

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON  
TUESDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2011**

**I LATHAIR**

**Baill:**

Cllr. B. Willers, Chairperson  
Cllr. P. Hynes  
Cllr. M. Fahy  
Cllr. P. Feeney  
Cllr. M. Maher  
Cllr. G. Finnerty

**Oifigigh:**

Mr. M. Lavelle, S.E., Roads & Transportation Unit  
Mr. U. Finn, S.E.E. Ballinasloe & Loughrea Electoral Area  
Mr. J. Costello, E.E., Gort Engineering Area  
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area  
Mr. C. Mitchell, E.E., Portumna Engineering Area  
Ms. A. Monaghan, S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

Mr. Lavelle advised the Members that from the 4<sup>th</sup> April there would be a division of workload in the Area Offices between Roads and Water Services. He advised that Mr. Raftery would now be responsible for Water Services with Diarmuid Croghan as S.E.E., Water Services. Mr. Mulryan would be taking over as Engineer for Roads. He also advised that there was to be amendments to boundaries in the Electoral Area.

Cllr. Feeney expressed concerns over whether there would be a reduction in the quality of services with regards Roads and Town Maintenance. All Councillors present expressed dismay that the decision was taken without any consultation. It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the following Council Meeting.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD  
ON 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 were confirmed.

## **Matters Arising**

### **Gort Traffic Management Plan**

Cllr. Finnerty asked that the following be taken into consideration when reviewing the Gort Traffic Management Plan : Disability Accessibility ; Pedestrianising Bolands Lane ; One way System ; Relining of the Roads. It was agreed that the review of the Gort Traffic Management Plan be on the Agenda for the next Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting.

### **Loughrea Swimming Pool**

It was agreed that the promoter would be requested to reinstate the site to an acceptable state.

### **Gort Flooding Report**

Mr. Lavelle advised that the Dunkellin Report was available on the Council Website for Review.

### **Traffic Lights, Westbridge**

Cllr. Maher expressed concern at delays occurring at the Traffic Lights. Mr. Finn advised that no written complaints regarding same had been received by Galway County Council. He advised that, as requested by the Councillors, additional light sequencing was introduced and that this was possibly causing an additional time delay at the lights.

### **Ballyboggan Bridge**

Cllr. Feeney asked that repair works be carried out on same. Mr. Raftery to assess same.

### **Coorheen Cross**

Cllr. Feeney asked that the dumping situation at this location be investigated. Mr. Raftery to do same.

### **Pedestrian Crossing Athenry**

Cllr. Feeney queried the progress on this project. Mr. Finn advised that the design of same was currently being prepared.

### **N66 to Chapel of Kilchreest**

Cllr. Hynes asked that Mr. Raftery do an estimate of costing to repair gully at this location. Cllrs. Willers and Hynes to provide Notice of Motion monies to repair same.

## **2. DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2011**

Mr. Lavelle presented same to Councillors, broken down into three parts:

- Grant Funding of National Roads
- Grant Funding of Regional and Local Roads
- Council Funding of Regional and Local Roads

The following issues were raised:

**Verge Trimming** – Insufficient funding available to deal with each area adequately. Mr. Lavelle advised that priority would be given to junctions in each Area. It was agreed that Notice of Motion Monies could be allocated to Verge Trimming.

**Community Involvement Schemes** – Mr. Lavelle advised that all Community Groups had been written to, to avail of this scheme and that the take-up of same was poor. Mr. Feeney suggested that a reason for same was that a lot of the Community Groups were inactive in winter time. He suggested changing closing dates for this Scheme.

**Bridges** – Cllr. Feeney queried why €40k was only allocated to Loughrea versus €800k countywide. Mr. Lavelle advised that Bridge Repairs form the 2011 Discretionary Grant was allocated only on a priority/emergency basis.

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Maher noted that there was no allocation at all for same in the Programme. Cllr. Willers queried as to whether monies should be taken from Pavement & Minor Improvement Schemes. It was agreed to bring the issue of spending Notice of Motion Monies on Footpaths at the next Council Meeting.

**Public Lighting** - Mr. Lavelle advised that Notice of Motion Monies can not be spent on Public Lighting.

**Signposting** - Cllr. Maher queried as to who was responsible for Signposting. Mr. Lavelle advised that Galway County Council were responsible for erection and maintenance of all road signage. Mr. Lavelle advised the Councillors that the possibility of using adverts at Roundabouts is due to go to tender. Cllr. Maher asked that the signage at Fairfield Roundabout be replaced.

**Pavement & Minor Improvements** – Mr. Lavelle stated that these contracts will go to contract as there isn't adequate expertise to complete same in-house. Cllr. Feeney asked that the Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Scheme be progressed in stages. Mr. Lavelle advised that the landowner issues would have to be resolved prior to works commencing on this project.

**Ballygarraun, Woodville** – Cllr. Willers requested that this project be completed prior to June 2011 to benefit Woodville Gardens, a local tourist attraction. This was agreed by Mr. Raftery.

The Draft Roads Programme 2011 was proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Willers.

### **3. REVISED 3 YEAR ROADS RESTORATION PROGRAMME 2011-2013**

Mr. Finn presented amendments to the above programme. Proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Maher.

### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Kerbing in Kilcolgan**

Cllr. Fahy stated that he had representations from Mrs. Neilan, Kilcolgan regarding reduced parking outside the Post Office in Kilcolgan. Mr. Finn advised that this project would proceed as designed on a pedestrian and vehicular safety basis as directed by the National Roads Authority.

#### **Roadworks, Gort**

Cllr. Finnerty praised the good work carried out by Galway County Council. He requested that Church Street, Gort be carried out next.

#### **Pier, Kinvara**

Cllr. Finnerty was querying as to when the road leading to same would be repaired. Mr. Costello advised that the repair works would be carried out after the works carried out by the Water Services Section were complete. Cllr. Feeney asked that the issue of abandoned boats at the pier be addressed. He also requested that warning signs be put in place "Beware Open Pier". Mr. Lavelle advised that a Safety Scheme was in place, in which Galway County Council had to identify all areas we are responsible for and to make safe.

#### **Road Safety Ballinderreen**

Cllr. Willers asked that the National School drop-off-zone be assessed by NRA Road Safety Advisor, Lucy Curtis.

#### **ESB Pole opposite Tí na Rí**

Cllr. Willers advised that this pole is hampering safe access onto the public road. Mr. Lavelle advised that if there is a safety issue, that the ESB are obliged to replace same.

#### **Road Lining – Athenry**

Cllr. Feeney stated that all Road Lining in Athenry was now nearly totally faded. As such, junctions and the one way system were getting extremely hard for motorists to follow. Mr. Finn to investigate.

#### **Farmers Market**

Cllr. Maher requested an update on same. This issue to be addressed at the next Corporate Services SPC Meeting.

**Chrochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin**