



***Athlone  
Municipal Public Participation  
Network***

***2017 Submission  
For the 2018 budgets***

*to the*

***Athlone Municipal District***

On Matters Relating to

***Athlone Municipal Electoral Area***

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 PPN** on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017, for submission to the Athlone Municipal District of Westmeath County Council to be considered in the budget allocation for 2018.

The document includes **5 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 large financial implications, having said this 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 PPN made their recommendations for this submission having considered 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 29<sup>th</sup> July 2002 and the policy document "Westmeath Public Participation Network (PPN) Interaction with Municipal Districts" adopted by Westmeath County Council July 2016.

Athlone Municipal PPN have selected a deputation to meet with the Athlone Municipal District to present this document.

These are:

<b>Elected PPN representatives</b>			
Hugh Farrell	Marie Reddin	Brendan Campbell	Linda-Jo Quinn
Michael Mulvey	Keith Dowling	Kathleen Grennan	

Facilitator of Network - *Annette Barr Jordan*, Administrative Officer, Community Development Section

Westmeath County Council

<b>1. ACCESS</b>				
<b>Group / Organisation</b>	<b>Issue / Concern</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Council Response</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ashdale/Woodlands Grove Residents Association	Entrance/exit at Resource Centre and Woodlands Grove at Abbey Road, Coosan needs re-visiting (side of IWA/Resource Centre)	Would need looking at by experts who should identify the problem and may have a solution	This has been reviewed by the District Engineer and he advised that a tabletop ramp was installed at the entrance following previous representations. No other issues have been identified. <b>Update June 2018</b> – Residents group to identify specific issues for District Engineer.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017
Athlone Access Awareness Group	Abuse of Disabled Parking Bays in Athlone Town by people who have no Blue Badge permit or who abuse one that has not been issued to them personally (Black Spot areas – Golden Island Shopping Centre, Prince Bar, Dunnes Stores, Irishtown)	Athlone Access Awareness work closely with Traffic Wardens and Local Garda. Post on AAA, Facebook page re. blackspot areas.	Westmeath County Council is responsible for the operation of public car parks in Athlone. The County Council will write to owners of these car parks in relation to the concerns raised. PPN should also approach other non public agencies. <b>Update June 2018-</b> Letters issued by Municipal District.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017

Brawny Homes Association	Perimeter fencing adjacent to Brawny Square to include lighting	Erect permanent perimeter fencing and lighting.	PPN to forward specific location where they are looking for perimeter fencing. The Council currently has no funding for new public lights. <b>Update June 2018 - PPN</b> to identify specific issues for District Engineer.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017
Cairde Nua	Lack of transport for members to get to the Group's premises (Brawny, Batteries and Clonbonny)	Supply transport for those people to attend the weekly club. These people need this facility for their wellbeing.	Community Development section has referred this action to Westmeath Rural Transport Initiative for response.  <b>Updated June 2018.</b> Referred to Rural Transport. Cairde Nua are welcome to make a proposal directly to Westmeath Rural Transport regarding specific route and support required for their consideration.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017  WCC Comm Dev section addressed in Nov 2017
Independent People with Disabilities	Disabled Parking Bays are too short for vehicles that accommodate people who use wheelchairs that require ramp/lift access to the rear of the vehicle and the amount of Disabled Parking Bays should be increased in Athlone town (main street, Church Street, Sean Costello Street and Castlemaine Street)	Propose that a "no entry" yellow box be put at the end of the Disabled Parking Bays approx. 1.2 metres in length for the vehicle displaying a Sticker indicating the length of clearance required.	Disabled spaces are provided in accordance with the agreed National Standards. The Council will review the size and number of spaces whenever new works are planned and will meet representatives to incorporate into the Church Street Enhancement project. <b>Update June 2018-</b> An extended bay has been installed adjacent to the Prince of Wales hotel and one is planned to be put in Mardyke Street later this year.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017

<b>2. Facilities</b>				
<b>Group / Organisation</b>	<b>Issue / Concern</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Council Response</b>	<b>Date</b>
Athlone Access Awareness Group	Abuse of Disabled Parking Bays in Athlone Town by people who have no Blue Badge permit or who abuse one that has not been issued to them personally (Black Spot areas – Golden Island Shopping Centre, Prince Bar, Dunnes Stores, Irishtown)	Athlone Access Awareness work closely with Traffic Wardens and Local Garda. Post on AAA, Facebook page re. blackspot areas.	Westmeath County Council is responsible for the operation of public car parks in Athlone. The County Council will write to owners of these car parks in relation to the concerns raised. PPN should also approach other non public agencies. <b>Update June 2018-</b> Letters issued by Municipal District.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017.
Rosemount Social Initiative (GAA)	Community Shop in Rosemount Village (local shop closed over 5 years ago)	Support/guidelines/direction in how we could have a community shop and what support (financial and otherwise) that we may be able to avail of.	This was referred to Community Development Section of WCC. <b>Update June 2018.</b> Comm Dev section referred this to WCD SICAP programme who contacted Rosemount , they are supporting this group with their idea.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017  WCC Comm Dev section addressed in Nov 2017
Rosemount	No shop No playground	Need a community shop Need a community playground	Community Development section referred Rosemount group to Westmeath Community Development LEADER programme under their Playgrounds targeted call for funding. <b>Update June 2018.</b> Rosemount made application to LEADER Programme.	WCC Comm Dev section addressed in Jan 2017

<p>St. Mary's Active Retirement Group</p>	<p>Uneven footpaths all over Athlone Town which are dangerous for active elderly and people with disabilities (town, Garden Vale, Northgate Street, Cornamagh, St. Joseph's Villas)</p>	<p>These areas need to be inspected by the local authority staff and rectified and made safe where necessary</p>	<p>The Council will arrange for an inspection of specific areas identified by PPN.  <b>Update June 2018-</b> Works have been carried out on Garden Vale and are planned for Northgate Street in the current year. If there are other specific locations of concern they should be brought to the attention of the Council.</p>	
<p>Athlone Women's Forum</p>	<p>Office Space for Community TUS worker to carry out administrative tasks.  Any location in Athlone</p>	<p>Advise or recommend a free office space for community worker to work from ie. sharing office space with community organisations</p>	<p>Community Development section has referred this action to Westmeath Community Development SICAP programme under their Goal 1 supports to community groups. AMD to consider if the Civic Centre or AMD library section could facilitate this group by allowing them to use a room for meetings. <b>Update June 2018 –</b> The Athlone Municipal District is not in a position to provide this.</p>	

### 3. Road Safety

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date Raised
Ashdale/Woodlands Grove Residents Association	Entrance/exit at Resource Centre and Woodlands Grove at Abbey Road, Coosan needs re-visiting (side of IWA/Resource Centre)	Would need looking at by experts who should identify the problem and may have a solution	This has been reviewed by the District Engineer and he advised that a tabletop ramp was installed at the entrance following previous representations. No other issues have been identified. <b>Update June 2018 - no change</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017
Cypress Gardens Residents Association	<p>Blocks out of place at kerbs and front wall (from House No. 1 and continue down along estate)</p> <p>Landlords allowing their property to fall into disrepair.</p> <p>Dog Sign removed from Pole in estate (beside the only seat in estate)</p>	<p>Cement kerbing and put stones back into wall.</p> <p>Several houses in estate are affected – Environmental Officer asked to inspect same.</p>	<p>The District Engineer will arrange for inspection and arrange for any works considered necessary to be carried out. <b>Update June 2018 -It is anticipated this will be carried out in September 2018.</b></p> <p>If specific properties are identified they can be inspected in accordance with the Derelict Sites legislation.</p> <p>Sign can be supplied to Residents Association on request. <b>Update June 2018 – PPN has not identified specific properties for inspection.</b></p>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017

<p>Drumraney Heritage Society</p>	<p>Vehicles i.e. cars, lorries and motorbikes travelling at excessive speeds (Road 390 between cor-ordinates 616152.716, 747485.442 and 616933.239, 748398.257 ie. between Drumraney Parish Church and turn off junction to Drumraney School</p>	<p>Place signs to “Reduce Speed” limit from 80km to 50 km.</p>	<p>This can be reviewed in the context of the next speed limit review by the Transportation section which will be advertised in the local press. <b>Update June 2018</b> – Next review not yet scheduled but submissions can be lodged with Transportation Section of County Council at this stage. This request has been forwarded to Transportation Section in this regard.</p>	<p>20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017</p>
<p>Moate Museum &amp; Historical Society CLG</p>	<p>Unsafe footpaths in Moate – very dangerous (Mains St and in particular the Newtown beside the big tree leading to Ave Maria Park)</p>	<p>Westmeath Co. Co. officials to travel to Galway and view the steps that they provide in Salthill from the Blackrock, Diving Board to cover crevices by using tar.</p> <p>Use fluorescent paint to highlight steps from Main Street on to the footpath</p>	<p>Footpath improvements works are carried out under the multi-annual roads programme and all requests are considered by the members within the budgetary constraints.</p> <p>This is not the most practical solution in this location given the extent of the steps. The District Engineer will review. <b>Update June 2018-</b> This will be reviewed in tandem with new streetscape plan for Moate.</p>	<p>20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017</p>



Rosemount	<p>Footpath needed on the Moate Road</p> <p>New lanterns for the Village</p>	<p>New footpath needed</p> <p>Lanterns needed with wires put underground</p>	<p>The provision of new footpaths are carried out under the multi-annual roads programme and all requests are considered by the members within the budgetary constraints.</p> <p>The Council currently has no funding for new public lights. The existing lights will be reviewed in the context of any upgrading programme.</p> <p><b>Update June 2018 -no change</b></p>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
St. Peter's Active Retirement Association	<p>Potholes/uneven surfaces – Friary Lane from Church Street needs resurfacing. Inspection traps (manholes) are below level of road surfaces and cars swerving to avoid bumps. Entrance to Fairgreen carpark from Garden Vale. Inspection traps on Gleeson St., at Marist House. Pothole at Credit Union/Court Devenish – cars</p>	<p>Resurfacing works needed.</p> <p>Inspection Traps needed</p>	<p>Pothole repair is carried out by Municipal District and road resurfacing works are carried out under the multi-annual roads programme and all requests are considered by the members within the budgetary constraints</p> <p>I have inspected Friary Lane and Gleeson St. there is a valve cover on Friary Lane which needs to be reseated. It has been temporarily addressed with Delay Set, Permanent reinstatement to follow.</p> <p>The manhole at the fairgreen carpark entrance is a surface water manhole. I assume the traps referred to along Marist House are</p>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

	<p>swerving to avoid bumps.</p> <p>Speeding on Dublin Road, Castlemain St., roundabout to Bonavalley Bridge.</p> <p>Dangerous footpaths</p>	<p>50km Speed limit signs or camera signs to be erected in both directions</p>	<p>gulleys. Gulleys and surface water are not issues for water services. If there is a specific foul/combined manhole cover or valve chamber cover generating complaints please advise and water services will assess and address if necessary.</p> <p>Speeding complaint will be referred to Garda. There is no plan to erect additional signs within urban area. <b>Update June 2018 – Gardai have been written to.</b></p> <p>Footpath improvements works are carried out under the multi-annual roads programme and all requests are considered by the members within the budgetary constraints. <b>Update June 2018-</b> no change</p>	

## 4 Social Supports

Group/Organisation	Issue/concern	Proposed Action	Response	Date Raised
Rosemount Social Initiative (GAA)	Lack of Exercise machines/equipment – mainly older people who would benefit greatly from exercise (Rosemount Community)	PPN to lobby for funding for the provision of Exercise equipment which will enable all ages exercise, leading to a more healthier lifestyle, thus reduce mental stress and a happier community	Community Development Section of WCC will support the group with identifying and developing relevant funding applications to apply for this type of equipment for the area. Referred to LEADER – application process ongoing.	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017  Completed Jan 2018
Athlone Access Awareness Group	UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Ratification (Government Department)	PPN Groups lobby the Government to ratify at this Convention as soon as possible this year 2017	None	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017
Ballymore Country Music Festival.	Playground facilities in Ballymore.	Develop playground facilities in field to rear of Community Centre.	In recent years playgrounds have been provided through community led proposals with significant funding from Leader and with Council support in line with current playground policy. Community Development Section has referred group to LEADER Playground call for funding.	19th Sept. 2017
Ballymore Country Music Festival.	1. Speeding through Ballymore Village (centre).	1. Flashing Speed Display signs at entrance to Village and in centre of Village.	These speed flashing speed display signs are used on National Roads only. The District Engineer will review this specific location	19th Sept. 2017

	2. Parking facilities at Ballymore Community Centre.	2. Develop parking in fields to rear of Community Centre	which is on a regional road. A letter will issue to the Gardai passing on the concerns raised at the PPN. <b>Update June 2018 - no change</b>	
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