

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th JUNE, 2013 @ 2.00 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH:

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

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:
Gilmore,

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. E. Cummins, Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Lavelle, A/Director of Services, M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy & L. Gavin, Senior Engineers R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1473

A vote of sympathy was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Comh. Ó'Curraoin and agreed to the Murray family on the death of Gerry Murray.

A vote of sympathy was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed to the Haverty Family, Kilimor on the death of Mrs. Rose Harverty.

A vote of sympathy was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McHugh and agreed to Breda McDermott on the death of her mother Mrs. Mary Crowe.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Raymond Canavan, St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe.
- Mrs. Patsy Uí Bhrádaigh, Galway Road, Roscommon.

- Paul Quinn, Cloonacallis, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe.
- Joe & Bernie Fehilly, c/o Fehilly Florists, Vicar Street, Tuam.
- Brian Crisham, Cloonfush, Tuam.
- Mrs. M. Daniels, Droim na Cille, Caheronaun, Loughrea.
- Seamus Crowe, Kilchreest, Loughrea.
- Richard Broderick, Coscorrig, Loughrea.
- Joe Keane, Coorheen, Kilnadeema, Loughrea.
- Mrs. C. McCaffrey, Earlsparck, Loughrea.
- Colm Beatty, Lettermore.
- Pauline Duggan, Lakeview, Claregalway.
- Mrs. Martha Smyth, Killaspic, Kilchreest, Loughrea
- Mrs. Lily Murray, Castleboy, Kilchreest, Loughrea.
- Paddy Donohoe, Ballyturn, Gort.
- Pat McDonagh, Billamore, Oughterard.
- Gary Sullivan, Dooghtywell, Cornamona.
- Mrs. Sally Gannon, Clonbur.
- Maidh C. Uí Chonghaile, Sailechúna, An Spidéal.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

1474

The Minutes of the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held 27th May 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh

Arising from the Minutes and in reply to Cllr. McHugh, Mr. Cummins confirmed that it was intended to increase the differential rent on social housing to reflect the additional costs incurred by the local authority in paying the Local Property Tax in respect of the social housing stock.

In reply to comments from An Comh O'Tuairisg in relation to the question of Fluoridation the Mayor indicated that he would allow for same to be raised under Mayor's Business.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 14th June, 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1475

The Report of the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th January 2013 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. M. Finnerty.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0833 HECTARES AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY

1476

Statutory Notice dated 11th June, 2013 and Report dated the 20th June, 2013 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed that having complied with the relevant statutory requirements, to dispose of 0.0833 hectares of land

at Magheramore, Killimor, Co. Galway to Killimor GAA Club in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated 11th June 2013.

TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND THE MANAGER'S REPORT THEREON IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 179(3) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000, PART VIII OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND ARTICLES 17 TO 19 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2006 IN RESPECT OF OUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE, OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY

1477

Report dated the 17th June was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Welby advised of a potential beneficial interest in the item to be considered arising from his involvement with the Oughterard Courthouse Restoration Committee and having advised of same withdrew from the Council Chamber for the duration of the consideration of the item.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. T. Broderick, it was agreed to approve the Change of Use of the former Oughterard Courthouse, Main Street, Oughterard in accordance with Section 179(3) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2002 and Article 17 to 19 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2006 in respect of Oughterard Courthouse, Oughterard, Co. Galway.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE OPERATION OF IRISH WATER SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 67 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

1478

Report dated the 18th June, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed to approve a contribution of €6,000 towards the Operation of the Irish Water Safety in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1)(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

1479

The Annual Report 2012 for County Galway Local Authorities was previously circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to adopt the Annual Report 2012 in accordance with Section 221(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

In reply to comments from Cllr. McHugh in relation to the need for the local authority to support economic development through a review of charges including commercial rates and in particular through a review of development contributions, to encourage

development in response to a lack of suitable housing to meet the demands of the rental market and certain types of commercial units, the County Manager confirmed that as previously advised at an earlier meeting that a review of the development contribution scheme was being undertaken and that submissions had been invited.

In reply to comments from Cllr. Canney questioning the need for development contributions in the context of the local property tax funding the services in the County, the County Manager advised that the local property tax was intended as source of revenue funding and that the development contributions were to support necessary capital investment in strategic infrastructure for the continued sustainable development of the County.

The County Manager confirmed in reply to Cllr. Canney that the adoption/amendment of the development contribution scheme was a reserved function.

TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER THE CLARE RIVER (CLAREGALWAY) DRAINAGE SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5(2)(B) OF THE ARTERIAL DRAINAGE ACT, 1945 AS AMENDED

1480

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for the deferral of the consideration of this item until after consideration of Items 8 & 9 on the Clár.

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

1481

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

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Curraoin, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh the attendance of members at the Conferences as circulated was authorised

Esperanza Enterprises – Dealing with Unfinished Housing Estates – 17th – 18th April – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh, Peter Roche, Tiarnan Walsh

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland – Spring Seminar – Key Energy Issues Affecting Ireland – 7th June – Fingal County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin – Fee: Free

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas – The Future of Rural Society: Opportunities for Rural Economic Development – 10th June – NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare – Fee: Free

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Kadenza Consultancies – Preparing for new National & Regional Strategies –14th – 16th June – Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €145

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Border, Midland & Western and Southern & Eastern Regional Assemblies Joint Annual Conference – Contribution of Cohesion and Urban Policy to Economic Recovery – 19th June – Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Bridie Willers, Tom McHugh, Tim Broderick

Celtic Conferences – European Movement Ireland – 28th – 30th June – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

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

1482

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

On the proposal of Cllr McHugh, seconded by Cllr T. Walsh, the summary of proceedings at conferences as circulated was noted

Dundalk Chamber – Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 – Sustainable Tourism – Practical Ideas for your business –24th April – Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Cllr.'s Dermot Connolly, Jimmy McClearn

Solution Marketing – Local Tourism & the Councillor – 10th – 11th May – Talbot Hotel, Wexford

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland – Spring Seminar – Key Energy Issues Affecting Ireland – 7th June – Fingal County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas – The Future of Rural Society: Opportunities for Rural Economic Development – 10th June – NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr. Dermot Connolly

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE

1483

The Manager referred to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management – Keeping Communities Safe – a Framework for Fire Safety in Ireland which had been produced by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and invited Mr. Cummins to make a presentation on same.

Mr. Cummins advised that Keeping Communities Safe was a major policy document, similar to the framework for the Major Emergency Plan, and referred to the two Circulars Fire 02/03 of the 17th May, 2013 and Circular Fire 03/03 of the 31st May, 2013 in relation to the policy initiative and the implementation of same.

Mr. Cummins proceeded by means of a PowerPoint presentation to brief the Members on the policy covering the following areas in detail:

- Main Aspects of “Keeping Communities Safe”
- Fire Services Roles for Society.
- Review of Fire Service Operational Response.
- Reform of Service Delivery structure
- Implications for Galway
- Implementation and Time Scales.

He also detailed the next steps for the Elected Members in the context of the existing Section 85 Agreement with Galway City Council relating to the Fire Service and the need to review and consider a new Section 85 Agreement to make Galway County Council the Lead Authority for the Fire & Civil Protection Shared Service for Galway City and County Councils.

He outlined the implications for new/existing Service Units, Area Risk Categorisation, Risk Categorisation and Response Table for Galway City Brigade. He referenced the Risk Categorisation and Response Table indicated that on a cursory basis that Galway City will at some point in the future have an Area Risk Designation of A3/B1. He stated that in accordance with the Table and when the city is designated A2BB1 Two (2) Full-Time Pumps will be required which will have major staffing and financial implications. He concluded the presentation by detailing timescale for implementation in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The Mayor was joined by the Members in thanking Mr. Cummins for his comprehensive presentation and in paying tribute to the staff of the Galway Fire Service for their dedication and commitment to their duties.

The Members in their commentary on the presentation raised a number of issues and questions as follows:

- The need to retain existing resources and stations as a baseline in the review process.
- The need to recognize the role of the Fire Service beyond fire including road traffic accidents, flooding and water safety.
- The need for a station in South Conamara and a timeframe for a decision relating to same.
- The adequacy of the budgetary allocation to support an extensive training programme in the Fire Service.
- The need for clarity on the role of the external validation group in reviewing the draft Section 26 Plan.
- Details of the current programme for fire prevention, protection and awareness.
- The timeline for undertaking and completing the risk categorization process.
- Concern that rural areas will not retain a timely service from a centralized service model.
- Clarity on whether the review is restricted to reviewing current fire station areas or whether it will include a detailed review of areas with no fire stations.
- The policy on fire charges, including cancellation of call outs, the billing process and the billing approach in terms of turn outs by multiple brigades.
- Concern in relation to the extent to which population will influence the decision making process for location of fire stations.
- Engagement with NPWS in relation to management of lands with environmental designation, in particular, in the context of gorse fires and the failure to appropriately manage such lands.
- Update on plans for the development of a new stations, including Tuam and Galway City.
- Financial implications for the Council of the revised service model required to serve Galway City.
- The need for an appropriate allocation of responsibility and liability between the employer and the employee in the context of the provision of appropriate training, personal protective equipment etc and the need to apply common sense.

In reply Mr. Cummins advised that the concept of centralization did not apply to Galway County Council as the fire service in Galway City & County was already operated and managed by Galway County Council on a shared service basis. He clarified that while the County Council manages the city service on behalf of Galway City Council, the full costs are met by Galway City Council and that would continue.

He clarified that he had not referred to cutbacks and confirmed that going forward the approach was to identify the best service delivery model based on existing resources both financial and human.

He detailed the current billing process and the approach to same together with the awareness measures in relation to fire prevention and protection.

He confirmed that the work being undertaken by the Review Group in relation to South Conamara, ongoing for the last 3 years, was complete. He outlined that it was now necessary to undertake a risk analysis based on the risk categorization

He emphasized the progression to an integrated risk management approach, moving away from the previous approach based on population and geography to deal with risk in an integrated approach based on the principles of protection, prevention and response.

He confirmed that the footprint of the existing station in Fr. Griffin Road was too small to accommodate an increase to two full time pumps and alternative sites for future development were being considered.

He indicated that in terms of future capital investment that it would be necessary to concentrate on the areas of greatest risk and need and this may impact on the timeframe for further development in Tuam and Ballinasloe.

He outlined that whilst the Fire Service do not have a role in managing lands with an environmental designation that consultation with the relevant stakeholders on how best to manage lands with such designations and forestry lands would form part of the implementation process.

He advised that the responsibilities of both employers and employees were clearly outlined in Health & Safety legislation and that staff are appropriately trained and aware of their responsibilities as employee as were the local authority in the role of employer.

He concluded by confirming that the fire service would continue to operate to high standards and to deliver improvements by doing and managing differently within existing available resources.

TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER THE CLARE RIVER (CLAREGALWAY) DRAINAGE SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5(2)(B) OF THE ARTERIAL DRAINAGE ACT, 1945 AS AMENDED **1484**

Report dated the 24th June, 2013 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore presented the report and recommended that the Clare River Drainage Scheme with flood relief measures be approved. He pointed out that the OPW will seek the consent of the Minister for a Ministerial order to carry out the works and provide funding.

Cllr. McDonagh complimented the OPW and Galway County Council for work done to date on the Clare River to alleviate flooding. He referred to an area at Lackaghbeg where works were carried out but asked that a section of the river approximately 300 metre further up from Fahy's house be examined.

Cllr. Noone referred to Item 8(d) of the proposed measures relating to the raising of a local road in Caherlea/Lisheenavalla and said this would create more problems as some houses were 18" below the road level already. With regard to Item 3(b) he said that this

would require extra culverts, or else it should be left in its current state as it did stop flooding previously.

Cllr Cuddy said he agreed with Cllr. Noone and questioned if the funding required to facilitate delivery of the scheme had been allocated and if so how much. He also asked when work at Greaney Glass on the R339 would start.

Replying to Cllr. McDonagh, Mr. Gilmore said that he had noted his comment in relation to the need for additional works and would consider same. With regard to the raising of the road he pointed out access was the problem, but he said he would raise it with the Office of Public Works. With regard to Cllr. Cuddy's enquiry he said that significant work had been undertaken on the River Clare to date including work at Crusheeny Bridge and on the road crossing in Baile Chlair and that the work now proposed was a major scheme with EIS requirements and required an extensive public consultation process. He said that the funding for the scheme was via the OPW and stated that he did not anticipate a delay in progressing the scheme.

Cllr. Noone referred to problems being experienced by people who could not get insurance, indicating that people had been refused insurance even though there was no evidence that their area had flooded. The Mayor stated that other parts of the County had also been blacklisted for insurance purposes.

In the context of a discussion on the insurance issue, Cllr. M. Finnerty advised that in Ballinasloe a letter provided by the Area Engineer confirming that flood alleviation measures had been undertaken was sufficient to allow insurance companies offer insurance cover and at reduced rates and suggested a similar approach in other areas may also be beneficial.

Arising from comments by Cllr. Maher in relation to the lack of similar progress in advancing major flood relief schemes for the South of the County, it was agreed to include an update on flood mitigations measures and schemes on the clár for the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Noone, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed to approve the scheme as presented.

PROPOSED REVIEW OF ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS

1485

Report dated the 17th June, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin presented a list of proposed changes to the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws currently in force in the county of Galway. He advised that same had been prepared taking into consideration the Department of Transport Guidelines of the Application of Special Speed Limits, discussions at Electoral Area Committee Meetings together with consideration of submissions received from the public and from consultation with An Garda Síochána.

The Members thanked Mr. Gavin and the Engineering Staff for the proposals as presented.

Mr. Gavin, in response to comments from the Members, clarified that the comment 'Not Approved by NRA' contained in the report, was to indicate that the proposal had not been submitted to the NRA for consideration to date and did not mean that the proposal had not been approved by the NRA.

Cllr. McClearn highlighted the need for the proposal from An Garda Síochana for a section of the N65 between Portumna and Woodpark to be reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h to be approved for implementation in the context of the extent of development in the area and the needs of residents.

An Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the R345 Cong and asked that the Speed Limit of 60 km/h be extended beyond the quarry, he also referred to the need to review the default speed limit on the side roads from the R336.

Cllr Broderick referred to the L3416 overbridge of the M6 and the failure of the NRA to address same other than by means of a proposed reduction in the speed limit and contrasting the approach to same with the apparent failure of the NRA to recognize the need for reduced speed limits in the vicinity of schools and questioned their apparent disregard for local knowledge and the expertise and views of An Garda Síochana in these matters.

In reply, Mr. Gavin confirmed that it was necessary to put in place an appropriate speed limit that reflected the design speed of the road, he agreed that a similar speed limit was not applied to the other overbridges on the M6 but indicated that it was in the interests of public safety that the appropriate speed limit be put in place.

Cllr. Fahy expressed his disappointment that the proposals that he had previously submitted and raised repeatedly in relation to Ballinderreen were not included in the report presented. He acknowledged that a traffic island had been provided but indicated that same was not sufficient to address the safety issues present and that An Garda Síochana were in agreement with his proposals for an extension of the speed limits. He also referred to the need to extend the speed limit in Labane and revise the speed limit at the level crossing in Kiltartan.

Cllr. Cuddy outlined the view that the NRA should be removed from the process and while welcoming the proposal in relation to the revised speed limit for the R336 Airport Road questioned the timeframe for the review of speed limits on local roads and in the vicinity of schools.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Gavin confirmed that the proposal in relation to Caherlavine Roundabout was to increase the exiting 50 km/h to 60 km/h from the Lough Rea Hotel to the Loughrea Bypass at Caherlavine Roundabout and to apply a speed limit of 60 km/h on each leg of the roundabout.

Cllr. G. Finnerty expressed disappointment with the limited nature of the review and highlighted the need for a full review of speed limits. He also referred to the need to review the speed limit in the Kiltartan area in the context of the level crossing and school. He also highlighted the need for a review of traffic management in the area in the context of the local diversions availed of when the level crossing barriers were lowered.

Cllr. Ryan expressed disappointment that the proposal relating to reducing the speed limit on the N63 at the Grotto in Moylough was not previously submitted to the NRA for consideration to allow for earlier implementation as same was the subject of extensive discussion by the Tuam Electoral Area Committee.

Cllr. Canney referred to the need for the consent of the NRA to be removed from the process and allow the decision making process to be determined by local knowledge and consultation with An Garda Síochána and the public. He referred to previous proposals for Milltown, indicated that he understood same to have been the subject of consideration previously by the NRA and noted the absence of a proposal relating to Barnaderg.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that a proposal relating to Barnaderg had been the subject of consideration and approval at a meeting of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee and expressed disappointment that same was not included in the report as presented.

Cllr. Willers sought clarity in relation to the proposal for Kinvara and the status of NRA approval for same and supported the previous contributions in relation to Labane and also the need to review speed limits at Peterswell NS on the N66.

Cllr. Noone welcomed the proposed increase to the speed limit on the R339 Airport Road but expressed concern and opposition to the proposal to apply a speed limit of 80 km/h on the approach to Baile Chláir Village on the N17 from Lough George to Rockwood. He was supported in this view by Cllr. Cuddy. Mr. Gavin in reply indicated that the proposal was in an area that lacked an urban feel and where the existing lower speed limit of 50 km/h was not observed suggesting that it was too low for the area in question and accordingly widely disregarded by motorists. Following further discussion, it was agreed on the suggestion of the Mayor, to defer the proposal for consideration by the Oranmore Electoral Area Committee.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the need to review the position in Milltown and in the vicinity of the national school from a broader safety perspective than just reviewing speed limits but also taking into consideration speed limits as an element of the overall package of measures.

Comh. Ó'Curraoin referred to the need to review the speed limits on local roads, indicating that he was in agreement with signs erected by local community requesting motorists to 'kill your speed and not our kids' he stated that it was not safe to drive on such roads at 80 km/h and therefore it made no sense to have a speed limit of 80 km/h signposted on such roads.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the need to include Killure Junction in the review and proposed a speed limit of 60 km/h at the junction and within 250 meters of the approach to same.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the planned works on the N63 in Moylough at the Grotto and the need to reduce the speed limit to 80 km/h. He also agreed with the previous contributions in relation to Ballygar and Milltown. He requested clarification on the status of the roadwork's speed limit applying at the site of the realignment of the N63 at Abbeyknockmoy.

Cllr. T. Walsh was critical of the signposting of the 80 km/hr default speed limit on local roads indicating that signposting of speed limits should be done for the purpose of being helpful he indicating that signposting for 80 km/h on side roads was unhelpful and misleading and accordingly at a minimum should be removed. He expressed support for the contributions in relation to need to take action in relation to the N63 Moylough at the Grotto junction. He also stated that the number of 50 km/h zones should be reduced, suggesting that a speed limit of 60 km/h was more appropriate in many instances. He agreed with the proposal that the local authority should have full authority in determining speed limits based on local knowledge and expertise.

Cllr. E. Mannion referred to the absence of a proposal relating to the speed limit at Ballynahinch Castle and also questioned the status of the review of speed limits at National Schools.

In reply to the comments in relation to the review of speed limits at schools, Mr. Gavin advised that revised speed limits were not appropriate to schools due to the nature of opening times and term times and that it was more appropriate to consider signage and lining. He stated that in relation to Ballynahinch Castle that it was agreed at the Area Committee that the proposal would not be brought forward. He confirmed that the NRA rejected the proposal for a revised speed limit at Ballinderreen and that the provision of advance warnings signs was proposed. In relation to Kiltartan he indicated that it was intended to review issues relating to the by-pass road and the use of same indicating that the issues to be addressed related to design and not speed. Cllr. G. Finnerty commenting on same indicated that it was not feasible to make the by-pass one way.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COMH. Ó CURRAOIN, SECONDED BY CLLR. WELBY AND AGREED TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW THE MEETING CONTINUE BEYOND 6.00 PM.

1486

Mr. Gavin stated that an extension of the speed limit at Milltown was not recommended and proposals for the location were currently under review by the local authority and the school.

Mr. Gilmore advised that a national committee was currently considering the approach to speed limits on local roads and in the vicinity of schools and that the report from same was awaited.

He confirmed that the roadwork's speed limit on the N63 at Abbeyknockmoy no longer applied and that tenders had been invited for works on the N63 at Moylough (Grotto junction) and it was anticipated that works would be completed by end August 2013.

Cllr. Canny complimented the Council, NRA and all involved on the fine work undertaken on the realignment schemes on the N17 and was supported in same by Cllr. McHugh.

The following motions were submitted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed

"That Speed Limit be extended to the Entrance of the Ballymarkham Road on the N18 in Labane"

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed

"That the Speed Limit at Kiltartan School be a 60km/h Speed Limit on the N18 and the limit extends from L85312 on the south side of School which is the entrance to Coole Park Visitor Centre and end after the Railway Crossing on the Galway side. This must be properly signed as drivers coming from the south would just have come off the Motorway."

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed

"That the Speed Limit at Stones Supermarket be moved out to a location beyond the Bend on the R332 Dublin road at Barnaderg South."

It was proposed by Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed

"That Improved School Signage would be provided on the N66 in the vicinity of Peterswell National School and Kilchreest National School in the interest of public safety. Also Clontuskert National School in the Ballinasloe Electoral Area."

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Noone and agreed

"That the Speed Limit on the Claregalway Bus Corridor be 50km/h."

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that

"This Council proposes that an 80km/h speed limit for Milltown should be installed the Tuam side of the N17 at the Junction for Carrowbaun L6458-0 on the Tuam side of Milltown National School."

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed

"That a speed limit now come into force at Killure Junction of 60 km/h for a distance of 250 metres on the three roads concerned. This junction is in the Ballinasloe Electoral Area."

Cllr. Cuddy stated that he wished to propose Motion 14 on the Clár and this was seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed

“That Galway County Council writes to the Minister for Transport and Tourism asking him to give full powers to County Councils to bring in speed limit reviews in conjunction with the local Gardai and Councillors without having to consult with the NRA. This is after all a reserved function of the Councillors. Such a move would greatly speed up the whole process of speed limit reviews.”

ADDITIONAL FUNDING UNDER THE RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 1487

A copy of Circular RW9/2013 dated the 12th June, 2013 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was circulated to each Member.

A copy of report dated the 21st June detailing the proposed list of schemes to be funded from the additional roads allocation of €3,400,846 was circulated to each Member at the meeting.

Mr. Gilmore outlined the granting of an additional allocation of €3,400,846 in extra funding for Restoration Improvement Works including some safety schemes. He said that given the timeframe for the submission of a list of schemes and the short window to complete the additional works, a draft programme had been prepared for consideration based on submissions from the area staff, taking into consideration representations lodged by the elected members on an ongoing basis in relation to the need for works to be undertaken on certain roads.

The Members warmly welcomed the additional allocation and expressed their appreciation to the Area Engineers for compiling the draft programme for consideration.

Comh. O’Cuaig acknowledged that the criteria allowed for the inclusion of safety schemes in the programme of works and requested clarification in relation to the proposal for the provision of a footpath in Ros an Mhíl in the context of the proposed allocation of €40,000.

Comh. O’Tuairisg welcomed the allocation of funding for Ros an Mhíl and requested that the local authority provide support in terms of site clearance etc by providing the necessary plant and machinery. He welcomed the positive engagement by the Community Council and also Udaras in their role as sponsors of the community employment scheme that intended to undertake the works.

Cllr. Maher expressed concern in relation to the proposal to allocate a significant portion of the funding for the Loughrea Electoral Area in the amount of €195,000 to a single project at Loro Gate, Athenry, particularly, given the need for a large number of safety schemes to be undertaken in the electoral area, citing as an example a scheme in the Killtulla area.

Cllr. McClearn expressed concern in relation to the impact of the recent boundary changes on the approach to the development of the Roads Programme and suggested that the 2014 Roads Programme be prepared based on the new boundaries rather than wait until mid year to implement the change.

Cllr. Willers acknowledged that while all of the roads they would like to have included were not in the proposals, it was important to welcome the additional funding, and requested that if for any particular reason certain schemes as proposed could not be advanced that consideration be given to a low cost accident scheme at a junction on the N18. Cllr. M. Fahy supported the request for consideration of this approach.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed disappointment that Killure Castle Road was not included in the proposals as presented and requested consideration be given to undertake work on same.

Cllr. E. Mannion also welcomed the allocation and in particular the funding for Ros an Mhíl and queried the status of the development of a car park at Cleggan, noting that planning approval had been granted for same and requested an update on the current status of the proposal and that as an interim measure pending the development of the car park that some measures be introduced to free up the village of Cleggan and reduce the impact of irregular parking patterns.

Comh. Ó Curraoin joined the other Members in welcoming the allocation for Ros an Mhíl and questioned whether same would include the provision of public lighting.

Cllr. Welby in welcoming the allocation for Ros an Mhíl indicated that the allocation of €40,000 through the community employment scheme was a significant allocation and based on his previous experience of undertaking work via a community employment scheme was satisfied that it would allow for the completion of the footpath. He also requested an update on the Lettergesh Road and consideration for the provision of a footbridge in Oughterard in the context of the proposed amalgamation of the local schools and the resulting increase in footfall on the existing bridge to access the school site.

Cllr. Hynes noted the significant allocation of funding for Loro Gate, Athenry and the absence of funding for Dunsandle Cross, where a previous estimate of €20,000 was provided to undertake safety improvements including road markings, he indicated that the location was an accident black spot and requested that a report be prepared on same.

Cllr. Cuddy requested clarification on the works proposed to be undertaken with the benefit of the allocation of €12,000 in Baile Chláir.

Cllr. T. Walsh referred to a recent recommendation arising from a Coroner's Inquest in relation to a section of road in Glenamaddy on the border between Roscommon and Galway. He advised that he had previously submitted same as the subject of a NOM and received a reply indicating that the location would be examined. He indicated that the

location remained of significant concern and requested that the examination be advanced as quickly as possible with a view to undertaking any necessary safety measures at an early date.

Cllr. Canney also welcomed the allocation and the positive benefit to the roads network of undertaking the works as proposed.

In reply to the questions raised by the Members, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the Council would provide assistance to the employment scheme in undertaking the works at Ros an Mhíl in the context of site clearance etc. He confirmed that the employment scheme were willing to undertake the work and while a number of issues remained to be resolved to allow the work to proceed, he was confident they would be resolved in the context of the tremendous community effort to deliver the project. He confirmed that in accordance with the current approach being taken by the local authority that the project did not include the provision of public lighting at this time.

In general he pointed out that there would be considerable pressure to get the schemes to fruition and that with works mainly consisting of overlay and surface dressing time that weather conditions was a factor and that it would be necessary to advance the works as quickly as possible. He indicated that it was not clear what process the safety schemes were to be subject to by the Department in order to receive approval for works to commence.

In relation to the proposal for Loro Gate, Athenry he indicated that the scheme was being recommended for inclusion on the basis that it was unclear what funding would be available to complete same in future years.

He agreed to review the position in relation to works on the Killure Castle Road and in reply to Cllr. T. Walsh undertook to advance the review of the location in Glenamaddy on the Roscommon/Galway Border with a view to bringing forward appropriate proposals for same if same were deemed necessary.

He indicated that consideration could be given to the provision of a footbridge in Oughterard in the context of proposals under the Smarter Travel Programme.

He advised that a small allocation was being made available for the Lettergesh Road as an emergency measure, however, due to the nature and extent of the works proposed, involving the realignment of the a section of the road, it was necessary to advance a Part 8 for same.

He confirmed that it was intended to seek funding in 2014 to advance the provision of a car park at Cleggan and agreed to review the potential for interim measures to address the issues pending the provision of the car park.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed that the proposals as outlined be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1488

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

- Correspondence from the following:
dated the 27th May, 2013, from Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh
dated the 29th May, 2013, from Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway
dated the 21st May, 2013 from Archbishop Charles J. Brown, Apostolic Nuncio
thanking Galway County Council for the copy of letter inviting His Holiness, Pope Francis to visit County Galway.
- Correspondence dated the 4th June, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Galway County Council in relation to the approach being taken to the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme.
- Correspondence dated the 30th May, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging Galway County Council's correspondence relating to the Local Property Tax.
- Correspondence dated the 22nd May, 2013 from Kerry County Council regarding a debate by Kerry County Council in relation to the amount paid out every year in administering the Coroners function, and looking for other Local Authorities' support in making their views known to the Minister for Justice.
- Correspondence dated the 31st May, 2013 regarding a motion adopted by Skibbereen Town Council in relation to the cessation of the practice of fluoridation of the public water supply.
- Correspondence dated the 31st May, 2013 regarding two resolutions made by Kerry County Council : (a) requesting the Minister for Agriculture to make an application for EU Solidarity Fund to help address the serious fodder crisis Kerry, and (b) requesting the Department of Agriculture to address the current fodder crisis and put in place measures to counteract any future fodder crisis the country may face again.
- Correspondence dated the 29th May, 2013 regarding two resolutions made by Monaghan Town Council: (a) to write to the Minister for Social Protection to rescind her intention to make people of retirement age (65) to sign on at the dole office for one year in order to obtain their State Pension which will be reduced by € 42.30 per week (b) to call on the Minister for Justice to review the criteria involved in assessing applicants wishing to enter the State to live to ensure that they do not have a criminal record in the country of origin or any other country.
- Correspondence dated the 17th June, 2013, from South Tipperary County Council in relation to a resolution adopted calling on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., to prioritise the introduction of postcodes to assist the emergency services reach people in need. Fire, ambulance and Garda personnel are being delayed in reaching the destination of callouts as addresses in some cases are so vague. In certain instances, there are several locations with the same townland address thus causing unnecessary confusion which could be avoided by the introduction of postcodes".
- Correspondence dated 14th June, 2013 from Ennis Town Council regarding a resolution adopted supporting Clare County Council's and other County Council's

prohibition of hydraulic fracking for the extraction of shale gas (otherwise known as unconventional hydrocarbons).

- Correspondence dated 21st June, 2013 from Leitrim County Council regarding a resolution passed that Leitrim County Council call on the Health and Safety Authority to deliver the ASSIST Suicide Prevention Programme as part of the mandatory training programme in the workforce.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1489

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Molloy confirmed that tender was about to issue in order to allow works commence on the School Flashing Lights Programme.

Mr. Molloy, also in reply to Cllr. Hoade, advised that the proposal for traffic calming measures in Milltown, put on hold pending the completion of the water services project, was now the subject of review in the context of the condition of the road surface. He indicated that it was not appropriate to proceed with the scheme based on the current condition of the road surface and in reply to further questions on the matter, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the funding allocated for the traffic calming measures may no longer be available to the local authority.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy, the Mayor advised that funding was not available to facilitate the Mayor or Deputy Mayor travel to South Africa to attend the funeral of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, in the unfortunate event of his untimely passing.

Cllr. Cuddy requested an update in relation to the traffic calming scheme at Knockdoe and in reply Mr. Gavin confirmed that the post construction safety audit was being carried out by the NRA and that it was anticipated that the report would be available in the near future. Mr. Lavelle undertook to revert to Cllr. Cuddy directly in relation to the current status of the proposal to replace water pipes in Oranmore.

In reply to An Comh O'Tuairisg, the County Manager confirmed that the local authority required the sanction of the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for the filling of staff vacancies, including those arising from staff moving to Irish Water. The Manager confirmed that the local authority would be seeking sanction to fill position falling vacant due to staff transferring to Irish Water and would fill such positions subject to sanction and that all other vacancies are subject to consideration as they arise.

In reply to the issue raised by Comh. O'Tuairisg at the outset of the meeting relating to Fluoridation, Mr Lavelle pointed out that the issue was under the remit of the Department of Health and the HSE and the role of the local authority was to undertake the process as directed by the Department of Health & HSE with the costs billed to the HSE. He confirmed that a total of 11 water schemes in Galway are currently fluoridated on the direction of the HSE. He detailed the background to the issue, including recent consideration of same by the Strategic Policy Committee and the role and report of the recent expert group established by the Minister. Mr. Lavelle undertook to circulate a copy of the report.

It was propose by An Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed –

“That Galway County Council ask the Department of Health of what scientific information is available as to beneficial effects and possible detrimental effects of adding fluoride to our water systems, and also what research has the Department carried out”.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Kilconnell Water Supply which he said he raised concerns about some months ago with regard an odour from the water, and asked if an update can be read ready for the next Meeting. Mr. Lavelle undertook to review and revert directly to Cllr. D. Connolly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1490

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1491

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1492

The following reply was given:-

“The majority of dead animals are not on private lands, they are found in drains, bogs and other public lands. In the event of dead animals found on private lands, it is the owner’s responsibility to dispose of the animals appropriately.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1493

The following reply was given:-

“Design of this scheme is proceeding with a programme to seek planning in 2014. Further progress is dependent upon funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1494

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss this proposal with the Department of Transport. However, to date this year the Department of Transport have not made funding available for the provision of carparks in County Galway.”

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

1495

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council participated in a meeting of Stakeholders held in Gort last Monday. It was agreed at this meeting that Failte Ireland would prepare a report on works required to upgrade the Thoor Ballylee Tower to a standard that would enable it to be opened to the public.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1496

The following reply was given:-

“Déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe scrúdú ar na h-aibhneacha, srutháin agus draentacha i gceantar Chonamara. Cuirfear tuilte agus cothabháil san áireamh agus déanfar comhairle le Oifig na n-Oibreacha Poiblí faoi airgead a chuir ar fail d’aon obair atá i gceist.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1497

The following reply was given:-

“Thosaigh oibreacha ar fhorbairt leathnú don reilig reatha ag Reilig Mhaírois, Baile na hAbhann go déanach i 2012. De bharr deacrachtaí conartha stop an obair ar feadh píosa agus thosaigh arís go luath i 2013. Tá an obair ag leanacht ar aghaidh ó shin a chuimsíonn tógáil méid mór cloch agus a líonadh isteach an tsuímh chun an doimhneacht riachtanach de 8 troigh a fháil. Tá thart ar leath an tsuímh forbartha agus beidh críochnaithe roimh dheireadh na seachtaine seo. Beidh an chuid eile don tsuímh dhá chríochnú de réir mar a bhíonn ábhar líonta leordhothannach ar fáil.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1498

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNÍÚ ANSIN