

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2013.

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.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, J. Cullen, K. Kelly, E. Cummins Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer; M. Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer; P. Ó Neachtain Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1519

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- John Rigney, Tullyvoheen, Galway Road, Clifden
- Margaret Corbett & Family, St. Cleran's, Craughwell
- Miko Dermody, Grannagh, Ardahan
- Michael Connolly, Tuam Road, Galway
- Barbara Derrane, Puirín, Indreabhán
- Paraic & Margaret Feeney, Lochán Beag, Indreabhán
- Mary Fahy, Kilmeen, Loughrea
- Peg Martyn, Ashlawn, Loughrea
- Gertie Monahan, Kilrickle, Loughrea
- Gerry Forde, Bullaun, Loughrea
- Phil Dunne, Earl's Park, Loughrea
- Brid Langan, Culliagh South, Abbeyknockmoy

- Richard Connolly, Mount Carmel Crescent, Loughrea
- Phillis Morrissey, Galboley, Bullaun, Loughrea
- Michael Furey, St. Cleran's, Craughwell
- Tommy O'Brien, Clostown, Loughrea
- Pauline Burke, Ashlawn, Loughrea
- Martin Burke, Caherhenryhoe, Kilconieran, Loughrea
- Tomsie Corbett, c/o Meadow Court, Loughrea
- John Fahy, Kilchreest, Loughrea

DRIVER LICENSING

1520

The Mayor read out a letter received from Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Leo Varadkar T.D., regarding the transfer of the Driver LicenSing function from local authorities to the Road Safety Authority (RSA), expressing appreciation for the invaluable assistance providing during the year in relation to the transition to a centralised National Driving Licensing Service (NDLS) under the Road Safety Authority.

The correspondence advised of a one-month extension of the handover from local authorities to the NDLS, advising that same will now take place on 29th October 2013.

A discussion took place and the Members made the following points:

- There is no indication yet as to the proposed location of the RSA office in County Galway
- The Minister's letter indicates that two RSA staff will deal with all of the driver licence applications for Galway City and County, whereas currently up to seven Galway County Council staff deal with these applications. The Members expressed the view that this level of staff reduction will result in chaos in the delivery of the service
- Members said that the requirement that people will have to present at the new RSA office in order to have their photo taken for their licence application will cause undue hardship to people who live a long distance from the office. They also pointed out that this will prohibit people from applying for their driver licence online and this they said is a retrograde step
- Some Members wondered if the service will be available in the Irish language in recognition of the service available through Irish in the An Cheathrú Rua Office and County Hall.
- Members thanked the Staff of the Driver Licence Section of Galway County Council for the great service they provided to the public over the years.

Cllr. McDonagh with the consent of the Mayor proposed Notice of Motion No. 25 which he submitted for the Meeting as follows: *"that Galway County Council in the current economic climate, allow motorists to tax their cars on a monthly basis as there are many untaxed cars on the roads because of financial restraints. Motorists need help and the Council can supply same."* It was recognised that this facility required a change in the current system at national level and was not within the discretion of Galway County Council and accordingly it

was agreed to call on the Minister to implement the necessary change. This proposal, as clarified and amended, was seconded by Cllr. McHugh and agreed.

The Mayor proposed a vote of congratulations to the Galway Senior and Intermediate Camogie Teams on winning All-Ireland titles on 15th September, 2013 and he proposed that the Council host a Civic Reception in their honour. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, and agreed.

The Mayor proposed a vote of congratulations for Kieran Molloy of Oughterard Boxing Club on capturing a bronze medal at the AIBA World Junior Championships in Kiev. This was seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed. It was noted that a Mayoral Reception was being hosted by the Mayor at 4.00 pm in honour of his achievement.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

1521

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 22nd July 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

Report of Committee Meetings for consideration and adoption

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 9th May, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. D. Connolly referred to item 5 regarding former Garda Stations and Civil Defence buildings which are now vacant premises and he asked if the Council has any intention of purchasing such premises for use. Mr. Kelly replied that following consideration of the portfolio of properties currently available, the Council did not propose to acquire any of the properties.

Cllr. Broderick referred to Item 2 in relation to the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ended 31st December 2013 and in particular the need to revise the system of commercial rates to take into consideration ability to pay. Cllr. Cuniffe referred to the need to revise the system for commercial rates in the context of vacant property and the need for rates to apply to state property.

In reply the County Manager indicated that the Council did not enjoy the discretion to amend the system for commercial rates and was bound by the framework provided by national legislation. She advised that in advancing any proposal for reform of the system it would be necessary to consider same in the context of commercial rates providing a significant source of funding for local authorities and accordingly advised that it was necessary to consider same in the broader context of the financing of local government.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, the County Manager advised that the Department was aware of the issues raised by the Members in relation to commercial rates and that same were the

subject of ongoing representations and engagement with the Department by all relevant stakeholders.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 22nd July, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. McClearn.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Canney referred to the proposed reconfiguration of the Council Chamber in order to accommodate the 9 additional Members following the local elections in 2014. He asked if the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government will fund the work.

The Manager replied that the works will be funded by the Council. She said that one of the aims of the reform programme is to bring about efficiencies in local government, which will generate financial savings going forward.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 21st September, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Laoi, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 5th December, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Cuaig, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 13th February, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 11th April, 2012 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 24th May, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ó Laoi, seconded by Comh. E. Mannion.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 11th February, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Cuddy referred to page 3 regarding speed limits and said he was very disappointed that the 60 kph speed limit on the R339 Airport Road and the 80 kph speed limit on local roads have not been changed yet. He said that he has been informed that a decision is awaited from the National Roads Authority (NRA) regarding the Council's submission on the speed limits review but that there is no time limit on the NRA to make their decision.

Mr. Gilmore replied that the Speed Limit Review is done on a National basis and Galway County Council cannot control timelines in this regard. However, he said he is confident that a reply will be received from the NRA shortly and he hopes that the Galway County Speed Limit Review will be put on public display in October with a view to coming back to

the Members with a report on submissions received from the public at the November Monthly Meeting of the Council.

Mr. Gilmore also stated that when the Speed Limit Review is agreed, the Council will put up new speed limit signs and once the signs are in place, the appropriate speed limits will come into force.

In relation to the 80 kph speed limit on local roads, Mr. Gilmore said that it would not be possible for Galway Co. Council to change these speed limits as adjoining counties must have the same speed limit regime on local roads. However, he said that the rules of the road state that road users must drive within the capability of the road.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Hoade asked for a progress report in relation to the repair of school flashing lights and Mr. Gilmore said that he will circulate a report in this regard to the Members.

The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on 15th May, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 –
1522

Details as follows:-

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, 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 L52036 in the townland of Na hAille, Indreabhán and extending west for a distance of 220 metres in the townland of Na hAille, Indreabhán and finishing at Teach Canavans in the townland of Na hAille, Indreabhán.

Electoral Area: Connemara

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Canney, 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 L-6132 in the townland of Cloonee and extending North for a distance of 1107 metres in the townland of Cloonee and finishing at Junction L6131 in the townland of Cloonee.

Electoral Area: Tuam

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, 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 L-22341 in the townland of Ironpool and extending West for a distance of 570 metres in the townland of Ironpool and finishing at L-64491, Seamus Freaneys, in the townland of Ironpool.

Electoral Area: Tuam

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin, seconded by Comh. Ó Laoi, 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/ Regional Road L-5371 in the townland of Homefarm and extending North for a distance of 530 metres in the townland of Leagaun and finishing at Jim Morrison's House in the townland of Leagaun.

Electoral Area: Connemara

The Members welcomed the taking in charge of the roads in the County. A discussion then took place regarding the taking in charge of roads and in particular the criteria for the allocation of Notice of Motion funding for same. Mr. Gilmore undertook to circulate a copy of the relevant policy to the Members and indicated that some of the issues raised by the Members in relation to specific instances of the application of the policy would be more appropriately addressed by engaging with the relevant Area Office Staff.

Mr. Kelly said that the taking in charge of housing estates can be very complex, unless estates have been brought up to standard. He said that the Council has been working very hard over the past number of years in order to get estates up to standard so that they can be brought before the Members for taking in charge and he assured the Members that the Council will continue to be proactive in this regard. He advised that while the Council will work with developers, where adequate bonds are not in place, it is beyond the funding capability of the Council to bring all estates up to the standard where they can be taken in charge.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick who asked if the taking in charge of estates will have any implications for Irish Water, Mr. Cullen informed the Members that a Protocol regarding Taking in Charge of Estates is being developed with Irish Water at present, that this matter was not being overlooked and should be finalised in the context of the relevant legislation by year end.

It was proposed by Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe and agreed to include an update on taking in charge as an agenda item for a future meeting.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – INSTALLATION OF 20KW MICRO WIND TURBINE AT CARNA/CILL CHIARÁIN WATER TREATMENT PLANT – **1523**

Report dated 17th September, 2013 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Cuaig, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, it was agreed that the proposed installation of a 20kw Micro Wind Turbine at Carna/Cill Chiaráin Water Treatment Plant, as set out in the report, be approved.

TO FIX DATE AND TIME FOR OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING.

1524

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed that the October Monthly Meeting of the Council be held on Monday 21st October, 2013 at 2pm.

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)).

1525

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

Esperanza Enterprises – Motor Vehicle Road Tax, Duties & Licences – 6th – 7th September – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €120

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht – World Heritage Seminar – 12th September – Dublin Castle, Dublin – Fee: €0

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg, Cllr.'s Eileen Mannion & Thomas Welby

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference 2013 – Putting the People First – 12th – 14th September – Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork – Fee: €175

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh & Michael Connolly

BG Seminarz – Community Mental Health & the Elected Member – 20th – 22nd September – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €150

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre – A Decade of Commemorations – 1913 – 1923 – The Role of Local Authorities – 26th – 27th September – St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry – Fee: €130

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Greystones Town Council – 25th Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar – Local Govt. – A New Dawn? – 27th – 29th September – Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow – Fee: €150

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

BG Seminarz – How the Elected Member can help Combat Crime – 27th – 29th September – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Michael Connolly & Seamus Walsh

Ace Training – New Tendering Requirements for Local Authorities – 4th – 6th October – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100
Cllr.'s Shaun Cunniffe & Tiarnan Walsh

Councillors Conferences – Internet Elections – 4th – 6th October – Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22 – Fee: €89
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001. **1526**

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

Celtic Conferences – Meeting Management – Principles & Best Practice – 26th – 28th April – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
Cllr. Kevin Ryan

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

Galway County Council – Lough Derg on the Shannon – Realising our Potential – 28th May – Talbot Hotel, Wexford
Cllr. Michael Connolly

Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas – The Future of Rural Society: Opportunities for Rural Economic Development – 10th June – NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Cllr. Michael Connolly

Border, Midland & Western and Southern & Eastern Regional Assemblies Joint Annual Conference – Contribution of Cohesion and Urban Policy to Economic Recovery – 19th June – Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin
Cllr. Bridie Willers

Ace Training – Drug & Alcohol Abuse for Local Authorities – 12th – 14th July – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
Cllr. Kevin Ryan

Solution Marketing – Aiding Local Communities in Job Creation – 19th – 20th July – Talbot Hotel, Wexford
Cllr. Michael Connolly

MacGill Summer School 2013 – Looking to 2016 – How stands the Republic? – 28th July – 2nd August – Glenties, Co. Donegal
Cllr. Michael Connolly

**Parnell Summer School 2013 – Parnell & Kennedy: Lost Leaders – 11th – 16th August –
Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow**
Cllr. Michael Connolly

**Merriman Summer School 2013 – Ireland North & South: two societies growing apart? –
14th – 18th August – Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare**
Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

**Ace Training – Benefits of Jobs Creation & Tax Entitlements – 16th – 18th August – Four
Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**
Cllr's. Tom McHugh, Jimmy McClearn

**Esperanza Enterprises – Changing Social Relations of Housing Tenure – 30th – 31st August –
Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo**
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

**Esperanza Enterprises – Motor Vehicle Road Tax, Duties & Licences – 6th – 7th September –
Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo**
Cllr. Tom McHugh
**Ace Training – Dignity at Work – A guide to bullying and harassment in the workplace – 6th
– 8th September – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**
Cllr. Kevin Ryan

**A.M.A.I. Annual Conference 2013 – Putting the People First – 12th – 14th September –
Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork**
Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

It was proposed by The Mayor seconded by Cllr. McHugh, and agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow Item 16 be taken next.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM ENTERPRISE IRELAND

1527

The Mayor stated that arising from his commitment, given on being elected Mayor, to invite representatives from the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta to address the Members on their role and function in the area of job creation and enterprise support, he was delighted to welcome representatives of Enterprise Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta to the meeting. He indicated that a representative of IDA Ireland would attend a future meeting of the Council during his term as Mayor.

He then invited Mr. Barry Egan, West Region Director with Enterprise Ireland, to make a presentation to the Members outlining the role of Enterprise Ireland in job creation and enterprise support.

Mr. Egan addressed the Members and explained that Enterprise Ireland partners with entrepreneurs, Irish businesses and the research and investment communities to develop

Ireland's international trade, innovation, leadership and competitiveness with the ultimate objective of increased exports, employment and prosperity in Ireland.

Mr. Egan went on to provide a detailed presentation to the Members on the role and services provided by Enterprise Ireland under the following headings:

Clients:

- Export Performance 2003 – 2012
- Client exports by territory
- Employment in Enterprise Ireland Companies in Galway
- Sample of Galway Clients Recruiting
- Enterprise Ireland Global Team
- Client Services Menu
- Client Approach
- Supporting Client Companies to Create Jobs in Ireland
- Supports for Start-ups
- Supports for Existing Companies
- Type of financial Supports for Galway Clients

Mentoring

- Galway based Activities 2013 examples
- Supporting 3rd Level Research & Innovation in Galway
- Competitive Start Fund
- Space for Entrepreneurs in Galway
- Attracting Inward Entrepreneurs and Start-Ups
- Leadership and Management Development
- Global Office Network
- Access International Markets Week RDS 16th – 19th September, 2013

The Mayor thanked Mr. Egan for his very informative presentation.

Cllr. Maher asked if Enterprise Ireland take equity in businesses to whom they provide grant aid. He said that this can be a deterrent to some businesses and he is aware of one such business who reportedly transferred to Northern Ireland because of this.

Mr. Egan replied that Enterprise Ireland do not take equity in existing businesses who are successful in getting grant aid but it is necessary to take out equity in start-up businesses due to the risk involved. He said that they never take more than a 10% share and are not represented on the board of these companies.

In reply to Cllr. E. Mannion who asked if Enterprise Ireland has any space in the Conamara area Mr. Egan replied that they have a centre in Letterfrack. He said that their policy is to allow a business to take up the space for a few years and then move on to secure their own

premises, thus leaving the space vacant for another start-up business. He said that Enterprise Ireland does not have funds available to secure any new centres at present.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Egan said that Enterprise Ireland would like to see more start-up business with ambition and a good business idea coming on stream. He said that accessing international markets is very important for Irish businesses and the primary role of Enterprise Ireland is to help Irish clients secure business overseas.

In reply to Cllr. McHugh, Mr. Egan said that Enterprise Ireland interacts with the IDA and through global sourcing, connects its clients with clients of the IDA.

The County Manager thanked Mr. Egan for his presentation and for the ongoing support provided by Enterprise Ireland to businesses in the county. She encouraged the Members to guide entrepreneurs towards Enterprise Ireland in order to avail of their expertise and support mechanisms.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting and invited the Members to attend a Mayoral Reception to honour Kieran Molloy of Oughterard Boxing Club who won a bronze medal at the AIBA World Junior Championships in Kiev and adjourned the meeting for same.

On the resumption of the meeting, the Mayor proceed to take the presentation by Údarás na Gaeltachta under Mayor's Business.

CUR I LÁTHAIR A FHÁIL Ó ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

1528

Chuir an Méara fáilte roimh An tUas. Steve Ó Cúláin, Príomhfheidhmeannach, An tUas. Séamus Mac Eochaidh, Bainisteoir Fiontraíochta & Fostaíochta agus An tUas. Tadhg Ó Conghaile, Bainisteoir Réigiúnach Forbartha Pobail, Údarás na Gaeltachta, chuig an gcruinniú.

Labhair an tUas Ó Cúláin leis an gcruinniú agus na baill ansin ar chúlra, struchtúr agus straitéisí an Údaráis:

Cúlra agus struchtúr

- Dúirt sé gur bunaíodh an tÚdarás i 1980 agus go raibh an tÚdarás freagrach as Forbairt Eacnamaíochta, Sóisialta & Cultúrtha na Gaeltachta.
- Dúirt sé gur Bord de dhá dhuine dhéag a bhí ag an Údarás – 5 ainmnithe ag na Comhairlí Contae (Gaillimh, Dún na nGall, Ciarraí, Maigh Eo agus an Mhí) agus 7 ainmnithe ag Aire na Gaeltachta, an Cathaoirleach san áireamh.

Spriocanna an Údaráis

- Cruthú Fostaíochta & Cothú Fiontraíochta /Creating employment & Stimulating Enterprise
- Teanga & Cultúr / Language & Culture
- Pobal & Sóisialta / Community and Social

An Ghaeltacht

- Páirteanna de chontaetha na Gaillimhe, Dhún na nGall, Maigh Eo, Ciarraí, Corcaigh, Port Láirge, An Mhí - Daonra iomlán de nach mór 100,000 – **48,907 i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe**

An tÚdarás i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe

- 2,730 duine fostaithe i gcliaint-chomhlachtaí de chuid an Údaráis go lánaimseartha ag deireadh 2012 chomh maith le 216 go páirtaimseartha agus 140 séasúrach.
- 471 cliaint-comhlachtaí an Údaráis i 2012 ó mhicra-fhiontair go fiontair mhóra.
- Os cionn €4m ceadaithe ag an Údarás do thionscadail i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe i 2012 le hinfheistíocht iomlán de €15.4m
- Eastáit Tionscail/Páirceanna Gnó ag an Údarás sa Spidéal, Indreabhán, Casla, Ros an Mhíl, An Cheathrú Rua, Ros Muc, Cill Chiaráin, Tír an Fhia, Leitir Mealláin.

Thug an tUas Mac Eochaidh cur i láthair chuimsitheach do na Baill ar ról agus na seirbhísí a chuireann Údarás na Gaeltachta ar fáil faoi na ceannteidil seo leanas:

Tacaíochtaí don Fhiontraíocht

Tacaíochtaí Airgeadais/Financial Supports

- Staidéar Féidearthachta/ Feasibility Study
- Taighde & Forbairt / Research & Development
- Caipiteal / Capital
- Fostaíocht/ Employment
- Scaireanna/Shares
- Traenáil/ Training
- Meantóireacht/ Mentoring

Plean Forbartha an Contae

- **Pleanáil Teanga**

Labhair an tUas. Ó Conghaile leis na Baill ansin agus rinne achoimre ar an tacaíocht a bhí Údarás na Gaeltachta a chuir ar fáil do phobail mar seo leanas:

Tacaíochtaí Pobail & Sóisialta

- Tacaíochtaí d'eagrais pobail / Supports for Community Organisations
 - Deontais Reáchtála / Administration Grants
- Scéimeanna Fostaíochta Sóisialta / Employment Schemes
 - Cabhair le pleananna & iarratais / Administrative assistance
 - Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail, / Social Employment Scheme
 - Scéim Sóisialta Tuaithe / Rural Social Scheme
 - Scéim TÚS / TÚS Scheme
 - Scéim Seirbhísí Pobail/Community Services Programme
 - Scéim Forbhartha Pobail/Community Development Programme

Fostaíocht i scéimeanna/Employment in schemes

Scéim	Saoistí	Rannpháirtithe
Fost. Pobail	10	202
SST (RSS)	5	104
TÚS	3	61
Tús Nua (J.I.)	0	9
Iomlán Total	18	376

Cultúr & Teanga/Language & Culture

- Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga / Language Services Centres
- Cúrsaí Gaeilge & Trí Ghaeilge / Irish language courses
- Naíonraí / Preschools trí Ghaeilge
- Clubanna Óige & Ionad Buail Isteach / Youth Clubs & Drop in Centres

Ghlac an Méara buíochas leis na cainteoirí as ucht a gcur i láthair chuimsitheach.

Chuir na Baill fáilte roimh na cainteoirí ag lua go bhfuil ról fíor thábhachtach ag an Údarás do cheantair Gaeltachta go háirithe na scéimeanna fostaíochta a bhainistíonn agus a fheidhmíonn siad agus a bpleananna don Ghaeilge go háirithe sna ceantair ina bhfuil úsáid na Gaeilge lag.

Dúirt an Comh. Ó Curraoin go gcuirfeadh sé fáilte roimh tuilleadh maoiniú don Údarás agus don Chomhairle Contae i dtreo na Scéimeanna Fostaíochta chun na daoine óga a mhealladh le fanacht sa mbaile nó go bhfeabhsaíonn cúrsaí eacnamaíochta.

Rinne an Comh. Ó Tuairisc comhgháirdeachas le feidhmeannaigh an Údaráis as a gcur i láthair, ag lua go raibh sé mar bhall boird ar an Údarás le 12 bliain agus bhí eolas mhaith aige ar an obair luachmhar a bhí dhá chur i gcrích ag an Údarás. Dúirt sé gur léirigh an tÚdarás agus Gaeltarra Éireann rompu, fadbhreathnaíocht thar na bearta i dtógáil áiseanna i gceantair imeallacha nó scoite amach e.g. Corr na Móna, Gaoth Dobhair srl. agus gur mheall siad fostaíocht chuig na hOileáin a bhfuil ard mholadh tuilte acu dá bharr.

Dúirt an Comh. Ó Laoi, Ball de Bhord an Údaráis, go raibh an tÚdarás fíor thábhachtach do Chonamara agus na ceantair Ghaeltachta eile ar fad, le os cionn 3000 post curtha ar fáil i nGaeltacht Chontae na Gaillimhe. Dúirt sé go raibh an comhoibriú idir an tÚdarás agus Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe fíor thábhachtach ó tharla go bhfuil sé riachtanach go mbeadh cothabháil agus feabhas curtha ar infreastruchtúr na Gaeltachta, cosúil le gréasán na mbóithre, leathanbhanda, línte snáth optaice Dúirt sé gur fhan maoiniú don Údarás ag an leibhéal céanna le cúpla bliain anuas agus go raibh súil aige go méadófaí an maoiniú sa toadhchá. Dúirt sé gur ceann de spriocanna straitéiseacha an Údaráis ná forbairt an ionad cuairteoirí ag Teach an Phiarsaigh. Dúirt sé go raibh ról an Údaráis sa bpleanáil teanga fíor thábhachtach agus go raibh an fhoireann ag obair fíor chrua ar seo.

D'fhreagair an tUas. Ó Cúláin an Comh. Ó Tuairisg maidir le cúrsaí foirne agus maoinithe agus dúirt go gcruthaíonn staid eacnamaíoch reatha dúshláin don Údarás mar a dhéanann d'eagraíochtaí eile. Thagair sé do na cúramaí breise atá faoi choimirce an Údaráis, Straitéis Fiche Bliain na Gaeilge san áireamh, ag nótaíl nach raibh aon mhaoiniú bhreise ar fáil chun tacú lena ról sna réimsí nua seo. Dúirt sé, áfach, gur díoladh cuid den mhaoin agus na foirgnimh a bhí acu le comhlachtaí agus gur chuir sé sin riar maoinithe ar fáil dóibh.

Mar fhreagra ar an gComh. Ó Laoi dúirt sé go raibh cúrsaí leathanbhanda agus luas an leathanbhanda sin ar a gclár oibre i gcónaí acu ó tharla é a bheith ríthábhachtach do na hearnálacha closamhairc, na meáin agus tionscail eile i gConamara.

Mar fhreagra ar an gComh. E. Mannion dúirt sé go raibh 80 duine ag obair in Údarás na Gaeltachta agus dúirt go raibh spás acu i gCorr na Móna a bheadh dhá chuir ar fáil do thogra nua go gairid. Dhearbhaigh sé chomh maith go raibh coinníoll teanga san áireamh do ghnólachtaí a bhí ag úsáid seirbhísí an Údaráis.

Ag freagairt an Comh. Feeney dúirt sé go raibh comhcheangaltacht agus infreastruchtúr fíor thábhachtach don Ghaeltacht agus gur thacaigh an tÚdarás i gcónaí le tograí infreastruchtúir ag áireamh Seachród Sheachtrach Chathair na Gaillimhe agus an R336Bóthar Rochtana Chonamara.

Mar fhreagra ar an gComh. Hoade dúirt sé go dtugann siad maoin ar chíos do chomhlachtaí atá ag tosú amach ar chíos laghdaithe.

Mar fhreagra ar an gComh. Welby dhearbhaigh sé go dtacaíonn an tÚdarás le earnáil na feiliméireachta éisc le blianta fada agus i gcónaí má chloínn siad le riachtanais pleanála agus eile.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR. CUDDY, SECONDED BY CLLR. NOONE, AND AGREED, THAT THE STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE MEETING TO CONTINUE AFTER 6PM.

1529

AUDIT REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2012

1530

Report dated 16/9/13 was already circulated to each Member.

The Members agreed to note the Audit Report on the Accounts of Galway County Council for the year ending 31st December, 2012

TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE 2013

1531

Report was already circulated to each Member.

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

A discussion then took place and in reply to a query from Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mullarkey said that internal receipts are dealt with as capital rather than revenue funds and the proceeds of the tenant purchase scheme are allocated for capital works.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy who asked what impact will the receipts from the property tax have on the spending of the Council, Mr. Mullarkey said that these proceeds will be sent to the DOECLG by the Revenue Commissioners. The Department will then allocate this money back to local authorities through the local government fund. Therefore, the local property tax will replace the exchequer contribution to the local government fund.

Cllr. Broderick referring to the budget provision for traveller accommodation asked if the Roads Section could avail of legislative provisions to solve the problem of caravans located in the vicinity of Ballyforan, Mr. Gilmore said that the landowners in question have powers under the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act in dealing with such matters.

Mr. Cummins said that there is no issue as regards road safety or litter pollution in this regard and he advised that this matter should be discussed at area committee level.

In reply to Cllr. Willers regarding funding for the Control of Horses function of the Council, Mr. Cummins said that the Council has been notified that from 1st September, 2013 funding in this regard has been reduced making it impossible for the Council to lift wandering horses within the limits of funding available from the Department. He said he has contacted the Department of Agriculture and Food in this regard in an attempt to retain the allocation of funding necessary for this important function and awaited a response. He also said that the Council has gone to tender with nine other local authorities for a contract for lifting horses and it was hoped to achieve savings through the joint procurement process.

Cllr. Willers stated that the Council has done great work in dealing with the problem of wandering horses, but it is only the tip of the iceberg and she urged that Members request the Minister to continue the current level of funding in order to adequately fund this work.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cummins said that it costs in excess of the €350 available from the Department as of September 2013, to lift a horse.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Cummins explained that the Council will be the lead authority on behalf of nine local authorities as regards an invitation for tenders for the lifting of horses and in this way, it was hoped to secure a very competitive tender. However, he said the Council will not be able to afford to continue lifting horses with the reduced funding allocated from 1st September 2013.

Cllr. McClearn said that it is also important to reduce the number of horses on commonages and a way to tackle this problem is to target stallions. Cllr. D. Connolly agreed that something must be done to cull the number of horses on commonages.

Cllr. Willers proposed “that Members of Galway County Council would ask the Minister for Agriculture & Food to continue funding to Galway County Council for the disposal of horses which are abandoned throughout the County”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE PAVEMENT SURFACE EVALUATION AND RATING OF LOCAL ROADS.

1532

Mr. Gilmore informed the Members that the Council recruited a number of Civil Engineering Interns to carry out a scientific evaluation of the local roads network in County Galway and proceeded to summarise the Evaluation Report as follows:

Background

- Need to define extent of network
- Need to assess road conditions in a structured manner
- Reducing funds on roads expenditure
- Reduced funds should be allocated in a targeted fashion to achieve clear objectives
- Outcomes should be measured against a baseline
- Effectiveness of roads expenditure should be demonstrable

Summary of Survey Savings

- Condition rating 4 is regarded as a minimum acceptable road condition rating
- 81.33% of Local Roads have a condition factor greater than 4
- 18.67% of Local Roads have a condition factor less than 4
- LP 7%, LS 16% and LT 35% less than 4
- Survey suggests local tertiary roads should be targeted for extra funding
- Total cost to rectify deficiencies on network is approx €246m
- Total funding available for road maintenance in 2013 was €24.2m
- Estimated minimum annual road maintenance and restoration costs to maintain a satisfactory road network is estimated at €30m plus over a sustained period.
- This sum does not include schemes for major improvement, bridge repair, traffic management, safety etc.

The Members thanked Mr. Gilmore for the presentation.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg asked Mr. Gilmore to show the map of the road network in Athenry Area and the Conamara Area in order to make a comparison of both. He pointed out that there is a major difference between the two areas in that Conamara has a very poor network of local roads.

Cllr. Cuniffe welcomed the survey which he described as an excellent exercise which will help target funds for roads into the future.

Cllr. Roche also welcomed the report and he noted that 18.67% of local roads in the county have a condition factor of less than 4. He asked if these roads would be given priority over other roads.

Cllr. Noone welcomed the measurement of the state of repairs of local roads but he said that the Council should have a system in place to repair roads when necessary even if they do not fall within the required category in the survey.

Cllr. Cuddy said that the funding for roads is less now than it was in 2002 and this is leading to a very serious problem as regards roads repair. He said that the Council should come clean and inform the public that funding for roads is reducing all the time and is inadequate.

Comh. Ó'Laoi welcomed the report as a template for addressing issues of maintenance and repair noting the importance of the road network in Conamara in terms of maintaining important connectivity both within and to the region.

The Members agreed to note the Report on the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating of Local Roads.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND SCHEMES **1533**

Report dated September, 2013 was circulated to each Member.

The Report dealt with proposals at the following locations:

- Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme
- Clare River Flood Relief Scheme
- Kiltartan/Kinvara Minor Works application
- Kiltiernan/Ballinderreen Scheme
- OPW Non-Coastal Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes by Electoral Area.

The Mayor said that excellent work has been done by the OPW in flood mitigation works throughout the county.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the Clare River mitigation works and said that he has spoken with the OPW and was informed that they await sanction from the Minister for the Finance for the necessary funding and expressed disappointment with the slow pace of the scheme. Cllr. Noone also expressed disappointment that work on the Clare River has not commenced yet.

Mr. Gilmore said that the Clare River Scheme is ready to commence, pending the go ahead from the Department and it is expected that this decision will be received shortly.

In reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty regarding the Dunkellin River, he said that a design of the scheme with an appropriate cost benefit analysis had been agreed and it was expected that this scheme will be lodged for planning approval within 6 – 8 weeks.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the River Suck and in particular blockages on the river channel. He said that a report on this has been completed but no action has been taken. He asked that this river be cleared of blockages as a matter of urgency as the chance will be lost if it is left any later in the year and this could have serious consequences if not addressed.

Cllr. Willers welcomed progress on the Dunkellin Scheme but expressed disappointment at the length of time it was taking to progress the scheme, stating that now that the issue of design and cost benefit had been addressed she looked forward to more rapid progress. She also referred to a Notice of Motion she submitted for the meeting asking Galway County Council to seek funding from the OPW regarding flooding at Derreen, Gort and the answer was that Galway County Council will inspect the location and consider it for inclusion in the minor works application to the OPW. She said she is not happy with this reply and there is no point in wasting time inspecting the location if nothing is going to be done as a result.

Cllr. Feeney asked if the planning application regarding Dunkellin will be a Part 8 planning application. He welcomed the Oranmore to Derrydonnell works which are underway at

present but he said that there are open drains there with no barriers and locals are fearful of accidents as a result. He asked are there any plans to provide barriers at the location.

In reply to Comh. Ó Tuairisg who said there is potential for flooding at some bridges in Conamara, Mr. Gilmore said if he was aware of particular bridges at risk of flooding he should notify the Council so that they can be evaluated and considered under minor schemes.

Mr. Gilmore said that the Dunkellin Scheme was complex in terms of achieving a design that met cost benefit criteria and that the scheme would be presented at Electoral Area Committee and then full Council prior to being submitted to the Strategic Infrastructure Division of An Bord Pleanála.

In reply to Cllr. Roche who asked if schemes which were assessed previously as regards cost benefit and were not successful could be reconsidered, Mr. Gilmore said that these could be looked at again in terms of a revised design options with a view to meeting the necessary cost benefit criteria.

TO CONSIDER ENDORSING A BID FOR THE COUNTY OF GALWAY TO HOST THE NATIONAL FAMINE COMMEMORATION 2014

1534

– Report dated 20th September, 2013 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Owens summarized the Report stating that in June 2013, Deputy Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as Chair of the National Famine Commemoration Committee, invited local authorities in Connacht to submit an application to host the National Famine Commemoration which is due to be held in Connacht in 2014.

It has been indicated that only one proposal for each county/city area should be submitted and that locations which have not previously hosted the National Famine Commemoration will be considered more favourably.

He stated that an Internal Working Group was formed in July 2013 to facilitate the preparation of a bid for the County of Galway to host the National Famine Commemoration. The draft bid as developed by the Working Group proposes to host the formal State Ceremonial event in Portumna on Sunday 18th May 2014 with a series of community events, lecture series and conferences held at the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna during the period 9th – 17th May 2014.

He confirmed that the draft bid was currently being finalized for submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht by 4th October, 2013 for assessment by the National Famine Commemoration Committee.

He said that the Corporate & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee had endorsed the bid and he invited the Members to also consider endorsing the bid.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Noone, the Members agreed to endorse the bid for the County of Galway to host the National Famine Commemoration 2014.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

1535

Mr. Kelly circulated a report, dated 19th September 2013, entitled "Correspondence regarding revocation of Planning Permission – Windfarm at Shannagurraun" and outlined that the Members previously considered a request for a revocation of a planning permission granted in the townlands of Lettergunnet and Doirecrih which had a planning reference 10/1214 and this request was brought to the attention of the full Council at the Monthly Meeting of October 2012. He said that in April 2013 Galway County Council received correspondence from the Lettergunnett Community Group contending that the planning permission for the Shannagurraun wind farm development should be revoked under Section 44 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on the grounds that the development contravenes provisions of the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015.

He indicated that while the correspondence received did not quote any particular planning reference number it is understood that the submission relates to Planning reference no. 10/1225 submitted by Enerco Energy Ltd.

He continued by outlining the development history of Planning Reference 10/1225, submitted by Enerco Energy Ltd for a ten-year planning permission to construct a windfarm, outlining details regarding the Commencement Notice, Compensation and Planning Reference 10/1225 – Environmental Impact Statement.

He noted that in the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 as originally adopted the area of this site was designated as an "Area for Consideration", while in the variation of the Plan in September 2011, which incorporated the Wind Energy Strategy, the site was designated as being "Open for Consideration".

He advised that the legislation provides that where a development has commenced, the revocation function may be exercised, when consequent to the making of a variation of the Development Plan, these works would contravene the plan before they are completed. In this case, the development has commenced and the only relevant variation of the plan was the incorporation of the Wind Energy Strategy which has deemed the site as "Open for Consideration" for wind farm development.

He stated that it was therefore considered that the development does not contravene the provisions of the County Development Plan and the criteria for the revocation of a planning permission have not been met.

Mr. Kelly concluded his presentation of the report by advising that the matter was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on Monday 16th September 2013 and the conclusion as set out in the report, as circulated to Council, was agreed by the Corporate Policy Group. The Members agreed to note the Report.

Mr. Mullarkey referred to the fact that people have up until 30th September, 2013 to get vehicles declared off the road by the Gardaí and that from 1st October, 2013 it will be necessary to declare vehicles off the road in advance. He advised that as of the 1st October, vehicles without motor tax up to date would be liable for arrears from the date of the last period of tax, unless a change of ownership applied and if so liability would apply from the date of the change in ownership.

Mr. Mullarkey in reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, confirmed that public notices advising of the changes in the system were placed in the print media by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. Cllr. Willers referred to the need to ensure that young people who had emigrated but who had vehicles off the road were made aware of the need to declare them off the road in advance of the relevant period from the 1st October.

Mr. Cummins informed the Members that the Council has commenced preparation of the Draft 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 which will be operational from January 2014 to December, 2018 and that a public notice inviting submission had been published.

The Manager referred to the Progress Report on the Galway County PeopleTalk Jury which had been circulated to each Member, for their information. She confirmed that the Jury was in place and progressing implementation of the initiative.

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

- Correspondence dated the 2nd August, 2013 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Council's letter of 28th May, 2013 in relation to Galway County Council's applications under the pilot Community Involvement Scheme.
- Acknowledgment from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht dated the 30th July, 2013 to the Council's correspondence to Jimmy Deenihan T.D., in relation to the rights of domestic turf-cutters.
- Acknowledgment from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality dated the 29th July, 2013 to the Council's letter to Alan Shatter T.D., in relation to the rights of domestic turf-cutters.
- Acknowledgment from the Office of the Taoiseach, dated the 25th July, to the Council's letter to the Taoiseach of the 23rd July.
- Acknowledgment from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht dated the 8th August, 2013 to the Council's correspondence to Dinny McGinley, T.D.
- Correspondence dated the 20th August, 2013, from An Roinn, Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, An Brainse Logainmneacha regarding the Council's letter of the 31st July, 2013 in relation to the Irish language name of Gort, stating that the submission will be considered in due course.
- Correspondence dated the 19th July, 2013, regarding a motion passed that Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Health to highlight the importance of Community Care and the role of the Public Health Nurse.

- Correspondence dated the 19th July, 2013, regarding a motion passed that Offaly County Council supports the radical reform of Seanad Éireann.
- Correspondence dated the 24th July, 2013, regarding an adoption that Dundalk Town Council calls on the Government to give official recognition status to Irish sign Language which would improve the lives and well being of our deaf and hard of hearing citizens.
- Correspondence from Clones Town Council dated the 30th July, 2013, regarding a motion passed calling on the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, T.D., to confirm that discretionary medical cards will not be withdrawn from cancer patients who are not considered terminally ill.
- Correspondence from Kildare County Council dated the 7th August, 2013 regarding a resolution passed (i) that the Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in the context of his proposed reform of local government, to ensure that funding will be allocated in a fair manner across the proposed Municipal Districts within the Local Authorities, and (ii) in view of the ongoing housing crisis in the local authority sector, that Council calls on the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Housing Section to invest a minimum of € 100,000,000 on a house building programme.
- Correspondence dated the 1st August, 2013 from Macroom Town Council regarding a motion adopted that the Council calls on Minister Phil Hogan to write to all Town Councils explaining the breakdown of exact savings that are to be made by the proposed abolishment of Town Councils.
- Correspondence dated the 16th August, 2013 from Limerick City & County Council regarding a resolution passed that the Council calls on the Government to carry out a serious review of its present policies on Free Legal Aid, with a view to having people who currently qualify for Free Legal Aid making a substantial contribution themselves; and that having been means-tested as eligible for Free Legal Aid, applicants would select from a panel of the legal profession, directly employed by the State on a fixed annual salary; and that recipients of Free Legal Aid should have the cost associated with this aid paid back through the following ways: (i) if in receipt of Social Welfare, a weekly deduction should be taken from same, (ii) if a property owner, a charge should be put on this property which could be collected with interest if that property is sold in the future, or handed down.
- Correspondence dated the 19th July, 2013 from Offaly County Council regarding a resolution passed that the Council support the Restaurant Association of Ireland's campaign "Keep VAT at 9%".
- Correspondence from Ennis Town Council dated the 13th September, regarding a resolution adopted that the Council request the Minister for Health to revise the scheme for chronic illnesses and that people in Clare suffering from Crohns disease, Alzheimers, and Coronary Heart Disease be recognised as suffering from life long conditions and be included in the Long Term illness Scheme. And that the fee for these people attending Accident and Emergency be immediately eliminated".
- Correspondence dated the 16th September, 2013 regarding a resolution adopted by Leitrim County Council that the Council call on the Minister for Finance and the Central Bank to ensure the protection of the structures and local branches of the Credit Union Movement throughout the country and to give every support to the

members and officers who work tirelessly on behalf of the people for a better and fairer Ireland.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1536

In reply to a query raised by Cllr. Broderick regarding surveys being undertaken on access roads to the motorway in Ballinasloe & Loughrea by an independent firm with the apparent assistance of An Garda Síochána, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that he was not aware of same but that permission may have been sought through the relevant area office.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that there was no question that additional tolls or a toll plaza would be imposed without the making of a Toll Scheme and that he would arrange to contact An Garda Síochána and M6 with a view to establishing the basis for the surveys.

Comh. Ó Cuaig proposed "that Galway County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Leo Varadkar, to withdraw the decision on centralisation of driver licensing". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly proposed Notice of Motion No. 20 which he submitted for the Meeting as follows *"That Galway County Council supports service users, service providers and the Community of Ballinasloe and East Galway in their campaign to retain the 22 bed acute unit at St. Brigid's Hospital; as the HSE decision to close these beds is based on unsound criteria and contrary to A Vision for Change. We call on the Fine Gael/ Labour Government and in particular Ministers James Reilly TD and Kathleen Lynch TD to immediately take control of this situation and reverse this unsafe HSE decision."* This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Broderick, and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly proposed Notice of Motion No. 21 which he submitted for the Meeting as follows *"That Galway County Council supports SIPTU's call for Minister Hogan to engage with Local Development Company (LDC) workers and their union to address their issues arising from the planned alignment of LDC's with Local Authorities."*

Cllr. Broderick requested clarification on whether the motion as proposed was contrary to the Council's position as a pilot local authority to lead on the alignment process and the establishment of the Socio-Economic Committee. In reply the County Manager welcomed the prospect of the alignment of local government and local development while indicating that any issue relating to staff of the local development companies was beyond the remit of the local authority and as she understood that the structure of same was as independent limited companies, expressed the view that it would be surprising that the Minister or Department would have a direct role in employer/employee relations.

The proposal, as proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, was seconded by Cllr. Canney, and agreed.

Cllr. Cuddy proposed Notice of Motion No. 27 which he submitted for the Meeting as follows *"That Galway County Council supports the campaign of the Restaurants Association of Ireland to keep the VAT rate for Tourism and Hospitality at 9% into 2014 and beyond and*

that the resolution when passed would immediately be forwarded to the Minister for Finance.” This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed.

Mhol an Comh. Ó Tuairisg “*Molaim go n-iarfaidh ar an Aire Coimirce Shosalaigh, Joan Burton, go bhfágfaí na hOifigí Leasaithe Pobail atá lomaithé faoi an dtuadh mar atá chun nach mbeidh ar dhaoine taisteal do dtí na bailte móra l gcóir coinne. Ní hé amháin de bharr míchaoithiúlacht agus costas ach tá imní léirithe ag daoine freisin maidir leis an teanga. Bheadh daoine i gConamara nach mbeadh compoirteacht leis an mBéarla.*”

Cuidiú An Comh. Ó Curraoin leis an moladh agus aontaíodh leis an moladh.

Cllr. Fahy raised the issue of bridge repairs being carried out at Kilcolgan which he said are taking a long time to complete and are impacting negatively on traffic flow and he asked the Director of Services for Roads & Transportation to try to ensure that these works are completed as soon as possible.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg asked Mr. Cummins for the current position regarding replacing fire fighters who have retired from the Fire Service at Inis Mór and Mr. Cummins replied that there are 8 retained firefighters on Inis Mór. Mr. Cummins indicated that the service on Inis Mór cost in excess of €100,000 during 2012 and this must be viewed in the context of 3 call outs. He advised that it was not intended to advertise for positions on Inis Mór and that any decision in relation to the service would need to be considered in the context of the implementation of Keeping Communities Safe and the current review process. He advised of his intention to present the review report and appraisal of options arising from same to the Housing & Emergency Services SPC and the Electoral Area Committee.

Mr. Cummins in reply to Cllr. Welby confirmed that the cost of the service on Inis Mór exceeded €100,000 in 2012 and the expenditure of €100,000 was not the cost of responding to the 3 incidents. He advised that a total of 5 incidents had occurred year to date on Inis Mór and highlighted the need to conclude the review process to allow for consideration of the best allocation of available resources in the context of prevention, protection and response. He said that any decision to be made regarding the Fire Service going forward will be made with the aim of keeping communities safe and managing risk rather than location and geography.

It was proposed by the Mayor that the Council invite Irish Water to make a presentation to the Council and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1537

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will inspect this location and consider its suitability for a Minor Works application to the OPW. The responsibility for the maintenance of the river channel rests with the adjoining landowners, not with Galway County Council or the OPW.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1538

The following reply was given:-

“Quotations have been sought for the fencing off of the property in question, half the cost of which will be paid by the landowner(s). It is expected that these works will be completed within a month.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1539

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council has no plans or budget resources available at present to re-instate the lands at Galway Road, Loughrea which were previously earmarked for a proposed swimming pool in partnership with a private developer. Lands adjacent to the site have been developed and open for community use as part of the Loughrea SMARTER Travel Project.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY

1540

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY

1541

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1542

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will seek funding from the NRA to provide for an overlay along the N66 Gort to Loughrea. This funding will be sought for works during 2014.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1543

The following reply was given:-

"The Cloon weir is in the Annagh Drainage District and is in need of repair. Estimates have been sought for the cost of carrying out the necessary repairs. This weir is part of our industrial heritage and it is hoped that funding will be provided by the Council through its Drainage Districts allocation to carry out the required works in 2014."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1544

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council are currently in discussions with the NRA on the potential of providing a safety scheme at Kiltartan under the low cost accident safety schemes. However, any potential scheme will have to be approved and funded by the NRA. Such funding of safety schemes has been reducing in recent years and no timeframe has been agreed as yet with the NRA."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1545

The following reply was given:-

"The payment frequencies for the various bands of motor tax are set by Ministerial Regulations and the NVDF (National Vehicle & Driver File) will only process motor tax applications based on these legislative options of quarterly, half year or annual payments. Therefore, there is no flexibility for local Motor Tax Offices to accept any shorter payment frequencies based on individual requirements."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1546

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council allocates funding annually for the maintenance of towns and villages in the County. If a detailed submission for Lackagh is forwarded to the area office it will be considered, in line with the resources available for such works."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1547

The following reply was given:-

"Noted."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1548

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are currently undergoing a review of speed limits throughout the County. The review of the speed limit on the R339, airport road is part of and linked in to the speed limits review. As such the statutory process must be followed. To finalise the process the processed changes to speed limits must go on public view for 1 month and then a report presented to Council. It is expected this report to Council will go before the Council in November and the process can then be finalised.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1549

The following reply was given:-

“The draft national report on Speed has not been finalised. Any proposals to introduce a default speed limit of 60km/hr on local roads should be agreed at local level initially.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1550

The following reply was given:-

“The area office is currently reviewing the scale and extent of works with a view to reducing the overall cost of the flood mitigation scheme so that the minimum cost benefit analysis of 1.5 as set down by the OPW can be achieved. On finalising the works programme for the Kiltiernan/ Ballinderreen drainage scheme, a revised minor works scheme application will be made to the OPW for consideration.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 31 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1551

The following reply was given:-

“Approximately €45,000 has spent on the development of an extension to Drumacoo Cemetary. Due to the limited funds available for works on burial grounds, it will not be possible to carry out the development of a car park or replacement of a gate. The Community Warden has been requested to investigate the matter of refuse at the cemetary and appropriate remedial action will be taken. With regard to Killeenavara cemetary, this cemetary is not in Council ownership and there are no funds available to carry out works here.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1552

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will engage in discussions with the National Roads Authority with a view to seeking funding for the provision of traffic calming measures at Kiltartan along the

N18. Such discussions will establish whether funding can be made available for traffic calming at this location.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1553

The following reply was given:-

“Beidh na fála sa gceantar seo gearrtha laistigh den leithdeháileadh do chothabháil bóithre. Ba cheart d’eagraith na scéimeanna luaite teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an innealtóir ceantair go díreach maidir le aon chabhair i gcur na hoibre i gcrích. De bharr ganntanais maoinithe ní bheidh a tacaíocht theoranta ar fáil.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 34 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1554

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 35 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1555

The following reply was given:-

“There is no funding available in the current year for the provision of a public toilet at Gurteen Beach. The matter will be re-visited in the context of the 2014 budget and available resources and should funding become available the feasibility of this proposal will be further examined.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNÍÚ ANSIN.