



Report
WPPN 2020 Submissions
to
Athlone/Moate Municipal District
(AMMD)
for the 2021 Budgets
September 2021

ABSTRACT

Final report regarding local issues, identified by the member groups of **Athlone/Moate Municipal District PPN (AMMD/PPN) 2020**, for submission to the Athlone/Moate Municipal District of Westmeath County Council for considered in the budget allocation for 2021.



This is final report regarding local issues, identified by the member groups of **Athlone/ Moate Municipal District PPN (AMMD/PPN)** on 30th Sept. 2020, for submission to the Athlone/Moate Municipal District of Westmeath County Council for considered in the budget allocation for 2021.

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 29th 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 **6 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-four submissions were received by the AMMD/PPN on behalf of its member groups. Of these 44 submissions 3 were not related to Athlone/Moate Municipal District and therefore have been forwarded by PPN to relative agency. The remaining 41 submissions were categorised into 6 main Themes as follows:

- 1. Environment**
- 2. Road Safety**
- 3. Footpaths/Pavements**
- 4. Green Spaces**
- 5. Access**
- 6. Other**

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
Ursula Harper, Westmeath PPN Support Worker, Community Development Section, Westmeath County Council***

1. Breakdown of WPPN/AMMD Submissions

In total forty-four submissions were received by the AMMD/PPN on behalf of its member groups. Of these 44 submissions 3 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)

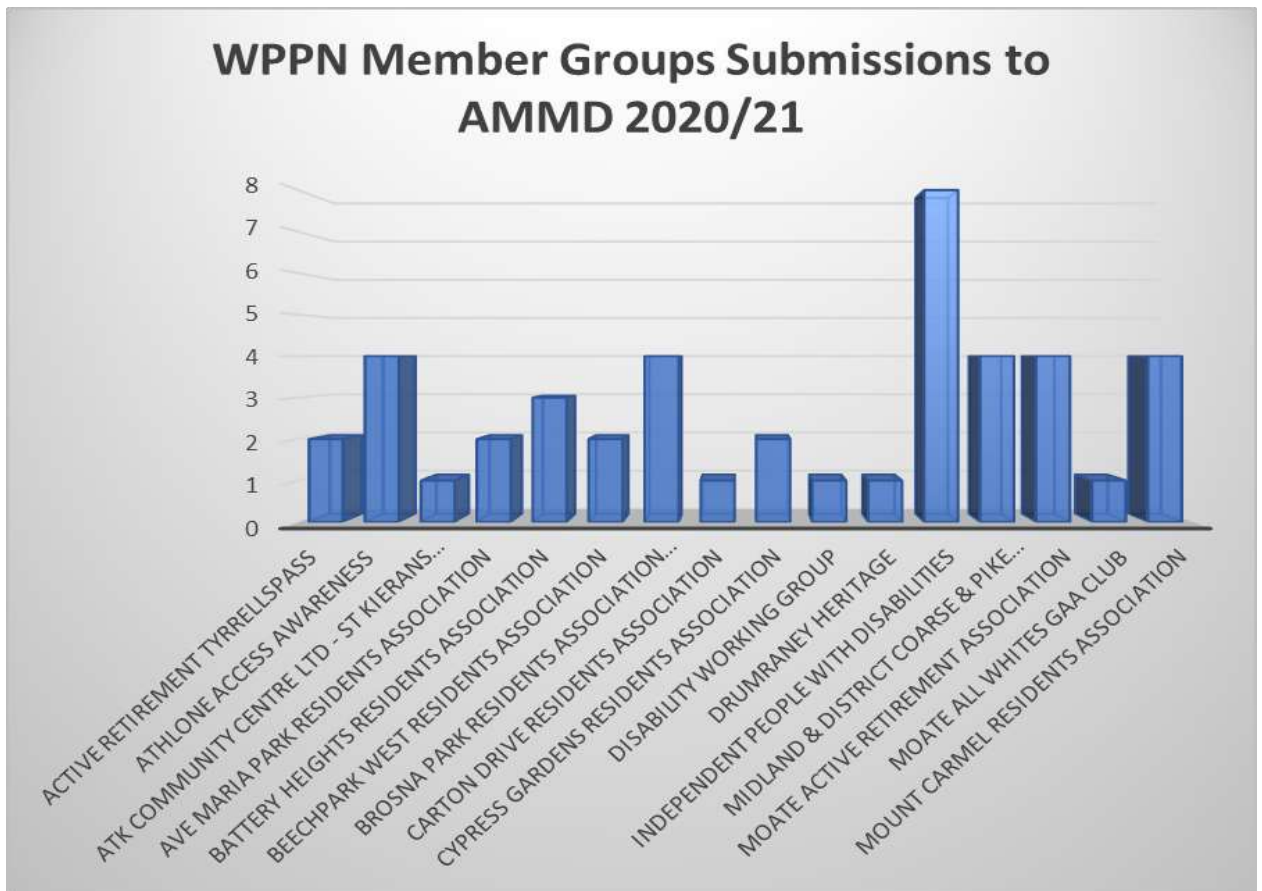


Figure 1: 16 AMMD/PPN groups made 44 Submissions to Athlone/Moate Municipal District September 2020 for 2021 Budget

2. Number of AMMD/PPN Submissions under each Theme

The following is a breakdown number of submissions under each theme

- **Environment** 6
- **Road Safety** 9
- **Footpaths/Pavements** 18
- **Green Spaces** 2
- **Access** 4
- **Other** 5

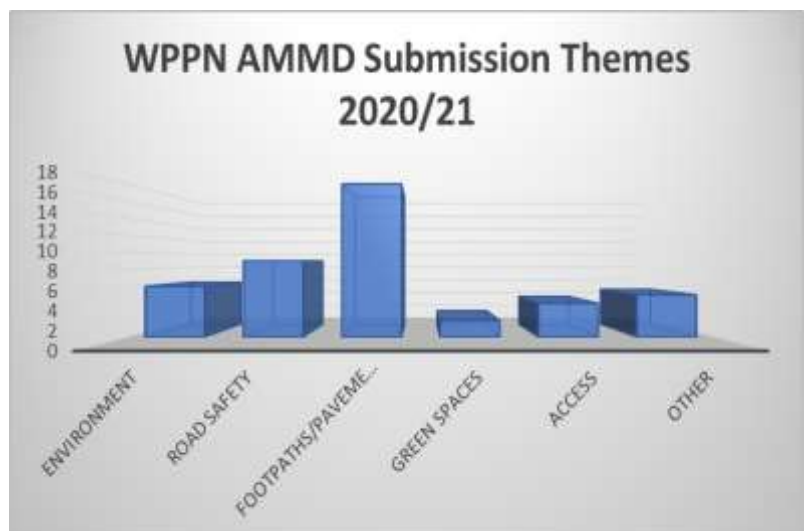


Figure 2 WPPN Submissions to Athlone/Moate Municipal District September 2020 for 2021 Budget

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

16 AMMD/PPN Groups made 44 Submissions; of these 44 submissions; 3 were not issues pertaining to Westmeath County Council. 30 were acted upon by Athlone/Moate Municipal District and 7 delayed due to insufficient funds in budget to complete in 2021; however, may happen when funds are available. 4 were referred to another relevant agency or organisation (shown in Figure 3 below)

Total 41 Relevant Submissions

- **30 Acted upon/ Completed**
- **7 Delayed due to Budgetary Constraints in 2021**
- **4 Referrals**

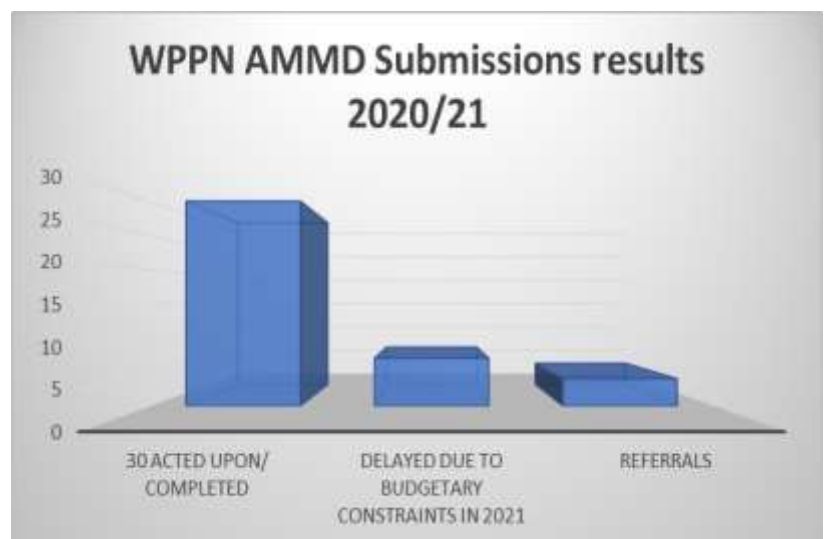


Figure 3 WPPN/AMMD Submissions September 2020 for 2021 Budget to Athlone/Moate Municipal District

Appendix 1

Name of WPPN Member Group	No. Submissions
Active Retirement Tyrrellspass	2
Athlone Access Awareness	4
ATK Community Centre Ltd - St Kierans Community Centre	1
Ave Maria Park Residents Association	2
Battery Heights Residents Association	3
Beechpark West Residents Association	2
Brosna Park Residents Association Kilbeggan	4
Carton Drive Residents Association	1
Cypress Gardens Residents Association	2
Disability working Group	1
Drumraney Heritage	1
Independent People with Disabilities	8
Midland & District Coarse & Pike Anglers	4
Moate Active Retirement Association	4
Moate All Whites GAA Club	1
Mount Carmel Residents Association	4

Appendix 2

Environment				
	GROUP	ISSUE	SUGGEST SOLUTION	Response
E.1	Midland & District Coarse & Pike Anglers	Poaching - poaching of crayfish, coarse fish of Athlone Canal	To make Athlone Canal a catch and release Fishery in its entire length with appropriate signage positioned to indicate same	The Municipal District will write to Inland Fisheries on the matter.
E.2	Midland & District Coarse & Pike Anglers	Shooting of wildfowl	To make Athlone canal a no-shooting reserve with appropriate signage indicating same	The group should contact the landowners.
E.3	Midland & District Coarse & Pike Anglers	Illegal dumping/pollution - destruction of habitat, pollution from sewage and oil toxins. Hoarding of tyres, wood and rubbish in the canal area - re bonfire season	To protect all flora and fauna and aquatic life on the Big Meadow SAC by implementing an up to date pollution emergency response plan, regular sampling of culverts etc and by preventing once and for all the burning of tyres , rubbish and wood along the length of the Athlone canal at bonfire season	This will be referred to the Environment Section of the Council
E.4	Cypress Gardens Residents Association	Littering - Empty bottles and cans left at seat at top of road	Put up no litter sign	The Municipal District will assess the location and will put up a sign if considered appropriate.
E.5	Brosna Park Residents Association Kilbeggan	Issues with Sewerage. a) Overflowing of sewage effluent onto Relic Rd and into some residents' back yards and onto public walkways. Houses most seriously affected: Numbers 3, 4	Survey and repairs to address sewerage issues.	These issues should be reported to Irish Water.

		and 6 in Brosna Court. b) Issue of sewerage smell in Brosna View. c) Manhole at back of 16 Brosna View, overflows across public pathway into the river, river level rises		
E.6	Brosna Park Residents Association Kilbeggan	Play park is being flooded by Brosna River.	Request installing of concrete flood defence that is still amenable to general public	The Council have no record of the Playground being flooded by the River Brosna and it is not identified as susceptible to flooding on the OPW flood mapping. In any event there is no funding available for the flood protection of such areas.

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Road Safety				
RS.1	Ave Maria Park Residents Association	Heavy traffic is going through the estate including tractors and lorries. This is a residential area that houses a lot of elderly people and such traffic is unsuitable. Some vehicles are using it as a cut through.	i. We would like Ave Marie terrace made into a one-way system, with cars only allowed and that lorries and tractors prevented from using it as a short cut/cut through. ii. We would like want the entrance into Ave Maria estate to be at Barts shop on the Dublin road and the exit to be the Carmelite side.	This matter has been put to public consultation
RS.2	Ave Maria Park Residents Association	Heavy Traffic/damage - Wall on right hand side as you come in to the estate from the Carmelite side is cracking, we think due to heavy vehicles and volumes of traffic. These vehicles are going up onto the pavement and hence damaging the wall	ii. We request the wall be repaired	This is a private wall and is the responsibility of the property owner.
RS.3	Battery Heights Residents Association	Carparking spaces at Tower need to be remarked as they are faded. Irish Water has completed works there, so remarking could be re-done now.	Remark the car parking spaces	The Municipal District have instructed the Council's roadmarking contractor to do this.
RS.4	Moate Active Retirement Association	Road Safety: The location of the pedestrian crossing at The Newtown in Moate is totally unsuitable	Request the relocation the pedestrian crossing close to the Health Centre.	The pedestrian crossing was funded from a road safety grant. It was located on the route with the highest pedestrian footfall. It's design and location was finalised in consultation with the Department's Road Safety Engineer. It is not considered appropriate to move it.

RS.5	Active Retirement Tyrrellspass	Speeding Traffic - The traffic through the village of Tyrrellspass is deplorable. Elderly people cannot get to cross the street at the Post Office	Traffic calming; possibly ramps to slow the traffic, would be of great benefit to everyone	The provision of speed ramps at this location may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme.
RS.6	Active Retirement Tyrrellspass	Speeding traffic - The traffic in front of the private houses at the edge of the green is ruining the houses. Again, the speed is awful in morning time, school hours	Wonder if it was gravelled it might slow the traffic	The public road cannot be "gravelled". As part of the Town & Village Scheme some narrowing of the road will be undertaken which will help reduce traffic speeds.
RS.7	Drumraney Heritage	Road Safety - Restricted visibility at junction where road L5364 meets main road R390 in Drumraney; coordinates are 616314.509, 747651.336	In order to improve visibility, request that district engineer look into the possibility of positioning a mirror at the junction so that motorists approaching from the L5364 can see what traffic is approaching from the eastern carriageway of R390.	It is policy not to erect mirrors at any location on the public road network.
RS.8	Moate All Whites GAA Club	Road Safety on the Clara Road leading to Hogan Park	1. Improved footpaths and provision of same from junction of Ballycumber Road to Hogan Park. 2. Reduced speed of cars.	1. The provision of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme. 2. The enforcement of the speed limits is a matter for the Gardaí
RS.9	Brosna Park Residents Association Kilbeggan	Speeding cars along the Relic Rd, Kilbeggan, between Brosna Park and the head of the main street – safety issue for all residents mainly children, elderly and Gym members (Fit Factory)	Speed Ramps/ Traffic Calming measures on Relic Road at: i. Brosna Court; ii. Across from Fit Factory Gym; iii. Across from Children's Playground; iv. Entrance to Brosna Park	The provision of speed ramps at this location may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme.

