

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY 22nd April, 2013.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. T. Welby, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, 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, S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McDonagh, J. Mc Clearn, T. McHugh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Cllrs. S. Walsh T. Walsh, & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, J. Cullen, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; L. Gavin, Senior Engineer; B. Barrett, A/Senior Executive Officer; S. Kennedy A/Senior Planner; M. Donohue, Senior Staff Officer; P. O'Neachtain Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1416

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that a Vote of Sympathy be extended to the Flynn Family, Lackagh on the death of Thomas Flynn, who he described as a friend of the Council, recalling his generous gesture in providing land for the development of the local graveyard free of charge and his commitment to his local community and parish. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly proposed that a Vote of Sympathy be extended to the family of the late Mattie Ganley, former Sinn Féin Councillor on Ballinasloe Town Council and teacher at St. Grellan's National School, Ballinasloe. This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó'Curraoin and agreed.

Comh. O'Cuaig proposed that a Vote of Sympathy be extended to the family of the late Daniel Conroy, this proposal was seconded by The Mayor and agreed.

Cllr. Seamus Walsh referred to the adjournment of the April Meeting and the Vote of Sympathy extended to Comh. O'Tuarisig and family on the death of his sister.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Jackie Tracey, Hymany Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Mike Mulkerrins, Teach Mór, Lettermullen, Co. Galway
- Maureen Uí Rainne, An Trá Bhain, Leitirmoir, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Michael Larkin, Tuairin, Bealadangan, Co. Galway
- Kevin Cunningham & Family, Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Bernie O'Donohue, Cappamore, Kinvara, Co. Galway
- John Lydon, Beach Road, Clifden, Co. Galway
- Bernie Moran, Cloon, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Dr. Peter Joyce & Family, Dunguaire, Kinvara, Co. Galway
- Margaret Ann Uí Chonaire, An Gleann Mór, Cill Chiaráin, Conamara, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Kevin Langan, Ruanmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Nancy Ó Neachtain, Coileach, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Patricia Tuohy, Killeen, Gort, Co. Galway
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kenny, Kellysgrove, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The County Manager also wished to be associated with Resolutions of Sympathy proposed by the Members, both on her own behalf and on behalf of management and staff, and especially the Vote of Sympathy to the family of former Cllr. Mattie Ganley.

Cllr. McClearn was joined by the Members in extending best wishes for a speedy recovery to Fergal Moore, Captain of the Galway Senior Hurling Team who sustained an injury at the National League Hurling Semi Final the previous day.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING

1417

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 25th March 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Maher seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Fahy referred to Page 2 regarding his proposal that an invitation be extended to Pope Francis to visit Galway and he asked that a copy of the invitation also be sent to the following people: Archbishop Michael Neary; Bishop Martin Brennan, Bishop John Kirby and The Most Reverend Charles John Browne, Apostolic Nuncio.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Cuddy referred to the item regarding the Joint Policing Committee Report on Page 33, and he said that the recent statement by the Minister for Justice that the Government has no proposal to recruit Gardaí at present despite recommendations from the Garda Superintendents, is very disappointing and worrying.

Cllr. Canney expressed concern that the Text Alert Scheme is being held up until the Garda Commissioner decides on the format of a National Text Alert system and he asked that it be noted that he wants this matter progressed as soon as possible.

Cllr. Canney also referred to the Community Alert Scheme and he said that he urges the powers that be to make a decision without delay regarding a uniform signage to be used so that communities can launch their Community Alert Schemes as soon as possible with approved signage.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed to convey to Minister Burton, Minister for Social Protection "That Galway County Council today proposes that the Free Travel Scheme, not under any circumstances, be means-tested as it is the only gift given to Senior Citizens in rural Ireland."

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1418

The Report of the Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 14th December, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 21st September, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 6th December, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

UPDATE ON HOUSING SERVICES INCLUDING GRANT SCHEMES AND IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION (REPORT DATED 22ND MARCH, 2013 ALREADY CIRCULATED) CHECK DATE * 1419

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion, it was agreed by the Members that this item be deferred to the May Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly and Cllr. Canney the Manager advised that the situation remained as outlined in the report of the 22nd March, 2013 which was circulated to the Members in terms of the immediate response of the Council regarding reduced funding being provided in respect of the Housing Grant Schemes and that it was not anticipated that any additional measures would be necessary prior to the May Meeting.

TO FIX DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE MAY ORDINARY MEETING 1420

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members agreed that the May Ordinary Meeting of the Council be held on Monday 27th May, 2013 at 2pm in Oughterard Golf Club, Oughterard.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, the Members agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council be held in Áras an Chontae on Friday 14th June, 2013 at 2pm.

TO NOTE THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2012 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 **1421**

Report entitled "Draft 1" Annual Report 2012 was circulated to each member.

