

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY, 31ST
MARCH, 2008**

CATHAOIRLEACH

Mayor S. Canney

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Connaughton, J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. O’Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, P. Feeney, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S Kyne, T Mannion, J McDonagh, T McHugh, M. Maher, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, S O’Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S Walsh, T Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager, Messrs J. Cullen, J. Morgan, F. Gilmore, K.Kelly, F. Dawson P. Ridge, Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Lavelle, L. Gavin E. Molloy, Senior Engineers; L. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer; A. Comer, M. Owens, Senior Excutive Officers; M. Gaughan, Arts Officer; B. Barrett, Admin. Officer; P. O’Neachtain, Irish Officer, and Ms. R. O’Boyle, Staff Officer.

Professor Jimmy Burke, Teagasc.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1620

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Mary J. Hickey, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. M. McGrath, Ballyhale, Headford, Co. Galway.
Maura Corgan, Newmannin, Clostown, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Brennan Family, Boyounagh, Glenamaddy, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Patricia O’Donnell, 61 Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

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Kenny Family, St. Joseph Park, Tuam, Co. Galway
Bridie Kiernan & Family, 1 Parkmore Tce, Tuam, Co. Galway
Gerry Mc Inerney & Family, The Mill, Dooras, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
Andy Gardiner, Drim, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Noel Conroy, Wellpark, Abbey, Loughrea, Co. Galway. The Ward Family

A Resolution of Sympathy was also extended to the Islamic Community and the families and friends of the children killed in the fatal accident at Kilrickle. The members requested that a report be provided by the Roads Department when the cause of this accident is known.

Cllr. Burke proposed that the Portumna Hurling Club be given a Civic Reception to mark their recent achievement in becoming the All Ireland Club Hurling Champions, 2008, this was seconded by Cllr. Regan and agreed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS **1621**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 25th February, 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. Kyne referred to Page 4 of the Minutes – Minute No. 1593 – Connemara Electoral Area - Declaration of Road to be Public Road – Road commencing at Junction with Local Road L1320 in the townland of Coill Bhruachlain and extending south as appropriate for a distance of 200 metres in the townland of Coill Bhruachlain and finishing at Browns in the townland of Coill Bhruachlain – he said that this item had actually been withdrawn. The amendment to the Minutes was agreed.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy's query in regard to the 3 Part 8's deferred at the January meeting, the County Manager informed the members that a response would be sought from NPWS and it was hoped that this item would be included on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

REPORT ON COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1622

The Report of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC Meeting held on the 18th February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on the 6th February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

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Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Keaveney referred to the issue of compliance by the Council with the provisions of the Disability Act with particular regard to access for the disabled in the Tuam Area.

In reply Mr. Kelly said he would follow up on the issues raised and advised that the Disability Action Plan for Galway County Council had been passed. Works had been identified and carried out he said including some in Tuam and the works comply with best practice. He informed the Members that Audits had been carried out, and work was continuing.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. Feeney referred to the Tynagh Mines site and in particular the serious concerns about public health and environmental risks. He said that recent sampling of private wells had shown very high concentration of heavy metals thought to arise from contamination from the old mines site. He said that the community had endured the legacy of the Tynagh Mines contamination for many years and action was being demanded to ensure the site was fully remediated. He said the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources had a particular responsibility to ensure this happens and that funding was made available for it. He said Galway County Council had a responsibility also to prevent activities in the area that might make the situation worse and he proposed that an immediate ban on all future development at the site be imposed by the Council. He also proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Energy Communications and Natural Resources and request that funding be made available for the complete rehabilitation of the site. Cllr. Burke requested that legal opinion be sought on the options open to Galway County Council to pursue the owners of the site, and Cllr. Willers requested that sampling of wells be undertaken and the relevant householders informed of the results.

Mr. Cullen advised that a joint project was being led by the Environmental Protection Agency dealing with the characterisation of historic mine sites in Ireland and their environmental risks. This report which will deal with the Tynagh Mines site will be released this year and, in his view, was likely to be the best argument for central funding for the overall remediation of the site. He said it was not possible for the Council to impose a unilateral ban on development as the Council was legally obliged to consider any application for Planning Permission in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and the terms of the County Development Plan. He confirmed that he would seek the legal advice as requested and arrange for sampling to be carried out on wells in the area.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 10th March, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Regan.

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Cllr. Fahy referred to the Irish version of the name of Gort which appears on signs as “An Gort”. He said that Gort was always known in Irish as Gort Inse Guaire. He proposed that the signs should be changed back to the old name.

Mr. Morgan said that the names were set down by the Placenames Commission and could not be changed by Galway County Council. It was agreed that the Council would write to the Commission and raise this issue with them.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on the 16th January, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on the 21st February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 15th October, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by An Comh. O Cuaig

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 19th November, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by An Comh O Cuaig.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 22nd November, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. O’Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Kyne.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 26th November, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by An Comh. O Cuaig.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 4th December, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by An Comh O Cuaig.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 10th December, 2007 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by An Comh O’ Cuaig.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 19th February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Kyne.

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE CITY & COUNTY LIAISON COMMITTEE

1623

Report dated the 19th March 2008 was already circulated to each Member

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Burke and agreed that Cllr. Willers fill the vacancy in the Membership of the City & County Liaison Committee.

TO APPROVE AMENITY GRANTS 2008 (2nd ROUND ALLOCATIONS) 1624

Report dated the 25th March, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, it was agreed that the Amenity Grants 2008 (2nd Round Allocations) be approved.

TO APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME GRANTS 2008 (2ND Round Allocations)

1625

Report dated the 25th March, 2008 was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Cllr Connaughton, it was agreed that the Community Based Economic Development Financial Assistance Scheme Grants 2008 (2nd Round Allocations) be approved.

The Members thanked the staff of the Community & Enterprise Unit for their work regarding the two grant schemes.

TO APPROVE PUBLICATION OF DRAFT BYE-LAWS FOR BEACHES, RECREATIONAL CRAFT AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKIES)1626

Copy of the Draft Bye-Laws for Beaches, were already circulated to each Member.

The Draft Bye-Laws for Beaches, Recreational Craft and Personal Watercraft (Jet Skies) were introduced by Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Chairperson of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Unit, as follows:-.

He noted that Beach Bye Laws for the County Health District of Galway have been in operation since 1997, and that the proposed bye-laws re-state or update a number of these provisions and include additional provisions which are now possible following the enactment of the Maritime Safety Act 2005.

This Act among other things aims to enhance public safety and amenity and to protect natural and other heritage areas by granting locally based Authorities enhanced powers to regulate the use of personal watercraft and recreational craft and in particular fast powercraft in coastal waters, lakes and rivers.

These Draft bye-laws were the subject of a public invitation for submissions and any submissions received have been considered and taken into account.

He pointed out the main elements of the new bye-laws not covered under the existing provisions relate to

- revised definitions for Personal Watercraft, Fast power craft and power craft.
- provisions relating to surf boards, sail boards and kite boards.
- control of dogs on beaches including the prohibition of dogs on beaches between the hours of 11am and 7pm during the Summer season.
- Provision relating to Personal Watercraft, Fast Power Craft and Powercraft on Coastal waters and on Loughrea Lake and Lough Corrib.

In some areas the use of beaches and waters by bathers and other recreational users have been adversely affected by the activities of others and these bye-laws will provide a basis for action where such problems are encountered in the future.

He confirmed that the matter of bye-laws in respect of Lough Derg is a matter for Waterways Ireland.

He noted that these Draft bye-laws have been considered and approved by the SPC and are commended to Council for approval to go on public display.”

Cllrs. Joyce and Carey welcomed the document and enquired if there was any reason why Lough Mask is not mentioned in the Bye-Laws. Cllr. Carey pointed out that some of the shoreline of Lough Mask is in County Galway. The Members enquired if Mayo County Council and Galway City Council had Bye-Laws in place. Cllr. Hoade asked where the Bye-Laws will be on display.

Mr. Kelly confirmed that the Bye-Laws will go on public display for a month in Áras an Chontae, Area Offices & Libraries. He also said he would examine the Bye Laws being drafted for Lough Mask by Mayo County Council and said that the part of Lough Mask in County Galway will be included in the Galway County Council Bye Laws. He also confirmed that the City Council are working on Draft Bye Laws.

It was proposed by, Cllr D. Connolly, seconded by, Cllr Carey and agreed that the Draft Bye-Laws be put on public display.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1627

On the proposal of An Comh Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended so that the Meeting could continue after 6 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR JIMMY BURKE ON GM RESEARCH. 1628

It was agreed that the presentation on GM Research by Professor Jimmy Burke of Teagasc proceed at this time.

The Mayor welcomed Professor Burke to the Meeting, and invited him to proceed with the presentation.

Professor Jimmy Burke told the meeting that Genetically Modified crops are being grown around the world by farmers and that this technology is being widely used in many countries by our competitors. Some of their products produced using GM technology is already coming into this country he said.

For example two maize by-products, corn gluten and distillers grains, are vital ingredients in animal feed and account for up to 30% of Irish feed rations for beef cattle and dairy cows. A total of 800,000 tonnes of these maize by-products are imported from the US every year by animal feed companies. EU policy decisions relating to GM regulation could effectively eliminate access to these imports with serious repercussions for the agricultural sector in this country according to Prof Jimmy Burke who said that additional costs of €40-60 million per year could be added to livestock feed costs if we were to source non GM material with no possibility of recovering these extra costs from the market place.

Such a scenario would have a serious effect on animal feed prices and on the competitiveness of livestock products on our major export markets. The situation with protein feed is even more serious and most of the world's soya bean is now nearly all of the GM type. We have a very rigorous approval systems in Europe for GM crops and products derived from them but it is important that the EU approval system for these new products is not unduly delayed over and above that operating elsewhere in the world as otherwise there could be serious repercussions for the agricultural sector generally. The emergence of biotechnology has also raised many questions of enormous public interest stated Prof Burke including the safety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food production, the effects of GMOs on the environment but their record to date internationally has been very good he said. There is now 280 million acres of GM crops grown world wide and has been expanding at double digit growth rates every year since 1996. Currently, the debate in Europe around the risks and benefits of biotechnology is quite polarised and it is widely accepted that the debate should be more open, transparent and inclusive with a greater level of understanding by all the stakeholders. Openness and transparency are also required in policy making process.

In the absence of independent and credible information on biotechnology, the general public is not given the opportunity to gain an understanding of, and make informed decisions on, the use of biotechnology in the agricultural and other sectors stated Prof Burke who went on to say that Teagasc has invested significantly in this area in recent years and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

To move the debate forward there is a need for greater understanding of the issues on all sides, a need for participation of the all the stakeholders in the decision making process and the need for transparency he said. The question as to what the best position should be for Ireland on this issue was discussed and he said that this is a politically sensitive one and that it was not Teagasc's role to get involved in the politics of this issue but it is their job to examine the science involved. It is also their job he stated to research the technology, to evaluate its use in other countries, to determine the benefits and risks of adopting GM technology in Ireland.

After a short questions and answers session, the Mayor thanked Prof Burke for his presentation, the content and quality of which were very educational. He suggested that the Members could discuss this topic further at a later date.

ROADS PROGRAMME 2008

1629

A copy of the Roads Programme, 2008 had been circulated to each Member.

Mr. Morgan referred to the National Roads budget and pointed out that it is €130m this year and will double for each of the next two years

The Members said they welcomed the report and thanked Mr. Morgan and the Roads Staff on presenting such a concise and readable report.

Cllr. Regan enquired as to the number of indoor and outdoor staff. He was informed that information has been prepared and will be forwarded to all Members.

In relation to the Roads Programme he pointed out that every year the money is divided evenly. He suggested that as the Conamara Electoral Area receive Gaeltacht Grants, that this should be taken into consideration when monies are being distributed.

Cllr Welby pointed out that not all of Conamara is in the Gaeltacht.

Cllr. McHugh welcomed some of the road works in Tuam Electoral Area, but said it was hard to belief that roads were only being resurfaced every 6-7 years. He also queried the works being carried out on the Galway to Ballinasloe Road by PPP.

Cllr. Feeney welcomed the works planned for the Raheen Link Road but said the amount of €100,000 seemed small. He said the Local Improvement Scheme Allocation had dropped since last year. He also pointed out that some routes which were interfered with because of the works on the N.6 were in a poor state because they were not repaired properly

Cllr. M. Connolly highlighted that small stop end roads are never repaired and he said that some mechanism should be found to repair them.

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Cllr. Cuddy referred to the total amount of funding for the Oranmore Electoral Area compared to the rest of the county.

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed the report and said it was a fair and equitable distribution of the funds available, he welcomed the money being spent on the National Primary routes, but referred to the R332 from Tuam to Ballinrobe which remains on the programme. He also referred to the N6 and asked if PPP's were value for money.

Cllr. Mullins said that the roads were Third World Quality referring to the weight of vehicles, weather etc., and said that roads should be brought back to a usable condition. He referred to the N6 PPP and said that the State is still providing the bulk of the money.

Cllr. Willers referred to the provision of public lighting at the Lake Road, Loughrea, and on the N66 at Cuscarrick, Loughrea. She also referred to the amount of time spent discussing Speed Limits over the past year and now there appears to be no funding for same

Cllr. Reilly said he welcomed the allocation for footpaths but was disappointed with the allocation for Local Improvement Schemes.

Cllr. Connaughton referred to the repairs carried out recently to the roads but due to the constant rain they are still dangerous. She welcomed the €50,000 for safety measures at Moylough National School and asked when work will commence at the School.

The Mayor also referred to the lack of funding for local roads and National Secondary Roads. He said that sufficient funds were not made available to carry out these works.

Cllr. Joyce asked if Clár Funding is available this year for County Roads. Mr. Morgan replied by saying all funding was given out in 2006.

Mr. Morgan then gave the following replies to the queries raised above:-

He explained that the brief for funding covers the whole County. The Council tries to maintain the roads network of 6,500 kilometres. Funding is allocated on a mileage basis, and specific grants are received from the Department of Transport based on the Programme of Works submitted by the Council. He explained that the Council have little or no say in the PPP Contracts.

He referred to the proposal regarding speed limits which came before the Members at last Month's meeting with costings in the region of € 1.5 to 2m, and explained that the Council did not have the money. He said the Council would look for more funding from the Department and concentrate on Towns, Villages and Schools.

Cllr. Keaveney proposed that an application for an extra €2m be made to the Department of Transport and this was seconded by Cllr. Reilly and agreed.

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In reply to a query raised by Cllr. Hoade regarding a Draft Lighting Policy which had been brought before the SPC Committee, Mr. Morgan said that as the Draft Policy was not adopted by the Council, the existing Lighting Policy is still in place.

Mr. Morgan said the Raheen Link Road is being constructed by the Housing and Roads Units at a cost of €100,000 and should be completed by the end of the year.

In reply to queries on the N.6 Ballinasloe-Athlone Road he said arrangements are in place with the NRA to maintain these roads during construction.

He agreed that the Local Improvement Scheme allocation is down this year, but said that there is nothing the Council can do about this.

He agreed that the National Secondary allocation is also down. He said the Council had met with the NRA, but they only have limited funding.

In regard to the Oranmore Electoral Area Allocation he said the Council allocate the funding available as best as possible

He said that the roads in Conamara are under particular stress and higher costs have to be taken into consideration with regard to supply of materials etc.

It was proposed by An Comh NiFhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, and agreed that the Roads Programme be approved.

UPDATE ON WATER SERVICES PROGRAMME

1630

Report dated 31st March, 2008 was circulated.

The Report set out the current position of Schemes included in the Water Services Investment Programme, other schemes not included in the programme but where works are necessary and finally the emerging remedial action programme for existing public water supplies.