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Footpaths/Pavements				
FP.1	Independent People with Disabilities	Town Centre: Footpath in Irishtown, Athlone needs to be made more wheelchair friendly	Request that footpath is made more wheelchair friendly	The Council have carried out substantial works on the footpaths in Irishtown in 2020. The further improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme

FP.2	Carton Drive Residents Association	Footpaths - Most of the footpaths in Carton Drive need some repair - Large hole where the tarmac has receded outside No 44 needs repair. Also footpath becoming very overgrown with weeds. Spraying of weeds at edges of footpath. Hoping the AMMD will look into these issues, thus avoiding possible injury to residents or members of the public.	Request: a. Repairs to footpaths b. Weed spraying of footpaths	The improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme. The weed spraying policy will be a matter for the Elected Members in the context of the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works.
FP.3	Independent People with Disabilities	Town Centre: Very dangerous section of footpath at the old Permanent TSB Bank at the end of Mardyke street.	Improve footpath	This will be addressed by the proposed street enhancement works in this area which are scheduled to commence in 2021
FP.4	Independent People with Disabilities	Town Centre: a. Disabled Parking bays are not long enough for rear access to vehicles, and there are no yellow boxes attached to them. b. Any disabled parking spaces that have yellow boxes; there is often a car or other vehicle parked within part in the boxes so that rules them out for rear access vehicles	a. Improve disability parking bays/add yellow boxes for rear access to disabled vehicles. b. More monitoring of parking in yellow boxes behind disabled parking bays.	a. The upgrading of disabled parking spaces is carried out in tandem with road resurfacing works carried out as part of the annual roads programme. B - The parking warden will follow up on this.
FP.5	Independent People with Disabilities	The Coosan Area - The hedgerows alongside the paths are not maintained so people walking/wheel chairing along the footpath is difficult; as one is in danger of getting badly scratched, or pushed out onto the road.	Cut back hedge rows	The maintenance of hedges adjacent to roads and footpaths is a matter for the adjacent property owner. If there are specific locations of concern the group should forward details to the Municipal District and they will follow up with the property owners where this arises.
FP.6	Independent People with Disabilities	The Coosan Area - The surface on the paths is becoming uneven as grass and weeds are growing on them now.	Improve footpath	The improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme. If there are specific locations of concern the group should forward details to the Municipal District
FP.7	Independent People with Disabilities	The Coosan Area - Accessibility to the paths is difficult as there is quite a lift on and off them. They should be even with the road at each point of accessibility - no step up.	Improve access to footpaths	If there are specific locations of concern the group should forward details to the Municipal District for consideration in the 2021 works programme.

FP.8	Independent People with Disabilities	The Coosan Area - Decent at 'Macken's Hill' is very dangerous whether on a manual or electric wheelchair. It is not negotiable from the path and one has to leave the path at the top of the hill to make a safe decent. They are then in danger from traffic on the road both ways which is very fast moving .	Improve footpath	The Municipal District Engineering Section can review this location with a member of the group.
FP.9	Independent People with Disabilities	Pedestrian Walkways - While barriers are necessary to stop unwanted traffic on our pedestrian walkways. They do not help the person in a wheelchair who wants to go access the walkway because simply put the barriers are preventing them access to the walkway.	Make barriers set to be wheelchair accessible	The Municipal District are reviewing all barriers with a view to removing them where it is safe to do so. If there are specific locations of concern the group should forward details to the Municipal District and they will prioritise those for assessment.
FP.10	Mount Carmel Residents Association	1. Speeding in the estate by delivery drivers	Traffic calming - possibly speed ramp needed in the estate. We have been requesting this for a number of years.	The County Council's Transportation Section are currently developing a policy for traffic calming in housing estates. The implementation of any identified measures will have to be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the annual Roads Programmes
FP.11	Mount Carmel Residents Association	2. Footpath - Significant hole in Footpath outside 18-19	This footpath needs to be fixed please	The Municipal District will arrange to have this repaired.
FP.12	Mount Carmel Residents Association	3. Footpath - At the back of the drive outside number 24/25 there is problem with the footpath also, elderly person has fallen	Please we request that this be fixed, it has been brought to councils' attention over a number of years	The Municipal District will arrange to have this inspected and the necessary works carried out.
FP.13	Mount Carmel Residents Association	4. Road Markings - Estate needs road markings as there are 4 roads meeting in the estate; this is very dangerous	Request road markings at 4 road junction; this has been requested for a number of years.	The District Engineering Staff will review this junction to assess what the most appropriate measures may be.
FP.14	Disability working Group	Building/Access - When carrying out specific works it is important to note that universal size does not fit all, which appears to be what is used by WCC at the moment with regard to building regulations.	Request that WCC follow IWA best practice guidelines when carrying out building works which includes the standard building regulations + better access for disabilities. These	This matter will be referred to the Housing Section for consideration.

			can be downloaded from the IWA website.	
FP.15	Disability working Group	Access audits were very useful in the past and wonder if they can be re-looked at	Request that previous audits that were carried out, be examined and ascertain what improvements were made because of the audits. Consider carrying out other access audits where necessary	Access audits were carried out across the county in about 17 villages circa 10 years ago . These audits were acted upon by the area engineers through works carried out in the last number of years. In 2019 through the Age Friendly Programme it was agreed that Walkability audits would be a better means to carry out audits as this would include disability audits, age friendly public realm and community access for all. In Q4 2019 Mullingar Kinnegad Municipal District agreed that a Walkability audit would be carried out in Mullingar town, unfortunately due to Covid restriction the audit was cancelled . However, it is planned that the walkability audit will go ahead in 2021 and another village /town will be identifies also for an audit in 2021. All members of the disability working group will be invited to take part in the Walkability Audits when they are organised in 2021.
FP.16	Battery Heights Residents Association	Paths in bad condition in front of abandoned houses	Paths need to be fixed please	The Municipal district will arrange for minor repair works to be carried out. Larger scale improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme.
FP.17	Beechpark West Residents Association	Footpaths - The footpaths on our estate need to be replaced in our estate	Request that the footpaths be upgrading	The improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme.
FP.18	Athlone Access Awareness	Footpaths - Footpaths in Connaught street and Pearse street Athlone, need upgrading for safe wheelchair access	Request widen existing footpaths and provide dished curbs for powerchair, scooter users etc	The improvement of footpaths may be considered in the context of the Members priorities and the funding available, under the 2021 Roads Programme. If there are specific locations of concern the group should forward details to the Municipal District and they will prioritise those for assessment.

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Green Spaces				
GS.1	Cypress Gardens Residents Association	Need refurbishment - Walls painted, kerbs tidied up, hedges cut	Request walls painted, kerbs tidied up, hedges cut	The maintenance of the walls & hedges are a matter for the Resident's Committee. The Municipal District will arrange an inspection of the kerbs to ensure that there are no safety issues.
GS.2	Beechpark West Residents Association	Green Spaces - Our estate has a large green where members of the public use it to walk dogs etc. We maintain the green ourselves. However there are lots of trees in the green which need to be maintained and we do not have the resources.	Request that AMMD top these trees, as its too costly for residents association to do so. We would be grateful therefore for assistance re same.	The Municipal District will arrange to carry out an inspection of the trees by an arborist and receive recommendations. It will be a matter for the Elected Members to then prioritise funding for any large scale works identified.

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Access

A.1	Athlone Access Awareness	Access - Request that WCC adopt Irish Wheelchair Association Best Practice Guidelines when considering New Builds, Upgrading or improving existing areas in our environment also areas such as Access, egress, accessible parking bays, ramps, kerbs etc for People with disabilities.	The Access Guidelines can be downloaded in PDF format from the following website: https://www.iwa.ie/downloads/about/iwa-access-guidelines.pdf	All new works carried out by the Municipal District are designed and implemented in accordance with national design standards and best practice guidelines such as the Irish Wheelchair Association Design Guidelines.
A.2	Moate Active Retirement Association	Access: Public seating in the town of Moate is almost non-existent. It is badly needed for people waiting to be collected from the Medical Centre, Post Office, Shops etc. And for those who walk in the town for exercise (safe from traffic walking on the footpath) or people walking home after shopping in town. With the arrival of Covid in 2020, public seating is needed even more because the public have to queue outside for the Medical Centre, Chemist, Post Office, Shops etc	Request AMMD provide public seating as outlined.	This can be considered in the context of the 2021 District Budget.
A.3	Athlone Access Awareness	Access - request WCC would provide Outdoor Seating for people with disabilities and the elderly at John Broderick Street Athlone	Request WCC provide a Single and Double public seating with information Plates/Signage e.g. Please consider people with disabilities and the Elderly.	This is a difficult location to provide a bench because of the gradient of the hill and the full width of the paved area is not in County Council ownership.
A.4	Athlone Access Awareness	No Public Changing Places Facilities in any town in the County of Westmeath	Request that WCC fulfils its promise to install a Changing Places Facility in the Civic Centre in Athlone	The installation of a Changing Places facility for Athlone received broad support following a presentation by John Tynan to a meeting of the Municipal District in November 2018. There are essential maintenance works to the Civic Centre required and following the completion of these works in early 2021 the proposal for the Changing Places facility at the Civic Centre will be considered. A funding source for this project has yet to be identified and progress on the project will be dependent on this.



Other				
O.1	Midland & District Coarse & Pike Anglers	Consultation and communication. We request more opportunities for consultation and communication on environmental issues in and around Athlone area.	We request the reinstatement of the now defuncted form of stakeholders consultations - i.e., WCC, Inland Fisheries, Waterways Ireland and concerned public groups like our to discuss and implement improvements and problems re waterways, SAC, Athlone canal etc.	Meetings can be facilitated when and if required.
O.2	Battery Heights Residents Association	Road Sweeping - No sweeper operating in all roads of the estate	Request road sweeper goes into all roads in the estate for cleaning	The sweeper sweeps all the public roads on a regular rostered basis. On some occasions access may be restricted by parked cars.
O.3	Moate Active Retirement Association	Amenity: A small park for residents living on the eastern side of the Town of Moate	The "old showgrounds" belonging to Moate Castle with opening onto Ballymore Road in Moate would provide a pleasant small park.	This land is in private ownership.
O.4	Moate Active Retirement Association	Parking Spaces - Request more safe parking provision at Buckley's Supervalu shop in Moate	We understand that Buckley's have planning permission for a car park on property close to the shop; would it be possible to advance this to completion.	Property owner needs to advance this.
O.5	ATK Community Centre Ltd - St Kierans Community Centre	Grants/Supports - Lack of income due to Covid 19	We are suggesting that funding be made available to Community Centres that are in similar position to us. Perhaps give some thought to ring fenced funding at this time. Otherwise Community Centres that provide valuable services like ours will no longer be viable.	Westmeath County Council through its community section has distributed a number of grants during 2020. There will be a round 3 CEP grant announced soon. Along with Community grants in early 2021; PPN will notify community groups of these grants.
O.5	Brosna Park Residents Association Kilbeggan	Lack of lighting in the park where the playground is located (from 1 Relic Road, Kilbeggan to entrance to Brosna Park) which makes residents feel unsafe as they cannot see into the area at night time and are afraid of antisocial behaviour occurring there. Also, would like if lights were changed as some of the lights in Brosna are very dim so residents feel nervous to go out at night due to lack of clear lighting.	1. Lighting installation in the Playground	1. Westmeath County Council does not provide public lighting at playgrounds.
			2. New strong LED bulbs to be put in the area so that Residents can see where they are going and feel safe walking at night	2. Westmeath County Council are currently engaged in a process to upgrade all the public lighting stock in the County to LED.