

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 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. Cunniffe, 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.

Oifigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, J. Cullen, E. Cummins, Directors of Service; M.J. Walsh Acting County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, L. Gavin, S.E., P. ÓNeachtain, Oifigh Gaeilge, R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Also in attendance

West on Track Committee Members:

Paddy McGuinness, Gerry McGarry, Colm O'Rahilly, Martin Cunniffe

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Mayor welcomed all to the Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1588

The Members agreed that a Vote of Sympathy be sent to the Mrs. Kitty Cunningham and Family on the death of her late husband Michael Cunningham, former Member of Galway County Council. Mr. Cunningham had been a Member of Galway County Council for 13 years. Tributes were paid to Mr. Cunningham on the good work carried out by him on behalf of the people of South Galway.

It was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 5 Minutes as a mark of Respect.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the family of the late Niall Donoghue who had passed away so tragically at such a young age. Tributes were paid to Niall who was an up and coming Hurler for the County.

The Manager, on her own behalf, and on behalf of the Staff said she wished to be associated with the Votes of Sympathy to the Cunningham and Donoghue Families.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the Walsh Family on the sudden death of their Son in Saudi Arabia last week.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the Cronin Family Cappataggle on the sudden death of their son, Sean, in a car accident last week.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Mrs. Michael Conlon, An Leac Liath, Bearna
- Francie Donohue, Killafin, Gort
- Kitty Cunningham, Galway Road, Gort
- John Joe Quinn, Tyrone, Kilcolgan
- Bean Tom Bheartla Ó Flaithearta, An Lochán Beag, Indreabhán
- Pádraig Ó Conghaile, Gairfinne, Rosmuc
- Pádraig McDonagh, Maumeen, Lettermore
- Michael Kelly, c/o Aggie's Bar, Main Street, Loughrea
- Cathal Gibbons, Station Road, Derrymullen, Ballinasloe
- Nora Ann Nolan, Aille, Barna

The Mayor adjourned the Meeting for 5 Minutes.

On resumption An Comh Ó Cuaig said he wished to propose that a Vote of Congratulations be sent to Mr. Martin J. Walsh on becoming Mayor of Boston. He said that Martin was a Conamara man and his parents who are native Irish speakers had come from the Camas/Rosmuc area and wished to pay tribute to him on such a great achievement.

It was proposed by an Comh Ó Cuaig, seconded by An Comh Ó Laoi and agreed that "In the event of an Invitation coming from Martin J. Walsh's Office in Boston that a representation should be sent to Boston for his inauguration as Mayor of that City".

It was proposed by an Comh Ó Laoi, seconded by An Comh Ó Tuairisg and agreed "that Galway County Council invite the Mayor of Boston, Mr. Martin Walsh into Galway County Council to address the Council in the Chamber when he visits Conamara in April/May, 2014 and make a presentation to him.

An Comh Ó Laoi said he wished to thank An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny and the Government for the allocation of €2 Million for the building of a new Interpretative Centre at Teach an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc. An Comh. Ó Cuaig also welcomed the funding and enquired as to who in the Council would be dealing with this project and would a Sub Committee be set up.

Replying, the Manager said she welcomed the news and said this project has been included in the 1916 Commemoration Project scheduled for 2016. She said there were a number of Partners involved Office of Public Works, Udaras na Gaeltachta and Roinn the Gaeltachta. She thanked all for their input. The Manager said that a meeting of the four Partners should be held to discuss how this project should be progressed.

The Mayor said he wished to congratulate the Community & Enterprise Unit of Galway County Council who received an award for Partnership in Business at the 10th Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2013 for “Made in Galway” Brands, representing 260 Companies who were small producers. He said he also wished to congratulate, Leenane, Parkmore Residents, Tuam and Oranmore in the Pride of Place competition, and was delighted that Oranmore had been nominated to represent Galway at the 2014 Pride of Place International Competition. He said it was a great achievement. He also informed the Meeting that he was going to China on Tuesday, 26th November, 2013 for the LiveCom Awards with a delegation from Inis Oirr who were representing County Galway and Ireland in the competition and hoped that they would bring back the Trophy.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Willers and agreed, that the participants in the “Pride of Place” competition held recently in Derry be invited in for a Civic Reception.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

1589

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 21st October, 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.

