

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, 10th May 2018 @ 11 a.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Ivan Canning

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer
Mr E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr E Mulryan, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr F McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer;
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator;
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.
Ms. Janice Fuller, Consultant Ecologist

Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was proposed by Cllr Fahy, seconded by Cllr Canning to extend the elected members sympathies to the family of Hubert Diskin, Clarenbridge. R.I.P.

Apologies

Apologies from Cllr. McClearn and Mr J. Cullen, D.O.S. who were unable to attend.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held on 19th April 2018

LMD 18022

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 19th April 2018 were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Finnerty and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr Maher's query regarding loose manhole covers at two locations in Mount Carmel and Main Street, Mr Mulryan stated that the relevant agencies would be contacted to have them raised/repared. He also confirmed

that grass cutting in Council estates was managed by the Housing Section and he would refer Cllr Maher's concerns to Housing. Cllr. Hynes requested that the Housing Section clarify which estates would have grass cut this year.

In reply to Cllr Finnerty, Mr Mitchell stated that he would refer the matter of anti-social behaviour at Crowe Street, Gort to the Housing Department. He also stated that GCC are still awaiting a Ministerial Order regarding the de-classification of the N66.

Cllr Byrne stated that a lot of money had been spent on provision of CCTV but that the issue of viewing footage remained unresolved. Mr Carroll stated that funding had been received for CCTV and a clean-up at Kinincha, Gort. While there were still technical problems with the CCTV system, once solved, Portumna and Gort would receive priority.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy's request for skips to be provided at certain locations in Gort to eliminate illegal dumping, Mr Mitchell stated that this would not be feasible as it would set a precedent and would not solve illegal dumping. Cllr Canning stated that the introduction of out of hours for Community Wardens to catch illegal dumpers might go some way to resolve the nationwide issue of illegal dumping.

Flooding

LMD 18023

Enda Gallagher updated the meeting on progress. At the Public Information Day on the 3rd May, there were in excess of 50 attendees. A large number of issues were raised on the day with both positive and negative comments received. A report on the submissions will be compiled by the Environmental Consultant. On the Dunkellin / Aggard Scheme, the contractor has commenced works on two of the three bridge sites (Kileely Beg and Rinn Bridges). The OPW has nearly finished works on the Craughwell bypass channel and works by the OPW on the three Craughwell bridges will commence in the coming month. A progress / options report for the Kiltiernan / Ballinderreen Scheme has been requested for the next district meeting

Invasive Species – Presentation by Janice Fuller, Consultant Ecologist

LMD 18024

Janice Fuller introduced Phase 1 of a new project to record incidents of invasive species which will identify the particular invasive species and its location throughout the County. Members of the Public will also be able to phone a designated number/email address and the Community Wardens will then investigate and over time an accurate map of their location will be drawn up. Future funding would be sought to tackle routes. She is currently liaising with the T.I.I. who have a programme for national routes.

In reply to Cllr. Byrne, Ms. Fuller stated that there is a very limited budget for this Phase and as a result, signage would be erected depending on funds. Mr Mitchell stated that there was an urgency to the recording of the invasive species to show the Department that there is a need for further funding to combat the problem throughout the County.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 18025

Cllr Finnerty informed Members of a planning application submitted for a Biogas Plant in townlands of Gort, Kinicka and Glenbrack.

It was proposed by Cllr. Finnerty and seconded by Cllr. Byrne that roads funding be on the Agenda at the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Finnerty and seconded by Cllr. Byrne that an employee of the Housing Section attends the June meeting of the Loughrea MD to explain what benefit the CCTV in Gort at Crowe St is to Galway County Council in relation to anti-social behaviour. Also, who monitors the CCTV, how often is it checked and can CCTV be used for evidence against horse owners who have animals grazing on green areas.

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Fahy that Galway County Council engage with the T.I.I. to ensure that existing stone walls on the proposed N67 re-alignment project are re-instated and replace current fencing proposal. The Gateway to the Burren should be maintained from a Heritage perspective as set out in Galway County Development Plan objective NHB II.

In response to Cllr. Maher's query regarding proposed surface re-instatement work on the three roundabouts on the by-pass, Mr Mulryan stated that the funding was allocated to address the defects identified on same. He would also seek clarification from the T.I.I. regarding the length of work to be carried out on the N65. Regarding the request for a ramp at the Long Point to facilitate wheelchair users, Mr Mulryan will liaise with the Environment Section regarding delivery of the project.

In response to Cllr. Fahy's query regarding additional funding for the road network, Mr Mitchell stated that no word has been received to date from the Department.

In response to Cllr. Byrne's query regarding claims due to damages because of the poor road network, Mr Mitchell will seek a report from Mr Morrissey, Risk Assessor for the members. He also confirmed to Cllr. Byrne that he would check whether Galway County Council were making a submission on the Local Area Electoral Body review.

Deputation – Thoor Ballylee Society Ltd.

Ms. Rena McCallan and Mr Colm Farrell representing the Thoor Ballylee Society Ltd., outlined their concerns to the Members regarding the carpark at Thoor Ballylee and the issue of transfer of the land in question from the Cunningham family to Galway County Council.

Mr Mulryan stated that GCC are actively working on the issue and it is hoped to resolve same in the near future with legal costs to be borne by the Council.

It was agreed that the Annual meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Thursday 7th June 2018 at 11 am, followed by the Municipal Meeting.

Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 6

LMD 18026

The following reply was given:

The issues raised by Cllr Finnerty regarding GCC owns lands at Kinnicha Dump Road & Courtney's Lane will be examined & referred to the Corporate Services Section of GCC for review & consideration to determine the most appropriate options to address the issues raised

Notice of Motion No. 7

LMD 18027

The following reply was given:

The provision of the enhancement of existing Electric Vehicle Charge Points in Gort is a commercial decision for the ESB & Galway County Council have no role or remit regarding same. Cllr Finnerty may wish to liaise directly with the ESB on this matter via ecars@esb.ie E-mail address

Notice of Motion No. 8

LMD 18028

The following reply was given:

The section of road in question has been inspected by GCC staff & is being included as part of overall submission being prepared by GCC for additional funding to address pavement defects from TII