

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2011.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Maher

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffée, Comh S O’Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, E Mannion, T. Mannion, T. Mc Hugh, J McDonagh, 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, E. Cummins, J. Cullen, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, L. Gavin, Senior Engineers; A. Comer, Senior Executive Officer; M. O’Donnell, Administrative Officer; P. O’Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Mayor conveyed his congratulations to President Michael D. Higgins on his inauguration as the 9th President of Ireland and it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. M. Finnerty and agreed to host a Civic Reception for President Higgins.

The Mayor advised the Members of the success enjoyed by the Galway County Council Library Service in winning the Best Library Service Award 2011 for its Summer Reading Programme, at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards ceremony in Dublin on November 9th 2011. The Mayor congratulated Pat McMahan, County Librarian, and his staff on this great

achievement, stating that it was the second year in a row in which Galway County Council has won this award.

The Mayor informed the Members of his intention to host the County Galway Mayoral Charity Ball on Saturday 10th December, 2011 in Loughrea in support of the IHCPT – The Irish Pilgrimage Trust and the Carmelite Sisters of St. Joseph’s Monastery, Loughrea and invited the Members to support same.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

841

Mr. John Mannion, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
Aidan & Eileen Barrett, Castledaly, Peterswell, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Mr. Paddy Kennedy, Lowville, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING

842

Arising from the Minutes, a number of the Members referred to the item regarding Cill Rónáin Harbour and Cill Éinne Harbour Bye-laws and complimented the Mayor on the manner in which he chaired the Meeting, they also expressed their dissatisfaction at the behaviour of a minority of those in attendance in the public gallery during the Meeting and those involved in the protest outside Áras an Chontae. They stated that the behaviour of a minority of those present was regrettable and in particular it was very regrettable that Members of the Council were subject to abuse, including an incident where a Member of the Council was the subject of verbal abuse in the Council Chamber. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that whilst the Comhar Cumann had indicated that they were in no way associated with the incident of verbal abuse they had nonetheless offered an apology for the incident and she accepted the apology.

Also arising from the Minutes, Comh. Ó Tuairisg requested that the last line on Page 6 be amended to read as follows “proposed in the draft bye-laws would further increase the cost of living on the Island which is currently at 20%”.

In reply to a query from Comh. Ó Cuaig regarding the promenade at Cill Rónáin, Mr. Molloy stated that the main contractor has finished work on the Island but the proposed works on the promenade will be advertised for tender in 2012.

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 24th October, 2011 as amended, were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

843

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th November 2011

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 5th July 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 24th October 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 26th September 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Cuddy stated that many of the local roads in the Oranmore Electoral Area were in need of urgent repair and highlighted the delays in undertaking such works. He also referred to the incidences of flooding occurring on the N17 in Baile Chláir and the urgent need to address same. In reply, Mr. Gilmore stated that that the Council was obliged to operate within the limits of available resources and that it was important to recognize the impact of the severe weather experienced in the last few years on the road network. He confirmed that the Council continued to undertake routine maintenance within the limits of resources and that the issue of flooding on the N17 in Baile Chláir was being examined with a view to identifying an appropriate solution.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RESERVOIR AT TOIN NA BROCAÍ, GALWAY **844**

Report dated 22nd November, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin, seconded by Comh. O’Tuairisg, it was agreed that the proposed construction of a new reservoir at Toin na Brocaí, Galway, as set out in the report, be approved.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Cullen stated that the construction of the reservoir is at tender stage and it is anticipated that construction will commence in March or April of 2012 and the period for construction will be approximately eight months.

SECTION 85 AGREEMENT – GALWAY CITY COUNCIL UPGRADE DOUGHISKA GROUP WATER SCHEME **845**

Report dated 14th November, 2011 was made available to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, it was agreed that Galway County Council, enter into an Agreement with Galway City Council under the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Galway County Council to undertake works needed to upgrade the water supply network at Doughiska Group Water Supply Scheme which serves approximately 73 houses in the Galway City and County areas.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Cullen stated that upgrade works will commence early in 2012.

PROHIBITION ON TEMPORARY DWELLINGS AT KINVARA PIER

846

Report dated 14th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Following a brief discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, it was agreed that this item be deferred to a future Meeting of the Council.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
30TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

847

Mr. Mullarkey presented the Financial Report for the period ending 30th September 2011 to the Members giving a summary of the income and expenditure account at division level together with a comparison of both expenditure and income at sub-service level and also a summary of activity on the Capital account for the same period. He stated that the overall position to the end of September 2011 is a small deficit of €9,000.

In reply to Cllr. Roche, Mr. Mullarkey acknowledged that burial ground grants have been reduced but he stated that it is unlikely that these grants will be increased in the near future as it is expected that the Local Government Fund may be reduced by 10% in 2012.

Cllr. Roche stated that he hoped that it would be possible to use Notice of Motion monies to carry out such works in the absence of an increase in the level of grants.

Cllr. Carroll complimented the Head of Finance on the management of the Council's finances and the financial position of the Council as of September 2011. In reply to queries from Cllr. M. Connolly & Cllr. Carroll in relation to varying approaches to road maintenance and an apparent underspend of roads funding, Mr. Gilmore stated that the financial report reflected the position as of the 30th September 2011 and whilst this may note an underspend in certain categories of road grants, he was confident that all available grant funding would be drawn down by year end.

In reply to a query from Cllr. D. Connolly regarding Student Grants, Mr. Cummins confirmed that all completed applications for Student Grants received by the initial closing date of the 31st August have been processed and where appropriate grants paid. He confirmed that the Council exercised discretion to accept late applications and that currently both late and incomplete applications were being processed. He confirmed the budget provision contained in Budget

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th November 2011

2011 and referenced in the Financial Report was an estimate and that the actual expenditure incurred by the Council in the payment of student grants was recouped from the Department of Education by the Council.

In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the cost of treating water and waste water was outlined in Division C of the Financial Report.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy & Comh. O'Curraoin regarding the reduction in staff numbers and the employment of temporary staff, the Manager stated that due to the embargo on recruitment in the public service, there has been a reduction of approximately 300 in the number of staff employed by Galway County Council across all service areas since 2008. The Manager confirmed that it was anticipated that additional staff may opt to retire prior to the end of February 2012. The Manager confirmed that the Council is open to facilitating appropriate jobs initiatives and stated that the issues of staffing, work programmes and financial resources are all interlinked and accordingly will be the subject of further discussion at the December Budget Meeting.

Cllr. McHugh suggested that it may be appropriate to review the format of the financial reports presented on a quarterly basis.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012 **848**

On the proposal of Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, it was agreed that the Overdraft Accommodation level of €33.4 million for the period 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012 be approved.

FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING **849**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting be held on Tuesday 20th December 2011 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae.

FIX DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING **850**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh, it was agreed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on Monday 19th December 2011 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae.

EIRGRID PRESENTATION **851**

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Deborah Meghan, Regional Manager, Transmission Projects West, Mr. Alan McHugh, Senior Project Manager, Grid West Electricity, Mr. Graham Parker, Senior Engineer & Ms. Valerie Hedin, Communications Specialist on behalf of EirGrid to give a presentation on the Grid West Electricity Transmission Scheme.

The Manager stated that it is important that County Galway makes use of the competitive advantage we have in relation to wind energy and highlighted the importance of robust infrastructure to support same.

Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid is a state-owned company and is the independent electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Ireland and the market operator of the wholesale electricity trading system.

EirGrid's role is to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system. It is responsible for the Grid infrastructure required to support the development of Ireland's economy, as well as connecting the Irish Grid to the European Grid.

Ms. Meghan highlighted that:

- EirGrid plays a key role in the operation of the single electricity market which services the island of Ireland.
- EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland.
- It manages the day-to-day operations of the market by operating a national control system to balance demand for electricity and the amount generated so that there is enough electricity available
- It analyses the long term needs of the power system in the context of evolving markets with significant levels of variable renewable generation.
- It sets out programmes of work to manage the changing needs of the market and ensures that the views of industry and other stakeholders are represented through each step of these work programmes.
- EirGrid is one of the key partners in attracting Foreign Direct Investment into Ireland by ensuring that there is an adequate power supply which provides value for money.

She stated that EirGrid developed GRID25 in 2008 to study power supply and demand up to 2025. Grid25 provides a scale to the necessary infrastructure required on a national and regional level. As a matter of priority, EirGrid progress network development to meet anticipated needs in line with the GRID25 Strategy. Ms. Meghan confirmed that EirGrid has begun to undertake detailed studies to more clearly specify reinforcement project requirements. These studies will assess environmental impact, technical issues and route identification for the many necessary schemes. Once the information already contained in the Strategy, such as the needs of a region, is collated with the information from the studies, plans for specific projects are drawn up and implemented in consultation with the public and all key stakeholders, and subject to regulatory oversight by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

Generation from renewable energy sources is a key plank in the Strategy to reduce carbon emissions and to maintain a sustainable energy supply. The Government has set a target of meeting at least 33% of electricity demand from renewable generation by 2020. It also intends setting further targets jointly with the relevant

Northern Ireland authorities. It is recognised that wind energy will play a pivotal contribution to meeting that goal.

Many of the locations suitable for renewable energy generation schemes are in areas where there have been little or no generation developments heretofore. The aggregate of renewable generation capacity in some areas is equivalent to large conventional generation stations and in many cases the network is not capable of carrying the power from these generation sources. Ms. Meghan highlighted that significant reinforcement of the Grid will therefore be required to cater for the new power flows from renewable generation as it will not be possible to utilise Ireland's natural resources of renewable energy without the essential upgrades outlined in GRID25.

GRID25 provides for a range of conventional generation scenarios locating close to: principal sea ports; existing station sites; strong transmission nodes. Building further power lines will present its own challenges. In many cases, the new capacity provided by these lines will need to be in place before some of the existing lines can be upgraded. EirGrid has a statutory obligation to balance the provision of reliable transmission services with the costs to the final customer and with the impact of transmission infrastructure on the environment.

Ms. Meghan said that a lot of work needs to be done to facilitate renewable energy coming on track and a lot of upgrade work has to be done to the existing network. She said that EirGrid needs to investigate options to deal with renewable energy and the Grid West Electricity Transmission Scheme will carry out a study of the west of Ireland with a view to identifying a preferred route for the development of the infrastructure required to transport energy produced to other parts of the country. Eirgrid are looking at Casla, Athenry and Flagford, Co. Roscommon at the moment. A lead Consultant will be appointed shortly to oversee the project. Phase 1 of the project will be to identify need and gather information and this will commence in January 2012. The firm will be consulting with major stakeholders including Galway County Council and there will also be a big emphasis on public consultation, as EirGrid wants the public to engage with them as it is important that everybody understands that it is essential for the future of energy provision that infrastructure is developed and enhanced. The value of this project is estimated at €240m. Phase 2 will be the Planning & Design Phase and will take three to four years and Galway County Council will play a major part in this phase of the project. The ESB will take over at construction stage which will commence in approximately three to four years time.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Ó Cuaig regarding the upgrading of the line to Screeb, Conamara, Ms. Meghan stated that whilst this project was under the remit of the ESB it was her understanding that construction was due to start shortly.

Cllr. Ó Cuaig also asked, if windfarms are developed along the west coast of Ireland, how would the necessary infrastructure to bring the power they generate to the rest of the country be developed, given the restrictions presented by the extent of environmental designations. Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid is particularly conscious of the challenges presented by environmental designations for the development of infrastructure and in particular large scale infrastructure envisaged under GRID 25 and significant emphasis would be placed on the challenges presented by same in the planning and design phase of any project.

She said that the first phase of this project will be to gather information regarding the location of woods, houses etc. and they will talk to local authorities, environmental interest groups, chambers of commerce etc. in an attempt to put potential route options on paper, but environmental constraints will be a big deciding factor. She said that public consultation will also play a major role in any decision making process.

Cllr. T. Mannion welcomed the presentation made by EirGrid, stating that consultation will be important especially where people are fearful of power lines being placed too near to their houses.

In reply to Cllr. McHugh, Ms. Meghan stated that it is not envisaged that there will be a reduction in electricity prices to the consumer as a result of increased energy production and possible exporting of energy from Ireland. However, she said that enhancement of the Grid will create a platform for economic growth, create direct and indirect employment, enable regional development and facilitate Irish renewable generation. In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, she confirmed that the scale of the investment required in the context of the overall capital investment and budget would not lead directly to an increase in electricity prices.

Cllr. Feeney highlighted the importance of recognizing the potential of wind energy as a natural resource and queried the factors and criteria used to decide the most favourable route including the approach to built up areas and the distance from houses.

Ms. Meghan replied that power lines will be located as far away from houses as possible and whilst there was no minimum distance requirement it would generally be at least 40m to 50m away from houses.

In reply to Cllr. Ó Laoi, Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid has no plans currently to develop additional infrastructure to facilitate the future potential presented by harnessing offshore wave energy.

In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, Ms. Meghan confirmed that the ESB will finance the project and will own the infrastructure when completed.

