

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, 10th January 2019 @ 11 a.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. J. Byrne

Baill:

Cllr's M. Fahy, S Donnellan, I. Canning,
P. Hynes, G Finnerty, J McClearn.

Oifigigh:

Mr D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer;
Mr. E. Mulryan, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer;
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Ms. A Dolan, Executive Scientist;
Mr. P Carroll, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 11th December 2018

LMD 19001

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 11th December 2018 were proposed by Cllr Finnerty, seconded by Cllr McClearn and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach. Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr. Byrne's request for an update on Kilmeen Cross, Mr. Mulryan circulated work requirements drawing for the N65 Kilmeen Phase 2 and confirmed to Members that the right turning island for Portumna Bound Traffic is being retained while the left turning acceleration or merging lane for Loughrea Bound Traffic is being removed. With regard to the installation of lighting at the junction he has raised this issue with TII but there is no change in TII policy. Both Cllr McClearn and Canning objected to the removal of the merging lane while Cllr's Byrne and Donnellan supported the junction design if it is seen as the best design from a road safety point of view. Mr. Mitchell confirmed there is an obligation to comply with current design standards. On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty members agreed that the February meeting would start at 3pm and to allow Members view the junction after the meeting when it would be dark. Cllr. McClearn stated that he understood

that negotiations were ongoing with the OPW with regard to the sale of the Gate Lodge in Portumna. Cllr. Fahy asked that funding be sought from the OPW to enable the raising of the road at Gilroe. Mr Mulryan informed Cllr. McClearn that he had raised the issue of vehicle restraint barriers at the location of a serious accident on the N65 with Galway NRDO and the site is scheduled for an inspection early in 2019. Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Hynes that that there is no addition to the existing roads programme budget.

Flooding

LMD 19002

Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – swallow hole maintenance works were undertaken in Roxborough during December. Two debris screens are to be fitted in the coming months. A workshop will be held in January between Ryan Hanley, TCD and GSI to finalise issues before the commencement of model runs on design options. A baseline salinity report will be presented to Cuan Beo by the environmental consultant in the next month or so. The proposed tracer studies have been postponed due to unusually low water levels in the turloughs.

Dunkellin – A public meeting was held in Raftery’s Rest, Kilcolgan on 13/12/18, where full details of the scheme and the current position with regards to Dunkellin Bridge were outlined to the 35 members of the public in attendance. It is currently proposed to commence works on the Dunkellin bridge in May. This timeline assumes statutory requirements can be met outside of the planning process. The underpinning of the pedestrian bridge in Craughwell is the only other outstanding structural aspect of the project and these works are scheduled to be completed in Q3 of 2019. Fencing and Aggard Stream works will commence in February and should be completed in Q4 of 2019.

Kiltiernan / Ballinderreen – Works have been successfully completed from the culvert crossing under the N67 to Brandy Bay with that section of the scheme now fully operational. Talks are ongoing with land owners on the Kiltiernan section of the scheme. Works on the Kiltiernan section cannot be scheduled until all landowners have signed up to proposals.

CCTV Programme for Anti Dumping Initiative (Pound Road and Kininsha Road, Gort)

LMD 19003

Cllr. Byrne read out a statement issued by the Gort Greenways and River Walk Development Group acknowledging the rapid response by the Council to contain the dumping situation at Station Road and asking that this momentum continue. The statement added that people need to be brought to task and without CCTV coverage this is not possible. Ms. Dolan stated that in 2017 the Station Road site had been cleaned up at a cost of €10,000 and cameras installed in early 2018. However, these cameras were damaged soon after. She acknowledged the evidence and statements provided by the public on illegal dumping and the Council will process a prosecution in this matter as quickly as possible. Cameras have just been installed in both the Pound Road and Kinincha Road following the resolution of security issues in downloading footage. She stated that a business case had been made to the Department for proper resources for enforcement as resources at present were not enough to provide for effective enforcement of illegal dumping. Cllr. Finnerty stated that

the Council needed to look at the number of derelict houses and sites in the county. He stated that there needed to be full confidence in the CCTV system. Cllr. Canning stated that more education on environmental issues was needed in schools, that fines for littering was not enough and that fines where necessary be deducted from social welfare payments. Cllr. Donnellan stated that we are trying to promote the county as a green county but there are so many estates with dumping problems. Cllr. McClearn stated that the Department need to launch an awareness campaign about the problem of dumping and the negative impact it is having on the county. Cllr Byrne stated that he had submitted a recommendation to Plenary Council to carry out an exercise to compare number of households registered for local property tax versus those households who have contracts with licensed waste collectors. Ms. Dolan stated that the Waste Presentation Bye Laws which are at draft stage will, once introduced, place an onus on households to show proof that they have a licensed waste collection service provider.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 19004

Mr Mulryan advised Cllr. McClearn that he was examining 2 streams of potential funding for repairs to ruins at Abbeygormican burial ground, that he is meeting with a consultant this week and will follow up this meeting with an application for Ministerial Consent for proposed repair works. Cllr. Donnellan welcomed the €100,000 funding towards the Walks Project Loughrea. Responding to Cllr. Finnerty Mr. Mc Gillycuddy confirmed that a survey of damaged manholes would be undertaken in Gort and that an application for funding the repairs to manholes would be submitted to TII.

Ballyboy Residents Group Deputation

Messrs Mattie Walker, Gerry Shaughnessy and Martin Deeley representing Ballyboy Residents Group circulated a number of photographs of an access road off the M18 at Ballyboy which has been occupied by traveller families parking caravans in front of the gateway to farmers lands and preventing farmers accessing these fields to cut silage. They stated that despite putting locks on the gate these were cut. The deputation asked that the fence either side of the access road be removed and narrowed as the existing access road was too wide. Cllr. Finnerty stated that barriers won't work as they have previously been broken down. Cllr. Byrne stated that the access road should be narrowed and that any excess land arising should be offered to farmers for a nominal amount. Mr Mulryan stated that any disposal of land can only be carried out through a land disposable strategy and which can be raised with the TII. He agreed to meet with the group to try & identify a solution to this matter. Mr. Mitchell stated that there was also an option whereby the Council abandon the access road, making it a private road and the responsibility of the landowners.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 14th February 2019, commencing at 3p.m.

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