Mr. Owens presented the Draft Annual Report 2012 to the Members and he invited the Members to examine the document and submit any comments or recommendations regarding the Draft Report to him in the coming weeks. He said that the final Draft of the Annual Report 2012 would be brought before the Members at the June Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The Members noted the Draft Annual Report 2012.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (SECTION 142) REGULATIONS 2010 **1422**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, the attendance of members at the Conferences as circulated was authorized as follows:

TJK Conferences – Freedom of Information Seminar for Councillors – 22nd – 24th March – Woodfield House Hotel, Limerick – Fee: €100

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Wexford County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 – 5th – 6th April – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Michael Maher, Mary Hoade, Eileen Mannion, Tom McHugh, Tomás Mannion, Peter Feeney, Peter Roche

Ace Training – Starting & Growing a Chamber of Commerce in your Community – 12th – 14th April – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe, Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Carlow Tourism – 11th National Conference – The Gathering – Diaspora Tourism Matters – 18th – 20th April – Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Tomás Mannion, Seamus Walsh

Superior Training – Local Government & the Consumer – 19th – 20th April – Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal – Fee: €120

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Esperanza Enterprises – Water Services Bill 2013 – 19th – 20th April – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Esperanza Enterprises – Strengthening the Building Control System – 26th – 27th April – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Celtic Conferences – Meeting Management – Principles & Best Practice – 26th – 28th April – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes, Michael Maher, Kevin Ryan

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 **1423**

On the proposal of Cllr McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, the summary of proceedings at conferences as circulated was noted as follows:

Esperanza Enterprises – Civil Liability Legislation & how it affects Local Authorities – 11th – 12th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Jarlath McDonagh

Ace Training – Budget Seminar 2013 – 11th – 13th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cuniffe

Clare Tourist Council – Clare Tourism Conference 'Tourism in Recessionary Times' – 18th – 19th January – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Mary Hoade

Esperanza Enterprises – The Criminal Consequences of breaching Local Authority Regulations – 18th – 19th January – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Kadenza Consultancies – Local Electoral Area Boundaries – 18th – 20th January 2013 – Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Kevin Ryan

Esperanza Enterprises – Policy & Legal issues relating to Developing Wind Energy – 25th – 26th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Mary Hoade

TJK Conferences – Disputes between Neighbours & the Law – 25th – 27th January – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Kevin Ryan

Celtic Conferences – Debt Solutions – The new Personal Insolvency Legislation – 25th – 27th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Shaun Cunniffe, Michael Fahy

Cumann Merriman – Winter School 2013 'Traditional Culture – from Firesides to Multimedia' – 1st – 3rd February – Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Esperanza Enterprises – Equal Status (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Ace Training – Tourism Seminar – Making the Difference – 8th – 10th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr.'s Shaun Cunniffe, Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Public Seminar on HSE Tobacco Control Policy – 22nd – 24th February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy, Tiarnan Walsh

Association of County & City Councils – Annual Conference 2013 – 7th – 8th March – Tower Hotel, Waterford

Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Jimmy McClearn, Tom McHugh

Superior Training – Public Policy Making & the Councillor – 8th – 9th March – Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes

Celtic Conferences – Drug & Alcohol Abuse Seminar – 22nd – 24th March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes

Ace Training – Tax Entitlements Seminar – 29th – 31st March – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr.'s Pat Hynes, Kevin Ryan

Wexford County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 – 5th – 6th April – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT WALKING & CYCLING STRATEGY REPORT

1424

Draft Report dated November, 2012 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin presented the Draft Walking & Cycling Strategy Report to the Members.

He gave a brief outline of the Draft Report as follows:

- He said the Draft Strategy study covers the entire County of Galway, excluding Galway City, and in particular focuses on the four key towns of Ballinasloe, Tuam, Oranmore and Clifden.
- The Strategy Report examines and deals with primary walking and cycling aspects of commuting, tourism and community exercise and activities.
- It gives a brief overview of the current cycling and walking facilities within Galway County as regards the cycling network, national roads, regional roads and towns.
- It outlines that walking and cycling have the potential to contribute to a number of key Government objectives, principally:
 - Health benefits
 - Transport benefits
 - Economic benefits
- The key focus of the Strategy Report is to analyse current modal splits within Galway County and to examine where and how that modal split can be altered to increase the use of sustainable modes of transport, i.e. walking, cycling and public transport.
- The vision of the Strategy is to embrace a new outlook and culture, where walking and cycling become part of the daily routing of commuting, shopping, exercising and living.
- Galway County Council's goals for walking and cycling are as follows:
 - To encourage modal shift for students and workers from cars to walking and cycling
 - To boost tourism within Galway County by creating walking and cycling attractions and facilities
 - To develop local walking and cycling facilities in order to encourage local sporting and physical exercise participation
 - To raise public awareness of the benefits of walking and cycling.

The Draft Strategy lists specific walking and cycling projects proposed around the County, for example the Conamara Greenway; Ballinasloe to Galway City Cycle Route; Tuam to Athenry cycle route; Oranmore to Galway City Greenway; linking up of walking trails such as the Western Way.

Mr. Gavin stated that the Draft Walking & Cycling Strategy had been put on public display in 2012 and submissions on the Strategy were invited from the public. A report on the submissions received from the public was circulated to the Members of the Roads &

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for consideration. The Draft Strategy was considered by the Roads & Transportation SPC and the Committee recommended the following amendments to the Draft Strategy Report:

- 1 Remove references to the rail line from Athenry to Tuam and northwards being used as a cycle track. This rail line is to be retained as a future rail connection from Athenry to Tuam and onwards towards Claremorris.
- 2 Re-word the proposal for a cycle route along the R446, Ballinasloe to Galway to take account of the route selection process the NRA are currently undertaking for a cycle route from Ballinasloe to Galway.
- 3 Update the census data statistics to take account of the 2011 census data.
- 4 Include proposals already developed for Loughrea and the lake surround
- 5 Include Hymany Way as a potential cycle route
- 6 Include for exploration of potential walking/cycling trails along the River Suck.

He said that these amendments to the Draft Strategy as proposed by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee were subject to the approval of the Members at the Meeting.

A discussion followed with many of the Members congratulating Mr. Gavin on producing an excellent Draft Strategy.

Cllr. Carroll welcomed the draft strategy and highlighted the potential of the Coast Road, Station Road and Old Dublin Road, Oranmore to facilitate cycling routes, whilst indicating that the Limerick Road and Main Street, Oranmore were not suitable in his view. He commented that the Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore was working well and welcomed the provision of the footpath on the Old Bog Road. He also referred to the need for the development of a footpath and cycleway from the village to serve Renville Park forming part of a coastal pathway.

In reply to Cllr. Cunniffe, Mr. Gavin said that it is proposed that the greenway for walking & cycling along a 3.5km stretch of the Western Rail Corridor which is included at Appendix C, be removed from the Strategy, as recommended by the Roads & Transportation SPC. Cllr. Cunniffe expressed his disapproval to the removal of this proposal stating that a greenway on the Western Rail Corridor would be provided as a temporary measure by means of a 10-year lease of the section of railway from Irish Rail. He said that the Lease Agreement with Irish Rail could explicitly state that should a railway be reintroduced it would take precedence over a greenway. He said that there would be huge benefits as regards attracting tourists to Tuam as a result.

Cllr. Feeney said that this matter was discussed at length by the Roads & Transportation SPC and it was recommended by the SPC that the proposal be removed from the Draft Strategy. He said that the Western Rail Corridor should not be put in jeopardy for the sake of a few

kilometers of greenway and he said that there are other areas in North Galway which could be used for the provision of a greenway. He also said that the Members must have regard of the County Development Plan which includes a provision regarding the development of the Western Rail Corridor. He said that in the discussion on this matter the Tuam line was being described by some as old and disused, which is not true. He stated that there was no need to break the link, which had been there since the 1860's and that the Tuam section served as a strategic link between Sligo, Galway and Limerick and that the Council should be advocating for its survival.

In reply to comments from Cllr. E. Mannion referring to the need to connect the cycleway on the N59 at Derrylea to Clifden, Mr. Gavin confirmed that same was currently under consideration in the context of the first stage of the Conamara Greenway.

Cllr. Canney said that he would not wish to undermine those people who have long campaigned for the Western Rail Corridor and while he respects the desire that a greenway be put in place in Tuam, he could not agree to any proposal that might have a negative effect on any proposals regarding the Western Rail Corridor. He stated that he fully respected the desire for a greenway and was confident that through discussion and dialogue the matter could be resolved and that a suitable route for a greenway in Tuam could be identified.

Cllr. McHugh said that Tuam is lucky in that it has well-established walking routes and he said that it would be advisable that existing walking routes be enhanced.

In reply to Cllr. E. Mannion who said that some of the roads in Conamara are too narrow for cyclists and walkers to use in safety, Mr. Gavin said that it is proposed that walking & cycling routes would be accommodated away from public roads as much as possible.

Cllr. Hynes referred to Loughrea Lake Trail and said that the final phase of this project was not been completed due to lack of funding. However, he said that a funding application has been made by the Council to Galway Rural Development and he said that Fáilte Ireland should also be approached with a view to receiving funding to complete this very attractive walkway.

Cllr. Fahy supported the proposal from Cllr. Hynes to include reference to the completion of the Loughrea Lake Trail. He referred to the Galway Limerick train and said that it appears to be almost empty leaving Athenry. However, Cllr. Feeney said that this train is usually full up leaving Galway as a lot of commuters travel from Galway to Athenry on the train. It is usually full again leaving Ennis for Limerick and therefore Iarnród Éireann has said that they are very happy with the numbers using this service, which is in the region of 200,000 per annum.

Mr. Gavin replied that the Draft Report before the Members for approval today is a framework for walking & cycling routes for the county from which works can be put forward

to the Department for funding into the future and is not meant to be specific to any area. He said that more detailed plans for the areas will be brought forward later once the framework documents is approved by the Members. However, he noted Cllr. Hynes' comments.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy who said that the Council should carry out improvement works to existing footpaths rather than planning for greenways, Mr. Gavin said that some of the routes mentioned will incorporate footpaths.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Gavin said that options regarding walking and cycling routes near the River Suck will be considered and he also said that options for pony trails could be considered into the future.

Mr. Gavin agreed with Cllr. M. Connolly that investment will be the key into the future if the Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy is to be implemented across the county.

In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, Mr. Gavin said that the Strategy Report was brought before the SPC, however specific proposals as a result of the Strategy will be brought before the Area Committees going forward.

Cllr. McClearn proposed that the Draft Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy Report be approved, with the amendments outlined by Mr. Gavin, and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Carroll

Cllr. Cunniffe proposed an amendment that the Draft Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy Report be approved, with the amendments outlined by Mr. Gavin but excluding the proposed removal from the Draft Strategy of the greenway for walking & cycling along a 3.5km stretch of the Western Rail Corridor, included at Appendix C of the Draft Strategy.

The Mayor asked if there was any seconder for Cllr. Cunniffe's proposed amendment and none of the Members seconded the proposed amendment.

The Mayor said that on the basis that there was no seconder for Cllr. Cunniffe's proposed amendment, his proposed amendment could not be considered.

The Mayor then asked if all of the Members agreed to approve the Draft Strategy, as proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Carroll, as Cllr. Cunniffe indicated that he was not agreeable to the proposal, the Mayor called for a vote and the following was the result of the vote:

For: Cllrs. Canney, Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Ó Curraoin, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, Hoade, Hynes, Comh. O'Laoi, Cllrs. Maher, T. Mannion, McClearn, McDonagh, McHugh, Noone, Ryan, T. Walsh, Welby, Willers **[22]**

Against: Cllr. Cuniffe, [1]

Abstained: Nil [0]

As a result of the vote, the Mayor declared the Draft Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy dated November 2012 approved, with the amendments outlined by Mr. Gavin, as follows:

- 1 Remove references to the rail line from Athenry to Tuam and northwards being used as a cycle track. This rail line is to be retained as a future rail connection from Athenry to Tuam and onwards towards Claremorris
- 2 Reword the proposal for a cycle route along the R446, Ballinasloe to Galway to take account of the route selection process the NRA are currently undertaking for a cycle route from Ballinasloe to Galway.
- 3 Update the census data statistics to take account of the 2011 census data.
- 4 Include proposals already developed for Loughrea and the Loughrea Lake Trail.
- 5 Include Hymany Way as a potential cycle route
- 6 Include for exploration of potential of walking/cycling trails along the river Suck.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE.

1425

Mr. Barrett addressed the Members to make the Presentation on the establishment of the Local Enterprise Office. However, prior to making the Presentation, he circulated a document from the County and City Managers' Association entitled "*Supporting Enterprise, Local Development and Economic Growth Analysis of Local Authority Activities for 2012*".

He referred to the Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2012 and he said that one of the objectives of the Action Plan for Jobs is to develop a new Sectoral Strategy to promote employment and support local enterprise by local government, to include measures in the area of business charges, local enterprise and business support arrangements, procurement support, local development and community based initiatives, the Green Economy and Local Government participation in employment participation schemes.

These measures will complement and assist in the delivery at a local level, of other actions set out in this Action Plan.

He outlined the role of Local Authorities in the Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2012 as follows:

Summary of Activities being delivered by Local Authorities to support enterprise and Local business include:

- Support for festivals and events
- Provision of Economic infrastructure

- Provision of Recreational and Amenity infrastructure
- Economic Promotion
- Financial incentives
- Creating an Entrepreneurial environment
- Enterprise Infrastructure
- Supporting networks
- Labour Activation measures
- Developing Recreation and amenity facilities
- Service enhancements/integration
- Supportive policies
- Research and Innovation
- Provision of advice and support to entrepreneurs
- Developing employment initiatives within the community

He outlined the recommendations of County and City Managers' Association Report entitled *"Supporting Enterprise, Local Development and Economic Growth Analysis of Local Authority Activities for 2012"* as follows:

- ▶ Each Director of Community & Enterprise to review actions and brief Elected Members on work of the Council in Economic and Enterprise Development
- ▶ Each Local Authority to review national database and identify good practice that can be replicated locally
- ▶ Each Local Authority to draft a 2013 Local Action Plan for Jobs

He outlined the current Actions by Galway County Council as follows:

- Supporting enterprise agencies and business networking events;
 - MeetWest 2011 & 2012
 - Business Road Show for 2012 SME week with Galway County and City Enterprise Board
 - Business Road Show with Chambers of Commerce in Galway 2010
 - Galway Renewable Energy Enterprise Network Briefings
 - Annual Community Supports and Enterprise Roadshow held in Springtime to promote the supports available from all enterprise agencies.
 - Seminar for business on Managing Energy Consumption
 - Advisory services for business on cost effective waste management
- Provision of enterprise infrastructure such as serviced sites, incubation centre's and planning support;
 - Financial Support for Community Managed Enterprise Centres in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Clonberne

- County Development Plan that supports balanced enterprise Development
- One to one preplanning meeting service
- Establishment of training networks in Galway
- Establishing new arts /concert venues, sporting facilities and tourism products
 - Support for Arts Venue on Aran Islands
 - Support for Community Managed Arts and Sports facilities.
 - Development of Walking routes Western Way, Hymany way, Historical Towns Trails in Tuam, Loughrea and Clifden
 - Development of Cycling routes Galway-Clifden greenway
 - Maintaining and servicing Blue Flag beaches
- Driving a host of local festivals and events that support employment
 - Over 60 festivals and events supported through grant aid from Galway County Council in County Galway last year
 - Developed a poster of events taking place in County Galway in 2012
 - Support Gathering 2013
 - Free On-line calendar of events on www.galway.ie
 - Audio driving and walking tours for east Galway, downloadable
 - Training for Festivals and Events
- Local Government support is also critical to the success of initiatives ranging from Foreign Direct Investment and micro-enterprises, to rural broadband or major investment in service infrastructure, alternative energy and the green economy, for example:
 - Developed metropolitan area networks of Fibre Broadband in Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden, Gort, Loughrea. In the process of developing a similar network in Tuam.
 - Lobbying national government for resources to develop rural broadband services in County Galway
 - Completion of M6
 - Development of M18/17
 - Development of Galway City Outer Bypass
 - Significant ongoing Capital Investment Programme in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure - approximately €50m in 2011 and €20m in 2012
- Marketing, promotion and branding of counties/cities, or particular enterprises or tourist products within the local area. This combined with the significant level of capital investment in arts, tourism, sports, recreation and

community infrastructure, has a very positive impact on employment supports and economic recovery.

- Made in Galway Initiative – an online portal to highlight and development the food and craft sectors in County Galway www.madeingalway.ie
- ScreenWest Initiative. – an initiative that Galway County Council is a partner in that aims to increase film production based in Galway and promote the region as a quality location for film production.
- Living Landscape – First International conference held in Clifden in 2012 to explore how we maximize the potential of our landscape and environment. This will be an annual event that will be repeated in 2013.

He outlined the next steps in the Government's Sectoral Strategy as follows:

- ▶ Set up Local Enterprise Office
- ▶ Local Action Plan for Jobs
- ▶ Socio Economic Strategy for the County
- ▶ Continued development of vital economic infrastructure
- ▶ Increased focus on developing Tourism Product
- ▶ Support for Gathering 2013
- ▶ Support increased local collaboration
- ▶ Supporting clusters in the region - renewable energy, food
- ▶ Development of creative sectors, food, craft, film (Made in Galway)
- ▶ Support for local enterprise to engage in procurement
- ▶ Labour Activation programmes
- ▶ Energy Efficiency

Cllr. D. Connolly thanked Mr. Barrett for his presentation stating that strengthening of local enterprise is the key to keeping our young people in Ireland. He asked if the establishment of the Local Enterprise Office is a stepping stone as regards the *Putting People First* Document produced by the Government in 2012.

Cllr. G. Finnerty welcomed the presentation and referred to public procurement stating that local contractors and businesses were finding it difficult to secure local authority contracts at present due to government policy to centralize public procurement.

Mr. Barrett replied that public procurement is becoming more nationally controlled in order to ensure value for money in public service contracts. However, he said that the Community & Department and the Local Enterprise Office will continue to help and advise businesses and contractors in the changing procedures for applying for local authority contracts.

Comh. Ó Curraoin referred to FÁS Schemes and said that the rule that people can only remain on the scheme for a period of three years is counterproductive in relation to young people who need more security in order to remain in Ireland. He said that if the scheme was more long-term it would be more beneficial.

Mr. Barrett replied that FÁS Schemes are a national issue and the local authority has no power in relation to the criteria used in this regard.

Cllr. Feeney said that he was expecting to get more information regarding the shaping of the Local Enterprise Office, where will it be located, funding, will there be a separate office in both the City and County.

In reply to comments from the Elected Members that a central location for the LEO in County Hall was essential, the County Manager advised that there will be one LEO for both the County and City and in the short- term, this will continue to be located at Woodquay as the present office is under a lease and it also has the space required to hold meetings with people, provide training etc. However, the Local Enterprise Office will have a presence in County Hall and in the long term, the Local Enterprise Office will become part of the core activities of Galway County Council, delivered if possible from County Hall. She said that the overall outcome will be a better stronger capacity for the Council to facilitate and strengthen local enterprise.

She said that discussion were ongoing at national level in relation to the full detail but that the County Enterprise Board as it currently exists will be abolished and the existing County Enterprise service will be carried out by the Local Authority.

Cllr. Noone said that he looks forward to the new system and said that he feels it is a good idea to have the Local Enterprise area under the function of the Executive of the Council.

Cllr. Canney said that the biggest problem new and existing businesses have is trying to secure business loans from banks.

Comh. Ó Laoi said that an emphasis should be placed on mentoring and this should be part of the business package when drawing up business plans.

The Manager said that a constant theme in relation to business and enterprise is the question of securing co-funding from banks. However, she said that the Local Enterprise Office will carry on from the County Enterprise Board in working with new and existing business in the nurturing of new ideas and the development of good business plans.

TUAM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

1426

Copy of Document entitled Traffic Management Plan 2013 Tuam was already circulated to each member.

Mr. Gavin presented the Tuam Traffic Management Plan 2013 to the Members stating that the scope of the traffic management plan is primarily a focus on on-street parking provisions, restrictions on the direction of vehicle travel (one-way) and the allocation of space to taxi ranks, loading bays and disabled drivers to ensure smooth traffic movements and a fair distribution of parking facilities.

The Plan was presented to the Tuam Area Committee and Tuam Town Councillors in early 2012 and was put to public consultation in June 2012, consisting of an open evening held in Tuam, newspaper advertisement and a public invitation for submissions over a six week period. A report on the formal submissions was presented to both the Tuam Area Committee and Tuam Town Council with both bodies approving the new 2013 Traffic Management Plan for Tuam.

Cllr. Canney said that a lot of discussions had taken place regarding the Plan and he said that he hopes that the measures included in the Plan will improve traffic flow in Tuam.

He then referred to the M17/M18 Gort to Tuam Motorway and Tuam By-pass contract which is due to be signed at the end of 2013 and he asked that the Council speak with the NRA in order to ensure that the Tuam By-pass is completed first as this would alleviate a lot of traffic problems in Tuam.

Cllr. Fahy said that he had submitted a Notice of Motion for today's Meeting requesting that the NRA be asked that when the contract commences, work will commence where the previous contract finished at Gort.

The Mayor stated that it should be possible that when the contract commences, works could commence on the Tuam By-Pass and in Gort as requested by Cllr. Canney and Cllr. Fahy, simultaneously.

The Members noted the Tuam Traffic Management Plan 2013

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE CONAMARA GREENWAY PROJECT **1427**

Document entitled Connemara Greenway Project Clifden to Oughterard was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin made a presentation to the Members regarding the Conamara Greenway Project stating that the Greenway will extend from Oughterard to Clifden and will cover a length of 52km, 46km of which will be located on the old rail line.

He said that the Project is community lead by groups in Clifden, Recess and Oughterard, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Forum Conamara, the National Parks & Wildlife, Coillte, National Roads Design Office and Galway County Council.

A Steering Group was set up and the Conamara Greenway Project was devised and submitted to an Bord Pleanála, together with the required Environmental Impact

Statement, for approval. An Oral Hearing was conducted in March and An Bord Pleanála granted approval to the Project on 11th March, 2013.

Mr. Gavin said that the Council is committed to ensuring that the Project is brought to fruition, as it has the following advantages:

- Community lead Project with great local support
- Potential to connect to a wider network – part of the National Cycle Network
- Environmentally sensitive
- Great amenity value
- Sensitive to heritage of the area
- No adverse impact on the Irish language
- Safe as off road
- Great tourism potential
- Cycling & walking activities very beneficial to health
- Rail track in exceptionally good repair
- Alignment suitable
- Route structurally sound
- Stunningly beautiful landscape

Mr. Gavin said that the Council will work with communities and landowners in order to secure agreement regarding the use of necessary land. He said that the Greenway will commence on the Old Road out of Clifden which doesn't require much improvement and leads to the railway track. Embankment works will be carried out such as clearing off, leveling, fencing off, drainage if necessary. The bridges included in the project have been assessed and are very sound structurally.

The estimated cost of the project is €9.2m. He said that it is intended that construction will commence on the Greenway very soon from Clifden to Derrylea and it is anticipated that most of the works will be completed in 2014 and finished by 2015.

Cllr. Maher welcomed the proposed Greenway but he said that he is aware that two landowners have major objections to the use of their lands for the project.

Cllr. E. Mannion said that the project is very much a community effort and while some landowners are not in agreement, it is hoped their fears will be allayed so that this very worthwhile and economically advantageous project will get off the ground as soon as possible. She suggested that a display of the project be placed in Clifden Tourist Office during the summer in order to enlighten visitors regarding the project.

Cllr. T. Mannion also welcomed the project and he said that it will not only benefit cyclists and walkers but it will also lead to less cyclists and walkers on the roads which will benefit motorists travelling to Clifden.

Comh. Ó Curraoin asked what will happen if agreement for the use of the land is not given by all of the landowners and Mr. Gavin replied that it is hoped that, following further discussions and consultation, agreement will be found.

Comh. Ó Laoi said that it is imperative that dialogue is kept up as engagement with locals is vital in bringing this project to fruition.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Gavin, Mr. Lydon and staff for the huge amount of work put into the planning of the project and the preparation of the Report. He said that there was constant dialogue with landowners in this regard and he hopes that agreement with all landowners for the use of the necessary land will be forthcoming.

He commended the County Manager who he said has shown huge commitment to the project and put a lot of funding towards its planning. He said that this project has the potential to bring tourists to Conamara, not just for a day, but for longer stays and vacations and will generate wealth for the area and has the potential to rejuvenate the region. He said that the longterm view is that this should culminate in a regional project into the future, extending from Galway City to Achill Island.

Mr. Gavin said that it important to note that extensive consultation has been carried out with almost all of the landowners and the Council intends to complete this consultation with a view to satisfactory and mutual agreement as regards the use of the necessary land.

In reply to Cllr. Feeney, the Manager said that this is a community initiative and the Council wants to get agreement for the use of the land and will try to find solutions to the concerns of a minority of landowners in this regard.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

1428

Mr. Gilmore updated the Members regarding the current situation in relation to the Galway City Outer Bypass Status, as follows:

- The Galway City Outer Bypass Scheme was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 11th December, 2006. An Oral Hearing was held which commenced in November 2007 and was completed in January 2008.
- The scheme commenced at the end of the M6 motorway near Garraun and ran to the R336 near Na Forbacha at Baile Nua.
- An Bord Pleanála notified the Council of its decision to approve the scheme from Garraun at the end of the M6 Motorway to Gortatleva on the N59 (Galway to Clifden) subject to revisions at its junction with the N84 at Ballindoooley and its junction at Garraun where it joined the M6. The section of the route from Gortatleva on the N59 to the R336 at Baile Nua was refused planning permission principally because of the route's impact on "Bog Cotton" south of Tonabrocky.

- The grant of permission was appealed by Sweetman and Ireland to the High Court in January 2009 and subsequently to the Irish Supreme Court. The Supreme Court referred three questions relevant to the process used by An Bord Pleanála to grant the decision, to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on 3rd June 2010. The case was heard in Luxembourg in September 2012 and a preliminary opinion issued from the ECJ in November 2012. The preliminary opinion was negative in outlook as far as the development of the scheme was concerned.
- The final judgement of the ECJ was delivered on Thursday 11 April 2013 and confirmed the negative outlook.
- He stressed that at this point it is worth noting that the negative outlook refers not to the GCOB route but to the process used by An Bord Pleanála in approving the scheme.
- The ECJ judgement will now come back to the Irish Supreme Court for their advice and a final judgement in the case.

Mr. Gilmore said that the City and County Councils are fully supportive of the scheme and look forward to an early outcome from the Supreme Court so that the scheme can be developed. It is a vital part of the transport infrastructure for both City and County and particularly so for Conamara.

Galway County Council is in discussions with the National Roads Authority with a view to preparing a fresh application to develop the project

Cllr. Feeney made the following proposal “that Galway County Council re-affirms its determination to construct the Galway City Outer Bypass and to progress its application under the IROPI process”.

This proposal was seconded by The Mayor and agreed.

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

- Letter from Department of the Environment Community & Local Government dated 19th April, 2013 in relation to Council’s recent letter in connection with Domestic Allowances for water.
- Correspondence from South Tipperary County Council dated the 16th April, 2013 regarding the resolution adopted to call on Minister Joan Burton to reverse the cuts to heating and free fuel schemes implemented since she became Minister for Social Protection, and, regarding the resolution adopted to call on the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D. to reverse the cuts to Disabled Persons Grants and Housing for Older People Grants and re-instate the 2012 grant allocation.
- Correspondence from Offaly County Council dated the 26th March 2013 in relation to the resolution adopted calling for the government to immediately reinstate the payment of the minor works grant to all primary schools.

- Correspondence from Waterford City Council dated the 27th March, 2013 regarding the resolution adopted calling on the Minister of Education Ruairi Quinn to recognise the very special place the Waterford College of Further Education plays in deliverance and facilitating access to full scale 3rd level education and to reverse the education cuts that directly affect the Waterford College of Further Education, who will lose 4 – 6 teachers under his proposal and as many as 120 students. This at a time when the City of Waterford is experiencing severe job losses and education is identified as a pathway to securing jobs.
- Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs dated the 25th March, 2013 acknowledging receipt of correspondence regarding a resolution passed by Galway County Council in relation to Humanitarian Aid for flood victims and saying that the matter is receiving attention.
- Correspondence from the Office of the Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, dated the 25th March, 2013 regarding Galway County Council's motion calling for the release of Marian Price and Gerry McGeough, and copy of correspondence in relation to Parliamentary Questions on the matter.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1429

Mr. Cullen in reply to Cllr. D. Connolly briefed the Members on the current position in relation to the establishment of Irish Water and transition process for both the capital programme and the operation of the water and waste water services currently provided by local authorities. He stated that it was envisaged that the responsibility for the capital programme would transfer to Irish Water with same managed by Councils staff on secondment to Irish Water, he further stated that it was anticipated the operation of the water and waste water services would continue to be undertaken by local authorities on the basis of a service level agreement with Irish Water until at least 2017 and possibly beyond. He confirmed that the details of same remained under discussion and were yet to be finalized for consideration and agreement.

Mr. Cullen informed the Members that preliminary survey works would begin the following week as part of the process of introducing water meters for domestic water commencing in the Bearna area. He said that all of the personnel carrying out the survey works are Council employees and will carry official identification, however it is not anticipated that they will go onto private property.

Cllr. Ryan said that he has become alarmed by a number of cancer clusters in the North Galway area and has been approached by several people voicing concerns that asbestos piping might be a factor. He said he wanted the Council to note that he would oppose the introduction of charges for domestic water unless he could be assured that the water for which householders would be charged is not contaminated with asbestos dust and is fit for human consumption.

Mr. Cullen in reply to comments from the Members, in relation an appeal being lodged with the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the Prohibition Order in Kinvara and the provision of signage associated with same at the Pier, confirmed that if a valid appeal had been lodged with the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the Prohibition Order then it would be necessary to await the outcome of same and undertook to review the provision of signage and if erected by the Council to arrange for the removal of same.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1430

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting proceed beyond 6.00 pm.

Comh. Ó'Curraoin welcomed the recent allocation of funding for piers in Conamara and Mr. Gilmore, in reply to a query regarding the matching funding required to drawdown the grant funding, confirmed that the necessary matching funding in the sum of €150,000 was available and that it was intended to avail of the grant funding and undertake the work in 2013.

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to the planning process for the proposed development of a biogas plant in Tuam. He said that proposal is attracting strong opposition from residents and businesses in the area who are concerned about possible smells from the plant, the type of material that could be used to feed the digester as well as public health and safety issues. He questioned what informed the decision making process in relation to such developments.

Cllr. M. Connolly advised that he had been contacted in his capacity as Chair of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee to facilitate a deputation in meeting with the Tuam Electoral Area Committee and Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Services with responsibility for Planning. He advised that Mr. Kelly confirmed that he was unable to meet with such a deputation to discuss a live planning application.

The County Manager confirmed that it was not appropriate to discuss a live planning application in the Council Chamber. She confirmed that as with all planning applications they are considered in the context of National Policy, Regional Planning Guidelines, the County Development Plan and where appropriate the relevant Local Area Plan.

Mr. Gilmore in reply to a query from Cllr. Cuddy in relation to the timeframe for traffic calming proposals for Baile Chláir (Claregalway) undertook to review the matter and revert directly.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1431

The following reply was given:-

“As issues are raised relating to Claregalway they are dealt with if resources allow. The sensors at the lights in Claregalway have been fixed and road markings have been replaced where they were removed. Should other issues arise they can be considered and dealt with depending on the issue and availability of resources.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1432

The following reply was given:-

“The traffic calming works outside the school in Claregalway will be completed when the water services works are done. It is expected the traffic calming works will be done in conjunction with the traffic calming works that are proposed as part of the new school in the Corporate Park in Claregalway. These works are likely to be done before the end of September 2013.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 15 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1433

The following reply was given:-

“The Department is keenly aware of the urgency of proceeding with the building of the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Claregalway and approval to the tender documents is expected in the near future.

Houses at Lakeview, the Community Center and the Corporate Park were included in previous documents but are not approved by the DoECLG under this phase of the Scheme. The Council met with a deputation from this area recently who agreed to make a submission to Galway County Council for consideration which has been received and will be assessed and forwarded to the DoECLG for approval.

A submission has been made to the DoECLG, dated 21st February 2013, seeking approval for the extension of the sewer on the N17 Galway Road, Claregalway to Cregboy Junction to serve a number of properties in this area. We await a response.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 16 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1434

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will inform the National Roads Authority of Cllr. Fahy’s request to commence the Gort to Tuam project from Gort at the location where the Crusheen-Gort bypass ended.”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1435

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are currently reviewing speed limits and are currently in consultation with the NRA and the Gardaí. When this process is completed we will bring forward recommendations to Council by early summer.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1436

The following reply was given:-

“A contract has been drafted to carry out the repairs and will be advertised in the next few weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1437

The following reply was given:-

“The tender documents have been submitted to the DoECLG and the Council is currently awaiting approval.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1438

The following reply was given:-

NOM Question	Reply
No. of Houses owned by Galway Co Co	2036
No. of Vacant houses	188 vacant properties (which includes 47 which are described as major refurbishment/Derelict)
No. of Houses subject to property tax	1998
Houses connected to Septic tanks	723

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.