

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, ON MONDAY 20th JULY, 2015 AT 11.00 AM**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Roche
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, J. Byrne, N. Byrne, S. Canney, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, Comh. S. Ó Cualáin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. S. Donnellan, A. Donohue, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, T. Healy, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, D. Joyce, F. Kearney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, A. Rabbitte, P. Roche, N. Thomas, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh & T. Welby

Oifigigh:

Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim); Messrs. J. Cullen, L. Gavin, P. Gavican, Directors of Services; Ms. C. McConnell, Acting Director of Service; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; Ms. S. Kennedy, Senior Executive Planner; Ms. M. Donohue, Senior Staff Officer; Ms. E. O'Doherty, Executive Planner; Mr. B. Dunne, Assistant Planner; Ms. G. Kavanagh, Assistant Planner, Ms. M. Doddy, Conservation Officer; An tUas. P. O'Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; Ms. R. O'Boyle & Ms. G. Healy, Staff Officers.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

2107

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Sr. Mary Corcoran, Garbally Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- The Nestor Family, Beal an Daingean, Lettermore, Co. Galway
- Mr. Pdraic Joyce (John William), Rosaveal, Baile na hAbhann, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Máire McCormack, Moyrus, Carna, Co. Galway
- Mr. Martin & Geraldine Collins, Barnaboy, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Mr. Val Glenane, Baunmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Mr. Dermot O'Dea, Polkeen, Castlegar, Co. Galway
- Mr. Joe Kelly, Caraun Road, Kiniska, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Mary Madden, Cahertymore, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Diane Holian & Family, Churchview, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Ester Corcoran & Family, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Mr. Traolach Ó Conghaile, Baile Liam, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Mr. John Concannon, JFC Plastics, Kilconly, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Margaret Burke, Kilgarve, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Mr. Josie Lydon, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Angela, Charles & Mary Ann Hemphill, Raford, Kiltulla, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Mr. Peadar Halloran, Ros Dugáin, Cill Chiaráin, Co. na Gaillimhe

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

2108

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15th June, 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 22nd June, 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh.

Arising from the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting, Cllr. Killilea referred to his Notice of Motion No. 12 on the Agenda “that Galway County Council carry out a costing on implementing a 2 hour free parking for Tuam and Athenry between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Monday to Friday in order to support businesses in our town centres”, and the agreement reached at the Meeting that the matter would be discussed by the Roads, Transportation & the Marine SPC who would report their findings to the September Meeting of the Plenary Council. He asked if the Roads, Transportation & the Marine Strategic Policy Committee discussed this proposal at their recent meeting.

Mr. Gavin replied that a full discussion had taken place at the recent SPC Meeting and it was agreed that the points raised will be considered by the Executive who will report back to the SPC and then to Plenary Council.

Cllr. Feeney said that the issue of parking charges is a very important one for every town in the county and expressed the view that the matter should be driven by the Plenary Council because a sensible pay parking regime needs to be put in place without delay in order to support businesses in town centres. Cllrs. Cronnelly and K. McHugh agreed with this viewpoint stating that a solution needs to be found sooner rather than later.

Cllrs. Cuddy and Cunniffe indicated that if the findings of the SPC are not available for discussion at the September Monthly Meeting, it will be too late for an informed debate on the matter in order to reflect any reduction in income arising from the revised proposals in the 2016 budgetary process.

The Chief Executive replied that any decision regarding parking charges will be made by the full Council and he assured the Members that the Executive wished to support town centre businesses. He said that it had been agreed at previous meetings that this would be discussed by the Roads, Transportation & Marine SPC and their findings will be brought back before the full Council at the September Monthly Meeting. He also said that the Executive is open to bringing in appropriate changes and any reduction in parking charges will have to be factored into the Budget for 2016.

Cllr. Maher said that as Chair of the Roads, Transportation & Marine SPC he could assure the Members that the SPC would make its recommendations available at the September Monthly Meeting and he said that it is a complex issue for the county which warrants due consideration.

Cllr. G. Finnerty said that he had raised this issue in September 2014 and his proposal was that a pilot project be put in place for the summer months and he also expressed the view that a decision needs to be made regarding parking charges as a matter of urgency to support businesses.

Cllr. Welby said that he wished to make a proposal regarding the Oughterard Traffic Management Plan and the Cathaoirleach said that he would allow this matter to be brought up under Cathaoirleach's Business.

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He also referred to the surplus land on the M18 and N6 and said that progress needs to be made regarding the disposal or lease of this land in order to prevent illegal parking.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Fahy referred to Page 10, and said that he has great concerns regarding the six caravans which have been parked at the side of a public road in Gort for some months causing a hindrance to people in the locality and he asked if there is any stipulation in the County Development Plan stating that this activity is illegal. However, he said that he wished to clarify that he has no issue with tourist campervans visiting the area.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. J. Byrne referred to the issue in relation to flooding at Kiltiernan and said he is delighted that Minister Simon Harris will visit Kiltiernan National School on 5th August, 2015. He said the Minister will be made aware that expenditure on works to mitigate against flooding in the area will be money well spent.

Cllr. Maher raised the issue of the proposed Dublin-Galway Greenway stating that a Meeting had taken place in Craughwell over the weekend and some landowners had expressed the view that they were being threatened with CPO of their lands for the proposed Greenway and they signed a petition that they do not want the greenway to go ahead. He stated that they claimed that officials were turning up on their properties without prior notification and they felt aggrieved in this regard.

Cllrs. K. McHugh and Donnellan said that the general feeling among landowners in their area is that there is not enough consultation with landowners and that the threat of CPO is causing them concern.

Cllr. Healy said that a similar situation existed in west Galway where landowners were unhappy with the level of communication regarding the Conamara Greenway.

Mr. Gavin said that the Council has been in contact with the IFA and Government Departments and it was agreed that consultations regarding the proposed Greenway would continue as a procedure for communicating with landowners and stakeholders has been agreed. He said that it is recognised that the project must not adversely affect landowners and stakeholders but the benefits of the proposed Greenway to communities must be kept in mind. He said that Council officials have been visiting farmers in order to receive their views on the proposed Greenway and he said it is not accurate to say that officials intimidated any landowner. He said that the majority of farmers were very open and helpful and discussions were carried out in a respectful manner. He said the Council is trying to determine the impact of the proposed Greenway on affected landowners in an attempt to mitigate against any adverse impact and is gathering the information in consultation with the people. He thanked the landowners for taking part in the

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discussions to date and he said that the consultation will continue until the views of the landowners are known. He said that if any landowner has a complaint to make, they could direct same to him.

Cllr. Maher said that was not the message he received at the Meeting and that some landowners were irate because the matter of CPO was being mentioned during discussions. He also said that many of the landowners along the proposed route are opposed to the Greenway going ahead.

Cllr. M. Connolly said he did not receive reports of intimidation of landowners by officials of the Council. However, he expressed the view that the handling of the situation by the Consultants at an early stage was poor and he also stated that there was no legal precedent for a greenway being developed through compulsory purchase of land.

Cllr. Healy said that any proposed greenway must serve local interests as well as national and overseas interests and must be community orientated.

Comh. Ó Curraoin said that he is in favour of greenways, however he said they are of no value to the local community unless they go through towns and villages.

Cllr. Kinane said the proposed greenway from Dublin to Galway is a contentious issue and she asked if a Special Meeting of the Council could be arranged to discuss this issue. Cllr. Rabbitte supported Cllr. Kinane in this regard stating that it was important that a clear message was communicated that the Council was in favour of the Greenway but that it could only be progressed on the basis of consultation, engagement and open channels of communication between stakeholders and that engagement with the farming community was essential.

The Chief Executive referred to the Conamara Greenway which has been in planning for some time. He said that all discussions in this regard have been on the basis of permissive access to lands and agreement with farmers and landowners. He said that at this stage a successful outcome has not been reached and funding has not been made available by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to complete the Greenway.

He said that the project leader on the Dublin-Galway Greenway is Westmeath County Council and delivery of the proposed Greenway would be the responsibility of the NRA. He said that it is his understanding that the decision regarding whether the proposed Dublin-Galway Greenway will go ahead will be made at national level. He said that Galway County Council met with the IFA and the ICSA when difficulties arose initially regarding the issue of land and it

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was agreed that landowners would be contacted with a view to determining their views over the summer so that by autumn a clear understanding of the views of landowners would be known. He said that he understood that the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport would then decide what the next step would be regarding the Greenway. He said that no planning permission or funding allocation is in place yet and it is clear that discussions with the landowners was intended to gather their views and was not for the purpose of CPO. He said that a greenway provides significant economic benefits to towns and villages.

He indicated that it may be more beneficial if the matter is discussed at Municipal District level in September following completion of the consultation process.

The Cathaoirleach said that based on the Chief Executive's comments, perhaps it would be more beneficial to wait until the views of all of the farmers and landowners are gathered.

The Chief Executive said that a presentation on the issue will be made to the Municipal District Councils of Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Athenry-Oranmore in September 2015 and Cllr. Kinane agreed with this.

Cllrs. Cuddy and Hynes expressed the view that unless farmers get it in writing that no CPO will be used in order to acquire the necessary land for the proposed Greenway, it will not proceed.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

2109

The Report of the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 15th April 2015 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. N. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Rabbitte.

The Report of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 31st March 2015 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

TO AMEND RESOLUTION 1940 OF DECEMBER 2014 IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 18 RELATING TO THE DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 40 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY TO INCLUDE WOJECH WALTER AS JOINT PURCHASER AND REVISE THE AREA OF LANDS TO 0.0209 HECTARES.

2110

Statutory Notice and Report dated 2nd July, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Members agreed to amend Resolution 1940 of December 2014 in accordance with Standing Order 18 relating to the

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Disposal of Land at 40 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway to include Wojech Walter as joint purchaser and revise the area of Lands to 0.0209 hectares.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0215 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 19 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY **2111**

Statutory Notice and Report dated 6th July, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly, the disposal of 0.0215 hectares of land at No. 19 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE BALLINASLOE DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2015-2021 AS PER SECTION 20 (3) (C) AND (D) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) **2112**

[Report already made available to the Members on the extranet]

The Cathaoirleach invited the presentation of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received on the Ballinasloe Draft Local Area Plan 2015-2021.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2009-2015 was on public display for a period of six weeks, from Thursday 2nd April 2015 until Thursday 14th May 2015 (inclusive). She advised that a public consultation day was held in the Ballinasloe Regional Office 23rd April.

Ms. Kennedy advised that a total of 25 Submissions were received, 8 from the Prescribed Authorities/Environmental Authorities/Statutory Bodies and 17 from General Public and Other Persons/Bodies.

Ms. Kennedy advised the Meeting that under Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the Members should in exercising their function consider the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

Ms. Kennedy advised the Meeting that it is planned that the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan would be adopted at the October County Council Meeting.

Submission No. 1: Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government

(Ciara Gilgunn):

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by the **Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the Chief Executive's report had had due regard to the submissions from the relevant authorities and referred the Members to the Chief Executive's response and recommendation as detailed under the following individual submissions as set out below in the Chief Executive's report: DAHG Submission No. 2; National Roads Authority Submission No.5; EPA Submission No.6; Irish Water Submission No.7; and OPW Submission No. 8.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Submission No. 1.

Submission No. 2: Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (Yvonne Nolan)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by the **Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive's Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as follows:

1. To amend the text in the Local Area Plan, as appropriate, to reference European sites and update terminology in relation to the AA process, as appropriate, throughout the plan document.
2. Include the following text amendments to the Draft Local Area Plan and amendments to the NIR as appropriate:

"Objective CF 4 – Lands for Community Facilities and Amenities

- a) *Ensure that.....and allow for existing community facilities to expand on adjacent Community, Facilities and Amenities (CF) lands zoned for such uses."*

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B to delete the Specific Objective CF5 from the south eastern area of the plan adjoining the cycle and pedestrian network.

Ms. Kennedy advised that that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to insert a new objective in Section 2.2.5 of the Draft Plan to read as follows:

"Objective DS 9 – Appropriate Assessment Screening/Appropriate Assessment and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites

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It is an objective of Galway County Council to ensure that Appropriate Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment, if required, is undertaken in view of the Conservation Objectives of the European sites that may be affected by any proposed development that:

a) the AA process will be a scientific assessment that will present relevant evidence where required, including data and analysis as available from the most up to date Article 17 reports on the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Habitat Directive Annexes and the most up to date Article 12 reports on status and trends of bird species, in addition to, data on ecological features in or near the Plan area available from other sources e.g. National Biodiversity Data Centre, BirdWatch Ireland, Bat Conservation Ireland and other sources as appropriate.

b) similarly that all habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and any other sites that may be considered as stepping stones in support of European sites will be addressed as part of the AA process. “

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was to include a new Development Management Guideline in Section 3.10.2 of the Draft Plan to read as follows

“DM Guideline NH2 – Conservation Management Plan/Environmental Operating Plan and Project Specific Mitigation Measures

Project specific mitigation measures may be included in a Construction Management Plan (CMP) or an Environmental Operating Plan (EOP) and will be commensurate to the level of impact predicted and determined to be successfully employable with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European sites in question.

The CMP or EOP may be required to present information on mitigation in terms of :

- 1) Evidence of how these will be secured and implemented and by whom;*
- 2) Evidence of the degree of confidence of their likely success;*
- 3) Timescale, relative to the plan or project, for their implementation or completion;*
- 4) Evidence as to how the measures will be monitored and, should mitigation failure identified, how that failure will be rectified.”*

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was to amend the titles of Objective DS3 and Objective NH1 as follows,

- **Objective DS3 – ~~Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment~~ European Sites**
- **Objective NH1 – ~~Natura 2000 Sites~~ European Sites**

And to include additional text, as follows,

“Refer to Objective DS 9 –Appropriate Assessment Screening/Appropriate Assessment and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites and to DM Guideline NH2 - Construction Management Plans/Environmental Operating Plan and Project Specific Mitigation Measures”

to each of the following Objectives:

- Objective DS3 – ~~Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment~~ **European Sites**
- Objective CF4 - Lands for Community Facilities and Amenities
- Objective CF5 - Educational Facilities (Refer to Maps 1A/1B and to Maps 2A/2B)
- *Objective CF 13 – Amenity Network;*
- *Objective CF 14 – Linear Park*
- Objective CF 15 – Cycle and Pedestrian Networks;
- *Objective CC2–Climate Change & Green Infrastructure;*
- *Objective UD 4 – Green Networking and Landscaping;*
- *Objective ED 8 – Water-Based Tourism;*
- Objective TI 7- Walking and Cycling Strategies;
- Objective TI 12 – Rail Facilities/Services & Dualing of the Rail Tracks;
- Objectives TI 13 – Amenity/Walking Cycling Network.
- Objective NH1 – ~~Natura 2000 Sites~~ **European Sites**

Ms. Kennedy advised that that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was to update the in-combination section of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) in relation to any potential in-combination effects associated with the National Cycle Policy Framework.

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was to amend **Objective FL 4** as follows:

“Objective FL4 - Management of Flood Risk in relation to ~~Natura Sites~~ European Sites

In circumstances where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or ~~Natura 2000~~ European sites, the new developments and such these measures will undergo environmental assessment and ~~Habitats Directive~~ Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.”

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was to amend **Objective FL7 - Protection of Water Bodies and Watercourses** with the inclusion of new text as follows:

“Ensure that any new development proposals within or near the 10m buffer are adequately assessed, undergo Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of an NIS, should screening show that this is necessary and where the PA consider that such screening/assessments are required.”

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH 6 – Biodiversity and Ecological Networks** (Refer to Maps 2A/2B) with the inclusion of new text under new part **e)** to read as follows:

"e) Ensure that any new development proposals within or near the 10m buffer are adequately assessed, undergo Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of an NIS, should screening show that this is necessary and where the PA consider that such screening/assessments are required."

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH 3 – Environmental Management** as follows:

"Ensure that any new development proposals on or near the environmental management area that may impact on River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (SPA; Site Code 004097), the Suck River Callows Natural Heritage Area (NHA: Site Code 000222; S.I 575 of 2005) are adequately assessed, undergo ~~environmental and/or Habitats Directive~~ Appropriate Assessment and the preparation of an NIS, should screening show that this is necessary

- Seek to ensure that **a minimum setback of 10 meters** is*
- In the event of lighting being proposed along watercourse corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment extent possible. No lighting will be installed without prior ~~consultation with NPWS~~ planning permission and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into"*

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH4** as follows:

"Protect Natural Heritage.....Where a proposed development within the plan area may give rise to likely significant effects on any Natural Heritage Area or proposed Natural Heritage Area (e.g. Ballinasloe Esker proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA: Site Code 001779), an EIA/EIS may be required and shall be carried out in accordance with the EIA Directive and associated regulations."

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH13** as follows:

"Objective NH 13 – ~~Consultation with Environmental Authorities~~ Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Ensure that all development proposals are screened to determine whether they on their own or in combination with other plans and projects are likely to have a significant ~~direct, indirect or cumulative~~ effect on the integrity or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 a European site in view of its conservation objectives. ~~and, w~~Where significant effects are likely or uncertain, an NIS will be required in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

~~there will be a requirement for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities as part of any Habitats Directive Assessment that may be required."~~

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH14** as follows:

"Objective NH 14 – NPWS & Integrated Management Plans

Galway County Council shall seek to engage with and support the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) at their request to ensure integrated Management Plans are prepared for all ~~Natura~~ European sites within the sphere of influence of the Ballinasloe LAP area and ensure that such plans prioritise achieving the conservation objectives of European sites, that they are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to the local community."

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Objective NH1 and consequential amendments to Objective DS3** of the Draft plan as follows:

"Objective NH 1/Objective DS3 – ~~Natura 2000~~ European Sites

*Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network
A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence including a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Appropriate Assessment if necessary, ~~Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary~~, that*

- 1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any ~~Natura 2000~~ European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or*
- 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species)*
- 3. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any ~~Natura 2000~~ European site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species)"*

Ms. Kennedy advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend the **Natura Impact Report (NIR)** as follows:

- Update Table 3.3 of the NIR to expand on the individual bird species to include the following:
- A038 Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*
- A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*
- A122 Corncrake *Crex crex*
- A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
- A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
- A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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- A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that Section 4 and approach to scientific assessment or analysis – shall provide more detail in the Potential Likely Significant Impact column of Table 4.1 and shall expand on the content of the Mitigation column. Other textual amendments with regard to particular species will be made in the NIR to address the potential impacts in view of the other listed impacts acknowledged by the Department, as appropriate.

She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the consideration of projects in terms of in combination effects will also be revised to include the M6 motorway, marina and hotel surface water ponds.

She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that Irish Water has clarified the AA Screening of the WWTP and this information will be included in the NIR, where appropriate.

She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the conclusion of the NIR will be amended to update the reference to European sites and their conservation objectives.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Submission No. 2.

Submission No. 3: Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (Liz McDonnell)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by the **Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was no change to the Draft Plan.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Submission No. 3.

Submission No. 4: Department of Education & Skills (George Carolan)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by the **Department of Education & Skills** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was to amend **Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B**, in relation to **Specific Objective CF5**, as appropriate.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Submission No. 4.

Submission No. 5: NRA (Michael McCormack)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by the **NRA** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report, and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was to:

1. Retain Part 2 of Objective TI 25 and the serrated orange line on the Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B which relates to the proposed link road at Brackernagh.
2. Update Policy TI 2 in the Draft plan as follows:

"Policy TI 2 – Roads, Streets and Parking

..... In this regard, the principles, approaches and standards set out in relevant national policy, including the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines and the accompanying Urban Design Manual, the Traffic Management Guidelines (2003), the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2007)(2014), the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013) and the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges as appropriate to the national road network outside areas subject to a reduced urban speed limit, and any forthcoming guidelines in relation to street design and cycling facilities shall be applied to new developments, as appropriate."

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 5.

Submission No . 6: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (David Galvin)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by the **EPA** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report, and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was to include specific reference to the SEA Regulations, S.I. No. 201 of 2011 within S. 1.3.2 Statutory Process (p. 6 in the Draft plan) as follows:

"The Environmental Report (ER) has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC), the ~~national~~ Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011(SI No. 200 of 2011) amending the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No.435 of 2004),~~and~~ the 2004 Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines. Regard has also being given to Circular PSSP 6/2011 'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). An Environmental Report (ER) is required as part of the plan making process to assess the likely significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Local Area Plan, before a decision is made to adopt it."

Ms. Kennedy also said that it was the Chief Executive's recommendation to include a new Objective as follows:

"Objective DS 10 – Future Developments and EU Directives

Ensure that all future developments within the plan area fully take into account the requirements of the EIA, Habitats, Birds, Water Framework and Flood Directives respectively, as relevant and as appropriate ",

and to apply textual amendments as per recommendations in Submission No 2 (Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht) under Objective NH14 in relation to the issue of habitat mapping.

Ms. Kennedy said that it was the Chief Executive's recommendation that no change be made to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report or to the Draft plan in relation to the specific comments in relation to the SEA Environmental Report.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern regarding the flood maps undertaken by the Council's Consultants not being accurate. Cllr. Broderick concurred with Cllr. D. Connolly and referred to the area referred to in Submission No. 10 and said that this area is part of the Esker Riada and did not flood. He said that the subject lands appear to be located within a potential "groundwater" flood risk area and at development management stage, the developer will incur significant cost in the provision of a Stage 3 flood risk assessment report. In reply, Ms. McConnell said that the flood maps were reproduced from the existing OPW PFRA study evidence and the areas of flood risk were zoned, in accordance with the *Planning System & Flood Risk Management* (2012) as Flood zone A or B. She explained that since the property of this Submission was not located in Flood Zones A or B, there are no flooding-related restrictions on the type of development that may be proposed, in principle.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. Mc Connell explained that that neither the planning officials nor Elected Members can change flood risk areas as identified by the OPW on their maps. She said that the OPW have undertaken a comprehensive study and they have identified the area as being an area of potential groundwater flood risk and the OPW maps remain in place and are available on the website - www.floodmaps.ie.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell said that that the SFRA is a Stage 2 report which sets down areas of flood risk which the planning authority must take on board for zoning decisions but said that it was not appropriate to undertake a Stage 3 site specific assessment during the Local Area Plan process.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed his reservations that the subject lands of Submission No. 10 were in a flood risk area as they are on the Esker Riada hill. In reply Ms. McConnell said that the subject lands does not fall within flood risk areas A and B so it would not be a mandatory requirement for the developer to submit a Stage 3 site specific flood risk assessment with their planning application but they may have to make some effort to demonstrate that there is no flood risk in that area.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 6.

Submission No. 7: Irish Water (Catriona Lynch/John Casey)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Irish Water** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report, which outlined that while Irish Water's comments were noted, that the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan (LAP) timeframe is **2015-2021** or as otherwise extended by the Elected Members and said that the Planning Authority does not consider it prudent to include Irish Water's proposed new text which relates to **2020** as being '*the period of this plan*' and it is proposed to delete this proposed text.

Ms. Kennedy said that the Chief Executive's recommendation regarding the remaining suggested amendments textual inclusions, deletions and wording changes can be included in the plan to reflect the comments of Irish Water and the Chief Executive's recommendation was as follows:

1. To amend capacity figures in Section 3.6.2 Utilities Infrastructure – Water Supply, as follows:

"S. 3.6.2 Utilities Infrastructure – Water Supply

- 1) The current capacity of the town's water supply at Derrymullen is ~~4,500~~ 4,750-m³/day and the current demand is ~~3,300~~ 3,630-m³/day."*

2. To make textual inclusions, deletions and wording changes to Section 3.6.2 Utilities Infrastructure – Water Supply, as follows:

"Wastewater Disposal

Ballinasloe is serviced by a public wastewater collection network with both primary and secondary treatment (with phosphorus removal).The wastewater works collects and treats domestic and commercial effluent and surface water from a combined sewerage system.The wastewater treatment plant at Poolboy has a current design capacity of 13,500 population equivalent (P.E.), the current loading to the plant is 12,100 P.E., leaving a spare capacity of 1,400 P.E. The existing plant is considered sufficient to cater for wastewater loads up to 2020, ~~the period of this plan. The waste assimilative capacity at the estimated 2020 population equivalent is 13,309 P.E. The proposed additional upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant to~~

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~~1,800 P.E. is not included on Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016 and such works will not commence prior to 2018. The requirement and provision for any further upgrades will be reviewed and considered by Irish Water when planning any subsequent Capital Investment Programme'.~~

An Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Ballinasloe Agglomeration was undertaken by Irish Water in relation to the Waste Water Certificate of Authorisation: D0032-01 process and it was determined that that the discharge from the wastewater treatment plant or in combination with other sources (diffuse agricultural runoff) will not have a significant impact on the River Suck Callows SPA or downstream receiving ~~Natura 2000~~ European sites^{P2F¹P}. ~~The private sewerage works^{P3F²P} located in the Portnack area will be connected to the foul sewer network and treatment system. Any new development within the grounds of the former St. Brigid's hospital will be required to link up with GCC network.~~ Some developments at the outer areas of the town remain connected to individual septic tanks or proprietary wastewater treatment systems. The connection of existing houses to the wastewater system (which is currently served privately) should be progressed through Irish Water's New Connection process and potentially in conjunction with a DECLG subsidised Group Wastewater scheme. This New Connections process ensures that the cost associated with serving new customers is recovered from these new customers and this cost does not fall on the existing customer base.

3. To make textual inclusions, deletions and wording changes to **Water Supply, Wastewater & Surface Water Policies and Objectives, as follows:**

To amend **Policy UI1- Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure**, to read as follows:

"Policy UI1- Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure

Support Irish Water in the provision and maintenance of adequate ~~wastewater disposal~~, water supply, wastewater management, ~~and surface water drainage~~ infrastructure, in accordance with EU Directives, to service the development of Ballinasloe. This will include satisfactory capacity for public wastewater networks ~~and storm water sewers~~ as appropriate and a satisfactory quantity and quality of water supply. ~~and the promotion of Sustainable Drainage System approaches and techniques within the plan area."~~

To amend **Objective UI 2 – Water Supply and Water Conservation**, as follows:

"Objective UI 2 – Water Supply and Water Conservation

Support Irish Water in:

¹ (Source: Irish Water AA Screening for the Ballinasloe Waste Water Certificate of Authorisation: D0032-01; submitted to EPA 14/08/2014 and GCC Water Services Section).

² (primary treatment GCC Discharge Licence W 005/78)

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a) ~~Ensure~~ Ensuring that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation/demand management to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide infrastructure to facilitate ~~for water supply~~ metering when making a connection to the public water supply is required;
~~Collaborate with Irish Water in~~ the upgrading of the existing water treatment plant ~~capacity~~ at Derrymullen as deemed necessary.”

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 7.

Submission No. 8: Office of Public Works (OPW)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by **OPW** in their Submission and the Chief Executive’s Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive’s recommendation was as follows:

- a) Amend the Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B to address the mapping error noted.
- b) Consequential amendments to be made to the Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B.
- c) Amend the disclaimer on the title page of the Draft SFRA to read as follows (and to delete the existing one)

“This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. The maps produced as part of this study were prepared for the purpose of informing the Ballinasloe Draft Local Area Plan 2015-2021 and broadly indicate areas that may be prone to flooding. The study has taken into account various factors including local knowledge, photography, site walkovers and published data sources indicative of flood risk. The Indicative Flood Risk Zones should not be solely relied upon for site-specific flood risk assessments.”

d) Insert the following User Note to Figures 5 and 7 of the Draft SFRA to read as follows:
“The delineation of Indicative Flood Risk Zones has taken into account various factors including local knowledge, photography, and site walkovers and published data sources indicative of flood risk. The Zones indicate broadly areas that may be prone to flooding and have informed the Plan. The Zones are indicative and should not be relied upon solely for site-specific flood risk assessment. The Zones may be updated in the future to take account of new information.”

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 8.

Submission No. 9: Gerry Cleary

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Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Gerry Cleary** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to the OPW's Submission in Submission No.8.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 9.

Submission No. 10: Gerry Cleary

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Gerry Cleary** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to the OPW's Submission in Submission No.8.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 10.

Submission No. 11: Brock McClure, Planning and Development Consultants For Musgrave Retail Partners. Submission Map 11A relates to Dunlo area and Submission Map 11 b relates to site at Brackernagh

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Brock McClure, Planning and Development Consultants For Musgrave Retail Partners** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation in respect of Mapped Submission11A (lands at Dunlo),

- Amend the Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B and change the undeveloped portion of the C2 to Business and Enterprise zoning (BE).
- Retain existing C2 zoning to the developed areas.
- Amend Land Use Zoning Matrix under BE re cinema from 'Not permitted' to 'Open for Consideration'.

Ms. Kennedy said the Chief Executive's recommendation in respect of Mapped Submission11B (Existing Supermarket at Brackernagh), was as follows:

- Amend the Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B and change the R- Residential Existing to Commercial/Mixed Use (C2)

Cllr. M. Finnerty welcomed the re-zoning but said that he does not want an existing development to be displaced.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly as to the type of development that could be considered under the revised zoning, Ms. McConnell said that the change of zoning to 'Business & Enterprise' would

allow development of a certain retail size and type, that would not be encouraged into Town Centres e.g. Garden Centres/Cinema/Bulky retail goods/motor sales room etc. to be 'Open for Consideration' in this area.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly regarding scale of development permitted, Ms. McConnell advised that in respect of warehousing, the development or subdivision of stores into less than 700m² would not normally be permitted at the Dunlo location, in accordance with the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning 2012* and said that a retail multiple similar to Tesco and Aldi that area already in place, would not be permitted.

Cllr. Broderick queried the residential land zoning of businesses in the Brackernagh area and asked that the zoning be amended to reflect their current use or a 'letter of comfort' be issued to these businesses. Ms. McConnell explained that the approach road to Ballinasloe/Brackernagh is zoned Residential in the current Ballinasloe Town Plan 2009-2015 with the exception of the Open Space/Recreation zoning behind the street front. She said that this zoning was included in the Ballinasloe Draft Local Area Plan and explained that the particular proposed change of zoning from Residential to Commercial /Mixed Use (C2) (Super Valu) was on foot of a Submission received as the development is a large retail centre on that street.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell said that lands should not be spot zoned and it would not make sense as the street is predominantly residential. She explained that changing the current zoning of a number of premises along this road from residential to town centre/commercial would not be considered appropriate as it may act as a competitive centre against the Town Centre which could undermine the viability of the Town Centre. Ms. McConnell advised that while the Elected Members could make changes to the Draft Plan, the Executive would caution zoning lands as commercial outside of the Town Centre as it would be in direct contrast to what the Plan is trying to achieve by the consolidation of the Town Centre and the revitalisation of the Town Centre area.

In response to Cllr. Broderick's concerns regarding any future development or development by established businesses in the area, Ms. McConnell explained that the Land Use Zoning Matrix in the Draft Plan (DM Guideline LU2) indicates the types of land uses that are 'Permitted in Principle (P)' and 'Open for Consideration (O)' in a Residential land use zone and many uses are already catered for in this matrix and where there is no perceived conflict between existing and proposed uses, favourable consideration will be given to the proposed development, subject to all other normal requirements and to the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Cllr. M. Finnerty concurred with Cllr. Broderick and said that representations had been received from concerned businesses in the Brackernagh area requesting that existing businesses in the area obtain the zoning status of commercial. In reply, Ms. McConnell advised that the Draft Plan accommodates these businesses as the Land Use Zoning Matrix outlines *"Where there is no perceived conflict between existing and proposed uses, favourable consideration will be given to the proposed development, subject to all other normal requirements and to the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area"*. She said that this would apply to small shops and those established businesses and future development could be considered in the future.

The Chief Executive advised that certain land uses are permitted under the Residential zoning (R) within the Land Use Zoning Matrix and this gives the businesses a certain degree of certainty but also gives the residents a certain degree of control and understanding of what development might happen in the area. He said that a Submission was received from Brock McClure (Planning Consultants) for Musgraves, and a zoning proposed. He explained that the Elected Members can change other zonings but the difficulty in rezoning does not just affect the businesses but also the residents in the area. He explained that if a different zoning is applied by the Members to allow other land uses to be considered by businesses, it would also need to be considered by the Elected Members if this change in zoning would give a degree of certainty to the residents, as one could end up with an outcome which was not the outcome originally intended.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell advised that the Members seem to be seeking a solution for a problem that we don't have and she again cautioned against the Commercial spot zoning. She said she cannot recall any refusal of planning permission in that area in the past 12 years and reiterated that the Land Use Zoning Matrix allows existing businesses to expand or new businesses to be set up. She said that further consideration needs to be given by the Members regarding the change of zoning as a commercial zoning would allow a Nightclub to be 'Open for Consideration' and said that all the land uses that is being restricted in Dunlo could transfer to this location.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 11 (a) and 11(b).

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, it was agreed:

1. To amend Objective LU3 to include sub paragraph, 3 as follows:
- "3. Existing commercial businesses in Residential zonings shall, as far as is practicable, be***

facilitated to expand and develop their commercial activity."

2. To amend the Land Use Zoning Matrix as follows:

Amend Residential Zoning from 'N' to 'O' for Petrol Station.

Submission No. 12: Flood Alleviation Ballinasloe Community Project

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Flood Alleviation Ballinasloe Community Project** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to the OPW's Submission in Submission No.8.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to this Submission which requested that measures be put in place to ensure the continued necessary maintenance of the Suck and its tributaries with the LAP and said that this was very relevant and hugely significant and said while he understood that it was outside of the scope of local area plan process, that he could not overstate the significance of it.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 12.

Submission No. 13: Fergal Dunne, Supervalu Ballinasloe

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Fergal Dunne; Supervalu Ballinasloe** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 13.

Submission No. 14: James O'Donnell, Planning Consultancy Services for BKT Construction

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **James O'Donnell (Planning Consultancy Services) for BKT Construction** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was no change to the Draft Plan.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 14.

Submission No. 15: Kathleen Croffy.

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Kathleen Croffy** in her Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per Submission No. 8 OPW, as follows:

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- (a) Amend the Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B to address the mapping error noted.
- (b) Consequential amendments to be made to the Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 15.

Submission No. 16: Niall Clarke

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Niall Clarke** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 16.

Submission No. 17: Stanley Clarke

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Stanley Clarke** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 17.

Submission No. 18: Bill Keller

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Bill Keller** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 18.

Submission No. 19: Kevin Broderick

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Kevin Broderick** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief

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Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 19.

Submission No. 20: Ann Broderick

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Ann Broderick** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 20.

Submission No. 21: Gerry Cleary for Bobby Finn, (Lands at Moycarn)

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Gerry Cleary for Bobby Finn** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was no change to the Draft Plan.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 21.

Submission No. 22: Damien Clarke

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Damien Clarke** in his Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 22.

Submission No. 23: Bill Keller / Pierce Keller / Val Colleran / Sean Fletcher / Dermot Salmon re Lands at Dunloe.

Ms. Kennedy outlined the issues raised by **Bill Keller / Pierce Keller / Val Colleran / Sean Fletcher / Dermot Salmon** in their Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 23.

Submission No. 24: Ciara Croffey.

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Ciara Croffey** in her Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report and said the Chief Executive's recommendation was no change to the Draft Plan.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 24.

Submission No. 25: Martina Whelan c/o Downeys Bar

Ms. Kennedy outlined the main issues raised by **Martina Whelan** in her Submission and the Chief Executive's Response, as outlined in the Chief Executive Officers Report which related to the reconsideration of the commercial zoning in the Dunlo area and to restrict further developments outside the Town Centre to solely local needs and the Chief Executive's recommendation was as per response to Submission 11 (mapped submission 11A) with regard to emerging retail.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executives Report in respect of Submission No. 25.

Cllr. A. Donohue requested the change of land use zoning from Agricultural to Residential Phase 2 in respect of lands at Garb ally Demesne (Mackey) and he submitted a map to the Meeting outlining his proposal.

Ms. McConnell advised the Meeting that this Motion was discussed at the Ballinasloe MD Meeting and explained that the site outlined in red is within an Agricultural zoning and part of the site falls within the 90 metre buffer zone of the Motorway and explained that it would be inappropriate to zone that part of the land when it would not be permitted for residential use and cautioned against rezoning east of the motorway buffer line. She said that the Elected Members could consider zoning the other portion of the land as Residential Phase 2.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly's query re densities of development that would be considered if the land was rezoned, Ms. McConnell advised that densities are not applied to zoning but at the development management stage, each application would be examined to determine what type of development would be appropriate for the site, but theoretically up to 8 units per acre could be permitted on Residential lands.

In reply to Cllr. Feeney, Ms. McConnell said that the portion of land within the Motorway buffer zone could not be zoned Open Space as the recommendation from the NRA is that this land

would not be suitable as Open Space due to safety and noise concerns and could not be used as the 15% requirement for residential development.

On the proposal of Cllr. A. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, it was agreed:

To change land use zoning from that which went on public display as the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan (April 2015) : Change from Agricultural zoned lands to Residential Phase 2 lands as shown on attached Map at Garbally Demesne (Mackney), outside the 90 metre buffer zone from the M6 Motorway .

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke, it was agreed:

To add new narrative under Page 35 of the Draft Plan, under Tourism Linkages as follows:

"Agriculture Linkages

It is recognised that Ballinasloe is an important market town having a large agricultural hinterland, which is well served in recognising services such as livestock equine mart. In addition the plan recognises the importance of the Agricultural Educational and Advisory services to the plan area."

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke, it was agreed:

To add new narrative under Page 65 of the Draft Plan as follows:

"Ballinasloe Fair

The Ballinasloe Plan supports and recognises the significance of the Ballinasloe Fair which is renowned as the largest such Fair in Europe. The Fair is highly important to the local economy of Ballinasloe and the plan recognises this."

Cllr. D. Connolly explained that while reference is given in the Draft Plan to the Ballinasloe Fair, he said that an individual paragraph is required as this the Ballinasloe Fair is a very significant annual event in Ballinasloe and it needs to be recognised independently.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke, it was agreed:

To add a new Policy on Page 65 of the Draft Plan as follows:

"Policy BAC 3: Bridleways in Ballinasloe

Support the creation of bridleways within Ballinasloe Plan area given the strong local equine connections. "

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke, it was agreed:

To add a new Policy on Page 42 of the Draft Plan as follows:

"Policy TI4 Bi-Lingual Road Signage

Support and facilitate Bi-Lingual Road Signage within the plan area"

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to Page 42 of the Draft Plan and **Objective TI 17 – Transport Network Improvements (b)**, which referred to the exploration of the possibility of one way streets and he expressed his concern regarding one way streets on the town's three main streets. In reply, Ms. McConnell said that this Objective allowed for at a point in time, the exploration of the possibility only and it would be only considered as part of a Traffic Management Scheme if it ever did come forward. She said while Traffic Management Plans/Schemes are an Executive function, the Schemes do go on display for public consultation.

Cllr. D. Connolly said that the Council needs to provide infrastructure and the ability for Town Centre retail businesses to thrive and he said he would welcome if the Council could explore the Rates initiative, being considered by Fingal County Council as this would assist businesses in the town.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Donohue, it was agreed to accept the recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report, as amended by the Members and it was agreed to put the agreed text amendments and Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan on display.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

2113

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh seconded by Cllr. Kearney, and agreed, that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow Item No's 10 and 11 to be taken next.

