

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON
THURSDAY, 17th JUNE 2010**

LLATHAIR

Baill:

Cllr. B. Willers, Chairperson
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. M. Fahy
Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. G. Finnerty

Apologies:

Cllr. P. Hynes

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, D.O.S., Environment & Water Services Unit
Mr. M. Lavelle, S.E., Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. U. Finn, S.E.E., Ballinasloe & Loughrea Electoral Areas
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area
Mr. C. Mitchell, E.E., Portumna Engineering Area
Mr. J. Costello, E.E., Gort Engineering Area
Ms. A. Power, S.S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

**ELECTION OF CHAIR OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE FOR
2010/2011**

Cllr. Willers was proposed by Cllr. McClearn and seconded by Cllr. Maher. As there were no other nominations Cllr. Willers was declared elected.

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE
FOR 2010/2011**

Cllr. McClearn was proposed by Cllr. Maher and seconded by Cllr. Fahy. As there were no other nominations Cllr. McClearn was declared elected.

Cllr. Willers congratulated Cllr. McClearn on being elected Mayor of County Galway and wished him well in the coming year. All the other Members wished to be associated with

those comments and Mr. Lavelle on behalf of the Officials of the Council wished him all the best for the coming year.

DEPUTATION FROM ATHENRY ROAD/MEADOWBROOK COURT RESIDENTS

The Chairperson welcomed Messrs. C. Muldoon, L. Haverty and Sr. B. Carty to the Meeting. The Deputation stated that they lived in the vicinity of the site that was to be developed as a swimming pool. One of the problems they highlighted was the height of the hoarding around the site which has meant that it was impossible to see what is going on inside the site. They said that it had become an area where anti-social behaviour was occurring on a nightly basis. They stated that a number of fires had been deliberately started on this site at night time and the Fire Brigade had to be called on a couple of occasions. They requested that the Council tidy up the site, lower the hoarding and put in a proper walkway through the site so that people could have general access.

Cllr. Willers stated that a petition had been sent in to the Local Area Office from residents of Laurences Fields and Meadowbrook Court Estates requesting that pedestrian access be re-opened to the Athenry Road. Mr. Finn advised that there was a safety issue here as if temporary access was opened up there would be no safe crossing point on the N66 Athenry Road. He stated that it was intended that pedestrian access would be provided through the swimming pool site but that it could not be provided at this time. Mr. Lavelle advised that the Council had entered into a contract with the Developer regarding the swimming pool site and he had possession of the site until the contract was terminated. In relation to the pedestrian access, he advised that as part of the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid submitted to the Department of Transport, a pedestrian access was included for this area. He advised that they would know in the next few weeks if the Loughrea Bid was successful or not.

Cllr. Willers advised that they would take the matter up with Mr. Cullen and would get an answer back to the Deputation through Cllr. Hynes.

The Deputation then left the Meeting.

DEPUTATION FROM GORT ROAD, LOUGHREA

Ms. Power advised that the Deputation from the Gort Road, Loughrea would not be attending the Meeting.

Cllr. Maher requested that a Deputation from Bullaun Development Group be allowed address the Meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

DEPUTATION FROM BULLAUN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Chairperson welcomed Messrs. J. Cooney, P. Hynes and G. Mitchell to the Meeting. Mr. Cooney explained that they were proposing to build a car-park in Bullaun. He stated that the church had given them use of a site for the project and a 30 year lease had been agreed. Funding was being provided from G.R.D. but they needed to raise €50,000. He requested the Councillors would consider donating some of their Notice of Motion monies towards this project. The Members stated that they would get back to the Deputation in the next week to let them know what monies they were allocating towards it.

The Deputation then left the meeting.

MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2010

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 13th May 2010 were confirmed.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th May 2010

Traught Beach, Kinvara

Cllr. Finnerty queried why Traught Beach had lost its Blue Flag status. He was advised that An Taisce would be advising the Council on this and he would be informed of these results.

Car-Park Kinvara

Cllr. Finnerty queried if there was any progress on the provision of a car-park for Kinvara. Mr. Lavelle advised that at present they did not have any resources to buy land for the provision of a car-park in Kinvara. He suggested that the landowner of the proposed site submit an offer for the site and it would be considered by the Council.

Bullaun School – Flooding

Cllr. Finnerty asked if there was any update in relation to funding to alleviate the flooding problem at Bullaun N.S. Mr. Raftery advised that a submission was being prepared at present which would be forwarded to the O.P.W. requesting funding for same.

Sewerage Pipe on Bride Street/Culvert in Castlenancy/ Flooding at Grangemore, Tynagh/ Direction Signs for Kilchreest at Westbridge

Cllr. Willers asked for an update on these issues which were raised at the last meeting.

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In relation to the sewerage pipe on Bride Street, Mr. Raftery advised that was a small section of sewer that needs to be upgraded and stated that he would include it in the works programme. However, he advised that it may be the end of year before they would get to complete these works.

With regard flooding at Grangemore, Tynagh, Mr. Raftery advised that he had not got a chance to inspect it but advised that he had noted same.

In relation to the request for direction signs for Kilchreest, Mr. Finn advised that they would be renewing some signage in Loughrea in the coming months and a lot of existing signage will be changed due to the opening of the M6 motorway. He advised that signage for the Westbridge junction would be included in this.

Deputation from Gables Residents Association

Cllr. Willers queried if there was any update in relation to the issues raised by the Deputation from the Gables Residents Association. Ms. Power stated that Mr. Sheil, S.E.E. Housing Section had been asked to respond directly to Cllr. McClearn on this.

N66 – Bad Potholes

Cllr. Finnerty referred to the potholes on the N66 and queried when these were going to be addressed. Mr. Raftery advised that additional funding had been made available from the N.R.A. and the section referred to by Cllr. Finnerty would be going out to contract shortly. Cllr. Maher queried if the extra funding included improvement works for a section of the Loughrea/Athenry Road which was in a very poor state presently. Mr. Raftery explained that in the funding provided by the N.R.A., that priority was being given to road improvements on the N66, particularly the Castledaly area. Mr. Lavelle stated that the Athenry/Loughrea Road was not included in that funding and it was unlikely that more funding would be allocated for this section. Cllr. Maher enquired if the Council had applied specifically for funding for improvements for this section of roadway. Mr. Finn stated that they would try to get best value in terms of works carried out from the monies allocated but explained that there were sections of the N66 that were in a deplorable state and advised that they could only work within the budgets they were given. Cllr. Maher requested that this section be included for improvement should funding be made available.

Road near Cregclare Crossroads, Ardahan

Cllr. Fahy asked if any resolution had been found in relation to matter and queried if they could use their Notice of Motion monies to resolve the situation. Mr. Costello advised that he was involved in the negotiations and that he didn't think this would solve the situation. He confirmed that they were going to grade the entrance into Silver's property to make it safe and the level of gravel on the road was to stay as it was at present. He said that they would be removing the traffic lights and making the traffic two-way again. Cllr. Feeney stated that he appreciated all that Mr. Costello had done to accommodate the situation. However, he disagreed with the works being carried out as he felt that the Council were undoing works already done and it was a waste of scarce resources. He said

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that the level of communication was unacceptable and that the local community were entitled to know what was going on and to be consulted. Mr. Costello explained that the works being carried out presently were to make the entrance safer. In response to Cllr. Fahy, Mr. Lavelle confirmed that the Council would not be removing any of the temporary road surface for the moment and advised that there would be further discussion in advance of any further works taking place.

Verge Trimming

Cllr. Fahy queried if there was any funding for verge trimming this year. He requested that it be carried out at junctions and on very narrow county roads that were becoming almost closed in at this stage. Mr. Finn explained that funding for verge-trimming came from County Road Maintenance which had been significantly reduced in recent times and they were restricted to the budgets allocated.

Ring Road, Athenry

Cllr. Feeney queried if works on the Ring Road in Athenry were going to be done by direct labour or contract. Mr. Lavelle advised that some aspects would be done by direct labour and some by contract.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ardvough Housing Estate, Kinvara

Mr. Lavelle stated that the sight distance on the Galway side as you exit this housing estate was quite bad. He stated that some Councillors had allocated some notice of motion monies towards improving the sight distance but there was a problem with title that wouldn't resolve itself quickly. He proposed that these monies be used for the installation of a footpath from Fallon's to J. Burke's as the existing footpath was in poor condition. Cllr. Willers enquired if yellow lines could also be installed around this bend to prevent cars parking there. On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the Members agreed that the notice of motion monies be used to carry out improvement works to the footpath and to install double yellow lines as outlined by Cllr. Willers.

Chrochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin