

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th MARCH, 2014 @ 11.00 A.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cuniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen & K. Kelly, Directors of Services L. Gavin & M. Raftery, A/Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, M. Doddy, Conservation Officer, M. Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer, P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1711

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mr & Mrs James Coen & Family, Ballymaguire, Ardahan, Co. Galway.
- The Helebert Family, Cloughballymore, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
- Mrs Maureen Hynes, Claran, Ower, Headford, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Breda Duggan, Cornacarton, Bearnadearg, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Cahill, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Brendan Dolan, C/o Portiuncula Hosptial, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Tony & Carmel Adams, Monreagh, Tubber, Co. Clare.

- Mr. Martin Rock, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway.

The Mayor was joined in congratulating Portumna on capturing the All Ireland Senior Club Hurling Title on Monday, 17th March 2014.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1712

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14th February, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. McHugh advised the Meeting that in relation to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the proposed additions to the RPS, that he had received a number of representations from private citizens who received letters by registered post, following the Council Meeting of the 14th February. He said that these letters have caused concern to these persons and he asked that the Council make contact with these people to alleviate their concerns. He asked for clarification on the replacement of cast iron gutters. He said that he hoped that grant aid would be available to owners of protected structures to assist them in carrying out works.

Cllr. O'Tuairisg referred to the legalistic language used in the letter but said he was aware that under the Planning Acts that the notification had to issue using that language. He said that clarification is warranted and asked how it might affect planning permissions already obtained on buildings and asked that it not affect buildings until they are formally added to the Record of Protected Structures.

Cllr. G. Finnerty asked the position with regard to maintenance and upgrading of proposed protected structures.

Cllr. Cuniffe expressed his concern about the Notices issued to persons in relation to the Proposed Additions to the Protected Structures and said that some photos were 2/3 years old and asked what these Notices meant going forward and if it affected internal works.

Cllr. Welby said that he was aware of some properties that may be in joint ownership but where disputes have now arisen between the owners and asked if the Council notified the registered owners of the properties/structures.

Cllr. Broderick queried the procedure to formalise the Record of Protected Structures and the Section of the Planning Act that referred to this procedure and the number of recommendations that was considered under this Section of the Act in the previous years and the length of time it takes administratively to process a request under this Section of the Act.

Comh. O'Cuaig advised the meeting that 3 or 4 post primary schools had received notifications, one school being situated on the Aran Islands. He said that this matter was

raised at a recent GRETB Meeting and said that it would cause problems for these Schools and their executive to be included on the Record of Protected Structures.

In response to the queries on the RPS, Mr. Kelly said that he appreciated the issues raised and he had advised at the Area Committee Meetings prior to the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan, that this would be an area that may cause concern. He explained that each known owner was written to, which included a Section 12 Notice and a bilingual information guide. He said that the Guide entitled 'A Guide to the Protection of Architectural Heritage' was an easy to read, simple format, plain English guide which set out the various issues and how to go about obtaining the necessary information. He explained that a Section 8 Notice was also issued which was to address the issue of ownership and the recipient if not the owner of the structure could reply advising the Council of the owner if known by them. He said that the letter and notification was then re-issued to the identified owner.

Mr. Kelly said that as outlined to the Members at previous meetings, there are over 800 structures currently on the RPS. He advised that the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht carried out a survey in 2011 and 1,400 structures were recommended for protection. He advised that the recommendations were examined by the Architectural Conservation Officer and 870 were put forward for inclusion and it was decided that these would be proposed as part of the Review of the County Development Plan. He said that the Council did not accept all of the Minister's proposals as there would have been changes in the intervening years.

He explained that since the publication of the Draft Plan, the Forward Planning Section had received a lot of correspondence both in letter format and via telephone queries and these are being answered and Ms. M. Doddy, Architectural Conservation Officer, had visited a number of properties. He said that the Forward Planning Department would continue to work hard to deal with any queries and concerns and provide the information required. He confirmed that priority was being given to any queries in order to give the owner the opportunity to consider the issue fully before they made a response.

He clarified that it was open to each person to make a response and that a report would be prepared by the Architectural Conservation Officer and this would be brought to the Elected Members. He said that the Report would outline the views of both the owners and the Conservation Officer.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Kelly said that it was a Reserved function of the Elected Members having regard to the information and advice which would be given to them, as to whether the structure should be included in the RPS or not.

In respect of funding, Mr. Kelly said that there was limited funding last year under the Structures at Risk Fund. He advised that in 2014, Galway County Council received €127,000 in funding under the new Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme and the Council is currently awaiting confirmation from the Department on the successful applications for 2014.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Kelly explained that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was compiled out by the Department during the period 2008- 2011 and the Council accepted that changes would have occurred since to some of the structures in that some thatch houses could have deteriorated significantly with the bad weather conditions etc during that time. He explained that recommendations were examined by the Architectural Conservation Officer and the number was reduced to 870, due to some structures having deteriorated to such an extent that they no longer could be afforded protection or in some cases significant works had been carried out to the structure altering its architectural attributes and were no longer of significant architectural importance. He said that structures of higher regional importance were chosen for inclusion.

Mr. Kelly advised that Section 57 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 refers to works affecting character of protected structures or proposed protected structures and approximately 10-15 applications are dealt with on a yearly basis. He said that there is a three month statutory timeframe provided for the planning authority to issue a declaration under in this Section of the Act. If there is a significant increase in the number of applications under this Section of the Act, then a review of resources will be examined to ensure that the applications are dealt with within the required statutory timeframe.

In reply to Cllr. McHugh, Ms. Doddy, advised that if the cast iron gutters are repairable, the most sustainable option would be to repair them, however, if they are very badly damaged beyond repair, she said that new gutters, aluminium or similar to the original cast iron gutters is permissible, if the cost of replacement with new cast iron is prohibitive.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed “that private residences and structures that have been proposed to be included in the Records of Protected Structures, on the completion of the Draft Document, if those structures are listed as protected, that grant aid be made available for the purpose of repairs and maintenance in the amount of 80% of calculated cost”

It was clarified that the motion envisaged that the necessary funding would be made available by the Heritage Council / Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1713

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th February, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the reply received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding his Notice of Motion in relation to the fallen animal scheme and expressed his disappointment with the reply to same. He requested that his disappointment with the response be noted and be conveyed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and An Taoiseach.

Replying to queries in relation to funding for Storm Damage, Mr. Gavin stated that to date €9 Million had been set aside for work due to storm damage under various headings. He stated that a comprehensive list was being put together for the different Government Departments and that €2.7 Million had been allocated for roads. He stated that a full list of

roads will be submitted to the Department. He also stated that the Council were seeking clarification to works on private property but that this information was not to hand yet.

An Comh. O'Curraoin referred to the need for funding to be made available to address damage on private lands adjacent to the coast to facilitate necessary repairs to boundaries and walls in order to allow for the productive the use of the relevant lands.

Cllr. Broderick referred to problems being experienced by people in obtaining insurance for their property in areas that had been flooded previously, as insurance companies were not adequately recognising the work being undertaken. Mr. Gavin in the course of his reply to Cllr. Broderick undertook to review the position including the current legislative provisions relating to same and revert directly.

In reply to An Comh O'Tuairisg, Mr. Gavin confirmed that all necessary statutory requirements relating to the coastal protection works would be required to be observed where the scope of the works extended beyond repair of previous infrastrucutre.

An Comh O'Cuaig said that the Interim Report had been sent to the Department on the 10th January, 2014 – 3 months ago, he asked when will a full account of what has been done, what will be done and where, will be known. He also enquired if the works on slipways and Piers will be put out to Tender. Mr. Gavin confirmed that discussions with relevant Departments were ongoing on the detail of the various allocations and that it was intended that a full programme would be finalised to allow for the procurement process to be advanced within two months.

