

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURRY HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017  
AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE BOARDROOM, IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK, CO. MAYO**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

- Councillor Michael Clarke
- Councillor Margaret Gormley
- Councillor Keith Henry
- Councillor Jerry Lundy (Chair)
- Councillor Dara Mulvey
- Councillor Paul Taylor

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services
- Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer
- Mr. Paddy Hughes, Senior Executive Engineer
- Mr. Declan Noone, Area Engineer
- Mr. David Golden, Area Engineer
- Mr. Joseph Devaney, Area Engineer
- Mr. Ray O'Grady, Executive Planner
- Ms. Clodagh Quinn, Staff Officer

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Joe Gilmore, Managing Director, Ireland West Airport Knock  
Mr. Donal Healy, Head of Marketing & Route Development, Ireland West Airport Knock

**APOLOGIES:**

- Councillor Martin Baker
- Councillor Joe Queenan

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Lundy presided and welcomed those present to Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) for the last meeting of 2017. With the agreement of the meeting, Councillor Lundy invited Mr. Joe Gilmore, Managing Director (IWAK) to outline the proposal for the Discovery Centre under Item No. 5.

**5. PRESENTATION ON REDZ  
FLAGSHIP PROPOSAL FOR IWAK  
DISCOVERY CENTRE:**

Mr. Joe Gilmore stated his delight in hosting the meeting at the airport, the first such meeting to be held there to date. He thanked the 7 no. Chief Executives for a total investment of €7.3m for a 17.5% share in the company. Mr. Gilmore then showed a presentation which highlighted the following statistics:

- A record 748,000 passengers used the airport in 2017.
- Record number of passengers on some UK routes despite Brexit.
- 3 million visitors have used the airport since its foundation in 1986 supporting 3,000 jobs in the region.
- 95 no. full-time staff employed and up to 175 no. in the summer months.
- 1 in 3 visitors through the airport spend time in Sligo.
- In partnership with Stewart Airport, New York.

Mr. Donal Healy then advised the Members that in 2016 the airport received €400,000 REDZ funding for a new Discovery Centre which is gone to tender and it is hoped will be completed by the end of April. Mr. Healy further advised that €15m is being invested in new passenger facilities, terminal facilities etc which includes new digital signage, a new website etc.

In response to queries raised regarding a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) and the availability of public transport at the airport, Mr. Gilmore replied as follows:

- Local Area Plan in place for the area around the airport in effect from 2012-2018 as a precursor to the development of a SDZ.
- 6 no. buses servicing the airport on a daily basis.

All of the Members present thanked Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Healy for their warm welcome and detailed presentation, complimented them on the works carried out to date and wished them continued success into the future.

Mr. Gilmore then extended an invitation to those present to join him in a tour of the airport following the meeting.

The business of the meeting then resumed.

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURREY HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 TO CONSIDER DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN:**

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

*“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurrey held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan”*

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLYMOTE-TOBERCURREY HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

*“To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballymote-Tobercurrey held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017”*

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

Councillor Margaret Gormley asked for an update on the drainage works at Monasteraden Crossroads and in reply, Mr. Declan Noone, Area Engineer, advised that investigation works are ongoing. A contractor will be required in 2018 as the gullies have to be cleaned.

**4. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 5 STANDING ORDERS – “HOUR OF MEETING”:**

Councillor Jerry Lundy advised the Members that the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Kilgannon had requested that the start time of the monthly Council meetings be brought forward by one hour from 11.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

This was agreed by the Members.

**6. UPDATE ON FUNDING RECEIVED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES:**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services introduced this item explaining that over €3.3m has been invested in the Municipal District in the period 2015-2017 through the Town & Village, Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) and Outdoor Infrastructural Schemes (ORIS) via the Dept. of Rural and Community Development and matched funding from Sligo County Council and various local communities. Mr. Ray O’Grady went on to explain the initiatives funded through the schemes and highlighted in particular the investment of circa

€1.3m in the first phase of the National Mountain Biking Centre in Coolaney where advance works are currently underway. Mr. O’Grady stated that it is estimated that the development will attract approximately 80,000 visitors annually to the County and will be a “game changer” in terms of tourism for the area.

The Members complimented Ms. Clarke and her staff for securing funding and carrying out the works. In reply to a query regarding the issue of drawing down the funding, Ms. Clarke advised that her department is on target in that regard but added that if funding was made known early in the year, work could be organised more efficiently.

**7. RESURFACING WORK IN HILLVIEW DRIVE ESTATE & INSPECTION OF ENTRANCE AT STONEPARK ESTATE, BALLYMOTE:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“Ask that Sligo County Council:

- (a) Carry out resurfacing work in Hillview Drive Estate, Ballymote
- (b) Inspect the entrance to Stonepark Estate, Ballymote as residents feel the entrance is too narrow”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes informed the meeting as follows:

- (a) The roads in Hillview Drive Estate will be included for consideration when drafting the Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme commencing in 2019.
- (b) The width of the entrance to Stonepark Estate is considered wide enough however improvements can be carried out to improve access/egress such as the construction of wing walls, footpath works and the relocation of a public light and signs. There is no funding available for these works in the current year but they could be considered for a scheme under Councillors’ proposals in 2018.

**8. MARLOW/WOODFIELD ROAD TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE WORKS:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“That the Marlow/Woodfield Road, Ballymote be included in future Municipal resurfacing works”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes stated that Local Road L-16035 (Marlow/Woodfield Road) will be included for consideration when drafting the Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme commencing in 2019.

**9. FUNDING FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON R293 AT STONEPARK, BALLYMOTE:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor K. Henry**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to seek funding for a pedestrian crossing on the R293 at Stonepark, Ballymote in the interest of safety. This is a very dangerous stretch of road for people wanting to cross the busy regional road to get to the town park, playground, doctors surgery and shop”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes advised the meeting that an assessment will be carried out

by Sligo County Council to establish the need for a pedestrian crossing at the location.

**10. INCLUSION OF  
RATHNARROW ROAD IN  
MUNICIPAL WORKS 2018/2019:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“Can Sligo County Council confirm if the Rathnarrow road will be included in Municipal Works for 2018 and if not, will it be included in 2019?”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes explained that the Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Plan for 2016-2018 has been already approved and the Rathnarrow road has not been included for 2018. However, if the level of grant funding increases significantly in 2018, the road will be considered for inclusion in the 2019 programme and if not, the road will be included within the draft Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme for 2019-2021, subject to Councillors’ approval.

**11. IMPROVEMENT OF  
SIGHTLINES AT THE FOUR  
CROSSROADS, KNOCKADALTEEN,  
BALLYMOTE:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor K. Henry**

AND AGREED

“I call on Sligo County Council to improve the sightlines for motorists at the four crossroads at Knockadalteen, Ballymote”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes explained that the improvement of sightlines would involve land acquisition on all sides and accommodation works and may be done in stages. He added that the scheme would not be suitable for a Low Cost Accident Scheme as there is no record of accidents at the location.

**12. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL  
DIRECTIONAL ARROWS AT  
MULLINABREENA:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“I call on Sligo County Council to put additional directional arrows at Mullinabreena, South Sligo”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes advised the meeting that an additional directional sign post indicating the direction to Coolaney at Mullinabreena Church will be erected in the coming weeks.

**13. UPDATE ON FOOTPATH  
REPAIR IN EASKEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to give an update on footpath repair in Easkey”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes assured the meeting that repairs will be carried out to the footpaths in Easkey in 2018.

**14. WORKS TO EASKEY GRAVEYARD:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“To call on Sligo County Council to carry out an inspection on Easkey Graveyard, to surface dress the main avenue and to replace the gates”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes stated that the Enniscrone Area Engineer will carry out an inspection of Easkey Graveyard and obtain an estimate for surface dressing and repairs to the gate.

**15. TAKING IN CHARGE OF CUILL DARA ESTATE, TUBBERCURRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

AND AGREED

“To ask for a report on when it is proposed to take in charge Cuill Dara Estate, Tubbercurry”.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke informed the meeting that discussions are ongoing between Irish Water and the developer to resolve an outstanding issue regarding a public watermain which traverses the site. Ms. Clarke advised that when the matter is resolved, Sligo County Council will commence the taking in charge process.

**16. TRANSFER OF COURT ABBEY CEMETERY TO THE OPW:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

AND AGREED

“The dangerous structure in Court Abbey cemetery is a cause of safety concern to the community and to the families of loved ones buried in its vicinity. As it is designated as a National Monument and is governed by The National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, I am calling on Sligo County Council to have it transferred to the OPW to enable works to be carried out to it”.

Mr. Tom Brennan informed the meeting that Court Abbey is a National Monument in the ownership of Sligo County Council and not the State. Mr. Brennan advised that a conservation project would require a sustained commitment over a number of years in terms of resources (both staff and financial). Although different funding schemes may be available from the Heritage Council etc., Mr. Brennan warned that an initial investment of up to €25,000 would be required to prepare the conservation and archaeological assessments needed to make an application for National Monument consent and to allow for funding applications to be made for a phased programme of conservation works –resources that the Heritage Office of Sligo County Council does not have access to at the present time.

In relation to transferring the monument to the OPW, Mr. Brennan stated that on advice from the Department, the process is not a straightforward one as contact has to be made with the Dept. of Community, Heritage & the Gaeltacht firstly requesting acquisition and then with the OPW to see if they have the

resources to take the building on and carry out the required conservation works. Mr. Brennan advised that in general, where a monument is in existing public ownership and the Local Authority has responsibility for same, it is unlikely that the Department would agree to acquisition, however this does not prevent the question being formally put to both Departments on behalf of the community.

Finally, Mr. Brennan stated that if the monument remains in the ownership of Sligo County Council, the Council need to consider the health and safety and “dangerous structure” implications of the monument as well as archaeological considerations.

The matter was then discussed and it was agreed that a community representative(s) would meet with the Heritage Office to see what course of action could be followed.

**17. PROVISION OF DISABLED ACCESS AT THE ART DECO, BALLYMOTE:**

**Proposed by Councillor K. Henry**  
**Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council to provide a disabled parking bay or keep clear section outside The Art Deco, Ballymote and drop the kerb to allow wheelchairs to access the footpath safely”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes informed the meeting that the kerbs will not be dropped but the other works will be carried out in 2018 and advised that funding from Councillors’ proposals will be required to cover a portion of the costs for the works.

**18. UPDATE ON WORKS AT CONNOLLY PARK, TUBBERCURRY:**

It was agreed that this item be deferred as works are ongoing.

**19. WORKS TO CROSSROADS IN GURTEEN:**

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor**  
**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council to carry out surface dressing works to the crossroads in Gurteen village”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes advised the meeting that the Council is awaiting the announcement of the Restoration Improvement allocation for 2018 from the Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport. He stated that a draft Restoration Improvement Plan exists for next year and should an increase in funding on 2017 levels be obtained, the section of roadway can then be given consideration for inclusion in the Schedule of Roadworks for 2018.

**20. EMERGENCY WORKS TO  
BRIDGE ON R294:**

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council to carry out immediate emergency works to the bridge on the R294 outside Gurteen”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes informed the meeting that repairs to the parapets are required and will be carried out in 2018 but advised that funding from Councillors’ proposals will be required towards the cost of the works.

Councillor Paul Taylor commended the work done on other bridges in the Municipal District but stressed the importance of the required works being carried out at this location as soon as possible.

**21. RE-SURFACING WORKS TO  
PARKING AREAS AROUND  
WOLFE TONE SQUARE,  
TUBBERCERRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor J. Lundy**

AND AGREED

“To ask Sligo County Council to carry out re-surfacing works to the parking areas around Wolfe Tone Square, Tubbercurry”.

Mr. Paddy Hughes advised the meeting that the Council is awaiting the announcement of the Restoration Improvement Grant allocation for 2018 from the Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport. He stated that a draft Restoration Improvement Plan exists for next year and should a significant increase in funding on 2017 levels be obtained, the section of roadway can then be given consideration for inclusion in the Schedule of Roadworks for 2018.

**22. CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Members thanked Sligo County Council staff for all the work completed throughout the year and in particular, paid tribute to the Area Engineers and outdoor staff.
- The Chief Executive also put on record his appreciation for the staff.
- Councillor Margaret Gormley asked that the matter of the N17 be highlighted again in the coming year.

The business of the meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.