

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 Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, on 9th November 2017 @ 11 a.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Ivan Canning

Baill:

Cllr's M. Fahy, J. Byrne, P Hynes, S Donnellan,
Michael Maher

Oifigigh:

Ms M Ni Chionna S.E. Roads & Transportation
Mr D Mitchell S.E Roads & Transportation
Mr E Mulryan, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr. E Gallagher, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr F McGillicuddy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator.
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr's. Finnerty and McClearn who were unable to attend the meeting.

Sympathy

On behalf of the elected members, the Cathaoirleach extended sympathies to Cllr Pat Hynes on the death of his partner Anne's brother Mr Hubert Gordon, Moate, Killimor, Ballinasloe.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held on 26th October 2017

LMD 17067

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 26th October 2017 were proposed by Cllr.Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr Fahy's query regarding work at Kilmeen junction, Mr Mulryan stated that the erection of signage should be completed in the next week. The T.I.I. have approved re-surfacing work for the junction and also to be extended out towards Ballyduggan. No commitment has been received for lighting. Cllr Maher stated that a meeting with the T.I.I. is scheduled in the coming weeks and he would welcome the support of the Oireachtas Members to secure lighting for the junction.

Confirmation of Minutes to consider and adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 26th October 2017. LMD 17067

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th October 2017 to consider and adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Loughrea were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Fahy and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

In reply to Cllr Maher's query regarding the shortfall in the budget which was currently at €1.65m, Mr Cullen stated that by the time the Municipal District Budgets were formulated, a number of factors including an increase in commercial rates figure etc. the deficit had narrowed from €4.6m to €1.65m. He further clarified that the figure of €1.1 presented to Municipal Districts related solely to that expenditure that could be divided by Municipal Districts. Cllr. Donnellan stated that he wanted the minutes to note that he had submitted a Notice of Motion for the September meeting proposing that Galway County Council allocate funds for the 2018 budget to allow a significant maintenance of the Dunkellin Drainage District upstream of Craughwell Village. The proposal also sought that the budgeted amount be sufficient to allow the first 2 years maintenance be achieved in 2018 to ensure that this will alleviate the prospect of flooding in the area, with continuation of the maintenance scheme in 2019 until completed.

Flooding Update

LMD 17068

Mr Gallagher informed the meeting that following a 2 week period for appeal, the successful tenderer for the Gort Lowlands project will be approached. It is hoped to sign contracts in the next 3 weeks. He is currently gathering information along with Feidhlim McGillicuddy to formulate a Flood Emergency Response Plan for Gort Lowlands and hopes to have a document issued to Councillors before the next meeting. Cllr. Byrne requested a meeting with Galway County Council, local Councillors and the South Galway Flood Committee in the next week to discuss flood emergency works.

Ms. Ni Chionna confirmed that a contractor for works at Kiltiernan had been offered the contract and she would inform members when the contract was signed. She also confirmed that work at Craughwell was nearly completed and bridge works will be started shortly. After main works are completed, work upstream will be taken into account.

Draft Portumna Marina Carpark Byelaws 2017

LMD 17069

Ms Ni Chionna confirmed that from legal advice received regarding the 48 hour maximum stay, it was recommended that the proposed 48 hours remain as the carpark is for overnight stays only. She was satisfied to recommend that the 28 days be reduced down to 5 days.

In response to Cllr. Canning's concerns regarding litter at the carpark, Mr Mulryan stated that it was not unreasonable to expect users of the carpark to remove their own litter. Regarding the litter from the boats, Mr Mulryan will contact Waterways Ireland for them to resolve this issue. Regarding the barrier requested by Cllr Canning, Mr Mulryan stated that as it was a carpark and not a camping site, it would not be feasible to install a barrier.

Ms Ni Chionna confirmed for Cllr Donnellan that signage would be erected at the carpark, once the bye laws were passed. Mr Cullen also stated that the current issues regarding littering, overcrowding and monitoring of the carpark could be dealt with when the bye laws were in place.

Taking in Charge of Estates

LMD 17070

Mr Mitchell outlined the current position with regard to taking in charge of estates with particular reference to the Loughrea M.D. of which there are 19 current TIC applications at various stages of the process.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Fahy that the Punchbowl Estate Residents would be best advised to take collective responsibility for the lighting until such time as the court case was heard. Regarding Sycamore Grove, it was hoped to avail of the €100k fund in order for this estate to be taken in charge.

In reply to Cllr Byrne's queries, Mr Mitchell confirmed that de-commissioning of estates was included in the contract with I.W. He will check the situation regarding tree removal at Burren View Estate. There are outstanding bond issues regarding Sliabh Carron, The Orchard Estate and Gort na Ri. Regarding Woodmount Estate, Ballinderreen, the discharge licence was an ongoing issue.

In response to Cllr's Hynes and Donnellan, Mr Mitchell stated that a lot of cases were protracted due to ongoing bond issues, staff changes and no responses from developers and in the case of An Sruthan, Loughrea and Jardin Drive, work was in progress. Regarding Ard Breda Estate, Loughrea, there will be a recommendation shortly. There are no estates for taking in charge in Craughwell.

In response to Cllr Maher's query regarding Fortland Meadows, Loughrea, Mr Mitchell said no application was received to date but if the residents could keep the lights on in the interim, he would endeavour to get more information regarding same. Cllr. Maher also wished to acknowledge the work of Ms. Celine Delaney, Planning for all her work in the taking in charge process and wished her well in her new post. He requested that a letter of thanks be issued to her from the LMD.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 17071

Mr Mulryan replied to Cllr Maher's queries as follows:-

- 1) The rubbish/debris left over from Halloween Bonfires at Laurencefields would be removed.
- 2) The loose manholes on Bride Street would be referred to the relevant agencies
- 3) The pipejetter will be carrying out jetting works around the town in the coming week and Coscorrigh would be included.
- 4) Patching on the Dartfield Road would be carried out.

Mr Mulryan also confirmed for Cllr Byrne that a costing would be provided for lighting and footpath requested by the Glenbrack Deputation.

In response to Cllr Fahy's request for an CES for the provision of a footpath between Labane and Ardrahan, Mr Mulryan confirmed that while GCC will have the request for such a footway investigated he did not foresee a situation in the short to medium term that funding would be made available to GCC to realise such a request. Cllr Fahy requested that hard shoulders be provided at Kilternian as part of the planned resurfacing works on the former N18, Mr Mulryan stated that the available funding allow for the resurfacing of the existing road carriageway only & no funding was available for the construction of hard shoulders

Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr. Donnellan that non weather dependant elements of re-instatement works by Irish Water is scheduled to commence in late November 2017 on the Lake Road, Garrybreeda and the Old Galway Road with the balance of the work executed during suitable weather conditions during the summer of 2018.

Glenbrack Road, Gort Development Association Deputation

Mr Pat O'Donnell, Mr Dan Casey and Mr Pat O'Donnell made representations on behalf of the residents of Glenbrack, Gort regarding the extension of street lighting at Glenbrack due to the increase in residents using the road for walking/cycling etc. The extension of a footpath was also requested.

Cllr's Canning, Maher, Fahy and Byrne all welcomed the deputation and were prepared to allocate NOM funds towards the project. Mr Mulryan confirmed that the site would be examined and a cost/estimate would be provided to the Councillors for consideration and allocation of funding.

Labane/Ardrahan Development Association Deputation

Mr Joe Callinan and Mr Shane Quinn made representations on behalf of the Development Association to merge the two villages of Labane and Ardrahan with a footpath. The existence of a hard shoulder would also facilitate a walkway with bollards if it were more feasible. They had already fundraised for the project and had €6000 to contribute. All Councillors welcomed the deputation and supported their request. Mr Mulryan stated that while the proposal to create a walkway had some merit a feasibility study would have to be carried out and if GCC can determine that the project is viable, then a cost/estimate can be provided.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Municipal District would take place on Thursday 14th December 2017.