



# *Report*

*to*

**Westmeath**

*Public Participation Network*

*on*

*The WPPN 2019 Submission  
to Athlone/Moate Municipal District (AMMD)  
on Matters Relating to  
Athlone/Moate Municipal Electoral Area  
for the 2020 Budgets*

Affiliated to Westmeath Public Participation Network



This is final report regarding local issues, identified by the member groups of **Athlone/ Moate Municipal District PPN (AMMD/PPN)** on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019, for submission to the Athlone/Moate Municipal District of Westmeath County Council for considered in the budget allocation for 2020.

The Athlone/Moate 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.

This report reflects on the issues, divided into **7 Themes** as agreed by consensus by the Athlone/Moate Municipal PPN forum. Some of the issues highlighted had little or no financial implications and were more concerned with process, while other issues had financial implications. The Athlone/Moate Municipal District PPN Forum was aware that Westmeath County Council were under budgetary and resource constraints, however urged Athlone/Moate Municipal District and Council officials to support their submission as much as was possible.

Forty-two submissions were received by the AMD/PPN on behalf of its member groups. Of these 42 submissions 5 were not related to Athlone/Moate Municipal District and therefore have been forwarded by PPN to relative agency. The remaining 37 submissions were categorised into 7 main Themes as follows:

- 1. Environment**
- 2. Facilities**
- 3. Footpaths**
- 4. Access**
- 5. Road Safety**
- 6. Public Lighting**
- 7. Housing**

Athlone/Moate Municipal District PPN selected a deputation to meet with the Athlone/Moate Municipal District and to present the submissions document on behalf of PPN members. The deputation was as follows:

### *Elected AMMD PPN Delegates*

*Hugh Farrell  
Irena Cvetkovic*

*Louise Slammon  
Jonathan Donoghue  
Linda Jo Quinn*

*Marie Reddin  
Michael Mulvey*

### *Facilitators of PPN*

*Brigid Geoghegan, Westmeath PPN Resource Worker, Community Development Section, Westmeath County Council  
Margaret Egan, Westmeath PPN Support Worker, Community Development Section, Westmeath County Council*

## 1. Breakdown of WPPN/AMMD Submissions

In total forty-two submissions were received by the AMD/PPN on behalf of its member groups. Of these 43 submissions 5 were not related to Athlone/Moate Municipal District and therefore have been forwarded by PPN to relative agency. (Illustrated below in Figure 1 & outlined in Appendix 1 & 2)

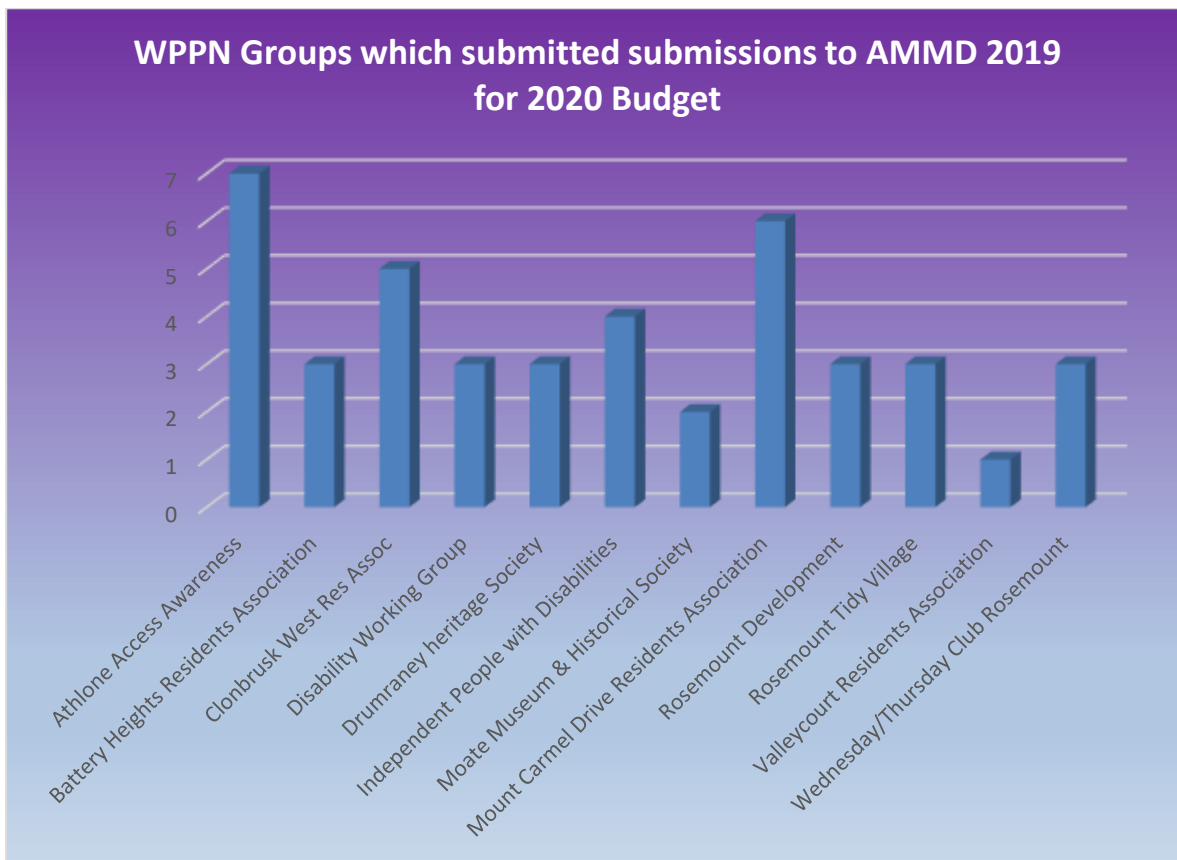


Figure 1: 12 AMMD/PPN groups made 43 Submissions to Athlone/Moate Municipal District September 2019 for 2020 Budget

## 2. Number of AMD/PPN Submissions under each Theme

The following is a breakdown number of submissions under each theme

1. Environment 5
2. Facilities 5
3. Footpaths 5
4. Access 11
5. Road Safety 8
6. Public Lighting 3
7. Housing 1
8. Other 5



Figure 2 WPPN Submissions to Athlone/Moate Municipal District September 2019 for 2020 Budget

### 3. Meetings

AMMD/PPN delegates attended Athlone Municipal District meetings on behalf of WPPN groups. The AMMD/PPN delegates presented the initial submissions document to the Athlone Municipal District members; outlining the submissions, giving and seeking clarification. They further attended meetings in which Athlone/Moate Municipal District gave responses to the submissions. The responses to each individual submission are outlined in Appendix 2

It should be noted that at each meeting the AMMD/PPN delegates represented the community groups very professionally, with great confidence and passion. Great credit is due to AMMD/PPN delegates for their diligence and commitment, without them this process could not have taken place.

It should be equally noted that the AMMD/PPN delegates were treated with great courtesy and respect by the Municipal District members; they were listened to and treated with equity. AMMD/PPN offers its gratitude to the Athlone Municipal District members and look forward to building upon foundations begun with this second set of submissions.

### 4. Results

12 AMMD/PPN Groups made 48 Submissions; of these 48 submissions; 5 were not issues pertaining to Westmeath County Council. 20 were acted upon by Athlone/Moate Municipal District and 13 delayed due to insufficient funds in budget to complete in 2020; however, may happen when funds are available. 10 were referred to another relevant agency or organisation (shown in Figure 2 below)

#### Total 43 Relevant Submissions

- 20 Acted upon/ Completed
- 13 Delayed due to Budgetary Constraints in 2020
- 10 Referrals

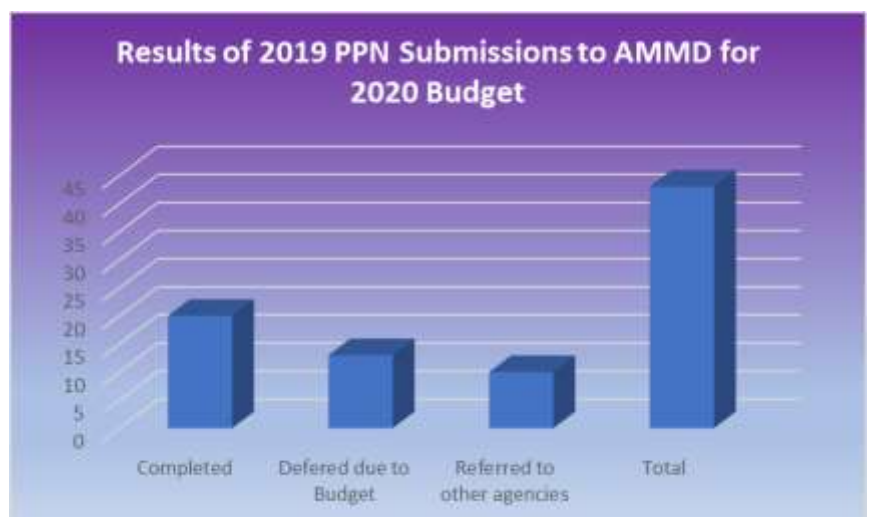


Figure 2 WPPN/AMMD Submissions September 2019 for 2020 Budget to Athlone/Moate Municipal District

## Appendix 1

	Name of Group	Number of Submissions:
1	Athlone Access Awareness	7
2	Battery Heights Residents Association	3
3	Clonbrusk West Res Assoc	5
4	Disability Working Group	3
5	Drumraney heritage Society	3
6	Independent People with Disabilities	4
7	Moate Museum & Historical Society	2
8	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association	6
9	Rosemount Development	3
10	Rosemount Tidy Village	3
11	Valleycourt Residents Association	1
12	Wednesday/Thursday Club Rosemount	3
		<b>43</b>

## Appendix 2

	Environment			
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
E.1	Clonbrusk West Res Association Athlone	Temporary' hoarding around the adjoining Glenatore Estate.	Ensure current developer complete the final boundary wall and landscape as per planning permission conditions.	Proposals for the completion of the development of this plot are currently going through the planning process.
E.2	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association Moate	Dog fouling an ongoing issue	More dog wardens & warden visits	This issue will be referred to the Dog Warden and the Community Warden.
E.3	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association Moate	Trees an issue behind houses 33-38. These trees are noted as being on no man's land. They are pushing on residents' fences.	Cut trees between 33-38 Mt Carmel drive.	The trees are on property that is not in the ownership of Westmeath County Council. It is considered that the hedge should be trimmed on the Mt Carmel side.
E.4	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association Moate	A Lot of vermin (rats) are seen in the area and are an environmental health & safety issue for children and residents	Also, pest control as vermin is an issue	This should be reported to the HSE's Environmental Health Officer
E.5	Valleycourt Residents Association	Litter 'black spot' at the entrance to Valley Court. Residents constantly have to litter pick and dispose of rubbish in their own bins.	Would appreciate a litter bin at the bus stop near to the entrance of valley Court that is regularly emptied.	It is our experience that bins do not lead to an improvement in cleanliness and in some cases, can make the situation worse. The District Engineer will seek to carry out more frequent litter pickups and the Community Warden will be asked to keep this area under review.

Facilities				
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
F.1	Moate Museum & Historical Society	Delay in putting signs & plaques on display around the town	Please speed up the placement of the signage	This will be expedited.
F.2	Wednesday/Thursday Club Rosemount	Lack of local shop in the Rosemount and the Streamstown areas	WCC to support Social Enterprise	The Council is supportive but is not in a position to intervene.
F.3	Battery Heights Residents Association	Playground currently closed off as vandalism a recurring problem. Lock on gate now but youths climbing over fence regardless, which is a safety hazard.	RA keen to know what WCC's plan for this is and what solution can be implemented as playground is necessary for community.	These upgrade works are now complete.
F.4	Disability Working Group	Little supports in place for people with Dementia in Athlone	To organise a Dementia café in Moate & Athlone and other towns/villages if possible, perhaps using the Libraries	Westmeath Libraries provide the community with access to learning including social inclusion learning opportunities in Branch Libraries throughout the County. We have applied for funding to install projection Magic Tables and are awaiting confirmation of the funding.
F.5	Disability Working Group	Social Inclusion learning opportunities for people with disabilities using council facilities/Libraries	To install projection 'Magic' tables in libraries to support people with disabilities	Westmeath Libraries provide the community with access to learning including social inclusion learning opportunities in Branch Libraries throughout the County. We have applied for funding to install projection Magic Tables and are awaiting confirmation of the funding.

Footpaths				
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
FP.1	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association Moate	Footpath outside houses 21-25. After numerous roadworks in the area. This has caused the path to be hazardous following works by Irish Water.	Footpath reinstatement	This has been reported to Irish Water.
FP.2	Battery Heights Residents Association Athlone	Footpath near Mulvey's and alongside soccer pitch needs to be repaired. Hazardous for public.	Review and repair of footpath is required	Repairs carried out in November 2019.

FP.3	Rosemount Tidy Village	Walkway resurfaced	Walkway resurfaced	The provision of funding for these types of works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme. Alternatively, the local community can make an application to the Council under the Community Involvement Scheme.
FP.5	Moate Museum & Historical Society	Lack of footpath on the Ballymore road, Moate - Toorphelim - (along) inside 50-mile limit) Many young families have moved to the area recently- this is a Road Safety issue	Put footpath in place	The provision of funding for these types of works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme. Alternatively, the local community can make an application to the Council under the Community Involvement Scheme.

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-	<u>Access</u>	-	-	-
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
A.1	Independent People with Disabilities	People without disabilities using Disabled parking bays. People using the disabled badges of their family members when disabled person not in the vehicle	A need for better policing of Disabled parking bays in the towns and villages of the county	This will be referred to the Traffic and Community Wardens for attention.
A.2	Disability Working Group	Regeneration work in town and villages should provide for people with disabilities. Where works are taking place, Disability Groups should be consulted prior to works commencing	For example, carry out walkability studies in Athlone before works begin in these areas. Suggest that these studies should be Policy, before works put out to tender.	Such consultations are undertaken, and all works are compliant with <i>Access for All</i> standards.
A.3	Independent People with Disabilities	Independent People with Disabilities wish to make a submission to Westmeath County Council in respect of the Disabled Parking bay outside our premises at 96 Seán Costello Street. We wish to have the footpath dishing extended to improve access for wheelchair up onto the footpath as we have a lot of people who have to gain access onto the footpath and the current dishing is not long enough as the Disabled Parking bay just barely accommodates the length of a car.	Extend dishing beyond the Disabled parking bay on both sides.	The District Engineer has arranged for works to be completed as part of the 2020 Roads E64 Programme.

A.4	Independent People with Disabilities	Independent People with Disabilities wish to make a submission to Westmeath County Council in respect of Disabled Parking bays in general. No room for ease of access and egress from the rear of vehicles for people who use Power wheelchairs.	Extend Parking bay to allow easy access to footpath by installing yellow “no entry” box at the end of the parking bay.	Accessible Parking Bays are upgraded in tandem with resurfacing works as they are carried out throughout the District. The provision of specific funding to upgrade all the current bays outside these programmed works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.
A.5	Athlone Access Awareness	Our concern is with all of the Accessible Parking Bays in Athlone, e.g. lack of signage, some with no blue coloured base, no yellow hatch boxes for safe access and egress to and from vehicles. There is also a lack of maintenance of the above parking bays.	All of the WCC- owned parking Accessible Bays be upgraded to Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Guidelines, which should include Signage, Colour Markings, Safe Zone (Yellow Hatch box).	Accessible Parking Bays are upgraded in tandem with resurfacing works as they are carried out throughout the District. The provision of specific funding to upgrade all the current bays outside these programmed works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.
A.6	Athlone Access Awareness	Parking bays not fit for purpose. E.g. Payne’s Lane, Athlone	Guideline for accessible parking bays. Page 22 section 4.1 to page 25 <a href="https://www.iwa.ie/downloads/about/iwa-access-guidelines.pdf">https://www.iwa.ie/downloads/about/iwa-access-guidelines.pdf</a>	These bays were installed at the members request to address a specific local need with the knowledge that within the local constraints they would not meet the full requirements.
A.7	Athlone Access Awareness	Key areas in Athlone do not have sufficient Accessible Bays. Population approximately of 33,000 includes the following areas, Athlone, Moate, Ballymahon, Glasson, Kiltoom and Ballymore (from Google 2016). Parking permits issued approximately 1200. 27 Permits issued per accessible bay (Ratio 27:1) Information Parking Permits from Irish Wheelchair Association	That adding new Accessible Bays be considered for the following areas: 1. Custume Pier Apartments 2. Pearse Street across from Court House 3. Mardyke Street 4. Sean Costello Street 5. John Broderick Street	Accessible Bays are provided in accordance with the required rate of 5% of overall parking provided.
A.8	Athlone Access Awareness	Multipurpose Accessible Parking Bays. More people with Disabilities are using vehicles that require access from the rear. See link Figure 3 page 22 <a href="https://www.iwa.ie/downloads/about/iwa-access-guidelines.pdf">https://www.iwa.ie/downloads/about/iwa-access-guidelines.pdf</a>	In WCC Car Parks we suggest that Multipurpose Accessible Parking Bays be provided	Accessible Parking Bays are upgraded in tandem with resurfacing works as they are carried out throughout the District. The installation of these larger bays are considered in the context of the local constraints however it is not always possible to provide them.



A.9	Athlone Access Awareness	Footpath at Garden Vale at the entrance to Town Centre and near the Pedestrian crossing. Gradient is unsafe which slopes towards the main road. There is a serious dip at this point. Unsafe for Wheelchair users and generally for people with disabilities and mobility issues.	This area be upgraded to a health safety accessibility standards.	This area has been assessed by the District Engineer and it meets requirements. No action deemed necessary.
A.10	Athlone Access Awareness	Footpath at Northgate Street Athlone at the approaching the entrance too Court Devenish and opposite the Credit Union to narrow to facilitate wheelchair users and unsafe for the elderly who use physical aids to navigate the build environment	This section of footpath be widened, and a dished kerb be inserted to facilitate accessibility	Upgrade works have been completed.
A.11	Athlone Access Awareness	Irishtown Athlone between the Sound factory and Bookmakers. Unsafe extremely narrow footpath	Widen the footpath to facilitate people with disabilities and mobility issues.	The provision of funding for the upgrading this footpath is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.

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### Public Lighting

	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
<b>PL.1</b>	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association	Lights outside. House 33 Light pole no. 11 needs to be fixed.	Needs to be fixed.	This has been reported to the maintenance contractor through the Council's public lighting portal. Any public lighting faults can be reported through this portal which is available at: <a href="https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/roadsparkingandtransport/reportroadissues/">https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/roadsparkingandtransport/reportroadissues/</a>
<b>PL.2</b>	Rosemount Tidy Village	New lamps, electric wires to go underground	New lamps, electric wires to go underground	Undergrounding of the cables has been referred to the ESB for consideration.
<b>PL.3</b>	Rosemount Tidy Village & Rosemount Development	More lighting in the village	More lighting in the village	There is no funding available in the current year for the provision of additional Public Lighting for Rosemount Village. However, funding provision for public lighting at Rosemount Village could be considered under the 2020 CLAR Programme, as administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development

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	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
<b>RS.1</b>	Clonbrusk West Res Assoc	Hedge obstructing view at exit of estate onto Coosan Road	Request householder/owner to cut back hedge.	This was followed up by Supervisor of works.
<b>RS.2</b>	Clonbrusk West Res Assoc	Traffic speeding through the estate especially down the hill towards Rindoon Park despite speed limit sign in place.	install a raised junction (not speed ramps) at the junction halfway down the estate to slow traffic.	The provision of funding for traffic management works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.

RS.3	Drumraney heritage Society	Restricted visibility at junction where road L5364 meets main road R390 in Drumraney; coordinates: 616314.509, 747651.336.	Request that district engineer look into the possibility of realigning the existing crash barrier in order to improve visibility.	A Safety Scheme to improve this junction was carried out in 2014. The wall and crash barrier were located within the constraints of the site to maximise visibility.
RS.4	Mount Carmel Drive Residents Association	Speeding in estate. Road safety is an issue. Concern for children & residents safety	Ramp or method of slowing vehicles	The provision of funding for traffic management works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.
RS.5	Rosemount Development	Car parking on road corners	Method of stopping cars parking on corners	This will be considered by the District Engineer but is unlikely to be a priority for resources, given the challenges across the District.
RS.6	Battery Heights Residents Association	Not all roads in estate are gritted during Winter/Spring when necessary. Potential hazard for both road users and pedestrians. The top of the estate is often left out and residents are requesting this be included in gritting plans going forward.	Comprehensive gritting of roads in estate during icy conditions.	Roads and footpaths are gritted on a priority basis and the Council does not have the resources to grit all of the roads and footpaths in the county. In particular, housing estates are not gritted routinely, but do receive attention in extreme conditions.
RS.7	Drumraney heritage Society	Poor condition of road L5363 at junction with main road R390 in Drumraney; coordinates: 618448.643, 449075.062. Please refer to photograph DSCF2056.	Reinstate that section of road with new sub-base material and new tarmacadam i.e. new base course and wearing course.	The provision of funding for road improvement works is a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the budget available and their priorities as part of the Annual Roads Programme.
RS.8	Drumraney heritage Society	Reinstatement works not completed after realignment of junction where road L5456 meets main road R390 in Drumraney; coordinates: 613349.053, 746282.644. Please refer to photograph DSCF2057.	Break out and remove tarmacadam and sub-base material which now forms part of the roadside verge. Remove any site waste material in same area and reinstate as grass verge while maintaining suitable access to adjoining field.	This will be reviewed in the context of the next phase of the project to improve this section of the R390 which is currently being designed by the Transportation Section of Westmeath County Council.

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Housing				
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
H.1	Independent People with Disabilities	The issue is that rent increases for people with disabilities who are in council housing cannot afford to have a rent increase imposed on them as they have extra expenditure to deal with which are: 1. Having to get medication monthly from their G.P. and Hospital appointments etc. 2. Transport to the Hospital or G.P. surgery (This may require taxi journeys to and from the doctor/hospital (No Mobility Allowance anymore). 3. Extra use of Electricity depending on severity of disability thus higher electricity bills.	Independent People with Disabilities respectfully request that the elected representatives and management of Westmeath County Council consider the cost of disability in respect of County Council Housing rent increases as a priority when planning your budgets for 2020.	This matter has been referred to the Housing Department of Westmeath County Council for consideration.

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<b>ESB</b>				
ESB.1	Clonbrusk West Res Assoc	High voltage power line on pylons traversing the estate close to houses.	Request ESB to underground the line and remove pylons	This matter has been referred to the ESB for consideration.
ESB.2	Clonbrusk West Res Assoc	View obstructed at exit road from the estate onto Coosan Road by ESB pole.	Request ESB to relocate pole to improve road safety	This matter has been referred to the ESB for consideration.
<b>Gardai</b>				
G.1	Rosemount Development	Great community concern Increased Drugs availability in the community		This matter has been referred to the Gardai for consideration.
G.2	Wednesday/Thursday Club Rosemount	Visit of community garda to talk to elderly and people living alone		This matter will be referred to the Gardai for consideration.
<b>HSE</b>				
HSE.1	Wednesday/Thursday Club Rosemount	More services locally such as a chiropody service in the community		This matter has been referred to HSE for consideration.