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Galway County Council Archives

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,

COUNCIL MINUTES

GC/1/34

18 JULY 1994 - 19 DECEMBER 1994

2807

Gc/1/34

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY

COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY

BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER,

1994

CATHAOIRLEACH:- An Comhairleoir P. O'Tuathail.

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Councillors J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, E. O Cuiv, Councillors M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S.Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Councillors P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley and T. Walsh.

Oifigigh: Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, County Manager, J. Crotty, A/County Engineer, D. Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, P. Ridge, R. Faherty, F. Gilmore, S.E.E.'s, J. Eising, A/S.E.E., D. O'Connor, A/E.E., T. Coughlan, A.O., J. O'Neill, S.S.O., C. O'Hara, S.O. and T. Kavanagh, County Secretary.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor Gavin all the Members congratulated Mr. Tom Coughlan on his appointment as County Secretary, Clare County Council. They complimented Mr. Coughlan on his excellent work with the Council and mentioned a number of projects which he was involved in. The County Manager joined with the Members in

2807

congratulating Mr. Coughlan for the very significant contribution he had made to Galway County Council. He said that he had recently assigned him a role in the promotion of local development and he had done an excellent job. He wished him and his family every success. The County Manager also mentioned the appointment of Mr. Jim McGovern as Secretary to the Western Regional Authority and the appointment of Mr. John Moran, Town Clerk, Ballinasloe as Administrative Officer with Sligo County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Mullins, the Members offered congratulations to the new Taoiseach and Cabinet and wished them well.

Ghlach an Cathaoirleach comhghairdeachas leis an t-Uasal T. O'Coilain as ucht an fíor job a rinne se don Comhairle. Ghabh se gach rath don Rialtas nua.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

2808

On the proposition of Councillor Callanan, a Resolution of Sympathy was passed to Councillor O'Sullivan on the death of his Father-in-law.

Resolutions of Sympathy were also adopted with the following:-

Mrs. Josephine Vaughan, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe.
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Clarke, Mayour, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe.

MINUTES

2809

On the proposition of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Finnerty the Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held on 4th November, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposition of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Senator McDonagh the Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held on 11th November, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposition of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Gavin the Minutes of Estimates Meeting held on 14th November, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposition of Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Gavin the Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21st November, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposition of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Mannion the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 28th November, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposition of Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Finnegan the Minutes of the Adjourned Estimates Meeting held on 2nd December, 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD

2810

On the proposition of An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta the following road was declared to be a public road, the necessary procedures having been complied with.

Limistéar Tuarascail
Innealtoireacht

Casla Bothar ag tosnu ag gabhal le bothar chondae 284 agus ag dul ar aghaidh soir o thuaidh ar feadh 395 meadar i mbaile fearainn Cill Ronan.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF GALWAY COUNTY

2811

COUNCIL ON GOVERNING BODY OF U.C.G.

The Secretary stated that all the necessary procedures had been complied with in connection with the election of a representative of Galway County Council on the Governing Body of University College Galway. The last date for submission of completed nomination papers was 25th November, 1994. One nomination was received signed by Councillor Mannion and Senator McDonagh nominating Councillor Tiernan Walsh as the Council's representative. That nomination was now before the Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Mannion it was resolved that Galway County Council nominate Councillor Tiernan Walsh as the Council's representative on the Governing Body of University College Galway for the period of office commencing the 1st of February 1995.

LOUGHREA BY-PASS

2812

Report of County Secretary dated 13/12/94 which had

been circulated with the Agenda was submitted. The Secretary went through the Report saying that the By-pass had been under consideration for the past 25 years and was now at a critical stage and should be submitted to the National Roads Authority as soon as possible. The Loughrea Area Committee had recommended its adoption. Mr. Jack Eising, Acting Senior Executive Engineer then addressed the Meeting outlining details of the By-Pass on a large map. He gave details of the annual average daily traffic on the N6 in the vicinity of Loughrea as 7,800 vehicles per day which was expected to rise to 17,000 vehicles over the next 20 years. He said that the route chosen is the best route and it was estimated that it would divert 85% of the traffic from the town. He gave details of the three bridges included in the By-pass.

Councillor Regan proposed that the proposal be accepted. He said that the Loughrea Area Committee had agreed to recommend it and it had been under discussion for the last 25 years. He said it would be impossible to design a By-pass 4.7 km long which would please everybody. The Council had made adjustments as far as was reasonably possible. It had been agreed at the Area Meeting that other roads would be included in the submission for upgrading and lighting.

Councillor McClearn said that the Loughrea By-pass had been a difficult issue over the years and the present proposal was the best to come forward and included a number of amendments which had been requested. He seconded Councillor Regan's proposal. He asked that the Council would deal fairly in negotiations with landowners and appealed to the Members to adopt the proposal.

Councillor Fahy supported the proposal and said that it would be an enhancement to the town and environment. He said it was close to the town and would help the town to develop properly.

Councillor Loughnane said he wanted to make submissions for lighting and other safety measures on roads adjacent to the By-pass. He proposed that Route Lighting be provided from Greeneenagh into town to facilitate workers and pedestrians using that road. He also proposed Route Lighting at the other end of the By-pass and the upgrading of the road from Bride Street to the Bridge on the By-pass. He said the Fortlands Road needs improvement.

Councillor W. Burke said that the By-pass was long overdue and he supported the present proposal. He said that it was impossible to meet everybody's requirements and no further delay should be allowed.

