

**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, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 @ 11 p.m.**

**I LATHAIR:**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Cllr. P. Hynes**

**Baill:**

Cllr's. G. Donohue, S. Curley, PJ Murphy,  
J. Byrne, M. Kinane, I. Canning, M. Maher, J.  
McClearn

**Oifigigh:**

Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services;  
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;  
Mr. D Mitchell, Senior Engineer;  
Mr. M. Melody, Senior Executive Engineer;  
Mr F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer;  
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;  
Ms. A. Quinn, Meetings Administrator;  
Mr. B Corcoran, Assistant Planner;  
Ms. E. Curran, Administrative Officer;  
Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea  
held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020** **LMD 20005**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Kinane and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes, and in response to Cllr Maher, Mr Cullen stated that following procurement, work on the surface dressing at Kilmeen would take place shortly. Responding to Cllrs Byrne and Maher regarding Electric Skyline, Mr Mitchell confirmed that he would follow up on the issues of delays with regard to light repairs in Kinvarra and other locations.

**Burial Ground Extension at Quansboro, Killimor – Part 8 Planning Report** **LMD 20006**

The Part 8 Planning Report on the Burial Ground Extension at Quansboro, Killimor was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr Canning and agreed. All Members welcomed the report and thanked Mr Padraic Carroll for his work prior to his retirement. Mr Melody confirmed that there will be 51 double plots available in the extended Burial Ground.

**Declaration of a road to be a public road – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1983**

**Cois an Eolais, Portumna**

**LMD 20006**

The Declaration of a road commencing at its junction with L4319 in the townland of Portumna, extending West for a distance of 54m, turning in a southerly direction for a distance of 20m and ending outside house No. 4 in the townland of Portumna was proposed by Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr McClearn and agreed.

**Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020 (including Roads Programme) LMD 20007**

Mr Cullen, Mr Mitchell and Mr Haugh presented the members with a Draft Schedule of Works 2020, including the Roads Programme. Mr Cullen confirmed that the grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for Motorway and National Roads for the year 2020 is €28,848,266 which represents an increase of €7,356,332 on the 2019 allocation. The grant allocated for the Regional and Local Roads in 2020 is €33,778,558 which is an increase of €4,948,128 on the 2019 allocation. Mr Cullen thanked all staff involved in the preparation of the roads programme and recommended the adoption of the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020 (including the Roads Programme 2020). It was proposed by Cllr Kinane, seconded by Cllr Maher and agreed.

All Members welcomed the increase in funding for 2020 but expressed concerns with regard to staffing levels to carry out the programme. Mr Mitchell confirmed that the appointment of further staff in the area was imminent. Cllr Kinane welcomed the allocation for the Stradbally East Road and Mr Mitchell confirmed that the road would be fully completed with the grant allocated.

**Flooding**

**LMD 20008**

Mr Cullen stated that the Feasibility Study for Gort lowlands was ongoing. Mr Mitchell will investigate Cllr Maher's concerns regarding potential flooding of 3 – 4 houses in Glenaslat, following works carried out in 2019. Cllr McClearn requested a review of work carried out under the Minor Works Scheme in 2019 where the overlay has caused flooding.

**Review of County Development Plan**

**LMD 20009**

Mr Corcoran presented the Members with an update on the County Development Plan:- The County Development Plan process will begin shortly. The Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy has come into effect on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, legislation outlines that the plan must be started within 3 months of this. It is expected that an Issues Paper will be published by the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. The Issues Paper will be a high level document requesting people/interested bodies to submit submissions on what they would like to see in the new Galway County Development Plan.

It is envisaged that the new plan would include some topics currently in the County Development Plan and some new topics. The process to complete the County Development Plan takes 99 weeks and the Planning Unit would be engaging with the public and Elected Members as much as possible during this time. This will include workshops throughout the County and any suggestions from Members would be welcome.

Cllr. McClearn said the review of the County Development plan was very important and councillors needed to engage with it as the Plan was theirs. It was important too that the planners fully understood the councillors wishes expressed through the policies in the plan so that inconsistencies in interpretation afterwards could be avoided.

In addition to the preparation of the County Development Plan, there will also be a review and update on the Landscape Character Assessment and also the Wind Energy Guidelines will be reviewed and will form part of the new Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES). CAAS have been appointed to do our LCA review, environmental reports and Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy. A review of the County's Transportation Strategy will also be carried out.

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 20010**

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr's Byrne and Murphy that the control of stray horses in Gort was under the control of the Housing Section and the Gardai.

Responding to Cllr Canning, Mr Haugh advised that he had contacted Coillte regarding the concerns previously expressed in relation to dangerous trees. Coillte had undertaken a Tree Health Survey in late 2019 and removed 4/5 trees as a result of this survey. A further survey would be carried out in the coming weeks to establish if any further damage had occurred as a result of the recent storms. Mr Cullen will follow up with the Chief Fire Officer regarding the use of boat by the Fire Service in Portumna. Mr Mitchell stated for Cllr Canning that instead of the use of ramps in Housing Estates, the preferred options were traffic calming measures and speed cushions.

In response to Cllr Maher, Mr Haugh stated that he is investigating the possibility of installing an accessible stairs to facilitate access to the Long Point swimming area for persons with restricted mobility. Mr Cullen will also follow up on the position regarding the new Fire Station in Loughrea.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Loughrea MD would take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 11 pm

**CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN**

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**CLLR PAT HYNES  
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**