In response to a query from An Comh O’Cuaig, Mr. Cullen advised that the Council was still awaiting a determination from An Bord Pleanala on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Cashla Regional Water Supply Scheme.

An Comh. O’Cuaig also enquired as to whether it was possible to connect the Oughterard Water Supply Scheme to the Moycullen Scheme so that water could be available from that source if there were difficulties in Moycullen. Mr. Cullen said that it was intended to create the link between the two schemes but that there were capacity issues at the Oughterard Plant that would need to be addressed also.

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He also enquired about the situation in Roundstone where a Boil Notice had issued on the previous Friday. Mr. Cullen stated that a water sample had returned a positive result of cryptosporidium and a Boil Notice had been put in place. He said the Plant was being assessed to see what interim measures could be taken, and that it was intended to extend the water supply from Carna/Cill Chiaráin to provide a longer term solution.

Cllr. Connaughton asked if there was any update on the Mountbellew Sewerage Scheme. Mr. Cullen advised that the next stage was the preparation of a brief for appointment of consultants to prepare contract documents and that that was proceeding.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked about the Kilconnell Scheme - he asked that the Department be written to regarding the cap on funding. Cllr. Mullins referred to the €10,000 cap and said that no settlements in small villages will get a scheme if this is the case. He said he seconded Cllr. Connolly's proposal that the Cap be removed. He said the Kilconnell scheme was promised as far back as 2002.

Mr. Cullen said that the Council had written to the Department stating that it was not appropriate to apply the €10,000 ceiling specifically in the case of Kilconnell and also generally in County Galway. He said that it was his understanding from a meeting with senior department officials that the €10,000 cap was being reviewed.

Cllr. M Connolly referred to the funding allocation for the Rural Water Programme and Mr. Cullen said that even though Galway County Council got the biggest allocation in the Country the allocation for new schemes and upgrading was not sufficient and was already fully committed.

Mr. Cullen briefed the Members on the disruption to Water Supply in the Moycullen and Barna areas that had occurred the previous week. He advised that the Council had put a contingency plan into operation to try and maintain a supply to as many areas as possible. The difficulty was caused by a serious water loss on a watermain in the City area on Wednesday last causing the levels in the Tonabrocky Reservoir to fall resulting in a supply interruption particularly in the high areas in Barna and Moycullen. The Council introduced a water supply from Spiddal to serve the Barna Village area and tried to maintain the supply within the core area of Moycullen for as long as possible. Stationary Water Tankers were provided at selected locations and mobile supply tankers were brought in to resupply the static tanks and contribute to the Moycullen Reservoir. The Council liaised with the Health Service Executive on any priority medical cases that might need a supply and all Nursing Homes in the affected area were checked. Individual supplies were made available to Hotels and Public Houses. Water was restored to all areas by lunch time on Saturday and Mr. Cullen thanked the Council staff who had made a huge effort in their response.

The Mayor complimented all of the staff in the Water Services Department for their efforts.

ARTS ACT GRANTS 2008

1631

Report was circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by An Comh. Ni Fhatharta, it was agreed that the Arts Act Grants 2008 be approved.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the great work carried out by these groups and referred in particular to the Ballinasloe Arts Group who are finding it increasingly difficult to provide funding, and he asked that Galway County Council explore ways to advance further funding to this group.

Cllr. Joyce referred to the state of the Town Hall in Ballinasloe and said that work needed to be done to modernize it. In reply Ms. Gaughan said that funding may be available from the Capital Enhancement Scheme.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

1632

The Manager read out a letter received from Cllr. Joe Tierney tendering his resignation and said that the filling of this position would appear on the April Agenda.

Cllr. Mullins said he would like to thank Cllr. Tierney for his efforts on behalf of his constituency. He said he understood that Cllr. Tierney could not continue as a Member of the Council due to heavy work commitments. The Mayor and all the members joined with him in wishing Cllr. Tierney well in the future.

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the role of the Community Warden with specific reference to the amount of time spent dealing with traffic management issues. He said he was strongly of the view that the Wardens needed to be able to spend a lot more time dealing with unauthorized dumping and also developing the community aspect of their role. He said that the Community Warden Scheme had been an excellent initiative and the Wardens themselves had shown great commitment as had the rest of the council staff. He suggested that alternative arrangements be considered for the pay and display management so as to free up time for the wardens in other areas of activity. This was supported by Cllr. D. Connolly who said that some areas are blackspots for dumping at weekends.

Mr. Cullen said he appreciated the compliments paid to the Community Wardens and referred to the establishment of the scheme which was done through partnership between the management and unions in the council. He said that while traffic management and paid parking were part of the warden duties, efforts were being made to contract out the collection of parking fees.

Mr. Cullen referred to the Carna/ Cill Chiarain Regional Water Supply Scheme and the Headford Sewerage Scheme both of which were almost complete and suggested that

arrangements be made to have them officially opened. It was agreed by the Council that the Minister be invited to open the schemes.

MAYORS BUSINESS

1633

PRESENTATION TO MR. TONY MURPHY, RETIRED COUNTY SECRETARY.

The Mayor on behalf of all the Members paid tribute to Mr. Murphy and references were made to his qualities of tolerance and patience in his dealings with the Members and the fact that he was a man of great knowledge in local government who was always available to give advice and guidance, especially to the respective Chairpersons and Mayors of the County during their terms of office. He was also described as a great friend to many of the Members who had worked with him for many years.

The Mayor then presented Mr. Murphy with a gift on behalf of the Members and extended best wishes to him and stated that he would be a great loss to Galway County Council.

The Manager paid tribute to Mr. Murphy on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Galway County Council and stated that not only was he held in high esteem in Galway County Council but also in many other local authorities and communities in the county. She thanked Mr. Murphy for his help and advice since she came to Galway County Council and stated that he was a man of great knowledge, wisdom and good humour. She wished him good health to enjoy his retirement and extended best wishes to him and his family in the future.

Mr. Murphy said he had enjoyed working with the Members and thanked them for their kind words and for the gift they had presented to him. He also thanked the Manager and Staff of the Council

It was proposed by Cllr. Mc. Donagh, seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta and agreed that the Annual General Meeting be held on the 16th June, 2008 at 3.30 p.m.

CONFERENCE

1634

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, it was agreed that the attendance of the following members at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each member:-

“Tipperary International Peace Conference” Ballykisteen Hotel, 25th – 27th April

Cllr. M. Fahy

“TJK Conferences – Planning Seminar for Councillors” Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick, 5 April 2008

Cllr. T. Welby

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1635

The following reply was given:-

“The site for the treatment plant has not yet been acquired. Presently consultants are being appointed to prepare contract documents for the scheme and should approvals be given quickly work will commence in 2009.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14– CLLR. B. WILLERS

1636

The following reply was given:-

“The Preliminary Report for the Gort Regional Water Supply is going to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in March 2008. It is expected the advance works on the provision of watermain along the Ennis Road will be done this year.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 15 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1637

The following reply was given:-

“The Fair Trade approach is monitored by the National Fair Trade Office, Dublin. A number of requirements must be met in order to become a Fair Trade Town. The majority of these are business related and therefore the progression of the initiative would best be advanced by the relevant Chamber of Commerce.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 16 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1638

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go mbeadh ballaí le cur siar chun cosán coisithe a chur ar fáil.

De bharr an obair seo, bheadh costas ard i gceist, timpeall €90,000, ag glacadh mbeadh an talún ar fáil.

Níl airgeadú ar fáil faoi láthair chun an obair seo a dhéanamh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1639

The following reply was given:-

“Tá foirgneamh iar-Chlochar na Trócaire i gCarna faighte ag Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Tá sé beartaithe acu an fhoirgneamh a athchóiriú agus a úsáid do chuspóirí oideachais agus pobail. Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i gcomhráití le OÉG le súil spás leabharlainne poiblí a sholáthar mar chuid de fhorbairt fhoirgneamh an Chlochair.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1640

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar scrúdú ar seo agus cuirfear tuairisc ar fáil maidir leis an cosán coisithe go luath.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1641

The following reply was given:-

“The Council has a current application on hand in relation to the taking in charge of Oakfield Estate. The first step in progressing this application is that the Council will undertake a survey of the estate to establish its current status in respect of the services and infrastructure in the estate. This survey will be commenced within the next couple of weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1642

The following reply was given:-

“A submission is being prepared to be forwarded to the Department of Transport.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1643

The following reply was given:-

“A Developers Bond has been lodged in relation to the above planning permission and is still in place and available where works approved in the planning permission remain undone. The Council does not have a current application on hands for the taking in charge of this estate.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1644

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council has not yet received its annual allocation from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in respect of the following grants:

- Disabled Persons Grant
- Mobility Aids Grant
- Housing Adaptation Grant
- Essential Repairs Grant
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant

The Council will fund the above grants in accordance with the amounts allocated to Galway County Council for matching contributions.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1645

The following reply was given:-

“Footpath works were carried out at Traught in 2007. There are concrete footpaths to the beach and there are no plans to install timber walkways.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1646

The following reply was given:-

“The site for the treatment plant has not yet been acquired. Presently consultants are being appointed to prepare contract documents for the scheme and should approvals be given quickly work will commence in 2009.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. M. REGAN

1647

The following reply was given:-

“There are no funds available for further works at Templemartin, Craughwell in the current year. The matter will be raised with the National Roads Authority in the context of future proposals for safety measures on the N6.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1648

The following reply was given:-

“This road is not included in the 2008 Roads Programme. Therefore, the extent of works which can be carried out in the short term is limited to routine maintenance, such as pothole repair & opening of water tables to relieve flooding. The road will be examined to determine the extent to which drainage is an issue.

This road can be considered for inclusion in future roads programmes.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1649

The following reply was given:-

“Improvement works were undertaken in Tynagh Village during 2007 and consequently a temporary road surface is currently in place. It is intended, subject to available funding, that the works will be completed in 2008. In the interim, routine maintenance works are being undertaken and will continue to be undertaken as necessary pending the completion of the improvement works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1650

The following reply was given:-

“This road is not included in the 2008 Roads Programme. Therefore, extensive works cannot be undertaken, however routine maintenance such as pothole repair & opening of water tables to alleviate flooding will be undertaken as deemed necessary.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1651

The following reply was given:-

“The Fair Trade approach is monitored by the National Fair Trade Office, Dublin. A number of requirements must be met in order to become a Fair Trade Town. The majority of these are business related and therefore the progression of the initiative would best be advanced by the relevant Chamber of Commerce.

Fair Trade tea and coffee is served at the Council Meetings.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. S. KYNE

1652

The following reply was given:-

“There are 25 GWSS in Connemara Electoral Area that are on the Annex 14 list and are of concern to the DEHLG in terms of possible ECJ fines. The said 25 schemes are

outlined on the attached xls file. Four of the twenty five schemes are already taken in charge. Please refer to attached file. Twelve of the twenty five schemes are due to get their water quality problems solved by being connected to and taken in charge by Galway County Council. Again the details are shown on attached file. Most of the 12 schemes above have requested the County Council to take them in charge but not all the twelve have requested to be taken in charge.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. S. KYNE

1653

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will arrange to have the signage removed within the next few weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. S. KYNE

1654

The following reply was given:-

“This request has been referred to the Area Engineer to assess the feasibility of carrying out the clean-up, and the Environment Section will revert to you at the earliest possible date.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – COMH. S. O’TUAIRISG

1655

The following reply was given:-

“Tá iniúchadh dhá dhéanamh ar an ábhar seo ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i láthair na huaire.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – COMH. S. O’TUAIRISG

1656

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl gur déanadh oibreacha ag an suíomh seo ar taobh an Spidéal de Siopa an Phobail i 2007.

Tá gá comhaontú a fháil ó uiníirí an talamh ar an dá thaobh den sruthán chun go bhféadfaidh an droichead coisithe a dhéanamh.

Déanfar idirbheartaíocht ar seo go luath.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

