

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

23rd November, 1981.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 4th December, 1981, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1980.
3. New Branch Libraries.
4. Any other business.

A visit to the new Galway City Branch Library in the Hynes' Building will follow.

To each member of the Committee
To the County Manager
To the County Secretary
To the editors of local newspapers

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 4th December, 1981, at 4.45 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. M. P. Kitt, T.D.

PRESENT: Sen. John M. Mannion, Deputy M. P. Kitt, Clrs. Michael J. Kilgannon, Michael Ryan, Nioclas O'Conchubhair, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverty and Michael A. Fahy, Ms. Maura Croffy, Mary Burke, and Margaret Stewart, Messrs. Sean Fahy, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely, Fintan Coogan, Jnr., and Christopher Townley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Misses Mary Kavanagh and Maureen Moran and Messrs. Peter Rabbitt and Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager.

The Chairman, Deputy Kitt, proposed a vote of sympathy to, Mrs. Cunningham, the daughter of the late, Clr. C. Toft, Mayor of Galway who had died on the previous day. It was seconded by Sen. Mannion.

Sen. Mannion proposed a vote of sympathy to the brother and sister of the late Georgina Carberry, Branch Librarian, Clifden, who died recently.

Mr. Sharkey, the County Librarian, associated himself with the votes of sympathy, on his own behalf and on behalf of his staff.

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the County Manager was unable to attend the Committee meeting because he had to attend a special meeting of Galway Corporation due to the death of the Mayor.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated to members, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Clr. Ryan.

1. ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sharkey told members that more books were needed for the new library buildings and he hoped that sufficient money would be provided in the 1982 estimate for this purpose. He pointed out that on a £10 book sterling it cost the Library £12.65 Irish Punts, a 26.5% increase even making allowances for library discount.

Mr. C. Townley agreed with the County Librarian that Library stock was expensive and costs were high especially when 15% V.A.T. and E.M.S. surcharges were added. He said the average cost of a hardback book was now £15 and because of the nature of the business of librarianship hardback books were needed.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1980:

The County Librarian told members that the major achievements of 1980 were the official openings of Clifden and Gort Branch Libraries. He said each had a stock of about 8,000 books.

Ms. M. Stewart in paying tribute to the library service said that second level school books were an integral part of education and she wondered could the library provide an improved service to those schools. The County Librarian said that Galway County Library was one of the few libraries to provide a service to secondary schools, but it was only a token service as the Department of Education did not provide any monies.

Ms. Stewart noted that £25,000 was recouped in respect of salaries from the Regional Technical College and she paid tribute to Ms. Mary Kavanagh and her staff for providing a good library service in the Regional Technical College. Mr. Sharkey thanked Ms. Stewart for her comments and he was glad members had an opportunity to thank Ms. Kavanagh and her staff for their good work.

Clr. Kilgannon asked the County Librarian if it was possible to make the library service more accessible to the disabled, particularly the physically disabled and the old and infirm. He suggested a postal service might be operated with lists of books being sent to these people. The Chairman asked Mr. Sharkey to investigate these proposals and see if a useful and practical service could be provided to the disabled, particularly this year, the year of the disabled. Mr. Sharkey said that postal charges were very high and he said that it would probably prove inadequate as people would like to choose from a stock of books. He said that special mobile services are provided in Great Britain where the disabled are visited in their homes. Clr. Mannion proposed that the librarian write to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs to see if it would subvent postage on books to the disabled and this was seconded by Mrs. Croffy.

Mr. F. Coogan noted that the number of books per pupil in schools for 1979/80 was two, well below the ten books minimum per pupil recommended by the U.N.E.S.C.O. Manual on Schools Libraries. He asked if an appeal had been made to the Department of Education. Mr. Sharkey said that a token grant was given to the library service by the Department and it was totally inadequate. He said that numerous appeals had been made to the Department by the Library Association of Ireland without success.

Mr. C. Townley said that Galway County Council should improve the nature of its mobile service. He said that the mobile service has grown in other counties, smaller than Galway. Mr. Townley said that a mobile service is an excellent service and it must be encouraged. He thought that one mobile for the whole of County Galway was not enough and he suggested the mobile service be improved. He thought that the Galway County Libraries should have at least two more mobiles. The Librarian, Mr. Sharkey, said that a mobile for Connemara was sanctioned by the Department of the Environment two years ago, but the Hynes Building came on the market and the money had to be diverted to provide a new library service for Galway City. He said that even if one extra mobile was approved it would not be in service before 1983. Mr. Sharkey agreed that one mobile for County Galway was not sufficient. Mrs. Croffy asked the Librarian about the cost of a new mobile. Mr. Sharkey said that a minimum of £40,000 would be required for the vehicle and that in addition it would have to be staffed, stocked, maintained and supplied with fuel.

3. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey told members that the most exciting development in 1981 was the new library in the Hynes Building, Galway, which was opened to the public on Thursday, 26th November. The County Librarian told members that the library moved into the Courthouse as a temporary measure in 1934 and finally in 1981 Galway City has a new library, centrally located, on the ground floor, with a bigger floor area than the Courthouse and a larger staff. He again told members he was not happy about the book stock as a large part of the resources during 1981 were concentrated on the Hynes Building project and as a result the Branch Libraries got a poorer service.

Clr. Kitt asked Mr. Sharkey about the date of the official opening of the Hynes Building. Mr. Sharkey replied that he did not know when the official opening would take place. The County Librarian told members that a preview was given to the press on Wednesday, 25th November, 1981.

PORTUMNA BRANCH LIBRARY: Mr. Sharkey informed members that work on Portumna Branch Library was now completed, but because of the stock situation it would probably not be opened until March. Portumna Branch had approximately 3,500 books, but Gort and Clifden opened with approximately 8,000 volumes. The County Librarian said all going well the next Committee meeting would be in Portumna.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chairman, Clr. Kitt, asked if it was possible for the library service to help out first and second level schools with a book lending scheme and perhaps even supply text books, particularly as libraries get a discount. Mr. Sharkey said it was always policy not to provide text books for schools as multiple copies would be needed and this would use up a large part of the book fund.

The Chairman then terminated the meeting and wished members a Happy Christmas.

Following the meeting a visit to the New Galway City Branch Library in the Hynes Building took place, where members were shown around by the County Librarian.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

4th March, 1982.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the New Library Premises in Portumna, on Friday, 12th March, 1982, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Estimates 1982.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association in the Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry, from 17th - 21st May, 1982.
5. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee
To the County Manager
To the County Secretary
To the editors of local newspapers

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

The Annual General Meeting of the County Libraries' Committee was held in the new Library, Portumna, Co. Galway, on Friday, 12th March, 1982, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Deputy Michael P. Kitt, Co.C.

PRESENT: Deputy Michael P. Kitt, Co.C., Sen. John M. Mannion, Co.C., Clrs. Michael J. Kilgannon, Edward Haverty, Michael A. Fahy, Thomas Welby, Joseph Brennan and M. Leahy, Mrs. Maura Croffy, Messrs. Sean Fahy, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely, Fintan Coogan, Jnr. and Christopher Townley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian, Messrs. P. Rabbitt and T. Finn, Assistant Librarians, and Mrs. McGuinness, Branch Librarian, Portumna.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. M. Stewart.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th December, 1981, as circulated to members, were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Clr. Kilgannon, seconded by Sen. J. M. Mannion.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sharkey told members that as promised at the last meeting, this meeting was being held in the new Portumna Branch Library. The County Librarian said that books and new shelving were required before it could be opened to the public. Mr. Keating said he was delighted that members could see the new Library building themselves. He said that it was a lovely centrally located branch and he was looking forward to the day when it would serve Portumna. The County Manager told members that there were problems as regards money. He said that the cost of the library service had grown enormously; up to 32% more than last year. Mr. C. Townley said that the new Portumna library was a fine building which stood up well to the standards of library buildings laid down by the Library Council. He said that everybody connected with the new library should be congratulated. Mr. Townley hoped that it would not be too long before books were supplied. He emphasised that a well selected stock of books in keeping with the fine building should be supplied to the new branch rather than any old stock. Mr. Townley said that the Ballinasloe Branch Library was one of the first purpose built libraries west of the Shannon and he hoped that the Galway Library Service would continue to provide good library facilities. He also hoped that Galway County Council would be sympathetic to the needs of the service and not cut the bookfund.

The Chairman, Deputy Kitt, said that the new library was a fine building and congratulated everybody involved with its erection. Deputy Kitt, the Chairman, welcomed Mrs. McGuinness, Branch Librarian, Portumna, to the meeting and thanked her for her services to Portumna. Mr. Sharkey said he was delighted to acknowledge publically all the trojan work Mrs. McGuinness had done for the library service down through the years. The County Manager, Mr. Keating, joined in welcoming Mrs. McGuinness to the meeting and hoped she would continue to serve the people of Portumna in the years to come. Mrs. McGuinness thanked the members for the sentiments expressed.

Mr. Sharkey told Clr. Kilgannon that he had had no response from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in relation to his proposal for a special postal service to the disabled and handicapped at home. Clr. Kilgannon said he was disappointed with the Post Office as he hoped they would have replied positively. Mr. Sharkey agreed to write again to the Department.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Sen. John Mannion said that it was the practice of the Committee to rotate the Chairmanship between members and he proposed Mr. Fintan Coogan. Clr. Kilgannon seconded Mr. Coogan and he was unanimously elected. Deputy Kitt was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman. On taking the Chair Mr. Coogan said he was honoured to be Chairman and hoped to carry out his work responsibly.

3. ESTIMATE 1982:

The County Manager, Mr. Keating, said that a total sum of £632,590 was estimated for the library service in 1982, a 32% increase and he pointed out that the maximum increase allowed from rates was only 15%. Mr. Keating warned that the estimate as presented might have to be cut before being presented at the County Councils' Estimates Meeting on 2nd April. He also stated that it was not yet clear if funds would be available to open Portumna. Mr. Sharkey referred to his summary of the Estimates. He welcomed Mr. Townley's comments on the importance of an adequate bookfund. The County Librarian said that the only items that could be cut were the bookfund and the amount estimated for office equipment. He was anxious to buy a new photocopier as soon as possible, and before V.A.T. was increased.

SCHOOLS SERVICE: Mr. Sharkey referred to his comments on the Schools Library Service stating that the service would cost approximately £70,000 in 1982 of which only £7,000 was recoupable from the Department of Education. He told members that while he got praise from teachers for the service, he felt it could be improved further.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN LIBRARY CHARGES: The County Librarian told members it was intended to increase adult registration fees from 25p to £2.00 with the exception of the Mobile Service. He said that the last increase was in April 1970 when the charge was increased from 2/- to 5/-. He said that the cost of a paper back book was now over £2.00 and a daily newspaper was 30p. Mr. Sharkey told Mr. Townley that children and old age pensioners were free and it was not intended to charge them.

Deputy Kitt asked Mr. Sharkey if there was an age limit on people using the adult service and if post primary students who intended to use the adult service would have to pay £2.00. Mr. Sharkey said it was difficult to assess a person's age and differentiate between students and other borrowers. Deputy Kitt said that the Committee should not go ahead with the proposed increase and should postpone its decision until the County Council Estimates Meeting. Mr. Keating told Deputy Kitt that the Committee could pass the Estimate as presented and leave the particular item of the £2.00 charge to the County Council Meeting on 2nd April. Clr. Brennan proposed that the Committee should go ahead and adopt the Estimate including the £2.00 library charge. Clr. Kilgannon said that people do not appreciate services given free of charge. He agreed with Clr. Brennan and seconded the proposal to adopt the Estimate. The Chairman, Mr. Coogan, then put Deputy Kitt's proposal, which was seconded by Clr. Fahy, that the Estimate be adopted with the exception of the £2.00 library charge, which would be reviewed at the Council Meeting of 2nd April, to the meeting, but it was defeated by six votes to two.

The meeting then agreed to adopt the Estimates as presented on the proposal of Clr. Brennan seconded by Clr. Kilgannon.

4. NOMINATION TO ATTEND THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE IN KILLARNEY:

Three names were proposed by members, Mr. Padraic Conneely, Clr. Michael A. Fahy and Clr. E. Haverty. Clr. Haverty withdrew and Mr. Conneely and Clr. Fahy were nominated to attend. Clr. Haverty was nominated as substitute if either of those nominated was unable to attend.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Sean Fahy welcomed members to Portumna and said that the Library Service could be proud of the fine new Library Building. Clr. E. Haverty also welcomed members to Portumna.

Mr. Sharkey extended his best wishes to Mr. C. Townley on his retirement as Librarian of University College Galway and thanked him for his service to the County Libraries Committee. The Chairman, Mr. Coogan, also thanked Mr. Townley for his great service to the County and wished him well in his retirement. Replying Mr. Townley thanked members for their sentiments and said he was glad to serve on the Galway County Libraries Committee. He said he was pleased to see the service being widely used in the County and he enjoyed representing it on the Library Council in Dublin. He told members that Mr. Alf McLochlainn of the National Library of Ireland would be his successor in the University.

A vote of sympathy was passed to two members of the staff, Miss Maureen Moran on the death of her mother and Miss Mary Qualter on the death of her father.

Michael A. Fahy

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE


Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

11th October, 1982.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the New Branch Library Portumna, on Friday, 22nd October, 1982, at 5.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,



LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1981.
3. Library Headquarters.
4. Staff.
5. Any other business.

The Official Opening of the new Branch Library in Portumna will be performed by Clr. Edward Haverly, Chairman, Galway County Council, at 5.45 p.m.

To each member of the Committee
To the County Manager
To the County Secretary
To the Editors of local newspapers

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

A meeting of the County Libraries' Committee was held in the new Library, Portumna, on Friday, 22nd October, 1982.

IN CHAIR: Mr. Fintan Coogan, Jnr.

PRESENT: Deputy M. P. Kitt, Co.C., Deputy Frank Fahey, Co.C., Clrs. Michael J. Kilgannon, Michael Ryan, Nioclas O'Conchubhair, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverly, Michael A. Fahy, Joseph Brennan, Mrs. Maura Croffy, Messrs. Michael Leahy, Sean Fahy, Patrick Hynes, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss M. Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Mr. Martin Keating, Assistant Librarian and Mrs. Mary McGuinness, Branch Librarian, Portumna.

APOLOGIES: Miss Margaret Stewart and Mrs. Mary Burke.

A presentation of two pictures, of views of Portumna Castle, was made by Mr. D. Kearns to the Portumna Branch. Mr. Sean O'Dwyer, Chairman of the Portumna and District Development Company, thanked the County Manager and County Council officials, the Library Committee, the Architect and Contractor, for providing such a beautiful building. He wished every success to the new Library.

The Chairman, Mr. Fintan Coogan, thanked Mr. Kearns for the pictures.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March, 1982, as circulated to members, were unanimously adopted, on the proposal of Clr. Michael Ryan, seconded by Clr. Michael A. Fahy.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1981:

Mr. Sharkey commented on the Statistical Report, which showed an increase in issues of books from County Branch Libraries of 18,744 over the figure for the previous year. Issues in Galway City Branch increased by 14,585. There were increases in the following County Branches:- Ballinasloe, Athenry, Clifden and on the Mobile Library. The overall increase was 41,069 over 1980. Membership, overall, increased from 15,832 to 17,698, a total of 1,866 or 11.79%. Clr. Kilgannon complimented the Library Staff on the service provided, but requested that more books on the "do it yourself" type be supplied, and he thought that books on recreational matters, arts and crafts, and agriculture, were not sufficiently highlighted. He also asked that books for school libraries be selected with care. He had discovered an unsuitable book in his school's library.

3. LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS:

The County Manager told the meeting that there was severe pressure by the Courts, for extra accommodation in the Courthouse, which would necessitate the Library Headquarters being accommodated elsewhere. He said that a site, owned by Galway Corporation, adjacent to the proposed new municipal offices would be available for a new Headquarters. However, money was not yet available for a new building and would not be for some considerable time.

He was being pressurized by the County Registrar and the Judges to vacate the Courthouse immediately. A nearby building had been examined, it was found suitable and it was the cheapest available. The terms had been agreed with the owners subject to the approval of the County Council and An Chomhairle Leabharlanna. The rent would be £33,500 p.a., half of which would be recouped by subsidy. There would be no revision of rent until the sixth year. It would be on the agenda for discussion at the next County Council Meeting on 25th November.

Mr. Tom Browne stated that the staff in the Courthouse worked under archaic conditions, there was no confidentiality, and no private rooms for the family court consultations.

4. STAFF:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the regrading of library staff had finally been implemented. Miss Mary Kavanagh had been appointed to the grade of Executive Librarian and Mrs. Anne White, Bernie Kelly, Catherine Farragher and Miss Josephine Mannion had been appointed to the grade of Senior Library Assistant.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Keating informed the meeting that the official opening of Portumna Branch Library and Portumna Fire Station would follow immediately. Mr. Padraic Conneely inquired about the official opening of Galway City Branch and who would perform the ceremony. Mr. Keating replied he was open to suggestions on this matter.

Clr. O'Conchubhair stated that a new Community Centre was planned for Carraroe and suggested that a Branch Library be provided there. The County Librarian informed him that he would be interested in doing so as he was not satisfied with the service being given to Carraroe by the Mobile Library.

The meeting then ended at 6.00 p.m.

John Bogan
18/5/83

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

9th March, 1983.

A Chara,

The Annual General Meeting of the Galway County Libraries' Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, on Friday, 18th March, 1983, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Estimates 1983.
4. Nomination of two delegates to a Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Branch, The Library Association in the Newpark Hotel, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny, from 2nd - 6th May, 1983.
5. Branch Libraries.
6. Any other business.

To each member of the Committee
To the County Manager
To the County Secretary
To the editors of local newspapers

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

The Annual General Meeting of the County Libraries' Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Galway, on Friday, 18th March, 1983, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Deputy Fintan Coogan, Jnr.

PRESENT: Sen. John M. Mannion, Co.C., Deputies Frank Fahey and Fintan Coogan, Jnr., Clrs. Michael Ryan, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverly, Michael A. Fahy, Thomas Welby and Joseph Brennan, Mes. Maura Croffy, Mary Burke and Margaret Stewart, Messrs. Tom Browne, Sean Fahy, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely and Alf MacLochlainn.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss Mary Kavanagh, Executive Librarian; Messrs. Peter Rabbitt and Martin Keating, Assistant Librarians.

APOLOGIES: Clr. Michael Leahy.

The Chairman, Deputy Fintan Coogan, Jnr., proposed votes of sympathy to:- Miss Margaret Stewart on the recent death of her father; Miss K. McGlynn, Branch Librarian, Roundstone, on the death of her brother; and Mrs. N. Kenny, Branch Librarian, Ballygar, on the death of her brother.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, 22nd October, 1982, as circulated to members were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Clr. J. Brennan and seconded by Clr. P. J. Finnegan. Arising from the minutes Mr. T. Browne inquired about the feasibility of moving the Library Headquarters from the Courthouse. In reply Mr. S. Keating, County Manager, stated that at the County Council Meeting on the previous Friday, the Council had consented to the library moving to alternative accommodation provided that the Land Registry be restored to Galway. The County Manager also stated that the only suitable accommodation available for Library Headquarters was at Island House, Cathedral Square. Mr. Keating had communicated with the Department of Justice informing them of the proviso re the Land Registry.

Deputy Coogan complimented the County Manager, The County Librarian and Library Staff on the official opening of Portumna Branch Library.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Clr. Michael A. Fahy was unanimously elected Chairman, on the proposal of Clr. E. Haverly, seconded by Clr. Thomas Welby. Deputy Fintan Coogan was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Clr. Thomas Welby, seconded by Sen. John Mannion. Clr. Fahy took the chair.

3. ESTIMATES 1983:

Mr. Sharkey commented on the estimates which had previously been circulated. He stated that the I.F.L.A. Standards on public libraries stated that there should be a minimum standard of two books per head of population. Galway County Libraries had not yet reached this target.

Mr. Michael Ryan requested information on the proposed Branch Library in Moylough. Mr. Sharkey stated that alterations to the proposed premises would start immediately and it should be ready in about two months. Meanwhile the Mobile Library would continue to serve the community. Senator John Mannion inquired if the top floor in Clifden Branch had been rented. The County Manager stated that an offer had been received, which had been quite low. It was hoped to improve this offer.

Deputy Coogan inquired about the use of Audio Visual aids in libraries. Clr. Brennan complimented the library staff on its initiative and hoped that the Audio Visual aids would be available to schools. Clr. Michael Fahy complimented Mr. Sharkey on his report and for his work in the library service. Clr. J. Brennan proposed the adoption of the estimates, which was seconded by Deputy Coogan.

4. NOMINATION OF DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND:

Clr. E. Haverty was proposed by Clr. P. Finnegan, seconded by Clr. Michael Fahy. Senator John Mannion was proposed by Deputy Coogan, seconded by Clr. J. Brennan. Both were unanimously elected. Clr. Michael Fahy was proposed as substitute delegate, by Clr. Haverty, seconded by Clr. Finnegan.

5. BRANCH LIBRARIES:

Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting that the owner of Kinvara Branch Library had terminated the lease, so the Branch Library had been closed from the end of February. Meanwhile a new premises is being sought. Deputy F. Fahy inquired about the possibility of providing a mobile service or rented accommodation until a new library would be ready. Mr. P. Conneely inquired re the proposed Branch Library in Shantalla/Newcastle. He requested information on this matter for the next meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. P. Conneely inquired re the official opening of Galway City Branch Library, Mr. Sharkey informed him that no decision had yet been made.

Michael Fahy

24 - 8 - '83.

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE


Co. Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

17th August, 1983.

A Chara,

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held in the Community Hall, Moylough, on Wednesday, 24th August, 1983, at 4.00 p.m.

Mise, le meas,


LEABHARLANNAI CHONTAE.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Statistical Report 1982.
3. New County Library Headquarters.
4. Moylough Branch Library.
5. Any other business.

The Official Opening of the new Branch Library in Moylough will be performed by Clr. M. Ryan, Chairman, Galway County Council, at 5.00 p.m.

To each member of the Committee
To the County Manager
To the County Secretary
To the editors of local newspapers

LEABHARLANNA CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

A meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee was held in the Community Hall, Moylough, on Wednesday, 24th August, 1983, at 4.00 p.m.

IN CHAIR: Clr. Michael A. Fahy.

PRESENT: Sen. John M. Mannion, Co.C.; Deputies M. P. Kitt, Co.C. and Fintan Coogan, Jnr.; Clrs. Michael J. Kilgannon, Michael Ryan, Nioclás O'Conchubhair, Patrick J. Finnegan, Edward Haverly, Michael A. Fahy, Joe Callanan and Padraic McCormack; Mrs. Maura Croffy; Messrs. Sean Fahy, Frank Donoghue, Padraic Conneely and Alf MacLochlainn.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Keating, County Manager; Mr. T. Sharkey, County Librarian; Miss Maureen Moran and Mr. Peter Rabbitt, Assistant Librarians.

The Chairman, Clr. M. Fahy, welcomed the members to the meeting in Moylough and announced that the new Branch Library would be officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council, Clr. Michael Ryan, at 5.00 p.m.

Clr. Ryan then addressed the meeting. He welcomed the County Manager, County Librarian and members to Moylough and thanked them for holding the Libraries Committee Meeting in the Community Hall on the occasion of the opening of a new Library. Clr. Ryan told members that Moylough nearly lost its Library but owing to the community spirit, voluntary help, the co-operation of the County Librarian and County Manager, and the provision of a premises by the community they had retained their own Branch Library.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, 18th March 1983, as circulated to members were unanimously adopted on the proposal of Deputy F. Coogan seconded by Mr. Sean Fahy. Arising from the minutes Mrs. Croffy asked the County Librarian if the Library was making any progress towards the provision of two books per head of population as laid down in the I.F.L.A. Standards for Public Libraries. Mr. Sharkey informed the meeting about the large cut made by the County Council in the bookfund and reported as follows:-

"It is my duty especially for the information of Committee members who are not County Councillors to comment on the minutes of the last meeting.

As far as I am aware in 1983 the County Council amended the estimate recommended by the County Libraries Committee for the first time since I joined the service.

My original estimate for books was for £160,000. This figure was reduced by £71,000 leaving a balance of £89,000.

I do not wish to bore the members with statistics, but it may be that my estimate for books was considered excessive. A comparison with some other counties for which I have the amount estimated for books in 1983 may be appropriate. They are as follows:-

	<u>Bookfund</u>	<u>Population</u>		
Cavan	£24,269	53,855	=	£77,517.96
Kilkenny	£75,600	70,806	=	£183,664.46
Leitrim	£31,000	27,609	=	£193,145.63
Limerick County	£138,000	100,925	=	£235,209.00
Mayo	£70,000	114,766	=	£104,920.00
Offaly	£37,675	58,312	=	£111,139.69
Roscommon	£65,000	54,543	=	£204,997.00
Sligo	£40,000	55,474	=	£124,035.04
Waterford County	£45,000	50,118	=	£154,451.00
Galway	£90,590	172,018		

Amount originally estimated for books, Binding, Periodicals and Microfilms = £166,000.00.

New Branch Libraries were opened to the public in Clifden and Gort in 1979; in Galway City in November, 1981 and in Portumna in June 1982.

It was necessary to give these new projects priority in regard to new books; otherwise we would have had fine new buildings inadequately stocked. It is false economy to provide such facilities without having a commitment to providing an adequate stock of books.

I had hoped to improve the stock in the other branches in 1983, but this is not now possible. It is well to remember that a bookfund of £160,000 in Irish Punt is worth £116,696.32 sterling at present. Only a very small number of books are published in Ireland.

The total spent on books for the schools service in 1981 was £32,000.00, this year the total will amount to £13,000. The number of new books for schools will, therefore, be limited in the present financial year.

In the present financial year the library service will cost an estimated £533,890 of which £95,900 or 17.96% will be spent on books. The Library bookfund is always very vulnerable. It is akin to a piggy bank and it can be raided at any time during the year. All other charges must be paid unless buildings, staff and transport are pruned.

In conclusion I would ask all members of the Committee to decide if the library service should expand, or decline. It will take some time to recover from the set back suffered in the present financial year.

The next meeting will be the estimates meeting when I shall hope to retrieve our book spending power.

In order to spend the bookfund efficiently I must know the position early in the new year so that I may spread the expenditure over twelve months.

There are large numbers of new books being published daily and it is vital not to miss important new books which often go out-of-print very quickly.

The provision of new Branches means continuous extra expenditure. Once a new Branch is built the Loan Charges must be paid back over a long period, rates, maintenance, light and heat and so on are ongoing charges which increase each year".

Mrs. Croffy thanked Mr. Sharkey for his comments and said that it would be a retrograde step if the Committee allowed the Library Service to decline. She said that Galway County was a University County, with a Regional Technical College and other educational Colleges which meant that there was a huge demand on books. Mrs. Croffy deplored the cutback in the Schools bookfund and said it was essential for young people to learn to read. She said that with the unemployment problems people should be encouraged to go into Libraries and read, and the Committee should help them. Clr. M. Ryan told the meeting that Galway County Council faced difficult problems owing to new charges being introduced. Clr. Ryan said that the Council had four meetings on the Estimate and a Finance Committee was set up and this proposed a saving of £122,000 from services including the Library Service which meant a 20% reduction on rates and water charges. He regretted that the bookfund had to be cut. The Chairman, Clr. Fahy, said that he had fought to save the bookfund, but there were severe financial problems in the County Council.

The County Manager said that the Council is set on an expansion programme in the Library Service and in order to have a service there must be provision made for buildings, staff and books. Mr. Keating said that the cut in the bookfund had only happened once and if it was repeated then problems would ensue for the Library Service. He added that there must be an adequate book stock in the Branch Libraries.

Mr. Alf McLochlainn asked what was the present membership fee. Mr. Sharkey told him it was £5 per adult; £8 per husband and wife and £2 per child using the adult library. Mr. McLochlainn asked if the library was losing its readership by increasing the charges. Mr. Sharkey regretted that this was the case, but pointed out that membership of the children's library was free. Old age pensioners were free.

Clr. Kilgannon said that the County Council held Mr. Sharkey in high regard and that cutting the bookfund in the Estimate was necessary as there were financial problems. Clr. Kilgannon said that the Library Service was vulnerable when it came to cuts and he asked members to ensure that the Library Service was protected. The Chairman agreed with Clr. Kilgannon and thanked Mr. Sharkey for his comments.

Deputy F. Coogan asked if the unemployed could be offered free membership of the Library Service. The County Manager told Deputy Coogan that he would look into the matter sympathetically. A general discussion followed on the difficulties of implementing free membership for the unemployed in the Library and the Chairman ended the discussion with the promise that it would be considered at the next Committee Meeting which would be the Estimates meeting.

Clr. P. McCormack suggested that the Library Service refrain from purchasing books until the County Council had passed the Library Estimate. The County Manager pointed out that all the County Council services had go ahead and up to a third of the total expenditure has been spent before the County Council passed the Estimates. Mr. Sharkey said that the expenditure on books should be spread over the full year.

2. STATISTICAL REPORT 1982:

Mr. Sharkey pointed out a number of errors on page one of the Statistical Report. He said that the total expenditure on the Library Service in 1982 was £598,344, receipts were £97,309, leaving the net cost of the service at £501,035. The cost per head of the population was £2.915.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Sharkey for his report and it was adopted unanimously by the meeting on the proposal of Clr. Ryan seconded by Mr. P. Conneely.

3. NEW COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS:

The County Manager, Mr. Keating, told members that a resolution on the new Library Headquarters was on the County Council Agenda. He stated that he could not approach the Department of the Environment for a loan (£8,000) until the resolution was passed by the Council. He also stated that he could not give an opening date until the necessary financial arrangements had been made.

4. MOYLOUGH BRANCH LIBRARY:

Mr. Sharkey said that the Library was established in Moylough in late 1951 or early 1952. Some years later it was removed to the late Mrs. O'Malley's private house where it had remained until recently. The County Librarian told members that he thought the people of Moylough would be better served by a Mobile Library with its full time staff and larger book stock as the old premises was too small and was rarely used. A decision was taken to remove the branch and replace it with a mobile service until a suitable premises was provided. He gave great credit to the people of Moylough for offering a room in the Community Hall as a Branch Library, and for carrying out renovations to the premises at their own expense and by voluntary labour. He was delighted to restore the Branch Library again to Moylough. The County Manager complimented the local people on their work and initiative. The Chairman also complimented the people of the area for their interest in retaining the Branch Library facilities.

Clr. Ryan said that it was brought to his notice that the old Branch Library was not being used. The premises was not in good order and the books were damp. When it was decided to close the Library in Moylough the people banded together to try and provide a proper Branch Library for the town. A meeting room in the Hall was offered as a Branch Library premises. The County Manager accepted the offer and with a great amount of voluntary help from the Community they were now able to open a new Branch Library. Clr. Ryan also praised the work of Deputies Paul Connaughton and Michael Kitt for their untiring efforts to retain the Branch Library in Moylough. Mr. Kitt thanked the people of Moylough for their help and also thanked the County Manager and County Librarian and staff for their part in providing the Library.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chairman of the Committee asked the County Librarian about the closure of the Branch Library in Kinvara and if any effort was being made to replace it. He added that a Library should be provided in Kinvara as soon as possible. Mr. Sharkey replied that a Mobile Library was providing a temporary service in Kinvara at present and that the County Council was seeking a site for a new Branch Library.

Mr. P. Conneely asked about the proposed Library in the new Westside Shopping Centre in Galway City. The County Manager told Mr. Conneely that a site had originally been reserved by the Corporation for a Branch Library, but it entailed its being purchased.

He stated that it was low on the list of priorities at present and advised the Committee not to press the matter for the present.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

The meeting was followed by the official opening of the new Library by Clr. Michael Ryan, Chairman of Galway County Council. It was blessed by Rev. Fr. Tobin, P.P., and a prayer was read by Rev. Fr. Canavan, C.C.

Clr. Ryan, the Chairman of the Libraries Committee, Clr. M. Fahy, the County Manager, Mr. S. Keating and County Librarian, Mr. T. Sharkey thanked all who helped to provide the Library premises for Moylough. They also thanked the Ladies Committee for providing refreshments. Clr. Ryan thanked Miss O'Malley who has provided a premises for the Library for many years and he welcomed the new Branch Librarian, Mrs. E. Curran. Clr. Ryan ended by appealing to everybody in Moylough to make use of the Library Service.