Cllr. M. Finnerty stated the Town Engineer in Ballinasloe issued a letter to householders in Ballinasloe confirming the nature and extent of flood remedial works undertaken and that same was taken into consideration by most insurance companies in offer insurance cover.

In reply to a request from Cllr. Broderick for an update on the NRA's position in relation to the provision of cameras on exits from the M6, Mr. Gavin undertook to raise the matter with the NRA and revert.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION **1714**

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 16th December 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Noone

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 15th October 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Tuairisg seconded by An Comh O'Laoi,

Arising from the minutes and in reply to An Comh. O'Cuaig and An Comh. O'Tuairisg, the Manager confirmed that to date a submission was not lodged with the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for the provision of a fire station in South Conamara as it was necessary to ensure that a comprehensive proposal was developed for submission. She acknowledged the funding of €30,000 provided in Budget 2014 to facilitate same and indicated that it was intended to brief the Conamara Electoral Area Committee at their next meeting on the approach and progress to date.

Mr. Gavin in reply to An Comh O'Laoi and Cllr. Feeney confirmed that to date it was not possible to reach agreement on the emerging preferred route for the R336 and that it was

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intended to revisit same with the Conamara Electoral Area Committee with a view to reaching agreement to allow the project to be advanced to the next stage.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 13th January 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Curraoin, seconded by An Comh O'Tuairisg.

The Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

In reply to questions from An Comh O'Cuaig and a contribution from Cllr. McClearn in relation to advancing the development of the centre at Pearse's Cottage and the need to meet a timeline of 2016, the County Manager confirmed that ongoing engagement was taking place with stakeholders. She confirmed that as the site was located adjacent to an SAC scoping was currently being undertaken with a view to determining the appropriate planning process by means of a Part 8 or the lodging of an application with an EIS to An Bord Pleanála. The County Manager assured the Members that there was no suggestion or indication of any intent by any party to delay the project but that it was necessary to comply with the relevant statutory process.

The Report of the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Mr. Cullen in reply to various queries raised confirmed that the contracts for Kinvara Sewerage Scheme were being finalised for submission to Irish Water and that the recommendation in relation to both Baile Chláir (Claregalway) and Milltown were with Irish Water for decision. He also confirmed that the information previously submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Kilrickle has been passed to Irish Water.

He advised of a commitment for a domestic allowance for each household noting that the detail of same was a matter for the Department and the Regulator.

He stated that the issue of fluoridation of the water supply was the subject of detailed consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee and that the recommendation arising from same would be brought to Council in due course arising from the consideration of the relevant minutes. Mr. Cullen also referenced recent detailed correspondence on the matter from the Department of Health, issued in response to a resolution of Council.

In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Broderick, he confirmed that the approach to locating masts on water services infrastructure was now a matter for determination by Irish Water confirming that while same was not prohibited under the County Development Plan, all appropriate guidelines and requirements would have to be met to allow for consideration of any such proposal by Irish Water.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed:

“That this Council is calling on the Minister for the Environment and Irish Water to give clarity to customers on a water allowance for all dwellings. We are asking that a decision be made by the Energy regulator on this important matter without further delay”

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 1715

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

College Green Housing Estate, Dunmore Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

House Nos. 50-68 (Inclusive)

1. Road pavement and footpath from its junction with the R923 at Point A through to Point E for a total length of 202 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point A (E1445,198 N252,713) Point E (E144,313 N252,554).

House Nos. 1-10 (Inclusive)

2. Road pavement and footpath from Point B to Point F for a total length of 121 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs Co-ordinates: Point B (E1445,211 N252,704) Point F (E144,278 N252,788). House Nos. 11-30 (Inclusive): Road pavement and footpath from Point C to Point G for a total length of 158 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point C (E1445,250 N252,675) Point G (E144,270 N252,671). House Nos. 31-49 (Inclusive): Road pavement and footpath from Point D to Point H for a total length of 132 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point D (E1445,294 N252,609) Point H (E144,323 N252,600).

