



***Athlone
Municipal Public Participation
Network***

2016 Submission

to the

Athlone Municipal District

March 2016

Affiliated to Westmeath Public Participation Network

Report on Local Issues Submission

This is a report concerning local issues, identified by the members of **Athlone Municipal Public Participation Network on the 6th October, 2015**, for submission to the Athlone Municipal District of Westmeath County Council to be considered in the budget allocation for 2016.

The document includes **4 Theme** issues agreed by consensus by the Forum, some of these issues have no financial implications and are concerned with process, while other issues may have financial implications. The Forum are aware that there are budgetary and resource constraints but would urge the Municipal District and Council officials to support this submission in as much as is possible.

The Athlone Municipal Public Participation Network made their recommendations for this submission in accordance with the paper entitled, "Interaction between the Area Committees of the Council and the Community and Voluntary Forum". This paper received approval from the Corporate Policy Group and Members of Westmeath County Council on 29th July 2002.

Athlone Municipal Public Participation Network has selected a deputation to meet with the Athlone Area Committee to present this document.

These are:

Ms. Kathleen Grennan

Mr. Seamus Browne

Facilitator of Network

Annette Barr Jordan

Administrative Officer

Community Development Section

Westmeath County Council

Athlone Municipal District
Report on Local Issues

1. ACCESS				
Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Cartron Drive Res. Assoc.	Laneway at houses 1-6 in a poor condition	Needs repairing	The laneway in question is not a public road and the Council do not maintain lanes to the same standards as public roads. The Council will assist with materials if the Res. Assoc wish to carry out works. The District Engineering Staff will inspect the footpath indicated.	06/10/2015
	Footpaths at houses 1-6 in poor condition	Needs repairing		
Mount Temple Holy Trinity Cemetery Group	Walls to footprint of church crumbling, in need of stabilisation	A Heritage Architect needs to be employed. Training to be given to suitable construction works to carry out the works in accordance with the Architect Guidelines.	Not a WCC graveyard. The Committee sought and received funding from WCC under the Cathaoirleach Awards 2015 and should do so again in 2016.	06/10/2015
	Walls of existing storage building crumbling and needs door and new ???	As above		
	Boundary wall in need of repair	As above		
	Boundary Fence with existing farm needed	New post and rail fencing with suitable hedging on cemetery side to be installed		

1. ACCESS (continued)				
Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Brawny Homes Association	Fence broken at perimeter and numerous places	Perimeter fence to be fixed	Referred to Housing Section 11/02/2016	06/10/2015
Rosemount Cycling Club	Access ?		If this refers to access to the Old Rail Trail Cycleway near Rosemount, the access @ Kilcumreragh was completed in October 2015	06/10/2015
Cypress Gardens Residents Association	Footpaths/kerbs on corners of each block of houses in a state of repair – kerbs coming away from the footpath at Cyprus Gardens outside number 1 between number 13 – 43 and across from number 71 at the green area and outside number 88	Repair all footpaths and kerbs	The District Engineering Staff will inspect the footpath sections indicated.	06/10/2015
Monsignor McCarthy FRC	No road markings for wheelchair – as indicated on map provided	Provide road markings for 2 No. wheelchair spots	No map provided. Provision of road markings within the confines of the car park is a matter for the Resource Centre.	06/10/2015
Blackberry Lane	Fencing is incomplete on opposite side of house (C.Nevin to submit photos)	Complete fencing	No photos received. Referred to Housing Section 11/02/2016	06/10/2015
St. Marys Active Elderly	Bus to the Primary Care Centre needs to be looked at	Extend the service of the bus route	Referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 12/02/2016	06/10/2015
Irish Wheelchair Association	No safe accessible footpath from Clonbrusk Primary Care Centre to the Housing Estate	Footpath needs to be installed	It is presumed they are referring to Woodlands Grove. The HSE provided a footpath at this location	06/10/2015

			last year which links to the existing footpath in Grovelands at the pedestrian crossing.	
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2. FACILITIES