Councillor Cunningham supported the proposal and acknowledged the submissions which had been taken into account by the Officials. He asked for the full support of the Council.

Councillor Byrne also supported the By-pass saying that it was long overdue. In relation to Councillor Loughnane's addenda, he said that he would have no objection to including these if this was possible. Deputy Connaughton, Councillors O'Neachtain, J. Burke, O'Sullivan also supported the proposal saying that the traffic was choking the town and the By-pass would enable the town to develop properly.

The County Manager said that the Loughrea By-pass was long overdue and it was important to put in place the next planning stage. Loughrea was one of the remaining bottle-necks on the National Route and with an estimated annual increase in traffic of 6.5% the situation would become intolerable. He said that the additional requests agreed at the Area Meeting and mentioned at to-days meeting would be included in the submission to the National Roads Authority but there was no guarantee that they would be accepted. He said a lot of work had to be done yet and the matter was now urgent. In reply to Councillor Loughnane he confirmed that the provision of lighting at both ends of the By-pass and the upgrading of Caheronaun Road would be included in the submission.

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

PROGRESS REPORTS - SANITARY SERVICES SCHEMES

2813

On the proposition of Councillor Mannion, it was agreed that presentations be made to the meeting in relation to items 4 and 5 but that there be no discussion and the items be put on the agenda for the January Meeting.

Report of Assistant County Manager, Mr. Nelson dated 13th December, 1994 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was divided into five sections. Section 1 referred to schemes which are already in progress. Section 2 sets out the schemes for which assistance under the E.U. Cohesion Fund has been or will be sought. Sections 3 and 4 provide details of schemes which will require exchequer funding (i.e. Non Cohesion Fund Applications). Section 5 gives an idea of the financial and other implications for the Council arising from its Sanitary Services Capital Programme.

Mr. Paul Ridge, Senior Executive Engineer then made a presentation to the meeting using an over-head

projector. He first spoke about drinking water quality and referred to the surface water directive and drinking water directive. He then spoke about waste water discharges and the urban waste water directive. He then explained the planning process in relation to Capital Sanitary Schemes : Stage 1 - design brief, Stage 2 - preliminary report, Stage 3 - contract documents, Stage 4 - tendering process. He explained the necessity to advertise in the E.U. Journal where the estimated cost exceeded a certain threshold. Mr. Ridge then explained the two types of E.U. Funding i.e. E.R.D.F. and Cohesion. He then gave details of the three projects for which assistance under E.U. Cohesion Funding is being sought. These are:-

- (a) Lough Derg Catchment Protection Scheme.
- (b) North Galway Water and Sewerage Project.
- (c) Connemara Environmental Project.

Mr. Ridge explained the principle objectives of each scheme and the proposed strategies to achieve these objectives. Finally Mr. Ridge spoke about the estimated cost of the schemes, the funding available from E.R.D.F. and Cohesion Funds over the period of the National Plan and also the cost of maintenance.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Ridge for his presentation.

WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 1995 - 2015

2814

A discussion document on Waste Management Strategy had been circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. Mr. R. Faherty, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment then made a presentation to the meeting on the subject using the over-head projector. He said that the report circulated was a discussion document and he thanked Mr. Denis O'Connor, Acting Executive Engineer for his assistance in putting it together. He said that while it was necessary to mention other Local Authorities in the report, it did not involve them in any commitment. Mr. Faherty then spoke about waste management policy in Ireland and waste disposal legislation including E.U. directives. He spoke about existing waste disposal in County Galway, the remaining dumps and their life-span. He then dealt with the proposed strategy which was a joint approach by the County Council and the Corporation for the development of one landfill site to serve both areas. Included in his presentation Mr. Faherty referred to waste prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling and showed slides of a transfer station in County Waterford and a new landfill site in County Kerry. He also touched on

various costings.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Faherty for his presentation. The County Manager said that the matter would be on the agenda again for the January Meeting and if the Council wished arrangements could be made to visit the new landfill site in Kerry.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

2815

Report from County Secretary dated 13th December, 1994 was circulated to each Member with the agenda. The matter arose from a suggestion at the Estimates Meeting that Local Improvement Schemes should be carried out by contract. The report did not recommend any change in the present system. The report was approved.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL, URBAN AND RURAL 2816

DEVELOPMENT

A copy of the Operational Programme for Local, Urban and Rural Development had been circulated to each Member with the Agenda. The Secretary said that it was circulated for information purposes and gave a brief summary of it. It was decided to put the matter on the agenda for the January Meeting.

HEDGE CUTTING

2817

It was agreed to defer this item to the January Meeting.

CONFERENCES

2818

On the proposition of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the attendance of Councillor Walsh instead of Councillor J. Burke at a conference on Coastal Erosion in Wexford on 27/5/1994 was approved.

BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER

2819

FIVE YEAR ROADS PLAN

The Secretary stated that the Five Year Roads Plan had been circulated to each Member and would be considered at the Area Meetings.

SMALL WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAMME

The Secretary advised the Members that sanction had been received from the Department of the Environment of a grant of £75,000 in respect of the Carraroe Village Water/Sewerage Supply. He said that the Council had submitted two schemes under the small schemes projects and that a grant of £75,000 for the other scheme i.e. Portumna Water had been notified earlier in the year.

Gabh an Cathaoirleach buiochas don Bainisteoir as an Ion a thug se dos na Comhairleoiri agus gui se Nollag Shona ar gach einne.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

N.O.M. NO. 12 - ROADS - CLLR. P. MCHUGH

2820

The following written reply was given to Councillor McHugh:-

"The above location is being examined at present with a view to having works carried out under Community Employment Scheme. Any assistance that might be given by the Local Community Council i.e. drawings, plans etc. would be welcome."

N.O.M. NO. 13 - PARKING AREA - CLLR. P. MCHUGH

2821

The following written reply was given to Councillor McHugh:-

"The above location is being examined at present with a view to having works carried out under Community Employment Scheme. Any assistance that might be given by the Local Community Council i.e. drawings, plans etc. would be welcome."

N.O.M. NO. 14 - ROAD - DEP. E. O'CUIV

2822

The following written reply was given to Deputy O'Cuiv:-

"The above road is not in charge of the Council. The estimated cost for bringing the road up to the required standard for taking in charge is £2,200."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - ROADS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN

2823

The following written reply was given to Councillor O'Neachtain:-

"I set out hereunder the total number of men employed by Galway County Council from 1979 to date. Road workers are no longer being replaced on a permanent basis but men are recruited as required on a temporary basis.

1979	752
1980	650
1981	591
1982	538
1983	495
1984	408
1985	413
1986	383
1987	355
1988	286
1989	286
1990	274
1991	271
1992	268
1993	247
1994	246

N.O.M. NO. 17 - HOUSING - CLLR. J. BURKE

2824

The following written reply was given to Councillor J. Burke:-

"It is intended to examine housing maintenance practices during 1995. The Housing Repair Programme is dealt with on a priority basis. Repairs will be carried out by a combination of direct labour and contract works to provide the best return for the resources available."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROADS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM

2825

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The above works involve re-alignment. The carrying out of such works on County Roads is not considered a priority while funds remain scarce."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 2826

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The above location will be considered when preparing the 1995 Public Lighting Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - LIGHTS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 2827

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This location will be considered along with others under the 1995 Road Works Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - CAR PARKING - CLLR. M. FAHY 2828

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The removal of clay banks at above location in 1995 will be considered if funds allow. The provision of car parking area outside Kileeneen National School is a matter for the school authorities."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - PARKING SIGN - CLLR. M. FAHY 2829

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"Parking takes place on the public road at above location. There is no legal restriction on this section of road and the provision of no parking lines on the road is not appropriate."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. FAHY 2830

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The above location is the National Primary Route N.18. The provision of Traffic Route Lighting on such routes is dependant on funds being made available by the National Road Authority. The council has not yet been notified of the 1995 Road Grants allocations."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROAD - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 2831

The following written reply was given to Councillor

Loughnane:-

"The carrying out of above works under the 1995 Road Works Programme is not considered a priority. However, this road is included under the Draft 5 Year Roads Programme for 1996."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - DRAINAGE - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 2832

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane :-

"The above drain will be cleaned as soon as possible. The provision of pipes is not warranted."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - SIGN POST - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 2833

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"It is not Council policy to provide such signs on National Routes."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 2834

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The provision of school flashing lights at above location will be considered along with others in the preparation of the 1995 Road Works Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 2835

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This matter is being investigated at present and it is hoped to have a reply available for the next meeting".

N.O.M. NO. 29 - BOTHAR - COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 2836

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

"Beidh muid ag cuir comhartha suas ag an láthair thuais luaite go gairid."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - COSAN - COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 2837

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

"Nil se ar intinn ag an gComhairle Contae cosán a chuir ar fáil ag an láthair seo, mar nil muid indhon caoi a choinneáil ar na cinn ata againn faoi lathair toisc ganntanas airgid."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - HOUSING - CLLR. C. NI FHATHARTA 2838

The following written reply was given to Councillor Ni Fhatharta:-

"Repairs were carried out to this house during 1993. The dwelling was inspected again in early December 1994 and minor items of repair remained to be dealt with. These repairs are ongoing at present. It is hoped that they would be completed within the next month."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - BOTHAR - TEACHTA E. O'CUIV 2839

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Teachta O'Cuiv:-

"Beidh muid ag deánamh an obair seo an chéad Bhliain eile."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - BOTHAR - TEACHTA E. O'CUIV 2840

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Teachta O'Cuiv:-

"Beidh muid ag scrúdu an cás seo nuair a bheidh muid ag cur an clár oibre 1995 le cheile."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - BOTHAR - TEACHTA E. O'CUIV 2841

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Teachta O'Cuiv:-

"Beidh muid ag deánamh obair deisiuchan ag an láthair thuas luaite go gairid."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - BOTHAR - COMH. O'NEACHTAIN 2842

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir O'Neachtain:-

"Beidh muid ag scrúdu an cás seo nuair a bheidh muid ag cur an clár oibre 1995 le cheile."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - BRIDGE - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 2843

The following written reply was given to Councillor O'Neachtain:-

"Appropriate signs will be provided at the above location as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 37 - ROAD - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 2844

The following written reply was given to Councillor O'Neachtain:-

"This matter is being investigated at present."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROAD - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 2845

The following written reply was given to Councillor O'Sullivan:-

"A design has been prepared for the above location. The carrying out of the above works is considered a priority and will be carried out in 1995 subject to funding."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 2846

The following written reply was given to Councillor O'Sullivan:-

"This road was recently inspected and was considered to be in a satisfactory state of repair. However, if further details are supplied the matter will be further investigated."