In reply to Cllr. Ó Curraoin who expressed a view in relation to undergrounding powerlines Ms. Meghan stated that whilst EirGrid gives consideration to this option, the costs associated with same are substantial and accordingly they must be mindful of the impact of same in terms of the end cost to the consumer together with other limitations.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Ms. Meghan stated that consideration would be given to an appropriate capacity to allow connections but that same would be limited and that a requirement for significant additional capacity may require the development of additional infrastructure.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2007/2015

852

Report entitled “Disability Strategy Works 2005 – 2010” was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. D. Connolly stated that it is evident that the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government does not propose to provide any funding in the future for works under the Disability Action Plan and therefore he stated that the Council will have to take cognizance of this in drawing up the Budget for 2012.

He proposed that “Galway County Council calls on Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD not to implement any measures in the forthcoming budget that will impact on vulnerable people in education who have special needs and require assistance from Special Needs Assistants, Resource Teachers, O/T equipment etc.” This proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Canney and agreed.

Cllr. Hoade stated that a lot of works had been carried out under the Council’s Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2015 especially in areas with a population of over 500 people and this is to be commended.

ORANMORE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

853

Report already circulated.

Cllr. Carroll & Cllr. Cuddy welcomed the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan stating that serious traffic gridlock exists in the middle of the village.

In reply to Cllr. Carroll, Mr. Gavin stated that it is intended that works will be completed by Christmas, weather permitting and he confirmed that a Community Warden will be present to implement the measures introduced.

In reply to queries regarding the Traffic Management Plans for other towns in the county, Mr. Gavin stated that Plans for Headford, Portumna, Tuam, Loughrea and Gort will be reviewed in 2012.

In reply to a request from Cllr. Cunniffe to advance the review of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan in the context of the completion of Tuam Main Drainage Scheme, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the review of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan would be progressed with a timeline of Spring 2012. In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that in the interim, the impact of the opening of a section of the Tuam Inner Relief Road would be given specific consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, it was agreed that the Standing Order 5 be suspended in order to allow the Meeting continue past 6 p.m.

WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2011/2012

854

Report dated October 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore presented the Winter Service Plan 2011/2012 to the Members, stating that the aim of the plan is to set out how the winter service for ice and snow conditions will be provided for in county Galway. He said that the plan does not deal with other extreme winter weather events such as flooding and high winds. He said that the Council's policy is to provide an effective and efficient winter maintenance service within the resources available in order to - allow the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians, minimise delays due to winter weather and ensure operations are undertaken safely.

In reply to queries from the Members regarding the necessity to salt local and roads, Mr. Gilmore stated that Priority One routes which are listed on page 15 of the Report are guaranteed to be salted as these are the roads that are necessary to gain access to hospitals, airports, bus depots, fire stations, train stations and major industries. He said that the Council endeavours to salt other roads, but it is impossible to salt every route as this would necessitate that the Council allocating the entire maintenance budget for winter maintenance purpose.

Comh. Ó Cuaig referred to the importance of continuing to recognize the importance of the designation of roads in Conamara as strategic roads in the context of the Winter Service Plan and in particular the road from Casla to Recess. Mr. Gilmore advised that the designation of the road as a strategic road was in the context of a specific funding stream and was not related to the Winter Service Plan.

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that the road from Casla to Recess will be regarded as a strategic road under the Winter Service Plan.

Cllr. T. Mannion expressed his disappointment that there had been no consultation through the Area Committees in the preparation of the Winter Service Plan and wished to record that he was not in a position to accept the Plan as presented. He highlighted the importance of recognising the impact on the M6 on changing travel patterns in the County and the need to prioritise access routes to the M6, together with the need to recognize the importance of maintaining access to Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee considered the Winter Service Plan and that the need to maintain access to Portiuncula Hospital was taken into consideration in the preparation of the Plan.

Cllr. Broderick also referred to the need to recognize the importance of maintaining access to Portiuncula Hospital by means of a designated priority route and also the need to ensure access to the landfill in Kilconnell was maintained based on the designated route.

Cllr. Feeney referred to the importance of treating the link roads serving the M6 for a certain distance, in order to allow motorists an opportunity to adjust their driving behaviour on exiting the Motorway.

Cllr. Hoade requested that consideration be given to including the Claregalway/Corrandulla Road, Cllr. Canney referred to Regional Roads including the R333 whilst Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the R355 & R358 and Cllr. M. Connolly also referred to the strategic importance of Regional Roads including the Moylough, Clonbern & Dunmore Roads.

Cllr. E. Mannion highlighted the importance of ensuring that effective communication remained a priority in the context of the delivery of the winter service plan, whilst Comh Ó Laoi referred to the use of private contractors in the gritting of roads and the liability issues associated with same.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the Winter Service Plan as presented reflected the need to prioritise access to strategic sites including hospitals and that the HSE, Bus Eireann and private bus operators had been consulted in the preparation of the Plan. He also confirmed that www.galway.ie would be availed of as a means of providing information to the public on the winter service plan together with related information. He confirmed that the Winter Service Plan would in the main be delivered by direct labour but that if necessary and available additional private contractors may also be availed of to support service delivery.

Report already circulated

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

SMARTER TRAVEL – UPDATE

856

Report already circulated

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

FLOODING UPDATE

857

Report dated 21/11/11 was made available to the Members

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

CONFERENCES

858

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

LAMA Autumn Seminar 2011 – The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery – 23rd – 24th September – Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

Comh, T Ó Curráoin, Cllrs. J Mc Donagh, P Roche, K Ryan, T McHugh, M. Connolly, M. Hoade

Esperanza Enterprises – European Waste Water Laws – Irish Government’s decision to Licence Septic Tanks – 30th September – 2nd October – Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

Cllrs. P Roche, Comh. T Ó Curráoin, S Ó Tuairisg

Greystones Town Council – 23rd Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar – 30th September – 2nd October – Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. K Ryan

TJK Conferences – Local Government & Planning Seminar for Councillors – 8th – 9th October – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick

Cllr. J Mc Donagh, P Roche, K Ryan

TASC – Autumn Conference 2011 – From Debt to Recovery – 14th – 15th October – Croke Park, Dublin

Cllr. P Hynes, S Ó Tuairisg

Esperanza Enterprises – Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 – 14th – 16th October – Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. J McDonagh, P Roche, K Ryan, M Hoade, Comh. T Ó Curráoin

Celtic Conferences – Optimising Taxation Allowances & Benefits – 21st – 23rd October – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. K Ryan

Irish Planning Institute – Autumn Conference 2011 – 21st October – The Gibson Hotel, The Point Village, Dublin 1

Cllr. T Walsh, T McHugh

Department of Social Inclusion – Social Inclusion Forum 2011 – 9th November 2011 – F2 Centre, 3 Reuben Plaza, Rialto, Dublin 8

Comh. S Ó Tuairisg

Alcohol Action Ireland – Alcohol: Where’s the Harm? Conference – 15th November 2011 – Royal College of Physicians, Dublin 2

Comh. S Ó Tuairisg

Cllr. S. Walsh was not present for the consideration of this Item.

MAYORS BUSINESS

859

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to correspondence recently received from Paul Mullen, Shop Stewart TEEU for Airtricity Utility Solutions Employees who currently work for Airtricity Utility Solutions in maintaining the public lighting in the Connaught Region to include Mayo, Galway County, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. Cllr. D. Connolly outlined the contents of the correspondence to the Meeting advising of the concerns of the employees for their continued employment due to Electric Skyline being selected as the preferred bidder for the maintenance of public lighting arising from recent procurement process.

He outlined that whilst the employees understood that in accordance with the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertaking) Regulations, 2003 ("TUPE") they had a right to transfer across to the new

contractor, however, Electric Skyline have informed their union (TEEU) by letter that they have no obligation to honour such legislation and it was not their intention to employ the Airtricity employees.

He referred to the scale of the contract and advised that the 1st December 2011 was the proposed contract start date.

In reply, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the provision of a maintenance service for public lighting was the subject of a procurement process on a regional basis, with Electric Skyline emerging as the preferred bidder. Mr. Molloy stated that the Council previously raised the concerns as expressed by Cllr. D. Connolly with Electric Skyline and have been assured by Electric Skyline that they are in full compliance with all necessary and relevant regulatory requirements. Mr. Molloy further stated that it was the Council's understanding that the provisions of the the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertaking) Regulations, 2003 did not apply in this particular instance.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, it was confirmed that the closusre of the Athlone Bypass was a matter for Roscommon County Council.

MANAGERS BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE **860**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer consideration of the above Items until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. E. MANNION **861**

The following reply was given:-

“This will require an amendment in the Clifden Traffic Management Plan and will be considered when the plan is being reviewed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. E. MANNION **862**

The following reply was given:-

“This proposal will be assessed in regard to the criteria for traffic volumes for pedestrian crossings. There is a pedestrian crossing already provided in the centre of the village.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. E. MANNION **863**

The following reply was given:-

“Conamara North Area will inspect this road and depending on the severity of the condition of the road may make a submission for emergency funding or for a coastal protection grant.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 864

The following reply was given:-

“The priority list of roads for winter gritting is limited to the capacity to grit on a first run basis and this route has not been included. It is however intended to treat this road as required in the winter conditions. In short it will be gritted on the second run if required.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 865

The following reply was given:-

“The responsibility to cut back vegetation at the side of the road rests with the landowner. Galway County Council will inspect this site and take remedial measures necessary, within the restrictions of the budget.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 866

The following reply was given:-

“Remedial works at Corrandulla Cross will be completed by Christmas 2011.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 867

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have repeatedly sought through discussions with the various agencies and departmental inspectors to increase the level of allocation for road projects within the County and have sought greater discretion in the use of allocated road improvement type funding to use this funding for maintenance. As a result Galway County Council were given discretion to use 20% of the road restoration funding for localised repair which has been of considerable benefit on local road maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 868

The following reply was given:-

“The level of funding available to Galway County Council for local road maintenance is severely limited and it is not possible to carry out repairs without prioritisation based on funding. Galway County Council must operate within the limits of available funding and as such cannot be held responsible for delay/lack of repairs to roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

869

The following reply was given:-

“The funding level for maintenance of roads is extremely low and Galway County Council is not in a position to employ additional staff for this purpose. Staff are being redeployed from area to area to allow for staff shortfalls in particular circumstances.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. M. FAHY

870

The following reply was given:-

“This is a private group water scheme supplying water to its members from a private source. The Council will be investigating the connection of the scheme to the Craughwell public supply and its subsequent taking in charge.

In the interim the group scheme is still responsible for the scheme under the Water Services Act and should comply with the direction issued by the Council in relation to the water quality.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. M. FAHY

871

The following reply was given:-

“There are no plans to carry out alignment improvements to this road. If on inspection, the surface requires attention, maintenance and repair works will be carried out within the constraints of the budget and a submission for future pavement funding considered.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. M. FAHY

872

The following reply was given:-

“It is planned to continue towards Ardrahan in 2012 with macadam overlay and surface dressing, if funding levels are maintained.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

873

The following reply was given:-

“There has been considerable discussion with the developer in relation to this estate including as recently as the past two weeks. While the majority of issues have been addressed the main issue currently receiving attention is the requirement to have a Discharge Licence for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and to ensure that the Management Company is fully responsible for the management and maintenance of the Treatment Plant into the future. The Council will continue to liaise with the developer with a view to finalising all issues at the earliest possible time.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

874

The following reply was given:-

“School flashing lights have been deemed as the most appropriate method of making motorists aware of approaching schools. Operational lights are in place at Corrandrum School. Any additional measures can only be considered on a County wide basis.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

875

The following reply was given:-

“It is estimated that the annual cost of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant at Luimnagh including maintenance of a number of reservoirs and part of the trunk main distribution network associated with the plant will be in the region of €2.4m in 2012 based on best estimates to hand. The plant at Luimnagh produces water for an area stretching from Kilconly in the north to Kilcolgan in the south of the county and includes the towns of Tuam, Athenry, Oranmore, Clarinbridge along with part of Galway City and South County Mayo. There are separate costs associated with the network and reservoirs serving these areas also which are not included in the above.

As regards the cost of wastewater treatment in the county, the estimated operational cost in 2012 based on best estimates to hand will be in the order of €4.2m.

In relation to both of the figures given above it is important to understand that they represent only the direct costs associated with operation and maintenance . There are a range of costs such as management and overheads , costs associated with metering and debt collection, and the loan charges relating to repayments on capital borrowing for infrastructure improvements, It is not possible to assign these costs to individual schemes. Rather, in accordance with national policy they are aggregated for the county as a whole.”

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

876

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil an bóthar nó an droichead i gcúram Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Bheadh orainn an bóthar a thógáil inár gcúram agus bheadh oibreacha athchóirithe ag teastáil uaidh an droichead in éineacht le Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo mar tá an droichead ar teorainn an chontae. Tá teangabháil déanta le Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo atá i bhfabhar an moladh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

877

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil an droichead seo ar líosta na droichead do oibreacha sainiúil. Mar sin, ní bheidh sé ar líosta tosaíocht. Cuirfear san áireamh é ach braitheann sé ar airgeadú.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

878

The following reply was given:-

“Tá go leor le déanamh ag an gComhairle ó thaobh uasghrádú píoblínte sa chontae agus tá teoireann ar na maoin atá ar fail. Ní fhéadfaigh a chinntiú faoi láthair cathain a mbeidh an chomhairle in ann na hoibreacha seo a chur i gcrích.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.