

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 28th
SEPTEMBER, 2009.**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. T. McHugh

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs T Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll,
P. Connaughton, D. Connolly, M.
Connolly, Comh S. Ó Cuaig, Cllrs. J.
Cuddy, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M.
Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade,
P. Hynes, C. Keaveny, S. Kyne, M.
Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J.
McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M.
Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg,
Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B.
Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager;
Messrs. J. Cullen, K. Kelly, F. Gilmore,
J. Morgan, Directors of Service; G.
Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Dolly, J.
Eising, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; B.
McDermott, County Secretary; M.
Owens, A. Comer, Senior Executive
Officers; P. Canney, Senior Executive
Engineer; C. Wynne, A/Senior
Executive Engineer; B. Barrett,
Administrative Officer, G. Healy, Staff
Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

67

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mr Brendan Barrett, Moyardwood, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr Bertie O'Rourke, Bawnmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway.

Mrs Joan Kirwan, Fohenagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

68

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 20th July, 2009 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

69

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd March 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 16th March 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. T. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 24th July 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

The Report of the Conamara Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 15th June 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Comh. Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin.

The Report of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC Meeting held on 12th December 2008 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 20th April, 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 30th June, 2009 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

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

70

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

The cul-de-sac road commences at its junction with “Fernhill” Housing Estate, Athenry in the townland of Ballydavid South and extends in a north direction for approximately 35m.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

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

71

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, 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 County Road L53455 in the townland of Doon and extending north for a distance of 160 metres in the townland of Doon and finishing at Tony O'Hallerans house in the townland of Doon.

Electoral Area: Conamara

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.188 HECTARES AT PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY –

72

Report dated the 16th September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the disposal of 0.188 hectares at Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway was approved.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE –

73

Report dated 22nd September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Report and requested details regarding the area of expertise of the three people who were recommended for approval of the Council as external members of the Audit Committee. The Manager stated that Mr. P.J. McGovern is a retired Finance Officer from Galway City Council, Ms. Hannah Kiely is an Accountant and Mr. Brian Flynn is a retired C.E.O. from Ireland West Tourism.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that Mr. P.J. McGovern, Ms. Hannah Kiely and Mr. Brian Flynn be appointed to the Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed that Cllr. McHugh be appointed to the Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion and agreed that Cllr. Canney be appointed to the Audit Committee.

As a result of the foregoing, the following are the two Council Members and the three external Members appointed to the Audit Committee

- (1) Cllr. Tom McHugh
- (2) Cllr. Sean Canney
- (3) Mr. P.J. McGovern
- (4) Ms. Hannah Kiely
- (5) Mr. Brian Flynn

APPLICATION OF THE NSS GATEWAY AND HUB ERDF GRANT SCHEME –

74

Report dated 22nd September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Barrett presented the Report to the Members which outlined a combination of projects for the Hub Town of Tuam, as follows:

- Upgrading of the Mill
- Greening of the Mall Theatre
- Energy proofing Community Gym and Resource Facility
- Green Refurbishment of Community House
- Provision of a Combined Heat and Power System to supply energy in the new Swimming Pool
- Physical refurbishment of public areas in Local Authority residential areas
- Landscaping of River Nanny amenity areas
- Tree Planting Programme for the town
- Enhancing Central Tourism focal point
- Public Lighting Project in the Palace Grounds Town Park
- The Shambles Development
- Common Signage Programme for Tuam Hub
- Improving Accessibility of Town with reference to the Access Audit undertaken in 2006
- Provide Broadband ducting and cabling for town in conjunction with Water Scheme
- Testing of Near to Point Technology for public services, joint project with Chamber of Commerce
- Development of a Public Wireless Hot Spot in the New Civic Offices
- Extending Town CCTV System
- Undergrounding of Public Utility Cables in Town Centre

The Members thanked the officials for preparing the submission stating that it sets out clearly many of the projects which are required urgently for Tuam, but they also stated that the absence of broadband in Tuam is a major stumbling block for progress for the town.

In reply to concerns expressed by the Mayor, the Manager stated that she is confident that the Council will be able to provide the matching funding required. She also stated that the Council is in discussion with the Department of Communications in the hope that they will provide funding for ducting for the Metropolitan Area Network for Tuam.

Mr. Cullen stated that the Council hopes to sign the contract for the Tuam Main Drainage Scheme shortly.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the application for the grant scheme was approved.

PRESENTATION BY ‘SPIRIT OF IRELAND’ ON MAJOR ELECTRICITY STORAGE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ON THE WEST COAST. 75

The Mayor introduced Mr. Mark Wheeler of ‘Spirit of Ireland’ to the Meeting. Mr. Wheeler gave a presentation to the Members on a major electricity storage project for the storage of renewable energy on the west coast of Ireland which the ‘Spirit of Ireland’ Company is hoping to develop. Mr. Wheeler stated that Ireland has the best wind energy in Europe but is limited by lack of storage and that Ireland depends on the import of 90% of our fuel, mainly in the form of gas, and his company feels that the generation and storage of wind energy in our own country would be much more

economical. He said that it is proposed that a National Public Limited Company would be established and that financial benefits would accrue to the local community from the project. He stated that the project is at an early stage at present and the purpose of today's presentation is to enhance awareness among the Members regarding the benefits of wind energy and storage.

A question and answer session then took place and the Members wished Mr. Wheeler well with the initiative but they expressed the view that difficulties may arise as the National Parks & Wildlife Service and An Taisce are very strict regarding development in the Conamara area.

TO APPROVE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT SCHEME 2009/2010 – 76
Report dated 16th September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the fact that the Higher Education Grant Scheme was not received from the Department of Education until Race Week and he said that this is unacceptable as it gives very little time for students to submit their grant applications for assessment before the college year commences.

Cllr. Hoade agreed with Cllr. Keaveney stating that the number of applications received in 2009 is much greater than in previous years due to many people being made redundant.

Mr. Kelly confirmed that in excess of 1900 applications had been received at the closing date (a 40% increase in 2008 figures) and that 800 applications have been processed to date.

The Manager stated that the staff had been in contact with the Department of Education almost on a daily basis in the months before the Higher Education Grant Scheme was received in an effort to impress on the Department the urgency in getting the Scheme.

In response to a query from the Members, the Manager confirmed that staff have been deployed from other sections of the Council to assist in dealing with the volume of applications received but the assessment of grants is very detailed and can be very time consuming.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2009/2010 be approved.

TO FIX DATE FOR OCTOBER MEETING 77

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that the October Monthly Meeting be held on 19th October, 2009 at 11 a.m.

WATER SERVICES ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS 2009 78
Report dated 24th September, 2009 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Cullen outlined the Report which had been circulated as follows:

- The Department of the Environment and Local Government has signalled that it intends to issue a revised Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010 – 2012 and has requested Water Service Authorities to undertake a Needs Assessment and submit it to the Department by October 23rd 2009.

- With the changed economic climate and the finalisation of the River Basin District Management Plan, the new WSIP must prioritise projects that target environmental compliance issues. It must also support economic and employment growth and offer best value for money. There is also a need to take into account EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Reports and the economic development of gateways and hubs identified in the National Spatial Strategy. The Needs Assessment now being undertaken by Galway County Council will be a critical input into the development of the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012.
- In drawing up the Needs Assessment, the Council is required to prepare separate lists of prioritised works under four broad categories of need. The categories for which separate lists are required are:-
 - Category 1: Water conservation proposals which meet environmental and economic goals.
 - Category 2: Works required to respond to ECJ judgements.
 - Category 3: Environment/Public Health Objectives (e.g. arising from compliance with Water Framework Directive requirements, Regulations and EPA Reports dealing with drinking water standards, wastewater treatment standards, authorisation of wastewater discharges, bathing water standards etc).
 - Category 4: Works to support sustainable development of Hubs and Gateways under the NSS strategic developing areas and works to support employment creation.
- Where there are a considerable number of schemes in each category as is likely to be the case in County Galway – the Water Services Authority is required to delineate proposals into those that are a priority for advancement over the coming three years and those which they would wish to advance when the first group are completed. This will be done by taking account of performance on compliance with water quality, wastewater standards and leakage and, by reference to readily available data, identifying proven demand for future capacity. Emerging priorities under the River Basin District Management Plans will be reflected also.
- The approach to be taken is intended to ensure that the resulting Water Services Investment Programme is realistic in its level of ambition in terms of the affordability and delivery of works included and that investment is focussed on key priorities. In this context the Council is required to review existing schemes which have not sufficiently advanced under earlier programmes to ensure that they:
 - have continuing relevance in light of the programme priorities;
 - reflect an appropriate scale of works in light of these priorities and timescale for delivery;
 - are appropriately phased;

- are affordable and offer value for money; and
 - are the most cost effective solution to addressing the problem.
- Schemes in the current WSIP will not automatically be included in the new WSIP and will be considered in conjunction with all others not yet in the programme in the context of the new Needs Assessment. It is to be expected that the list of schemes submitted for consideration will not differ greatly from those already in the existing Water Services Investment Programme. The water services staff will evaluate each proposal using the criteria laid down by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government to determine the relative priority of each.
 - While the implementation of the Water Services Investment Programme is critical in bringing about much needed water services infrastructural improvements, it carries with it a capital and revenue financial burden the Council will find difficult if not impossible to sustain. Schemes advancing toward construction will have to be evaluated on a case by case basis to establish that the Council has the financial capacity to implement them.
 - Pending the issue of the new programme, the Council will continue to advance schemes in the current programme as quickly as possible.

The Members raised queries regarding individual schemes and Mr. Cullen replied that an assessment on a scheme by scheme basis is being carried out and he will be in a position to update the Members regarding the various schemes at the October Monthly Meeting.

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE – **79**

Report dated 18th September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that Cllr. Carroll fill the casual vacancy on the Road Safety Together Committee.

SCHEME OF GRANTS FOR SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS – PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING IN 2010 **80**

Report dated 28th September, 2009 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Morgan informed the Members that the Department of Transport has invited applications for consideration for funding to undertake improvement works on Regional and Local Roads under the Specific Improvement Grant in 2010. He stated that an upper limit of €2,745,000 has been specified as the total cost of the works to be included in the Council's application and that the proposed new projects should only relate to projects which can be funded and completed within the year 2010.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that Scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Proposals for Funding in 2010, be approved.

Cllr. Feeney raised the issue of Loro Gate Roundabout as part of a private housing development in Athenry and the delay of over two years in progressing same and the

County Manager confirmed that the issue of the delay will be raised with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to Circular RLRU No. 1/2009 and proposed the following: “that Galway County Council rejects the Circular letter issued on August 16th 2009 transferring responsibility from the Department of Transport to the National Roads Authority for management of local and regional roads and that sufficient funding be provided under the control of the Council to maintain our roads to safe condition”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Connolly and agreed. It was also agreed that this Resolution be circulated to other Local Authorities and to the Association of City & County Councils.

Cllr. Feeney proposed that Galway County Council submit the following proposals to the Department of Transport for consideration under its SmartTravel Competition: “Galway County Council seeks funding for the provision of the Garraun Railway Station Link Road from the present N6 to the Coast Road and a carparking area to complement Iarnród Eireann’s plans for a railway station at that location serving the Oranmore Area, to be built under the Western Rail Corridor funding”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed.

Cllr. Feeney also proposed “That Galway County Council also seeks funding to provide a roundabout and park & ride facility at Loughgeorge”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed.

Cllr. Carroll indicated that the people of Oranmore are not happy that the railway station is proposed to be located at Garraun. Mr. Morgan in reply stated that it is felt that Garraun is the most suitable location as the gradients are suitable and Garraun links up with the Ardaun concept.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Meeting continue after 6 p.m.

UPDATE ON THE RIVER BASIN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLANS – 81

Mr. Cullen updated the Members regarding the River Basin District Management Plans stating that the Plans, in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and National Legislation will be finalised this year and will come before the Council for adoption early in the New Year. He stated that River Basin Management is transboundary rather than on administrative boundaries and, as County Galway is located in two districts; the Council will be tasked with the adoption of two plans i.e. the Western and Shannon River Basin Management Plans. Water Management will be on a catchment basis in the plan and referred to as Water Management Units where the status of all waters, the pressures on our waters and reaching the objective of good status for all waters will be outlined. He said that the timeframe for the adoption of the Plans was short and that that was outside the control of the Council.

ASSIGNMENT OF CHAIRS OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES – 82

Report dated 16th September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that the following Members would be assigned as Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees:

Strategic Policy Committee	Chair
Housing, Fire & Emergency Services	Cllr. Tiernan Walsh
Roads & Transportation	Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Corporate & Cultural Affairs	Cllr. Pat Hynes
Environment & Water Services	Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Planning, Economic Development & Community	Cllr. Michael Fahy

MANAGERS REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME – 83

Report dated 22nd September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme as approved by the Members at the July 2009 Monthly Meeting be adopted without amendments.

TO APPROVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2008 – 84

Report dated 22nd September, 2009 was already circulated to each Member.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Broderick regarding the collection of commercial water rates, Mr. Cullen stated that the percentage of 47% is low for a number of reasons. He said that at the time of installation and afterwards there were many queries from the public, Councillors and interest groups such as the IFA and these had to be attended to before the bills could issue. Two important issues had also arisen which had to be addressed, i.e. a policy on leakage and the issue of users not yet metered and these have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Members. He said that there has been an improvement in the level of collection of water charges, but it is envisaged that collection will not be up to date until next year.

In reply to queries from the Members regarding the Non-Principal Private Residence Levy, the Manager stated that officials will put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the scheme and this will be published in the local newspapers in order to inform the public regarding the scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that the Annual Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December, 2008 be adopted.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that the transfers to reserves as detailed in Note 15 of the Accounts be approved.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that the over/under expenditure by division as noted in Note 17 of the Accounts be approved.

PROGRESS ON THE M6 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – BALLINASLOE TO GALWAY 85

Report dated September, 2009 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Morgan gave an update to the Members on progress on the M6 Construction Project as detailed in the report.

In reply to issues raised by the Members, Mr. Morgan stated the following:

- The railway bridges at Athenry have been completed and as a result haulage on the public road network in connection with the contract will be minimized.
- It is anticipated that the contract will be completed early in the new year
- A programme for repair works to the haulage routes is being drawn up by the Council and repair works will begin within the next week or two.
- Blockages on existing drainage network have been removed
- Ongoing problems with rivers south of the road which cause annual flooding are not within the remit of the N6 Company to resolve
- The allocation of €1.5m in respect of the repair of haulage routes is for the current year only and a further allocation will be made in 2010. He also said that the N.R.A. is aware of the condition of the haulage routes and that the necessary funding will be assessed on an ongoing basis.
- Regarding the N6 Haulage Route insurance claims, Mr. Morgan stated that claims received have been passed on to the N6 Company and that the Council's Risk Controller is liaising with the company on this matter.

Cllr. Mullins proposed Notice of Motion No. 38 as follows:

“That the Members of Galway County Council will not allow the new M6 from Ballinasloe to Galway to be opened until such time as all the service roads on the route have been restored to a standard acceptable to our technical staff, and the flooding issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the farmers in the catchment area. This motion is to be forwarded to the National Roads Authority”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed.

CONFERENCES

86

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, the attendance of the following members at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member was agreed:-

- **Byrne/Perry Summer School – 26th – 28th June – Christian Brothers School, Gorey, Co. Wexford**
 1. Michael Maher
 2. Pat Hynes
 3. Tomás Mannion
 4. Seán Kyne
 5. Peter Feeney
 6. Michael Mullins
- **Kadenza Consultancies – From the Canvass to the Council Chamber – 3rd – 5th July – West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork**
 1. Pat Hynes
 2. Jarlath McDonagh
- **Superior Training – Effective Local Government Policy Making in the Current Recession – 10th – 12th July – West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork**
 1. Pat Hynes
 2. Seamus Walsh
 3. Colm Keaveney

- **Percy French Summer School – 17th – 19th July – Castlecoote House, Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon**
 1. Pat Hynes
- **Patrick MacGill Summer School – 19th – 24th July – Glenties, Co. Donegal**
 1. Michael Fahy
 2. Michael Maher
 3. Seán Kyne
 4. Peter Feeney
 5. Colm Keaveney
 6. Pat Hynes
 7. Jarlath McDonagh
- **Esperanza Enterprises – Planning & Building Energy Regulations – 24th – 26th July – Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford**
 1. Colm Keaveney
- **Ashford Building Services – Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation – 7th – 9th August – Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo**
 1. Colm Keaveney
 2. Michael Maher
- **Parnell Summer School – Leisure & Recreation in Ireland – 9th – 14th August – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow**
 1. Pat Hynes
- **Cumann Merriman Summer School – 16th – 22nd August – Ennis, Co. Clare**
 1. Pat Hynes
- **Humbert School 2009 – Can Ireland be Redeemed? – 20th – 23rd August – Ballina, Co. Mayo**
 1. Jarlath McDonagh
 2. Michael Maher
 3. Michael Fahy
 4. Jim Cuddy
 5. Colm Keaveney
- **Superior Training – Irish Language Course for Councillors – 28th – 30th August – Seaview Hotel, Gweedore, Co. Donegal**
 1. Pat Hynes
 2. Colm Keaveney
 3. Seamus Walsh
- **A.M.A.I. 96th Annual Conference – 10th – 12th September – Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry**
 1. Mary Hoade
 2. Michael Maher
 3. Pat Hynes
 4. Michael Fahy
 5. Tomás Ó Curraoin
 6. Colm Keaveney
 7. Jimmy McClearn
 8. Jim Cuddy

- **Agricultural Science Association Conference 2009 – Ireland the Food Island – A Myth or a Reality? – 11th September – Castleknock Hotel & Country Club, Castleknock, Dublin 15**
 1. Seán Kyne
 2. Peter Feeney

- **Carlow Tourism – 7th National Tourism Conference – The Arts, Culture & Tourism – 24th – 26th September – The Talbot Hotel, Carlow**
 1. Jarlath McDonagh
 2. Tiarnan Walsh
 3. Jimmy McClearn

- **TJK Conferences – Local Government Seminar for Councillors – 26th September – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick**
 1. Seamus Walsh
 2. Seán Canney
 3. Jim Cuddy
 4. Michael Mullins
 5. Tomás Ó Curraoin

- **Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar – “Are Local Authorities Good for your Health” – 2nd – 4th October, Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow**
 1. Tiarnan Walsh
 2. Tomas Mannion
 3. Michael Mullins
 4. Colm Keaveney

MAYOR’S BUSINESS

87

Cllr. Feeney asked if there was any truth in the rumour that the National Parks & Wildlife Service has requested that the E.S.B. submit an Environmental Impact Statement in respect of each electricity pole to be provided and the Manager replied that this matter will be checked out.

Notice of Motion No’s 35 & 39

88

Cllr. Fahy proposed that Galway County Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Social and Family Affairs to publish the National Carers Strategy as committed to in the Social Partnership Agreement – Towards 2016 and in the Programme for Government as a matter of principle”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – BRIDIE WILLERS

89

The following reply was given:-

“Maintenance works are currently being undertaken on the N66 and further funding will be sought from the National Roads Authority to facilitate additional

works. The proposal to extend the continuous white line at the location will be examined.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – BRIDIE WILLERS **90**

The following reply was given:-

“There is no funding currently available to facilitate additional measures at this location. A traffic safety audit will be undertaken with a view to submitting a proposal to the National Roads Authority for funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – DERMOT CONNOLLY **91**

The following reply was given:-

“The existing signage at this location will be reviewed and such additional signage as deemed necessary will be provided.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – DERMOT CONNOLLY **92**

The following reply was given:-

“This road will be considered for inclusion in the 2010 Roads Programme in the context of the competing priorities that will exist for available resources in 2010.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – DERMOT CONNOLLY **93**

The following reply was given:-

“The delivery of Galway County Councils Disability Action Plan has been progressed through the utilisation of grant funding from the Department and adhering to the principles of access provision in carrying out our normal work activities. An allocation of €397,092 has been agreed by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in respect of Disability Funding for Galway County Council in 2009 and a programme of work is currently underway.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – EILEEN MANNION **94**

The following reply was given:-

“The DBO contract documents have been submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DoEHLG). A Foreshore Licence has been applied for to the Department of Agriculture and will be forwarded to the DoEHLG when issued. This licence is necessary to complete the planning phase. The contract documents for the sewer network are with the consultants and will be issued to Galway County Council within 2 months.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – EILEEN MANNION **95**

The following reply was given:-

“This location will be examined and a report prepared. The road at this location is quite wide and to reduce its overall width will require physical works which in turn will limit parking availability and will require the allocation of funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – EILEEN MANNION 96

The following reply was given:-

“This road is subject to a 50km speed limit. The existing signage will be examined and the matter reviewed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – JARLATH MCDONAGH 97

The following reply was given:-

“This proposal will be considered in drafting the 2010 Roads Programme in the context of the competing priorities for available resources.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – JARLATH MCDONAGH 98

The following reply was given:-

“This road will be included on the schedule for routine maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – JARLATH MCDONAGH 99

The following reply was given:-

“The erection of townland signage at this location is considered inappropriate as it may give rise to proliferation of such signs. There are a total of eight townlands directly accessible from this particular junction.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – JIM CUDDY 100

The following reply was given:-

“The current Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws 2009 address priority locations, mainly in town and villages. To extend the review beyond such locations will require the allocation of additional resources in the context of the 2010 Budget/Roads Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – JIM CUDDY 101

The following reply was given:-

“Funding available to the Council for 2009 has been substantially reduced due to a reduction in Local Government Funding from the State, significant reductions in Road Grants and reduced funding from local sources. The overall affect of the financial constraints and the requirements of Government have meant that the Council has had to achieve savings in areas such as non filling of vacancies arising including maternity leave, cessation of employment of temporary staff, cuts in overtime/allowances and travel costs which were essential in an effort to secure the continued full employment of the permanent workforce in so far as is possible. The Council is continuing to explore all options in relation to the

achievement of cost reductions having regard to the reduced resources and work programme and will continue to engage with the relevant union(s) in this regard.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – MICHAEL FAHY 102

Please see minute no. 88 of the minutes

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – MICHAEL FAHY 103

The following reply was given:-

“The contract documents for the Claregalway Sewerage Scheme, civil works were sent to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DoEHLG) in February 2008 and the DBO documents were issued to the DoEHLG in December 2008 as part of a bundle of four schemes including Claregalway, Milltown, Carraroe and Craughwell.

With regard to Clarenbridge Sewerage Scheme, the brief for the appointment of consultants to prepare the Preliminary Report was sent to the DoEHLG in April 2009.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – MICHAEL FAHY 104

The following reply was given:-

“The responsibility for the maintenance and/or diversion of the drain giving rise to this flooding rest with the relevant landowners and not the Council. The matter will be reviewed in the context of the appropriate provisions of the Roads Act 1993 relating to the responsibility of land owners/occupiers.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 38 – MICHAEL MULLINS 105

The following reply was given:-

“The M6 Galway / Ballinasloe Motorway is being developed as a Public Private Partnership and accordingly is being managed directly by the PPP Unit of the National Roads Authority. As Galway County Council is not party to the contract and is not managing the project, the Council cannot impose conditions relating to the timeframe for the opening of the motorway.

Notwithstanding same, the issue of the impact of the project on the adjoining road network and in particular the impact on the service roads has and continues to be the subject of ongoing exchanges between the Council and the National Roads Authority.

In this regard, funding in the amount of €1.5 million has been secured in the current year to address the damage to the public road network arising from the project. It remains the intention of the Council to continue to pursue the matter with the National Roads Authority with a view to securing the funding necessary to restore the adjoining road network to an appropriate standard.

In relation to flooding, this issue has recently been the subject of discussions between the contractor and the relevant landowners and it is the Councils understanding that proposals are now in place to resolve the matter.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 39 – MICHAEL MULLINS **106**
Please see minute no. 88 of the minutes

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 40 – MICHAEL MULLINS **107**

The following reply was given:-

This matter is to be raised for resolution of the Elected Members.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 41 – PAUL CONNAUGHTON **108**

The following reply was given:-

“Definition posts are generally provided at junctions on the National Primary and Secondary road network and on heavily trafficked Regional roads. The road in question is a local tertiary road which provides access to approximately five dwellings. In the context of limited resources it is not intended at this time to extend the provision of definition post to include local tertiary roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 42 – PETER ROCHE **109**

The following reply was given:-

“Funding in the amount of €30,000 is provided in the 2009 Roads Programme under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works Scheme to facilitate works at this location. The project which will be completed in the current year includes provision for safety barriers at the junction.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 43 – PETER ROCHE **110**

The following reply was given:-

“Advance warning signs, rumble strips and additional road markings were introduced to this section of road during the last year. Statutory signs are also in place. It is intended to carry out further work, including the provision of additional chevrons at this location during the current year.”

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