N.O.M. NO. 40 - FLOODING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 2847

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Remedial works will be carried out at the above location under the 1995 Road Works Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 41 - FLOODING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 2848

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Remedial works will be carried out at the above location under the 1995 Road Works Programme."

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
(Galway County Council)

Oifig an Runai,
Arus an Chontae,
GAILLIMH.

13 Nollaig, 1994.

CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/

A Chara,

Iarrtar ort leis seo bheith i lathair ag cruinniú Míosiúil de Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a thionolfar ins na Foirgnithe Chontae, Gaillimhe De Luain, an 19 u la Nollaig, 1994, ag tosnu ar a 3.30 a chlog sa trathnona.

Mise, le meas,

T. O CAOMHANAIGH,
RUNAI.

AGENDA

1. Consideration of Minutes of the following Meetings:
 - (a) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 11th November, 1994.
 - (b) Minutes of Estimates Meeting held on 14th November, 1994.
 - (c) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21st November, 1994.
 - (d) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 28th November, 1994.
 - (e) Minutes of Adjourned Estimates Meeting held on

2nd December, 1994.

2. Declaration of Road to be a Public Road (List attached).
 3. Election of Representative of Galway County Council on Governing Body of U.C.G.
 4. Loughrea Bye-Pass - Report herewith.
 5. Progress Report - Sanitary Services Schemes.
 6. Waste Management Strategy 1995 - 2015 - Discussion Document.
 7. Local Improvement Schemes - Report herewith.
 8. Operational Programme for Local, Urban and Rural Development.
 9. Hedgecutting.
 10. Business submitted by the Chairman.
 11. Business submitted by the County Manager.
-

N.O.M. NO. 42 - ROAD - CLLR. E. VARLEY

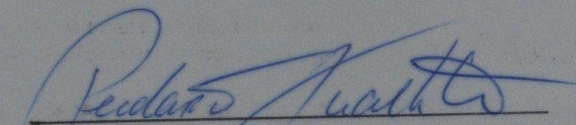
2849

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The carrying out of works at the above location will be considered in the preparation of the 1995 Road Works Programme."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN.

Submitted, Approved + Confirmed:


(Chairman)

23/1/95
Date:

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Post Office Box No. 27,
County Buildings,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.
MO THAG
My Ref.
DO THAG
Your Ref.



BOSCA POIST UIMHIR 27,
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
CNOC NA RADHARC,
GAILLIMH.
Telephone:
(091) 63151
Ext.
Fax No. (091) 65817

N6 - Loughrea Bypass

Introduction

The bypass of the town of Loughrea has been under consideration for a number of years, with various proposals for improving the flow of traffic in the town dating as far back as the 1968 Development Plan.

At present, the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on the N6 in the vicinity of Loughrea is approximately 7,800 vehicles per day, with 12% of these vehicles being Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCV's). Over the next 20 years, it is anticipated that the AADT will increase to approximately 17,000 vehicles per day, of which 2,040 would be HCV's. In the light of this anticipated growth in traffic, the construction of the bypass will be of vital importance for the development of the town.

It is anticipated that the cost of the scheme will be in the region of £7.5 million.

Proposed Bypass

The corridor of the proposed bypass is to the north of the town. The road will be a 2 x 2 lane dual carriageway with an 8 metre central reserve, 3.75 m. width lanes, 3 metre hard shoulders and 2 metre verges.

The length of the proposed bypass is approximately 4.7 km. Based on origin/destination surveys done in 1985, it is estimated that 85% of the current traffic through the town will divert to the bypass. It is also estimated that the journey time will be reduced by approximately 66% over the current situation.

Junction Design.

The proposed bypass intercepts five regional and county roads, namely the Atherry Road, the Raruddy Road, the Bullaun Road, the Danesfort Road and the Greencenagh Road. The Atherry Road and Raruddy Road will be serviced by a bridge over the bypass at the western end of the route. The Bullaun Road will be accommodated by a second bridge, and the Danesfort Rd and Greencenagh Rd will be serviced by a third bridge at the eastern end of the project.

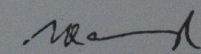
Planning and Implementation

The Loughrea Bypass is included in the Operational Programme for Transport 1994-1999, the indicative construction period being 1996-1998.

The Loughrea Area Committee have recommended the adoption of the proposed bypass route, and it is important that the same be approved by the Council and forwarded to the National Roads Authority as soon as possible.

The project will still have to go through:

- a) the new planning process for Local Authority works.
- b) minor variation of the Loughrea Town Development Plan.


T. Kavanagh, Runai
13/12/94

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
(Galway County Council)

Oifig an Runai,
Arus an Chontae,
GAILLIMH.

13 Nollaig, 1994.

CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/

A Chara,

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 9. Hedgecutting.
 10. Business submitted by the Chairman.
 11. Business submitted by the County Manager.
-

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTIONS :

- Adjourned From Previous Meeting :

12 CLR. PADDY MC HUGH
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council carry out amenity works to (details enclosed).

13 CLR. PADDY MC HUGH
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council carry out amenity works to (details enclosed).

14 CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV
- I will propose :

That repairs be carried out to the road in Aill na Brun (Cokes Point), as far as the house of Patricia O'Connell and I also propose that an estimate would be given to me of the cost of same.

15 CLR. SEAN O'NEACHTAIN
- I will propose :

That Galway County council would provide the latest information on the local Community Development Plan at this location (details given).

16 CLR. SEAN O'NEACHTAIN
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council would provide figures and data to indicate the urgent situation that has arisen because of the depletion of the Road Maintenance Workforce. That it would also indicate what the future trend will be if the present situation continues. That the Workforce figures for each Engineering Areas would be provided and compared with figures for the past 19 years.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTIONS :

- Other Motions Received :

17 CLR. JOE BURKE
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council seriously consider a new system to resolve the unacceptable delays in repairs to houses and demountables.

18 CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council improve sight distance at Keanes House on the road from Cahermore to Killamoran, Gort.

19 CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council erect Public Lighting outside the premises of Moran's, The Weir, Kilcolgan. The location is on the verge of the Sea Inlet and is very dangerous and would require public lighting. I would ask to have it included in the 1995 programme.

20 CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council put School Flashing Safety Lights at Kiltiernan School, as this is a very fast road and can be very dangerous and I request this to be included in the 1995 programme.

CLR. MICHAEL FAHY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council remove claybanks and provide more car parking outside Kileeneen National School, Craughwell. There is an urgent need for these works to prevent accidents from occurring at this location.

22 CLR. MICHAEL FAHY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council put "No Parking" writing on County Road Junction at Grennage, Craughwell Junction on entrance of County Road at Grennage beside Jenny's Shop, Craughwell. Cars are presently parking at this junction blocking the entrance to the Grennage County Road.

23 CLR. MICHAEL FAHY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council erect more traffic route lighting at Rindifin, Gort (details attached).

CLR. MICHAEL FAHY

CLR. MATT LOUGHNANE
- I will propose :

24

That Road to Bodkins' house at St. Clerans, Craughwell be surface dressed.

CLR. MATT LOUGHNANE
- I will propose :

25

That the roadside drain be piped at specified location (details enclosed)

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH
- I will propose :

26

That Galway County Council erect sign-post for school (details herewith).

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH
- I will propose :

27

That Galway County Council include in the coming year's programme, flashing warning signs at school (details attached).

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH
- I will propose :

28

That Galway County Council carry out improvement works to road at Ballinvoher to prevent constant flooding and make the road safer for cars and pedestrians.

CLR. CONNIE NI FHATHARTA
- I will propose :

Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe comhartha bothar "bends" ag tigh Mairtin O hAilin agus Tigh Peadar O Cualain (Ned) Cladhnach, An Cheathru Rua. Ta go leor tracht ar an mbothar seo.

CLR. CONNIE NI FHATHARTA
- I will propose :

30

Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe cosan idir An Tulach agus Na Minna. Ta an cosan ag teastail go gear ar an mbothar reigiunach seo.

CLR. CONNIE NI FHATHARTA
- I will propose :

31

That Galway County Council inspect and complete the

repairs to a Council House begun in October 1993 (details enclosed).

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV
- I will propose :

32

Molaim go gcuirfear comharthai suas agus go gcuirfear comharthai scrifoia ar an mbothar freisin ag tabhairt folaireamh do dhaoine maidir le Scoil Naisiunta Charna. An cineal rabhadh ata ag teastail scrifoia ar an mbothar na "Gasuir ag gabhail trasna.

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV
- I will propose :

33

Molaim go gcuirfear Bothar an Doilin i Loch an Aortha, Cill Chiaran, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe ar Chiar Oibre na Bliaina 1995, mar go bhfuil ga le caoi a chur air.

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV
- I will propose :

34

Molaim go gcuirfear caoi ar an mbothar i nDoire Iorrais suas thar teach Michael O Ceannabhain. Seo e an bothar i nDoire Iorrais, Rosmuc a cheanglaoinn an bothar go Cill Chiarain leis an mbothar go dti an Caiseal.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACHTAIN
- I will propose :

35

Go gcuirfeadh an Chomhairle Condae deisiu ar Bhothar an Tuar Beag i gceantair inneall toireacht Chasla. Ta droch bhail air. Molaim go mbeadh se measc clar boithre na bliana seo chugainn.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACHTAIN
- I will propose :

That the small bridge at this location (details supplied) would be made more obvious especially to drivers at night who find it difficult to see at present.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACHTAIN
- I will propose :

37

That the junction at this location (details supplied) be made safer as it is very dangerous at present.

CLR. PAT O'SULLIVAN
- I will propose :

38

That an immediate study be carried out for the realignment of the Cross Roads at Ruanes', Glentane, Castleblakney."

39 CLR. PAT O'SULLIVAN
- I will propose :

That immediate works be carried out at the Lehana Road, Castleblakeney, from Castleblakeney National School to Bernie Nolan's House.

40 CLR. EVELYN VARLEY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council alleviate flooding (details enclosed).

41 CLR. EVELYN VARLEY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council alleviate flooding (details enclosed).

CLR. EVELYN VARLEY
- I will propose :

That Galway County Council provide monies for Bothar na Sceath, Killanamonagh (Curlawn), Caherlistrane (details enclosed).

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1994

Cathaoirleach:- Comhairleoir P. O'Tuathail.

I LATHAIR FREISIN
Baill:-

Councillors J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deps. P. Connaughton, E. O'Cuiv, Councillors M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, Councillors P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, E. Varley, and T. Walsh.

Oifigiúgh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, County Manager, J. Crotty, A/Co. Engineer, B. Callagy, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E.s, T. Connell, S.S.O., B. Ginnelly, C.T. and T. Kavanagh, County Secretary.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

2804

Resolutions of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Mr. Peter Coen & Family, Killeenavara, Kinvara.
Mr. Paddy Carty, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway.
Ms. Vera Mitchell, Kilclooney, Ballinasloe.
Mrs. Paul Mannion & Family, Laggawanna, Headford.

FLOODING

2805

With the permission of the Chairman, Deputy Connaughton raised a problem of serious flooding at Ballyara, Bullaun. He said the problem had existed for a number of years and he was aware that the Council was endeavouring to remedy the situation. He urged the Council to take whatever steps were necessary to resolve it. He was supported by Councillors Callanan and Mullins.

REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2806

The Secretary stated that it had been agreed to deal with Chapter 8, Major Traffic Routes, at the meeting. He explained that a revised chapter 8 had been circulated in conjunction with chapters 10 and 11 and for identification purposes that document was dated 16th December, 1994.

Cllr. Cunningham referred to a document circulated at the last meeting which dealt with access onto by-roads. He requested to know what this related to. The Councillor was advised by the County Secretary that the document referred to a Section 4 which was dealt with at that meeting.

Mr. Brian Callagy, S.E.E. commenced dealing with Chapter 8, Major Traffic Routes. He dealt with, in turn, development control objectives and development control policies. Deputy Connaughton stated that there were two or three things which he found problems with in the document circulated. Firstly, he referred to the essential housing need category. He stated that in recent years there were many more part-time farmers who work locally as they were not able to make a living full time on the land. He requested to know what was wrong with giving a site to a son or daughter living in the area. With respect to a replacement house, he wished to know how the Council could ensure that the old house will not be used again. He requested to know if anything could be done for people who do not derive the full income from farming.

Cllr. Gavin then referred to the wording of the second last line of page 1 i.e. "grant of permission will not be considered". He requested to know would the applicant be told at the beginning that his planning application will not be considered. He stated that the document should read an application for permission will not be considered. He wished to know where an application would not be considered on a particular site, would the application still be processed within the normal time frame.

Mr. Callagy advised that permission would not be granted where alternative lands on minor roads were available. Cllr. Gavin stated that in the new County Development Plan, could an applicant be told immediately that his application would not be successful. The County Manager advised the meeting that the facilities of the Planning Department had been extended. He stated that there are presently clinics in different parts of the County and these facilities will be extended where necessary. He added that people should come in to speak to the planners prior to making a planning application. In this way, they would be advised of the guidelines in

relation to planning matters. He would like to encourage this facility of prior discussion on planning applications.

Cllr. Gavin then referred to page 3 and the paragraph on junctions with local roads. He requested to know what site distance meant. He felt that this was a grey area as to its exact meaning. He stated that there was a lot of development on minor roads and that it would be difficult to impose this provision in the plan. He stated that it was difficult to define what site distance meant and that it was unfair to quote this restriction. He sees the wording of this paragraph as being difficult and felt that it was this type of problem which he hoped the plan would clear up.

Deputy Connaughton requested an indication of what exactly a site distance was as he stated that a lot of engineers say it is specific and costly to meet. Mr. Callagy advised that the site distance was covered in standards set down by the Department of the Environment. Deputy Connaughton added that it would be a huge burden on the Local Authority to bring site distance up to the standard. He stated that it was the Local Authority's responsibility to bring the junction up to a standard. Mr. Callagy added that where site distance is inadequate, permission would be refused. Deputy Connaughton stated that this would then mean refusing permission on sites which were otherwise suitable. Cllr. Gavin felt that the restriction which this paragraph would impose would lead to great problems and that development had been encouraged along County roads.

Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that the Council has to allow development. Referring to page 1 re full time farmers, he stated that it would discriminate against all of Connemara because there were no full time farmers in that area. He stated that you cannot discriminate against people and requested clarification on this subject. He agreed with Cllr. Gavin that the provision concerning access from the County Roads onto Regional Roads and National Secondary Roads is over-restrictive. He added that rules should be changed to facilitate local people so that they can build in their area. He requested the rewriting of the section on essential housing need.

Cllr. Cunningham referring to the paragraph on junctions with local roads and stated that if these restrictions are put in place, there will be no rural housing on these roads. Cllr. Tom Hussey stated that it is the interpretation of the objectives in the County Development Plan which lead to problems. He stated that he would like to see the plan less restrictive as the rural population is declining. He then referred to the essential housing need and stated that he would take exception to the concept of full time farming. He stated that this would have to

be changed as the number of people in full time farming is decreasing. He added that he wanted to see more families in rural Ireland and that the document as presented was too restrictive.

Cllr. Joe Burke referring to the point on full time farming stated that it was not the function of Galway County Council to deprive a child of its inheritance from its parents. He stated that only 10% of farmers are full time and that it was irrational to say full time farming in 1994. Referring to Class 1 road restriction national primary, he stated it was there for the use of the people of Galway. He stated that if the road junction is adequate, then one should be allowed out onto this road. Referring to page 3 on junctions with local roads, he stated that the wording was totally unacceptable. He stated that the concept that each junction does not live up to standard means that all of Connemara will not get planning permission.

Cllr. Ryan stated that the Councillors get blamed when a young couple is refused planning permission. He stated that when planning applications are being dealt with, water supply and ESB connection are not considered and where an applicant is told to relocate to another site, the service may not be existing or the cost of ESB is prohibitive. He felt that the planners do not take account of this. He stated that the interpretation of the plan was totally wrong.

Cllr. Joe Callanan stated that he agreed with the other speakers. He stated that farmers sons and daughters should be allowed to get planning permission in their own areas. He added that if a person is from an area, even though not a farmholder, they should be allowed to live there. He added that he disagrees with development on main roads but agrees with development along County roads and requested clarification on what was ribbon development.

Cllr. Byrne said that he agreed with the broad trust of the chapter but he had certain reservations. He stated that the words "full time" in farming had to be removed as this was a thing of the past. He proposed this amendment and this was seconded by Cllr. Burke. He then referred to Class II control on page 2 of the document regarding tourism. He stated that accommodation and services should not be excluded under this heading. He added that it is vital that space be allowed outside villages and that the words within the brackets should be excluded. He then referred to 8.3 on general development restrictions outside the 30 mph speed limit. He stated that you could have a certain amount of building and you would have cases where there is a vacant site between two houses which was of no use. He added that there should be provision for the in-filling of this site even though located outside

the speed limit. He stated that it should not be classed as ribbonisation and requested a clause to cover this in the County Plan. Referring then to 4(iv), he stated that this should be deleted or amended. There was an onus on Councillors to maintain rural areas.

Cllr. Ni Fhatharta stated that she supported the previous speakers. She requested to know what was the definition of a full time farmer. She added that there was no such person in Connemara and that many people would be excluded from building because they were not farmers. She felt that there was a conflict on junctions with local roads and on the other hand getting people to build on County roads. This area, she stated, should be looked at.

Cllr. Quinn stated that she agreed with the previous speakers. She stated that if people move out of rural areas, it could leave parts of the county desolate. She stated that she agrees that there must be some restrictions on the National Routes. She added that there were too many people living in the cities and that she agreed with building on Regional, County and By Roads. She then stated that a full time farmer was a person whose total livelihood was off the land.

Cllr. Willie Burke requested to know if there were guidelines set down by the Department with respect to drawing up of county development plans. He stated that there was a variation between other counties with respect to their county development plans and he would like a study to be carried out on this matter. In relation to full time farming, he stated that the interpretation was wrong and it would have to be removed. He added that there was nothing wrong with development of towns and villages. He stated that at these locations we have all the facilities i.e. sanitary services, schools, shops etc. He added that he knows many villages which are calling for water and sewage facilities. He added that he supported rural villages but at the same time stated that there must be distinction between towns, cities and villages. Referring to the restrictions outside the 30 mph speed limit of villages, he stated that the limit would have to be moved out to facilitate village development and suggested that it be moved to the 40 speed limit zone.

Deputy O'Cuiv stated that he would persuade people against building on main roads as it was not safe for children. He disagrees with the definition of essential housing need and stated that if you follow the full time farming concept, many people will be ruled out. He stated that if someone owns land, say 5, 10 or 15 acres, and is a full time resident in the area then they should be entitled to build there. People should be encouraged to build along County minor roads. The Deputy then referred to the

paragraph on junctions with local roads, he stated that he frequently travelled the main roads and he felt that junctions onto national roads can be improved in time. He would like to see this reference taken out unless there is a real danger and secondly, referring to the essential housing need, this should relate to landholders and emphasis be given to permanent dwellers. He added that one cannot afford to lose permanent dwellers from an area. He also wished to state that he would propose amendments to chapter 2.

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh stated that no two cases were the same and that one always had to have need for discretion. He requested to know what was the definition of a local road and a listed road on which Mr. Callagy clarified the position for him. The Councillor continued stating that every effort should be made to encourage people to live in the countryside. He then referred to the requirement of road frontage and stated that there was difficulty in getting planning permission with road frontage less than 100 ft. even though the site would be located in a remote area. He stated that common sense should prevail in these circumstances as permission for a house in such an area would not affect anyone. He then requested to know who was a full time farmer. Regarding afforestation, he stated that there were huge problems for people affected by forestry. There was fear and a genuine reason that they would be smothered by the trees which in turn would affect their whole life and future. He stated that action must be taken where trees are planted too near a dwellinghouse and that it was ridiculous that the exemption was so high for afforestation.

Cllr. Ni Fhatharta asked as a point of information due to the number of recommendations for changes, would a new chapter with the amendments be submitted to the Council.

Cllr. O'Neill proposed that the chapter be rewritten and discussed at the next meeting. Cllr. McHugh supported the comments made by the previous members. He stated that farmowner must be changed to landowner and added that it was totally unfair that sons and daughters of small farmers could not build on their land. He wished that the category of brothers and sisters be added to this definition. Referring to the paragraph on junctions with local roads, he stated that the Council should not penalise people who have to build on these roads because of the junctions. He added that if this goes through, there will be no development at all even though not all junctions are inadequate. He further stated that he supports Cllr. Ni Fhatharta in that the members should decide now on what to put into the plan.

The County Manager thanked the members for the debate on the chapter and stated that they were now into the

real debate of the plan. He stated that Mr. Brian Callagy will bring back an amended chapter and he wished to proceed in this manner dealing with chapter after chapter. He then referred to the statistics relating to the number of applications dealt with in the first six months of 1994. Out of the 1,100 planning applications on which decisions were issued, only 1 out of 10 were refused. The reasons for refusal, in many of the cases, could not be overcome by the County Development Plan. The Manager then referred to the reasons for refusal in particular cases. The Council, he stated, must ensure that it adopts a balanced plan and everyone was in favour of rural development but there was a wrong emphasis. He stated that there is need to have sustainable rural development, for example, employment to keep people in rural areas. He continued stating that there was too much emphasis on the housing aspect. It appeared from the debate that the County Council were refusing nine out of ten planning applications where the actual case is that only one out of ten applications was being refused. He referred to the fact that the Council agreed in principle that development should be restricted on National Routes. He added that the Council must bear in mind the National Roads Authority's function in this respect and the obligation on the local authority to notify this body in respect of planning applications along the routes. He added that the Council did not want to see their roads allocation being cut as a result of decisions made. He stated that the Council must adopt a balanced County Development Plan ensuring that the common good is catered for and added that the points raised by the members would be considered by the officials. Cllr. Joe Burke requested the Manager to state if he agreed with the points raised to which the Manager replied that they would be considered by the officials and stated that it was important that this be done. He added that at the end of the day the adoption of the County Development Plan is a reserved function, a function of the members. He stated that he was in favour of balanced rural development.

Mr. Brian Callagy stated that the same points had been repeated by the Councillors and he would give a general reply. He stated that the main objective of this chapter was to prevent traffic hazard and to reduce the number of accidents. He added that only 10% of applications had been refused and only 1% are affected by this particular section. He stated that the research papers covered all the arguments for restrictions on national and other routes. He added that the Council had to take cognizance of the guidelines from the National Roads Authority. Referring to the comments on farm owners, he stated that he did not feel it would be proper to have farmers dictating to the Planning Authority where they would build and that if someone is left a site, it must be subject to planning permission. He

informed the Council that he would look at the definition of land owner again and refer back to the members together with the concept of the definition of a full-time farmer. He then referred to the paragraph on junctions with local roads and stated that the objective was to prevent large developments locating close to a national road with access onto a county road. He then referred to a number of such developments throughout the county and indicated the hazards accompanying such development. He added that local roads are mainly there for agricultural development and that the County Council must have regard to the effect of development on such roads. He again stated that traffic hazard was the focus of this chapter and with respect to ribbon development, this compounds the hazard problems relating to traffic. He added that he could not understand why people want to build along national routes.

Mr. Liam Kavanagh, S.E.E. stated that he found the debate very helpful. It was the fourth development plan review he had been involved in and he found this the most comprehensive debate of all. He stated that you cannot have a perfect County Development Plan. The primary objective in the County Development Plan is to provide for the proper planning and development of the area. A person is entitled to make a planning application and if he is unhappy with the planning authority's decision can go to the appeals board. He then referred to the fact that there were provisions there whereby the Planning Officer could be met to discuss proposed applications. Referring to the National Roads system, he stated that this makes up only 5% of the total road network and added that he disagreed with Cllr. Burke on access onto national roads. He stated that it leads to unrestricted access onto the said roads and that all studies indicated that there is a connection between access points and accidents. He then referred to the policy document issued from the Department of the Environment in the early 1970's. Cllr. Burke stated that if someone owns 50 acres adjacent to a National Primary Road he is debarred from coming onto it. This would now be extended to junctions with county roads as outlined in the present chapter. He then referred to a particular case in question. Deputy O'Cuiv stated that he accepted nine out of ten planning applications were granted and accepts that there must be some restrictions. He believes that people who draw up plans would push people into towns. He finds no difficulty with keeping people off the main major routes but he has difficulty with the paragraph on the junction with local roads. He stated that he had difficulty with the wording of this paragraph and its interpretation. He wanted the paragraph to be looked at again. Cllr. Ni Fhatharta requested that they finish with this chapter at the next meeting. Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that he was unhappy with getting the chapter on the day of the meeting. He stated that the major traffic routes was

the heading but that there were no traffic routes in Connemara and requested that this point be brought into perspective. He requested clarification on this matter.

Mr. B. Callagy stated that this chapter referred to major traffic routes such as national routes and regional routes. He stated that Table 8C is used to summarise the chapter and added that there was nothing new in it. The County Secretary informed the meeting that the next meeting for the review of the County Development Plan would be held on the 13th January, 1995 when Chapters 10 and 11 would be dealt with. Mr. Callagy then referred to Cllr. Byrne's comments on tourism. He stated that the Council would allow only essential development on National Secondary Routes. He added that tourism infrastructure involved development of parks, beaches, trekking routes. It would involve public investment. The B & B's would not be included in this category. He stated that there were very few applications for large hotels. In the present plan, there was a paragraph to cover the beneficial holiday development which had caused difficulties and this proposal would now be omitted from the new Plan. He added that in-fill site development leads to increased traffic hazard. Cllr. Gavins referred to the cohesion fund application and stated that Barna was left out. He would like to get clarification on this matter.

Deputy O'Cuiv referred to the essential housing need definition and stated that this was a technical term. He would like if the definition was listed and stated that the wording of it would be crucial. He suggested that the wording be taken out and a debate held on this subject so as to be sure that the Council are clear on what development is being allowed. Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that this definition would not stand up in law and proposed that it be deleted. Deputy O'Cuiv then enquired if someone from An Bord Pleanála could come and address the meeting on their role on planning appeals.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted Approved + Confirmed:

Seán Ó Tuathail
(Chairman)

27/12/94

Date