

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at Loughrea Regional Office 9th December 2019 @ 2.30 p.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. P. Hynes
Baill:	Cllr's I. Canning, J Byrne, S. Curley, M. Kinane, G. Donohue, PJ Murphy, G. Finnerty, M Maher.
Oifigigh:	Mr G. Haugh, S.E.E. Loughrea MD; Mr E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr F McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer; Mr B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer; Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer; Ms M. Doddy, Conservation Officer; Ms C. Hannon, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Mr J. Cullen, D.O.S. and Cllr McClearn who were unable to attend.

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held on 11th November 2019. LMD 19046

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on the 11th November 2019 were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Finnerty and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Kinane that funding was available for remedial work on the footpath at Maree and works will commence in the New Year. Mr Haugh also agreed to meet with Cllr Byrne on site at Kinvarra regarding the proposed car park. Cllr Maher requested a reply to his query regarding Mountpleasant Graveyard and the possible use of the unmarked graves. Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Canning that he would have a reply regarding the lifeboat in Portumna.

**Proposed Additions and Proposed Deletions to the Record of Protected Structures
in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021**

LMD 19047

Ms. Doddy advised members that there was a proposal to add five structures and to remove two structures from the Record of Protected Structures in the County Development Plan. She explained that three of these proposals were within the Loughrea Municipal District so therefore she was before members today to advise of same and answer any questions they may have on the matter. She highlighted that the proposal for the Loughrea Municipal District was to add three structures to the record of Protected Structures, namely Prospect House in Gort, an agricultural shed in Killimor and a thatched house in Kinvara. She explained that there was a strict timeline which needs to be met for this process. She advised that a notice had been published in relation to these proposals, the owners advised of same and the statutory timeline for submissions to be made had now passed. She highlighted that there were 3 submissions received and a letter was sent to the Minister recently advising of same.

Cllr. Finnerty advised that he was proposing that RPS No. 3535 Prospect House not be added as a protected structure. Cllr. Byrne seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Kinnane advised that she was proposing that RPS No. 3027 not be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures. She explained that she had requested that this structure be removed from the Record but as work had begun by the community group she wishes for this to be paused until further notice so works can be continued with the landlord in the hope of widening the road. Cllr. Byrne seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Hynes queried if the landowners were aware of this process taking place at present. Ms. Doddy advised that notices had been sent to all the landowners advising them of the process and explaining they could make a submission on same if they wished to do so.

Cllr. Byrne referred to RPS No. 4010 stating that he was happy to propose this but advised that the landowner had no idea what the notice was about which they received. He commented that the process was very difficult for people and asked that more engagement be made with the landowners in the future about the process. Ms. Doddy explained that it was a neighbor of this landowner that first spoke to her about this proposal as they were looking out for her. She explained that she does her best to engage with all landowners.

Cllr. Byrne referred to RPS No. 3699 and advised that he was proposing that this structure would be removed, Cllr. Kinnane seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Murphy asked if there were any guidelines stating when a building should be listed as a protected structure or does each structure go through this process. Ms. Doddy explained that the adding or removing of a structure to the record was a reserved function.

Cllr. Curley asked would there be more of a briefing made before a decision could be made. He stated that the information before members was limited to decide on same. Cllr. Murphy agreed with this. Cllr Curley referred to RPS No. 4010 & 3699 and asked why one would be taken off and one added for similar structures. Cllr. Kinnane commented that this was a reserved function. She explained that proposing to remove RPS No. 3027 was the first time she asked for a structure to be removed and it was not done lightly. She advised that the wall needed to be removed and on receiving mixed messages on how to proceed it was decided to propose to delete the structure from the record. She outlined that members are the voice of the people and they make recommendations on same.

Cllr. Canning queried if the Minister proposed RPS No. 4009 or was it the owner. Ms. Doddy explained that there was conservation funding available for protected structures. In order to apply for same, the structure needs to be listed. She confirmed that it was the owner who requested RPS No. 4009 to be added. Cllr. Canning stated that the public need to be made aware that they may not get funding and it may end up costing them a lot of money.

Cllr. Finnerty stated that the process should be kept as a reserved function.

Ms. Doddy finalized by advising members that the Chief Executives Report would issue to them in early January for decision at the January Plenary Council meeting. She explained that the Chief Executives Report would advise of the recommendations. It was summarized that the recommendations from the Loughrea MD Meeting was that RPS No. 3027 would not be removed from the Record of Protected Structures and that RPS No. 3535 not be added to the Record of Protected Structures. Also, that RPS No. 3699 would be deleted from the Record and that RPS No. 4010 would be added.

Flooding Update

LMD 19048

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS

Both the engineering and environmental Consultants are now preparing the Feasibility Report that is scheduled to be presented in April 2020. The report will put forward a solution to the flooding in the Lowlands and assess the Cost Benefit and Environmental implications of the proposals. A stakeholder meeting took place in Gort Fire Station on the 11th November 2019 and was very well attended and received by Members of the SGFRC, Cuan Beo (oyster interests) and Members of the Loughrea MD.

Dunkellin:-

The new imprinted deck is now installed on the old multi arch bridge in Craughwell. The dam downstream of the bridge has been removed, however Inland Fisheries have requested that the upstream dam remain in place for the Winter as fish may have already spawned in the bypass channel. Remaining field bridge works on the Aggard Stream are to be completed next year. On the Dunkellin Bridge, the cladding of the outside of the bridge in stone is continuing. The Architect and Contractor have been asked to consider the stone cladding of the inside of the bridge. There has been no response to date from the OPW with regards to the funding of roadworks on the Stradbally East Road.

Kinvarra:-

Following ongoing consultation with the OPW, Galway County Council has made a submission for an Individual Property Protection scheme in Kinvarra. Mr Gallagher highlighted that there is no precedence for this submission and that the OPW will be carefully considering this first application, on the basis that their decision will have nationwide implications.

Directors Business

LMD 19049

Mr Haugh thanked all the members and staff of the Municipal District for their co-operation and hard work throughout the year and wished all a very Happy Christmas.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 19050

All members expressed their concerns regarding the boundary extension in January 2020 and the implications for funding and particularly staff on the ground. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Monday 13th January 2020 at 11 am.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN

CLLR PAT HYNES
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD