

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO
HELD ON MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 10.00 A.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, QUAY STREET, SLIGO**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Declan Bree
Councillor Marie Casserly
Councillor Thomas Healy
Councillor Hubert Keaney
Councillor Seamus Kilgannon
Councillor Chris MacManus
Councillor Tom MacSharry
Councillor Sinéad Maguire
Councillor Gino O'Boyle
Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady (Mayor)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services
Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance
Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner
Mr. Stephen Ward, A/Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Damien Henry, Executive Engineer
Mr. Conor McCann, Executive Engineer
Mr. Padraic Keveney, Executive Engineer
Mr. Joe Gethin, Administrative Officer
Mr. Noel Ballantyne, Executive Technician
Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

MAYOR: The Mayor, Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady presided and welcomed all to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SLIGO HELD ON 16TH JULY 2018: **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 16th July 2018."

2. MATTERS ARISING: In response to queries from Councillor Declan Bree, the meeting was informed as follows:

- An application for funding for the next phase of the Fairgreen Recreational Park is being submitted under the Sports Capital Programme.
- Works to nos. 16 & 17 High Street commenced on foot of a Section 59 notice and said works are being monitored on site. However, supervision by a Conservation Architect is required so work is intermittent. Councillor Bree expressed his disappointment with this

reply and asked that the Planning Authority take whatever steps are deemed necessary to ensure the buildings are made safe.

At this point, it was agreed that Item No. 4 be taken ahead of Item No. 3.

4. PRESENTATION ON PILOT OF “STATION-LESS BIKE SHARE SCHEME”:

Mr. Jarlath Gantly, Eco Travel Ltd., outlined to Members the services provided by the company and explained the concept of “dock-less bike share” and how it works. Mr. Gantly explained that a six month pilot scheme was undertaken in Sligo from March to August 2018 supported by Sligo County Council, IT Sligo, Sligo BID, community groups etc. and statistics arising from the pilot were provided along with the results of a user survey. Mr. Gantly advised that following feedback, a new bike was introduced which has a larger frame and wheels in response to user demand. The estimated price of the scheme per annum is €37,500 plus VAT.

In reply to questions from the floor, Mr. Jarlath Gantly and Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services, answered as follows:

- The scheme size of 50 no. bikes is warranted – ideally 40 no. would be suitable for Sligo Town with 10 no. in other outlying locations such as Strandhill, Collooney, Rosses Point etc.
- A re-distribution time of 1 no. hour per day needs to be increased to 3-4 no. hours per day as usage can fluctuate depending on time of year etc.
- Eco Travel Ltd. are engaging with 11 no. Councils North and South to ensure cross-border continuity for greenways and a national spread of the scheme.
- Sligo County Council have provided bike stands in Sligo and under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, will endeavour to build linkages between various locations.
- Should the scheme be permanently introduced in Sligo, the Council would have an obligation to ensure a procurement process is complied with.

The Members thanked Mr. Gantly for his presentation and commended both he and his business partner, Mr. Kieran Brennan, on the scheme.

3.DRAFT MULTI-ANNUAL RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2019-2021:

The Multi-Annual Roadworks Programme 2019-2021 for the engineering areas of North Sligo, Strandhill and Sligo Urban Area which included a budget of over €5m for the three year period had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. In reply to Members queries and comments on the programme, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Brian Flynn responded as follows:

- The Roads Dept. are aware of the difficulty in travelling from the east side of the city to the urban core and in conjunction with the Gardaí are exploring alternatives such as making Abbey Street one-way to traffic and allowing traffic to exit JFK Parade onto Thomas Street etc. Traffic counts at these locations will be undertaken in 2019 to assess feasibility.
- Footpaths on Abbey Street and the area in the vicinity of the Abbey require extensive repair/improvement, hence the large allocation for this area.

- If additional funding becomes available, the following areas may be considered for footpath repairs/surface dressing - Barrack Street, St. Anne's Terrace, Rosehill, Cedar Drive, Oxfield Road (from N15 to Oxfield Sports Centre).
- With the exception of the streets in the urban core, the only other footpath repairs to be carried out are at Ard-na-Veigh which is as a result of a previous commitment.
- Financial resources from Development Contributions may become available for footpath repairs at the Top Road in Strandhill.

It was then:

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

AND AGREED

“To adopt the Draft Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme for 2019-2021 for Sligo Municipal District area”.

**5. PROGRESS REPORT ON
 PREPERATION OF PUBLIC
 REALM PLAN FOR SLIGO:**

Mr. Frank Moylan, Senior Planner delivered a brief update on the progress report on the preparation of the Public Realm Plan for Sligo which was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Moylan advised that in total, Sligo County Council have applied for over €10m in funding through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) for Public Realm works which include the Stephen Street Cultural Plaza and the O’Connell Street enhancement works. In reply to a query from Councillor Bree, Mr. Moylan further advised that each element of the Public Realm Plan will be the subject of a Part 8 process and therefore public consultation will occur as part of same.

**6. UPDATE ON
 IMPLEMENTATION OF NPF
 & RSES:**

A report delivering an update on the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Stephen Ward, A/Senior Executive Planner explained to Members that it is envisaged that the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) will be adopted in the coming weeks with the Sligo County Development Plan to be reviewed in 2019 to achieve consistency with same. Subsequently, work can then begin on the Sligo Local Area Plan.

**7. UPDATE ON ROLL OUT OF
 NEW PARKING METERS &
 NEW PAYMENT SYSTEMS:**

Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer reported that a five year contract has been awarded to Park Rite Ltd. for the management of parking equipment and related services in Sligo City. The contract provides for the installation of 60 no. pay and display machines which will become operational during the week commencing 29th October 2018.

Concurrently with the roll out of the new machines, alternative payment channels for ticketless paid parking are also coming on stream through Payzone who can facilitate payments via a mobile app, SMS, phonecall, through their website or through selected retail outlets. Signage to explain

the new payment options are being installed in parking areas at present.

The new improvements were welcomed by Members.

**8. SURVEY OF EXISTING
LANDING FACILITIES AT
INISHMURRAY ISLAND:**

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council immediately commence the process to survey existing landing facilities at Inishmurray Island and undertake the design of necessary improvements to the satisfaction of the Marine Survey Office and set about undertaking the necessary works as a matter of urgency with support on funding if necessary from the Department of Transport, Marine and Environment”.

Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services stated that the Council have been engaging with the Marine Survey Office in the last number of months in an effort to resolve the issues around passenger landings on Inishmurray and modest works in the region of €40,000-€50,000 were suggested. However, Mr. Kilfeather advised that the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport has stated that if improvement works are undertaken on the island at the request of a boat operator, the Marine Survey Office may then reassess landing facilities in relation to the plying limits to/from the island for the passenger boat concerned.

A discussion on the matter followed with the general consensus being that responsibility for improvements lies with the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

It was then:

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council requests a meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss Inishmurray Island”.

**9. UPDATE IN RELATION TO
“FIND ANF FIX
PROGRAMME”:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council request an update in relation to the “Find and Fix programme” that is currently ongoing in the North Sligo Water Supply Zone highlighting any savings that have been made to the Unaccounted for Water UFW in that network”.

Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services delivered a report received from Irish Water which stated that the company are nationally investing over €500m to reduce leakage and remove old, damaged and problematic pipes from the public water network over the next four years. The report went on

to describe the various work programmes been undertaken and advised that concentrated efforts are being made in the Grange, Cliffooney, Carney and Mullaghmore district metering areas with water savings to date of circa 620,000 litres per day.

Following a query from Councillor Casserly, Mr. Kilfeather undertook to engage with Irish Water regarding circulating advance notice to Members in relation to planned works.

10. PROVISION OF AUTISM FRIENDLY PARKING SPACES:

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

AND AGREED

"To call on Sligo County Council to provide an autism friendly parking space in Sligo Town and to work with a number of families who wish to see this happen".

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that the Traffic Signs Manual produced by the Dept. of Transport provides details of the road markings which may be used on roads in Ireland. The guidelines provide for two types of parking spaces, namely standard parking bays and disabled persons parking bays and presently, the guidelines do not make provision for parking bays for persons with autism.

11. INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON BUNDORAN ROAD:

This Item was withdrawn.

12. INSTALLATION OF CHILD SAFETY SIGNS AT ENTRANCE TO TREACY AVENUE:

**Proposed by Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor R. O'Grady**

AND AGREED

"Can Sligo County Council put child safety signs at the entrance to Treacy Avenue?"

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Roads Department will consider the matter and revert in due course.

13. QUERY REGARDING CHANGE IN SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR ST. EDWARD'S N.S.:

**Proposed by Councillor G. O'Boyle
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

"Can Sligo County Council write to the Northwest Regional School Transport Manager and ask why Bus Éireann are changing the schedule for the children of St. Edward's N.S. in Ballytivnan".

14. UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO RE-OPEN RECREATIONAL FACILITY AT THE

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

FAIRGREEN, TEMPLE STREET:

AND AGREED

“To ask for an update on progress to re-open the recreational facility at the Fairgreen, Temple Street currently closed due to vandalism”.

Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer reported that the playing surface of the multi-use games area in the Fairgreen has been severely vandalised and a recent inspection indicated a number of defects including the ripping out of strips of the surface, scorching of the surface and initials etched into the surface also. Mr. Flynn advised that quotations are currently being sought for repair works but it is most likely that these will not be undertaken until Q2 2019 due to budgetary constraints and weather conditions.

15. POSSIBLE RE-LOCATION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES CURRENTLY LOCATED AT RACECOURSE DRIVE, CRANMORE:

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

AND AGREED

“Recognising the positive impact and full integration within the Cranmore community for the last fifteen years of the TUSLA funded Family Support Services currently located at the Resource House at Race Course Drive, Cranmore, that this Council views with concern any possible re-location of these services off the estate. Further, that this Council contacts both TUSLA and Springboard, who manage the Resource House, to ascertain their views on this matter as it may impact on social regeneration within the Cranmore community”.

Mr. Joe Gethin, Administrative Officer informed the meeting that the matter was raised at the Cranmore Regeneration Steering Group meeting held on 27th September 2018 and a letter issued to TUSLA expressing the concerns of the Group and requesting that TUSLA support the retention of services on the estate. No response to the letter has been received to date. Mr. Gethin also advised that a letter issued to the Chairperson of the Resource House on 12th September 2018 on behalf of a number of agencies on the estate asking that a decision to relocate staff be reviewed and an offer made to provide alternative office accommodation on the estate if this was an issue. This letter was acknowledged. In conclusion, Mr. Gethin advised that the Council do not fund the Resource House other than a small contribution to the Breakfast Club.

16. PROPOSAL TO MAKE GAOL ROAD WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE:

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

AND AGREED

“To ask that the Council make Gaol Road wheelchair accessible, as safe access between the Irish Wheelchair Centre at St. Anne’s and the Riverside is not currently possible”.

Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer advised in order to make the particular section of footpath wheelchair accessible, dropped kerbs will have to be provided at 6 no. locations, a number of signs and poles will have to be relocated and some sections of footpath adjacent to the Project School will require reconstruction – works estimated at circa €6,000. Mr. Flynn stated

that there is no funding available for the work in the current year and therefore can only be considered in the context of the 2019 work programme.

17. UPGRADING OF ROAD SURFACE AND ROAD MARKINGS AT CEDAR DRIVE:

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council upgrade the road surface and road markings at Cedar Drive”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer stated that following a recent survey of the roads within Cedar Drive, with the exception of an 80m length of the entrance roadway to the estate, the road surface condition is of good quality. The particular section can be considered for upgrading in the context of the 2019 Road Works Programme. Mr. Flynn further advised that the road markings are adequate.

18. CLEANING & UPGRADING OF LANEWAYS AT THORNHILL:

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council as a matter of urgency clean and upgrade the surface on the laneway between Cedar Drive and Thornhill and the laneway between Thornhill and Scoil Ursula”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer reported that in the more recent past, such laneways have mostly been maintained by local residents and residents associations with the Council’s support coming from collection and disposal of litter collected by residents and such support will continue in the future.

The Mayor expressed her disappointment with the response and asked that broken glass on the laneway be cleared up as soon as is possible.

19. MAINTENANCE OF TREES AND HEDGES ALONG RAILWAY LINE:

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady
Seconded by Councillor T. MacSharry**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council contact Iarnród Éireann requesting them once more to maintain trees and hedges along railway lines at Treacy Avenue, Cedar Drive, Lyndale and Maugheraboy”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer advised that a meeting took place on the matter in recent weeks between the Roads Dept. and Iarnród Éireann who have committed to undertaking maintenance works along the rail line over the coming months.

20. PROPOSED REFORMS TO DEAL WITH LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPEALS

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

PROCESS: AND AGREED

“This Council calls on the Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton, to put in place the necessary reforms to deal with the Leaving Certificate appeals process as the current six week appeal process is too long”.

21. SLIGO AS A BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY CITY:

This Item was deferred.

22. ASSESSMENT OF SPEED RAMPS OUTSIDE ST. JOHN’S HOSPITAL:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council engineering staff assess the safety of the speed ramps outside Saint John’s Hospital, Ballytivnan Road, Sligo”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that a review of ramps and speed cushions throughout the urban area has commenced and the table-top at St. John’s Hospital will be reviewed as part of this process.

23. EXTENSION OF DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT RIVERSIDE:

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council engineering staff would extend the double yellow lines from the left corner of St. Anne’s Terrace at the junction with Riverside up to a point where dangerous parking which seriously disrupts the traffic flow will be prohibited”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer stated that having reviewed the road markings at the location, the Roads Dept. are proposing to extend the double yellow lines at the entrance to St. Anne’s Terrace through a distance of 10m which it is considered will be sufficient to minimise traffic disruption at this junction. The matter will be referred to An Garda Síochána shortly for their consideration.

24. REINSTATEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CONNAUGHTON ROAD/MALL JUNCTION:

As works have been carried out, this Item was withdrawn.

25. REQUEST TO DEVELOP A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE FINISKLIN ROAD:

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

AND AGREED

“To request Sligo County Council to apply for funding from the Department of Transport in order to develop a new pedestrian crossing on the Finisklin

Road in Sligo”.

AND

**31. PROGRESS REPORT ON
INSTALLATION OF
ZEBRA/PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING AT THE
URSULINE COLLEGE:**

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

AND AGREED

“Following my motion last year, can a progress report be provided concerning the installation of a zebra/pedestrian crossing and the ongoing traffic issues at the Ursuline College”.

At the outset, Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer advised that safety at schools is a shared responsibility between the Council’s Roads Dept., school staff, the Gardaí, parents/guardians and indeed students themselves and improved safety at schools will only be achieved through a combination of engineering, education and enforcement measures. In terms of engineering measures, the Council carried out significant improvement works along Finisklin Road in 2016 which included upgrading of footpaths and the installation of a dedicated cycle lane along the full extent of the road. Enforcement of matters such as illegal parking, inappropriate vehicle speed in an urban area etc is a matter for the Gardaí.

Regarding the request for installation of a pedestrian crossing, Mr. Flynn informed Members that proposals for such a crossing in the vicinity of the Ursuline College has been included in a schedule of projects which it is hoped will be considered for funding under the Dept. of Transport Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for 2019. In concluding, Mr. Flynn highlighted the fact that parking is prohibited within 15m on the approach side and 5m on the downstream side of a pedestrian crossing and warned that installation of any such crossing will give rise to traffic delays during school drop-off and collection times.

**26. PROGRESS REPORT ON
IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT
“T” JUNCTION ON
SCOTSMAN’S WALK WITH
ROSSES POINT ROAD:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon
Seconded by Councillor R. O’Grady**

AND AGREED

“That the Council be provided with a progress report on the improvement works at the T junction on Scotsman’s Walk with the Rosses Point road”.

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer reported that having re-examined the junction in recent times and following improvements to road surfaces locally, it is considered that improvements may be achieved through alterations to road markings and accordingly, the matter has been referred to the Road Design Office for further examination.

**27. ENQUIRY INTO THE
INDEPENDENT REVIEW
PANEL OF AN POST:**

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

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and also the Minister for Rural and Community Affairs to carry out an enquiry into the Independent Review panel of An Post. The criteria and timescale of the Review Panel and their discussions on the Ballinfull and Gurteen Post Offices should be analysed”.

28. REPORT ON PARKING FINES ISSUED, MONIES COLLECTED IN FINES ETC. IN 2016 & 2017:

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“That a report be provided indicating the number of parking tickets issued in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017; the number of cases in which fines were paid; the amount of monies collected in fines; the number of cases which were referred to the courts and the outcome of same; the number of cases appealed directly to the Council and the number of successful appeals; the number of said appeals which were referred to the traffic wardens and the outcome of those appeals”.

Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance reported as follows:

	2016	2017	
<i>No of fines issued</i>	5948	7145	
<i>No of these fines that were paid</i>	3844	4294	
<i>Amount of these fines paid</i>	€180,400	€197,740	
<i>No of these fines appealed</i>	825	1018	
<i>No of these fines appealed that were successful</i>	591	741	
<i>No of summonses generated</i>	387	471	
<i>No of these summonses paid to date</i>	91	85	<i>See note below</i>
Note			
<i>All fines issued in 2017 have not yet progressed to Court and income from Court is ongoing</i>			

Councillor Bree stated that it would take time to study the report and noted that the traffic wardens are consulted when appeals are submitted.

29. REPORT ON PROPERTIES IN COUNCIL OWNERSHIP, DETAILS OF ANNUAL RENTAL INCOME, ARREARS OWING ETC.

Due to the in-depth nature of the request, the Item was deferred.

30. CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATH ON R292 AT STRANDHILL:

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“To ask what progress, if any, has been made to identify possible funding sources to allow the Council to construct a pedestrian footpath or footpaths on the R292 linking Strandhill village with the Rugby Club and Queen

Maeve's Trail".

Mr. Brían Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer informed Members that while a footpath linking the village with the Rugby Club would be desirable, it would be a very significant body of work in terms of design and construction and the cost could be in excess of €200,000. Mr. Flynn advised that while not perfect, pedestrians currently have the advantage of wide hard shoulders on both sides of the R292 and the area benefits from public lighting and falls within the 50kph speed limit.

32. SURVEY AND REPAIR OF BRACKENS BRIDGE, COLLOONEY:

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

AND AGREED

"To call on Sligo County Council to carry out a survey and make funding available for the necessary repair works to Brackens Bridge in Collooney as the condition of the bridge is a concern to residents and people using the bridge".

Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services apologised for not having a report available on the issue and assured Members he would circulate same as soon as possible.

33. CORRESPONDENCE:

Noted.

34. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Councillor Marie Casserly extended sympathy to the family of the late Joe Davey, RIP, on his sudden passing.
- Members extended congratulations to the following:
 - Local swimmer Mona McSharry on a new 50m freestyle national record.
 - St. Molaise Gaels and Tourlestrane on their recent respective wins in the Minor & Senior Championship.
 - Local boxers Dean Clancy & Paddy Myers on their recent achievements.
- Councillor Hubert Keaney encouraged those present to support the "Big Switch" campaign in favour of local businesses.

The business of the meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.

Mayor **Date:** _____

Meetings Administrator **Date:** _____