



County Roscommon had two successful entrants in this Year's Pride of Place competition, the Foróige Roma project and the Monksland Community Development initiative. Cathaoirleach Cllr Paschal Fitzmaurice received the award on behalf of the Monksland group. Picture shows: John Kearns, Chief Executive of PB Insurance; Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council; Una Ní Chuinn, Senior Executive Officer, Roscommon County Council; Cllr Paschal Fitzmaurice, Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council; Ian Jeffers, Chief Executive, Co-Operation Ireland presenting the award to Rosemary Finnerty, Senior Youth Officer, Foróige Roscommon; Anne Marie Regan, Area Manager, Foróige; Jackie Keegan, Community and Enterprise Department, Roscommon County Council and Cathiona MacCarthy, Community and Enterprise Department, Roscommon County Council.

Delight and success for Roscommon projects at Pride of Place Awards

There was success for County Roscommon at this year's All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards, which took place in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on Saturday night.

The Monksland Community Development Community Project won a Special Recognition Award for its extensive range of community supports while the Foróige Roma UBU (Your Place, Your Space) project, was runner-up in the Community Youth Initiative category.

The All-Ireland awards, organised by the peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland in association with Irish Public Bodies (IPB), are a collaboration between local authorities across the island of Ireland. The awards recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that communities make to society along with generating awareness, respect and inclusion for every facet of society.

The Monksland Community Development Project is a thriving local project reflecting the growth of the area in recent years from a small rural community to having the second-largest population in County Roscommon.

The aim of Monksland Development Project is to ensure the area and its hinterland have sufficient facilities required in a large residential area which continues to expand. The organisation promotes inclusivity, accessibility and cultural sensitivity and has been operational for the past 22 years.

A range of community groups use the centre including The Forget Me Not Choir, Monksland and District Women's Group, Roscommon Youth Services, Conway Dance Academy, Infinity Friends, Ready Steady Play, educational classes, community or club meetings, family activities and support groups.

The nearby Cushla Park Sports Ground is an exceptional facility for local clubs, schools, social clubs and individuals. The sports ground is home to Monksland United and St. Joseph's with upwards of 5,000 children and adults using the facilities on a regular basis. Plans are already being considered for new playing facilities as well as athletics and tennis facilities.

The Foróige Roma UBU (Your Place, Your Space) project, is located at The Quad in Roscommon with similar facilities also in The Phoenix Centre in Ballaghaderreen. The Roma Youth Service was formed in 2021 to offer youth supports and activities to members of the young Roma community aged 10 - 24 living in County Roscommon.

The service has up to 100 young people coming through the doors of both centres on a weekly basis. It supports young people in developing skills, talents and celebrating their heritage. Participants engage in a wide range of activities.

The service provides opportunities for Roma young people to integrate with other young people, working on projects in collaboration with other stakeholders such as Tidy Towns, Ballaghaderreen Active Retirement and St. Vincent de Paul.

Present at the awards on behalf of Roscommon County Council were Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paschal Fitzmaurice, Chief Executive, Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Una Ní Chuinn as well as Cathiona MacCarthy and Jackie Keegan from the Council's Community and Enterprise Department.

Clonown road issue raised at municipal district meeting

By James Fogarty

The issue of flooding on the Clonown Road in South Roscommon was raised at the recent meeting of the Athlone Municipal District.

At the meeting a response from the OPW to a previous submission from the MD on the periodic flooding of the road was circulated.

Applications under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme are considered for projects that are estimated to cost not more than €750,000 in each instance," the response said.

"Funding of up to 90% of the cost is available for approved projects. Applications are assessed by the OPW having regard to the specific economic, technical social and environmental criteria of the scheme, including a cost benefit ratio." It added that works that are normally the responsibility of the local authorities will generally not be considered for OPW funding.

Susan Loughnane, Athlone MD Co-Ordinator, said that the estimated cost of the project was "way above" the €750,000.

MD Cathaoirleach Cllr John Keogh said that the correspondence related to a project for Clonown Church into Athlone, and that the matter had also been raised with the then minister for transport.

Cllr Keogh said he and the late Cllr John Naughten met with members of the local community about the issue. He added that progress needed to be made on the road between Clonown and Taylorstown as there were parts that were very narrow.

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Roscommon County Council

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Energia Renewables ROI Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for a ten-year permission in relation to a proposed development in the townlands of Moyvannan, Feamore, Lisbaun, Carrowmolloy, Carrowcloghan, Carrowkeeny, Ardmullan, Curraghboy, Gortnasylthe, Derryglad, Eskerbaun, and Brideswell, Co Roscommon, as follows:-

- A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear electricity substation, including a single-storey control building (with a Gross Floor Area of 450 square metres) and all associated electrical equipment and services within a 2.6 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of approximately 8,500 square metres);
- Replacement of 1 no. existing wooden pole-set with 2 no. lattice-type interface masts, each of which will be between 15 and 18 metres in height, to facilitate connection of the 110kV underground electricity lines to the existing Athlone-Lanesborough 110kV overhead electricity transmission line;
- Approximately 270 metres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the interface masts;
- Approximately 330 metres of access tracks with associated upgrade works to an existing agricultural entrance from the L7551 local road;
- Approximately 7.5 kilometres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the junction of the L7636 local road and R363 regional road where the electricity line will connect to electricity cables permitted as part of the Seven Hills Wind Farm (An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-313750-22). The electricity line will be placed within private lands and within the carriageway of the L7551, L7556, L2018, L7731, R362, L2023, and L7636; and
- All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works and the provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

The site of the proposed development has a total area of 20 hectares. The proposed development will facilitate the export of renewable electricity generated at the permitted Seven Hills Wind Farm (An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-313750-22) to the national electricity grid.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on 18 November 2024 at the following locations:-

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902;
- The Offices of Roscommon County Council, Aras an Chionnae, Roscommon, F42 VR98.

The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may also be viewed or downloaded on the following website: www.moyvannanubstation.ie.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board"), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902; or via the Board's website www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/observations; during the abovementioned period of seven weeks relating to:-

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development; and
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on 15 January 2025. Such submissions or observations must also include the following information:-

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating the application should be sent; and
- The subject matter of the submission or observation; and
- The reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may, at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' at www.pleanala.ie).

The Board may in respect of an application for permission/approval decide to:-

- (a) (i) grant the permission/approval; or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or
- (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse permission to grant the permission/approval.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-6588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical Information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Boards website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website (www.citizensinformation.ie).