

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held on Zoom on 4th February 2022 at 9.30am

Present: Cathaoirleach Avril Cronin
Councillor John Mullen
Councillor Vincent Blake
Councillor Gerry O'Neill
Councillor Patsy Glennon

In Attendance: Ms. Breege Kilkenny, District Manager
Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer
Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator
Ms. Andrea Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Edward Timmins

1. To discuss the recent NTA Active Travel allocation for Baltinglass Municipal District

Mr. Pat Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that Baltinglass Municipal District elected members put forward a number of projects for Active Travel allocations. Both engineers then ranked each project on durability and implementation and submissions were made to the NTA. He continued that footpaths are the main priority in the district with the Kilmalum Road in Blessington and the Shillelagh to the sports pitch the priority projects. He added that the NTA have the final say on which projects are successful. Mr. Cullen, District Administrator, advised that this item will be discussed at the full council meeting on Monday 7th February and any questions from members can be emailed and will be answered. Cllr. Mullen thanked all for agreeing to attend this meeting and stated it was important to address this imbalance in funding in the district and in the county. He

continued that €9 million was the total allocation for County Wicklow with €1.6 million allocated to rural projects and €670,000 allocated to the Baltinglass Municipal District. Of that €670,000 Tinahely area received no allocations although projects totalling €2.45 million was submitted from the Tinahely area and €1.6 million from the Blessington area. He proposed to put forward a motion that “this district is deeply dissatisfied with the process of allocations”. Cllr. Blake noted that the vast majority of the population are located on the east of the county but asked if €2 million could be allocated to rural projects. Cllr. O’Neill shared the concerns of colleagues and agreed that there was poor distribution of funding for the district. Cllr. Glennon stated that there should be no division within the district and all six members should show a united front when addressing this issue at the full council meeting. Cllr. Mullen requested that this item be included on the agenda for the next Baltinglass Municipal District meeting and a spokesperson from the Roads Section attend. There being no other business the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cronin, concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
District Administrator

Dated: _____