APPOINTMENT OF 1 MEMBER TO THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

2114

[Report dated 14th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh and seconded by Cllr. A. Donohue that Cllr. F. Kearney be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee.

As there was no further proposal in respect of this vacancy, the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. F. Kearney appointed as a Member of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee, to fill the vacancy arising as a result of the resignation of Cllr. D. Killilea.

APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT NOMINEE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FROM THE HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE **2115**

[Report dated 9th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

In reply to a query from Cllr. Hoade, Ms. McConnell said that although this matter was raised under Chief Executive's Business at the June Monthly Meeting of the Council, it is a requirement that it be formally placed on the Agenda for the July Monthly Meeting for consideration by the Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. M. Finnerty, and agreed, that Mr. Michael Keady, Regional Co-Ordinator with the HSE, be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee to replace Ms. Catherine Cunningham.

TO CONSIDER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND PROPOSED DELETIONS TO THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES AS PER SECTION 55 (4) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) **2116**

[Report was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

The Cathaoirleach invited the presentation of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received on the on the Proposed Additions and Proposed Deletions to the Record of Protected Structures.

Ms. McConnell advised the Meeting that the purpose of the Chief Executive's report issued to the Elected Members was to inform the Members of the outcome of the statutory consultation process for the proposed additions and proposed deletions of structures to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Ms. McConnell advised that there are four sections to the report: Section 1 which sets out the legislative background; Section 2 which lists the submissions received, a summary of the main issues raised in each submission, together with the Chief Executive's Response and Recommendation; Section 3 which lists the persons/bodies informed under the statutory process and Section 4 contains a copy of the public notification and list of the Proposed Additions and Proposed Deletions to the Record of Protected Structures.

Ms. McConnell advised that under Section 53 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2011, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has recommended the inclusion in the RPS of two of the structures proposed for inclusion, namely RPS 4038 & 4039 and had recommended the inclusion in the RPS of six of the structures proposed for deletion, namely RPS 733, 3156, 3480, 3670, 3968 and 3959.

Ms. McConnell advised that the proposed additions and proposed deletions were available for inspection from **Friday 24th April 2015 to Friday 5th June 2015 at 4pm.** She also advised that in accordance with Section 55 (1)(a) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended), the planning authority is required to notify each person who is the owner or occupier of the structure of its proposed addition or proposed deletion from the RPS and said that this notification process was carried out by registered post and a notice was served on the owners/reputed owners or occupiers of the proposed protected structure or protected structure, as the case may be, of the proposed addition or deletion of the structure to the RPS.

Ms. McConnell confirmed that six written submissions were received in response to the proposed additions and proposed deletions

Ms. Doddy advised that the designation of a building as a Protected Structure seeks its conservation rather than preservation. She said that conservation is the process of caring for buildings and of managing changes to them in such a way as to retain their character and special interest. She advised that additions and other interventions should be sympathetic to the earlier structure and of quality in them and should not cause damage to the fabric of the structure either in the long or short term and details of the nature and extent of protection of each individual structure can be ascertained by issuing a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning Act.

Proposed Additions:

Proposed Addition – RPS 4033: ‘The Quiet Man Cottage’, Tír na Cille Theas.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive’s recommendation was that the structure has social, cultural and historical interest associated with the making of the film, which attracts interest especially amongst the Diaspora and the Chief Executive’s Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that the co-owner, Ms. Shirley L. Ebbitt confirmed receipt of the Section 55 Notice and confirmed ownership of the named structure but Ms. McConnell said that this Submission was received outside of the public display period.

Comh. O’Tuairisg advised the Meeting that he concurred with the Chief Executive’s report that the Cottage has social, cultural and historical interest from his association with ‘The Quiet Man’ film. He said also that John Forde’s parents came from the Spiddal area and the film has been of huge importance and relevance to the area. He said that over 8,500 signatures had been

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received in a petition to support of its inclusion. He said that he had a letter from Maureen O'Hara's personal secretary stating that this would be the best birthday present Ms. O'Hara could get.

Comh. O'Tuairisg read Statements to the Meeting from Liam Neeson, Actor, Michael Flatley, Dancer and Maureen O'Hara, Actress, which were posted on social media sites in support of the inclusion of the Quiet Man Cottage on the Record of Protected Structures. He explained that any concern that might hinder the development of the cottage were alleviated by Richard McLoughlin, Grade 1 Listed Architect, as he confirmed that it would help rather than hinder any possible development by it being included on the RPS.

Cllr. Healy concurred with Comh. O'Tuairisg and said that it was apt to include this iconic cottage in the year that Galway is seeking the designation to be Galway European Capital of Culture 2020. He said that it was a timely reminder of importance for the Diaspora and said that people living in the USA place great value on the film and what it represents as John Forde managed to capture the essence of Connemara over 50 years ago. He said that its inclusion and linkage to the film could assist in Connemara being considered as an economic player for more creative industries. Cllr. Healy expressed thanks to a large group of people who assisted in this process.

Cllr. Welby said that while he was very supportive of any initiative to protect structures and help in the preservation of this cottage, he said that it is currently in a poor state of repair. He expressed concern that people would be campaigned seeking finance to repair this 'Quiet Man Cottage'. He said that while he is happy that there is a structure that portrays this major film, he is concerned that people invest money and get no return for it.

Comh. O'Cualain said that he supports the inclusion wholeheartedly as the 'cottage' is based in central Connemara and said that it has tourism potential and every effort should be made to refurbish it to its former glory.

Cllr. Roche referred to a recent tourism event held in Ballyglunin at 'Castletown,' Railway Station which was featured in 'The Quiet Man' film. He complimented the Ballyglunin Railway Restoration Project in organising a hugely successful festival recently which brought thousands of visitors to that area.

Ms. McConnell advised the Meeting that the inclusion of the 'Quiet Man Cottage' onto the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) means if a development proposal came forward, more detail on the preservation of the character of the house can be sought but it does not oblige the

Owner or the County Council to undertake any development on it. She explained that its inclusion means that its character will be protected in so far as possible as legislation allows, and any additions should be sympathetic to the existing structure. She said that its contribution to the area and its importance on the cultural landscape of County Galway was recognised.

On the proposal of Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by Comh. O'Cualain , it was agreed to accept the recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Addition RPS 4033 'The Quiet Man Cottage'.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4034: Thatch, Ballyglass, Ardrahan.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the structure is an example of a roof type and house size of significant vernacular and technical special interest and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4034 – Thatch, Ballyglass, Ardrahan.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4036: 'Canal House', Ballinasloe.

Ms. McConnell said that this was a detached 5 bay former gas works building with advanced central bay and arches attached with carved stone hood mouldings to opes. She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the structure is of regional significance because of its association with the industrial development of the town and for the quality of its architectural design and craftsmanship, and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition but the owner has been met and spoken to regarding this proposed inclusion.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4036 – 'Canal House', Ballinasloe.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4037: St. Kerrill's Church, Gurteen, Ballinasloe (NIAH 30407207)

Ms. McConnell said that this was a detached four-bay single-storey Roman Catholic Church, dated 1796, currently derelict. She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that

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the structure was proposed on foot of a petition signed by 29 people from Gurteen who requested it be included on the RPS. She advised that the building dates from 1796, and is included in the NIAH (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage) as being of local importance and as having architectural and social special interest and advised that the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that a Submission was received (RPS 6) during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition from Fr. Raymond Sweeney. She advised that the Submission stated that the building has not been in Church use for over 80 years and various alterations have been made to the structure since and these were set out in the Submission. The Submission stated that the building serves no purpose and is dangerous, derelict and a health hazard.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4037 – St. Kerrill's Church, Gurteen, Ballinasloe.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4038: Lime Kiln, Lough Conaortha

Ms. McConnell said that the Lime Kiln was built c. 1935, comprising dry-stone granite construction with conical kiln or firing chamber and square-headed chute to base of flue in east elevation and it is built on and incorporating slope of hillcock. Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that this limekiln is a relatively rare survival in West Galway and it reflects the hard work that was required to keep the land productive in this area and the commercial value of lime in a pre-mechanised age. She advised that this lime-kiln was built by the present landowner's grandfather in the 1930s and the limestone was brought from Aran Islands and burnt for fertilizer, all through the efforts of manual labour. Ms. McConnell advised that the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4038 – Lime Kiln, Lough Conaortha.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4039: Tigh Peadair Moir, An Bhánrainn Bhán Theas.

Ms. McConnell said that this is a Detached six-bay single-storey thatched house with attic story, built c.1800. She said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that this is a particularly fine thatched house now in use as a pub and said that although thatched houses are

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increasingly rare, this thatched house is part of a cluster that still survives within this locality and said that the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4039 – Tigh Peadair Moir, An Bhánrainn Bhán Theas.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4040: Limestone Gate Pier, Kiltullagh.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation outlined that the gate pier, dated 1709, which once marked an entrance to Kiltullagh House, displays interesting carvings and inscriptions and the association with Kiltullagh House and the D'arcy family contributes to their significance and said that the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that the owner, Bernadette Collins, confirmed receipt of the Section 55 Notice (RPS 4) and confirmed ownership of the named structure.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4040 – Limestone Gate Pier, Kiltullagh.

Proposed Addition – RPS 4041: Limestone Gate Pier, Kiltullagh.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation outlined that the gate pier, dated 1709, which once marked an entrance to Kiltullagh House, displays interesting carvings and inscriptions and the association with Kiltullagh House and the D'arcy family contributes to their significance and said that the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is included on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed addition.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Proposed Addition RPS 4041 – Limestone Gate Pier, Kiltullagh.

Proposed Deletions

Proposed Deletion – RPS 525: Leenaun Roman Catholic Church.

