

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE ORANMORE LODGE HOTEL, ORAMORE, CO GALWAY ON MONDAY 28th APRIL, 2014 COMMENCING @ 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, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Mr. K. Kelly, Director of Services; L. Gavin, M. Raftery, M. Dolly A/Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer; C. McConnell, Senior Planner; P. McQualter, County Archivist; M. Donohoe, Senior Staff Officer, P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1744

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Kevin McDonagh, brother of Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, who passed away recently. The Mayor was joined by the Members in expressing their sympathy to Cllr. McDonagh and to the late Kevin McDonagh's wife and family on their sad loss.

The Mayor was also joined by the Members in extending sympathy to the wife and family of Mr. Cathal O'Malley who died tragically in a horse riding accident recently and also in extending sympathy to both Chris and Ann Monaghan, employees of Galway County Council, and to the Monaghan Family on the recent sad loss of their brother Michael.

The County Manager on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council, extended sympathy to Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh and the McDonagh family on the death of Kevin McDonagh and to the Monaghan Family on the death of Michael Monaghan.

Cllr. McDonagh thanked the Members and the Manager for their expressions of sympathy on the death of his brother and he also thanked them for their support during this sad time.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mrs Maura Fallon & Family, Costcutter, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
- Mr & Mrs Michael John Fordham, Tyrone, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
- Ger & Ollie O'Connor, Liss, Headford, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Bernie Silke & Family, Lisheeneare, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Anne Monaghan, Loughill, Moylough, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Maura Collins, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

The Meeting adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect for the deceased and then resumed.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor welcomed the Members, County Manager and staff to the Oranmore Lodge and stated that it was an honour for him to host and chair the Meeting in Oranmore

The Mayor launched the On-line Archives Exhibition on the Irish Volunteers Galway City Corps.

Ms. Patria McWalter, Archivist addressed the Members and made a presentation regarding the On-Line Archives Exhibition. She said that the exhibition was compiled as an action under the *County of Galway Decade of Commemorations Strategy 2013 – 2023* and it is fortunate that the Archives include two small but important items from the City Corps, one being a very simple copybook used for recording minutes of the proceedings of the Galway City Corps for a very short period, spanning the 4th May to the 20th September 1914.

The second is a file of correspondence, again covering a very short period, 25th July to 5th October 1914, which includes handwritten and typed letters primarily between the Corps and the Dublin Headquarters Provisional Committee.

Both items together provide documentary evidence of the organisation, work and attitude of the Corps, and in particular, following the split, of the attitude of various individuals. She said it is hoped that this On-line Exhibition will firstly promote and highlight the existence of these two important collections, and at the same time commemorate the Volunteers.

It is also hoped the exhibition will encourage further research, be it by private individuals who are just curious to have a glimpse at pieces of Galway history, or by historians and academics with a particular interest in the Volunteers and this era, or indeed school and university students working on projects and essays covering the period of the Decade of Commemorations.

The Mayor thanked Ms. McWalter for her presentation and informed the Members that the Launch of *For The Record* - A Guide to the Collections held by Galway County Council regarding Rural District Councils, would take place on Thursday 1st May, 2014 in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1745

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

Matters arising from the Minutes

In reply to a query from Comh. Ó Laoi regarding the Pearse's Cottage Project, the Manager said that preliminary work has been carried out to identify ownership of the necessary land and the Council will progress with land acquisition by suitable means as soon as possible.

Also in reply to a query from Comh. Ó Laoi, the Manager said that the preferred location for a Fire Station for Conamara has been identified as being An Cheathrú Rua.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy, the Manager said that there is no indication as to when the embargo on staff recruitment will be lifted.

Cllr. Broderick referred to the Item on Page 12 regarding the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and he said that he wished to have noted that in his view the Health Services Executive (HSE) is decimating the East Galway Mental Health Service and a further example of this is the recent closing down on health & safety grounds of the Stepping Stones facility by the HSE which was staffed by former patients of St. Bridget's Hospital in Ballinasloe.

Cllr. D. Connolly said he concurred with Cllr. Broderick and he said that the needs of people with mental health issues in east Galway should be met locally.

Cllr. D. Connolly also referred to the Item on Page 13 regarding the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and he said that he would encourage the officials when deciding what services to retain in the Regional Offices following the abolition of the Town Councils to maximize the services that can be kept close to the people in the different areas. He said that it is important that the positions held by Staff in the Ballinasloe Office be preserved as much as possible as the Staff are well capable of delivering a good service to the Ballinasloe area. He asked that the officials engage with the Unions and the Elected Members in this regard going forward.

Mr. Kelly replied that officials are meeting with Unions regarding the future roles of Staff in the Ballinasloe Office and he said that the setting up of the Municipal Districts will be discussed by the Members of the full Council.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy who asked if the number of Elected Members nominated to the LCDC could be increased and to Cllr. Welby who asked if Comhairle na nOileán could be included, Mr. Kelly said that the setting up of the LCDC is on the basis of Draft Guidelines from the Government. He said that it is expected that final Guidelines and Regulations will be published by the Government in June this year and any amendments to the structure of the LCDC can be made at that stage based on the final Guidelines and Regulations.

Cllr. Broderick asked if at any stage in the future it is envisaged that the Council will be in a position to decide on the State Agencies which are represented on the LCDC. Cllr. McClearn replied that as Chairperson of the new LCDC, he felt that he should confirm that there will be consultation with many groups across the county as regards the LCDC and he said that as already pointed out by Mr. Kelly, once the final Guidelines are brought forward in June by the Government, there will be a better opportunity to discuss the overall makeup of the LCDC.

Cllr. Broderick acknowledged this but he said it would be important that Galway County Council be the driver of the LCDC and he said it will be very important that the concerns of the new Municipal Districts be taken on board.

Mr. Kelly said that as Cllr. McClearn, Chairman of the LCDC pointed out, there will be a very extensive consultation process with the groups regarding development of the Local Economic & Community Plan and the approach will be to have a very robust series of engagements to ensure that the Plan will influence the priorities of the organization.

In reply to Cllr. Welby who asked if the full Council will decide on the makeup of the LCDC's, Mr. Kelly said that consultation regarding the LCDC's membership will be with the Corporate Policy Group whereas the approval to the LCDC's will be a matter for the full Council. He said that the Local Economic & Community Plan will be brought before the Municipal Districts and then to full Council.

Cllr. McClearn said the role of the LCDC will be to draw up the 6-Year Local Economic & Community Plan and oversee its implementation. In reply to Cllr. Welby he said that there is no proposal to terminate Local Development Companies and it is not the role of the LCDC to do so.

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to the reference in the Minutes to the closure of parking facilities in Tuam and stated that the basis for his position on same was to ensure safe access and a concern for public safety.

Cllr. Canney referred to his previous declaration of a potential beneficial interest and withdrew from the Meeting for the duration of the discussion on the matter.

Cllr. T. Walsh indicated that his reference to the impact of the closure of the car parks was based on his personal experience of visiting Tuam on a wet evening and the level of inconvenience being experienced and the negative impact on business in the town centre.

Cllr. McHugh referenced his contribution at a previous meeting relating to the level of investment in Tuam in recent years and the negative impact the closure of the car park was having on business in the town and highlighted the need to resolve the matter.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Dolly said that Irish Water is reviewing the Council's proposals for Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme which includes a proposed extension to Kilrickle, with a view to progressing the scheme. He said the Council has not received any indication from Irish Water as to whether they will approve the proposal.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Dolly said that approval was received from Irish Water to the Report on Tenders received for the Claregalway/Milltown Sewerage Scheme. He said that Irish Water is making contact with the successful Tenderer with a view to signing the Contract. He said there will be a 4-6 month lead-in period for detailed design works and then works will commence with a 12-month contract period.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Dolly said that Oughterard Sewerage Scheme is with An Bord Pleanála at present and once the Council gets approval from An Bord Pleanála, the project will be advanced.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy to a query regarding the reconfiguration works to the Council Chamber to accommodate the nine extra County Councillors following the Local Elections, Mr. Owens said that Planning Permission has been granted by the City Council to the proposal and next step in the process was for the Council's Consulting Engineers to advance final design proposals.

The Mayor in reply to Cllr. Canney advised that it was his understanding that the contract for the M17/18 Gort to Tuam would be signed in the near future.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1746

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 25th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 21st January, 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. McClearn.

The Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural SPC Meeting held on 10th March, 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Laoi, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd October, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 13th November, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Canney.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. Cunniffe confirmed that the works being undertaken on the Tuam Inner Relief Road would recommence in the next future.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 18th February, 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 18th February, 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 13th February, 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. Maher confirmed that consideration would be given to submitting proposals under the Low Cost Accident Scheme for the Kiltullagh link to the M6 and St. Clearns.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. Feeney confirmed that the applications submitted under the Active Travel Towns Scheme were not successful on this occasion.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – EXTENSION TO BARR A DOIRE BURIAL GROUND, AN CHEATHRÚ RUA, CO. NA GAILLIMHE **1747**

Report was circulated to Each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, the proposed extension to Barr a Doire Burial Ground, An Cheathrú Rua, as set out in the Report, was approved.

Cllr. Ryan said that he had made a proposal at a recent Monthly Meeting that post and rail fencing would no longer be used as fencing around graveyards and that block or stone walls be provided and he asked if this is now a requirement under planning conditions.

Mr. Kelly replied that Condition 9 of the Planning Report regarding the Extension to Barr a Doire Burial Ground stipulates that natural stone will be used for the walls at the graveyard.

Mr. Dolly in reply to queries raised confirmed that the extension would facilitate the provision 1,650 burial spaces in the graveyard over 4 phases, with phase 1 providing 200 burial spaces and 75 parking spaces.

The Mayor then proposed that Item 12 be taken next and this was agreed by the Members.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM COMHAIRLE NA NÓG **1748**

The Mayor said that he has worked extensively with Comhairle na nÓg and he has great admiration for their hard work and enthusiasm in the area of youth affairs. He said that he invited representatives from Comhairle na nÓg from around the County of Galway to make

a presentation to the Members on their aspirations for the County of Galway and what they would like their Elected Representatives to do for the youth of the County. He introduced Ms. Serena Hare from the Mercy Secondary School, Tuam. Ms. Hare said that Comhairle na nÓg is made up of Child and Youth Councils which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies and are located in 34 local authority areas in the Country. She said that the fact that Comhairle na nÓg represents young people under the age of 18 and who therefore have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard, the Comhairle is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area. Because of the size of County Galway, work is done at local levels, based around the local electoral areas of Ballinasloe, Oranmore, Loughrea, Conamara and Tuam.

Ms. Ruth Harney from the Ballinasloe Comhairle, Ms. Jessica Reid from the Tuam Comhairle, Mr. Michael Cooney from the Oranmore Comhairle and Ms. Niamh Casey from the Loughrea Comhairle addressed the Members in turn and outlined the issues concerning the youth in their areas.

The Mayor thanked all the speakers, stating that their energy and enthusiasm is very welcome. He thanked Ms. Deirdre Bermingham of Youth Work Ireland who was also present at the Meeting and Ms. Ann Mallaghan of Galway County Council for their work with Comhairle na nÓg.

The Members thanked the Representatives of Comhairle na nÓg for their very enlightening presentations and they made the following points:

- It is great to see young people showing leadership and taking the initiative to ensure that their voices are heard by the Elected Members
- It is obvious from the presentations made by the representatives that there is a lack of facilities for young people throughout the County and the Members said that they will strive, through the new Municipal District Councils, to find solutions in this regard. For instance, schools are closed for the summer months and perhaps their multi-purpose rooms could be made available to youth groups.
- The potential to avail of other existing venues for youth activities was also suggested with a proposal to engage with appropriate stakeholders.
- The point made by the representatives regarding the need for concessions for young people on public transport is noted and will be brought forward for discussion with the relevant authorities.
- The Members invited representatives from Comhairle na nÓg to accompany them on their election campaign for the forthcoming local elections.

TO CONSIDER MANAGER'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 19 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) ON THE PROPOSED DEFERRAL OF NOTICES UNDER SECTION 20 (3) (A) (I) AND (II) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) IN RESPECT OF THE CLIFDEN LOCAL AREA PLAN, FOR A PERIOD OF NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS (I.E. UP TO 28TH APRIL 2019)

1749

Report dated April 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. O'Laoi, the Members agreed to defer Notices under Section 20 (3) (a) (i) and (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of the Clifden Local Area Plan, for a period of not exceeding 5 years (i.e. up to 28th April 2019)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013

1750

Report dated 22nd April, 2014 was already circulated to Each Member.

Mr. Mullarkey addressed the Members and gave an overview of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for the year ended 31st December, 2013.

In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the payment of water charges will be a matter for the tenants of Council houses and not the Council.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, the Manager said that some of the Council's assets as regards water services have been transferred to Irish Water and the remaining will be transferred on a transitional basis. She also confirmed that the Council's liabilities, i.e. borrowing in respect of water services, will also be transferred to Irish Water in the coming months. She said that the Council will not be compensated by Irish Water in relation to the transfer of assets because a large portion of the costs associated with the provision of the service came from government funding in the first instance.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Members agreed to adopt the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members agreed to approve the transfers to/from reserves as detailed in Note 15 of the Accounts.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Members agreed to approve the over/under expenditure by division as noted in Note 17 of the Accounts.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT 2013 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001.

1751

Mr. Owens presented the Annual Report 2013 to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members agreed to adopt the Annual Report 2013.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME (SPORTS) 2014 – PROPOSED LIST OF APPROVALS

1752

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. Welby, the Members agreed to approve the Galway County Council Community Support Scheme (Sports) 2014.

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 2014**1753**

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Welby it was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held on 6th June, 2014 at 2p.m at a location to be decided by the Executive.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES**1754**

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

University of Ulster – Promoting Renewable Energy in Local Communities – 12th March – Manor House Country Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh – Fee: €0

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Ace Training – Meeting Principles Management Principles – 21st – 23rd March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Michael Maher

Ace Training – Retirement Entitlements & Taxation Benefits – 28th – 30th March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Tomás Mannion, Kevin Ryan

BG Seminarz – Environmental & cost effective solutions to waste water management – 11th – 13th April – Viking Ramada Hotel, Waterford – Fee: €140

Cllr.'s Peter Feeney, Tiarnan Walsh

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED**1755**

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

Celtic Conferences – Employment Law – Mediation v Litigation – 10th – 12th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Celtic Conferences – Microsoft Word Training Workshop for Councillors – 15th – 17th January – Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Cllr. Michael Connolly

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

Cllr.'s Michael Connolly

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

Cllr.'s Bridie Willers, Tiarnan Walsh

Ace Training – Sport & Community Planning – 7th – 9th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Kevin Ryan

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

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 21st – 23rd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Managing Diversity in the Community – 28th February – 2nd March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

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

Cllr. Bridie Willers

Ace Training – Charities, Regulation & Legislation – 7th – 9th March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

**BG Seminarz – Pylons & Wind Farms, What’s the Law? – 7th – 9th March – Clanree Hotel,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

Cllr. Seán Canney

**Superior Training – Media Skills for Councillors – 11th – 12th March – Great Northern Hotel,
Bundoran, Co. Donegal**

Cllr.’s Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

**University of Ulster – Promoting Renewable Energy in Local Communities – 12th March – Manor
House Country Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh**

Cllr. Thomas Welby

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

Cllr.’s Seán Canney, Thomas Welby

**Ace Training – Retirement Entitlements & Taxation Benefits – 28th – 30th March – Celtic Ross Hotel,
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**

Cllr. Kevin Ryan

**SCÉIM TEANGA ÚDARÁIS ÁITIÚLA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE 2014 – 2017 FOAI ALT 11
D’ACHT NA DTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA 2003** **1756**

Report dated 24 Aibreán 2014 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, the Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe 2014 – 2017 was approved by the Members.

Cllr. D. Connolly made the following proposal “That Galway County Council requests the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to allow Galway County Council ensure that when recruiting staff, that Irish Language competency would be a required element for general posts and specific posts pertaining to service delivery through Irish”. This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, and agreed.

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND
SCHEMES** **1757**

Report dated 14th April, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin informed the Members that as part of the Government response to the submissions made by Galway County Council in regard to the recent storm and flood damage to the infrastructure of the County, an allocation of €2,773,500 has been made by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to fund repairs to roads following the severe weather from 13th December, 2013 to 6th January, 2014. He said this allocation is most welcome by the Council and represents the road repair funding package sought by the Council.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the submission made by the Council to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and asked that the Council focus on areas which were listed in the submission in the Ballinasloe area where roads were unearthed and houses flooded. He said that from a health and safety point of view, Council resources should be prioritized in these areas.

In reply to concerns expressed by Cllr. Willers, that South Galway will be facing the same flooding again next winter if remedial action is not taken as a priority, Mr. Gavin advised that it was intended to submit an application for the Dunkellin Scheme by May 2014. He confirmed that works would also be advanced on the Drainage Districts under the remit of Galway County Council within the limits of funding provided in Budget 2014.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gavin said that the Clare River Scheme is an OPW Scheme. He said that the OPW is awaiting approval of funding from the Department of Finance in this regard. He said that approval may have been given, however the Council has not been informed at this point.

Cllr. Maher expressed concern in relation to the impact of flooding on farmland in Bullaun with over 80 acres still flooded, he welcomed the work on the road network but highlighted the need to address flooding of farmland. He referenced the commitment made by Minister Brian Hayes during a recent visit to the County that funding was available to the Council.

Cllr. D. Connolly referenced Island House, New Inn as a location that required consideration and Mr. Gavin undertook to determine whether the location was within the remit of the OPW scheme.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1758

The Manager informed the Members that the acquisition of the Galway Airport site and facility by Galway County and City Councils is nearing completion. The Council will engage a Consultant to investigate possibilities for the best use of the site into the future and to prepare a Scoping Report in this regard. In the interim, Galway County Council will enter into an agreement with a third party to make the facility available for flights. She said the Scoping Report will be brought before the Council when completed.

The Manager advised that the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is now in place. She said that the official launch of LEO nationally takes place tomorrow. She welcomed the Staff of the County Enterprise Board on joining Galway County Council under a Service Level Agreement drawn up with Enterprise Ireland and she said that she looks forward to building on the

successes of the City and County Enterprise Boards and welcomes the proactive approach to creating jobs locally.

She informed the Members that Galway County Council has commenced engagement with the Gateway Scheme. She said the Council has recruited 15 – 16 participants in the Scheme and they will undergo a training scheme with the Council. She said that the Council has set a target of 80 participants on this Scheme eventually.

Mr. Dolly circulated a letter received from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government dated 10th April, 2014 detailing the Block Grant Allocation for Galway County Council under the Rural Water Programme for 2014, together with General Conditions Relating to 2014 Group Water & Sewerage Scheme Allocations. He said that a total block grant allocation of €4,151,000 has been allocated for the various measures under the Rural Water Programme for 2014.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Dolly said that the Council is satisfied that water meters to be installed by Irish Water will be of an adequate depth so as not to cause problems during heavy frost.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Dolly stated that if a cost effective proposal for a group water/sewerage scheme was received this proposal will be considered by the Council and submitted for approval.

In reply to Cllr. Willers, Mr. Dolly said that Contract Documents have been prepared for Kinvara Sewerage Scheme and the documents will be submitted to Irish Water for approval within the week. He said that the Council will enter into a CPO for the acquisition of the site for the treatment plant to address issues with the title in order not to delay the commencement works when approved.

Comh. Ó Laoi welcomed the block grant allocations and he asked for an update regarding Sceim Uisce Loch hibirte, Leitirmeallain, Group Scheme. Mr. Dolly said that a proposal is being drawn up for this scheme at present.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Dolly said that €500,000 will be allocated to the takeover of group water schemes, including Persse Park Group Water Scheme. He said that Eyrecourt Sewerage Scheme is part of the public capital schemes under Irish Water.

Mr. Dolly circulated the new contact details for Irish Water to the Members.

Mr. Raftery informed the Members that the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has notified the Council of an allocation of €443,000 to be spent on remedial works to vacant houses, and allocation of €120,000 towards single rural houses and €300,000 to be spent on energy efficiency in Council houses.

In reply to Cllr. Feeney, Mr. Raftery said that this allocation is welcome but it will not cater for all of the Council's housing stock and agreed to revert to Cllr. Feeney with details of the current number of voids in the social housing stock.

Mr. Raftery in reply to Cllr. Maher confirmed that the operation of the Fire Service including staffing levels would be guided by the policy framework provided by Keeping Communities Safe and that policies arising from Keeping Communities Safe would be brought before Council in due course.

The Manager said that as this is the last Meeting of the current Council, she would like to reflect on the achievements of the Council over the last five years as follows:

- She said that today is a significant day in the life of Galway County Council, representing as it does the final meeting in the term of the current council which was elected in 2009.
- It has undoubtedly been a challenging period for Local Government, particularly in the context of the difficult economic climate in which the Country found itself. This difficult climate impacted on the capacity of Galway County Council to meet the challenges facing the County. However, the elected Council, executive and staff worked hard to deliver on the commitments contained in the Councils Corporate Plan which was agreed following the 2009 Local Election.
- Efficiency and cost reduction were achieved in many areas through energy efficiency measures, procurement savings, changes in work processes, staff reduction of almost 1/3, reduction in overtime and increased working hours. This was achieved with the co-operation of staff and helped to minimise the disruption to customers. She said she is extremely grateful for the support commitment, flexibility and diligence of staff during this difficult period.
- It is important at this time to reflect on some of the key achievements of this Councils term of office. 2009 saw the opening of the modern Tuam Regional Offices and Library, which will meet the needs of the Community of Tuam for many years to come. Library facilities in Roundstone and An Spideal were also upgraded. The County Library Service won the Chambers Ireland Excellence Award for Best Library Service in 2010 and 2011.
- The Council improved customer service through improved use of Social Media.
- More than €2m was allocated to communities throughout the County to support their work in improving recreation facilities under the Recreation and Amenity Framework. This assisted the completion of all weather pitches, walking routes and town trails, playgrounds and parks, including Rinvilla Park in Oranmore and the facility at Loughrea.
- The introduction of the Mayor's Awards was an important step in acknowledging the very valuable work of communities and volunteers throughout the County.
- A key priority identified in the Corporate Plan was the upgrade of water services infrastructure. Progress was achieved in Dunmore, Kilkerrin, Leenane, Roundstone, Loughrea, Headford and Bearna.
- €30m was spent on upgrading infrastructure in Tuam. Significant progress was made in water conservation. Clifden Sewerage Scheme is under construction with a number of schemes at an advanced stage, e.g. Kinvara, Oughterard, Athenry, Glenamaddy and Ballinasloe. The Remedial Action List saw expenditure of €14m to upgrade and future proof the Council's water supply schemes to meet quality standards. Great strides were made in addressing the needs identified in the Rural Water Programme, with expenditure of more than €14m. The outstanding progress

that was made could not have been achieved without the dedication of staff and the support of the elected Members in providing the finance necessary to meet the Councils commitments and approval to the borrowing of almost €50m.

- While the volume and complexity of planning applications reduced hugely during the last five years, the Forward Planning Section was very busy with the adoption of the new Core Strategy outlining the growth expectations for the County into the future, together with many Local Area Plans and the Wind Energy Strategy and the recent Draft County Development Plan 2014-2020.
- The Council's Community and Enterprise Unit provided extensive supports to business and to community groups throughout the County, together with the Heritage Officer and environmental staff, with medal winners in the National Tidy Towns competition and many winners in the all Ireland Pride of Place competition including Clifden. And of course Inis Oirr which won two international LivCom awards as a most liveable community.
- The MeetWest initiative is a wonderful business support and the introduction of the new Local Enterprise Office will build on its success and that of the County Enterprise Board to support local enterprise throughout the County.
- The Roads and Transportation area is the other key area of operation where the tangible benefits of investment are clearly visible, especially the M6 which opened less than 5 years ago. This has been a major boost to the County's connectivity. Many other projects are also important, e.g. the Gort to Ennis Motorway, the investment in the N59 at Derrylea, the Athenry Northern Relief Road, the N63 at Abbeyknockmoy and the N17 Castletown and Carrowanurlaur to name but a few.
- The role out of initiatives under the Smarter Travel Towns has benefitted areas including Loughrea and Tuam. Gort has seen welcome improvements to water services and the quality of the streets. Oranmore now has a new railway station which hopefully will prove very beneficial to the future growth of the area.
- The Islands also benefitted from considerable investment, particularly in piers and harbours which will help to ensure the future viability of these wonderful communities.
- The period of this Council saw some of the worse severe weather events in memory, from the 2009 flooding to the severe frost and snow of 2010/2011, to the storms of 2013/2014. The Council staff worked diligently, in collaboration with other agencies such as the Office of Public Works to address the needs of the people. Galway was the major beneficiary of funding from the OPW and the benefits of this investment were evident in the recent winter. More remains to be done, particularly at Dunkellin and associated works, to support the people of South Galway.
- The new route selection process for the Galway City Outer Bypass is underway and public consultation will advance for this critical piece of infrastructure in June 2014.
- Further investment in water services in the County is essential, with the support of Irish Water. The Council has many shovel-ready plans to avail of an upturn in the economy, including the Conamara Greenway Project, the first phase of which is to commence shortly. The Lough Derg Strategy will hopefully provide a framework for future tourism investment in Portumna into the future. The delivery of the Teach an Phiarsigh Project at Rosmuc will provide an important addition to the Wild Atlantic Way and the tourism infrastructure of South Conamara. The South Conamara Fire

Station, the R336 and the completion of the M17-M18 will represent important infrastructural projects to meet the needs of the County into the future.

- The Manager said it is important to acknowledge the work of partner organisations in assisting the development of the County over the last five years, including the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, the National Roads Authority, the Department of Transport, Failte Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Roinn na Gaeltachta, An Garda Síochána and the Office of Public Works who all assisted the Council in its work.

The Manager then thanked the Members who served as Mayor of the County of Galway during the term of this Council; Cllrs. Tom McHugh, Jimmy Mc Clearn, Michael 'Mogie' Maher, Tom Welby and the current Mayor, Cllr. Liam Carroll. She also expressed her appreciation to the Members who served on the Corporate Policy Group during the five years and all the Elected Members for their support, advice and input which allowed the Executive to progress the agreed agenda over the term of the Council. The Council played a vital role in ensuring policies and resources were appropriate to meet the needs of the County and were not found wanting when difficult decisions had to be made. The current Councillors have given a combined total of 346 years of public service on Galway County Council she said and she thanked them sincerely for their service to the public.

The Manager said she would like to pay tribute to the three Members who were not going forward for re-election in the Local Elections in May 2014, namely Cllr. J. McDonagh, Cllr. T. Walsh and Cllr. T. Mannion.

She said that Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, who was first elected to Galway County Council in 1985, had made a major contribution to both the County and his own community as regards housing, public lighting, group water supply schemes, roadworks and various other matters. She noted his varied career, from his well-known association with the Vocational Education Committee, to his period as a Senator. He was also a member of the West Regional Authority and served on numerous committees and bodies where he contributed generously with his time and energy towards the betterment of public life.

The Manager said Cllr. Tiernan Walsh had also served for 29 years on the Council and his campaigning on behalf of his constituents, ranging from championing the farming community to ensuring rural areas had adequate services, would be his legacy. A former Chairman of the Council, he had also served on the West Regional Authority and represented the Council on many other Committees with distinction during his time as County Councillor. He introduced the pooling of Notice of Motion monies by the Members to go towards larger projects.

She then paid tribute to Cllr. Tomas Mannion who was retiring after 15 years on the Council and as leader of the Fianna Fáil Group. She noted his practical, can-do approach to resolving issues and his commitment to those he served. He had served as Chairman of the County Development Board and was actively involved in the landfill issue over many years,

She said that the three Members played a very important role in the leadership and shaping of the County during their years on the Council. They were never afraid to make difficult

decisions when needed and their knowledge, insight, courage and wisdom will be a loss to Galway County Council and on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council she wished them good health and happiness in the next phase of their lives.

These sentiments were echoed by the Mayor and Members who took it in turn to wish the three Members every success in the future and to thank them for their guidance, co-operation and friendship during the years they had served together on the Council.

Cllr. McDonagh thanked the Manager and all of the Members for their kind words and good wishes and he said a special thanks to the staff of the Council for their co-operation and support over the years. He also said he would like to remember former colleagues on the Council who had passed away such as Cllrs. John Mannion, Toddy Byrne, Michael Lynch, Joe Lambert, Joe Burke, Joe Brennan, Michéal Ó Moráin, Peter Raftery, Michael Ryan, Pat Finnegan and also former County Manager Dónal Ó Donoghue.

Cllr. T. Walsh also thanked the Members and the Manager for their tributes which he found very humbling. He expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Council on their dealings with him over the years. He wished the Manager well in her retirement in July and he wished the remaining Members good luck in the forthcoming local elections. Finally, he thanked the members of the media for highlighting to the public the many issues raised at Council Meetings over the years.

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

- Correspondence received on 25th February 2014 from the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources acknowledging Galway County Council's correspondence in relation to the Post Office Service.
- Correspondence received on the 28th March 2014 from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging Galway County Council's letter in connection with water allowances.
- Correspondence received on the 31st March 2014 from The Office of Public Works acknowledging Galway County Councils resolution to investigate the possibility of doing a flood relief measure from Cahermore, Turlough to Dunguaire.
- Correspondence received on the 31st March 2014 from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht acknowledging Galway County Councils resolution regarding the interpretation of the relevant European Directives in line with other EU States which would allow the repeated flooding the South Galway to be relieved in order that daily life and business can continue in the affected area.
- Correspondence received on the 31st March 2014 from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht acknowledging Galway County Council resolution in relation to the Record of Protected Structures.
- Correspondence received on the 28th March 2014 from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Galway County Councils recent correspondence in connection with Rural Development Programme funding.
- Correspondence received on the 23rd April 2014 from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources acknowledging receipt of Galway

County Councils correspondence in relation to Post Offices and setting out the Ministers position in relation to same.

- Correspondence received on the 24th April 2014 from the Department of Transport and Sport, in relation to Galway County Councils resolution regarding Community Involvement and Local Improvement Schemes.
- Correspondence received on the 11th April 2014 from Drogheda Borough Council supporting and congratulating the Former Local Authority Members Éire (FLAME) group which held its first press conference aimed at highlighting the group's bid to successfully obtain a Judicial Review of aspects of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1759

Cllr. Broderick said that the launch of a nationwide initiative to promote local pubs is taking place at the Earl Inn, Raftord, on Wednesday 7th May 2014 and he extended an invitation to the Members to attend. He said that pubs provide local employment and should be supported locally.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gavin said that progress is being made regarding proposed flood alleviation works at Renville, Oranmore, however he said that the Council needs co-operation locally in this regard.

Comh. Ó Curraoin complimented the Mayor on his term as Mayor and Cllr. Hoade endorsed his sentiments.

The Mayor concluded the Meeting by thanking the County Manager, Ms. Martina Moloney for the support she showed him during his term as Mayor of the County. He expressed his appreciation to the County Secretary, Mr. Michael Owens for his guidance and assistance during the year and he thanked the staff of the Council for the courtesy and kindness they had shown him and especially for the work they carry out on a daily basis in the service of the public.

He wished all the Members seeking re-election success in the forthcoming local election.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1760

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council continue to work with the NRA on the overlay and resurfacing of National Secondary roads including the N66. Under the National Roads Programme grants are provided for pavement and minor improvement works. Galway County Council will be putting forward the N66 for pavement overlay work and resurfacing. However, the allocation of funding for these works is a matter for the NRA.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1761

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have just completed a review of speed limits throughout the County. Any further proposed change to Speed Limits as proposed for the R583 can be considered as part of a future review.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1762

The following reply was given:-

“At this point in time there is no facility in place to acquire funding for re-alignment of Regional Roads. However, Galway County Council will liaise with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to establish if funding for the realignment of Regional Roads will be considered.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1763

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1764

The following reply was given:-

“Currently the centre of Gort has paid parking which has been set at a very reasonable rate of €1 per hour. In addition, there currently is free parking along sections of Church Street. Galway County Council provided free parking in Gort on the Square, Church Street & Bridge Street on Easter Saturday 19th April. Galway County Council are flexible in allowing free parking in towns throughout the County on Saturdays during the run in to Christmas. However, three hours daily free parking in Gort is not advisable as it would not facilitate an appropriate turnover in parking spaces to support business and economic activity in the town centre.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1765

The following reply was given:-

“There are over 200 schools in County Galway and Galway County Council do not have the resources to provide traffic calming at this school. Resources are not provided by any Department for Galway County Council to address the issue of traffic calming at schools. In the event that the school or other body wish to come forward with funding, Galway County Council will consider these options further.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1766

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have sought funding from the Department of Transport to carry out improvement works to roads in South Galway after the recent flood events. Some roads are proposed for improvement and resurfacing and a list of these roads will be advised to all Councillors. Where funding is made available works will be completed. However, the extent of local funding for local roads is limited.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22– CLLR. M. FINNERTY

1767

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will honour the funding approved by Ballinasloe Town Council post dissolution of Ballinasloe Town Council.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23– COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1768

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go mbeidh dromchla nua á chur ar an mbóthar ó Chasla go dtí an Cheathrú Rua mar pháirt den chonradh seirbhísí uisce agus déanfar é de réir mar atá oibreacha píopaí uisce á ndéanamh. Beidh an bóthar seó déanta ag deireadh Mí Bealtaine.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24– COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1769

The following reply was given:-

“Níl an caighdeán uisce sa gceantar seo leormhaith chun gradam Bratach Form nó Cósta Glas a bhaint amach. Níor léirigh suirbhéanna a déanadh san am atá caite aon fhoinsé sonrach éillithe a léiríonn go bhfuil go leor foinsí de thruailliú ag leibhéal íseal i gceist anseo. Tá áiseanna le díluchtú suntasach laistigh don cheantar faoi cheadúnas ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus déantar iniúchadh bhliantúil orthu.

Tá an dara céim don Phlean Iniúchadh Náisiúnta do dhabhaigh séarachais le tosú i mí Iúil 2014 agus d'fhéadfadh creatlach oibre a leagan amach chun déileáil le dhabhaigh séarachais sa gceantar. Tá imní léirithe ag grúpa pobail áitiúil maidir le leathadh sciodair ar thalamh feirme gar don trá i rith an séasúir snámha. Cuireadh eolas ar fáil don ghrúpa agus thóg siad orthu féin é teagmháil a dhéanamh le feirmeoirí áitiúla go díreach maidir leis an ábhar seo."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25– COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1770

The following reply was given:-

"Faoi na rialacháin déanta faoi Alt 165 den Acht Toghcháin 1992, beidh an ceann comhairimh áitiúil to thoghcháin Phairlimint na hEorpa (Marian Chambers-Higgins, Uasal) freagrach as an vótaíocht a thógáil ag stáisiúin vótaíochta agus do thionól vótaíocht speisialta. Dá bhrí sin, is ábhar don Uas. Chambers-Higgins aon cheisteanna a bhaineann le vótáil ar na hOileáin."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNÍÚ ANSIN.