

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach
*Municipal District of LOUGHREA***

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at
Loughrea Regional Office, on 14th September 2017 @ 11.00 am.**

I LATHAIR:

Baill: Cllr's M. Fahy, J. Byrne, J McClearn, P Hynes, S
Donnellan

Oifigh: Mr J Cullen, Director of Services;
Mr D Mitchell S.E Roads & Transportation
Mr E Mulryan, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr B Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr F McGillicuddy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator;

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Canning, Maher & Finnerty who were unable to attend the meeting.

In the absence of both the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Caithaoirleach, the members agreed that Cllr. Fahy would chair the meeting. Cllr. Fahy took the chair.

Resolution of Sympathy

A resolution of sympathy was extended to Paraic Carroll on the recent bereavement of his brother, Michael Carroll.

Congratulations

Members congratulated the Galway senior and minor hurling teams, the Galway camogie team, Eimear Porter, (Gold Medal in Karate in China) and Aoife McKeown (2017 World Dwarf games) on their recent sport successes.

**Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea
held on 13th July 2017** **LMD 17054**

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 13th July 2017 were proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in reply to Cllr McClearn's query regarding Kilmeen Cross, Mr Mulryan confirmed that signage works order had issued and that some signage would be erected over the coming weeks. He confirmed that TII had formally approved the resurfacing, which is at design stage and that he had discussed the issue of public lighting with TII who were of the opinion that there was little justification for public lighting at that junction at present. Following discussion it was agreed that Mr Mulryan would ask TII to re-inspect the site and he would revert to members on this. Mr Cullen advised Cllr. Donnellan that Forward Planning and Irish Water officials have met to establish what Irish Water investment plans are for Kiltulla and other WWTP's. Responding to Cllr Donnellan, Mr Mulryan stated that the cost of providing wheelchair access at Long Point was considerable but would be examined subject to budgetary and necessary consents given the designation of Long Point. Cllr. Donnellan suggested that it be looked at in conjunction with support from Failte Ireland. Responding to Cllr. McClearn, Mr Mitchell said that submissions could still be made to TII on proposed speed limit changes on the N65. Mr Mulryan confirmed to Cllr Donnellan that he is in liaison with the contractor regarding the Lake road surface and that once the road opening licence is issued the contract can proceed, weather dependent. It was agreed that minutes of the meeting be corrected under the heading Ballinderreen IFA (Kiltiernan Drainage) by the insertion of "Killoran" in place of "Horan".

Flooding Update

LMD 17055

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting stating that the Engineering Brief was published in August and the closing date is the 3rd of October. There has been a large initial expression of interest in the project. The Environmental Brief was advertised in late August and has a current closing date of the 3rd October, it is very likely that this closing date will be extended to allow consultants the opportunity to tender for both sets of work. It would be reasonable to expect both sets of consultants to be appointed before the end of the year. Mr Gallagher answered a number of queries that arose regarding progress on Minor Works Schemes that are been progressed in conjunction with the OPW.'

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 17056

Cllr. McClearn requested an update on the Bye Laws at Portumna Marina. Mr, Mitchell stated that Ms Ni Chionna was working on the Bye Laws with the Law Agent and is hopeful to have a report on the matter for the next meeting. He also confirmed for Cllr. McClearn that the proposed erection of the memorial plaque for the Clarke family had been deferred to 2018 at their request. Cllr. Byrne asked how many LIS applications had been submitted, what is the next stage for works on the N67 and pointed out the need for public toilets in

Kinvara. Mr Mulryan stated that over a 100 applications had been submitted countywide – 26 for Loughrea MD with a work value of €700,000 but there is no indication yet on the level of funding available. Mr Mitchell advised that the TII have indicated that they intend to proceed with the N67 works. Mr Cullen stated that it is unlikely any additional funds will be available next year and that the level of service will go down if revenue reduces. Cllr. Donnellan asked if an argument could be made for funding whereby weather and seasons are changing and affecting the surfaces we drive on and the fact that climate change is especially evident on the condition of roads on the west coast. He also queried whether the Council should liaise with Failte Ireland on signage for Loughrea off the N6. Mr Mulryan stated that there has been intense rainfall over the last six weeks, that the maintenance fund is falling and while he can make a request to the Department for additional funding, the level of funding we are getting is not enough to maintain the road network. Mr Sheehy stated that he would liaise with Failte Ireland on signage for Loughrea but that the wording on the signage would need to be decided first. Cllr Byrne stated that there will be legacy issues for damaged roads as a result of works on the N18, that the motorway will attract caravans owners who may then take up residence on access roads. Mr Mitchell stated that the issue of restricting unauthorised use of access roads is ongoing. He stated that a request had been made to TII for funding for road restoration of downgraded roads before they revert to the Council. Cllr. McClearn stated that the annual car rally is of no benefit to the local population, that the minimum bond for use of roads by the car rally should be €50k, the €5k bond is useless where roads have to be repaired after a rally. Mr Mulryan stated that no damage had been caused by this year's car rally, that the Council were trying to strike a balance between costs and benefits and that looking for a deposit of €50k might make the car rally unviable. Cllr. Fahy stated that TII had left Sheehan's Cross in a dangerous condition and there is a need for proper signage here.

Mr Carroll referred to a request received from Nenagh Municipal District for the holding of joint meetings to consider matters of mutual interest. Members agreed that a reply should issue that this Municipal District had no objection to such a proposal and that a few members could meet some of the Nenagh Municipal district but that the issues for discussion need to be clarified prior to any such informal meeting.

It was agreed that Mr Carroll would liaise with the Cathaoirleach to agree a date for the annual Budget meeting for the Municipal District of Loughrea, to be followed by the monthly meeting on the same day.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 5

LMD 17057

The following reply was given:

Our Road Design Engineer will bring up this junction (N67 at Kilcolgan) at the next meeting with the TII Safety Inspector, with a view to having an assessment carried out

Notice of Motion No. 6

LMD 17058

The following reply was given:

We are not in a position to give indicative amounts for each Drainage District budget as the overall budget allocation for 2018 has not yet been determined. When GCC budget 2018 has been adopted, we can review this request in light of the allocation granted for Drainage Districts.