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Ms. McConnell advised the Meeting that this was a plain 5 bay single cell mid 19th century church with rendered façade and pointed window openings. She advised that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that the plain country church picturesquely set adjoining road and overlooking Killary Bay is one of few buildings dating from this period in the area and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that that a Submission was received (RPS 1) during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion from Fr. Kieran Burke. She advised that the Submission confirmed that the legal owner is 'St. Jarlath's Diocesan Trust' and stated that having discussed the issues with the Architectural Conservation Officer; Fr. Burke now wished the church to be retained on the RPS.

The Members agreed to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 525 – Leenaun Roman Catholic Church.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 733: St. Colmcille's Roman Catholic Church, Indreabhain.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was the church is a very interesting example of a post-Vatican II designed church and the design of the altar, tabernacle, font, etc are all to a high artistic standard and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion.

Cllr. Kearney expressed concern regarding the carrying out of alterations on churches that are included on the RPS. He said that in future many Churches may have alternative uses and alterations may be required and expression that inclusion on the RPS may hinder works being carried out. The Cathaoirleach explained to the Meeting that any adjustment to any structure would need to be in consultation with the Architectural Conservation Officer. Comh. O'Curraoin said that this church was relatively new and did not see the merit of its inclusion on the RPS. Comh. O'Cualain concurred with this.

Ms. Doddy, Architectural Conservation Officer, advised the Meeting that conservation is about keeping buildings in use and about managing change and said that the Church's inclusion on the RPS does not mean that change cannot happen if a Church has outlived its use. She explained that a Section 57 Declaration Notice, under the Planning & Development Act, can clarify if planning permission is required for any works and it can also assist in the determining what is of special interest within the building however this can only be undertaken when the building is

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included on the RPS. Ms. Doddy confirmed that the Church was built in 1964 and it was one of the first Churches where there was the change in where the altar was situated and said that Brother Tutty designed the interior fittings. She said that she met with the Parish Priest who had commissioned a detailed Engineers report which outlined that outlined how issues/works could be dealt with in a co-ordinated way going forward as previously various works were carried out in an adhoc manner.

On the proposal of Comh. O'Tuairisg seconded by Comh. O'Cualain it was agreed not to accept the recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 733 - St. Colmcille's Roman Catholic Church, Indreabhain.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 3480: Leeches Village Crafts, Kinvara

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was this building makes a positive impression on the streetscape and its timber sliding sash windows and limestone Gibbs door surround are significant features, adding to its decorative interest and the decreasing scale of fenestration is typical of the period, and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed not to accept the recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 3480 - Leeches Village Crafts, Kinvara.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 3929: House at Ballina, Tuam.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that this is a typical early twentieth-century house built to accommodate a national school teacher, and usually occurring close by the schoolhouse and it displays elements of the Arts and Crafts movement and is enhanced by the retention of its historic fabric, such as timber sash windows and panelled door with canopy and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that that a Submission was received (RPS 3) during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion from the owner, Dr James D. O Shea. She advised that the Submission welcomed the proposed removal of his house from the Record of Protected Structures following his request and correspondence received from elected

member(s), and states that this will facilitate his preservation of the character of his family home in a practical and environmentally-friendly manner.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh, it was agreed not to accept the recommendations in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 3929 – House at Ballina, Tuam.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 3968 – Cullairbaun House, Athenry.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was that this attractive middle-sized house forms a noteworthy addition to the town of Athenry and although it has been extended and somewhat altered, it retains its basic form and the box-bay windows to the front and side elevations enliven the facades and contribute to its visual appeal and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cronelly, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, it was agreed not to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 3968 – Cullairbaun House, Athenry.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 3156– Thatch House, Crannagh, Ballinasloe.

Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was this thatched house is home to the same family for over two hundred years, and the house is an increasingly rare sight in the Irish landscape, and is representative of the vernacular tradition in the locality of Crannagh and it has retained much of its original form and fabric and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion.

On the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. Donoghue, it was agreed not to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 3156 – Thatch House, Crannagh, Ballinasloe.

Proposed Deletion – RPS 3670– Thatch House, Frenchfort, Oranmore.

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Ms. McConnell said that the Chief Executive's recommendation was this house is a direct-entry vernacular thatched house with its characteristic small windows, a type once widespread but now becoming increasingly rare and the juxtaposition of outbuildings enhances the siting and the Chief Executive's Recommendation was that this structure is retained on the RPS.

Ms. McConnell advised that no Submission was received during the Section 55 public display period in relation to this proposed deletion.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Kearney it was agreed not to accept the Recommendation in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the Proposed Deletion RPS 3670– Thatch House, Frenchfort, Oranmore.

Submission No. 2 – Tipperary County Council

Ms. McConnell said that the Submission stated that Tipperary County Council had no Submission/observations to make on the proposed additions and proposed deletions to the RPS.

Submission No. 5 – Clare County Council

Ms. McConnell said that the Submission stated that Clare County Council had no Submission/observations to make on the proposed additions and proposed deletions to the RPS.

In reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty, Ms. McConnell advised that structures can be proposed for addition or proposed for removal using the Section 55 procedure as outlined in the Planning & Development Act. She explained that the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 states that the Record of Protected Structures can be amended by the addition or deletion of entries independently of the Development Plan review process.

In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. McConnell said that as the Section 55 process is a statutory process, the planning authority normally undertakes the process when there is a reasonable number of proposed additions and proposed deletions received. She said that a formal application needs to be made to the Planning Department for any proposals to be considered. Ms. McConnell advised that in respect of Mountbellew School, its inclusion on the RPS will not inhibit appropriate works to be undertaken to it.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2117**

[Report dated 14th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the Patrick MacGill Summer School & Arts Week, to be held in Glenties, Co. Donegal on 21st - 24th July 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. M. Connolly & M. Hoade

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cualáin, seconded by Cllr. Donnellan, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Galway County Council Irish Language Conference *An Piarsach i Ros Muc: Commemoration of Pádraig Pearse's last visit to Ros Muc in July 1915*, to be held in Ros Muc, Co. na Gaillimhe on 31st July 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. Maher

It was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Esperanza Enterprises Conference - *Changes to Community Development*, to be held in the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway on 1st August 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. Rabbitte

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. J. Byrne, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Celtic Conferences - *Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015*, to be held in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 7th - 9th August 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. Kinane

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Donnellan, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the Co-Operation Ireland - *The Housing Debate: What role for Local Government in Rebuilding our Communities*, to be held in Maynooth University Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare on 10th September 2015, be authorized:

Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. Walsh, M. Connolly & Rabbitte

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It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Comh. Ó Cualáin, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the Clifden 2012 Committee - *Connemara Descendants Gathering*, to be held at the Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway on 11th - 12th September 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Hoade, Mannion, Welby, Kearney, Maher, Healy, Donohue, Comh. Ó Curráoin & Comh. Ó Cualáin

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. P. Feeney, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the Twinning Visit to Washington County, Wisconsin, Chicago & Milwaukee Fest on 9th - 17th August 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Maher, Cronnelly & Walsh

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2118**

[Report dated 14th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

It was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the In-House Training - Public Policy Advisors Network - *Development, Analysis & Review of Council Policy*, at Áras an Chontae on 3rd September 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Welby, Donnellan, Fahy, Mannion, Kearney, Hoade, Maher, Rabbitte, Kinane, Noone & Comh. Ó Tuairisg

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the In-House Training - IPA - *Chairing & Participation in Meetings of the Council* on 22nd September 2015, at Áras an Chontae, be authorized:

Cllrs. Welby, Donnellan, Fahy, Mannion, Kearney, Hoade, Maher, Rabbitte, Kinane, Noone, Comh. Ó Tuairisg

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the - AILG Training - *Road, Transport & Urban Traffic Planning* on 20th October 2015, at Carrick-On-Shannon at a venue to be decided, be authorized:

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Cllrs. McClearn, Walsh, M. Connolly

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the - AILG Training - *New Regional Assemblies Structure and their relationship with Local Authorities & Governance (Part 2) Ethics* on 5th November 2015, at Ballinasloe, Co. Galway at a venue to be decided, be authorized:

Cllr. Walsh

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2119**

[Report dated 14th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Oughterard Courthouse - Flagship Leader Project, as submitted by Comh. Ó Cualáin, Cllrs. G. Finnerty, J. Byrne, Maher, Hynes, D. Connolly, Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Donnellan, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Tasc Economic Inequality - *What Can be Done*, as submitted by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Comh. Ó Cualáin, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Threshold: Generation Rent - *The Future of Private Rented Sector in Ireland*, as submitted by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Superior Training: Local Government & Economic Development, as submitted by Cllr. McClearn.

On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Superior Training: Ace Management: Domestic Water Charges - *Preparation and Practicalities*, as submitted by Comh. Ó Curraoin.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JULY 2015 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **2020**

[Report dated 15th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

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On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly it was agreed to note the Management Report for June 2015.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZE THE ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CENTENARY OF THE 1916 RISING COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE GRANT SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 66 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

2021

[Report dated 13th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Donnellan, the Members agreed to authorize the allocation of grant funding under the Galway County Council Centenary of the 1916 Rising Community Commemorative Grant Scheme as set out in the report dated 13th July, 2015.

TO CONSIDER THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT CENTENARY PROGRAMME 1916 – 2016.

2022

[Report dated 13th July, 2015 was already made available to the Members on the extranet]

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, the Members agreed to note the Galway County Council Draft Centenary Programme 1916 - 2016.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

2023

The Chief Executive referred to the baseline summary economic overview and sectoral papers for the key economic sectors in the County including Agriculture and the Marine, Food and Tourism as well as Education, the Creative Sector, ICT, Medical devices and Retail which Galway County Council, Galway City Council and NUIG have worked together to develop. He reminded the Members that the baseline document was being launched the following day, 21st July, 2015 at 8.30am in the Galway Bay Hotel, and he urged the Members to attend the launch.

Mr. Cullen referred to the Irish Water Newsletter which had been circulated to the Members at the Meeting entitled *Water Supply Options Working Paper Consultation Newsletter No. 2*. He said that Irish Water has launched the second public consultation phase for the proposed Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WS) with four water supply options now being considered and feedback is being sought in relation to the proposed Constraints and Assessment Criteria which are being used to select an "Emerging Preferred Option". He said that this entails an 8 week public consultation process with a closing date for submissions on 4th August, 2015. He said the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region, Water Supply Options Working Paper is available to view in the County Libraries and at the Planning Section of the Council and can be downloaded at www.watersupplyproject.ie.

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Cllrs. Canney and M. Connolly raised queries regarding the infrastructure fee being charged by Irish Water and Mr. Cullen replied that the Commission for Energy Regulation dictates the level of fees Irish Water may charge its customers. However, he said that the infrastructure charge levied by Irish Water must be equivalent to the Development Charge levied by the Council in respect of water services in addition to the connection fee until such time as the Commission for Energy Regulation sets the infrastructure charge for Irish Water. He also said that the Council no longer has the power to set the development charge for water.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Cuddy regarding the water conservation grant, Mr. Cullen said that a household must have registered with Irish Water in order to apply to the Department of Social Protection for the water conservation grant and stated that it was his understanding that further information will issue in relation to the water conservation grant in due course.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Mr. Cullen said that the Council had written to the Minister for Health seeking a review of the appropriateness of the addition of fluoride to the water supply and he is aware that a departmental working group was set up to examine this matter. He said that the Council has not yet been advised of the outcome of this review.

Mr. Gavin informed the Members that the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport has notified the Council of additional funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme. He said that Galway Co. Council has received an additional allocation of €1,626,550.

He said that the Council may allocate up to 10% of this additional funding towards the Local Improvement Scheme and the local contribution for these schemes remains at 20% of the total cost of the project. However, Mr. Gavin said he is not recommending any funding be allocated to L.I.S. Schemes at this late stage of the year. He also said that the Council may use up to 20% of this additional funding for Community Involvement Schemes. He said that existing C.I.S. Schemes which were submitted earlier in the year will be reconsidered for funding as part of the additional allocation.

The Council may also seek Departmental approval for safety works schemes from this additional allocation, but he said in light of the short timeframe for spending this allocation, it is too late to seek approval in this regard in 2015.

He said that the additional allocation will be spent on surfacing of roads and surface dressing and will be allocated to each Municipal District on a per kilometer basis. He asked the Members to contact the Area Engineer in their District if they have roads in their area which need improvement works.

Cllr. J. Byrne welcomed the allocation of additional funding for road restoration works. He said that Community Involvement Schemes provide much needed funds for local areas and should be focused on. He also said that Local Improvement Schemes are important and he would like if a small fund be made available in this regard in order to bring relevant roads up to a standard where they could be taken in charge by the Council.

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Cllr. J. Byrne also acknowledged a recent allocation by Irish Water of an additional €500,000 towards the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme.

Comh. Ó Cualáin agreed with Cllr. J. Byrne that the issue of taking in charge of roads is important and he also said that there are some piers which need to be brought up to a standard where they can be taken in charge by the Council. He expressed the view that any road which has been tarred should be taken in charge by the Council.

Cllr. Kinane expressed concern regarding the per kilometer allocation of the additional funding stating that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District is at a disadvantage as a result. She said that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District Council had already sought additional funding for roadworks in their area and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed by the Roads, Transportation & Marine SPC.

Cllrs. Cuddy and Cronnelly also expressed concern regarding the allocation of the additional funding stating that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District has 20% of the population of the County and only gets 9% of the funding which they feel is unfair

Cllr. Charity suggested that an amount of €200,000 from the allocation be ring-fenced for spending in the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District to correct the disparity in the funding model and in keeping with the earlier decision of Council as previously referenced by Cllr. Kinane.

Mr. Gavin replied that the request by the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District Council for additional funding was discussed by the Roads, Transportation & Marine SPC and the officials will come back to the SPC with proposals which will then be brought to full Council for consideration. However, he said that when the Council is allocated additional funding at this stage of the year, it is important that it is spent within the year and he said the Council will allocate the funding as fairly as possible between all of the Municipal Districts and it will be allocated on a per kilometer basis having regard to the lists submitted to the Area Engineers by the Members.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Fahy regarding the Local Property Tax, the Chief Executive Interim replied that the position is as outlined in 2014 in that each Local Authority retains 80% of the amount collected and 20% goes back to a central Equalization Fund and is redistributed to local authorities in order to bring them up to the level of funding received in the previous year. He also said that if the LPT is reduced, this will not result in an increase in the amount we receive from the Equalisation Fund.

He said that if the Members decide to reduce the LPT for 2016, it will mean a reduction in the level of services being provided to communities.

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Cllr. Cuniffe referred to the grey slab finish on the bridge at Millers Cottage, Tuam and stated that he had asked in the past that funding be provided to change the finish on the wall to a suitable finish consistent with the heritage of the area.

Mr. Gavin replied that there is no funding available at present for this work.

The following items of correspondence which were published to the extranet prior to the meeting were noted:

- Correspondence from Donegal County Council dated 17th June 2015 adopting a motion “Donegal County Council welcomes the wage increase awarded to Dunnes Stores workers but we believe that it is now time for all employers to guarantee their employees a minimum and liveable number of hours and employment.”
- Correspondence from Donegal County Council dated 17th June 2015 adopting a motion “That Donegal County Council supports the Irish Deaf Society’s call for Irish Sign Language to be recognised as an Official Language.”
- Correspondence from Donegal County Council dated 17th June 2015 adopting a motion “That this Council would ensure that 30% of all social houses built or bought under the Social Housing Strategy 2020 will be located in rural areas and that this motion will be passed to all other Local Authorities.”
- Correspondence dated 30th June 2015 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of recent correspondence from Galway County Council concerning a resolution of Galway County Council requesting the Government to object to the publication of CAP Payments Beneficiaries by Member States for 2015.
- Correspondence dated 30th June 2015 from the Office of Public Works acknowledging receipt of recent letter from Galway County Council regarding a request to amend flood risk mapping to reflect mitigation works carried out by the Office of Public Works and Galway County Council.
- Correspondence dated 30th June 2015 from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in connection with a recent resolution of Galway County Council concerning air service to the Aran Islands.
- Correspondence from the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney dated 13th July 2015 adopting a Notice of Motion “That Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District immediately call on the Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney, to intervene to ensure that maps that are being used for the new GLAS Environmental Scheme, are the same as those used for the REPS Scheme which ends this year as there are serious discrepancies in the maps being used presently.”
- Correspondence from Cork County Council dated 14th July 2015 adopting a motion “That State job activation measures should be available to all who are unemployed, not only to those on the Live Register. That if passed, this motion would be circulated to all local authorities in the Country for support.”

CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS.

2024

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Cllr. N. Byrne proposed that a minutes silence be observed by the Members in remembrance of Eamon Buckley, one of her former students at St. Mary's College, Galway, who had died in a tragic accident in Croatia the previous week. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Kinane and the Members then observed a minutes silence.

The Cathaoirleach referred to Cllr. Welby's proposal regarding the Oughterard Traffic Management Plan and asked if a majority of the Members present were in favour of allowing this proposal to be considered.

A majority of the Members present indicated that they were in favour of the proposal being considered and the Cathaoirleach then read out Cllr. Welby's proposal as follows:

"that Galway Co. Council amend Schedule 2 (Loading Bays) of the adopted bye-laws in relation to the Oughterard Traffic Management Plan to allow for the orderly parking of buses in the town as follows: I propose that parking bay 16B (Keogh's Loading Bay) will now be a loading bay from 8.30a.m until 10.00a.m From 10.00a.m to 6.30p.m it will operate as a bus bay from 6.30p.m to 8.30a.m it will operate as a taxi rank.

In relation to parking bay 16A (Holland's Loading Bay) will now be a loading bay from 8.30am until 11.00a.m from 11.00a.m to 6.30p.m it will operate as a bus bay and from 6.30p.m to 8.30a.m it will operate as a taxi rank.

I propose that these changes are implemented immediately and that they are reviewed in six months to ascertain if they are having any negative impact on traffic flows". This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó Cualáin, and agreed.

Mr. Gavin that the proposal as agreed would be subject to the procedure as detailed in the Council's document entitled *Procedure for the Introduction of Traffic Management Plans and Measures* dated January 2011.

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of congratulations to the Galway Senior Football Team who defeated Derry in the championship qualifier and to the Galway Minor Football team who drew with Sligo in the Connaught final over the weekend. He wished them well in the replay and he also wished the Galway Senior Hurling team well in the quarter final against Cork next weekend.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gavin said that the Council has installed all of the signage required on county roads as per the recommendations of the National Speed Limits Working Group and he informed the Councillor that the Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore would be considered in 2016.

A discussion took place regarding the commencement time for the Monthly Meeting of the Plenary Council going forward.

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Cllr. N. Byrne said that, in the interests of promoting the Council to people who work in jobs where it is not possible to get time off to attend Meetings during the day, she would propose that the Monthly Meetings would commence in the afternoon rather than in the morning going forward.

Cllr. Killilea agreed with Cllr. N. Byrne stating also that, while he had the utmost respect for the Members who devoted their full time to membership of the Council, he felt that in order to make the Council more attractive to career people it would be beneficial if the timing of the Monthly Meetings could be changed. He also expressed the view that the Municipal District Meetings could be better used in order to agree local issues rather than bringing them up at Meetings of the Plenary Council.

Cllr. M. Finnerty concurred with the previous speakers and he also expressed the view that the Members should agree that they would not all speak on every issue in order to avoid repetition.

Cllr. Canney also agreed stating that more issues should be decided on at Municipal District Meetings and that no repetition of these issues should take place at Monthly Meetings.

Cllr. Charity, Comh. Ó Curraoin and Cllr. Hynes agreed that a commencement time in the afternoon would be beneficial to Members who may be curtailed due to work commitments.

Cllr. Keaveney proposed that the commencement times be alternated between 11am and 2pm every second month.

Cllrs. Hoade, Fahy, Feeney and M. Connolly felt that the current commencement time of 11am works well as they felt that business is conducted more efficiently during the day rather than in the evening and also the Members are often invited to attend community meetings in the evenings.

Cllr. Rabbitte expressed the view that it would be a beneficial exercise to find out what time other local authorities commence their meetings.

The Cathaoirleach said that it is important to note that the Meetings are covered by members of the media and he is also mindful that staff of the Council and the Executive must be present at the Meetings.

The Cathaoirleach said that he had three proposals as follows:

- To commence the Meetings at 11am

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- To commence the Meetings at 2pm
- To alternate every second month between a commencement time of 11am and 2pm.

Cllr. Mannion proposed that the Members agree today the commencement time for the September Monthly Meeting and come back to the September Monthly Meeting with an agreed time for the commencement of the Meetings going forward.

Cllr. Keaveney with the agreement of the Members withdrew his motion. In the absence of agreement on the other motions, the Cathaoirleach called a vote on the amendment that the September meeting commence at 2pm.

The result of the vote was as follows:

For:	Cllrs. Burke, J. Byrne, N. Byrne, Canney, Charity, Cunniffe, D. Connolly, Donohue, Donnellan, Fahy, M. Finnerty, Healy, Hynes, Keaveney, Killilea, Comh, Ó Cualáin & Ó Curraoin, Cllr.Rabbitte.	18
Against:	Cllrs. Broderick, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, Hoade, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, Maher, Roche, Walsh & Welby	12
Abstain:	Cllrs. Joyce & Kinane	2

As a result of the vote, the Cathaoirleach declared that the September Monthly Meeting would commence at 2 pm.

Cllr. J. Byrne referred to the problem of blocked swallow holes in south Galway which result in flooding and he made the following proposal: *“Following consultation with local land owners, a number of blocked swallow holes have been identified, which if opened up would assist in the flow of underground water towards the sea at Kinvara.*

From observing the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), underground maps, it is evident that these swallow holes are of significant importance in draining the land in these areas.

The current effect of Holes 1,2 , at Tirneevin, being blocked is that at times of flooding, an overground river has been generated discharging to the adjoining Hawkhill Lough, identified in Hole 3.

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With regard to 4,5,at Cahermore, Kinvara, it is believed locally that swallow holes unblocked last year, thanks to OPW funding, has assisted greatly in the draining of land.

It should be noted that these holes (1-6) are located in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

This motion calls on Galway County Council to immediately carry out the necessary appropriate assessment in accordance with relevant Habitats Directive, so that the works may be carried out in advance of the imminent flooding this winter”

The Cathaoirleach asked if the majority of Members present were in favour of taking this proposal and on a majority indicating that they were in favour of taking the motion, the Cathaoirleach tabled the motion.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed.

The Chief Executive interim said a number of issues need to be addressed, namely what is involved in the assessment and who will carry out the assessment.

Cllr. Canney expressed the view that Cllr. J. Byrne should change his proposal to a proposal that Galway County Council discuss the matter with the OPW with a view to having an assessment of swallow holes carried out.

Cllr. J. Byrne said that he would be happy to discuss his proposals regarding swallow holes with the Director of Services for Roads.

Cllr. G. Finnerty proposed that representatives of the OPW be invited to attend an upcoming Monthly Meeting of the Council to discuss future plans and funding for drainage of the whole county and the need for an appropriate assessment.

Cllr. Mannion referred to an article in the previous day's Sunday Independent which listed Dogs Bay Beach at Roundstone No. 1 Beach in Ireland in terms of beauty. She asked if the Council had any plans to apply for Blue Flag status for the beach and Mr. Cullen replied that the Green Coast Award may be more appropriate and this avenue will be examined.

Mr. Gavin replied to an issue raised by Cllr. Mannion regarding coastal erosion between Dogs Bay and Gurteen Bay, Roundstone, stating that the Council is in discussion with the OPW regarding the problem of coastal erosion and he said that it is intended that a Coastal Management Plan will be planned with the OPW in 2016.

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Cllr. N. Byrne referred to her Notice of Motion No. 17 *“That Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Maritime Safety Act 2005, make Bye-Laws regulating Personal Watercraft (jet-skis) and Recreational Craft (including Fast Power Craft) in waters in and around the County of Galway for the purposes specified in Section 6 (1) of the Act: (i) in the interests of the safety of persons using the waters generally (ii) to prevent nuisance to or injury to persons or damage to watercraft or other property on the waters, or (iii) to protect (A) a natural heritage area (B) a monument or wreck protected under the National Monuments Acts. Such craft are extremely noisy and disturb the peace and tranquillity of lake users. They can negatively impact the salmon in bay areas who congregate waiting for the flood that allows them upstream to spawn.”* She said that she received a response from the County Secretary in relation to the NOM she would like the Members’ support to bring in a bye-law for the control of jet-skis and recreational craft in waters in and around the County. Cllr. Mannion seconded her proposal stating that the current Beach Bye-Laws have been in place since 1997 and need to be reviewed.

Mr. Owens replied that the bye-laws are currently the subject of amendment by a Municipal District and at the conclusion of that process, further amendments will be considered at SPC level and brought to full Council.

Cllr. Charity referred to the agreement at the June Monthly Meeting that his proposal regarding the streaming of Monthly Meetings be brought up at the July Meeting and said that he had requested that this matter be deferred to the September Monthly Meeting.

In answer to Cllr. Charity’s query regarding the procurement process for the streaming of Council Meetings, Mr. Owens said that as outlined at previous Meetings of the Council, an estimated cost of €10,000 had been received by the Council for the provision of streaming of the Monthly Meetings. In light of discussions by the Members, an appropriate specification was developed with input from the Council’s IT Department. The specification is for two options, i.e. audio streaming and audio and visual streaming. He said five companies were invited to submit quotations in this regard and the closing date for submissions has been extended to facilitate the companies. He said that in line with procurement legislation, it was not a requirement that the matter be put out to tender.

Cllr. Charity asked why the specification was so specific as to the type of equipment to be used and Mr. Owens replied that the specification is for equipment to meet the requirements of streaming of the Meetings and in order to allow for an accurate comparison of the quotations, it was necessary to specify the type of equipment to be quoted for.

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Cllr. J. Byrne said that he has researched the streaming facility provided by a Dublin Local Authority and his findings were that it cost approximately €30,000 per annum to maintain the streaming facility.

Cllr. Healy said that if the audio visual streaming of Council Meetings proves to be cost-prohibitive, the option of providing an audio streaming service might be a solution.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to his Notice of Motion No. 18 on the Agenda “Molaim go neagrodh Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe feachtas eolais don phobal maidir le Plandaí Ionrach mar an Gliuneach Bhiorach (Japanese Knotweed) agus an Freabhan Capaill (Giant Hogweed) a smachtú”. He welcomed the positive response he received stating that public awareness on how best to deal with the problem of invasive species is to be improved.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg urged the Members to utilize the Irish Translation facility provided at the Monthly Meetings in order to show the public that the Members are interested in promoting the Irish language. He also expressed the view that it would be beneficial if local communities were made aware of the location of fire hydrants in their area in the event of the fire brigade being called out to put out fires. Cllr. Healy supported Comh. Ó Tuairisg’s Motion regarding invasive species expressing the view that ironically some of the environmental protection measures put in place by the E.U. have provided an environment where invasive species can survive.

Cllr. Fahy invited the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive Interim, the Directors of Service for Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services, the Director of Services Environment and Water Services with responsibility for the Municipal District of Loughrea and the County Secretary to Kiltiernan National School on 5th August, 2015 to meet Minister Simon Harris who is visiting the school on that date.

He said he would like to express his gratitude to the Chief Executive Interim and his predecessor Ms. Martina Moloney and the staff for the work they have done in order to alleviate the problem of flooding around the county.

Cllr. Cronnelly expressed the view that the biggest movement outside of Dublin in 1916 took place in Athenry and for this reason Centenary celebrations should be held in Athenry. Mr. Owens referred to the Draft 1916 Centenary Programme as considered earlier in the Meeting by the Members. He said the programme included a wreath-laying ceremony to be held in Athenry on Easter Monday as part of a synchronized national wreath-laying ceremonies. He advised that the proposal was subject to the proposed venue being deemed suitable by the

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Department of Defence and Office of Public Works in terms of the logistical requirement for the event and for same to be televised.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. J. CHARITY

2025

The following reply was given:-

Cllr. Charity requested the deferral of consideration of his Motion to the September meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. N. BYRNE

2026

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council Beach Bye-Laws (June 1st 1997- No. 5), currently specifies as a prohibited act, the use of Jet Skis or fast power boats within 200m of the water's edge at the time of use, except for the purpose of rescue in all areas listed in the Schedule to which the Bye-Laws Apply. This measure is in the interest of safety and to prevent nuisance and injury and is based on the desire to limit their use for these reasons. A review on the expansion of Beach Bye-Laws to include (A) Natural Heritage areas and (B), in the County, will be considered as part of an internal review initially. The location of the these areas and all potential impacts of the prohibited acts as listed in Bye-Laws on these area a has to be considered so that the intended purpose any proposed revision to the Bye-Laws can be effective and implemented. Other Prohibited acts, 4(g) for example, prohibits spreading or leaving of any fishing gear.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

2027

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an Chomhairle Chontae ag cuir feachtas eolas le chéile ag díriú ar plandaí iomracha a smachtú. Díreoidh an feachtas ar eolas ar leith a chuir ar fáil do ghrúpaí áitiúla agus pobal agus do bhaill foireann an Chomhairle Chontae agus eagraíochta eile chun cabhrú leo dul i ngleic le plandaí iomracha. Tá an t-Oifeagach Bitheolaíochta ón Rannóg Pleanála ag cuir comhairle ar grúpaí áitiúla faoi láthair atá ag iarraidh an Glúineach Bhiorach a smachtú.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN