

GC/1/35

Galway County Council Archives

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

**GC/1/35**

**13 JANUARY 1995 - 26 JUNE 1995**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY**

**COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE GOLF CLUB, EANACH**

**MHEAN, LETTERMORE, CO. GALWAY ON MONDAY, 26TH**

**JUNE, 1995**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:-** An Comhairleoir P. O'Tuathail.

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputies P. Connaughton & E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S.Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J.McCleary, Deputy P. McCormack, 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, P. Flood, County Engineer, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, B. Callagy, S.E.E., F. Gilmore, Project Engineer, J. Eising, Exec. Engineer, C. Wallace, T. Connell, S.S.O.'s, and B. Doyle, A/County Secretary.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

3096

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

The Family of Margaret Keenan, Anglers Rest, Headford, Co. Galway.  
Mrs. Monica Joyce, Galway Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.  
Muintir Ui Neachtain, Beal a Daingin.  
Mairin Bean Ui Ghadhra, Na Forbacha.  
Muintir Ui Neachtain, Bothar Bui, An Ceathru Rua.

**CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

3097

It was agreed to deal with Item no. 3 on the agenda first.

**LOUGHREA BYE-PASS**

3098

Councillor Loughnane suggested that the proposal be referred back to a meeting of the Loughrea Councillors prior to same being put to a full meeting of the Council.

Deputy O'Cuiv proposed:-

"that the proposal for the bye-pass approved by the Council at its meeting on the 5/5/1995 requiring three over-bridges, two roundabouts, and the deletion of the grade separated junctions be amended to exclude the provision of roundabouts at each end, to include two grade separated junctions, and that:

1. The grade separated junction at the west of Loughrea be re-located to the western extremity of the bye-pass.
2. The grade separated junction at the east of Loughrea be relocated from the Danesfort/Caheronaun Road to the vicinity of the Greeneenagh Road.
3. Full access to and from Loughrea town be provided at both grade separated junctions.

This was seconded by Deputy McCormack.

Councillor McCleary proposed that no decision be made until the next Council meeting to be held in County Buildings. Councillor McCleary pointed out that the only people stopping the proposal was Galway County Council and the N.R.A. Deputy O'Cuiv indicated that the debate with regard to roundabouts versus grade separated junctions was determined by a national change of policy. It was now obvious that grade separated junctions were safer for current traffic needs. He felt that there should be room within the process for small modifications to be made to accommodate individuals concerns and grievances. The Chairman called for a vote on Deputy O'Cuiv's proposal. A vote was taken as follows:-

**AR SON:-**

Cllrs. Brennan, J. Burke, Byrne, Callanan, Deputy O'Cuiv, Cllrs. Cunningham, Fahy, Finnegan, Hussey, Mannion, Deputy McCormack, Ni Fhatharta, O'Neachtain, O'Neill, O'Sullivan, O'Tuathail, Quinn,



Regan, Ryan, and Varley. (20)

**IN AGHAIGH:-** Deputy Connaughton, Cllrs.  
Finnerty, Gavin, Loughnane,  
McClearn, Mullins and Walsh. (7)

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

**MINUTES**

3099

On the proposal of Councillor Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain the minutes of Special Meeting held on 5th May, 1995 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Mullins indicated that he was in attendance at the Special Meeting of the 5th May, 1995.

On the proposal of Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Ni Fhatharta minutes of Special Meeting held In Committee on 12th May, 1995 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposal of Councillor Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Brennan minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22nd May, 1995 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor Gavin the minutes of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 11th April, 1995 were noted.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, the minutes of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 29th May, 1995 were noted.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Finnerty the minutes of the National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9th May, 1995 were noted.

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Mannion, the minutes of the Town Local Government Committee Meeting held on 30th May, 1995 were noted.

On the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Quinn, minutes of the Higher Education Grants Committee Meeting held on 15th May, 1995 were noted.

Councillor Fahy indicated that he should be included in the attendance for that meeting.

Councillor Gavin referring to the minutes of the 12th May, 1995 indicated that the sentence that read, "that it is money that matters to people and not planning" was not correct. What he had said was "that availability of sites at reasonable value was what matters to people".

**AUDITORS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/1993**

3100

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Ni Fhatharta the Auditors Report was noted.

**NOMINATION OF 4 DELEGATES FOR D.O.E. CONFERENCE**

3101

**ON SOCIAL HOUSING**

Councillors Cunningham, J. Burke, Mannion and McClearn were approved to attend the conference on Social Housing in Dublin on the 5th July. It was further noted that Councillor Mannion substituted for Councillor O'Tuathail and Councillor Cunningham substituted for Councillor Quinn at the Environmental Conference held in Dublin on the 9th/10th June, 1995. It was further noted that Councillor Quinn substituted for Councillor Cunningham at the International Conference "Europe 2000 - a role for the Regions" held in Ballina, Co. Tipperary.

**TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A PURCHASE SCHEME FOR**

**THE SALE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES**

3102

The Sales Scheme was circulated with the agenda. The Members welcomed the new scheme and its increased discounts. The County Manager recommended the scheme to the Members. On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Mannion the Members approved the adoption of the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme. They asked that applications be dealt with promptly.

**TO NOTE PROPOSALS FOR THE COMMUNITY WORKS**

3103

**PROGRAMME 1995**

The Members noted the details of the 1995 Community Road Works Programme. On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Mullins the Council unanimously approved the Community Works Programme for 1995. Councillor Gavin asked why there were no community roadworks schemes from the Oughterard area. The Acting Assistant County Manager indicated that the Council received no applications. In response to



a query from Councillor Quinn the County Manager indicated that the works were agreed locally with the Area Engineer.

**REPORT ON THE PROPOSED LINK ROAD AT TUAM** 3104

**BETWEEN N 17 AND N 63**

On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Hussey the Council noted the report circulated in accordance with Article 134 Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994 and that work would proceed on the project.

**REPORT ON SITE INVESTIGATION WORK AND** 3105

**DRILLING OF TEST WELLS AT OGHILL AND TURLOUGHMORE,**

**INIS MOR, ARAN ISLANDS IN CONNECTION WITH INIS MOR**

**WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

The Members noted the report circulated. The County Manager indicated that no submissions had been received by the Council. The Members expressed the concern being voiced by the residents of the Island as to why the provision of storage could not proceed independently of the site investigation and drilling. The Acting Assistant County Manager indicated that this work was necessary to allow the Council proceed with the proposals for the Inis Mor Water Improvement Scheme Stage 3. On the proposal of Councillor O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor Gavin, the Members noted the report and that work would proceed as planned.

**TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF £150 TO THRESHOLD** 3106

**- HOUSING (MISC. PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992**

On the proposal of Councillor Michael Fahy, seconded by Councillor Regan the payment of the sum of £150 in accordance with the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992 to Threshold was agreed.

**SALE OF SITES** 3107

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Ryan the Council approved the sale of a site at No. 25, Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry to Sean and Eileen Farrell, c/o 53 Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry in accordance with Notice dated 12th June, 1995 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, which

had been circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Callanan the Council approved the sale of a house at Derrarthamore, Carraroe to Padraic & Margaret McDonagh, Derrarthamore, Carraroe, under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 as substituted by Section 26 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act 1992 and in accordance with Notice dated 14th June, 1995 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Mullins the Council approved the sale of a house at Anbally, Cummer, Tuam to John & Mary Welby, Anbally, Cummer, Tuam under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1966 as substituted by Section 26 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act 1992 and in accordance with Notice dated 14th June, 1995 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

**TO NOTE CHANGES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994** 3108

Deputy O'Cuiv asked if any change was made with regard to the problems being encountered by people where site notices were being pulled down. Councillor Brennan felt that the Council did not signal requests for additional information at an early stage. Councillor O'Neachtain agreed with Councillor Brennan. He indicated that it appeared that additional information was being sought on the last day. In reply Mr. Tom Connell, Senior Staff Officer, Planning indicated that there was no change with regard to public notices and same must be maintained for one month. Councillor Callanan expressed concern that the Council sought a chemical analysis test on a potential water source prior to considering a planning application. He asked whether a condition could be used at permission stage. Mr. Connell stated that the Council were checking with the Law Agent if a condition would be valid in this instance. The Acting Assistant County Manager indicated that if the Council could use a condition they would do so.

**BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN** 3109

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Members unanimously agreed to a proposal from the Finance Committee that the Council approve of the transfer of the sum of £2,500 from Sub Programme 8.11 (Expenses of Members) to Sub Programme 8.9 (Chairman's Allowance) in the 1995 Estimate of



Expenses.

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Callanan it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Justice requesting that work proceed on the provision of prison accommodation at Castlerea.

Councillor Ni Fhatharta asked that the Council remove the sign diverting traffic at Screeb as same was no longer needed.

Councillor Brennan wished to record his revulsion at the story in the papers concerning Fr. Michael Cleary.

Councillor O'Neachtain asked that the Council seek funding to repair the beach area at Spiddal from the Department of the Environment.

#### **MANAGERS BUSINESS**

3110

The Manager presented the Council with the Annual Report for 1994. The Members welcomed the report. The County Manager indicated that copies of the report would be sent to all schools in the County.

The Manager informed the Members that £75,000 had been approved by the Department of the Environment under the Small Water and Sewerage Scheme Programme for Roundstone Water Scheme.

Councillor Regan informed the meeting that works at the Walks in Loughrea seemed to be causing problems with the sewers in the area. The Assistant County Manager indicated that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Area Office. Councillor Regan also indicated that a Deputation from the Lough Derg Elected Members Group would be meeting with the Minister for Tourism on the 12th July, 1995.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

##### **N.O.M. NO. 17 - REBUILDING OF WALL - CLLR. J. BRENNAN**

3111

The following written reply was given to Councillor Brennan:-

"The landowner involved has agreed to carry out the wall repairs at the above location as soon as possible."

##### **N.O.M. NO. 18 - CLEANING OF CULVERTS - CLLR. MC CLEARN**

3112

The following written reply was given to Councillor McClearn:-

"Investigations will be carried out towards the end of the current year with a view to rectifying the problem."

Councillor McClearn indicated that he was unsatisfied with the response to Notice of Motion No. 18. He felt that the Council should be in a position to be informed as to when works will be carried out.

##### **N.O.M. NO. 19 - SIGN POST - SEN. J. MCDONAGH**

3113

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

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

##### **N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROAD - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM**

3114

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"No provision has been made in the 1995 Roadworks Programme for the carrying out of the above works."

##### **N.O.M. NO. 21 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM**

3115

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The provision of a public light at above location was not included in the 1995 Public Lighting Programme already adopted by the County Council. The situation will be re-examined when preparing the 1996 Public Lighting Programme."

##### **N.O.M. NO. 22 - WATER PIPE - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM**

3116

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Repairs will be carried out at above location within the next few weeks."

##### **N.O.M. NO. 23 - PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS - CLLR. M. FAHY**

3117

The following written reply was given to Councillor



Fahy:-

"No funds were provided by the National Roads Authority for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Gort in the current year.

However, the County Council met a local deputation earlier this week and the Councillors for the area agreed that the four local Councillors would provide £500 each from Notice of Motion funds for the provision of school flashing lights and these will be provided as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - KILCOLGAN VILLAGE - CLLR. M. FAHY** 3118

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"A general clean-up of Kilcolgan Village will be carried out within the next two weeks. It is not possible to provide a weekly clean-up service due to budgetary constraints."

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - FOOTPATH - CLLR. M. FAHY** 3119

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The above footpaths are located on the National Primary Route N6. This section of the N6 route is narrow and parking cannot be recommended for safety reasons and it was for this reason that footpaths were provided at their present levels."

**N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN** 3120

"No provision has been made in the 1995 Roadworks Programme for the carrying out of the above works. However, routine maintenance was recently carried out."

**N.O.M. NO. 27 - KILSHANVEY BRIDGE - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN** 3121

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"Funds are very limited in the Milltown Engineering Area at present. However, every effort will be made to have the above parapet walls repaired towards the end of the year."

**N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN** 3122

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"Routine maintenance will be carried out to the above location as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. GAVIN** 3123

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"Routine maintenance will be carried out at the above location as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 30 - SIGN-POSTING - CLLR. S. GAVIN** 3124

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"New signs will be provided at the above location in due course."

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGN - CLLR. S. GAVIN** 3125

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"The signs will be erected as soon as possible when substantial roadworks are completed."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE** 3126

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"There are no provisions made in the 1995 Roadworks Programme for the carrying out of the above works. The location will be considered when preparing the 1996 Roadworks Programme."

**N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE** 3127

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road is not included in the 1995 Road Works Programme. However, routine maintenance will be carried out as resources permit."



**N.O.M. NO. 34 - BOUNDARY WALLS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE** 3128

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The stones were placed on the hard shoulder in order to prevent caravans parking at this location. Accordingly, the Council has no plans to remove same at present."

**N.O.M. NO. 35 - CLEARING RUBBISH - DEP P. MCCORMACK** 3129

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

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

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - LISHEENKYLE G.W.S. - DEP. P MCCORMACK** 3130

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"There is a problem with the existing water supply system serving the Scheme. Investigations are being carried out at present and should be completed in about a weeks time. The question of a road opening licence will be addressed at that stage and a further reply will issue shortly."

**N.O.M. NO. 37 - CLAREGALWAY VILLAGE - SEN. J. MCDONAGH** 3131

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The Injunction preventing Galway County Council from carrying out works at this location is still in place and it is not possible to carry out improvement works until same is lifted. However, it is proposed to carry out routine maintenance works such as grass cutting, weed removal, as resources permit."

**N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH** 3132

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

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

**N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH** 3133

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"A proposal for the provision of traffic calming measures at Claregalway Village was submitted to the National Roads Authority on the 9th May, 1995."

**N.O.M. NO. 40 - PLOPA SEARACHAIS - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA** 3134

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

"Beidh an Comhairle Chontae ag cur scathlan ar an bpiopa searachas ag an lathair thuas luaite i mbliana."

**N.O.M. NO. 41 - BRUSCAR - AN COMH C NI FHATHARTA** 3135

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

"Ni mheasann an Comhairle Condae go bhfuil ga leis an comhartha seo faoi lathar. Beidh muid ag coinneal suil ar an lathair agus ma bhionn ga leis, cuirfidh muid an comhartha ar fail".

**N.O.M. NO. 42 - COMHARTHA - AN COMH C NI FHATHARTA** 3136

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

"Deanfar an obair seo i mbliana".

**N.O.M. NO. 43 - DRIMEER PIER - DEP. E. O'CUIV** 3137

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

"The taking in charge of the above Pier by Galway County Council is not recommended as we are unable to maintain our existing piers due to budgetary constraints."

**N.O.M. NO. 44 - BOTHAR - AN TEACHTA E. O'CUIV** 3138

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

"Ta muid ag scrudu an cas seo faoi lathair agus beidh freagra againn le haghaidh an chead cruinniu eile."



**N.O.M. NO. 45 - ROAD - DEP. E. O'CUIV**

3139

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

"The houses at the above location are located approximately 4 ft. beneath the road level. There appears to be a drain located in the grounds of the properties in question which needs to be either redirected or enlarged. However the responsibility for this rests with the house owners in question."

Deputy O'Cuiv indicated that work had been done and not completed.

**N.O.M. NO. 46 - ROAD - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN**

3140

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

"A report was sent to each member of the County Council on this matter on 9/6/'95. Copy enclosed."

**N.O.M. NO. 47 - BEACH, SPIDDAL - CLLR. S O'NEACHTAIN**

3141

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

"The County Council will carry out a general clean-up of the beach as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 48 - ROAD - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN**

3142

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

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

**N.O.M. NO. 49 - HEDGE CUTTING - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN**

3143

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

"Hedgecutting will be carried out at the above location under the 1995 Hedgecutting Programme which is due to re-commence in the Autumn."

**N.O.M. NO. 50 - ROAD - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN**

3144

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

"This location is not included in the 1995 Roadworks Programme which has already been adopted by the County Council. However, the road will be subject to routine maintenance as resources allow."

**N.O.M. NO. 51 - FOOTPATH - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN**

3145

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

"The above location is situated within the administrative area of the Ballinasloe U.D.C. and your Notice of Motion question has been referred to the Town Clerk, Ballinasloe U.D.C. for attention."

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

*Submitted, Approved + Signed*

*Peddy Stewart*  
Chairman

24/7/95

(Date)



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN COMMITTEE AT THE  
GOLF CLUB, EANACH MHEAN, LETTERMORE, CO.  
GALWAY ON MONDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1995**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:-** An Comhairleoir P. O'Tuathail.

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, 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, P. Flood, County Engineer, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, B. Callagy, S.E.E., F. Gilmore, Project Engineer, C. Wallace, T. Connell, S.S.O.'s and B. Doyle, A/County Secretary.

**CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**3093**

The Chairman indicated that he wished to change the order of business on the Agenda as follows:-

1. Consider Cluain Mhuire Report.
2. National Roads Authority - Loughrea Bye-pass
3. Consideration of the Development Plan.

The Members agreed to the order of business as proposed by the Chairman.

**TO CONSIDER CLUAIN MHUIRE REPORT**

**3094**

The County Manager indicated that the Accommodation Committee had met earlier to discuss the offer received from the Regional Technical College for the property at Cluain Mhuire. The County Manager indicated that the County Secretary's report to the meeting, contained all the facts relating to the property. Correspondence received from the National Building Agency and the Galway Regional Technical College were also included. The County Manager indicated that one of his priorities on taking up duty was to bring finality to the issue of Cluain Mhuire. In this regard he had met with the Accommodation Committee on a number of occasions and at one of these meetings he informed them that he was commissioning the National Building Agency to look at the various options available to the Council with regard to its site at Prospect Hill and also the site at Cluain Mhuire. He said that initial interest by the R.T.C. was diverted somewhat during 1994 on the basis that they had to open up a new facility in Castlebar. However, in October 1994, they renewed their interest and after considerable consultations an offer from the R.T.C. was received in correspondence dated 20th June, 1995 which had been circulated to the Council. Correspondence from the N.B.A. indicated that the offer from the R.T.C. was the best available to the Council.

Deputy McCormack referring to the report issued to the Councillors dated 1st October, 1991 pointed out that paragraph 2 could cause a problem for the Council with regard to the proposed sale of the property to the R.T.C. He questioned what impact this paragraph would have on the recommendation of the 21st June, 1995 from the N.B.A. which looked at the potential of the site for a variety of different developmental proposals and in turn recommended the acceptance of the offer from the R.T.C.

Councillor Byrne indicated that the Council had no real choice, he asked that no further expenditure be incurred until all options were looked at with regard to the proposed refurbishment of the County Buildings at Prospect Hill.

Councillor Callanan queried two items of expenditure:- £146,000 for architect fees and £117,000 which had been expended on court-house accommodation.

Councillor O'Sullivan asked was there any possibility that the Department of Justice would recoup the expenditure on court-house accommodation.

Councillor J. Burke stated that the Council were told



at the time that staff were consulted and were in agreement with the move to Cluain Mhuire. This turned out to be untrue.

Councillor McClearn felt that the Council made a rushed decision at that stage to purchase Cluain Mhuire and were doing the same now. Questions had to be asked and will be asked by the public why the County Council incurred significant losses on the transaction.

Councillor Brennan pointed out that they were losing money on a daily basis and a decision should be made now. He felt that the Council should go ahead with the proposal to sell the property to the R.T.C. He formally proposed that the Council proceed as recommended by the Accommodation Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Finnerty.

Councillor O'Neachtain said that it was essential that the Council know what plans were in place to provide new offices before any decision was made.

Councillor Finnegan indicated that the Councillors went with the recommendation of the Manager at the time. The merits of the property at Prospect Hill were brought up by staff and Unions and the Council had good reason to examine the proposed move to Cluain Mhuire.

The County Manager responding, indicated that the report as circulated set out the facts in relation to the building since it was acquired five years ago. The decision to locate to Cluain Mhuire was based on the fact that the building lent itself for institutional and office use and would provide the Council with approx. 90,000 sq. ft. of floor space compared with the available space at Prospect Hill. He pointed out that the site might be expensive to develop if any other use was involved as this would require the demolition of the existing building. Expenditure under the heading of Architects fees was on the basis that planning permission was sought for the change of use with detailed plans having to be prepared for refurbishment. There was a continuing security expense on the property. The Department of Justice had given a verbal indication that the cost of providing temporary court-house accommodation would be recouped. However, the Council had nothing in writing confirming this. The Council were pursuing the matter with the Department of Justice. If the Council agreed to dispose of Cluain Mhuire the options available with regard to the upgrading of the County Buildings would be examined. Recently the lower yard which contains the Road Design and Motor Taxation office had been included in the Urban Renewal Scheme. Any plan being drawn up would have

to cater for the Council's anticipated requirements for the next 25 years. Any proposal should ensure that the Council maximise the potential of the site. The N.B.A. would be asked to complete their report and also to address the various options available for the development of the site. This might include for the phasing of development over a number of years. The capacity of the Council to fund the proposed development of the Prospect Hill project would have to be addressed.

Councillor Loughnane asked if the proposal went ahead would all activities of the Council be located centrally under one roof. He asked that contact be made with the Office of Public Works to ascertain whether it was possible to rent office accommodation to such agencies. He was surprised that the site was split in two by the Urban Renewal Scheme.

Deputy Connaughton indicated that a decision would have to be made at this meeting. The condition of the buildings at Prospect Hill was scandalous. Deputy McCormack asked that the County Manager address the question raised by him.

The County Manager indicated that the Council had acquired the fee simple of the building and were in a position to sell the building to the R.T.C. which was in effect making same available for another public use if the Council so decided. The Acting Assistant County Manager indicated that at the time of purchase the Redemptorists were told that the Council were buying the property for County Council offices. That was the intended use at the time but it was not a condition of purchase.

Councillor Mullins appreciated the difficulties that staff had if they moved to Cluain Mhuire but the Council had made an effort to provide adequate facilities and question marks were now raised over the Council's ability to proceed to develop the County Buildings given the number of priorities and decisions that were facing the Council in relation to waste disposal, roads, maintenance of sanitary services etc.

Councillor McClearn expressed his concern about making a decision today. He felt that the matter should be adjourned.

Councillor Walsh supported the recommendation of the Accommodation Committee. Deputy McCormack indicated that the cost of refurbishment would put a strain on the Council's finances. Consideration should be given to the disposal of the site that was designated under the latest Urban Renewal Scheme.



The Cluain Mhuire property would be an asset to the R.T.C. in the long-term as it would allow their third level major educational base in the city to expand further.

Deputy Connaughton asked whether there was any possibility of recouping the short-fall on the transaction from any Government Department. He questioned whether the County Manager was happy that it was possible to fund the refurbishment and not impinge on the provision of services by the Council.

Councillor Callanan indicated that Cluain Mhuire was a bad buy and the Council should now dispose of same and cut their losses. Councillor Varley indicated that she opposed the move to Cluain Mhuire from the start.

The County Manager indicated that he appreciated the difficulty and the importance of the decision to be made by the Members. If the Members agreed to the disposal of Cluain Mhuire to the R.T.C., he would be in a position to have a report on the strategy for the site at Prospect Hill available within the next 3/6 months. This would involve looking at all the options available and the possible phasing of the refurbishment works.

The Chairman called for a vote on the proposal "that the Council dispose of the Cluain Mhuire property to Galway Regional Technical College for the sum specified in the report of £1.55m".

A vote was taken as follows:-

**AR SON:** Cllr. Brennan, J. Burke, Byrne, Callanan, Deputy Connaughton, Cllr. Cunningham, Fahy, Finnegan, Finnerty, Gavin, Hussey, Mannion, Deputy McCormack, Mullins, Ni Fhatharta, O'Neachtain, O'Neill, O'Sullivan, O'Tuathail, Quinn, Regan, Ryan, Varley & Walsh. (24)

**IN AGHAIGH:** Cllr. McClearn (1)

**GAN VOTAIL:** Cllr. Loughnane (1)

The Chairman declared the proposal carried. A Section 83 Notice to dispose of the site would be presented to the Council in due course.

#### **LOUGHREA BYE-PASS**

3095

The Chairman asked the County Manager to update the Council on this matter. The County Manager informed

the meeting that a Minute of the Special Meeting of the 5th May, 1995 had been sent to the National Roads Authority. The A/County Secretary read the letter from the National Roads Authority dated the 19th June, 1995 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Fahy and Councillor Loughnane asked that in fairness this matter should not be discussed at their meeting in Lettermore. The correspondence should go to the Loughrea Councillors for their recommendation and then revert to a full meeting of the County Council. The Chairman pointed out that if the Council did not proceed to resolve this matter quickly there could be a possible loss of the project to County Galway. This was implied in the correspondence from the N.R.A.

Councillor Brennan indicated that he liked the plan presented by the Council Engineers. Councillor Fahy asked that the matter go before the Loughrea Councillors and that a recommendation to the full Council from the Loughrea Councillors would be the proper way to proceed in this matter. Councillor Byrne indicated that he questioned the number of people opposed to the grade separated junctions. He felt that the Council had gone as far as they could in discussing this matter. The N.R.A. was the supreme body and he felt that the Council should now proceed to make a decision on the matter.

Councillor Callanan indicated that deputies were to meet with the N.R.A. to try to have roundabouts included and he enquired whether any meeting had taken place.

The Acting Assistant County Manager, Mr. T. Kavanagh indicated that the Council had requested the N.R.A. to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the matter of specific refusals for extension of speed limits. The N.R.A. had indicated that they would come to a meeting but they would not discuss specific items. It was agreed to again request the N.R.A. to attend a Council meeting.

Councillor McClearn stated that this matter had been discussed at length and the N.R.A. were not being honest with the information being given. He agreed with Councillor Fahy that the matter should not be discussed in Lettermore. He said that Deputy Treacy and Senator Fahy indicated that if proposals were sent up with roundabouts they would get the agreement of the N.R.A. for same. He felt that a decision should be made in the County Buildings and not in Lettermore.



Councillor Regan indicated that for 25 years Loughrea had sought a bye-pass. It was now time to make a decision. If a decision is not made there could be a possible loss of £7m investment in County Galway. Councillor Loughnane indicated that there was a reference in the letter concerning economic return figures and he asked for further information on this point. He also pointed out the N.R.A. had made no mention of over-bridges. Councillor J. Burke felt that the letter from the N.R.A. was clear. The Council had listened to all legitimate grievances and the needs of the people of Loughrea. One had only to look at the fact that lights were now being provided at roundabouts. Modern thinking indicated that grade separated junctions were the way to proceed. He recommended that the Council pass the Loughrea Bye-pass Plan today as proposed by the Officials.

The Chairman indicated that the N 6 was one of the routes designated as part of the Trans European Network. He felt that some objectors concerns were mis-guided and the Council would not make the N.R.A. change its mind.

Councillor Hussey said he understood the anxiety of the people of Loughrea but the Council had to look at the matter in the context of County Galway. He asked that the meeting adjourn for five minutes.

The County Manager indicated that this was a very important project. The letter from the N.R.A. clearly indicated that:-

1. Roundabouts were not appropriate.
2. Significant improvements had taken place on the N 6 and Loughrea was one of the remaining bottle-necks on this route.

The County Manager indicated that the Council had been very fair to Loughrea and £300,000 had been provided in improving car-parking infrastructure in the town.

He pointed out that grade separated junctions are safer and more beneficial and that it was important that the Council make a decision today and he recommended that they proceed with the Loughrea Bye-pass proposal without roundabouts.

Councillor Gavin said he was concerned about the delay on the project. He indicated that two representatives of the N.R.A. had recently attended a meeting of Kerry County Council and urged the Council to make a decision to meet with the N.R.A. as soon as possible. Councillor Hussey indicated that it should be possible to make minor changes as the project

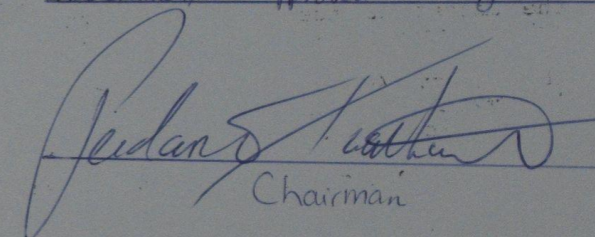
proceeds.

The meeting adjourned for fifteen minutes.

When the meeting resumed the Chairman indicated that it was now proposed to proceed with the agenda for the monthly meeting and that the consideration of the Development Plan would be adjourned. This concluded the business of the meeting in Committee.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

  
Chairman

24/7/95

(Date)



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**(Galway County Council)**

Oifig an Runai,  
Arus an Chontae,  
**GAILLIMH.**

20 Meitheamh, 1995.

**CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/**

A Chara,

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Council In Committee which will be held in the Golf Club, Eanach Mhein, Lettermore, Co. Galway, on **Monday, 26th June, 1995 commencing at 2.15 p.m.**

Mise, le meas,

**B. DOYLE,**  
A/County Secretary

**CLAR**

1. Review of County Development Plan.
2. Loughrea Bye-Pass - to consider correspondence from N.R.A. (copy attached).

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**(Galway County Council)**

Oifig an Runai,  
Arus an Chontae,  
**GAILLIMH.**

20 Meitheamh, 1995.

**CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/**

A Chara,

Tarrtar ort leis seo bheith i lathair ag cruinniu Miosiuil de Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a thionolfar ins an Cumann Gailf, Eanach Mhein, Leitir Moir, Co. na Gaillimhe, De Luain, an 26u la Meitheamh, 1995, ag tosnú ar a 3.30 a chlog sa trathnóna.

Mise, le meas,

**B. O DUILL,**  
RUNAI SEALADACH

**CLAR**

1. Consideration of Minutes of the following Meetings:
  - (a) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 5th May, 1995.
  - (b) Minutes of Special Meeting held In Committee, on 12th May, 1995.
  - (c) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 22nd May, 1995.
2. To note Minutes of the following meetings:-
  - (a) Minutes of Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 11th April, 1995.
  - (b) Minutes of Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 29th May, 1995.



- (c) Minutes of National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9th May, 1995.
  - (d) Minutes of Town Local Government Committee Meeting held on 30th May, 1995.
  - (e) Minutes of Higher Education Grants Committee Meeting held on 15th May, 1995.
3. Loughrea Bye-Pass (copy letter dated 19th June, 1995 from N.R.A. attached).
  4. To consider Auditors Report for year ended 31/12/93 in accordance with Article 25, Public Bodies Order, 1946 (report attached).
  5. Nomination of 4 delegates for D.O.E. Conference on Social Housing.
  6. To consider the adoption of a Purchase Scheme for the sale of local authority houses in accordance with Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966 as substituted by Section 26 of the Housing (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1992. (Details attached).
  7. To note proposals for the Community Road Works Programme 1995.
  8. To note report for the proposed Link Road at Tuam between N 17 and N 63 in accordance with Article 134 Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994 and Section (2)7 of the City and County (Managers Amendment) Act 1955.
  9. To note report for Site Investigation Work and Drilling of Test Wells at Oghill and Tullaugh Mor, Inis Mor, Aran Islands, in connection with Inis Mor Water Supply Improvement Scheme, in accordance with Article 134 Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994 and Section (2)7 of the City and County (Managers Amendment) Act 1955.
  10. To consider the payment of £150 to Threshold under Section 11, Housing Misc. Provisions Act, 1992.
  11. Sale of site at No. 25, Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry to Sean & Eileen Farrell, c/o 53 Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry - Section 83 Notice dated 12th June, 1995 already circulated.

12. Sale of house at Derrarthamore, Carraroe to Padraic & Margaret McDonagh Derrarthamore, Carraroe - Section 83 Notice dated 14th June, 1995 already circulated.
13. Sale of house at Anbally, Cumber, Tuam to John & Mary Welby, Anbally, Cumber, Tuam - Section 83 Notice dated 14th June, 1995 already circulated.
14. To note changes in Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 1994 (details attached).
15. Business submitted by the Chairman.
16. Business submitted by the County Manager.



COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTIONS :

- Adjourned From Previous Meeting :

CLR. JOE BRENNAN  
- I will propose :

17

That the wall on the bridge between Addergoole & Killooney on the sinking river be rebuilt due to existing danger to children.

CLR. JIMMY MC CLEARN  
- I will propose :

18

That Galway County Council would make arrangements to clean the culverts on Mr. Michael Murphy's land at Newtowndaly, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH  
- I will propose :

19

That Galway County Council erect extra and adequate sign post adjacent to Cregmore Bridge, Claregalway.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTIONS :

- Other Motions Received :

CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
- I will propose :

20

That Galway County Council raise road at the premises of Andrew Quinn, Ballylee, Peterswell, in order to give access to the village of Dromore, Peterswell, when flooding occurs.

CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
- I will propose :

21

That Galway County Council provide an extra light from Peterswell Village to church, and have same on the Programme for 1996.

CLR. MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
- I will propose :

22

That Galway County Council provide water pipe underneath road at Conney's premises, Peterswell to prevent flooding.

CLR. MICHAEL FAHY  
- I will propose :

23

That Galway Co Co erect pedestrian lights on the N18 in Gort at entrance to new comprehensive school on the Ennis Road where children attending school will require safety from the National Primary Road - 800 pupils will attend this school

CLR. MICHAEL FAHY  
- I will propose :

24

That Galway County Council clean, collect and sweep refuse at the village of Kilcolgan each week. Village is deplorable with refuse litter.

CLR. MICHAEL FAHY  
- I will propose :

25

That Galway County Council lower footpath outside Cheevers Premises, and Moloney's Premises in Craughwell Village to improve safety for people doing their business in this busy area of the National Primary Road.

CLR. PATRICK FINNEGAN  
- I will propose :

26

That major repairs be carried out to this road (details supplied).



CLR. PATRICK FINNEGAN

- I will propose :

27

That repairs be done to the bridge at Kilshanvey, Kilconly which is now said to be in a dangerous condition.

CLR. PATRICK FINNEGAN

- I will propose :

28

That this road (details supplied) be repaired urgently.

CLR. SEAMUS GAVIN

- I will propose :

29

That repairs be carried out on the Lealetter and Gorthacarnaun, Roscahill Roads as quickly as possible. A section of the Gorthacarnaun Road is in a bad condition.

CLR. SEAMUS GAVIN

- I will propose :

30

That safety measures/signage are put in place in the vicinity of Tullykyne National School in Moycullen. The school is situated along an increasingly busy route and there are local demands for improved sign-posting.

CLR. SEAMUS GAVIN

- I will propose :

31

That it be made known when it is planned to position the promised concealed entrance/access sign at the Kylebroughlawn Road along the main Galway City/Moycullen Road.

CLR. MATT LOUGHNANE

- I will propose :

32

That the road between Tom Nolan and Eugene Nolan's houses at Kiltartan, Gort be appropriately raised in order to prevent a recurrence of the flooding which took place earlier this year.

CLR. MATT LOUGHNANE

- I will propose :

33

That the Caherdevane Road, Craughwell be surface-dressed.

CLR. MATT LOUGHNANE

- I will propose :

34

That the heavy stones placed on the hard shoulder of the N6 at Craughwell be removed in order to facilitate the reconstruction of boundary walls in the area.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTIONS :

- Other Motions Received :

CLR. PADRAIC MC CORMACK

- I will propose :

35

That Galway County Council take steps to clear the old cars and rubbish being dumped at Claremount, Oughterard as this is very unsightly in a high amenity area.

CLR. PADRAIC MC CORMACK

- I will propose :

36

That what is the up to date position re granting of road opening licence to Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme to proceed with the Scheme as sanctioned by the Council and the Department of the Environment.

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH

- I will propose :

37

That Galway County Council inform me if it is the intention of the Council to carry out improvement works in the village of Claregalway before Galway Races. I wish to point out that this village is in urgent need of repair and has been left in neglect for far too long at this stage.

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH

- I will propose :

38

That Galway County Council take in charge a road at Lydicanwood, Claregalway.

CLR. JARLATH MC DONAGH

- I will propose :

39

That Galway County Council establish a continuous white line and erect "no overtaking" signs on the main Galway/Tuam Road at the area adjacent to Claregalway Village (details attached).

CLR. CONNIE NI FEATHARTA

- I will propose :

40

Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe scagaire ar an piopa searachais ag dul amach i gCuan Casla.

CLR. CONNIE NI FEATHARTA

- I will propose :

41

Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe comhartha "Cosc ar bruscar" in airde ag crosbothar Tír a Fhia. Bíonn go leor bruscar ag an crosbothar seo.



CLR. CONNIE NI FHATHARTA

- I will propose :

42

Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe "Aire Paisti ag trasnu" ar dha thaobh den bothar ag S.N. Ros a Mhil, Baile na hAbhann.

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV

- I will propose :

43

That Galway County Council would take Drimeer Pier in Errislannin, Clifden, in charge.

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV

- I will propose :

44

Molaimse go gcuirfear caoi ar an mbothar chomh fada le teach Padhraic O Griallais, Gairbhinn, Rosmuc, Co. na Gaillimhe, a bhfuil an-droch chaoi air.

CLR. EAMONN O'CUIV

- I will propose :

45

That work be carried out on the road opposite the Coast Guard Houses in Roundstone, to stop the water running in from the road and flooding them.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACTAIN

- I will propose :

46

That Galway County Council would spend a proportional part of this year's allocation of £440,000 on the Galway/Moycullen section of the N59. This is by far the most unsatisfactory and indeed the most dangerous part of the national secondary road.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACTAIN

- I will propose :

47

That Galway County Council would clean loose stones off the beach at Tra na mBan in Spiddal. This could be satisfactorily done by a Community Employment Scheme.

CLR. SEAN O'NEACTAIN

- I will propose :

48

That Galway County Council would now take in charge the recently repaired road, an Bothar O Thuaidh on Inis Mor, Oileain Arainn.

CLR. PAT O'SULLIVAN

- I will propose :

49

That immediate hedgcutting be carried out on the Taughmaconnell Road, Ballinasloe from the entrance to Ruane to the County boundary.

CLR. PAT O'SULLIVAN

- I will propose :

50

That the Carraun Road be surfaced and upgraded.

CLR. PAT O'SULLIVAN

- I will propose :

51

That immediate remedial works be carried out on the footpath from the Duggan Park entrance to the entrance of Ard Mhuire, at Harris Road, Ballinasloe.



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY**

**COUNCIL HELD IN COMMITTEE AT THE COUNTY**

**BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1995**

**Cathaoirleach:-** Councillor J. McClearn.

**Baill:-** Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputies P. Connaughton, & E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. 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. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, E. Lusby, A/Asst. Co. Manager, B. Callagy, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., A. Comer, A/Asst. Planner, T. Connell, S.S.O., B. Ginnelly, C.T. and B. Doyle, A/County Secretary.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

3087

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Mrs. Belinda Fahy & Family, "The Lodge", Castleboy, Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co. Galway.  
Mr. & Mrs. Mattie Lydon, Tamhnachai Beaga, Moycullen, Co. Galway.  
Mr. & Mrs. John Maloney, Park, Rosscahill, Co. Galway.  
Mary & Vincent Fahy, Rushlake, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

**FIX DATES FOR REVIEW OF THE COUNTY**

3088

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Members agreed that the Development Plan would be considered at a Special meeting prior to the June Monthly Meeting to be held on the 26th June, 1995. It was also agreed to take items nos. 3 and 4 on the agenda at this point.

**FIX DATE FOR PRESENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN**

3089

**INITIATIVE**

It was agreed that the Strategic Plan initiative for Galway County Council be discussed at a Special Meeting to be held on 30th June, 1995. The Members to be notified of the venue in due course with lunch being provided.

**FIX DATE TO MEET WITH WESTERN DEVELOPMENT**

3090

**PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

It was agreed that the Western Development Partnership Board be invited to attend the Council Meeting on 14th July, 1995.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

3091

Councillor O'Neachtain asked that he be given permission to bring up the correspondence concerning the allocation of funding on the N 59, which had been agreed with the National Roads Authority. He asked that same be listed on the Agenda for the June monthly meeting. The Members suggested that this matter be discussed at the Area Meetings of the Connemara and Galway Rural Councillors. This was agreed.

**REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

3092

The Deputy County Manager outlined the timetable for the consideration of the Draft County Development Plan. Deputy McCormack stated that a number of further meetings would be required in order to discuss the review.

Cllr. Loughnane stated that the members submissions had not been fully discussed or considered and there was no point in having a draft until these submissions were considered.

Mr. Callagy informed the meeting that all of the members submissions were discussed at a meeting prior to the Christmas break. He added that everything had



been explained and referred to in the plan. The draft plan would be prepared indicating the changes made.

Cllr. Loughnane stated that the planners had got a chance to answer the members questions but the members themselves did not get any opportunity to reply back.

Deputy Connaughton stated that the members could spend another two years discussing the review of the plan, there will be items in the plan which members will not agree with and he understood Cllr. Loughnane's point of view but he hoped that a draft could be adopted and changes made at a later date in the draft plan.

Mr. Callagy informed the meeting that chapter 9 (Amenity Areas) would now be discussed. He proposed to outline the differences between the current plan and the proposed draft. The previous plan had two amenity areas while the proposed draft would have three such areas. The family housing need category had been widened and the beneficial housing need provision had been omitted. Referring to the Slieve Aughty mountains which were now being zoned as high scenic amenity, there were no changes as far as housing was concerned. The main reason for this zoning was to ensure the Department of Forestry refer forestry applications to the County Council for consideration. Presently, such applications were being considered by the Department without any input by the County Council. With respect to the agri tourism provision, he stated that discussions had taken place with the IFA and this provision was inserted as a result. On signage in the Gaeltacht areas the Irish language will predominate and the provision of the plan will provide for this. Mr. Callagy then read through the document which had been circulated to the members on chapter 9 and referred to a map display which was presented to the Council members.

Cllr. Mannion stated that pockets within the areas designated as Outstanding Scenic Amenity could take development which would not affect the amenity of these areas.

Cllr. Cunningham agreed with Cllr. Mannion's statement and added that blanket covering had to be done away.

Deputy McCormack asked if the beneficial tourism provision was being omitted. He was informed that this was a proposal in the draft. Cllr. McHugh stated that it was only a proposal for its omittance.

Deputy McCormack referring to the agri tourism provision asked what assimilation meant. He requested that this word be defined and wished to

have more information on the subject. He added that there were fine buildings in Connemara which could be restored. He then referred to the Maam Cross Screebe road and the design of stone wall. This wall should be removed which was a disgrace and not traditional to the area. Referring to 9.2.3 of chapter 9 which dealt with signage, he asked if B & B signs are allowed outside houses and what was the Council's policy in this matter. He also asked how could tourism develop where there are restrictions on this matter. On 9.2.6 which deals with agri tourism, he sought clarification on the subject and referring to assimilation into landscape, he stated that many applicants would be ruled out as a result of this provision. Two of the tourism groups of houses are located in the Ballyconneely area. He added that the design of the houses at the junction into the Golf Club were terrible and a scandal.

Cllr. Gavin referring to the tourism job figures stated that these were projected figures produced by Bord Failte. He added that by the year 2,000 tourism will be the country's biggest industry. Bord Failte are telling groups to set up certain activities which may not be in conformity with the County Development Plan. In this instance he referred to a number of tourist groups in the Cullinamuck area who operate a certain type of holiday home. Referring to the essential housing need definition which states that son/daughter be included he wanted to know if niece and nephew would also come under this definition. He asked what exactly was the definition of a returned emigrant. He then referred to the 20 acres minimum requirement to come under this category. He informed the meeting that a lot of farms are being sold. He also wished to obtain more details about the requirement of 100 ft. road frontage.

Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that this chapter was very important and he commended the efforts of the officials in putting this document together. He stated that the members must get this document right as it will be in force for the next 5 years. He added that no one wants the destruction of the amenity areas of the County and that there must be an effort to assimilate development and the needs of the local population. He added that along the sea board there is high density of population. He stated that pockets of development in this area need to be looked at. The density of development was so high that the high amenity zoning did not hold as a result. There should be an allowance for in-fill in such areas. Areas of high scenic amenity have to be protected but a lot of matters are left to interpretation. He then referred to the signage details and welcomed that such signage would be in Irish in the Gaeltacht areas. He would go further and have signs in Irish only. The Councillor then spoke on the minimum requirement of 100 ft. road frontage. He stated that one must agree that there are exceptional cases to



this requirement and referred to a particular case where an applicant had 23 acres and only 40 ft. road frontage. On the definition of essential housing need he stated that he would be doubtful about the term son or daughter and added that relative could be included. He did not agree with the definition of farm-holder and stated that this should be changed to a local landholder/owner. He would like to see these points addressed. He stated that this chapter was very important to Connemara. He agreed with having planning restrictions but stated that there must be an allowance for local people to build in their own area and suggested that a special meeting of Connemara Councillors be held on the difficulties of assimilation. He stated that development when completed satisfactorily can be assimilated into the landscape. He agreed with Cllr. McCormack about the development taking place in Ballyconneely.

Cllr. T. Byrne welcomed the improvements in the chapter and referred to the areas of outstanding scenic amenity and welcomed that Ballinderreen/Kilcolgan was no longer zoned. He added that he was glad that certain other areas were zoned. Referring to the Burren area he stated that this locality was being handed over to people who were now in that location such as hippies. With this zoning it is making it difficult for genuine people to come in and build. He was surprised that no one from the Planning Authority or the Health Board had done anything about the problem. He added that by shading this area the Council were handing it over to these type of people. He stated that in areas of high scenic amenity there is no reference to rural essential housing need as there is in the outstanding scenic amenity category and added that he felt that this should be put in. On the Slieve Aughty area he was told that the only reason it was shaded was to ensure that Coilte would refer forestry applications to the Planning Authority. He agreed with Cllr. O'Neachtain on the definition for the essential housing need and that this should be extended to a brother or sister together with a farm-holder being changed to a landholder. He added that he wanted rural essential housing need claim included with the areas of high scenic amenity. He then referred to 9.2.4 on development centres and the aim of the plan to put all development into towns and villages. He added that many of the towns and villages have no room to develop and it is not possible to get speed limits extended. He could not support this plan unless the town restrictions were taken away. He expressed his support regarding the development of old farmhouses.

Deputy O'Culv. stated that he accepted that a lot of work had gone into this chapter and added that he would go along with certain items in the chapter. He added that the same criteria should apply for both inside and outside urban areas. He said that people

from Connemara have a right to have a house in Connemara. Referring to the tourists who visit the area he stated that approximately 85% never leave the main routes and to protect the visual amenity, people should be discouraged from building along such routes. He said that there was no threat to building on mountains and hill areas as landholdings here are in commonage. He stated that the following should be incorporated into the plan "people should build where there are traditional settlements". Referring to the proposal on the development centres he stated that this was self defeating. When people are encouraged to move into towns land prices go sky high and nobody builds. He disagreed with this proposal and said that it had the opposite effect from what was intended. Referring to 9.2.6 on agri tourism, he expressed his support for this proposal. He further added that he did not want to see people selling off Connemara and that an enurement clause should be attached to avoid such sales. He added that where people are encouraged to rebuild old houses which they own themselves, this would bring a tourism benefit into the locality. Referring to 9.2.7 he requested clarification on the definition of intensification of use. On road frontage he agreed with Cllr. O'Neachtain that there had to be some exceptions to the requirement of a minimum road frontage. He then referred to 9.4.1 regarding the definition of essential housing need. He stated that provision should be made for a near relative to come within this definition and not to confine it to son or daughter. He welcomed 3(b) of this paragraph but he stated that he would like to see 3(a) taken out. This latter provision would be abused where people would buy land and hold it five years and then be entitled to build a house on it. Regarding the term emigrant he stated that a lot of family members would like to have a place where they could go to on holidays which he felt they were entitled to. He requested clarification that if someone was living in Northern Ireland, were they considered an emigrant under this provision. He then spoke on 9.4.4 and stated that it was a tragedy that houses were built in a line. He added that it was time to differentiate between the terms house in a foreground and a house in the background. He encouraged people not to build on major traffic routes and in areas of scenic amenity. He added that there were visual problems with houses along main roads.

Cllr. J. Burke stated that this was the most realistic discussion they had on the plan. He welcomed the effort that had been made in compiling this chapter and referred to the provision regarding the minimum road frontage and stated that 100 ft. was an unreasonable demand. He did not agree with the road frontage concept and did not see any objection to having an avenue into a site once you had an exit that is safe. He felt that sight distance was more important than road frontage. He expressed his



objection to blanket cover which has been implemented down through the years. He stated that where development would not spoil the area then there should be no objection to proposals for building. He agreed with the concept of traditional settlements and allowing houses in such areas. He had huge difficulty with the concept of landowner. He stated that there was a difference between someone who buys a site and someone who inherits a site. Where someone inherits a site then it is family land. He would discriminate strongly between the two. He added that if someone wished to develop in a rural area, they should be allowed to do so and the Council should encourage rural development. He said it was wrong to promote otherwise. He expressed his welcome for this discussion which had been rational and reasonable.

Cllr. Cunningham complemented the officials on the document circulated and added that it was the first time he had found the discussion practical. He added that this was a very important stage the members were now at. He stated that Cllr. Byrne had his 100% backing with respect to the Burren discussion. Action should be taken by the Council against the people who are living in this area who have not complied with the planning legislation. Regarding road frontage for sites he stated that this matter should be looked at, especially where sites are near towns. He requested that permissions be allowed up to the 40 mile speed limit. He said that this restriction was making the price of sites very expensive. He then spoke on the backlands development definition and stated that there should be more development allowed under this definition. On the zoning of areas in South Galway he stated there are certain areas within this category where development should be allowed. Regarding the essential housing need definition he said that this should be extended to brother, sister, niece or nephew. On old unroofed stone buildings permission should be given for their restoration especially in Connemara and South Galway.

Cllr. O Neill agreed that restrictions are necessary in planning and appreciated the difficulty in addressing this and allowing certain development within it. Referring to the current plan and the beneficial tourism provision he stated that this did not assist areas. It had the effect of allowing big operators build a scheme of houses where the local person was refused. He welcomed the provisions in 9.4.1 (a), (b) and (c). In relation to emigrants he stated that most families had divided up their land and there is usually no site left for the person who returns home. He added that if such people have a dream of returning home, then they should be allowed to return to their area. The Councillor stated that the majority of family holdings would be less than 20 acres and wanted to know how this figure was arrived

at. Permission should be granted to people who want to live in their own locality. He added that there were very few houses in his area owned by outside people. The term farm will have to be defined. He was glad to see the beneficial tourism definition out of the Draft County Plan.

Mr. B. Callagy then replied to the members. He firstly replied to Deputy McCormack's point and referred to the beneficial tourism provision in the present County Development Plan. He informed the Deputy that this provision was inserted by the members against the advice of the planners when the present plan was being drawn up. As regards the erection of stone walls he was not familiar with the particular case mentioned but he agreed that stone walls should be built carefully and sensitively in scenic areas. In relation to signage he stated that certain signs are exempted under the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations. As regards the assimilation of development into the landscape he stated that this was left to the planners judgement. Referring to the houses being built in Ballyconneely, he stated that a hotel had been permitted on the site and the houses were granted as a replacement. He would hold his judgement on their design until the development had been completed. With regard to the area zoned in Ballyconneely, he informed the members that the most scenic area had been included in the zoning. Mr. Callagy then referred to Cllr. Gavin's points and advised him in relation to Category 1 zoning. He stated that if the development does not injure the amenity of the area, a planning application will then be considered on its merits and where it has to be refused, a second family dwelling claim will be considered. The 100 ft. road frontage is based on septic tank requirements. If less requirements are allowed, then this will lead to difficulties in locating the percolation area.

Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that a house could be brought to conform with the landscape and be assimilated into it. The needs of the local people must be safeguarded.

Mr. Callagy stated that there had been an excessive amount of development because of the concessions allowed in the plan. He added that people ignore compliance with conditions. The question of assimilation is not being addressed. He informed the members that he would look at the definition of essential housing need and refer back to them. Regarding Cllr. Byrne's submission he stated that what he referred to was unauthorised development and would be dealt with by planning control. He informed the Councillor that a second family dwelling is allowed in Category 2 areas.

Cllr. J. Burke stated that his main priority was local people and that he represented them. He felt



that they should be allowed build houses where they want to.

Cllr. Ryan stated that this was one of the best meetings he had attended. He suggested that the planners be brought in for the next meeting to listen to the elected members.

Mr. Callagy stated that he did not accept Deputy O'Cuiv's point about tourists staying on Regional and National Routes. He stated that the plan contains statements of policies and exceptional cases cannot be put forward which had the effect of watering down the plan. The public interest and the national interest must be considered. Regarding traditional settlements he questioned how this could be defined. On the term intensification he referred to an existing small house and said that this could not be doubled in size automatically. With regard to the 100 ft. road frontage, he would refer back to development control for their comments.

Cllr. O'Neachtain stated that if people were allowed build in rural areas, schools would stay open and requested that their views be taken into consideration.

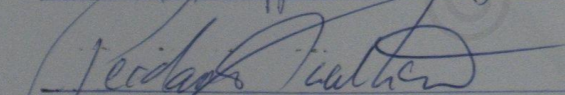
Cllr. J. Burke stated that there must be areas within the restricted zone where development could be allowed.

Mr. B. Callagy informed the members that the Planning Authority was there to protect the landscape. Referring to Cllr. Cunningham's submissions, he stated that he would look at the definition of emigrant and also the question of the minimum 20 acres of land. He informed the members that the policy statement could not be written with a long line of exceptions and that the national interest must be protected.

Deputy O'Cuiv stated that non native development should not be allowed in Gaeltacht areas. These areas should not be open to people from the outside. He stated that a lot of people will commute great distances to avoid living in urban areas and added that development should be restricted to the local person or for a person working locally.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted Approved + Signed:

  
Chairman  
24/7/95  
(Date)

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**(Galway County Council)**

Oifig an Runai,  
Arus an Chontae,  
GAILLIMH.

6 Meitheamh, 1995

**CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/**

A Chara,

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Council In Committee to consider Review of County Development Plan which will be held at the County Buildings, Galway, on **Monday, 12th June, 1995**, commencing at **3.00 p.m.**

Mise, le meas,

**B. Doyle,**  
**A/County Secretary.**

**CLAR**

1. Fix dates for meetings for Review of County Development Plan.
  2. Review of the County Development Plan.
  3. Fix date for presentation of Strategic Plan.
  4. Fix date to meet with the Western Development Partnership Board (copy of correspondence enclosed).
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