

## 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 Municipal District Office, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 11 p.m.

#### LATHAIR:

**Cathaoirleach**

**Cllr. J. McClearn**

**Baill:**

J. Byrne, M. Kinane, I. Canning,

Cllr's. G. Donohue, S. Curley, PJ Murphy,

**Oifigigh:**

Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services;

Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;

Mr F. McGillycuddy, Executive Engineer;

Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;

Mr. Enda Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;

Ms. A. Quinn, Meetings Administrator;

Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Cllrs Hynes, Finnerty and Maher who were unable to attend.

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020** **LMD 20012**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were proposed by Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Donohue and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Byrne requested that his comments at the last meeting regarding roads in the roads programme which he considered not suitable for surface dressing be recorded. Cllr Donohue asked that for her comments about inadequate funding between Gort/Kinvara and Loughrea/Portumna be noted in the Minutes. Cllr Canning asked who was responsible for the replacement of the fence between Cois an Eolais and the site next door, after the taking in charge of the estate. In response to Cllr Byrne, Mr Haugh outlined that the appropriate road treatment in each case was decided upon by individual site assessment, National guidance, testing and the professional judgement of the Area Engineer. In response to Cllr Donoghue, Mr Haugh outlined that funding allocations were reflective of the balance of the road network across both engineering areas. In response to Cllr McClearn, Mr Haugh stated that surface water issues at both Rafarn and Glenaslat were being reviewed and acknowledged that further works would be required to remedy the problems at this location. However, the location of existing services at these locations complicated this matter.

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

**South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS** – The project team are monitoring current flood conditions and comparing on the ground results with model outputs. Further model works are being undertaken on the M18 culverts and on an additional channel option adjacent to the Caherawoneen Fen. The Environmental Consultant is scheduled to meet with NPWS this month (Caherglassaun & Caherawoneen). Climate change inputs are being finalised and will be required to determine structure sizes and salinity model outputs. The Feasibility Report can only be finalised when all outstanding works have been completed. The Project Programme is currently being reviewed by the Engineering Consultant, the Feasibility Report will not be completed as hoped by the end of April. Members expressed their dissatisfaction that the timelines for the report were not now being met.

**Dunkellin** – The OPW have recently taken on their additional seasonal staff and have recommenced fencing and re-instatement works along the scheme. Extensive planting of native trees and hedges has commenced on the scheme. The dam on the upstream side of Craughwell will be removed in June, when annual restrictions on working in the river have been lifted. Works on the Aggard stream have been suspended due to poor ground conditions and will restart when weather improves. There was no recorded flood damage to houses in the recent event. Actions were taken to prevent flooding at the unfinished Dunkellin site. GCC and OPW are to review houses at risk around Rahasane Turlough. On Dunkellin Bridge, cladding proposals for the inside of the bridge are being advanced by the Contractor. Costing and architectural approval will be considered when proposals are finalised.

**Kinvarra** – Discussions with the OPW are progressing on the GCC proposals. The OPW will be considering their decision in terms of nationwide schemes and it may take some time to finalise proposals.

**Minor Works Programme** –Mr Gallagher is undertaking a review of all MWP schemes that have been approved countywide since programme inception in 2009. All information will be presented upon completion of the review.

In response to members concerns, Mr Cullen stated that following the exceptional rainfall during February and 4 storms in succession, all Municipal Districts had very high levels of flooding and preventative measures were ongoing. Mr Haugh stated that as flood water recede, it is anticipated that there may be damage to the roads involved and a submission for funding for repairs will be prepared.

## **Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 20014**

Cllr Curley's request to change the location of the Bottle Banks in Loughrea will be referred to the Environment Section. He also asked that the recent flooding at Drim, Kylebrack be examined. Mr Haugh agreed to meet on-site with Cllr. Donoghue in relation to various matters that she brought up regarding Rinville Pier. Cllr. Kinane thanked the staff, who worked through the recent storms. She also expressed concerns regarding adequacy of staff levels. Cllr. Byrne referred to recent developments regarding Covid19 and that it was likely to have

a significant impact. Cllr Canning complimented the Mayor on the success of the Mayoral Ball. He also referred to the impact of heavy goods vehicles using the Mullagh Cappataggle road. Cllr Murphy requested an upgrade of the Pound Road, Gort to facilitate more commercial business to the area. Mr Haugh agreed to inspect the Cappataggle to Mullagh Road with a view to considering weight or axle restrictions as appropriate.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. McClearn, thanked all who had attended or had contributed so generously to his nominated charities and was delighted the evening had been successful.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 11 am.

**CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN**

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**CLLR PAT HYNES  
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**