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
New Horizon – Athlone Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Group & All groups	Serious lack of office space for community groups	Provide temporary spaces to work in with wifi, heat, light, tea/coffee making facilities. Hot desks should be looked into as an option.	Property Services section.	06/10/2015
Irish Wheelchair Association	No bus shelter and bus service at Clonbrusk Centre	Both need to be provided	Referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 12/02/2016.	06/10/2015
Cairde Nua (Woodville Resident)	There is a local of community walking clubs, community houses/centres, women have nothing to do in the mornings when children are at school	Give support to those who would like to form a group and plan activities	Residents should seek support under Cathaoirleach Awards	06/10/2015
St. Mary's Active Elderly	No Exercise machines available in open spaces like Burgess Park	Install exercise machines	It is hoped to provide some apparatus as part of the current improvement works in Burgess Park, subject to funding availability.	06/10/2015
Brawny Mens Shed	Additional Community space for Mens Shed identified as a need – to be also used for wider community	Professional Expertise required from Council – Architects and Planners for advice needed on this project.	Property Management	06/10/2015

Tonnta	Adequate premises is a problem	Premises to be looked at to be used as a multi community building	Property Management Currently accommodated adjacent to Old Athlone Town Council depot.	06/10/2015
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3. ROAD SAFETY

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Cartron Drive Res. Assoc.	Football pitch entrance/exit is on a corner and children exiting/entering onto road so speeding cars are a danger Hedge at bottom of hill in a dangerous condition Stop sign broken	Put in speed ramp on the corner for traffic calming purposes Hedge needs cutting back Stop sign needs replacing urgently	The District Engineering Staff will investigate the issues raised.	06/10/2015
New Horizon – Athlone Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Group	Cycle path from Blyry Roundabout into Golden Island stops and goes to grass at GAA site	Cycle path needs to be extended	Presume this refers to strip adjacent to Athlone GAA. There is an existing footpath at this location and the road is the subject of an application for funding under the Smarter Travel programme.	06/10/2015
Cairde Nua	Cobbled footpaths can be very slippery especially where the old phone box and statue are situated on the east side of Athlone Bridge At Custume Cuts Hairdressers	Resurface footpath. Level footpath.	The District Engineering Staff will investigate the issue raised. The District Engineering Staff will	06/10/2015

	the slant/dip in the foot path is dangerous		investigate the issue raised however it should be noted that the footpath follows the gradient of the adjacent road.	
	Crossing to Dunnes Stores Montree from adjacent estate considered very dangerous, a lot of children cross this road as Dunnes is the nearest shop.	Install pedestrian crossing as child population has increased	The District Engineering Staff can arrange a traffic and pedestrian count to see if this location satisfies the warrants required for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing.	

3. ROAD SAFETY (continued)

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Cairde Nua	<p>Ramp at the old railway crossing in Mount Temple, is too high and not wide enough</p> <p>Outside the Church gate in Moate, the road is being narrowed plus directly across from the Church – it is felt this will prove to be dangerous – why is this being done?</p> <p>At Cornamaddy there is no footpath on the school side when you turn right, until you get to Dans Tavern.</p>	<p>Amend ramp</p> <p>Reconsider this action.</p> <p>Install footpath</p>	<p>It is presumed this refers to the ramp on the Mount Temple Road, Moate. This ramp was amended in October 2015.</p> <p>The District Engineering Staff will investigate the issue raised.</p> <p>The objective of this scheme was to improve safety on the public road particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. The footpaths and road crossings were enhanced and the road space available for vehicular traffic was reduced in order to decrease vehicle manoeuvres and speed.</p> <p>There is a controlled pedestrian crossing at the school and a footpath on the</p>	06/10/2015

			opposite side of the road. The provision of a new footpath will have to happen in tandem with future developments on this side of the road.	
St. Mary's Active Elderly	Footpath at the National Irish Bank on Northgate St. in need of repair Crossing at Prince of Wales Hotel dangerous	Repair footpath Needs to be looked at by WCC	The District Engineering Staff will investigate the issue raised. Will be reviewed in the context of the proposed enhancement works on Church Street.	06/10/2015
Drumraney Heritage Society	Drumraney N.S. head wall at bridge is collapsing into the River – poses a danger to all	Repair wall asap	Works are planned for this location in early 2016	06/10/2015
Brawny Homes Association	Ongoing speeding problem	Needs adequate traffic management – raised junction throughout estate needed. Maps identifying are to be forwarded to WCC	There are a number of ramps in this estate already and it is considered that the provision of more would not be appropriate. No map attached. <i>A reduction of the speed limit in this estate is being considered as part of a review of Special Speed Limits in 2016</i>	06/10/2015

3. ROAD SAFETY (continued)

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Brawny Homes Association	Damaged lighting at Astroturf pitch	Repair lighting or lighting to be replaced.	The budget for the maintenance of these pitches sits in C&E: 0637005R. Note they received a Grant of €4,000 from ATC to improve this pitch in 2014	06/10/2015

Brawny Mens Shed	Lighting on All Weather Pitch needs repair	Repair same and give access to card. Erect a light outside No. 1 Brawny Sq., to light field to rear of houses regarding anti-social behaviour	The budget for the maintenance of these pitches sits in C&E: 0637005R. Note they received a Grant of €4,000 from ATC to improve this pitch in 2014! Transportation are not favour erection of public lights away from public roads. This may be a security issue to be considered by Housing in conjunction with Gardai.	06/10/2015
Battery Heights Res. Assoc. Battery Heights Res. Assoc. Monsignor McCarthy FRC	3 No. speeding Signage is needed. Kill your Speed, Not our Children suggested. Speed Signs also required at Old Batteries More funding is needed for petrol for lawnmower as grass cutting of canal is 5 acres Tenants Handbook – consultation process is needed so all residents can feed into this proposal.	WCC to provide adequate signage. Road speed bumps to be provided. Budget to be allowed for each community. Meetings to be organised.	It is a matter for the Residents Association to provide such signage and the Council will assist. Only signs specified in the Traffic Signs Manual can be erected. The speed limit will be considered as part of a review of Special Speed Limits in 2016 The provision of funding for the installation of speed ramps is a matter for the elected members of the District. The Residents Association receive funding from the Cathaoirleach Awards for this. Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16.	06/10/2015
The Elms Residents Assoc.	Rear back row area – footpath	Repair to footpaths needs to be	The District Engineering Staff will inspect	06/10/2015

	in need of repair	done annually – did not take place in 2015.	the footpath indicated. The repair of footpaths is on a priority basis based on current condition etc. throughout the District and not all footpaths in an estate will be replaced at the same time.	
3. ROAD SAFETY (continued)				
Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date Raised
Tubberclaire Tidy Towns	Dangerous road egress to the carpark to the N55	Remove the existing carpark wall and rebuild it 3m back from the road edge. This will improve sight distances along the N55. Erect Street/Safety lights outside the carpark.	It has been conveyed to this group previously that this is not a matter for the County Council The provision of new street lights at this location is a matter for the Transportation Section following approval from and in tandem with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.	
Glasson Tidy Towns	Calming speed illustration signs approaching and exiting Glasson are needed	Provide signage	A traffic calming scheme funded by and to the NRA standards was carried out in Glasson in 2012. <i>A review is currently being carried out by WCC in conjunction with TII in relation to the N55 Southbound approach to Glasson. It is anticipate that additional safety measures will be implemented in the current year.</i>	06/10/2015
Monsignor McCarthy FRC	Ramps are needed for 2 No. houses, No. 13 & No. 63 so both houses are wheelchair accessible	Allocate funding under a Disability Grant for both ramps	Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015

Blackberry Lane	House No.'s 21, 22 and 23 are not blocked off at the back – children can enter onto dual carriageway	Needs to be blocked off asap	The fence along the N6 is the responsibility of the NRA's maintenance contractor who has replaced missing sections in the past. Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015
St. Mary's Active Elderly	Vacant houses is a problem	Vacant houses to be repaired for homeless people	Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015
Irish Wheelchair Association	Road in St. Francis Tce. Needs resurfacing due to recent flooding	Resurface road	The District Engineering Staff will investigate the issue raised once the exact location is established.	06/10/2015
Moate Museum & Historical Society	<p>Footpaths in the Newtown from the Carmelite Church to the Order of Malta House are uneven and dangerous.</p> <p>Footpaths from the Pantry to John Gillivans Butcher Shop are uneven and unsafe.</p> <p>There are no down-pipes with no drains underneath to take away surface water on the houses from the Old Mill to the old Post Office.</p>	<p>WCC repaired footpath outside 2 No. houses – but these paths need to be repaired and made safe.</p> <p>Repair all paths to uniform level.</p> <p>This needs to be looked at and works undertaken.</p>	<p>The District Engineering Staff will inspect the footpath indicated. The repair of footpaths is on a priority basis based on current condition etc. throughout the District and not all footpaths on a road will be replaced at the same time.</p> <p>The District Engineering Staff will inspect the footpath indicated.</p> <p>The provision of drainage outlets in this footpath will be undertaken in tandem with any future works on the footpath.</p>	06/10/2015

4. OTHER

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Cartron Drive Res. Assoc.	Some houses are in a bad state of repair – note being maintained by landlords	List of landlords to be supplied to Res. Assoc.	Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015
Cairde Nua	Litter/dumping taking place at the bottom of Marine View, right at the River. Tidy Towns have a presence but needs more to be done There are no bins anywhere, causing litter and dog dirt on footpaths There is a lack of public transport in some of the outskirts of the Town	Litter Warden needs to patrol this area more often Install bins Provide more public transport	This will be followed up. Give specific locations. Referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 12/02/2016	06/10/2015
All groups ??	Dog fouling is a problem throughout the Town of Athlone	More monitoring and bins. Signage to be provided to areas requesting same.	There is an ongoing problem with this throughout the county and a policy was drawn up by the Environment Section which included placing a sign on every street bin notifying the public of the “Any Bag, Any Bin” campaign.	06/10/2015
Drumraney Heritage Society	There is little or no public transport in Drumraney	Provide more regular transport for residents	Referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 12/02/2016	06/10/2015
Brawny Homes Association	Delays in notification regarding grant awards, community do	This should be dealt with in a timely fashion	Community & Enterprise Section	06/10/2015

	not know amounts and if funding was received			
Brawny Mens Shed	No funding received after being named in 2015 awards – difficult to work on projects without funding	Grants should be paid out a lot quicker, Council to re-examine process.	Community & Enterprise Section	06/10/2015
4. OTHER (continued)				
Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date raised
Battery Heights Res. Assoc.	2 No. cleanups are carried out in the area and need more supports	Skips to be provided twice a year for clean-ups.	The material collected from every cleanup is collected and disposed of by the Council once arranged prior to the event	06/10/2015
Monsignor McCarthy FRC	There is no signpost on main road and at head of complex to direct people to the Complex and to the FRC	Supply and erect signage outside Walshes Pub on Connaught Street	The erection of such signage is a matter for the Resource Centre following authorisation from the Council	06/10/2015
Blackberry Lane	Manholes are open at sides Stormdrains are blocked Ranges in House No.'s 16, 21, 22 & 23 were temporarily fixed but need something more permanent	Manholes need to be repaired or replaced as necessary Drains need to be unblocked and investigated Investigate and repair as necessary	Housing Section or Water Services Section depending on location/service Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16 Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015
Irish Wheelchair Association	Homeless problem in Athlone needs to be addressed especially for those sleeping rough	Address homeless problem by providing housing	Referred to Housing Section on 11/02/16	06/10/2015

<p>Independent People with Disabilities</p>	<p>Canal closed - CIE, BOW and Council have abdicated responsibility.</p> <p>Canal needs to be cleaned from the No. 1 to the outlet.</p> <p>The drainage system under the playground is not functional</p>	<p>Canal needs to be reopened.</p> <p>Clean Canal</p> <p>Playground needs restoration and the Canal needs dredging.</p>	<p>Canal was filled in due to structural failure and there is no funding to reopen.</p> <p>These works were commenced and are dependant of funding.</p> <p>The District Engineering Staff will investigate the claim regarding the non functioning drainage in the playground.</p>	<p>06/10/2015</p>
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