An Comh Ó Tuairisg referred to page 32 – Fire Service for Conamara.

He said that a Meeting of over 200 people was held in Carraroe recently regarding this and there was a lot of anger displayed there. He said that Deputy Kyne had also attended. He presented statistics to show that areas of similar population such as Donegal and Leitrim were better resourced with 16 and 5 fire stations respectively. He also referred to the length of time it took to attend fires in Spiddal and Oughterard compared to other areas in County Galway. All members of the Conamara Electoral area were unhappy with the situation and An Comh. Ó Cuaig said he wanted a copy of letter sent to the Department. Cllr. Mannion asked what the capital cost of providing a Station would be and also the operating costs, she asked that this would be available for the next meeting. An Comh Ó Curraoin said it was frustrating that some areas were 50 miles away and that a Fire Services was a necessity not a luxury. Cllr. S. Walsh stated that the Conamara Electoral Area Members had been accused of being inactive in working towards the provision of a Fire Service in Conamara. An Comh Ó Laoi said it was important that this proposal be put to the Minister as the issue of a Fire Service for Conamara has been going on for over 20 years.

It was proposed by An Comh Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed, “that Galway County Council seeks funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government to provide funding for a Fire Station in South Conamara.”

In reply Mr. Cummins stated that the Galway Fire Service is one of the best fire services in the Country and that with the Members support the necessary budget to fund the service has been maintained over the years. He also referred to his presentation on this issue at the last meeting that clearly outlined the facts and the constraints within which the service has to be provided. He also said that ignoring the presentation was not an option and again reminded the Members that the design of the fire service is now based on the management of risk within available resources and is no longer based on geography and population. He stated that if any proposal or request for funding to the Department did not take on board the issue of the management of risk within available resources, then the case being made would be flawed.

Cllr. Mannion asked why was it flawed, and what would it cost, she stated that the people of South Conamara want a Fire Station in their community. In reply Mr. Cummins said that the report of the working group was not flawed in any respect and that the point he was making was that the Risk within the County had to be prioritised and managed within existing resources. He went on to say that there was no magical formula available other than the allocation of resources to the areas of highest risk. The Mayor read the Proposal to be sent to the Minister and asked the Members to await his response. An Comh. Ó Cuaig stated that the people in South Conamara have the same risk. Cllr. S. Walsh referred to the SPC meeting two months ago where this report was discussed, and he stated that the reality was keeping the Fire Budget of County Galway within its parameters, but this should not be done at the expense of the people in South Conamara. He said the report did not consider the callout time. Cllr. McHugh said that this matter should be dealt with by the Conamara Elected Members.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to Paragraph 4 on Page 3 of the Minutes regarding his concerns on blockages caused in the River Suck channel due to fallen branches and the failure to undertake appropriate channel maintenance and this was still outstanding. He asked that the Flood Committee take this on board as a matter of priority. Replying Mr. Gilmore said that the River Suck Drainage Committee was funded by Galway and Roscommon County Councils and there were no further funds for maintenance on the River. He said that the Council will write to the Committee to consider this for next year's programme.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to Paragraph 2 on Page 3 of the Minutes regarding the distribution of the property tax, and referred to a Notice of Motion he had submitted regarding the provision of financial assistance in the Budget of €10,000 at least to cover Insurance Cover for the Galway Mountain Rescue Unit (GMRU) as the Department of the Environment had ceased funding them. He pointed out that the Group is a voluntary group who carry out tremendous and very worthwhile work, this was supported by Cllr. S. Walsh and Cllr. E. Mannion who said that the Mountain Rescue were providing a vital service for Tourists and locals and it needed to be supported.

Replying the Manager said she was not familiar on how the GMRU was funded. She stated that the Council operates Schemes subject to adoption of the Budget and funding for 2014. Cllr. Cuddy reiterated that the LPT Tax should be used for local projects. The Manager advised that the GMRU should apply for a grant under the Community Grants Scheme.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Walsh said that no detailed response had been received from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's Motion to support those who cut turf for domestic use.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION **1590**

The Report of Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 16th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 **1591**

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Road commencing at junction with Local Road L31042 in the townland of Moyveela and extending south for a distance of 206 metres in the townland of Moyveela and finishing at Higgins', grid reference 144701, 225614 in the townland of Moyveela.

Electoral Area: Oranmore

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 **1592**

Details as follows:-

The following Councillors proposed and seconded the Declaration of the following sections of the Birches and Birch Close Estates, Tuam to be public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Birches & Birch Close Estates, Tuam, Co. Galway

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam.

1. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road N17 (Galway Road, Tuam) and extending south east for a distance of 185m, to the end of the cul-de-sac adjacent to unit 9.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam.

2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 148m (serves units 1-16).

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam

3. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 88m and thereafter west for a distance of 34m to the end of the cul-de-sac in front of unit 28b (serves units 38-28b).

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the Council approved the declaration of the following sections of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam

4. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 83m and thereafter east for a distance of 41m (serves units 9-17)
5. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 3 above and extending east for a distance of 20m to the junction of 4. above (serves units 23-26)
6. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending north for a distance of 11m and thereafter east for a distance of 81m (serves units 42-8a)
7. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 6. above and extending west for a distance of 16m (serves units 39-41)

Electoral Area: Tuam

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

1593

Details as follows:-

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Caoin Dara Housing Estate, Crosheen, Ballinderreen, Co. Galway.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at its junction with the L-8562 in the townland of Crosheen and extending in an Easterly direction for a distance of 297.0 meters in the in the townland of Crosheen and ending in the townland of Crosheen.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

1594

Details as follows:-

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuniffe, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Council approved the declaration of the following sections of road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Shramore Housing Estate, Tuam, Co. Galway.

1. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road N17 (Galway Road, Tuam) and extending north for a distance of 187m, along the gables of units 12 and 17 and thereafter north east for a distance of 57m.
2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above in front of unit 15 and extending south for a distance of 30m through the underpass and thereafter north east for a distance of 49m.

Electoral Area: Tuam

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.107 HECTARES AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY

1595

Statutory Notice dated 3rd October, 2013 and Report dated the 3rd October, 2013 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to dispose of 0.107 Hectares at Magheramore, Killimor Co. Galway to Killimor GAA Club.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – EXTENSION TO CORTOON BURIAL GROUND

1596

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh seconded by Cllr. Hoade, it was agreed to approve the Extension of Cortoon Burial Ground.

TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH GALWAY CITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – GALWAY CITY OUTER BYPASS

1597

Copy of the Agreement was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore outlined the purpose of the Agreement and explained that it had been agreed with Galway City Council that Galway County Council would be the lead authority in the administrative areas of this project. This would include the Re-examining of the Scheme from East to West i.e. R336 Bearnna to An Spidéal Road to Glenascaul, and the preparation

of Compulsory Purchase Orders, statutory notices etc., to progress the scheme. He said that the Council will work very closely with the National Parks & Wildlife and An Bord Pleanála. Following the clarification of some points raised in regard to Habitats etc., by the Members, it was unanimously agreed to sign up to the Agreement.

**TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE AN OVERDRAFT
ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014** **1598**

Report in relation to Overdraft Accommodation for 12 months 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014 was previously circulated.

Mr. Mullarkey informed the Members that the Council's approval is requested to the overdraft accommodation for the 12 months 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

He said that while it is expected that the actual level of overdraft required to be utilized will on average be within the €21 Million, it is necessary to have the Council and Ministerial approval to cover the peak requirement.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh seconded by Cllr. Feeney, it was agreed that the Overdraft Accommodation for the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 of €21 Million, be approved.

TO FIX DATE AND TIME FOR COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING **1599**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting be held on Monday, 16th December, 2013 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae

TO FIX DATE AND TIME FOR DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING **1600**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the December Ordinary Meeting be held on Thursday, 12th December, 2013 at 2 p.m. in Áras an Chontae

**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)).**
1601

Cllr. S. Walsh left the Meeting for the duration of the consideration of this item.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the attendance at Conferences as listed was agreed.

Esperanza Enterprises – Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013 – 20th – 21st September – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €120

Cllr. Peter Feeney

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Governments & Planning & Development Act 2013 – 1st – 2nd November – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150

Cllr. Peter Roche

Ace Training – A Practical Guide to Budget 2014 – 8th – 10th November – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation – 22nd – 24th November – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Tomás Mannion, Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

Councillors Conferences – Budget 2014 for Canvassing – 22nd – 24th November – Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr. Thomas Welby

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001. **1602**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Walsh, it was agreed that the summary of proceedings of Conferences attended, be noted.

TJK Conferences – Disputes between Neighbours & the Law – 25th – 27th January – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

iQuest Ltd. – 5th National Renewable Energy Summit 2013 – 14th March – Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Association of County & City Councils – Annual Conference 2013 – 7th – 8th March – Tower Hotel, Waterford

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Ace Training – Starting & Growing a Chamber of Commerce in your Community – 12th – 14th April – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – HSE Tobacco Control Policy – 10th – 12th May – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

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

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Benefits of Jobs Creation & Tax Entitlements – 16th – 18th August – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Dignity at Work – A guide to bullying and harassment in the workplace – 6th – 8th September – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Ace Training – New Tendering Requirements for Local Authorities – 4th – 6th October – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Clare County Council – LAMA Autumn Seminar 2013 – 11th – 12th October – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Ace Training – Sport & Community Planning – 11th – 13th October – Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Superior Training – Local Government & Enterprise Development – 18th – 19th October – Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing – 25th – 27th October – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Shaun Cunniffe, Tomás Mannion, Thomas Welby

BG Seminarz – Council Budgets – Preparation, Adoption & Amendments – 1st – 3rd November – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Ace Training – A Practical Guide to Budget 2014 – 8th – 10th November – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON IRISH WATER

1603

Mr. Cullen gave a Powerpoint Presentation on the Transition Update on Irish Water which included the following:-

- Update on Irish Water Programme to date
 - Irish Water Regional Offices
 - Domestic Metering Programme
- Non Domestic Billing and Collection
- Capital Programme
- Budget 2014
- Long term and Annual Services Plans
- Preparing to operate the New Regime
 - The 10 Capability Areas
 - Local Authority Training Timeline

Following an invitations issued to Irish Water asking that a representative meet with the Members of Galway County Council, the County Manager read the contents of a letter which had been received from Mr. John Tierney, Managing Director, Irish Water dated the 22nd November, 2013 outlining Irish Water's engagement with Local Elected Representatives.

The Members thanked Mr. Cullen for his report which was discussed and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed that the following Motion received from Wexford County Council be supported:-

"That Wexford County Council endorses the principle of the right to water and sanitation as a fundamental core value within Irish society and this should be reflected as a central pillar in national water policy. As citizens of the EU we believe in the right of all inhabitants to enjoy this right and that we oppose any attempt to include water in legislation aimed at market liberalization. This Council supports the call for the full national political commitment to ensuring that water and sanitation are publicly owned, democratically run and that all in the sector are fully accountable."

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE WEST-ON-TRACK COMMITTEE ON THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS. **1604**

The Mayor welcomed four Members from the West on Track Committee, Mr. Paddy McGuinness, Mr. Gerry McGarry, Mr. Colm O Rahilly, and Mr. Martin Cunniffe .

Mr. Cunniffe gave a very informative Powerpoint presentation on the workings of the Committee. He outlined the contents of a motion detailing a transport route linking Cork to Belfast via Limerick, Galway, Sligo, Donegal and Derry.

A discussion took place on the significant work done by the Group in the compilation of this initiative which highlighted the exclusion of the West of the Country from the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Core Project and that this region was not included for the funding, and it was felt that the IDA and the Government worked towards delivering on the East Coast only. It was stated that as the West does not have the necessary infrastructure, it cannot be marketed in the same way as the East, therefore jobs were not coming to the West. Western Arc had tied this area together and it was agreed that it should be supported, and that other County Councils should be asked to support it also. The West has been excluded for years.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed "that Galway County Council propose that the Minister for Transport make a submission to the E.U. for TEN-T Core Funding to support the concept of the Western Arc, as requested by the Commission of Petitions of the European Parliament. This motion should be circulated to all local authorities served by the Western Arc."

It was also suggested that the petition be taken to Europe and national politicians and not just local authorities in our Area.

The County Manager thanked the Team for their presentation. She stated that the TEN-T is certainly a very significant project and said that the Council has raised it with the NRA with regard to the Galway City Outer Bypass. She stated that advance preparation work could also be done when the Galway County Development Plan, and the National Spatial Strategy is being reviewed, as it is important that this type of input is made during the consultation process and that a counter balance to the East Coast is achieved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD
ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013** **1605**

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

The Members agreed to note the Financial Report of the Council for the period ending 30th September, 2013.

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS)
COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS 2013** **1606**

Report on the Proposed Speed Limit Review 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin gave an overview of the proposed speed limits and informed members that if they were agreed today, he would review the Bye Laws for their inclusion and bring them back in February for final approval.

Various queries were raised and Mr. Gavin dealt with all. In relation to a query by Cllr. Broderick in regarding the N63 at Ballygar, he agreed that a traffic speed count and measurements could be done by Galway County Council and this may provide important data to justify a case for a change to the proposal at this location.

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES** **1607**

A Report dated 19th November 2013 on the matter was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin went through the Report and the Members praised the amount of positive practical work that had been carried out by Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works, and in particular to Mr. Richard Dooley, under this Scheme, and enquired as to the amount of money that was spent to date. In reply Mr. Gavin said that 120 schemes were submitted, we were successful in 85 and 75 have been completed at a cost of over €2 Million.

For the Kiltiernan/Ballindereen the Cost Benefit Analysis was too low and was not approved by the OPW. Galway County Council were re-examining this scheme with a view to reassessing the works required and attempting to improve the Cost to Benefit whilst at the same time ensuring an effective scheme was put in place. This revised scheme will be submitted to the OPW in early 2014.

With regard to the Dunkellin Area Mr. Gilmore stated that he had gone through the details of the scheme at Electoral Area Meetings. He stated that there were a lot of difficult issues with regard to environmental concerns. He thanked the OPW, Richard Dooley, Shane Faherty and Sean Langan who had done the legwork on this. He said the Scheme is going forward for Planning. Cllr. Feeney referred back to 2009 and the need for this scheme which has got huge support, but he said there had to be some element of rowing back, and he said today is very important and huge credit should go to the Roads Department and the OPW and said it would not have happened without their determination. He said it was good value for money.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

1608

Report dated 21st November, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Kelly gave a general overview of the Report and outlined some of the works that had been undertaken. The Members thanked Mr. Kelly for his presentation and this was followed by some queries particularly in relation to people living in unfinished housing estates.

Cllr. Hynes enquired about people living in housing estates in Loughrea where no bonds are in place and where no conditions were put in place when planning was given, through no fault of their own, and finance cannot be raised to bring them up to standard. He referred to the paragraph on Clearance Strategy and asked if it was possible to draw down funding from that particular scheme to finish these estates. Cllr. Broderick asked if Irish Water could make the cost of Taking In Charge prohibitive. Replying to Cllr. Hynes query, Mr. Kelly said that the instances of bonds not being in place were the exception. However in a small number of instances this may be the case for various reasons including the estate being deemed satisfactory at a point in time resulting in the bond being refunded. He said that these cases would be examined to see what happened but that the funding referred to in the Clearance Strategy section did not cover these. He confirmed that in a situation where a developer is already connected to the Public Service it was not expected that there would be issues with Irish Water although there may be revisions to procedures.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

1609

A Report dated the 25th November, 2013 relating to the Purchase of Former Airport Site at Carnmore was circulated to each Member.

The Manager outlined the contents of the Report to the Members. The Members congratulated and commended the Manager on purchasing the site and keeping it in public ownership. They said it was great value for money and said it was a huge step for economic development within the County, and understood that the matter could not be discussed publically until the process had been achieved. The following queries were raised by the Members.

- That Galway County Council should be the lead on this project as the site is in the County area
- Joint Committee of the County & City should be reactivated and used to discuss the issue relating to this project.
- It was suggested that a Feasibility Study be prepared in relation to the airport Site, and also be applied to the Land Bank of Galway County Council.
- That it be examined to work closely with the 3rd Level Institutions within the County
- Clarity on the continued use of the Airport by the Flying Club
- Ongoing Activities
- Maintenance/Insurance Costs
- Are rates due to Galway County Council on the Airport?
- Two big hangers – cost of Security
- Consider as site for new Fire Service as it is adjacent to the Motorway.
- Support staff at Airport

The County Manager thanked the Members for their support. She referred to the time and energy that had been invested in the Airport, but said that it was not a viable endeavour. She said that times had changed, the Airport had been used a lot for Trips to Dublin in the past, but now with the significant road network people were not supporting it. She stated that the reason the Council did not go alone and purchase the site was that the City and County are shareholders and cannot be viewed separately, the broader picture needs to be looked at in terms of economic development. She said she took on board the issues that were raised e.g. interaction with Third Level Institutions, etc., and said that an Economic Development Plan for Galway would be prepared through the Strategic Policy Committee of the Council for adoption by the Council.

She pointed out that it was not just about enterprise, but that schemes like the Connemara Greenway, the Wild Atlantic Way, and the development of Walking & Cycling Groups were also very important and should be included in the long term development for the County and that benefits from those areas should be maximized in a context of balanced development.

Replying to the statement that the Council should lead, she informed the Members that Galway County Council were the lead in preparing the conveyancing and finalizing the Contract etc. and said it was a 50/50 arrangement. She confirmed that Rates have accrued, and that this was part of the negotiations. She also said that one of the costs would be security, but again this was a joint arrangement. She said that current users of the Airport would be looked at, but that the current owners are responsible at the moment. In

concluding she stated that she hoped that economic development would come from this joint venture.

The County Manager informed the Members that Mr. Frank Gilmore, Director of Services for the Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services Unit would be retiring in December and that this was his last Council Meeting. She said that she would be sorry to Frank go. She complimented Frank on his calm demeanour and on the efficient way he dealt with the Flooding issues. She acknowledged his time as Tuam Town Manager and his work on the Galway Transportation Study which, she said, was a major undertaking at the time. She also thanked him for his dedication to the advancement of the Galway City Outer By-pass.

The Members paid tributes to Frank stating that he was a Gentleman, he showed compassion, was always very fair and took peoples point of view on board. They wished him every good health and happiness on the next stage of his life, and said that he would be a huge loss to Galway County Council.

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

- Correspondence from Cavan County Council regarding a resolution passed after discussion to support local businesses in their towns and villages.
- Correspondence dated the 8th November from South Tipperary County Council stating that that Council recognises that the trafficking exploitation and abuse of women and girls is taking place throughout the country as a direct result of prostitution. The Council believes human rights abuses can be ended by targeting the demand for prostitution by introducing laws which make it an offence to pay for sex and is seeking such laws. We note the success of similar laws in other European countries. The Council will convey its views to the Minister for Justice.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS.

1610

An Comh ÓTuirsg enquired from Mr. Gilmore if a Temporary Bridge could be erected at Seanafeistin Bridge as this work is critical. He said if an accident happens here, the road is closed until the next day.

In reply, Mr. Gilmore said that temporary measures would not be feasible and said that discussions are taking place with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as this is an SAC area. He said that appropriate assessment is being prepared and further discussions will take place before any work can proceed. He said it is not anticipated that any work will be carried out until the middle of next year.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1611

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will investigate the condition of the road surface at Ballycuddy on the N66. Galway County Council would appreciate any information of evidence of accidents at this location as it would assist in putting together a case for discussion with the NRA.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1612

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will examine the position of the schools at Kilchreest and Peterswell and consider the most appropriate options, if any, in conjunction with the NRA for highlighting the schools location.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1613

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will request the NRA to examine the Labane junction on the N18 with a view to having a safety audit done.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1614

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have to date acquired the land and prepared the documents for the development of a car park in Cleggan. Galway County Council will examine the options of how funding can be acquired for the provision of car parking facilities in Cleggan.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1615

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will examine the area and discuss this proposal with the NRA as this is a national route. Approval and funding for this proposal will be required from the NRA before any works can be considered at this location.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1616

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will examine the options of providing funding for the road to Bunowen Pier in the context of existing schemes for pier development and maintenance works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1617

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss with the NRA, the option of providing signage for Kilbeacanty at Fahys Cross, Rakerin, Gort along the N66.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1618

The following reply was given:-

“The alteration or change of traffic flows should be considered in the context of the current Gort traffic management plan. Galway County Council in consultation with the applicant will consider the request and will examine the option of a proposed measure as a change mechanism if required.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1619

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 31 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1620

The following reply was given:-

“While Galway Mountain Rescue were awarded a grant of €1,000 under the Community Support Scheme 2013, it is not possible to commit to providing a similar level of funding in future years under the scheme. However, it will be open to Galway Mountain Rescue to apply to avail of funding under the scheme in future years, subject to funding being made available in the annual budgetary process, to allow for the continuation of the Community Support Scheme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1621

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council already provide limited funding for grass and verge trimming during any given year. This funding is already provided through County Road allocations. Due to the limitations on this funding and the ever competing demands the funding for verge trimming is limited and to increase this item of funding would have an adverse impact on other county road maintenance requirements.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1622

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will prepare a list of low cost accidents and discuss these with the Local Councillors at Area Committee Meetings.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 34 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1623

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will first establish the location, responsibility and ownership of this bridge before proceeding to undertake any investigations or works on this bridge.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 35 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1624

The following reply was given:-

“The funding for footpaths will have to be considered in the context of our budget provisions. Funding of footpaths from alternative sources would have to be the subject of discussions before any footpath works could be considered.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 36 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1625

The following reply was given:-

“It is not possible at this time to forecast the timelines requested. The current position with the scheme is that the application for planning permission was lodged with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on the 14th March 2013. The six week display period finished on 30th April 2013. Submissions on the planning application went direct to An Bord Pleanála. The scheme has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and tender documents are currently being finalised. Once finalised, which is currently expected to be early in the new year, a submission will be made to Irish Water for approval to proceed to the procurement stage.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 37 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1626

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you the statutory notice was published in the Connacht Tribune on the 8th November 2013, regarding the proposal to take Barrack Square in Charge. Following the statutory period for objections or representations the matter will be placed on the Council Meeting Agenda for consideration by the Elected Members.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 38 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1627

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council is currently reviewing the file with a view to drawing down the Bond in this case to complete the estate.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 39 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1628

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that this estate is not fully complete and thus is not ready for Taking in Charge. This estate was constructed in two phases. The section constructed under planning permission granted to Tom Lavelle has one outstanding issue i.e. repair of a boundary wall. A snag list of works issued to John Flaherty who constructed the other section on the 30th October 2012, has not been carried out. The outstanding works include signage, surface water and foul sewer network drawings required, repairs to water meter boxes. More detailed information is available from the Building Control Section of the Planning Unit.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 40 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1629

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanainn Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe monatóireacht ar líonra na mbóithre chun sábháilteacht gach duine a úsáideann na bóithre a chinntiú agus déantar oibreacha de réir mar a theastaíonn agus de réir acmhainn. Tharla traigéide ag an suíomh seo le déanaí agus tá an Comhairle Chontae ag fanacht ar sonraí an timpiste. Níl aon acmhainn ag an Comhairle Chontae chun soilse poiblí a chur isteach.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 41 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1630

The following reply was given:-

“Is leor gur rud fíor neamhdhrealraitheach é go mbeidh maoiniú caipitil ar fáil don scéim seo go luath sa todhchaí.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 42 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1631

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an moladh ionad athchúrsála a thógáil i gCasla curtha siar de bharr srianta buiséid agus níl aon soláthar déanta dó i mbuiséad 2013. Níl sé indéanta cinneadh a dhéanamh an dtiocfaidh an togra ar aghaidh nó go n-aontaítear Buiséad 2014.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 43 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1632

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are currently involved in preparing the contract documents and examining the logistics of undertaking works on this bridge with a view to commencing works as soon as possible.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.