House Nos. 11-30 (Inclusive)

3. Road pavement and footpath from Point C to Point G for a total length of 158 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point C (E1445,250 N252,675) Point G (E144,270 N252,671).

House Nos. 31-49 (Inclusive)

4. Road pavement and footpath from Point D to Point H for a total length of 132 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point D (E1445,294 N252,609) Point H (E144,323 N252,600).

Electoral Area: Tuam

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON
THE DISPOSAL OF 0.094 HECTARES AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR CO. GALWAY** 1716

Statutory Notice dated 26th February, 2014 and Report dated the 26th February, 2014 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to dispose of 0.094 Hectares at Magheramore, Killimor to Killimor GAA Club in accordance with the terms as detailed in the Statutory Notice

The County Manager in reply to Cllr. Broderick advised that the timeframe for concluding the transfer was subject to various factors. She advised that if issues had arisen in relation to delays in finalised a particular transfer the matter could be investigated if the relevant details were made available.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS 2001 – N17 MILLTOWN TRAFFIC CALMING** 1717

Report dated March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe the proposed works on the N17 Milltown Traffic Calming as set out in the report, was approved.

Mr. Gavin in reply to queries raised confirmed that consultation had taken place with local residents and businesses in relation to the proposed works and that appropriate consultation would continue throughout the duration of the works. He confirmed that the scheme included for advance signage and he undertook to circulate further detailed drawings of the scheme.

TO CONSIDER AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2013 1718

Audit Committee Report 2013 was circulated to each Member.

Mr Raftery advised of an amendment to Item F on Page 4 of the Report being the removal of the reference to the abolition of Roinn na Gaeltachta.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to note the report as amended.

**ADOPTION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS
2014** 1719

Report dated the 18th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed to adopt the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2014 as presented.

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Mr. Gavin in reply to queries raised confirmed that a traffic count was undertaken in Ballygar and that it was agreed to change the speed limit on the eastern approach and to provide advance signage. He confirmed that following same a further traffic count would be undertaken with a view to reverting to the NRA to reconsider further amendments to the speed limits if deemed necessary.

Mr. Gavin confirmed that the revised speed limits would be implemented from Thursday, 8th May 2014. In relation to the default speed limit of 80km/hr on local roads, Mr. Gavin confirmed that guidance was awaited in relation to same in the context of the implementation to the revised signage proposals as recently announced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

LOCAL ELECTIONS – ISSUE OF POLLING CARDS

1720

Report dated the 18th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Feeney and agreed to authorise the issuing of Polling Cards to all L electors on the Register.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES.

1721

Report was circulated to each Member

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government Bill 2013 – 17th – 18th January – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Authorities & Waste Management – 24th – 25th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Michael Connolly, Jarlath McDonagh

ACCC Annual Conference – Councillors & change ... new challenges for Irish local government – 6th – 7th March – Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan – Fee: €130

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Mary Hoade, Peter Feeney, Bridie Willers

Superior Training – Media Skills for Councillors – 11th – 12th March – Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal – Fee: €120

Cllr.'s Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

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Ace Training – European Governance & Local Authorities – 14th – 16th March – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Seán Canney, Thomas Welby

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, attendance at the Conferences as circulated, was authorized by the Council.

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED 1722

Reports were already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed to note the summary of proceedings at Conferences, as circulated.

Ace Training – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013 – 10th – 12th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government Bill 2013 – 17th – 18th January – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

Celtic Conferences – Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication – 17th – 19th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Authorities & Waste Management – 24th – 25th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Celtic Conferences – Doing more with less – Managing Time & Productivity – 24th – 26th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Monaghan County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2014 – 31st January – 1st February – Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

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Celtic Conferences – Changes in Construction Tendering for Local Authorities – 31st January – 2nd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods – 7th – 9th February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Superior Training – Seanad Reform & the Councillor – 20th – 22nd February – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Clare Tourist Council – 25th Annual Tourism Conference – ‘Folklore – Heritage – Tourism’ – 21st – 22nd February – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Cllr. Mary Hoade

ACCC Annual Conference – Councillors & change ... new challenges for Irish local government – 6th – 7th March – Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME 2014 – PROPOSED LIST OF

APPROVALS

1723

Report dated 19th March 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed to approve the allocation of financial assistance under the Community Support Scheme 2014 in accordance with the recommendations as detailed.

Cllr. Feeney expressed disappointment that funding was not being provided in 2014 to facilitate and support the maintenance of green space in Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry and was joined in same by Cllr. T. Walsh.

Mr. Kelly in reply to queries raised confirmed that the proposals in relation to sport would be presented at the April Meeting. He stated that the emphasis in 2014, as detailed at the information sessions, was to support additional work and improvements.

He confirmed that the basis for the shorter timeframes in 2014 was at the request of the Members and was intended to allow for the timely redistribution of funding not drawn down with the relevant period. He stated that projects that did not benefit from the current

funding, as referenced by the Members, could be considered further in the event that funding became available for redistribution later in the year.

TO FIX DATE/TIME AND VENUE FOR APRIL MEETING OF COUNCIL

1724

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded Cllr. Hoade and agreed that the April Monthly Meeting be held on Monday, 28th April 2014 in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore commencing at 11.00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 1725

Mr. Kelly referred to previous reports and consideration of the Local Community Development Committee by the Corporate Policy Group and the Council and referenced the membership of the Galway County LCDC as circulated at the meeting.

Mr. Kelly addressed a range of queries raised by the Members in relation to the sectors represented, the process for the selection of the two elected representatives, the number of representatives from the local and community development sector, the status of Elected Members serving on the committee as representatives of the community sector, the remit of the committee and the mechanism for input by the Elected Members.

The County Manager in reply to contributions from Cllrs. Broderick, M. Connolly & D. Connolly relating to the HSE confirmed that the selection of nominees for the state agencies, local and community development and social, economic and community interests was a matter for the relevant nominating body and was not an issue for the local authority. She referenced the need to have nominees at an appropriate level in order allow for relevant decision makers to influence the plan and to support implementation of the plan within their relevant organisations and sector.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Maher to appoint the nominees, as detailed in the report as circulated at the meeting, to the Local Community Development Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly for the report to be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration.

Following further discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly to allow their amendment, proposing the report be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration, to be withdrawn.

The motion as proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Maher to appoint the nominees, as detailed in the report as circulated at the meeting, to the Local Community Development Committee was agreed.

A request from Cllr. Broderick to note his disappointment was also agreed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014 / PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – UPDATE 1726

Report dated the 24th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

The Manager referred to previous discussions regarding the reform of Local Government and updated the Members on developments with reference to three specific areas:-

- 1 Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices (LEO)
- 2 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- 3 Re-organisation of Local Government Structures at Sub-County level.

The Manager detailed the items requiring consideration including items for consideration at the first meetings of the Municipal Districts to include agreeing location, time and frequency of ordinary meetings and agreeing standing orders and advised of suggestions relating to same arising from discussions with the Corporate Policy Group.

The Manager further advised of a review of the Council's standing orders together with the preparation of draft standing orders for the Municipal Districts and invited the members to submit any suggestions relating to same to Mr. Michael Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the need to reflect the status of Ballinasloe as the county town in the proposed structures and that meetings of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe should be held in the Civic Offices in Ballinasloe.

The Manager in reply to Cllr. Roche, confirmed that the revised electoral areas would be reflected in revised boundaries for the operational areas of the Council and that Monivea would transfer from the remit of the Ballinasloe office to the Tuam office.

Cllr. Cuniffe suggested that it would be necessary for the Municipal Districts to meet on a monthly basis in order to retain momentum.

The County Manager undertook to revert to Cllr. Feeney in relation to the role, if any, for the Elected Members on the Approvals and Evaluations Committee of the Local Enterprise Office.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1727

The Manager informed the meeting that her term as Galway County Manager was due to end in July 2014 and that following 37 years service in local government it was not her intention to seek to extend same or serve a further term.

The Mayor on his own behalf and on behalf of the Members, acknowledged the Manager's tremendous record of public service and of her dedication and commitment to the county. He indicated that the Members will have an opportunity at a later date to appropriately acknowledge the contribution of the Manager.

The following items of correspondence which were circulated at the meeting were noted:

- Correspondence received on 25th February 2014 from Edenderry Town Council with a copy of Motion from Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell calling on the Government to

overturn the decision to impose a Student Service Charge on apprentices while undergoing the education module of their apprenticeship training in Institutes of Technologies.

- Correspondence dated 3rd March 2014 from Clones Town Council adopting a Motion, calling on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to abolish the extra charge people are forced to pay, as a result of taxing their car for a three-month period as opposed to a twelve-month period.
- Correspondence dated 7th February 2014 from Limerick County Council adopting the resolution calling on the Government to immediately take steps to legislate against all types of top-ups and bonuses where tax payers' money is involved.
- Correspondence dated 13th March 2014 from North Tipperary County Council passing a motion calling on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation to introduce legislation on low cost selling as soon as possible to protect small retailers.
- Correspondence dated 18th March 2014 from Limerick City & County Council adopting the resolution to call on the Government to introduce the necessary legislation that will ensure the retention of the post office network throughout Ireland.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding a motion adopted in relation to a review being carried out on the Moycullen Bogs NHA.
- Correspondence dated 10th February from The Office of Public Works acknowledging Galway County Councils letter to Minister of State, Brian Hayes TD regarding storm damage to small holdings along the shoreline.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Galway County Councils letter in connection with funding for storm damage to small holdings along coast lines.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding storm damage to small holdings along the shoreline.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding a motion adopted in relation to the cost issues concerning dead animal collection and rendering.
- Correspondence dated 12th March from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding Fallen Animal Collection.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1728

In reply to a query raised by Cllr. Canney in relation to a date for signing the contract for the M18/17 Gort-Tuam Scheme, the Mayor stated it was his understanding that a provisional date of Wednesday, 26th March 2014 was being considered but that the date was subject to change.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the proposed bypass for Baile Chláir (Claregalway) expressing disappointment that the scheme was not progressing and that the full allocation of funding

previously allocated to the project were not drawn down to allow same to be advanced. He questioned the value obtained from the expenditure incurred to date and referenced the ongoing need for the scheme, suggesting that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport visit Baile Chláir to view the impact of traffic and congestion on the village. Cllr. Canney also referenced the ongoing need for the project and the value of the expenditure incurred to date.

The County Manager in reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty agreed that concessions on pay parking would be applied on Saturday 19th April 2014.

Mr. Kelly in reply to Cllr. Cuniffe and Cllr. M. Connolly confirmed that the position in relation to the status of the Garraun Estate, Tuam was being clarified from the planning perspective and in terms of the status of the roads.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gavin agreed to consider a review of the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan at the next meeting of the Oranmore Electoral Area Committee.

Mr. Kelly in reply to Cllr. Cuniffe confirmed that the issue of the exclusion of hub towns from availing of funding under the Rural Development Programme had been flagged with the Department.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuniffe, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed, “that in relation to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 which is currently being prepared that the potential applicants within the Town of Tuam are not precluded from applying for this funding by virtue of the fact that Tuam has been designated as a Hub Town under the National Spatial Strategy. The NSS has the fundamental weakness of lacking any legislative basis and is only a framework document that has been largely ignored by policy makers. The government has accepted that this strategy needs extensive revision which may take some considerable period of time.

The proposer is fully supportive of Strategic Spatial Planning to create the conditions for sustainable development and spatially targeted measures supported by appropriate and robust governance systems, but until these are in place and properly funded, I believe Tuam is being seriously disadvantaged in its exclusion from €15 Million of locally available funding that could provide invaluable to community, environmental and business endeavours.’

Cllr. Cuniffe in reply to a request from Cllr. T. Walsh to use his influence to resolve the issue leading to the closure of parking facilities in Tuam town centre, advised that he had no wish to see the closure of the car park but that the requirements of planning and statutory obligations must be met by all and that he had worked for over two years to bring about a satisfactory resolution of the matter. Cllr. Canney withdrew from the Chamber for the duration of the discussion on the matter.

Cllr Feeney was joined in acknowledging that Cllrs. T. Walsh, J. McDonagh and T. Mannion were attending their last council meeting to be held in Áras an Chontae due to their decision not to stand in the local elections. They were acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to their local communities.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1729

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss the South Galway Flood study report with the OPW and establish progress to date on its recommendations particularly those relating to the swallow holes at Blackrock in the Peterswell area, extending towards Kinvara.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1730

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will re-examine the issue of traffic movement and pedestrian safety at Bolands Lane in Gort. This issue can be examined as a single measure within the context of the existing Gort Traffic Management Plan.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1731

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have not yet received any funding from the NRA for the provision of warning signs at Ballygunneen, Kilchreest on the N66. However, Galway County Council will bring this location to the attention of the NRA and seek funding for safety works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1732

The following reply was given:-

“The recycling centre in Clifden is operated by Barna Waste, which will remain the case until September 2015. Barna Waste will be advised of the request for extension of opening hours.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1733

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have made a submission to the Department of the Environment seeking funding for the preparation of a Coastal Protection Plan. Initial indications are that funding will be made available for the preparation of this Coastal Protection Plan. Galway

County Council will commence the process of agreeing details with the Department and preparing tenders for the preparation of the Coastal Protection Plan.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1734

The following reply was given:-

“The Council has submitted an Asset Needs Brief in accordance with Irish Water Procedures in order to get a wastewater treatment solution for Roundstone included in any early funding programmes initiated by Irish Water. At the moment the Council is awaiting feedback from Irish Water in relation to the proposals to provide an Integrated Constructed Wetland for the treatment of Wastewater in Roundstone.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1735

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are allocated defined grants on an annual basis from the D.T.T.A.S. and the NRA to maintain our roads network. Galway County Council will continue to seek additional from the Department of Transport and the NRA to ensure roads are maintained and safe. Galway County Council have targeted maintenance issues in an effort to secure further funding from the NRA.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23– CLLR. J. CUDDY

1736

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will consider this request in the context of the requirements of the new Municipal Districts and how funding is allocated from the various Departments.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24– CLLR. J. CUDDY

1737

The following reply was given:-

“The design and development of the Báile Chláir relief road was ongoing up to 2013. To date the works undertaken on the road include a feasibility study, a constraints report, public consultation, a route selection report and a Natura Impact Statement. In addition tenders were sought for a ground investigation contract. Finalisation of Design, EIS and CPO is dependent on Department of Transport and NRA funding. To date €173,100 has been spent on this project.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25– CLLR. J. MCCLEARN

1738

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are organising the repair of this bridge.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1739

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have to date undertaken a number of non coastal flood protection measures in South Galway in co-operation with the OPW. These works have proved successful and of benefit during the recent flooding in South Galway. Other works to alleviate flooding in South Galway are being agreed with the OPW. In addition Galway County Council will continue to work with the OPW in identifying schemes which will assist as further flood alleviation measures.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1740

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1741

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have to date undertaken some traffic calming measures throughout the town of Loughrea. In addition, Galway County Council have applied to the Department of Transport for funding under the Active Travel Programme to undertake further calming measures in Loughrea. Galway County Council will examine the requirement for traffic calming measures on the Old Galway road in Loughrea and should funding be made available will consider what measures are required along the Old Galway road in Loughrea.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1742

The following reply was given:-

“This road has not been included within the 2014 road works program. It will be examined and repaired if required within the existing scarce local road maintenance funding. It can be considered when the roads 2015 roads program is being prepared.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1743

The following reply was given:-

“This road has not been included within the 2014 road works program. It will be examined and repaired if required within the existing scarce local road maintenance funding. It can be considered when the 2015 roads program is being prepared.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin
