

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 2014 @ 2.00 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cuniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, Deputy County Manager; Mr. K. Kelly, Director of Service; E. Molloy, A/Director of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1685

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Joe Maloney, brother of the County Manager, Ms. M. Moloney, who passed away recently. The Mayor was joined by the Members in expressing their sympathy to the County Manager and her family on their sad loss.

The Mayor was also joined by the Members in extending sympathy to Mr. Paddy Prendergast, an employee of the Council in the Orán Mór Area, on the untimely death of his beloved wife Mary.

The Deputy County Manager on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council, extended sympathy to the County Manager and her family on the death of their brother Joe, and to Mr. Paddy Prendergast and his family on the death of his wife Mary,.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Ms. Fiona Duggan, Drumbane, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Mrs Mary Nalty, Ballinastack, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Tom & Tina Burns, Ballinastack, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Sean & Ann Hennelly, Killafinn, Gort, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Trish Corbett, C/o Cornamona P.O., Cornamona, Co. Galway.
- Mr & Mrs Peadar Ó Griallais, Aille, Indreabhán, Co. Na Gaillimhe.

The Mayor adjourned the Meeting for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor was joined by the Members in congratulating Ms. Úna Molloy of Galway Bay FM on her recent engagement.

Cllr. Cuddy extended his congratulations to Claregalway Day Care Centre on being shortlisted for a national award.

Cllr. Fahy extended his best wishes to the Ardrahan Senior Camogie Team in the All Ireland Camogie Final to be played the following Sunday at Croke Park.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1686

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 27th January, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the Council follow up with the Department of Agriculture & Food regarding his Notice of Motion regarding the fallen animal scheme.

Mr. Cullen in reply to a query from Comh. Ó Cuaig advised that the tender for the Costello Regional Water Supply Design/Build/Operate Scheme has been advertised with a closing date of the end of March. He confirmed that the tender assessment will be carried out by the Council with a recommendation issuing to Irish Water for approval. He stated that he anticipated that the necessary approval to allow the scheme to proceed would be forthcoming without any delay.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Cullen said that Oughterard Sewerage Scheme has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála. He stated that additional detailed information was sought and that same was currently being compiled following the approval for same by Irish Water. In regard to Clifden Sewerage Scheme, Mr. Cullen confirmed that work was underway and that the tender recommendation for the next phase was with Irish Water for approval.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to the Item on the Minutes regarding Storm Weather Events and he made the following proposal “that Galway County Council has expressed huge frustration over the delay by the different Government Departments in providing funding for remedial works for storm and tidal damage caused over the past months and requests that the

relevant Department provide funding to Galway County Council as a matter of urgency". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, and agreed.

Cllr. Welby said that there is huge frustration as a result of the storm damage which has occurred and he said there needs to be a co-ordinated response in this regard and suggested that the resources of TUS and CES be availed of to allow for works to be progressed.

In reply to a request from Cllr. E. Mannion for clarification in relation to the reference to traffic management in Cleggan Village proceeding in advance of the development of the car park, as detailed on page 5 of the minutes, Mr. Molloy said that it would be challenging to implement a Traffic Management Plan for Cleggan village until such time as the planned car park is put in place and accordingly it was not now intended to proceed with the measures as previously suggested until such time as the car park was developed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION **1687**

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 8th November, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

The Report of the Planning & Economic Development SPC Meeting held on 2nd December, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2013 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

Cllr. D. Connolly referenced the consideration of the Manager's Report on the Pre-Draft submissions received on the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and arising from same welcomed the focus in the Draft Plan on Town Centres.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Kelly said that the Running Track at Ballinasloe can open after hours on condition that an established group takes responsibility for operating and managing the facility after hours, he also confirmed that consideration was being given to an approach that would secure an outcome to allow general access to the facility when not in use by a club.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – N63 ANNAGH HILL PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE LA07-13 – **1688**

Report already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, the proposed construction of the pedestrian footbridge at Annagh Hill, Kilmoylan, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report and subject to the recommendations contained therein, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.504 HECTARES AT CARRA, KILRICKLE, CO. GALWAY **1689**

Statutory Notice and Report dated 28th January, 2014 were already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, the disposal of 0.504 hectares at Carra, Kilrickle, Co. Galway, was agreed in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated 28th January 2014.

TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – N17 CARROWNURLAUR TO BALLINDINE ROAD SCHEME **1690**

Report dated 18th February, 2014, including Draft Section 85 Agreement with Mayo County Council was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the Members agreed that the Council enter into an Agreement with Mayo County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 – N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine Road Scheme as detailed in the Section 85 Agreement as circulated.

TO CONSIDER THE COUNTY GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013 **1691**

Report dated January 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Roche, outgoing Chairman of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee (JPC), presented the Annual Report 2013 to the Members and summarized the Report as follows:

- The JPC aims to develop greater consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and the elected local representatives. The JPC also facilitates the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in this regard.
- The JPC held its Annual Public Meeting in Gort on 11th February, 2013 as outlined in the Report
- The JPC held a Community Alert Awareness Week, in Áras an Chontae which was launched on 14th October by the Mayor of the County of Galway, Cllr. Liam Carroll.
- There are three JPC sub-committees, namely CCTV, Community Watch and Litter Awareness, and these sub-committees continue to make progress as detailed in Item 1 of the Report.

- The Control of Horses was an issue which received much attention during the year particularly the risk to road users caused by wandering horses. A Protocol was drawn up between An Garda Síochána and Galway County Council which enables the Gardaí to directly contact an appointed contractor used by the local authority, to collect wandering or stray horses on public roads. The Protocol is aimed at providing a swift means to ensure safety on our roads for all road users by the removal of wandering horses.
- The Annual Report also details all of the Meetings of the JPC and Sub-Committees which took place during 2013.

Cllr. Roche expressed his thanks to An Garda Síochána for their very valued contributions and to each Member of the JPC and Sub-Committees for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC. He also thanked the Council staff for the administration of the Committee and Sub-Committees, especially M.J. Walsh, K. Coyne and J. Brann. He also thanked the media and press for highlighting the public issues raised at JPC Meetings.

Cllr. Roche congratulated the new Chairperson of the JPC, Cllr. Noone and he wished him well in his role as Chairman.

Cllr. D. Connolly thanked Cllr. Roche for the Report and said that he hopes the introduction of CCTV cameras at strategic locations will deter people from dumping their rubbish illegally and he said that the Gardaí can play a positive role in this regard by investigating illegal dumping at night time when the Council's Community Wardens are off duty. He requested that this item be included on an agenda for a meeting of the JPC to allow for engagement with An Garda Síochána on the proposal.

Cllr. Cuddy also thanked Cllr. Roche for the Report and he welcomed the incoming Chairman, Cllr. Noone. He said that there is a problem as regards littering on roadsides and referenced the need to address the ongoing issue of burning of copper etc on the Headford Road, noting that same was occurring when Community Wardens were off duty. He referenced the need for a greater responsibility to be placed on metal companies and requested that action be taken to address the issue on the Headford Road as a priority.

Cllr. Cunniffe said that he hopes the Council will ensure that those who are identified on CCTV cameras dumping rubbish illegally are brought to court and fined appropriately.

The Mayor said that during his tenure as Mayor of the County of Galway he has travelled the length and breadth of the County and he is appalled at the level of littering on roadsides and in our towns and villages. He said that it is the responsibility of every citizen not to cause littering and not to dump rubbish illegally and to consider the impact of litter and dumping on the environment and the image it presents of the County including the impact on tourism and investment.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe, it was agreed that the Annual Report of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee be noted

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (SECTION 142) REGULATIONS 2010 – AS CIRCULATED.

1692

Cllr. S. Walsh was not present for the duration of the consideration of this item.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, attendance at the Conferences as circulated, was authorized by the Council.

Councillors Conferences – Canvassing Tips 2014 – 3rd – 5th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr.'s Tim Broderick, Thomas Welby

Councillors Conferences – Political Reform 2014 – 10th – 12th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Eileen Mannion

Councillors Conferences – Credit Unions & the Rules Governing them – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Ace Training – Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods – 7th – 9th February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Shaun Cuniffe

Ace Training – Sport & Community Planning – 7th – 9th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Michael Maher, Kevin Ryan

Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibility of Local Authorities WEEE – 14th – 16th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Superior Training – Seanad Reform & the Councillor – 20th – 22nd February – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford – Fee: €120

Cllr.'s Tom McHugh, Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

Clare Tourist Council – 25th Annual Tourism Conference – ‘Folklore – Heritage – Tourism’ – 21st – 22nd February – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – Fee: €195

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 21st – 23rd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Managing Diversity in the Community – 28th February – 2nd March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Charities, Regulation & Legislation – 7th – 9th March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

BG Seminarz – Pylons & Wind Farms, What’s the Law? – 7th – 9th March – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €140

Cllr. Seán Canney

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 - AS CIRCULATED. 1693

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, it was agreed to note the summary of proceedings at Conferences, as circulated.

Esperanza Enterprises – Improving Road Safety – Traffic Management – 20th – 21st December 2013 – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Celtic Conferences – Public Presentation & PR Management – 3rd – 5th January 2014 – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Councillors Conferences – Canvassing Tips 2014 – 3rd – 5th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22

Cllr.'s Tim Broderick, Thomas Welby

Councillors Conferences – Political Reform 2014 – 10th – 12th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Ace Training – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013 – 10th – 12th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

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

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes

Councillors Conferences – Credit Unions & the Rules Governing them – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Celtic Conferences – Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication – 17th – 19th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Ace Training – Rural Housing - Planning & Development Design Guidelines – 17th – 19th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Celtic Conferences – Doing more with less – Managing Time & Productivity – 24th – 26th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 24th – 26th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr.'s Pat Hynes, Tomás Mannion

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

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Ace Training – Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland – 31st January – 2nd February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibility of Local Authorities WEEE – 14th – 16th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

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

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2014.

1694

Report entitled Clár Bóithre 2014/Roads Programme 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Molloy presented the Draft Roads Programme 2014 to the Members.

Comh. Ó Laoi referenced the extent of environmental designations in Conamara and the impact of same on the region, socially, culturally and linguistically. He said that the State has let Conamara down, as development cannot take place because of the designations and there is no scientific evidence as to why 8,000 acres of land in Conamara were designated. He made the following proposal “that no further designations of infrastructure or areas be carried out in Conamara”. This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the extension in the timelines for the maintenance cycle due to the continued reduction in funding and suggested that based on his experience and knowledge of the maintenance cycle for local roads, that in many instances the timelines far exceeded the timelines referenced. He stated that there was an urgent need for additional investment in the road network.

Cllr. McDonagh expressed his disappointment at the allocation for the Óran Mór Electoral Area, noting that the model for the allocation of funding, based solely on the length of road network within each Electoral Area, placed the Orammore Electoral Area at a significant

disadvantage as it failed to give any consideration to traffic volumes and the impact of same on the maintenance and improvement requirements of the network. He stated that the road network in the Oranmore Electoral Area included many of the main commuter routes to the City including the N84, N18, N17, R339 and R446 and due to the traffic volumes availing of same the maintenance requirements exceeded that of other routes and required that appropriate consideration be given to traffic volumes in the allocation of available funding. He requested that appropriate consideration be given to a revised model to address the significant under investment in the Oranmore Electoral Area in future years.

Cllr. Cuddy also expressed his disappointment with the allocation of funding for the County and Oranmore Electoral Area noting that it was totally inadequate to allow for urgent and necessary maintenance and improvement works to be undertaken. He noted that every Electoral Area was entitled to an appropriate and sufficient level of funding but that it was necessary to take traffic volumes into consideration in determining the allocation of funding. He noted that the current model was based on length of road and proceed to outlined a detailed analysis of the Draft Roads Programme noting the percentage allocation for the Oranmore Electoral Area under the various programmes. He stated that he was not in a position to support the Draft Programme as presented due to the inadequate level of funding. He also expressed disappointment with the continued delay on the part of the National Roads Authority in considering proposals for the amendment of speed limit by-laws, stating that it appeared to him that the NRA were answerable to anyone.

Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the need to provide an appropriate means of funding for non-public roads noting that in the absence of the Local Improvement Scheme no funding was currently available for such roads.

Cllr. Hoade expressed concern in relation to the reduction in funding for discretionary maintenance and the absence of an allocation for the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme, noting the valuable work undertaken under the scheme in partnership with local communities over many years, and referred to the need to restore the scheme. Cllr. Hoade also referenced the benefit of the Local Improvement Scheme, while welcoming the approach to providing additional and specific funding for local tertiary roads and highlighting the need to continue this specific funding for a number of years.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to Local Improvement Schemes and made the following proposal "This County Council proposes that a separate and specific funding be allocated by the Department of Transport for Local Improvement Schemes. This money is urgently required to upgrade local private roads where people who also pay property tax and would also be prepared to pay a percentage of the cost". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fahy, and agreed.

Comh. O'Curraoin referenced the extent of the reduction in funding for Regional and Local Roads over the period 2007 – 2014 and noted the value of the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme in allowing work to be undertaken in partnership with the community and landowners. He referred to the restrictions imposed on undertaking necessary road improvements and identifying route options for the R336 and alignment of the N59 due to environmental designations arising from EU Directives,

highlighting what he termed the negative influence of Europe and the need for common sense to apply to allow necessary maintenance and improvements to be undertaken.

Cllr. Cuniffe welcomed the allocation of funding to allow for the implementation of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan. In reply to Cllr. Cuniffe, Mr. Molloy said that there is no funding available for new public lighting provision in 2014.

Cllr. T. Mannion welcomed the allocation of funding to address the longstanding need for maintenance to the bridge in Ballyforan and highlighted the need for the length of road to remain as an important consideration in determining the allocation of funding in the context of the predominantly rural nature of the County and the need for equity in the allocation of available funding.

Cllr. Fahy welcomed the inclusion of funding for works at Ardrahan, Peterswell and Monksfield and the allocation of funding for improvement works at Cregaclare Crossroads. He referred to the need for public lighting to be provided at the N18 junction at Labane and the importance of the LIS & CIS to allow for works to be undertaken at local level.

Cllr. Feeney complimented the Roads Section stating that the roads in County Galway are in a reasonable state, taking into account reduced funding in recent years. He agreed that there is a stark difference between the allocation for improvement works in the Óran Mór Electoral Area and the other areas and he said there should be some weighting towards areas of greater traffic and this should be looked at if funding increases. He also noted the approach to NOM funding in 2014 and referenced the need to restore the level of funding based on the increased membership of the Council in 2015, in order to allow meaningful works to be undertaken.

In reply to Cllr. Roche, Mr. Molloy said that the Council has received no indication that the Community Involvement Scheme will be revisited in 2014 by the Department. He said that the EU Co-Financed Scheme is no longer in place and said that in relation to the Low-Cost Accident Scheme, the Council submitted all schemes which had been proposed to the Department for approval.

Mr. Molloy replied that the system of distributing funds on the basis of length of road for the Regional and Local roads network has been in place for some time and has served the County well. He agreed with the Óran Mór Members' views that traffic is heavier in the Óran Mór Electoral Area due to its proximity to Galway City and he said that the system of distributing funds to the Electoral Areas in the future could be looked at in this context.

Cllr. McClearn and Cllr. Welby were joined by other Members in expressing concern and dissatisfaction with the approach of the NRA in undertaking bridge rehabilitation works and road improvements during 2013 in terms of timelines, delays and duration of work. Mr. Molloy replied that the Council has expressed dissatisfaction to the NRA regarding the disruption caused to traffic because of the delays associated with some work and intervened directly with the NRA to ensure that certain works proposed were rescheduled to minimize disruption during certain periods including works proposed to be undertaken on the N18 during Race Week.

Cllr. Roche made the following proposal which he asked be sent to Minister Leo Varadkar “I propose that the Department re-instate the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme which was abandoned or altered in 2012. This Scheme brought positive and meaningful improvements for rural villages in conjunction with local members of the community”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, and agreed.

Cllr. E. Mannion asked if a pedestrian crossing could be included in the proposed works on the N59 at Letterfrack, and Mr. Molloy said that the Council can try to get some discretion in this regard but it is unlikely that a pedestrian crossing will be provided.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Molloy confirmed that a security bond is held in respect of contracts for works which impact on roads either in the form of a Condition of Contract for major works or a deposit held in the processing of Road Opening Licences for minor works.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Molloy confirmed that all of the Members have contributed to the fund for school flashing lights. He also replied to Cllr. Broderick’s suggestion that CCTV cameras should be provided at every exit off motorways as a crime prevention measure, stating that this would be a matter for the NRA and undertook to raise the matter with the NRA.

The Draft Roads Programme was proposed by Cllr. McClearn and seconded by Cllr. Maher. It was agreed to note Cllr. Cuddy’s objection to the Draft Programme as presented.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND SCHEMES **1695**

Report dated 24th February 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Molloy presented the Update on the Programme of Flood Mitigation Works and Schemes to the Members.

The Report dealt with proposals at the following locations:

- Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme
- Clare River Flood Relief Scheme
- Kiltiernan/Ballinderreen Scheme
- OPW Non-Coastal Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes by Electoral Area.

Cllr. Willers welcomed the Report but she said that her experience over the previous two weeks was devastating due to flooding near to her house which necessitated her to move out of her home for the second time in a 5 year period. She acknowledged that the staff of the Gort Area Office had done all in their power to keep the road open. She said that since 1990 South Galway has been threatened by flooding from rising water in Turloughs which overflow onto adjacent roads and into nearby farmlands, sheds and homes. She said that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have continually put obstacles in the way of

schemes which Galway County Council and the OPW have tried to bring about in order to alleviate flooding in the region, for example the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme. She said that local Dáil Deputies have tried to highlight the problems being caused by the NPWS with Government Ministers but the Government has ignored the issue. She said the ongoing hardship caused by flooding to homeowners and farmers in South Galway is intolerable and the problem needs to be solved. She referenced the constitutional right of the citizens of South Galway to remain in their homes and farm their lands without the constant threat of flooding, noting that the NPWS were acting to deny them this right and that the term 'cost benefit analysis' was being used as an excuse to explain why they have been abandoned. Cllr. Willers concluded her contribution to wide applause.

Cllr. G. Finnerty made the following proposal "Galway County Council request the OPW, in co-operation with the local community, to investigate the possibility of doing a flood relief measure from Cahermore Turlough to Dunguaire. This is the nearest point of access to the sea from South Galway, less than 2 miles. If a scheme on flood relief can work from Cahermore, it can become a template for future flood relief in South Galway". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Willers, and agreed.

A discussion took place with contributions from the Members in relation to the approach to flooding, the impact of environmental designations, the benefit of works completed to date, the need to advance further schemes without delay, the criteria applied in determining cost benefit, together with queries and reference to specific schemes and works including flooding in areas in North Galway and the Clare River Scheme.

Mr. Molloy replied to points raised by the Members as follows:

- He sympathised with Cllr. Willers on the distress caused to her and her family by the need to leave her home and he said he understands her frustrations as regards the flooding in her locality and in the Ardrahan and Gort areas. He agreed with Cllr. Willers that the staff in the Gort office have been working very hard since Christmas to alleviate the hardship on the people of the area.
- He said that the Members raised a large number of issues which the Council does not have the capacity or the power to remedy, as the solution is multifaceted. He said that the situation is as outlined in the Update on the Programme of Flood Mitigation Works and Schemes as presented to the Members
- He said that the Council has a very good working relationship with the OPW and are in constant contact with them in order to alleviate the flooding issues in County Galway.
- He said that the Council will bring the issues raised by the Members at today's Meeting back to the OPW in order to get clarity but he said that the Members can contact the OPW directly also in order to clarify any issues with them as well as contacting the Council.

Cllr. Feeney made the following proposal "that this County Council calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to interpret the relevant European Directives in line with other E.U. states which would allow the repeated flooding in South Galway to be relieved in

order that daily life and business can continue in the affected areas". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McClearn, and agreed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1696

On the proposal of the Cllr. Maher seconded by Comh. O'Curraoin, it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the Meeting to continue after 6pm.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMISSION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS (CEDRA)

1697

The Mayor introduced Professor Cathal O'Donoghue, Head of Rural Economy & Development at Teagasc to the Members stating that the Professor would make a presentation to the Members regarding the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

Prof. O'Donoghue addressed the Members and made the Presentation. He said that the Minister for Environment, Communities and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, launched CEDRA in October 2012. The aim of the Commission is to carry out an extensive public consultation on the future economic potential of rural Ireland and how best to channel funding and resources between 2013 and 2025. It will thus aim to generate a jobs strategy for rural Ireland.

Having regard to the commitments on development contained in the Programme for Government, in particular the aim for the rural economy is:

- To encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development
- To be recognised as a modern, fair, socially inclusive and equal society supported by a productive and prosperous economy
- To facilitate where possible export led growth

He said the strategy of the Commission will:

- outline the key actions needed to ensure that rural areas, to the maximum extent will, contribute to and benefit from economic recovery
- identify ways in which rural areas can contribute to and benefit from national economic development strategies
- inform prioritisation made by Government and other stakeholders in implementing future actions

He concluded his Presentation by stating that the Commission's view is that Local Authorities have a very important role in the new structures for local economic development. He said that the Commission will publish its final document shortly.

A discussion then took place and Prof. O'Donoghue replied to issues raised by the Members as follows:

- The message from CEDRA is that Development Plans into the future must focus on the provision of resources and infrastructure in areas where there is the most need and which face the greatest challenges.
- All Towns are not included in CEDRA's Report but Teagasc is working with farmers in order to improve on-farm and off-farm initiatives.
- In relation to the big increase in unemployment and emigration in Gort, he said that the town was over reliant on a transient population and Gort needs services to be focused on the town in order to reach its potential
- He agreed that the question of Commercial Rates is very topical
- He said that he would be happy to come back to the Members when the final Report of CEDRA is completed.

Cllr. G. Finnerty made the following proposal regarding rural post offices "I am calling on this Government to put an Action Plan in place confirming new business to our post office network all of which are on an existing computerized network. Secondly give An Post as a primary payment option on Department of Social Welfare payments and pensions – not letters to customers requesting bank details as first payment option. Finally take note of the Grant Thornton Report which clearly proves the Government could save up to €76.8m if motor tax, banking and hospital charges were payable through the post office". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hoade, and agreed.

The Mayor thanked Prof. O'Donoghue for his presentation. He referred to Oranmore and said that the reason Oranmore has not suffered from increased unemployment and emigration is that it has a strong Community Development Association who acted as a watch dog as regards the Oranmore Development Plan. The village and surrounds has a lot of high-class houses which attract high-earners to live in the area together with great facilities, a good road network and choice of schools and the proximity to Rinvile Park and the Motorway, all contribute to an increase in population of Oranmore.

The Deputy County Manager also thanked Prof. O'Donoghue stating that the Report from CEDRA is very timely as Local Government Reform puts Local Authorities at the forefront for achieving a joined-up approach to economic development in local areas. He said that the information provided in the Report will be very helpful to the Council and will feed into our policies going forward.

Prof. O'Donoghue replied that he would be more than happy to work with the Council into the future in order to promote and enhance economic development, encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT

1698

Managers Report dated 24th February, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

The Deputy County Manager presented the Report to the Members and the Members noted the Report.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1699

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

- Correspondence dated 14th February 2014 from Donegal County Council adopting the resolution that "In light of the recent revelations regarding Irish Water, calling on the Government and the Minister for the Environment to disband Irish Water and revert back to the Status Quo of the service being delivered by Local Authorities.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1700

The Mayor proposed that representatives from Comhairle na nÓg be invited to attend a Meeting of the Council in order to make a presentation to the Members on their organization. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Feeney and agreed.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to his earlier comments regarding illegal burning on the Headford Road and stated that he had been notified that since the commencement of today's Monthly Meeting, uncontrolled burning had been taking place again on the Headford Road. He emphasized that this problem requires urgent attention.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1701

The following reply was given:-

"There are no funds available to extend the footpath or widen this road at this location on the Tynagh Road, Portumna."

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

1702

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have already sought substantial funding in regards to the costs incurred in raising roads in this area and will be submitting a further submission based on the impact of the flooding on the residents and infrastructure of this area."

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

1703

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will assess the flooding issue at this location and provide potential solutions with a view to liaising with local landowners in an effort to address this flooding."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1704

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have for some time been trying to resolve this issue locally with the assistance of landowners and homeowners. However, to date Galway County Council have been unable to agree access and will now examine alternative ways of delivering on the completion of this drainage issue.”

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

1705

The following reply was given:-

“The council had previously submitted a brief for the appointment of Consultants for a sewerage scheme in Clarinbridge to the Department of the Environment. No approval was received. Clarinbridge was also included in the overall proposals submitted to the Department of the Environment for the development of wastewater facilities to cater for the Eastern environs of Galway City. The council has not received any approval to advance on this scheme and it will now be a matter for consideration by Irish Water.”

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

1706

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have consulted the NRA previously on the resurfacing and improvements at this junction. To date no funding has been provided for the development of lighting at this junction. Galway County Council will again consult the NRA on this issue. However, limitations on funding will determine the level of works undertaken.”

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

1707

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss the issues raised with the OPW. The OPW will advise if this scheme is suitable for consideration under the non coastal minor works flood schemes. Should this scheme be considered suitable for funding and implementation, Galway County Council will proceed to make an application to the OPW for funding.”

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

1708

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss this proposal with the NRA. However, funding for this proposal will have to be secured through the NRA. Any such funding will not be available during 2014 and will have to be considered in future years.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1709

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council consider this proposal worthwhile and will investigate the ways in which this proposal can be progressed. Galway County Council will have to discuss this proposal with both the NRA and the NPWS in light of previous discussions on the realignment of the main bridge. Should we be able to progress this with the relevant stakeholders, Galway County Council will then have to consider how funding can be acquired to provide the necessary infrastructure.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1710

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will examine this junction and the movement identified by Cllr. Welby. Galway County Council will discuss this issue with the NRA and explore the options for the putting in place of measures to improve the junction.”

Criochnaigh and Cruinniú Ansin
