/cyclepath be constructed from the Silver Birches estate to Stonepark School to link these houses and creche to the School.

**Response**

An application for funding for this project was already submitted to the NTA in November 2022 however no allocation was awarded for 2023.

Existing 2024 projected project cost already exceed the total indicated NTA allocation for Longford therefore this project is unlikely to be awarded funding in 2024 at this time.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole**

**(ii)**That an update be provided to the council on the installation of CCTV in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon town and when the expected rollout of these schemes will commence.

**Response**

In 2020 consultants were engaged by the IT Department to prepare a design Proposal for Edgeworthstown CCTV Project.  This Proposal was not progressed further.  CCTV has in recent months been reassigned to the Roads Department for operational CCTV Projects, or new Project requests.  Given the lapse in time, the Edgeworthstown Design Proposal may need to be revisited and reviewed to ensure it is adequate.  This Project can be revisited in 2024 if the necessary resources/budgets are made available.

With regard to the Ballymahon Area, a CCTV Project request would need to be determined and assessed in line with LCC’s CCTV Policy.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

**(iii)**That a new walking/cycle looped route be created in Edgeworthstown on the old Dublin Road by C&D back round to the N4

**Response**

This proposal will be added to the list of potential Active Trave projects for submission when additional funding comes available.

The projected Active Travel 2024 budget allocation, which is capped, is already fully committed to for the completion of current projects.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray**

1. That Longford County Council seek funding to fully revamp Lanesboro children's playground.

**Response**

The Lanesboro playground was recently upgraded with funding from Longford County Council and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Work involved the installation of some new playground equipment, some new wetpour surfacing, new gates and fencing.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill**

1. That Longford County Council replace the footpaths at Knock, Lanesborough.

**Response**

Brian McNeela will carry out an assessment and prepare a budget estimate to resurface the footpaths in question. Funding streams for this work will need to be identified to progress this project.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Gerard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Colm Murray**

1. That Longford County Council provide new compactor bins for recreational areas in Lanesborough.

**Response**

The compactor bins installed this year were funded under the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative; they were installed in areas of high usage following complaints in relation to overflowing of bins.

Environment can meet with the South Longford MD to ascertain if there are particular bins in the Lanesborough area with similar overflowing issues for possible inclusion in next year’s funding application. Please note, the Anti-Dumping Initiative funding is dependent on the Department continuing with this initiative in 2024.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell**

1. That a full review be carried out on the street lighting in Lanesboro, especially the Church Road, The Green, Knock and at the start of the Rathcline road.

**Response**

Longford County Council will review the lighting levels at the locations identified in Lanesboro.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell**

1. That the Footpaths in Knock, Lanesborough be replaced/repaired.

**Response**

Brian McNeela will carry out an assessment and prepare a budget estimate to resurface the footpaths in question. Funding streams for this work will need to be identified to progress this project.

**The following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Casey and seconded by Councillor Gerard Farrell**

1. That Longford County Council place a new Bottle Bank in Formoyle (Lisnacusha).

**Response**

There are currently 23 sets of bring banks throughout County Longford for the publics recycling convenience. The current locations were chosen to provide an even spread across the county, generally located where the public are likely to visit for other purposes or use when passing, for example shopping or travelling to and from work. The Fermoyle area is serviced by the Lanesborough and Newtowncashel bring banks.

The Environment Department continuously monitor the usage of these bring banks, an extension of the Lanesborough bring banks is currently under review, the Newtowncashel bring banks has ample capacity. The introduction of new bring bank sets is not encouraged as, regrettably, we receive persistent complaints due to the misuse of the bring banks. Illegal dumping of waste in addition to recyclable materials, empty boxes, bags, etc, is common, causing distress to adjacent businesses and homeowners.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Councillor Pat O’Toole expressed his concern at the N55 (Nally’s) junction which is a continuous problem for the town. Pat echoed for this to be dealt with as a separate item to Streetscape.

Director of Services Samantha Healy indicated that there is a need to look at the Safety Scheme and Planning Process.

The members unanimously showed their support for Councillor Pat O’Toole’s concerns.

The members agreed to invite Director of Services John Brannigan to the next Ballymahon MD in committee meeting to discuss this issue further.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Gerard Dennigan**

**A/Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 21 February 2024.**

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

**Cathaoirleach**