

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO  
HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10.15AM  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO.**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Hubert Keaney (Mayor)
- Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
- Councillor Chris MacManus
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Councillor Sinéad Maguire

**APOLOGIES:**

- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Mr. Bartley Gavin, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
- Ms. Margaret McConnell, A/Director of Services
- Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner
- Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms. Sinéad Branley, Staff Officer
- Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

**MAYOR:**

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney presided, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all for facilitating the briefing session on the Development of the County Sligo Tourism Strategy 2018-2023 which was held prior to the meeting.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO  
HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017.**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor C. MacManus**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.”

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO  
HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2017.**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Sligo held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.”

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor C. Mac Manus requested an update on the following:

- Update regarding tenders received to carry out repairs to the roads and services at Dorrin's Strand in Strandhill.

In response to the above query, Mr. Frank Moylan informed the

meeting as follows:

- The contractor commenced works on the repairs on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the works were due to take 3-4 weeks but Mr. Moylan anticipated that these works would be completed at the end of the current week.

Councillor Chris MacManus welcomed this news and added that he hoped the Council would be in a position to take the development in charge later this year.

#### **4. SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUSING PROVISION**

Mr. Joe Murphy circulated a report on “Housing Programme Updates” and briefed the Members on same. The report outlined the Government’s “Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness” published in July 2016 and in particular, Pillars 1 & 2 of the Action Plan in so far as they related to the Council’s Housing Programme.

Mr. Murphy stated that progress to date is as follows:

- The target of 101 no. units set for delivery by the Council under the Social Housing Strategy in the period 2015-2017 has been exceeded by over 100% as 213 no. units have currently been delivered.
- 1 no. house was constructed in Daghloonagh Co. Sligo in the same period.
- 8 no. dwellings currently under construction in Fr. O’Flanagan Terrace.
- 56 no. houses acquired and allocated.
- Cuan Iosa, Ballymote being progressed under the Capital Assistance Scheme (C.A.S). Stage 1 approval received from the Department, Stage 2 submission to follow in the next few weeks.
- 44 no. units have been approved for funding under 2017 National Voids Programme and to date 139 no. units have been delivered.

At this point, Mr. Murphy acknowledged the support received from the Department and stated that the Capital Programme had delivered 213 no. units against a target of 101 no.

Mr. Murphy went on to outline progress under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme and reported as follows:

- The target of units set for delivery by the Council under the Social Housing Strategy in the period 2015-2017 is 200 no. and currently 105 no. have been delivered.
- Leasing did not prove successful and to date only 7 no. units have been delivered out of a target of 68 no.
- 98 no. Rental Accommodation Scheme units delivered out of a target of 132 no. units.

Mr. Murphy then proceeded to report on other work programmes being carried out by the Council including Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, Housing Adaptation Grants, Repair and Leasing Scheme etc.

Mr. Murphy advised the meeting that the number of households on the housing list had decreased by 23% as a result of HAP – 1008 in June 2017 compared with 801 in 2016.

In response to specific queries from Members, Mr. Bartley Gavin and Mr. Joe Murphy advised as follows:

- Approval has been received for 20 no. dwellings at Stage 1 at Carrowbunnaun but due to obstacles such as the requirement to upgrade Golf Course Road etc, it is difficult to give a timeline for same.
- Part 8's on Collooney and Rosses Point Road to be advertised next week. A contractor to be on site in Knappagh Road in 12 months time.
- The Council is acquiring houses on the open market and through leasing to accommodate refugees in Sligo town and 4 other towns in the County.
- The Council does its utmost to progress to purchase HAP houses and the Council invests money where units will be delivered. The Council cannot buy a house for a tenant who is in RAS as the Scheme of Letting Priorities must be adhered to.
- Mr. Joe Murphy to revert regarding a composite figure of total funding received from the Department from 2015 onwards.

The Mayor, Councillor Hubert Keaney thanked Mr. Murphy for his detailed report and welcomed the 23% reduction in the number of households on the Housing List. However he stated his disappointment at the delay in getting projects started but added that this is no reflection on the Council and the huge amount of work being done.

At this point, Councillor Chris MacManus stated that the correct name for the development referred to previously is Fr. O'Flanagan Terrace as opposed to Fr. Flanagan Terrace.

**5. FOOTPATH/WALKWAY SOUTH OF CARRAROE VILLAGE ON R284: Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council investigate the deterioration in the condition of the footpath/walkway for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users on the roadside just south of Carraroe village on the R284 due to cars being parked there”.

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that the Roads Department was not aware of a significant problem with cars parking along the walkway south of Carraroe village but stated that the matter will be investigated and any apparent issues around inappropriate parking will be addressed.

**6. RECYCLING FACILITIES AT CURLEY-MITCHELL PARK: Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“That the Council locate a bottle bank in the fenced compound at the car park of Curley-Mitchell Park as there are no recycling facilities located in the West Ward area of Sligo City”.

Mr. Tom Kilfeather informed the meeting that there is a requirement for a bottle bank facility in the West Ward of Sligo City and in Ballisodare. For proposed bottle banks, where the works are being carried out by the Local Authority, then Part 8 will apply. However where the lands are not in the ownership of the Local Authority, written consent from the landowner will be required. Both locations will be investigated towards the final quarter of 2017 to find a suitable location and the appropriate procedure will be applied thereafter.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Seamus Kilgannon expressed his disappointment at the proposals for Mitchell Curley Park by reason of increased traffic volumes.

**7. INCLUSION OF RE-SURFACING WORKS OF MAUGHERABOY ROAD IN 2018 SCHEDULE OF WORKS:**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“That the Roads Department include re-surfacing works of the Maugheraboy Road (from Merville/the Showgrounds to the Oakfield Road Roundabout) in the 2018 Schedule of Works”.

Mr. Brían Flynn advised the meeting that the Roads Department is conscious that sections of this roadway have deteriorated significantly in recent years. Accordingly, this road will be considered for re-surfacing in the 2018 Schedule of Road Works for the Sligo Urban Area. As the road in question extends for a length of circa 460m and given the Council’s budgetary constraints, the works will have to be phased over a number of years.

**8. EXTENSION OF SLIGO CEMETERY:**

**Proposed by Councillor C. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“To ask for a report on the needed extension of Sligo City Cemetery”.

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that Council staff are currently finalising drawings and documentation for the proposed cemetery extension with a view to publishing the Part 8 no later than the end of September 2017. In accordance with Part 8 process, a Chief Executive’s Report shall be prepared following the public consultation period and it is anticipated that this report will be presented to the Members in advance of the January 2018 meeting. Meanwhile, it is intended to have the 2011 preliminary cost plan reviewed while the Part 8 process is underway. At this time, development costs were considered to be circa €1.2m and are unlikely to have changed considerably in the interim and therefore consideration may have to be given to bringing about this development on a phased basis.

In response to a query raised on Rosses Point Cemetery by Councillor Tom McSharry, Mr. Flynn advised the meeting that talks would have to be ongoing with landowners.

**9. PROVISION OF SAFETY RAILS  
AT OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL  
IN ROSSES POINT:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo engineering staff would provide safety rails at the steps into the outdoor swimming pool at Rosses Point in the interests of Health & Safety"

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that due to budget constraints it was not possible to provide handrails at the numerous steps into the outdoor swimming pool at Rosses Point and unfortunately at this time there is no further funding available in the current year. Mr. Flynn acknowledged that the provision of handrails would provide ease of access/egress to and from the pool and stated that every effort will be made to provide same in 2018 subject to risk assessment and funding. The Chief Executive and Members acknowledged the work done by Mr. Flynn and his staff and thanked him for same.

**10. ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING  
REGULATIONS IN SLIGO TOWN  
CENTRE INCLUDING CYCLEWAYS:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council direct more resources into enforcement of parking regulations particularly in Sligo Town Centre, including cycleways"

Mr. Tom Kilfeather advised the meeting that additional resources are being directed into the enforcement of parking regulations in Sligo Town Centre. A fourth traffic warden was employed by Sligo County Council from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 bringing the number of traffic wardens on duty in Sligo Town Centre up to four from two at the beginning of 2015. The meeting was also advised that all of the traffic wardens have areas assigned to them and in assigning these areas, particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that sufficient resources are deployed to Sligo Town Centre. Mr. Kilfeather also stated that the number of traffic fines has significantly increased from January to August 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.

Following Mr. Kilfeather's report, some of the Members raised the issue of abuse of disabled parking bays and encouraged the media to highlight the issue and the public to report same.

**11. MAINTENANCE WORK ON  
CYCLE LANE TO ROSSES POINT:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

"That maintenance work be carried out on the cycle lane to Rosses Point to cut back the branches and clear the moss from the surface to

ensure safety for pedestrians and cyclists alike"

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the members that verge trimming had been carried out in recent weeks along the full extent of the R291 Rosses Point road and during the early part of the summer, the cycle lanes between the Mardyke and Rosses Point were fully swept. Mr. Flynn also added that due to budgetary constraints, it is unlikely that any further works can be carried out along this route in the current year.

In reply, Councillor Marie Casserly stated that moss was making the area slippy and with the Sligo Coast to Coast 10 mile road race taking place at the coming weekend, it would be appreciated if staff could be assigned to clear the moss.

**12. RE-SURFACING WORKS IN WINE STREET CAR-PARK:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly  
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

"That resurfacing works be carried out in Wine Street car park with urgent attention required to the area outside of the Penney's and Tesco outlets"

**AND**

**21. UNEVEN SURFACE IN WINE STREET CAR-PARK:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

AND AGREED

"To call on Sligo County Council to address the uneven surface in Wine Street car park which is causing ongoing concern for shoppers, pedestrians and motorists using the carpark"

Mr. Brían Flynn advised the meeting that the Roads Department is aware that there are sections of the Wine Street car-park which require re-surfacing and it is their desire to carry out some repairs shortly. Mr. Flynn explained that budgets are being reviewed to determine the likely extent of the works which could be undertaken in the current year. They are also taking the opportunity to review the layout of the car-park and it is likely that some minor alterations will be made in terms of layout, circulation routes etc. He added that the timing of any works is a major consideration and to this end it is believed that the most appropriate time for undertaking improvement works would be mid to late October.

In response to a query raised regarding clarification of works, Mr. Flynn stated that the current circulation lane is narrow so the concrete island would have to be broken out and the area re-surfaced and aligned. He also clarified that there would be no extra car parking spaces created but that works undertaken would improve visibility.

**13. IMPROVEMENT OF SIGHT LINES AT THE JUNCTION ON HAZELWOOD AVENUE WITH ROAD NO. 286-58:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council Roads Department to improve the sight lines at the junction on Hazelwood Avenue with road no. 286-58 in the interest of road safety”

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that previous efforts to bring about improved sightlines at this location were unfortunately unsuccessful but notwithstanding this, subject to resource availability over the coming months, the Roads Department will re-examine earlier designs and bring forward revised proposals for junction improvements. Mr. Flynn also added that a source of funding will have to be identified in order to deliver agreed works proposals.

**14. TRAFFIC CALMING ON ROAD  
NO. R284 AT BALLINTOGER  
N.S.:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council Roads Department, in the interest of health and safety, to construct traffic calming on road no. R284 at Ballintogher National School on the Ballygawley road”

Mr. Brían Flynn informed the meeting that vehicle activated speed signs have been erected at this location in recent weeks and it is anticipated that these signs will have a positive influence on driver behaviour. Notwithstanding this and subject to resource availability, over the coming months the Roads Department will undertake an assessment of traffic volumes/speeds in the vicinity of the school. This information will be used to determine precisely where and to what extent further traffic calming measures may be needed. Mr. Flynn stated that should it be determined that additional traffic calming measures are required, an application for funding for same will be made under the Low Cost Safety Scheme 2018.

Councillor Thomas Healy clarified that the road no. should read R290 instead of the R284.

**15. PROVISION OF A LIGHT RAIL  
EARLY MORNING TRAIN FROM  
LONGFORD TO SLIGO:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

“Only one percent of Sligo workers use public transport to get to work (Census 2016). Sligo County Council calls on Irish Rail to provide a light rail early morning train from Longford to Sligo to arrive at 8 a.m. and return at 6.15 p.m. from Monday to Friday to cater for workers and students”.

**16. PROTECTION OF NO.'S 16**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keaney**

**&**

AND AGREED

**17 HIGH STREET, SLIGO:**

“To ask the Chief Executive what action the Council is taking to protect No.'s 16 and 17 High Street, Sligo (both buildings which are included in the Council's Record of Protected Structures)”

Mr. Frank Moylan informed the meeting that No.'s 16 & 17 High Street were first included on the Record of Protected Structures in 2004 as part of the Sligo & Environs Development Plan 2004-2010. Since 2004, the properties have been the subject of a refusal of planning permission for the proposed partial demolition of the buildings, a warning letter to restrict alleged future demolition and a Section 59 endangerment notice which sought works to be carried out to stabilise the structural integrity of the Protected Structure. Mr. Moylan advised that while some works were undertaken to stabilise the structures and the derelict nature of the street elevation has been somewhat addressed by Sligo Tidy Towns, the buildings remain in a serious state of disrepair.

Mr. Moylan stated that both properties were recently retained on the Record of Protected Structures as part of the adoption of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 and advised that the inclusion of a building on the Record of Protected Structures imposes a duty on its owner to protect the structure from endangerment. The current owner (and the properties' fourth different owner since 2004) will be contacted to inform him of these responsibilities and to request proposals to ensure that the necessary works to prolong the life of the buildings are carried out.

In reply, Councillor Declan Bree expressed his disappointment at the lack of contact with the owner and his intention to raise the issue again at the next meeting.

**17. ASSESSMENT OF SECOND SEA ROAD FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council engineering staff would assess the Second Sea Road, in particular from the Strandhill Road to the turn just before Gibraltar for traffic calming measures to deal with the increased volumes of traffic use and speeding in the interests of health & safety"

Mr. Brian Flynn informed the meeting that subject to resource availability, over the coming months the Roads Department will undertake an assessment of traffic volumes/speeds along this section of the Second Sea Road. This information will be used to determine precisely where and to what extent traffic calming measures may be required. Should it be determined that additional traffic calming measures are required, a source of funding will have to be indentified for same.

In response to this report, Councillor Tom MacSharry asked that notification be given when details of the assessment are to hand in order that a meeting can be arranged with residents.

**18. UPDATE ON WORKS IN ROSSES POINT:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

"That Sligo County Council engineering staff provide members with an update on the following works in Rosses Point:



1. Kerbing of the green area.
2. Traffic calming signage.
3. Parking.”

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that the Roads Department intend to carry out a series of minor works in Rosses Point over the coming weeks which, in summary, will include the following:

1. Minor surfacing repairs at the entrance to the village (immediately adjacent to the start of the promenade).
2. Installation of one set of speed cushions along the Old Village Road.
3. Kerbing works around a portion of the green area at the entrance to the village.
4. Car parking improvements adjacent to the Little Cottage Café.

Mr. Flynn confirmed that funding is in place for Items 1-3 above while the extent of works carried out under Item 4 above will be dependent on the availability of funding.

Councillor Tom MacSharry welcomed the report and suggested that costing proposals could come to Members.

**19. SAFETY CONCERNS  
REGARDING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS  
ONTO N4 FROM CHURCH VIEW  
ESTATE, COLLOONEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor C. MacManus**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to address the safety concerns of residents in Church View estate in Collooney regarding the pedestrian access onto the N4”.

Mr. Brian Flynn acknowledged the safety concerns highlighted and stated that if a gate is provided at this location, Sligo County Council would have concerns around the opening and closing and enforcement of same. He also stated that if safety is the overriding concern, consideration should be given to the access being closed permanently.

**20. FOOTPATH OUTSIDE HEALTH  
CENTRE IN COLLOONEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor C. MacManus**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to address the footpath outside the Health Centre in Collooney which is a concern to people who use wheelchairs and prams”.

Mr. Brian Flynn acknowledged that there is a requirement for the introduction of access ramps from the footpath to the Health Centre but advised that due to budgetary constraints, it is unlikely that these works can be carried out along this route in the current year. He added that in conjunction with the HSE, the provision of access ramps will be considered in 2018.

**22. ERADICATION OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON THE SECOND SEA ROAD:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor H. Keane**

AND AGREED

“That the Council begins the process of eradicating Japanese Knotweed on the Second Sea Road”.

Mr. Brian Flynn advised the meeting that further to a recent inspection of the subject location, arrangements have been put in place for preliminary treatment of Japanese Knotweed along the road edge. In accordance with Council policy, signs will be placed either side of the infestation of Knotweed to inform the general public of the existence of the plant at the location and to warn against cutting/trimming of same. Mr. Flynn also advised that landowners will be contacted and informed of the existence of the plant on their properties also.

**23. CONSIDERATION OF USING COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS TO ACQUIRE VACANT HOUSES FOR HOUSING WAITING LIST:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“To ask the Chief Executive to consider using Compulsory Purchase Orders to acquire vacant houses and make them available for applicants on the Council’s Housing Waiting List”.

Mr. Joe Murphy informed the meeting that the Council is aware of the recent comments made by Minister Murphy in relation to this matter and is awaiting further information and guidelines from the Department. He stated that the Minister has decided that Councils should play a central role in enabling private home owners to bring vacant homes back into use, whether for private sale or rent or for social housing purposes which will require the drawing up of Vacant Homes Action Plans. In parallel with this, the Minister requires that Councils designate Vacant Homes Officers whose role it will be to maximise the number of vacant homes being brought back into use.

Mr. Murphy also advised that utilising CPO procedures to acquire vacant houses and designating Vacant Homes Officers to carry out the role will necessitate the recruitment of additional staff as the Council does not have the capacity to take on the additional work. Furthermore, the staff will have to be funded by the Department as the Council does not have the resources for same. Mr. Murphy also advised that the Council are currently preparing an application in this regard and will be submitting same to the Department at an early date.

A discussion followed between the members regarding Louth County Council’s use of CPO’s for housing people on their Council’s waiting list. The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes explained that compulsory purchase is an option but it is resource hungry and timely and not all houses are suitable for same but the option can be explored.

**24. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON FORTHILL:**

With the agreement of the meeting, this item was deferred.

**25. CCTV GRANTS FOR RATHBRAUGHAN & THE WOODLAND ESTATE:**

With the agreement of the meeting, this item was deferred.

**26. CORRESPONDENCE:**

This was noted and agreed by the members.

**27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Mayor, Councillor Keaney thanked all present for attending the recent Hospice Coffee Morning and advised that approximately €700 was raised.

He also congratulated the Dublin and Mayo football teams on an entertaining game in the All-Ireland Football Final.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Ciarán Hayes acknowledged Ms. Sineád Branley's last meeting as Meetings Administrator and thanked her for her commitment to the two Municipal Districts over the last number of years and introduced Ms. Clodagh Quinn as her replacement.

The Mayor, Councillor Keaney also thanked Ms. Branley for her work and welcomed Ms. Quinn.

The business of the meeting concluded at 12.15 p.m.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_