

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held
at Loughrea Regional Office, 9th September, 2019 @ 11 a.m.**

I LATHAIR:

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| Cathaoirleach: | Cllr. P. Hynes |
| Baill: | Cllr's I. Canning, J Byrne, M. Maher, J. McClearn, S. Curley, M. Kinane, G. Donohue, PJ Murphy |
| Oifigh: | Mr J. Cullen, D.O.S Roads & Transportation; Mr D. Mitchell, S.E. Roads & Transportation; Mr G. Haugh, S.E.E. Loughrea MD; Mr E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. F McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer; Mr B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer; Mr P. Carroll, Administrative Officer; Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer. |

Apologies received from Cllr G. Finnerty, who was unable to attend.

Cllr Hynes congratulated the Galway Camogie Team on their All Ireland win on his own behalf and on behalf of the Members.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held
on 9th July 2019. LMD 19032**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on the 9th July 2019 were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Canning and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr McClearn, Mr Cullen stated that at the request of the TII, GCC have made a submission for a feasibility study to look at the most appropriate junction solutions for Kilmeen Cross and that this would include the examination of a roundabout arrangement.

In response to Cllr Byrne, Mr Cullen confirmed that the contract for the N67 will be signed shortly and Members will be notified of same. The issue of developing the hard shoulder from Ballinderreen to Kilcolgan will be referred to the TII. Warning signage at the Athenry Road junction at Clarenbridge is on the TII list of works to be carried out.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Maher that footpath renewal in Loughrea was included in the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Application recently submitted. Regarding tree removal around the town, some of the overhanging trees have already been removed and the issue of the trees in Fahy Gardens will be investigated.

Mr Cullen confirmed for Cllr Maher that under the Fire Services Capital programme, an estimated cost for a new Fire Station in Loughrea has been included in the national building programme.

Cllr Canning thanked all involved in the installation of the periodic speed limit signs at Gortanumera N.S. He would also like a response to the issue of the Boat at the Fire Station in Portumna.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Curley that work is about to commence on TIC of An Chrannog Estate, Loughrea. Mr Haugh confirmed that a traffic survey is ongoing on the Bohercom Road, following Cllr Curley's representations on this matter.

Cllr Donohue requested that the Hedgecutters operating on our roads at present cut 10 – 12 ft high to facilitate high vehicles.

Flooding Update

LMD 19033

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – The assessment of channel options is continuing with environmental inputs being considered. The Feasibility Report for the scheme is scheduled to be completed in Q1 2020 with the Public Exhibition scheduled for the end of Q2 2020. A funding submission has been made to the OPW for works at Rinrush.

Dunkellin – Works on Craughwell Bridge to be completed by end of September. Compensation talks have commenced with land owners in Killeely.

Dunkellin Bridge – Works on abutments and the old structure are well advanced. Beams to be delivered before the end of September. Road to re-open at end of October 2019.

Kiltiernan/Ballinderreen – Works are 90% complete. The last section of deep dig is underway. All works on the scheme to be completed within a month.

Portumna CRFAM – Brendan McDonagh EE has been appointed for the Ballinasloe FRS and Clifden FRS that have been approved under tranche 1 of the CFRAM funding.

When these two schemes have advanced, Mr McDonagh will be commencing preparatory works on the Portumna Scheme.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 19034

In response to a query Cllr McClearn concerning the proposed Dublin to Galway Greenway Mr Cullen said that a national strategy for the development of Greenways was released last year by the Minister. A working group has been set up with representatives from the Agricultural Sector and Local Authorities to develop a code of practice. Consultants are being appointed in the near future and total engagement with all stake holders is required. Westmeath County Council continue to be the lead in this project and an office will be set up in Ballinasloe but the project was in fact starting all over again and was only at the very initial stages and no rote selection work was likely to commence for a considerable time.

Cllr Maher thanked Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer and the staff at the Loughrea Office for all the help in making the Medieval Festival a great success recently, bringing approximately 20,000 people to Loughrea. He also requested that the site works being carried out on the site beside Ti na Ri, Loughrea which is zoned amenity be investigated.

In response to Cllr Kinane, Mr Mitchell said he will have the damaged footpath from Oranmore to Rinville inspected. Mr Mitchell stated for Cllr Curley that he should direct his signage request for Kilnadeema to the local engineering staff for their consideration.

Cllr Canning requested that the issue of waste disposal at the Portumna Marina be investigated with the OPW as refuse being dumped from boats docked at the Marina was becoming a problem. He also requested for the next meeting that a report be provided on the prosecutions for Dog Fouling in the LMD for the last 2 years.

Mr Mitchell stated for Cllr Byrne that he would contact IT with regard to the correct route to Kinvarra from the Motorway for sat nav/google map purposes.

Kiltullagh Drainage District Committee Deputation

Cllr Maher introduced Charlie Whiriskey and Sean Moran, representatives of the Kiltullagh Drainage District Committee. Mr Whiriskey outlined their complaint with regard to the drainage works currently being carried out and the slow progress of same due to the interruptions by the Ecologist on site. He also presented photos of the works and the vegetation which has been left behind.

All Members expressed their concern regarding the slow progress and value for money with the allocation of €60,000. Mr Mitchell stated that the allocation was for maintenance works, not dredging of the river and an Ecologist was employed as per Local Authority Water Programmes (LAWPRO) advice. He stated that all works were

being carried out as per the most recent OPW guidance for channel maintenance works. He will refer the Committee's concerns to the Department.

Gurteeney Development Group Deputation

Cllr McClearn introduced Mr Gary Gorman and Mr John Kavanagh, members of the Gurteeney Development Group to the Members. Mr Gorman outlined the groups concerns regarding speeding traffic through the village on the R352. There are a large number of children in the housing estate in the village and no warning signs erected or traffic calming measures. The issue of grass cutting and maintenance in the village has been a problem over the Summer months as the current situation with GRD and public liability insurance has left the village without any scheme to carry out the works. The locals have endeavoured to carry out the works with difficulty due to safety concerns. Approximately 5 years ago, through Leader, funds of €50,000 was spent on the village and now maintenance of this work is proving to be very difficult.

All members expressed their dis-satisfaction with the current arrangements and insurance requirements. Mr Mitchell stated that GCC cannot move any further on this issue as funding for these schemes comes from the GRD and as such they are the Managers of the Schemes. It was proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Canning and agreed that the GRD Executive be invited to a Plenary Meeting of GCC to resolve this ongoing issue.

Mr Mitchell stated that a traffic counter to ascertain speeds would be installed with a view to erecting a Driver Feedback Speed sign. This could be funded from NOM monies.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Loughrea MD would take place on Monday 14th October 2019.

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