

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT GLENLO ABBEY HOTEL, BUSHYPARK,
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1997**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor W. Burke

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. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack,
Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins,
C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P.
O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan,
E. Varley and T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, , E. Power , A/
Co. Secretary, John Colleran, Co. Engineer, B. Callagy,
L. Kavanagh, R. Killeen S.E.E.'s T. Connell, S.S.O. , A.
Comer , S. Kennedy A.A.P.'s & B. Ginnelly, C.T.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4219

A report on the submissions received on the material alterations to the draft County Development Plan had been circulated to the members. The Chairman, at the commencement of the meeting advised the members that 54 submissions had been received on the material alterations to the County Development Plan, out of which 9 submissions were valid. The legislation provided for the consideration only of the submissions which related to the material alterations of the County Development Plan.

The County Secretary outlined the procedure for the adoption of the County Development Plan. He stated that it involved putting the Draft Plan on public display for 3 months and considering of submissions received. In the present review, material alterations were made to the Draft Plan following the consideration of the submissions. Therefore the material alterations to the Draft Plan were put on public display for one further month. The statutory procedure had been compiled with and the Council must now consider the valid submissions before it.

Cllr. O'Neachtain referring to submission number 38 stated that there was a misunderstanding over this submission which was lodged by Coiste Forbartha na Forbacha. It had been received within the time limit but was deemed to be outside the ambit of the present review and he requested clarification as to why this had occurred.

The County Manager advised the members that they were considering only the material alterations made to the Draft County Development Plan which had been on display for the statutory one month period.

Cllr. O'Tuathail stated that it was regrettable that 45 submissions could not be considered. He requested to know if there was any mechanism that could be used in order to validate these submissions. The County Manager advised the meeting that the procedure for reviewing the County Development Plan was set down in law and must be adhered to. Cllr. O'Neachtain referred again to the submission from Coiste Forbartha na Forbacha, concerning change of zoning in the Furbo area and requested to know what the present position was. The Councillors were informed that an amendment to the zoning at Forbacha could not be considered within the present review.

Cllr. O'Tuathail requested to know what the position was with regard to the adoption of the plan at this meeting. The County Manager informed the meeting that the procedures set out in the Planning Acts must be adhered to and that in the present review, the nine valid submissions must be considered by the Members. He advised the Members that the Council must adopt a new plan by the 30th June 1997. Deputy McCormack referred to the public procedure for the review of the County Development Plan and advised that persons who did not make submissions while the plan was on public display could not have an input at this stage into the making of the Plan.

Submission number 37 from Coiste Pobail Bearna was then considered by the Members. Mr. Callagy referred to the submission which dealt with amendments in Chapter 6 with reference to Barna village. He stated that the main points of the submission were that the Plan should include reference to possible changes to community zoning in proposed Barna Village Plan and to include an objective in the County Development Plan and in Barna Village Plan for the connection of Barna Village to Galway City Sewerage Treatment Scheme at Mutton Island. The Planning Officer recommended that these contents of the submission should be included in the County Development Plan.

Deputy McCormack stated that he welcomed the recommendation and proposed its acceptance. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. O Neachtain and agreed by the Council. Cllr. O Neachtain stated that people were very anxious to have a Village Plan in place in Barna and he requested to know the schedule of completion of the Draft Action Plan for the village.

The County Manager advised the meeting that the Draft Action Plan for Oranmore was currently being considered by the Loughrea electoral area members. He added that the Barna Action Plan is at first draft stage and was presently being considered by the

Planning officials. It will be brought before the area meeting within the next number of weeks.

Cllr. O Neachtain stated that Oranmore was an area of importance to many Councillors. He requested that all members be allowed to attend the Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting. This was agreed by the members. The County Manager stated that all members would be notified and could attend if they so wished.

Submission number 41 from the Malone Brothers from Oranmore was then considered by the members. The submission related to the agricultural/amenity zoning at Moneyduff, Oranmore, Amendment number M5.3. Mr. Callagy outlined the details of the submission which related to a drafting error in the mapping of the zoning area. He recommended that the boundary should be altered to reflect the correct position of the zoning. It was proposed by Cllr. O Neachtain seconded by Cllr. Varley and agreed by the Council to accept the recommendation of the Planning Officer.

Submission number 43 from Gerry & Margaret McNulty was then considered by the members. The submission related to the Amendment M5.4 in Oranmore. Mr. Callagy stated that it was necessary to include a minor adjustment to the boundary of a zoning area as it was not clear on the small scale map in the Draft Plan. The acceptance of the Planning Officers recommendation was proposed by Deputy McCormack seconded by Cllr. Gavin and agreed by the Council.

Submission number 44 from Frenchfort/Oranbeg Residents Association was then considered by the members. The submission related to the zoning of lands at Frenchfort for Commercial/Industrial use, Amendment number M5.1. The Planning Officer outlined the details of the submission to the members. He stated that the area comprised of lands which are unzoned in the current 1990 County Development Plan. The members rezoned the lands to Commercial/Industrial land use in the Draft Plan arising from a submission by the landowner when the Draft Plan was on public display. In the consideration of the submission the Planning Officer recommended against the rezoning for a number of reasons. It would not be in accordance with existing zoning which sought to confine this land use to an existing area at Carrowmoneash and would result in a traffic hazard from traffic using the resulting developments. This present submission proposed that the commercial/industrial zoning be altered to residential in order to preserve the residential amenity of the existing adjoining developments. Mr. Callagy stated that the lands should be dezoned as previously recommended on the grounds of location and traffic hazard.

Cllr. Cunningham proposed that the land should be zoned residential with a density of 6 houses to the acre. Cllr. Gavin stated that he believed that there was no objection to housing in this particular area from the local people. He requested to know if a resolution was passed to have the area zoned residential, would it mean a three month delay in the adoption of the plan. The County Manager advised the member that a further month public display period would be required in such a case.

Cllr. Byrne stated that this submission arose from an original submission to the Draft Plan, and in view of the fact that the residents of the area wanted to retain the residential character of the location. He seconded Cllr. Cunninghams proposal, but

added that he would like to see a density of no more than 6 houses to the acre, this being a maximum of 6 rather than a minimum of 6.

Cllr. O Tuathail requested to know if a decision was made to zone the lands residential and there is subsequently an accident at the location, would the Council be liable.

The County Manager stated that in the Draft Action Plan for Oranmore, the bypass road is the boundary for the village. He advised the meeting that all housing should be within the Oranmore Bypass and within the village boundary. He could not recommend that the land outside of the Bypass and included in this submission be zoned to housing. It would exasperate the situation in respect of traffic hazard and added that the area in question should be de-zoned.

Cllr. Regan stated that there would be a traffic hazard regardless of how the land was zoned. He requested to know if planning permission would be granted on the lands. He added that there were no services available so it would not be possible to grant permission for 6 houses to the acre. The County Manager stated that the outcome of a particular planning application could not be discussed. He advised the members that in the context of the proper planning and development of the area, the zoning of these lands for housing should not be considered.

Cllr. McClearn stated that there was no guarantee that any application would get planning permission. He added that a substantial case had been made by the County Manager, that the Bypass forms the natural boundary of Oranmore village. There was a huge local objection to the zoning of lands for industrial/commercial use and it was not easy to obtain an ideal solution in this situation.

Deputy McCormack stated that he would like to compliment the residents of Frenchfort/Oranbeg Residents Association on the mature manner in which they made representations to the Councillors. He added that it was one of the best examples of the public working with the public representatives. He voiced his support for the Amendment to zone the lands residential at Frenchfort. The County Manager stated that this proposed land zoning was a major issue, and that if the Council wished to consider it further, they could come back with a variation of the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Walsh requested to know how close the lands were to the roundabout. Mr. Callagy advised the Councillor that the lands in question abutts the Bypass and the N6 National Primary road to Loughrea. Cllr. Mannion stated that more time was required to discuss this proposal rezoning.

Deputy O Cuiv asked if as a result of the rezoning, would a new opening onto the N6 be necessary. Cllr. Walsh stated that the rezoning of the lands had serious implications, and he proposed that the submission be considered by way of a variation to the County Development Plan. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

A vote was taken on Councillor Walsh's amendment that the submission be dealt with by way of a variation of the County Development Plan.

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A vote was taken on Councillor Walsh's amendment that the submission be dealt with by way of a variation of the County Development Plan.

AR SON:- Cllrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, E. Varley & T. Walsh (8)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllrs. T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputies P. Connaughton & E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllrs. P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn & M. Regan. (14)

The Chairman declared the amendment defeated. Councillor Cunningham's proposal that the land be zoned residential with a density of 6 houses to the acre was agreed by the Council.

Submission number 45 from Joseph and Angela Kelly was then considered by the members. Mr. Callagy stated that the submission related to the residential zoning at Moneyduff, Oranmore, Amendment Number M5.3 referred. The Planning Officer stated that the submission argued for the retention of the agricultural/amenity zoning of the Draft Plan because of its wildlife importance. The lands had been designated as a Natural Heritage Area by the Office of Public Works. The lands should be rezoned to their original amenity/agriculture zoning in the Draft Plan, Mr. Callagy recommended. Deputy McCormack stated that members had already made a recommendation to accept the residential zoning and he did not see the logic in now doing the opposite. It was proposed by Cllr. O Tuathail and seconded by Cllr. Gavin that the Planning Officers recommendation be accepted in this case. Deputy McCormack requested clarification on what was being proposed. Cllr. McClearn stated that it was very unlikely that the area in question would ever be developed. He added that it was not a suitable location for residential zoning. Deputy McCormack stated that the Council were bound by the County Development Plan when making planning decisions but requested to know if provisions could be put in the Plan which would never become a reality. The County Manager informed the meeting that the law was quite specific. The Council must have regard to the proper planning and development of the area having regard to the County Development Plan. Cllr. Byrne requested to know if it was possible to have residential zoning on lands that were designated natural heritage areas. Mr. Callagy stated that the designation of natural heritage areas had no legal standing at the present. Deputy McCormack sought clarification on the constraints which would exist with regard to the new County Development Plan and the natural heritage areas. He was informed by the Planning Officer that there were no specific guidelines in regard to natural heritage areas. It was proposed by Cllr. Regan that the land remain zoned residential and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cunningham. The County Manager stated that Oranmore must be developed in an orderly way and in this respect land must be available within the village to provide for the amenities which will be necessary for the future population of the village.

Cllr. O Tuathail requested to know if the site was liable to flooding. He added that land could be made suitable for residential development and he questioned if a different rule was being applied to Oranmore from that which existed in Connemara.

A vote was then taken on Cllr. Regan's proposal which resulted as follows:

AR SON: Cllrs. T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, P. Finnegan, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn & M. Regan. (17)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, S. Gavin, J. McClearn, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail & E. Varley.(8)

The Chairman declared the motion carried that the land remain zoned residential.

Submission number 47 from An Roinn Ealainn Cultuir agus Gaeltachta was then discussed by the members. Mr. Callagy stated that the submission which related to Chapter 10 was on the terminology and definition corrections reflecting new legislation. He recommend that the proposed terminology amendments be accepted. The acceptance of Planning Officers recommendation was proposed by Cllr. Ni Fhatharta seconded by Cllr. O Neachtain and agreed by the Council.

Submission number 50 from Comhairle Muintir an Chaiseal was then discussed by the members. Mr. Callagy stated that the submission referred to the inclusion of a road number R342 Cashel/Roundstone in the road layout map. The Planning Officer stated that reference to this map was not included in the final plan and that the matter would be rectified to reflect the current position. The proposed inclusion of the road was proposed by Deputy McCormack seconded by Cllr. Ni Fhatharta and agreed by the Council.

Submission number 53 from an Bord Iascaigh Mhara was then considered by the members. In referring to the submission the Planning Officer stated that it required some minor amendments to the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan (P9). In the first paragraph of 12.2.3 it was proposed to add the words "for land based systems." The submission pointed out, in relation to subsection 12.2.3 (iii), that an E.I.S. would address the requirements of the Plan. Mr. Callagy stated that this was accepted as part of the statutory planning application process and need not be mentioned specifically. The acceptance of Planning Officers recommendation was proposed by Deputy Connaughton seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed by the Council.

Submission number 54 from Mr. Peter Sweetman, Cashel, Co. Galway was then considered by the members. The details of the submission were outlined to the members which included the inclusion of a clause in Subsection 6.3 defining the village of Greater Cashel, the inclusion of Regional Road R343 in Map no. 8A. It requested the deletion of Amendments M3 and M4 for rezoning of lands at Gortyloughlin and Kylebruchlann in Moycullen Zoning Plan and the inclusion of an enurement clause in Table 9B. The submission requested inclusion in the Draft Plan of a subsection relating to public rights of way including preservation of existing rights of way, creation of new rights of way, a plan of existing rights of way especially for access to sea, hills, woods and scenic areas generally.

Mr. Callagy recommended the inclusion of R343 in Map no. 8A. He advised that the omission of the road was as a result of a drafting error. It was not a material alteration to the Draft Plan. In regard to the deletion of zonings at Gortloughlin and Kylebrucklann, this proposal was not recommended. Referring to Subsection 9.3.1(a) of Chapter 9 Mr. Sweetman requested the inclusion of the *enurement clause*. Mr. Callagy stated that this Subsection was deleted by the Council and he now recommended that it be re-included in the Draft Plan in the interest of proper planning and development of the area. Deputy McCormack proposed that the Planning Officers recommendation be rejected in regard to Submission number 54. This was seconded by Cllr Ryan agreed by the Members.

The County Manager informed the meeting that in accordance with the statutory requirements notice would be put in the newspaper advising the public of the Material Alteration made to the Draft County Development Plan.

Deputy O Cuiv requested to know if a new Draft Plan could be produced incorporating the Material Alterations and that the document be available for the next meeting.

Cllr. Gavin referring to Submission Number 38 by Coiste Forbartha na Forbacha, requested that a meeting be held as soon as possible to discuss the matter that has developed in regard to the zoning in the Furbo area. He would like to be included in meeting with the Planning Officer.

Cllr. Mannion in referring to the restrictions that apply in regard to the essential housing need, stated that there was no provision for a retired publican. He wished to know if a provision could be put in at this stage. He was advised that this could not be provided for in the present review.

Cllr. McHugh in referring to the planning restrictions on National routes stated that the term "landowner" as set out in the essential housing needs criteria applied to these routes and not specifically the amenity areas. He felt that this was the interpretation he had taken from the previous meetings. Mr. Liam Kavanagh Senior Executive Engineer, Planning Control, stated that the use of the term 'landowner' was in the context of amenity areas and not in respect of National roads.

Deputy Connaughton in referring to development within the 40 mile speed limit requested to know if development would be allowed in these areas in the new plan. He was advised by Mr. Callagy that development would now be allowed within the 40 mile speed limit other than the airport road and the Barna/Spiddal road and on National Routes with traffic calming measures in place.

Cllr. O Tuathail referred to the 45 invalid submissions, stated that the area to which they referred covered a vast section of the Western environs of the City. He criticised the Council for the removal of the zoning restrictions at this location and he requested to know if there was a mechanism to address the problem. He added that the removal of the zoning was bad planning and was going to cost the Council money in the long term. He requested to know if there was any way an agreement could be put in place to deal with this particular area by way of a variation of the Development Plan.

Deputy McCormack stated that the procedure which the County Council had gone through was clearly set out. The Plan was on public display and no submissions were received in respect of the Western environs. He added that a campaign took place which brought media attention to this case and stated that there was a very misleading article in the paper on housing developments at the location which was de-zoned. People were incorrectly led to believe that the non-zoning of the area would result in major housing developments in the Western environs.

The Chairman stated that public notice was given of the review of the County Development Plan and that 16 public meetings were held throughout the County while the Development Plan was on public display. While it was on display, notice appeared in the local press and also items about the Draft County Development Plan were carried on the local radio. He had no apologies to make about the content of the County Development Plan. He added that the Draft Plan was debated in detail by the members and it was a document adopted by the members.

Cllr. O Neachtain stated that a lot of hype had been generated about the Western Environs. The restrictions that were requested to be put in place would even restrict the complainants themselves from living at this location. The opportunity was there but no submissions were received while the document was on public display.

INDUSTRIAL SITE AT POOLBOY, BALLINASLOE 4220

A notice dated 26th March, 1997 of the proposed disposal of this land had been circulated to the members. On the proposal of Cllr. O Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Brennan, the Council approved the sale of land approximately 0.122 hectares in area situated in the townland of Poolboy, Ballinasloe to Mr. Conor Flaherty in accordance with notice dated 26th March, 1997 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 as amended.

**ADVANCE NOTICE - PLANNING APPLICATION 4221
NO. 96/2479**

The Members agreed to defer the above item to the next meeting.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (NATURAL HABITATS) 4222
REGULATIONS 1997**

The Members agreed to defer the above item to the next meeting.

THE LAUNCH OF PLANNING ADVICE BOOKLET 4223

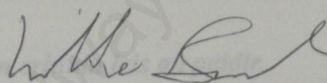
The Chairman in formally launching the planning advice booklet stated that the publication of the advice booklet was another step in the Councils endeavours to

improve the quality of service and followed on from the seminars held with the Agents and Architects over the past 2 years. In the past year the Council had reduced the requests for further information in the case of planning applications and was continually endeavouring to reduce the necessity to seek such information.

The County Manager in referring to the planning advice booklet produced by the County Council stated that the County Council dealt with 3074 planning applications in 1996. This represented a twenty per cent increase on the previous years submissions. He added that of the planning decisions issued, 9 out of 10 applicants were granted planning permission. The Council was continually endeavouring to improve the quality of service being provided to the members of the public in its dealings with the County Council and the objective on service quality was included in its Strategic Plan. He added that Galway County Council received the second highest number of planning applications in the country and this reflected the strong economic base of the County. The County Manager also stated the planning staff are now in the process of preparing planning design guidelines which would address the matter of design of buildings within the County. The Members welcomed the publication of this Advice Booklet.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:-



Chairman

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

26th May, 1997

Date

Michael O'Neill, Closhmach, An Chathrú Rún, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Cústín Bn. Uí Chonghaile, Tír a Píosa, Leitir Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Seán O'Connell, Salathána, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Máistir Uí Fhlacharta, Cnoc na hAille, Indreabhac, Co. na Gaillimhe.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 24th MARCH, 1997

MINUTES

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir W. Burke

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. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, D. Barrett, A/Co. Secretary, E. Lushy, Finance Officer, J. Collieran, Co. Engineer, J. Crotty, Deputy Co. Engineer, C. Wallace, T. Connell & C. Greene, S.S.O.'s, M. Killoran-Coyne, S.O. and C. O'Hara, A/S.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4184

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Micheal Ó Maille, Cladhnach, An Cheathru Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Caitlín Bn. Uí Chonghaile, Tir a Fhía, Leitir Móir, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Seán Ó Cualáin, Salathúna, An Spideál, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Muintir Uí Fhlátharta, Cnoc na hAille, Indreabhan, Co. na Gaillimhe.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

4185

Congratulations was extended by the Members to the Athenry Hurling Club in their success in winning the All-Ireland Club Hurling Final. On the proposal of Councillor W. Burke, seconded by Senator McDonagh it was agreed that a civic reception would be held for the Athenry Team at the next Monthly Meeting in the Council Buildings.

MINUTES

4186

The Minutes from the Monthly Meeting of 24th February, 1997 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Regan.

The Report of the Council Seminar held on 14th February, 1997 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor McClearn, seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The Report of the National Monuments Advisory Meeting held on 14th January, 1997 was considered. On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor the report was adopted.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 18th February, 1997 was considered. On the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the report was adopted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor McHugh queried whether a reply had been received from the Minister for the Environment with regard to the proposed deputation. The Acting Assistant County Manager said that no reply had been received. On the proposal of Councillor McHugh it was agreed that the Deputy's and Senators of the Council would pursue the matter and advise the Members at the meeting on the 11th April, 1997.

Tullykynne Castle, Moycullen

Councillor Gavin queried whether this property should be investigated by the Council, with regard to its dangerous condition, while a reply was awaited from the O.P.W. The Acting Assistant County Manager confirmed that the matter would be investigated.

SALE OF LAND AT GORTREVAGH, OUGHTERARD

4187

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Mannion the sale of land at Gortrevagh, Oughterard to Electronic Concepts (Europe) Ltd., in accordance with Section 83 Notice dated 18th February, 1997 was approved by the Members.

SALE OF LAND AT CAHERLAVINE, LOUGHREA 4188

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Regan the sale of land at Caherlavine, Loughrea to Mr. Liam Dervan, in accordance with Section 83 Notice dated 18th February, 1997 was approved by the Members.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ROADWORKS SCHEME 1997 4189

On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor McHugh, the Report dated 28/2/1997 was considered and adopted by the Members.

A general discussion ensued. The Members welcomed the Report and said that it was indicative of the partnership which can be developed between Local Authorities and the Local Community. They encouraged similar co-operation between other bodies e.g. E.S.B. and Telecom Eireann and acknowledged the benefits to the community of this initiative.

NOMINATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNTY TOURISM COMMITTEE 4190

Councillor Mannion proposed Councillor Varley as the Council's representative. This was seconded by Councillor Ryan. Councillor Cunningham was also proposed and seconded but withdrew in favour of Councillor Varley. The Chairman declared Councillor Varley as the Council's representative on the County Galway Tourism Committee.

SANITARY SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT 4191

The Report dated 12th March, 1997 had been circulated previously to the Members. The Deputy County Manager advised the Members that Galway County Council are awaiting notification from the Department of the Environment on the funding for Capital works for 1997. He said that Portumna and Loughrea Sewerage Schemes were included as major works to proceed to the construction stage in 1997. He advised the Members that Loughrea was different to Portumna in that the original submission for an entire scheme had to be revised and broken down into two elements of which approval is awaited from the Department. He further advised that no definite time-scale could be given as progress depended entirely on receipt of approval from the Department of the Environment.

Deputy McCormack welcomed the report and in particular development of the Spiddal/Rossaveal Trunk Main and proposed that telephone wires be put underground and be included as part of the proposal to the Department of the Environment after the site investigation has been carried out.

The County Engineer confirmed that there would be no objection in principle to combine the laying of the mains and the underground cables simultaneously but advised that this would increase the cost and would be done only if the extra cost was provided.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain welcomed the idea of laying the cables underground and complimented similar work carried out on the main Spiddal Road by Telecom Eireann. However, he stressed the urgency was the supply of water and the extent of which planning permission is refused as a result of inadequate water supply.

Deputy O'Cuiv concurred with the previous statement and added that there appeared to be a problem with getting approval from the Department of the Environment even if money was available from E.U. He stressed that all water schemes were important and asked what was the current position with regard to proposals for schemes at Moycullen, Inis Mor and Leenane.

The Deputy County Manager advised the Members that with regard to Moycullen, a team from Trinity were assessing Ballyquirke Lake at Moycullen. The data collected for 1996 and 1997 will be used in connection with submissions to the Department of the Environment for a new/revised scheme. He confirmed that priority is given to all villages and schemes around Lough Corrib but there is a serious problem with the financing of these schemes.

Councillor Finnegan said that he was concerned that new schemes do not provide a service to all residents in an area. He welcomed the preliminary report and the extent of the Tuam Water Supply distribution system given the huge number of people it will supply and asked when works would commence on this project.

Councillor Byrne expressed concern that insufficient priority was being given to the smaller schemes e.g. Kinvara and Clarenbridge Sewerage Treatment Plants where the small local bays are being effected with possible effects on the shellfish industry. On his proposal, seconded by Councillor W. Burke, it was agreed that the Department of the Environment be asked to provide money for these schemes.

Councillor Gavin welcomed the report but expressed concern that rural and village development will be adversely effected unless small sewerage and water schemes are put in place. He also said that lakes on the Corrib system had deteriorated considerably and said that water supply to the city and its environs will be diminished greatly if remedial works are not carried out now. He also said that the fishing industry is being threatened unless priority is given to these water supplies.

Councillor Callanan proposed that the Department be requested to furnish grants to those who sink their own wells, be they private individuals or group water schemes. This was seconded by Councillor Regan.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail queried whether the Connemara Regional Water Scheme should be broken down and prioritised as the matter is with the Department since 1994.

Deputy O'Cuiv proposed that a joint meeting of the Galway Rural and Connemara Electoral Committees be held to meet with representatives from the Comhairchumann in the Spiddal-Rossaveal area to discuss the issue of water supply in the area.

Councillor J. Burke welcomed and complimented the long-term planning being carried out by the Council but expressed concern that parts of Tuam Town were still unserved.

Councillor McHugh said that all towns and villages on the shores of Lough Corrib need treatment plants to ensure pollution did not occur. He also asked that priority be given to Headford with regard to the provision of a treatment plant.

Councillor O'Sullivan complimented the Council on the Ballinasloe Treatment Plant and queried whether the proposals for Aughrim could be reviewed so that it can be linked to the system serving the Interpretative Centre. He also said that the provision of water and sewerage treatment plants in towns and villages listed on Page 8 of the document would result in the reversal of rural depopulation.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta complimented the efforts being made by the Staff but expressed concern about the delays in getting approval from the Department.

In response the Deputy County Manager stated that the Council had submitted several proposals to the Department details of which were set out in the report circulated. Funding from the Cohesion Fund was largely confined to a specific catchment area i.e. a regional basis rather than on a project by project basis. In future the Council would be required to prioritise schemes on the basis of need including tourism potential, industrial development etc.

REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 4192

The Deputy County Manager advised the Members that the current report was originally prepared late in 1996 now needed to be revised in the light of the recently published documents on the Waste Management Act and the EU Draft Directives on landfill sites and packaging. It was agreed to defer the matter to a future meeting.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEAT INSPECTIONS UNDER THE ABATTOIRS ACT 1998 AND RELEVANT REGULATIONS 4193

The Acting Assistant County Manager advised the Members that while the 1988 Abattoir Act increased control over abattoirs, the 1992 Regulations required a new system of meat inspection. However, due to the lack of funding these regulations had not been implemented by local authorities. The Department of Agriculture has now agreed that it will pay Local Authorities the difference between the fees received from inspections and the actual cost of carrying out the inspections. He confirmed that there will be both ante and post-mortem inspections in all abattoirs.

Councillor McClearn queried whether all Local Authorities had appointed Inspectors and if the same standards were being implemented and maintained throughout the country.

The Acting Assistant County Manager replied stating that inspections were compulsory on all Local Authorities to implement and with the issue of funding having been finalised the Minister is insisting that they be implemented.

Councillor Ryan requested clarification as to whether these inspections also included the small butcher who kills 4-5 animals weekly.

The Acting Assistant County Manager confirmed that all slaughtering, whether in large/small numbers are to be inspected.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the implementation of the Regulations but said that it was important that abattoirs remain open and that both the small abattoir and the large factory be treated similarly vis-à-vis inspections.

Councillor Byrne welcomed the commencement of inspections but expressed concern about the additional costs which would be imposed on small butchers.

Councillor O'Sullivan queried whether this was the first time abattoirs in County Galway paid charges.

The Acting Assistant County Manager advised that the fees and costs are determined by the legislation and so the butchers etc. will be aware of the costs involved. He confirmed that apart from one or two abattoirs this is the first time that charges will be imposed in Galway. He also advised the Members that there will be ten inspectors in County Galway, six of which are new appointments.

Councillor W. Burke expressed concern that high risk materials are not being collected and proposed that a letter be sent to the Department of Health outlining the Council's concern over this issue. This was seconded by Councillor J. Burke. He also recommended that it be investigated whether the rendering facility in Ballinasloe could arrange to deal with some of this high risk material.

Councillor Callanan advised that if this dangerous material is not dealt with, there could be an increase in the indiscriminate dumping of such material.

COUNTY MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4194

The Members were advised of correspondence dated 6th March, 1997 from the Minister of State advising that £100,000 has been allocated towards the upgrading of the runway at Inverin under the Islands Development Programme - Access.

Councillor Gavin welcomed this allocation.

The Acting Assistant County Manager advised of correspondence from the Galway Community Games Committee who were seeking a grant in respect of uniforms for the Community Games teams similar to that granted in 1991. The Committee is seeking a similar grant from Galway Corporation. On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed that a grant of £2,000 be made available to the Galway County Community Games.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4195

Deputations

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Varley it was agreed to receive a Deputation from the Claregalway Community Action Group at the next Galway Area Meeting.

Cappataggle

Councillor Mullins asked when will the current works at Cappataggle be completed.

The County Engineer advised that he would investigate and the Members would be advised accordingly.

Notice of Motion

Deputy O'Cuiv asked if a reply could be furnished to him with regard to a notice of motion submitted concerning the replacement of a sign post. The County Engineer advised that he would investigate the matter and revert back to the Deputy.

CONFERENCES

4196

The following Members were nominated and approved to attend the conferences outlined below on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. It was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan and the details of the estimated cost having been given to the Members in accordance with D.O.E. Circular dated 17/12/1993.

1997 Annual Conference of Association of Health Boards in Ireland - Bantry, Co. Cork - 2/3 May, 1997

Deputy P. Connaughton
Cllr. T. Byrne
Sen. J. McDonagh
Cllr. E. Varley
Cllr. M. Loughnane
Cllr. M. Regan

Cllr. M. Finnerty
Cllr. T. Walsh
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. K. Quinn
Cllr. M. Mullins
Cllr. P. O'Sullivan

L.A.M.A. Conference - Kenmare, Co. Kerry - 3/4 April, 1997

Cllr. P. O'Tuathail Cllr. M. Loughnane
Cllr. K. Quinn

Library Conference - Letterkenny, Co. Donegal - 22/25 April, 1997

Cllr. K. Quinn Cllr. M. Fahy

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 13 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4197

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road is considered to be in fairly good condition. It is not included in the programme for surface dressing but will be subject to routine maintenance as funds allow.

N.O.M. NO. 15 - KILMACDUAGH CEMETERY - CLLR M. FAHY 4198

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"I am to inform you that it is proposed to take out the entrance steps which are located approx. half way along the front boundary of the cemetery and to replace them with a wicker gate. This work which will improve access to the cemetery, will be carried out in the latter part of 1997."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - CLLR. M. FAHY 4199

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The carrying out of above works is dependant on funds being made available by the National Roads Authority. However, no funds were made available in the current year.

This location will be considered along with others when 1998 proposals are being prepared."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - DRAIN - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4200

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"The drain will be cleaned in the near future."

N.O.M. 18 - FLOODING - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4201

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"It is proposed to carry out works to alleviate the problem shortly."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - FLOODING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4202

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"It is proposed to install a soakpit at the location towards the end of the year. This is acceptable to the householder concerned."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - LIGHTS - DEPUTY McCORMACK 4203

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"It is proposed to erect School Flashing Lights at Clarenbridge National School this year."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD SAFETY MEASURES - SEN. J. McDONAGH 4204

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:

"New signs and solid lines will be put in place at this location in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - WATER SUPPLY - SEN. J. McDONAGH 4205

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"I am to inform you that the Council proposes to supply the village of Craughwell by the Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme.

In this regard, Contract Documents for the upgrading of the Loughrea Regional Water Supply were submitted to the Department of the Environment for approval in 1992. Approval to proceed to Tender stage has not yet been received."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD WORKS - SEN. J. McDONAGH 4206

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This location will be examined and a reply will be available for the next meeting."

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

N.O.M. NO. 24 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. 4207
NI FHATHARTA

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

"Nil an bóthar seo faoi chúram an Chomhairle."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. 4208
NI FHATHARTA

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

"Nil an bóthar seo faoi chúram an Chomhairle. Bhi sé ar an iarratas a chuir muid chuig Roinn na Gaeltachta ag lorg deontas. Muna bhfuil deontas le fáil ó Roinn na Gaeltachta ní féidir an bóthar a dheisiú."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - REILG MUICINEACH - AN COMH. 4209
C. NI FHATHARTA

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

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil iarratais curtha isteach chuig an Comhairle ag a lán áiteanna páirceáil a chur ar fáil ag na reilig ar fud an Chontae. Nil a dhóthain airgid sa cháinainéis chun iad a chur ar fáil. Freisin, nil an tomad trácht ar na bóithre R336 agus R374."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD REPAIRS - DEP. E. O'CUIV 4210

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

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

N.O.M. NO. 28 - REILIG LEITIR MOIR - DEP. E. O'CUIV 4211

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

"Tá an Comhairle Chontae ag airraidh píosa talamh a cheannach chun an reilig a mhéadú."

Tá an Comhairle Chontae ag dealáil leis na úinéirí chun an láithreán a cheannach agus bhféidir nach mbeidh gá leis na cumhachta éigeantacha a usáid."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - ROAD REPAIRS - DEP. E. O'CUIV 4212

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

"It is proposed to repair this road when the construction work being carried out in the area is completed. It would not be practical to repair the road while the construction work is in progress."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - TRAFFIC PROBLEMS - AN COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4213

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

"The Galway Transportation & Planning Study will commence within the next four weeks.

The issue of traffic congestion on the western approach to Galway City will be one of the major issues which will be addressed as a priority within the Study.

I understand that Galway Corporation have made a fresh submission to the Department of the Environment relating to the construction of a new distribution road from Bishop O'Donnell Road which will be part of the solution to the congestion problem. If approved this new route is likely to be implemented before any other additional measure to solve the overall problem."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - FLOODING - AN COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4214

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

"It is proposed to carry out works to alleviate the problem during the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD REPAIRS - AN COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4215

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

"This road is not in charge of the Council."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4216

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Potholes will be filled in on this road shortly."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - SIGNS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4217

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"A sign will be provided at this location shortly."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4218

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

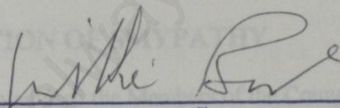
"An application for the provision of a special grant of £300,000 in 1997 was sent to the National Roads Authority on 28/2/'97. However in letter dated 18/3/'97 the National Roads Authority informed us that

"The funding available to the Authority in 1997 has been fully allocated and there are no funds at our disposal from which an additional allocation could be provided to the Council for these works in the current year.

Funding for the proposed works will, however, be considered when the allocations for 1998 are being determined."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:



Chairman

28th April, 1997

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS,
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 14th MARCH, 1997**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor W. Burke

Baill:-

Cllrs. J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan,
Deputies P. Connaughton & E. O'Cuiv,
Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M.
Finnerty, S. Gavin, M. Loughnane, J. McClearn,
Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain,
M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M.
Regan, E. Varley and T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson,
Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co.,
Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, J. Collieran,
County Engineer, J. Crotty, Deputy Co. Engineer, P.
Canney, S.E.E., P. Carroll, A/A.O., D. Barrett,
A.O., T. Connell & T. Murphy, S.S.O.'s & C. O'Hara,
A/S.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SMYPATHY

4175

The Chairman advised the Members of the Council of the untimely death of Ms. Marie Glynn who was a serving Clerical Officer with Galway County Council since 1983. Ms. Glynn worked in the Mountbellew Area Office. He expressed his sympathy to Marie's Husband and Family. The Members joined the Chairman in extending their condolences to the Family and a Vote of Sympathy to Mr. Martin Glynn and Family was passed.

A Resolution of Sympathy was also extended to:-

Councillor Quinn on the death of her brother, Martin Keogh
Paddy O'Grady, Cahermore, Gort.
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Kavanagh, Mount Scribe, Kinvara
Mr. Billy Raftery, Menlough
Mrs. Kathleen Costello, Mirah, Turloughmore.

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Councillor Quinn on the death of her brother.

It was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for five minutes as a mark of respect to Marie Glynn, R.I.P. and Martin Keogh, R.I.P.

TO NOTE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS, 1997 4176
(S.I. No. 78 of 1997)

A copy of the Regulations (S.I. No. 78 of 1997) had been circulated to the Members. The Acting County Secretary advised that the new regulations amend the existing exempted development regulations by including two new classes of exempted development:-

1. The attachment to an existing radio mast of antennae for mobile telephony.
2. The replacement of an existing mast.

The Report was noted by the Council.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT(PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 CONCERNING THE CONVERSION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ATHENRY TO A HERITAGE CENTRE 4177

The Members had been circulated with the Report concerning the conversion of St. Mary's Church, Athenry to a Heritage Centre.

The Members welcomed the proposed development and acknowledged the co-operation between Galway County Council and the local Community on this project.

The County Manager said that this project was important in terms of Tourism Infrastructure for the County and he acknowledged the role played by Bord Failte, Church of Ireland, the Local Community and Galway County Council. He said that the local community group are to be complimented on their commitment and enthusiasm for the project.

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor J. Burke, the Members agreed and noted the Report.

ADVANCE NOTICE - PLANNING APPLICATION 4178
NO. 96/2479 - DEPUTY P. MC CORMACK

This item was deferred to the next Special Meeting on the written request of Deputy McCormack.

**SANITARY SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT 4179
& REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Members agreed to defer the above items to the next Meeting.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 1997 4180

The Members had been circulated with a report dated 10th March, 1997 regarding the Housing Construction Programme for 1997.

The Members expressed concern about the apparent reduction in the number of single rural houses the Council was proposing to build in 1997, and requested confirmation as to whether the needs of those residing and wishing to reside in rural areas were being met. Concern was also expressed about rural depopulation. The Members complimented Staff in the Housing Section and noted the high quality finish of the Council's housing developments.

The Assistant County Manager said that the Construction Programme for 1997 included 22 single rural houses a reduction on 1996. He said that this was not an indication of any particular trend but rather that there were particular difficulties with title in some cases when sites are being transferred to the Council. He also said that the Council must take into account the particular housing needs in the county which must be dealt with e.g. Tuam, Gort, Clifden, Loughrea and that it is important to build houses where the greatest need exists. He said that Galway County Council is building in 60 locations in County Galway which represents a significant volume of construction work.

The Chairman, Cllr. W. Burke urged Council to purchase land in villages and small towns so that the Council could accommodate those who wish to remain in their own localities. The work being carried out by Voluntary Housing Groups especially in providing accommodation for the elderly was acknowledged and queried if casual vacancies which arose in the county from time to time helped reduce the housing waiting list.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain asked why schemes such as the Shared Ownership had not been more successful.

The Assistant County Manager said that the Shared Ownership Scheme was not being availed of to the same extent as heretofore as a result of the low interest rates which makes it easier to repay a full mortgage than a combination of rent and mortgage. He also said that with regard to casual vacancies, the Council often find it difficult to fill casual vacancies in some areas. He advised the Members that the Council had completed one of its most extensive programme of house construction in the west of the county with houses being built in Carraroe, Carna, Rosmuc and Clifden. This level of activity clearly demonstrated the Council's commitment to the prevention of rural depopulation.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail suggested that the Housing Construction Programme for 1998 be broken down into Engineering Areas, based on housing need showing the number of new starts and details of maintenance programme to each area. He also suggested that the matter be included in the Area Committee Meetings. This was agreed by the Members on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Gavin.

The County Manager said that the quality of service provided by Galway County Council in the Housing Department is of a high standard and is consistent with the Strategic Plan as adopted by the Members.

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Cunningham the report was agreed and noted.

PROPOSED TRUNK MAIN - SPIDDAL-ROSSAVAL 4181

The Report on the proposed Trunk Main from Spiddal to Rossaveal dated 28/2/1997 was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by Senator McDonagh the report was agreed by the Members.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain proposed that these works be carried out as quickly as possible so that planning applications will not continue to be refused as a result of an inadequate water supply. He said that an adequate water supply to Spiddal-Rossaveal was vital and asked whether the supply source in Spiddal had been evaluated vis-à-vis capacity etc.

In response to queries from An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail the Assistant County Manager indicated that he had been advised that the site investigation contract had been approved by the Department of the Environment. These works would take 12-16 weeks. Contract documents for the scheme had been submitted to Department of the Environment for approval. On receipt of Department of the Environment's approval to Contract Documents, the Council would proceed to the Tender Stage. He also said that while Galway County Council would like the works to commence in 1997, this was dependant on the Department of the Environment.

ADOPTION OF GALWAY ISLANDS PLAN 4182

The Report dated 7th March, 1997 on Galway Islands Plan was circulated to the Members who welcomed this report. Details of the priorities for Infrastructural Development on the Islands was also circulated to the Members. On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain the priorities as agreed by the Islands Committee Meeting on 4/3/1997 totalling £880,000 were amended to include an additional £75,000 for the development of roads in Inis Oirr.

The Report dated 7/3/1997 on the Galway Islands Plan was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain the Members adopted the report.

Councillor Gavin advised the Members that the Galway Islands Plan was to be launched at the next Islands Committee Meeting which will be held on 29th May, 1997 on Inishmaan. It was agreed that either the Chairman of Galway County Council, Cllr. W. Burke or the Committee, Cllr. Gavin would launch the Report.

The County Manager welcomed the report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4183

The Acting County Secretary advised the Members that Teagasc wished to give a presentation on REPS to the Council. On the proposal of an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor McClearn it was agreed that the Meeting on the 11th April, 1997 would be held in Glenlo Abbey prior to the presentation by Teagasc.

The Acting County Secretary advised the Members of correspondence from West of Ireland Holidays Ltd. On the proposal of an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Tuathail it was agreed that a presentation by this Marketing Company be made at the Council Meeting on 28/4/1997.

The County Manager advised the Members that the Report on the Material Amendments to the Draft County Development Plan would be on the agenda for the Council Meeting on 11/4/1997.

Deputy O'Cuiv requested a progress report on the development of Galway Airport of which Galway County Council are Shareholders. The County Manager confirmed that this will be carried out.

The County Manager advised the Members that Galway County Council has just received formal notification from the Department of the Environment that increased funding in the sum of £258,000 is being allocated to Galway County Council for Town and Village Renewal. This letter will be circulated to the Members accordingly.

The County Manager confirmed that Galway County Council had recently appointed an Architect. This will improve the architectural quality of the Council's varied services. The County Manager advised the Members that it is proposed to employ a Town Gardener for Loughrea and Tuam.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

W. Burke
Chairman

28/4/1997
DATE

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 1997

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir W. Burke

ILATHAIR 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. Fimmerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh: Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Crotty, A/Co. Engineer, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, T. Darcy, M. Dolly, P. Martyn & P. Ridge, S.E.E.'s, C. Wallace, T. Connell, & C. Greene, S.S.O.'s, M. Power, A/S.O. and E. Hourigan, A.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4141

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Mrs. Betty Mitchell, Derrada, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Mary Feeney, Spiddal Village, Spiddal, Co. Galway.

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Councillor Cunningham and Family on the recent death of his Uncle.

MINUTES

4142

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 10th January, 1997 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 27th January, 1997 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Report of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 16th January, 1997 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

The Report of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 27th January, 1997 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

AUDITOR'S REPORT - LOUGH CORRIB NAVIGATION TRUSTEES FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/1995 4143

A copy of the Auditor's Report had been circulated to each Member with the Agenda. The noting of the Auditor's Report for the Lough Corrib Trustees was proposed by Councillor Ryan, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

INDUSTRIAL SITES AT POOLBOY, BALLINASLOE TO CALCOOL LTD. 4144

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Council approved the sale of land approx. 0.290 hectares in the Townland of Poolboy, Ballinasloe, to Calcool Ltd., in accordance with Notice dated 31st January, 1997 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

DECLARATION OF ROAD AT GRATTAN PARK, MOUNTBELLEW TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD 4145

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Quinn the Council agreed to declare road at Grattan Park, Mountbellew to be a public road, the necessary procedures having been complied with. The road is located in the Housing Estate in the townland of Mountbellew Demesne. The roadway taken in charge at Grattan Park is 191 metres from the nearest edge of the N63 and extending southwards for a distance of 117 metres.

**REMISSION OF RATES ON INDUSTRIAL PREMISES 4146
OCCUPIED BY TRANSITIONS OPTICAL LTD. TUAM**

The Chairman requested Senator McDonagh, Vice-Chairman to chair the Meeting at this point and left the Chamber. Senator McDonagh took the Chair.

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary stated that in accordance with the I.D.A. Act 1986, the Council may allow 2/3 remission of rates for a period of ten years to Transitions Optical Ltd., Tuam. A report dated 18th February, 1997 was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Ryan the Council agreed to 2/3rds remission of rates for a period of ten years to Transitions Optical Ltd., Tuam.

**REMISSION IN RATES ON INDUSTRIAL PREMISES 4147
OCCUPIED BY XENITH BIOMED AT ROSSAWEAL**

A Report dated 18th February, 1997 was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Ni Fhatharta, the Council agreed to 2/3rd remission of rates for the period from 1/1/96 to 31/12/2000 to Xenith Biomed at Rossaveal.

ROAD WORKS SCHEME 1997 4148

Cllr. W. Burke resumed the Chair. Cllr. M. Fahy welcomed the Roadworks Programme and also the provision of traffic calming measures at Kilcolgan and Coole Park. He asked that Councillors' Notice of Motion money allocation be increased to £7,500 per Councillor.

Cllr. J. Mannion stated that he welcomed Cllr. Fahy's proposal. However, as the Roads Programme has been adopted by each area, there is no provision made for this increase. He said that this proposal should be considered in 1998. The County Manager said that this proposal would reduce the amount of money available for road maintenance, but that he would give the matter careful consideration under the 1998 Roadworks Programme.

Clr. T. Hussey welcomed the increased allocations for National and Non-National Roads. He was disappointed that there was not an increase in the Local Improvement Scheme allocation. A special case needs to be made for an additional allocation in order to clear the existing backlog which extends back to 1992.

Deputy McCormack welcomed the grant allocations for the National and Non-National Roads. The total budget available for roads in 1997 is £17.1 million which is an increase of 11% on the 1996 figure. The Council submitted its Five Year Roads Plan to the Department of the Environment and also the National Roads Authority in 1995 and this had a major impact on the increased allocations. A special case should

be made to the Department of the Environment requesting a once off grant to clear the Local Improvement Schemes backlog.

Clr. J. Burke stated that the present situation in relation to Local Improvement Schemes was unacceptable and requested that additional funds be sought from the Department of the Environment as a matter of urgency to clear off the backlog.

Clr. P. O'Tuathail welcomed the Roads Programme. However, he stated that it was vital that the Council has discretion in deciding which jobs get into the programme on a year to year basis. Situations can change due to, for instance, coastal erosion, flooding, provision of new factories etc. A lot of money was being spent on bridges and a special allocation should be provided by the Department of the Environment to deal with such projects. He asked that roads which were repaired under Roinn na Gaeltachta grants be examined by the Council to see if they can be taken in charge. Roads are being damaged as a result of the non operation of weighbridges which needs to be addressed. He also requested that a letter be sent to Roinn na Gaeltachta requesting the reintroduction of Scéim na mBóithre Aise.

Clr. Finnegan welcomed the Roads Programme and advised that a lot of good work has been carried out in recent years. He welcomed the N63 grant of £200,000 but this was not enough. Pressure should be kept on the N.R.A. to ensure increased funding in future years. The situation regarding Local Improvement Schemes was also unsatisfactory.

Clr. T. Walsh stated that a small number of people are experiencing difficulty in coming in/out of their homes. Notice of Motion money may be suitable to do some roads, and stated that there is a duty of obligation on the Council to do something about these roads. He queried whether there could be a relaxation of regulations so that the Council could improve these roads.

Senator J. McDonagh also welcomed the Programme. The allocation of £200,000 for the N63 was most welcome. However, an annual allocation should be provided by the N.R.A. until such time as this road is complete. The provision of traffic route lighting at Loughgeorge was also welcomed as a number of fatal accidents have occurred at this location over the years. The situation regarding Local Improvement Schemes was unsatisfactory and a small deputation should be sent to the Minister.

Duirt An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta go mo cheart iarratais a chuir chuig Roinn na Gaeltachta ag lorg deontaise le haghaidh na boithre aise mar ni bheidh an Comhairle Condae indhan boithre baillte a dheisiu gan an deontas seo. The Department of the Environment should be asked to provide a special fund for bridges and roads on the Islands.

Clr. Callanan welcomed the Roadworks and Public Lighting Programmes. He agreed with previous speakers that the situation regarding Local Improvement Schemes was most unsatisfactory and that additional funds be sought from the Department of the Environment to clear the backlog.

Duirt an Teachta O'Cuiv go raibh se sasta le clár na boithre 1997.

However, he felt that National Road Grants need to be redistributed on a more equitable basis as Urban areas seem to be getting most of the available funds at the expense of Rural areas.

He welcomed the £300,000 grant for the N59 at Leenane and also the £100,000 for the N84 Headford Road. However, major realignment is required on this road from Corrandulla towards Headford and substantial funding requires to be provided for this work. Traffic route lighting needs to be provided at Leenane on both sides of the village. Commemara was not getting its fair share of EU grants. He was disappointed that no allocation was made for the Clifden Engineering Area under this category, particularly the Ballyconneely road. A six year waiting list for Local Improvement Schemes was not acceptable, particularly when people are willing to pay a contribution in order to have roadworks carried out under this Scheme. He asked that a deputation be sent to Roinn na Gaeltachta requesting the reintroduction of the Gaeltacht Grants Scheme as this was the only scheme that allowed for the carrying out of repairs to bothre baillte.

Clr. Byrne agreed that the Local Improvement Scheme funding is inadequate and that a once off grant should be provided in order to clear the backlog. He welcomed the inclusion of Kinvara for traffic route lighting and also the provision of traffic calming measures at Kilcolgan and Coole Park. He asked why traffic route lighting was not yet provided at Ardrahan as this was provided for in the 1997 Roadworks Programme.

Clr. Cunningham welcomed the inclusion of Tubber Road, Gort in the Roadworks Programme and also the inclusion of Coole Park and Kilcolgan for traffic calming measures. However, funding requires to be provided for the National Secondary Route from Gort to Loughrea and particularly at Neil Sherry's pub and also the N18 from Gort to the Clare County Boundary is in need of major realignment works. He agreed with the previous speakers regarding the Local Improvement Scheme allocations.

Clr. O'Neachtain welcomed the Roadworks Programme. However, he was most disappointed that the R336 Galway-Spiddal Road did not attract funding under the EU Co-Financed scheme. An application for a grant for £100,000 was submitted to the Department of the Environment for 1997 but this was turned down. He advised that Galway Corporation had submitted an application to the Department for a grant of £1 million for the provision of a new road within the city but this was turned down on the basis that this road was going nowhere. He complimented the Oughterard Engineering Area for all the good works being carried out under the Roadworks Programme, particularly the opening of culverts and drains. He agreed that a deputation should be sent to Roinn na Gaeltachta requesting the reintroduction of Scéim na mBóithre Aise. He agreed with all the other speakers regarding the inadequacy of the Local Improvement Scheme allocations and that special funding should be sought in order to clear the backlog.

Cllr. O'Sullivan also agreed with the previous speakers on the inadequacy of the Local Improvement Scheme allocations. He asked that Clontuskert be included in the

Ballinasloe Engineering Area as it could be served more efficiently from this Engineering Area due to its location.

Clr. Quinn welcomed the Roadworks Programme and the Public Lighting Programme.

She agreed with the previous speakers regarding the inadequacy of the Local Improvement Scheme allocations. She requested that funding be provided under the 1998 Roadworks Programme for the widening of bridge on the N63 at Newbridge.

Clr. Varley welcomed the Roadworks Programme and the Public Lighting Programme. She requested that pressure be put on the N.R.A. to provide funding for the realignment of the N84 from Corrundulla Cross to Headford as this section of road was in need of major works.

Clr. O'Neill was very disappointed with the allocation for the Clifden Engineering Area. Clifden was not getting its fair share of grants since the supplementary grant was discontinued. Even when this grant was available, Clifden only benefited for two years. The road at Inagh Valley was in need of major realignment and strengthening works. It serves Kylemore Abbey, Connemara Wildlife Park etc. and it was difficult to understand why this location could not attract funding under the EU Co-Financed Scheme. Clifden Engineering Area only got one scheme approved under the EU Co-Financed Scheme in the last four years and this was totally unacceptable. Funding needs to be provided under the EU Co-Financed Scheme for the Ballyconneely Road, Clifden and also road at Rosroe. He welcomed the Public Lighting Programme. He asked why a light which had been paid for by the local community in April 1996 at Tully has not been erected to date.

Proposals:

1. Gaeltacht Grants:

On the proposal of Clr. O'Tuathail and seconded by Clr. Ni Fhatharta, it was agreed that a deputation would be sent to Roinn na Gaeltachta requesting the reintroduction of Sceim na mBoithre Aise.

2. Local Improvement Schemes:

On the proposal of Clr. Hussey which was seconded by Senator J. McDonagh, it was agreed that a deputation would be sent to the Department of the Environment seeking a once off grant allocation to pay the backlog of Local Improvement Schemes.

3. Ballyconneely Road, Clifden:

On the proposal of Deputy E. O'Cuiv and seconded by Clr. O'Neill, it was agreed that an application be sent to the Department of the Environment seeking special grant in 1997 for the road.

4. 1997 Roadworks Programme & Public Lighting Programme 1997:

On the proposal of Clr. Hussey and seconded by Clr. Varley, the 1997 Roadworks Programme and 1997 Public Lighting Programme were unanimously approved by the members.

The Acting County Engineer advised that a weighbridge can only be used in respect of vehicles within a five mile radius. Mobile weighpads were purchased by the Council some years ago which could be used anywhere. However, there are difficulties in using them as the readings must be accurate and the only way this can be achieved is by providing fixed stations at strategic points. The situation is being reviewed at present.

Mr. Crotty informed that the Council met officials of the E.S.B. recently regarding delays by the E.S.B. in having work programmes completed for the Council. The E.S.B. are now setting up a special contracts unit within the organisation with exclusive responsibility for public lighting. The Council will be sending a copy of the 1997 Public Lighting Programme to the E.S.B. immediately the programme is approved by the members with an official order to carry out the works. The Council's technical staff will also be meeting the E.S.B. at regular intervals through the year.

The County Manager informed that the Non-National Road Grants were up 12% on the 1996 grants. The Restoration Grant was increased by £1.3 million. This is being funded under the 10 Year Roads Restoration Programme introduced by the Minister for the Environment in 1995. This increased level of funding was welcome and would bring the Non National Roads to an acceptable standard if this level of funding was forthcoming during the remainder of the programme. The National Road Grants are up 15% on the 1996 allocation.

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

4149

Councillor McHugh proposed that the recent proposals issued by the Minister in relation to Group Water Schemes be rejected and requested that an equitable scheme acceptable to everyone be introduced by the Minister forthwith. He stated that this is a very serious matter and warrants in-depth discussion by this Council. He said that this Council should urgently request a meeting with the Minister to highlight views and problems in relation to these proposals

Deputy McCormack stated that the Council must deal with the facts of the case in hand. He said that approx. 6024 houses in County Galway on group schemes are served from public mains. These houses would normally pay up to £110 per annum. The savings to Galway City householders will be £1m approx. The Minister has increased the grants payable to Group Water Schemes and sewerage schemes over the last few years and the anomalies that exist at present will be resolved. Deputy McCormack thanked the Council for preparing a very precise and in-depth report on the current Group Water Scheme situation.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that the current situation is totally unsatisfactory and only puts further pressure on local authorities. One area of controversy is that of funding - will the local authorities get sufficient funds to maintain and provide existing and additional water schemes. He stressed that it is imperative that rural Ireland is treated equal to their counterparts in Dublin.

Deputy O'Cuiv said that Deputy McCormack highlighted the situation as it stands. However, there is nothing for free and everything must be paid for e.g. 9p extra on a gallon of petrol. For people in rural Ireland, this will amount to an extra £162.00 per annum, and approx. half do not have the luxury of water being provided by the Council. The expenditure involved in providing a service to houses not on a Council Supply must be examined, works may involve increasing pipe capacity, upgrading existing schemes, and providing new schemes. Deputy O'Cuiv also stated that people do not mind paying for water, provided good drinking water is provided. Group Water Schemes are an example of people doing things for themselves, and community involvement and co-operation with the local authorities. In the short-term, a subsidy should be given to Group Water Schemes for this year and for the future, a solution should be drawn up that is equitable to everyone. He queried as to what happens to Group Water Schemes that do not wish to be taken over by the Local Authorities. He said that as the situation stands, rural dwellers are also liable for refuse charges.

The Chairman, Councillor W. Burke said that this situation must be dealt with constructively. He said that the Group of Chairpersons have spent the last few weeks trying to meet with the Minister, but to no avail. He expressed disappointment in the Minister for failing to meet with the democratically elected representatives of the people with a view to discussing and highlighting problems with the recent announcements, whereas the Federation of Group Schemes were met by the Minister. The Chairman stressed that the Council will have difficulty in implementing this scheme, without adequate resources being provided. He also requested that fair play should be expressed to all citizens. The Chairman proposed an amendment to Councillor McHugh's proposal that a deputation meet with the Minister to discuss the entire issue. Councillor Byrne seconded the amendment.

Councillor Byrne stated that the proposal for free water should not be rejected. Councillor McHugh insisted that his proposal stand as the response made by the Minister to overcome the problems is totally inadequate. Councillor Mullins said that the anomalies are being addressed and revised documentation will be forthcoming.

The Chairman stated that a vote would be taken on the amendment that the Council seek a deputation with the Minister. The Vote resulted as follows:-

AR SON:

Cllrs. W. Burke, T. Byrne, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllrs. M. Mullins & M. Ryan. (7)

IN AGHAIDH:

Deputy E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, T. Hussey, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn, M. Regan & E. Varley. (10)

The Chairman declared the amendment lost. After some discussion the following motion, proposed by Deputy O'Cuiv and seconded by Councillor McHugh was agreed unanimously.

"This Council reject the proposals made recently by the Minister of the Environment in relation to Group Water Schemes as being an inadequate response to the inequity created by the abolition of domestic water charges for people on public water schemes and calls on the Minister to meet a Delegation from the Council and to put forward proposals that will ensure equity for all water users in the Country."

SPIDDAL/ROSSAVEAL TRUNK MAIN 4150

Deputy McCormack stated that the laying of mains for this work has been approved by the Department of the Environment. The Council will be officially informed of this sanction shortly. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the Council have been waiting approx. 5 years for this approval and failure to sanction this sooner has hindered the development of the area. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta queried when work will commence on this scheme.

The Manager said that the Council was awaiting sanction to the site investigation works. However, it is hoped that construction on this scheme will commence as soon as possible.

SANITARY SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT 4151
REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEAT INSPECTIONS UNDER
ABATTOIR ACT 1988 & RELEVANT REGULATIONS

The Members agreed to defer the above items to the next Meeting.

CONFERENCES 4152

The following Members were nominated and approved to attend the conferences outlined below on the recommendations of the Finance Committee, on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, details of the estimated cost having been given to the Members in accordance with D.O.E. Circular dated 17/12/1993:-

L.A.M.A. Conference - Kenmare - 3/4 April, 1997

Sen. J. McDonagh	Cllr. J. Mannion	Cllr. M. Ryan
Dep. P. McCormack	Cllr. T. Walsh	Cllr. M. Mullins
Cllr. P. O'Sullivan	Cllr. M. O'Neill	Cllr. T. Hussey
Cllr. E. Varley	Cllr. M. Fahy	Cllr. P. McHugh
Dep. P. Connaughton	Cllr. M. Cunningham	Cllr. S. O'Neachtain
Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta		

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

Colmcille 8th Winter School - Colmcille, Co. Donegal - 28th Feb/2nd March, 1997

Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

Cllr. J. Mannion

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4153

The Manager informed the Members that the new County Engineer, Mr. John V. Colleran will take up duty with Galway County Council on 1st March, 1997.

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 17 - SEWERAGE SYSTEM - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4154

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Galway County Council have no proposals at present for the extension of the Gort Sewerage Scheme.

An extension of this scheme is not considered to be a priority at the present time."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - TREATMENT PLANTS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4155

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"I wish to inform you that Galway County Council's proposals for the Water Services infrastructure in the County are as set out in the progress report on Sanitary Services Capital Works dated 3rd January, 1997.

As the above Notice of Motion is broad in scope, you may wish to request information on the status of specific projects."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4156

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This is the National Route N67. Funding for the carrying out of improvement and maintenance works on such routes is provided by the National Roads Authority. However, no funds were provided for this location in the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - CLLR. M. FAHY 4157

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This road will be inspected and a reply will be available for the next meeting."

"There are no proposals for traffic calming measures at Kilcolgan. The National Roads Authority have reserved £1 million throughout the country for Low Cost Accident Prevention Measures and have asked for submission of schemes under this heading. The N18 at Kilcolgan is included in the 1997 National Roadworks Programme by the Acting County Engineer as a draft proposal for submission to the National Roads Authority."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD MARKINGS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4158

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The National Roads Authority have reserved £1 million throughout the country for Low Cost Accident Prevention Measures and have asked for submission of schemes under this heading. The Coole Park Junction on the N18 is included in the 1997 National Roadworks Programme by the Acting County Engineer as a draft proposal for submission to the National Roads Authority."

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - CLLR. 4159
P. FINNEGAN**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"The old playground equipment was removed in the interests of public safety. The question of replacement is being examined."

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. 4160
LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Part of this road is included in the 1997 Roads Programme for surface restoration. The sections to be restored are from Lissalundoon to Ganty and Carrowevagh." 19th February, 1997."

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. 4161
LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

It is proposed to lower the wall and remove the hedge at this location subject to the agreement of the landowner involved."

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. 4162
LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road will be inspected and a reply will be available for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - BRIDGE - CLLR. J. MCCLEARN 4163

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This bridge is narrow and in poor state of repair. It is not in a fit condition to be taken in charge and could not be rehabilitated at reasonable cost. We will write to the Office of Public Works to establish if that body has any plans to improve the bridge and we will let you know the outcome."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD WORKS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4164

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"It is hoped to carry out this work in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD MARKINGS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4165

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This work will be carried out in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - ROAD MARKINGS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4166

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The dip in the road at this location will be raised in the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - COMHARTHA SABHAILEACHT - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4167

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh don Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

"Ni mheasann an Comhairle Contae go bhfuil gá le comharthaí ag na h-ionadaithe thuas luaite. Tá na hionadaithe seo cosúil le na lán áiteacha eile ar fud an chontae agus níl an Comhairle Chontae sásta an Chontae a chlúdú le comhartha mar chailleadh siad éifeacht."

Tá an dualgas ar na tiománaithe tiomáint go cúramach i gconai."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - COMHARTHA SABHAILTEACHT - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4168

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh don Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

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

Tá dhá comhartha ag an láthar seo faoi láthair agus ní mheasann an Comhairle Chontae go bhfuil gá le ceann eile."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - REHAB RECYCLING BINS - AN COMH. 4169
C. NI FHATHARTA**

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh don Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil iarratais curtha isteach chuig an Comhairle ag a lán áiteanna ar fud an Chontae agus nil aon socrú déanta fós ar an bplean don bhliain seo."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD REPAIRS - DEPUTY E. O'CUIV 4170

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

"Routine maintenance will be carried out on this road during the coming year."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - ROAD REPAIRS - DEPUTY E. O'CUIV 4171

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

"Repairs to this road will be carried out in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4172

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

"The estimated cost of removing this bend is £2,000. There are no funds available at present. The work could be done if Notice of Motion funding was provided and the necessary land was made available."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - BOTHAR - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4173

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

"Déanfar obar deisiúcháin ag an láthar seo go gairid."

N.O.M. NO. 37 - SIGHT DISTANCE - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4174

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

"There are fifty five junctions on the R336 between Spiddal and Tully Church, the majority of which require sight distance improvement. There are no funds available to carry out this work at present."

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL SEMINAR HELD IN THE ORANMORE LODGE, HOTEL ON FRIDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1997.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

CATHAOIRLEACH:

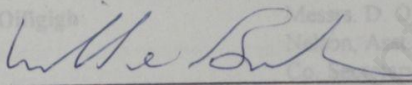
As Cathaoirleach W. Burke

LIATHAIR FREISIN:

Baili:

- Cllrs J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callaghan
- Deputy P. Connolly, Cllrs M. Cunningham
- M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin,
- T. Hussey, J. Maunton, J. McClean, Deputy
- P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDermott, Cllrs P.
- McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Dhúill, S.
- O'Leary, Cllrs P. O'Sullivan, P.
- O'Leary, Cllrs M. Ryan, E.
- Varley & T. Walsh

Submitted, Approved + Signed:



Chairman

Date

24th March. 1997

BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT - A PROGRAMME FOR CHANGE 4138

A presentation was made by Mr. Lusby, Finance Officer on the financial implications of the "Better Local Government - A Programme for Change" as outlined below:-

E. LUSBY'S REPORT

Mr. Lusby advised those present that while the situation was not yet fully clear, the main points are detailed below:

- The power of Local Authorities to levy water and sewerage charges on domestic users was withdrawn from 1/1/1997.
- All charges in County Galway are levied to 31/3/1997 and any outstanding amounts due are collectable and payable, and will be pursued.
- The amount of domestic charges not collectable under the new arrangements will not equal the potential receipts from motor tax on private cars to be retained by

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**REPORT ON COUNCIL SEMINAR HELD IN THE
ORANMORE LODGE, HOTEL ON FRIDAY, 14TH
FEBRUARY, 1997.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir W. Burke

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, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy
P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P.
McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S.
O'Neachtain, M.O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P.
O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E.
Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D.
Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh,
Co. Secretary, J. Crotty, A/Co. Engineer, E.
Lusby, Finance Officer, N. Howard, S.E.E.,
D. Barrett & R. Curley, A.O.'s, C. Greene,
S.S.O., M.J. Dolan & C. O'Hara, S.O.'s.

**BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT - A PROGRAMME 4138
FOR CHANGE**

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REPORT ON SEMINAR - 14/02/97

- Local Authorities. The shortfall will be made up by Central Government through an Equalisation Fund.
- The Equalisation Fund will be a National Fund, resourced by some of the motor taxation receipts from Local Authorities and will operate on a "Needs and Resources" basis.
 - Local Authorities will retain 80% of receipts from private car taxation with the power to increase the tax by a max. of 3% in 1998 and up to an overall max. of 6% in 1999.
 - Galway County Council is the Motor Taxation authority for all of County Galway and arrangements will be put in place for funding of the charges and Rate Support Grant foregone by Galway Corporation and Ballinasloe U.D.C.
 - Introduction of Community Development Levy.

IMPACT ON GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

- The total gross yield of domestic and non-domestic charges is £ 2,624,418
- Gross Motor Tax receipts (based on 1996 figures) = £14,176,000
- Less Cost of Motor Tax Admin. 630,000
- Transfer to D.O.E. Equal. Fund:
 - 100% Commercial Taxation 2,567,400
 - 20% Private Car Taxation 2,321,700
 - Total Demand on Fund 5,519,100
- Estimated balance retained to replace the Rate Support Grant and Domestic Charges of Galway Local Authorities £ 8,656,900

Amounts of RSG and Domestic Charges included in 1997 Estimate

	RSG	Charges	Total
Galway County Council	8,325,720	1,868,020	10,193,740
Galway Corporation	2,334,000	698,000	3,032,000
Ballinasloe U.D.C.	149,140	141,000	<u>290,140</u>
			13,515,880

Less Estimated Balance retained from Motor Tax Receipts 8,656,900
 Estimated shortfall required from Equalisation Fund £4,858,980

A general discussion ensued. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain expressed concern that the "Programme for Change" did not in fact improve local authorities as a shortfall in funding resulted in an increased dependency on central government. He felt that the Consultants engaged by Mr. Howlin failed to take cognisance of European Local Government Systems and if anything, have perpetuated the centralised system that exists today. While he agreed there are some very important and positive aspects to the Programme for Change, he said that where it matters most i.e. the level and quality of service to be provided and inadequate finances to provide same is a major defect in the programme. He also stated that while local authorities were empowered to increase the level of private motor taxation to a maximum ceiling of 6% after 1998, the

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fact that this money is to be divided between Galway Corporation, Ballinasloe U.D.C. and Galway County Council suggests that a serious short-fall will exist in Galway County Council finances.

Councillor Hussey concurred with An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain and stated that the proposed changes must be analysed carefully. He expressed concern over the possibility of increased dependency on central government to make up any short-fall if the economy became less buoyant.

Deputy McCormack stated that any increase in the rate of private motor taxation should be decided at national level to ensure a uniform rate throughout the country. He welcomed the idea of Community Development Contributions which would result in the local communities benefiting directly from their own financial input. He believed that no short-fall of funds would exist as the equalisation fund would operate to Galway County Council's benefit.

Councillor McHugh requested that Deputy McCormack confirm that this was in fact true.

Deputy Connaughton welcomed the Programme for Change and stated that while the consumer is financially better off as a result of the abolition of domestic water charges, their expectations regarding the quality of service to be provided is increasing. He also stated that the idea of communities being encouraged to be more pro-active in the development of their areas with the assistance of their local authorities was welcome.

The County Manager confirmed that the Department of the Environment has authorised the current year's expenditure as per the Adopted Estimates of Expenditure. He confirmed that any short-fall in the money the Council would raise itself will be funded by National Government. He stated that Galway County Council have been futuristic in the preparation of Five Year Programmes for services such as housing, roads and the Library which will be put before the Council. These programmes will assist Galway County Council in maximising receipts from the Equalisation Fund.

He also said that more work is required to be carried out to cost the operational side of capital works programmes. He pointed out that the single greatest challenge in the immediate future to Galway County Council was the provision of water and sanitary services in the county. Galway County Council is lagging behind as regards large water schemes and as a result Galway has considerable problems with water and sewerage facilities. A full report will be presented to the Council at a later stage.

With regard to Community Development Schemes, Mr. O'Donoghue stated that if a community agree themselves that they require a swimming pool, library, park, etc. - the local authority could assess the cost and levy a charge on that community under the proposed arrangements. The prior agreement of that community is vital but the initiative can come from either the County Council/local Community Group. Mr. O'Donoghue confirmed that the Minister has said that any local authority will not be worse off as a result of the changes but stressed that Galway County Council must assess its needs and resources and must ensure that it is not penalised for not incurring

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major deficits and thereby not get priority when the Equalisation Fund is being divided out.

Councillor McHugh stated that Galway County Council is well off in comparison with other local authorities e.g. Leitrim and questioned who is going to fund the deficits.

The County Manager stated that Dublin, Cork and Galway County Councils will be financing a considerable amount of the short-fall but is hopeful that Galway County Council would get more back than it puts into the Equalisation Fund. Mr. O'Donoghue stated there was no criteria established as to how the Equalisation Fund will operate. He advised the Members that he had been asked to sit on the Working Committee of the Strategic Policy Committee where the criteria for S.P.C.'s and C.P.G.'s will be discussed.

Councillor McHugh stated that he is opposed to Galway County Council levying the rate of motor taxation on private vehicles for Galway Corporation and Ballinasloe U.D.C. areas. He also stated that there appeared to be a division between urban and rural areas regarding service provision with the rural areas expected to pay for the service provided i.e. water. He stated that Galway County Council ought not to be seen to support this. He proposed that Galway County Council "reject out of hand the policy/proposals of the Minister for Environment regarding group water schemes and demand equality of treatment with urban dwellers". This proposal was seconded by Councillor Quinn.

Councillor Ryan recommended that the public be advised as to the changes regarding the services which were now free.

Mr. Lusby confirmed that water charges would continue for all other users/consumers other than private householders and that the same would apply with regard to sewerage charges. He also advised that sewerage charges would be based on volume and usage and that the issue of water conservation would be a major challenge facing Galway County Council. He also confirmed that water consumption would be increasingly related to volume and usage and envisaged an on-going increase in the Council's metering programme. This would allow people to pay for what they use as opposed to a fixed charge.

Councillor Callanan pointed out that the Equalisation Fund must be increased annually to meet the increased costs involved in service provision given that any increase in motor taxation rates would be inadequate to cover same.

Councillor McClearn expressed concern over the fact that B & B's were considered domestic and charged accordingly while others e.g. small shopkeepers were being discriminated against.

Councillor Brennan stated that if all consumers were metered then it would be a more equitable system. He also said that he didn't agree with the local authority having to decide the annual increase in rate of motor taxation on private cars. He said that he agrees with the Management structure as it exists today and feels the Management and Staff are working extremely well. He felt that an appointed P.R. Officer would be an

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advantage especially when dealing with the media. He felt that the only negative aspect is in fact the financial structure.

The County Manager stated that he has the highest regard for the Staff of Galway County Council who have shown through their involvement in the S.M.I. process and the initiatives they have introduced to be prepared to manage change and be forward planners. He also said that the D.O.E. have acknowledged Galway County Council as the second largest council in the country and advised the Members that the Department has approved on 31/1/1997 the appointment of a second Assistant County Manager under Section 9 of the County Management Act, 1940 which the Local Appointments Commission will be filling in due course. It is accepted that a second Assistant County Manager is required to supervise and manage the operational aspects of the Council in relation to its programmes and plans and also to enable Galway County Council to get the maximum resources available from the Department.

Councillor Brennan enquired whether Galway County Council had estimated the cost of taking over all the group water schemes in the county.

The County Manager stated that this matter was being investigated and that a Circular was expected from the D.O.E. confirming the devolution of powers to the local authorities concerning group water schemes. Galway has 12½% of the country's group water schemes and this will have serious financial implications for Galway County Council with regard to maintenance costs. He said the Members will be advised of developments at the next Council Meeting. He complimented and acknowledged the work being done by both technical and administrative staff in the provision of water supply. He advised the Members that all senior staff had successfully completed a two day media skills course and that his policy with regard to P.R. is that the senior person dealing with the matter should generally deal with the media.

Councillor Fahy stated that the Council when considering an increase in the rate of motor taxation for private cars, should consult with the Corporation and Ballinasloe U.D.C. so that any increase would be agreed and not imposed. He expressed concern that failure to solve the conflict between rural and urban areas may result in independent single-issue candidates for pressure groups getting elected.

Councillor O'Neill welcomed the Programme for Change and in particular the aspects which deal with reorganisation. He said that local authorities must be given decision making powers over areas such as roads and that adequate finances to local authorities is vital to ensure decisions are carried out. He said that it would appear that the Equalisation Fund would operate successfully if the Government added to it annually.

Councillor O'Sullivan concurred with the previous two speakers and expressed concern that local government appeared to be ignored by both community groups and central government and said that it was essential that local authorities be given adequate powers to carry out their duties. He also queried whether the finance promised by the D.O.E. for the new County Buildings would be forthcoming.

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Mr. Lusby confirmed that the loan charges on the motor taxation building will be paid by the Department and the cost of administration of motor taxation would be the first charge on receipts from motor tax collected by Galway County Council.

Councillor J. Burke asked whether Galway Corporation could become a motor taxation body.

Mr. Lusby said that as a result of the agreement between Galway County Council and Galway Corporation when the boundary was extended the Corporation must give five years notice to Galway County Council if it wished to withdraw from the arrangement regarding the provision of specific services by the Council.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the Manager and Staff on their ability to forward plan and asked whether County Galway and indeed the West in general would be preparing future development and contingency plans for the future, given the possible phasing out of E.U. funding after 1999.

The County Manager said that steps are already being taken to ensure convergence with (a) the County Strategy Group continuing with a review of the business plans by outside consultants and will be able to hand over to their replacement and thereby ensure continuity. (b) The NASC Partnership have appointed Mr. J. Bennett to Brussels and U.C.G. are to report on NASC's Strategy for 1999. (c) The County Enterprise Groups are preparing a plan to show how convergence will take place at a local level.

Councillor Mullins welcomed the document in general and said that the best P.R. a local authority could have is quality of service provision. He also stated that the Minister should be asked to increase the powers of local authorities in the future.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail said that he believed the abolition of water and sewerage charges for domestic consumers was a negative decision and asked that Galway County Council keep the Department advised of the cost of maintenance of group water schemes etc. He also said that he believed that the idea of community contributions favoured the wealthier and bigger urban areas which may result in poorer areas falling further into decline.

Mr. Lusby stressed that this aspect of the document is not entirely new but that the initiative can come from either the local authority or the community group and also that agreement with and by the local community to pay the levy was vital.

Councillor Finnerty expressed concern about the cost to local authorities of e.g. E.S.B. as opposed to other bodies.

The County Manager advised him that the cost was now the same for everyone and at a recent meeting between the E.S.B., District Engineers and County Manager it was agreed that the cost of lighting and the time-scale involved in having lights erected was agreed so that the lighting programme for 1997 could proceed.

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The Chairman advised the Members that the issue of group water schemes would be on the agenda for the next monthly meeting and requested that any discussion on the matter be postponed until then.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

4139

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th February, 1997 on the Strategic Management Initiative update which was noted by the Members.

The County Manager advised the Members that he had promised a progress report in February of each year. He said that this is the first such report since the Council Meeting in November, 1995 when the Council adopted the Strategic Plan 1996-2000. The plan has assisted the organisation in focusing on the quality of service and customer satisfaction it provides. The core values are exemplified by the six main priorities and their strategies which assist also with the preparation of Action Plans and the development of the County Council and its management of change.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail said that it was important that if the Council's Strategic Plan and Action Plans required a degree of flexibility that the D.O.E. Strategic Plan must also incorporate same in particular with respect to roads.

The County Manager concurred that rolling plans were the norm in-house and that he would take the matter up at Departmental level.

Councillor O'Sullivan asked what developments had occurred in the Council's Waste Disposal Plan.

The County Manager advised the Members that this is one of the biggest tasks facing Galway County Council. A Waste Strategy Discussion Document had already been prepared and under the 1996 Waste Management Act a formal Waste Management Plan will have to be prepared and adopted. Attempts are being made to identify a suitable landfill site. A report will be presented to the Council at a later stage. He also advised that no decision had been made on the appeal on the extension to Carrowbrowne Dump.

Councillor Byrne asked whether the Strategic Plan itself was being monitored.

The County Manager advised that both the Strategic Plan and the Action Plans are reviewed regularly. He also advised that this years action plans will include 3 performance indicators and also 3 definite targets for each department. He said that there will be another seminar later in the year when the Action Plans for 1997 will be reviewed.

Senator McDonagh agreed with the idea of focusing on works to be carried out and queried whether a plan could be compiled for (a) the provision of burial grounds in the county and (b) dealing with local improvement schemes and the backlog that exists in this area.

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The County Manager advised that a draft policy paper on burial grounds will be presented to the Council shortly and advised that it was difficult to negotiate with landowners for suitable land as the price was too high and no funding was available. With regard to local improvement schemes the applications since 1991 are currently being reviewed and a special case will be made to increase the funding available.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail raised the issue of reducing the volume of paper being used by the Council and increasing the use of discs and technology.

The County Manager advised that the Council has invested heavily in information technology in the past two years but that lack of finance restricted the maximisation of efficiency in the dissemination of management information. He also advised that an Archivist which will be 50% funded by the Department will be recruited to review the material currently in store in the Council and that he anticipated that the Archivist would also be of great assistance in the writing of the History of Galway County Council 1899 - 1999.

Deputy McCormack requested clarification on the difficulties experienced by Staff as per the report.

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary said that some of the difficulties included opening hours, shortage of staff, shortage of new technology, insufficient training and office accommodation.

Deputy McCormack said that he felt that the elected Members did not always receive a high level of service when in the County Buildings.

The County Manager replied that a balance has to be struck between the work to be done and dealing with the public. It must be recognised he said that in the past 7-8 years the responsibilities of local authorities have increased but the level of staff has not and Members are asked to take cognisance of that. This fact is however recognised by the document - A Programme for Change and as the programme is put in place then changes may come about in the current staffing levels.

Councillor Gavin said that he wished to apologise to the County Manager and Staff for any statement or implied statement he may have made at the Council Meeting of 27th January, 1997 when discussing the provision of a single rural house at Rinville West, Oranmore. He said that it was not his intention to offend any Member of Staff either directly or inadvertently in the course of the discussion.

Councillor Byrne said that the Members should at all times be advised of proposed developments so that they would know what was going on and be able to deal with the public accordingly and not be embarrassed due to lack of knowledge.

The County Manager said that he agreed with what the Members were saying and advised that from now on a copy of the advertisements to be placed in Connacht Tribune will be forwarded to the Members prior to publication.

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Councillor J. Burke stated that this would greatly assist them but that it was knowledge of the issue that was required at all times.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4140

Deputations

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail expressed concern over the way the deputation from the Rinville and District Residents Association was handled at the Meeting on the 27/1/1997.

A general discussion ensued and it was agreed that Standing Orders must be reviewed and implemented by all Members to ensure that neither the Members, the Chairman or Staff are intimidated by deputations. It was agreed that the matter would be raised at a future Council Meeting in-committee. It was also agreed that deputations would be received only at Area Committee Meetings.

Mr. Kavanagh said that he was annoyed at the Meeting on 27/1/1997 over false allegations made against him and his staff. He said the report circulated gave the true facts and the site was not in an area of high amenity as claimed by the deputation. He said the Members seemed to accept the incorrect version as put forward by the deputation. He totally rejected the allegation made by the spokesperson for the deputation that Council staff treated the objectors with contempt. Mr. Kavanagh thanked Councillor Gavin for his remarks.

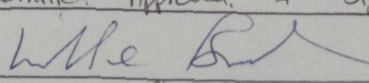
Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager expressed his concern at the fact that Staff have been threatened in the performance of their work. He said that if work is done incorrectly then this must be dealt with accordingly. However, he said where the task is being carried out correctly but perceived as being incorrect then the issue may have far-reaching effects.

Councillor Byrne stated that the decision made two years ago not to provide a house at that site should have remained so.

Mr. Nelson said that attempts to find an alternative site in the Oranmore area had failed and asked Councillor Byrne to advise him of any possible sites.

The County Manager advised that where the courts find against Galway County Council, substantial costs could be involved and he was reluctant to see existing limited resources being spent on legal fees and costs. He said he hoped that as some very difficult decisions will be facing the Members in the near future e.g. the provision of a landfill site and the provision of traveller accommodation, that these issues would be carefully considered and taken on board by the Members. He thanked Councillor Gavin for his remarks on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted Approved + Signed: _____

Chairman
24th March 1997

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 27th JANUARY, 1997

CATHAOIRLEACH:

An Comhairleoir W. Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

*Cllrs. J. Brennan, 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. McClearn, Deputy P.
McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P.
McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta,
S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P.
O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, M. Regan, E.
Varley & T. Walsh.*

Oifigih:

*Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D.
Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh,
Co. Secretary, J. Crotty, A/Co. Engineer, E.
Lusby, Finance Officer, L. Kavanagh & G.
Dunne, S.E.E.'s, C. Greene & T. Connell,
S.S.O.'s and E. Hourigan, A.S.O.*

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESIGNATION OF MAIRE GEOGHEGAN-QUINN, T.D. 4094

The Members expressed sadness and regret at the announcement by Mrs. Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, T.D. of her resignation from the Fianna Fail front bench and not going forward as a candidate in the next general election. The Members paid tribute to Ms. Geoghegan-Quinn for her outstanding contribution to local and national politics, both at home and abroad while representing the country in European affairs. They expressed concern at the way the media have interfered in politicians private lives and wished for fair play by the media in the future. Good wishes were expressed to Ms. Maire Geoghegan-Quinn in her new life outside politics.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4095

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

*Mr. Michael Cullinane, Kilmore, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Nora & Tomás Seoighe, Crimine, Leitir Móir, Co. na Gaillimhe.*

MINUTES

4096

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 16th December, 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

The Report of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 21st November, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Loughnane.

The Report of the Galway Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 25th November, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor McHugh, seconded by Councillor Varley.

The Report of the Connemara Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 9th December, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

The Report of the National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12th November, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

The Report of the Arts Committee Meeting held on 19th November, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The Report of the Beach Bye-Laws Committee Meeting held on 9th December, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

The Report of the Office Accommodation Committee Meeting held on 16th December, 1996 was considered. Councillor Regan said he was present at this Meeting. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Hussey.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Loughnane queried why the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 16th January, 1997 were not available. Mr. Kavanagh,

County Secretary replied stating that the Minutes were normally available as soon as possible after meetings are held.

PROPOSED SCHEME OF GROUP HOUSING FOR TRAVELLERS AT CAPIRA, PORTUMNA - ITEM NO. 4053

Councillor Regan stated that there are problems in relation to the Travellers at Capira, Portumna. Local farmers are finding it extremely difficult to access their land because of the travellers and requested the Council to take immediate action. The local people have facilitated the Council in building houses and the current situation regarding access and number of horses roaming in the area is totally unacceptable. Councillor McClearn agreed with Councillor Regan. He stated that a number of Councillors and Council Officials worked extremely hard in reaching local agreement to the acceptance of this scheme. However, if the current situation remains, local agreement will not remain.

Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager replied stating that as this was private land, it was a matter for the farmers/landowners themselves. The Control of Horses Bill has yet to come into operation. However, he stated that all complaints would be examined to see what could be done.

LOUGHREA BYE-PASS

Councillor Loughane proposed that on the most up-to-date plans in relation to the Loughrea Bye-Pass, that the existing road from F. Burke's house in Loughrea be kept open. He was supported by Councillor Regan.

The Manager stated that it would be more appropriate to discuss this matter at the next Area Committee Meeting.

NEW COUNCIL OFFICES - MINUTES NO. 4047

Councillor McHugh stated that it be recorded that some Councillors expressed concern at the increased costs of the project at this stage.

DEPUTATION WITH IRISH RAIL

Councillor Fahy questioned the position regarding seeking a meeting with Irish Rail Officials in connection with the Limerick/Claremorris Railway Line. The County Secretary replied stating that Irish Rail were asked to address a Council Meeting and a reply was just received and Members will be notified accordingly.

RAISING OF LOAN FOR NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

Councillor Regan queried the implications, if any, to the raising of the loan for the new Council Offices in light of the recent changes in funding for local authorities. The County Manager replied that following discussions with the D.O.E., approval to the loan is expected shortly.

PRESENTATION - TREE COUNCIL OF IRELAND

4097

Mr. Kevin Collins of the Tree Council of Ireland thanked the Members and proceeded to give some background information on the Tree Council of Ireland. He said that it was an umbrella organisation which was formed in 1984, and has links with various bodies, i.e. Coillte, Teagasc and local authorities throughout the country. The Tree Council of Ireland acts as a forum for all different organisations, together with producing professional publications and holding conferences throughout the Country. It also issues policy statements on its activities at various times throughout the year.

Mr. Collins said that National Tree Week is one of the biggest events of their year. It promotes the care, protection and appreciation of trees in Ireland, and gave him great pleasure to launch the National Media Campaign in Galway today. He stated that every year, there is a theme adopted and this year was no exception. The 1997 Theme is - Re-Leaf our Towns, and covers the bringing of trees/woodlands into urban areas. The benefits and the importance of trees have helped meet the growing needs from Communities to make a meaningful contribution to the environment. The Tree Council of Ireland employs a full-time professional Forester, who liaises with and helps local authorities develop woodlands and to promote safety.

Ms. Patricia Flanagan spoke about the launch of National Tree Week which will take place from 2nd to 8th March, 1997 and is sponsored by Coillte. The main purpose is to promote the positive attributes of trees and the environment. She said that 10,000 trees will be distributed through the local authorities, approx. 300 events will be organised, amongst them tree planting, wood-craft demonstrations, etc. The official launch will take place in Rinville Park on 2nd March, 1997. This site has been selected by Galway County Council and Galway Corporation in co-operation with Oranmore Development Group. It is hoped that Minister Michael D. Higgins, T.D. will be available to take part in the ceremony on 2nd March. Galway County Council will host the launch and will receive approx. 1,000 - 2,000 trees for planting. The Tree Council will be working closely with R.T.E. to develop a tree related theme to coincide with National Tree Week.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Collins and Ms. Flanagan for launching National Tree Week in Galway. He said the Council's Liaison Officer is Mr. R. Killeen, S.E.E.

The Manager thanked the Tree Council of Ireland, Galway Corporation and the Residents of Oranmore for their co-operation in this project. The trees allocated to Council will be made available through application to the Council's liaison officer, Mr. R. Killeen.

**PROVISION OF EXTENSIONS TO DWELLING-HOUSES 4098
AND PROVISION OF SCHEME AND SINGLE RURAL
HOUSES**

The Members had been circulated with Report dated 20th January, 1997 regarding the provision of scheme houses with services, the provision of single rural houses with appropriate treatment facilities and the provision of extensions to dwelling-houses with appropriate treatment facilities, at the locations listed hereunder:-

EXTENSIONS TO DWELLING-HOUSES:

Longford, Ballycrissane, Ballinasloe
Dawros, Letterfrack
No. 36 Dublin Road, Tuam

SCHEME HOUSES

Middlequarter, Inishboffin - 3 houses

SINGLE RURAL HOUSES

Doon Upper, Ahascragh	Newcastle, Aughrim
Carrowreagh, Killoran	Caislean, Inverin
Burnthouse, Roscahill	Ballyhugh, Gort

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Council agreed and noted the Report.

**PROVISION OF SINGLE RURAL HOUSE AT 4099
RINVILLE WEST, ORANMORE, CO. GALWAY**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 24th January, 1997 under the Local Government(Planning & Development) Regulations 1994 regarding the provision of a single rural house with appropriate treatment facilities at Rinville West, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

The County Secretary, Mr. Kavanagh stated that over 100 submissions were received in relation to this proposed development. Planning issues raised in the submissions were dealt with in the report. He said that a site suitability assessment was carried out by the Council including percolation tests and trial hole as a result of which it was proposed to construct a percolation area using material in the 15/30 "1" value range. A reserve percolation area is also proposed. These measures would render the site suitable for treatment of septic tank effluent. Mr. Kavanagh said that there were legal proceedings effecting the matter and the Council's Law Agent had advised that the matter of the legal proceedings was sub-judice and that public discussion in relation to it should be restricted and confined to the planning issues.

Deputy McCormack stated that the Council was seeking approval for the development of 10 houses as outlined in the reports circulated and he queried whether a different approach was being adopted in relation to the development at Rinville West, the subject of Report dated 24th January, 1997. Mr. Kavanagh replied stating that the reason for two reports was that no submissions were received in relation to the other houses. Over 100 submissions were received in relation to the house at Rinville West and these submissions were considered and a separate report prepared.

Councillor Cunningham said that at a recent Loughrea Area Meeting, a Deputation was received from the Rinville and District Residents Association and he proposed that a representative from the Association be allowed address the Meeting for five minutes. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Regan. The Chairman said that he would allow a five minute address.

Ms. Noreen O'Grady on behalf of Rinville and District Residents Association then addressed the Meeting. She said that the proposed development was in breach of the County Development Plan and the Residents' Association was totally opposed to it. She referred to the Associations' formal submission to the Council including a Planning Consultant's report, which the Association circulated to the Members. Photographs were also circulated to the Members. Ms. O'Grady also referred to a legal opinion prepared by the Associations' Solicitor in response to the report of the County Secretary dated 24th January, 1997, which legal opinion was also circulated to the Members. Ms. O'Grady thanked the Chairman and Members for allowing her to speak.

Councillor Byrne said that they had listened as responsible Members of the Council to the case made against the proposed development and they must now assess their position as Members of the Council and take stock. He said that this matter came before the Council two years ago when plans to build a house by the Council at this location were dropped. He said the Members were not informed of the proposed development and he was unaware of it until he got a phone call and was taken aback. In regard to the planning aspect, he said he showed the report to his son who is an Engineer. His son's opinion was that the site was not suitable for a septic tank and the way the Council proposed to make the site suitable for percolation made a mockery of planning. Councillor Byrne said that the site was originally purchased for a burial ground but was turned down because it was water-logged. He said it would be ridiculous to build on the site and hoped that sense would prevail.

Councillor Loughnane said that this development was discussed at the Loughrea Area Meeting which was held on last Thursday week. Documents handed in by the Residents' Association detailed their objections. The documentation included photographs of the area under water. He disagreed with the Council's proposals to make the site suitable for the treatment of septic tank effluent. He said the test results were available before they should have been. He said that the Secretary's report was only available after office hours on the 24th January and he complained about delivery. The Council reports failed to show all existing buildings, structures, houses, septic tanks and roads in the vicinity of the site. The documents on display did not make reference to the nature of the proposed occupancy of the house. He said that

the Residents were objecting to the construction of this house in an area of Outstanding Scenic Amenity and in conflict with the County Development Plan. Other planning applications had been refused on these grounds.

Councillor Fahy said that at the Loughrea Area Meeting it was unanimous that this development would not go ahead because the site was not suitable for housing. As Chairman of the Traveller Committee during 1994/1995, it was decided that this house should not proceed as the site was not suitable for housing, having being purchased originally for a burial ground. Councillor Fahy proposed that the Council should re-consider the matter and have the family re-housed elsewhere. He stated other lands were available in the Oranmore area.

Councillor Regan seconded Councillor Fahy's proposal and asked that the County Manager find an alternative site as the site proposed was totally unsuitable. He questioned the cost of developing the site to make it suitable for septic tank treatment.

Councillor McClearn said it was clear from the documentation and photographs that the site was not suitable for a house and the Council would have to provide a boat for the family to get in and out of the house. The Council prided itself in getting projects completed at very competitive rates whereas in this case the total costs involved would be excessive. He said that a number of planning issues had been raised and remain unanswered. He said that the Council was creating difficulty for itself by purchasing land for one reason and using it for another reason. Unless proposals by the Council are legitimate they will not be accepted by the people. He said that the Council stated clearly that there was a housing need and therefore the Council should ensure that that need was fulfilled by providing good housing conditions.

Councillor Gavin stated that the Speaker on behalf of the Residents' Association made a very strong case on planning grounds and site unsuitability. It was stated that it contravenes the Development Plan and a private individual would not get planning permission on the site. He said that if this is correct it is a very serious matter. He said that in the past when such reports came before the Members, the advice of the planning staff, technical staff etc. had always been taken very seriously and he queried the implications involved in the present case. He also referred to the last paragraph of the County Secretary's report and enquired about the Councillors' position in relation to the making of a decision on the matter and wondered was there a hidden agenda.

Deputy McCormack asked what would happen if the Members did not endorse the official report circulated. He said he was well acquainted with the history of the site which was in fact acquired for a burial ground. He said the Council should use the opportunity to plant trees on the site.

The Chairman, Councillor W. Burke stated that in 90% of cases there is agreement on decisions between Members and Officials. He said that it was unusual to have different view points and he would like to think that the matter was dealt with in a fair and open way. Commenting on the matter he said that this issue came before the Council three years ago and it was agreed not to proceed with the building of a house

on the site. He said he supported the proposal not to proceed as the site was totally unsuitable and an alternative site would have to be found.

The County Secretary in response to Councillor Gavin's queries said that the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 1994 set out the procedure to be followed in respect of local authority construction work. That procedure ends up with a report being submitted to the Members and allows the Members to use the mechanism under Section 3 of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act 1955 to pass a resolution directing that works not proceed. He said that a simple majority vote was sufficient. Replying to Councillor Loughnane, he stated that a Section 3 Resolution could be proposed at the meeting.

Mr. G. Dunne, S.E.E. Housing then addressed the Meeting. He said he examined the site two years ago and plans were prepared but the work did not go ahead. The proposed position of the house is similar to the previous proposal. He examined the site on the 6/1/1995 following the so called 100 Years Flood and the flooding had abated. He said that the criticism being put forward in relation to the site and drawings were very minor. In relation to the septic tank effluent he said that he was proposing an engineering solution and SR6 allowed for this. The percolation system would be as good as any other in the county.

Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., Planning then addressed the Meeting. He referred to map 9(b) of the County Development Plan and he said that the location of the site is clearly not within the area zoned as Outstanding Scenic Amenity. He said that the area of outstanding scenic amenity was approx. 150 metres away opposite the T Junction to the remainder of the Marree Peninsula. The question of Ribbon Development did not apply. In regard to the size of the site, he said that the current County Development Plan requires a minimum site size of half acre with 100 ft road frontage and the proposed site is in excess of those requirements. In regard to the showing of the location of houses in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, he said that the nearest house is approx. 120 metres away and an updated ordnance survey map would show the current position. He stressed that the application was judged in the same manner as any other application in a rural area. The ordnance survey sheet showed the road width between 13-15 ft and permission had been granted for houses further in the road.

Mr. Kavanagh said that the development would not effect the area of recreational amenity, as set out in Map 9E of the Development Plan. He said there were 20-30 houses closer to Rinville Park and more under construction. In regard to the treatment of septic tank effluent, he said that appendix C of SR6 referred to sites which do not meet the required standards and sets out a number of remedies which would make the site suitable, and that was what was proposed in this case. He said that when the planning inspection was carried out on the site, there was no flooding. He said that the proposal was for a single story house and was in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area and in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager said that there were many different issues to be taken into account. The factual position had been set out by the Planning

Officer and the Development Plan was not being breached. He said that from the point of view of septic tank suitability the Council accepted that the site was not ideal. However, in many areas e.g. Carna/Rosmuc areas, the Council had to carry out substantial engineering works to make the sites suitable and this is accepted by the Department of the Environment as part of the normal house costs. Mr. Nelson said that in regard to the question of transparency the time scale for dealing with applications is set out in the planning regulations. The closing date for receipt of submissions was 17/1/1997. Unfortunately, Planning Staff were involved in the Oral Hearing in relation to the Carrowbrowne Dump for most of the following week and the report was circulated to the Members as quickly as possible. As there was a court case pending, the matter had to be put on the agenda at the first opportunity. However, if the Members wished to defer a decision they were free to do so.

Mr. Nelson stated that the family for whom the house was intended were members of the travelling community who had been living in the Oranmore area for the past ten years. The family are in urgent need of housing and the Council had an obligation under the Housing Acts to provide accommodation for them. The Council had made every effort to acquire a house or site for the family but without success. The Council had complied in all respects with the 1994 Planning Regulations in relation to the site.

Councillor Cunningham proposed that the development be withdrawn as the Council had decided against it previously.

Councillor Brennan said that as Councillors they must take into account all planning considerations including the adequacy of the road. He said that in view of what Mr. J. Dunne, S.E.E. said about the need to import materials to the site, he questioned what the final cost of the house would be. He also asked if the court case was setting a precedent.

Mr. Nelson said that the road was a County Road and the road issue was not a major one. He said the house would be located on the elevated part of the site and the Council would in fact have to cut into the high ground. An adjoining landowner had issued legal proceedings against the prospective tenant in Oranmore, and the Council had been joined in the proceedings.

Councillor Finnerty referring to the court case, asked if Councillors voting in favour of a Section 3 Resolution could be indicted. Councillor Ryan said that the Members needed clarification on the issue.

The County Secretary stated that it was impossible for the Council to know what decision the Court would make. Mr. O'Donoghue, County Manager said that the court case stands adjourned and will resume in due course. One cannot say what decision will be made by the Court. He said that the Officials were doing their utmost to get a solution. He said that he resented and refuted the allegations made against Staff in relation to the carrying out of their duties and the Members of the Council should know better in that regard.

Councillor Regan proposed that in accordance with Section 3 of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act 1955 this Council direct that the construction of a house by the Council at Rinville West, Oranmore shall not be proceeded with.

This was seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

Councillor Brennan proposed that the matter be deferred in order to get legal advice and was supported by Councillor Finnerty. Councillor Loughnane also asked about legal advice and Mr. Nelson explained that it was impossible for anybody to pre-empt what would happen in court. Council Officials had given the Members the facts of the case as they stood.

The Chairman ruled that a vote would be taken on Councillor Regan's proposal and the vote resulted as follows:-

ARSON: Cllrs. W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Deputy E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, 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 & T. Walsh. (26)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllrs. J. Brennan, M. Finnerty & P. O'Tuathail. (3)

The Chairman declared the Section 3 Resolution carried.

VACANCY ON COUNTY GALWAY V.E.C. COMMITTEE 4100

The County Secretary said that a vacancy now exists on the County Galway V.E.C. Committee, and nominations are requested for the filling of this post.

Senator McDonagh proposed Mr. Francis Curley, Ballyroe, Cloghan's Hill, Tuam who is much involved in Adult Education in the Athenry area. Councillor Mannion seconded this proposal.

Councillor Callanan proposed Mr. James Joyce, Laurencetown, a former County Councillor and teacher. Councillor O'Sullivan seconded this proposal.

A vote was taken and it resulted as follows:-

FOR F. CURLEY:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, W. Burke, T. Byrne, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh. (16)

FOR J. JOYCE:

Cllrs. J. Callanan, Deputy E. O'Cuiv, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn & M. Regan. (13)

The Chairman declared Mr. Francis Curley as the Council's nomination to the County Galway V.E.C. Committee.

DIRECTOR TO GALWAY HARBOUR COMPANY BOARD 4101

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary said that in accordance with letter dated 18th December, 1996 from Roinn na Mara, Galway County Council is required to nominate one director to the Galway Harbour Company Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, Councillor Regan was proposed for this position.

Senator McDonagh proposed Councillor Ryan for the position and this was seconded by Councillor Mannion.

Councillor Regan thanked his proposer and seconder, but wished to withdraw his name. Accordingly, as there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Councillor Ryan the Council's nomination to the Galway Harbour Company Board.

BEACH BYE-LAWS

4102

The County Secretary referred to the Draft Beach Bye-Laws which were circulated with the Agenda and said the Draft Bye-Laws were considered by the Area Committees and Beach Bye-Law Committee. Council's approval is required in order that the Draft Bye-Laws may be advertised and put on public display, and submissions received from the public. He recommended three changes to the Draft Beach Bye-Laws as follows:-

"and in the interests of the common good" to be inserted in the first paragraph after 1994.

4(c) to read "deposit any soil, seaweed, stones, or similar material."

4(o) to be omitted.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain, the Members agreed the Draft Beach Bye-Laws subject to the above changes.

Cllr. T. Byrne
Sen. J. McDonagh
Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta

SALE OF HOUSE AT ARDCLOON, DUNMORE

4103

On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Hussey, the Council approved the sale of house at Ardcloon, Dunmore to Agnes Forde and Michael Forde in accordance with Notice dated 14th January, 1997 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

SALE OF HOUSE AT SHANBALLYMORE, DUNMORE

4104

On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Council approved the sale of house at Shanballymore, Dunmore to Michael and Suzanne Ronayne, in accordance with Notice dated 14th January, 1997, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

SALE OF SITE AT NO. 10 ARD AOIBHINN, ATHENRY

4105

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the Council approved the sale of site at No. 10 Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry to Caroline Nolan, in accordance with Notice dated 14th January, 1997, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

SALE OF HOUSE AT CROWE STREET, GORT

4106

On the proposal of Councillor Quim, seconded by Councillor McClearn, the Council approved the sale of house at Crowe Street, Gort to Sean and Lucy Fahy, in accordance with Notice dated 14th January, 1997, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

**SALE OF SITE AT CLOONBROCK DEMESNE,
AHASCRAUGH**

4107

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the Council approved the sale of site at Cloonbrock Demesne, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe to James Cahill, in accordance with Notice dated 14th January, 1997, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, which had been circulated to each Member.

CONFERENCES

4108

The following Members were nominated and approved to attend the conferences outlined below on the recommendations of the Finance Committee, on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

Erne Enterprise - Bundoran - 27/28 February, 1997

Cllr. T. Byrne

Sen. J. McDonagh

Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta

r - G.C.C.C. - Westport - 24/25 January, 1997

Byrne

ence - Colmcille Winter School - 28 February/2 March, 1997

Finnerty

Deputy P. Connaughton

McHugh

Cllr. M. Fahy

Quinn

Cllr. M. Mullins

Varley

Cllr. M. Cunningham

TARY SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT
IONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
ANGEMENTS FOR MEAT INSPECTIONS UNDER
TTOIR ACT 1988 AND RELEVANT REGULATIONS

4109

Members agreed to defer the above items to the next Meeting.

AIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4110

Travel - Elderly People

Councillor Quinn proposed that a letter be written to the Minister for Social Welfare requesting that elderly people, who are the holders of a Free Travel Pass, be allowed rains and not have to queue for rail ticket. Councillor Callanan seconded this proposal.

Roads Programme

Copies of the non-national road grants from the Department of the Environment had been circulated to the Members. Deputy O'Cuiv requested clarification saying that D.O.E. was deciding what roads would be done and this was a very serious situation. The matter should be discussed at length at area meetings.

Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that the worst non-national road in Galway - Cois Craige Road was not even on the list of non-national road grants, even though applications were made in relation to it.

Councillor O'Sullivan queried whether the money allocated to certain works could be transferred, if works have already been completed.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the inclusion of Kilconnell/Cappataggle road and complimented all involved on works on these roads during the past year.

Councillor Gavin said that the Council is not allowed to spend money according to our Five Year Roads Programme.

Seminar - G.C.C.C. - Westport - 24/25 January, 1997

Cllr. T. Byrne

Conference - Colmcille Winter School - 28 February/2 March, 1997

Cllr. M. Finnerty

Deputy P. Connaughton

Cllr. P. McHugh

Cllr. M. Fahy

Cllr. K. Quinn

Cllr. M. Mullins

Cllr. E. Varley

Cllr. M. Cunningham

SANITARY SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT 4109
REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEAT INSPECTIONS UNDER
ABATTOIR ACT 1988 AND RELEVANT REGULATIONS

The Members agreed to defer the above items to the next Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS 4110

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Councillor Quinn proposed that a letter be written to the Minister for Social Welfare requesting that elderly people, who are the holders of a Free Travel Pass, be allowed on trains and not have to queue for rail ticket. Councillor Callanan seconded this proposal.

Roads Programme

Details of the non-national road grants from the Department of the Environment had been circulated to the Members. Deputy O'Cuiv requested clarification saying that the D.O.E. was deciding what roads would be done and this was a very serious situation. The matter should be discussed at length at area meetings.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that the worst non-national road in Galway - Cois Farraige Road was not even on the list of non-national road grants, even though submissions were made in relation to it.

Councillor O'Sullivan queried whether the money allocated to certain works could be transferred, if works have already been completed.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the inclusion of Kilconnell/Cappataggle road and complimented all involved on works on these roads during the past year.

Councillor Gavin said that the Council is not allowed to spend money according to our Five Year Roads Programme.

The Manager replied stating that the road details were only received in the last few days. The road works schemes are currently being prepared and it is proposed to have a draft of the road works scheme available at the next area meetings, which will be held shortly. In regard to the transfer of money, this will be checked and Councillors informed accordingly. The Council received a £1.35ml. increase in allocation, however, works must now be completed by 30th September, which is earlier compared to other years.

Inishmore Water Supply

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain proposed that a deputation be sought with the Minister for the Environment to get immediate approval to proceed with the Inishmore Water Supply improvements. At present, water on the island is rationed. Approval to this scheme is being held up in Dublin. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail seconded this proposal.

Councillor Gavin said that on 1st January, 1997 there was no water on the Island. He expressed his disappointment that the Island People are bye-passing Members of the Council as if they do not matter any more. He stated that the storage capacity on the Island is not good enough. He queried whether a de-salination plant could be constructed, or whether water could be piped from the main-land to the Island, similar to the existing ESB service, as this appears to be the simplest form and wondered whether same was practicable from an engineering point of view.

Deputy O'Cuiv stated that this matter was raised in the Dáil. In the reply given, he was given to understand that the Council indicated that there was enough water on the Islands to see them through the Summer. He stated that a request for funding was made under the Cohesion Funds. He asked the following questions:-

1. Without works being done, can the Council guarantee a supply of water this Summer?
2. What are the chances of the Council receiving sanction to £4.5m funding?
3. If Council cannot guarantee a water supply, why can't the D.O.E. sanction a small sum of money in order to get on with the job now?

Deputy O'Cuiv said that a copy of Dáil reply will be made available to the Council tomorrow.

Mr. Nelson stated that in 1995 the Council coped with the situation, in 1996 the Council hired diesel pumps to supplement water supplies on the Island, and these pumps have been used on the island for the last few weeks. The Council submitted a request for funding under the Cohesion funds. Contract documents for the provision of additional storage capacity was submitted to the D.O.E. in March 1996 and we are still awaiting a response to same. Mr. Nelson said that the Council accept that it is not very reliable to continue the current practice.

"This location will be considered along with other locations in the preparation of the 1997 Road Works Programme for road reconstruction. However, it would not be possible to provide footpaths and lighting."

Abolition Of Water Charges - Group Water Schemes

The Chairman stated that at a recent meeting of the Chairpersons of the Western Region, which includes counties Clare and Donegal, a meeting was sought with the D.O.E. to highlight the position in relation to group water schemes following the Government's decision to abolish water charges for domestic use. This meeting will take place next week, when the gravity of the situation will be highlighted. The Chairman will inform the Members of the outcome accordingly.

Councillor McHugh congratulated all the Chairpersons of the Council on their initiative. The Minister's decision does nothing for group water schemes in the Country, whereby a two-tier situation has now arisen. As a Member of a group water scheme (supplied by the Council), one must pay for water and membership of the scheme and he resented being treated in this manner. When the Minister made the announcement, he did not understand that some group water schemes are in place as a result of people's own efforts. Councillor McHugh said that the Council cannot allow this to continue and must reject the new measures that were announced as it is not workable in rural Ireland. Councillor McHugh requested a report on the current position following the recent Minister's announcements. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain wished to be associated with comments made by Councillor McHugh. Councillor O'Sullivan queried the financial situation of the Council in light of this announcement. Councillor Gavin stated that it was encouraging to hear that local authorities will be taking over group water schemes, however a lot of money will be required and the D.O.E. will have to provide same.

It was agreed to have the matter on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 19 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. 4111
CUNNINGHAM

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is unlikely that the above location will be included in the 1997 Public Lighting Programme due to the limited funds available. However, if the local committee were willing to fund the cost of provision of same the Council would be agreeable to the taking over of the running and maintenance costs."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. 4112
CUNNINGHAM

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This location will be considered along with other locations in the preparation of the 1997 Road Works Programme for road reconstruction. However, it would not be possible to provide footpaths and lighting."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - WATER SUPPLY - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4113

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"With reference to the above Notice of Motion, I wish to inform you that the low pressures on the Doorus/Geeha are caused mainly by leaks and defective pipework in the scheme.

The Group have applied to the Department of the Environment for second grants to provide an extension to the scheme and to restore some of the defective pipework, and the Council have submitted a report to the Department in this regard.

I understand that an Inspector from the Department will meet with the Council's Engineer and one of the Group Scheme Trustees in the coming week."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4114

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This is the N.S. Route N67. The carrying out of widening or realignment on such routes is funded by the N.R.A. The Council has not yet been notified of the 1997 Road Grants allocations."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - PUBLIC LIGHT - CLLR. M. FAHY 4115

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This location will be considered along with others in the preparation of the 1997 Public Lighting Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROADS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4116

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The County Council has a written emergency plan for call-out of suitable and relevant vehicles and equipment to deal with severe weather conditions, with particular emphasis on blizzard conditions.

The plan is for severe weather conditions. In the case of weather conditions which produce icy conditions on roads we have equipment to deal with most of the national roads and it is hoped to purchase an extra gritter soon to provide more coverage."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - UISCE - AN COMH. S. O'GABHAIN 4117

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

"Tá mé le hinsint duit gur cuireadh na Caipéisí Conartha um soláthar líon taiscumair breise ar Inis Mór isteach don Roinn Chomhshaoil lena gceadú I Mí Márta, 1996. Tugadh tuairisc isteach ar chlár dhruileáil agus tástáil toibreacha triallacha ag an am céanna.

Ó Mhárta, cuireadh I gcuimhne don Roinn Chomhshaoil go raibh cheadú na gCaipéisí Conarta ag teastáil go luath. Cuireadh an Roinn ar an eolas faoin ganntanas uisce ar an Oileáin le linn an tSamhraidh, 1996 agus le linn na tréimhse tirime is deanaí."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4118

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"An application for funding for the above project will be submitted to the N.R.A. within the next week."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - HEDGE-CUTTING - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4119

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"The matter is being investigated regarding the County Council area which extends as far as Silver Strand junction and hedge cutting/tree cutting notices will be issued as required.

A copy of your Notice of Motion has been sent to Galway Corporation for attention regarding the section located within their administrative area."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4120

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

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

N.O.M. NO. 29 - DANGEROUS BEND - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4121

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

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

N.O.M. NO. 30 - FLOODING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4122

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The local area engineer met the land owner involved recently who agreed to carry out certain works. When those works are carried out the Council will complete the project."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4123

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"A sign will be provided at the above location as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4124

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"A request has been referred to the Design Team for attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4125

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This is a Class 1 local road. White lining will be placed on the roadway during the Spring. It is not proposed replacing the existing signs with larger signs as such signs are normally placed on National routes."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - TEORAINN LUAIS - AN COMH. C. NI 4126
FHATHARTA

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

"Ni mheasann an Comhairle Chontae go bhfuil gá le teorainn luais ag an láthair seo."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 4127
FHATHARTA

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

"Beidh an Comhairle Chontae ag cur línte bána ar fáil ag an láthair thuas luaite chomh luath agus is féidir."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - SOILSE - AN COMH. C. NI 4128
FHATHARTA

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

"Ni bheidh muid indhon soilse poiblí a chur ar fáil ag an láthair thuasluaite I mbliana mar tá aiteacha eile sa cheantar a bhfuil gá níos mo leo."

Beidh an Chomhairle Chontae sásta na soilse a thógail ar lámh dá gcuireadh Muintir na h-áite ar fáil iad."

N.O.M. NO. 37 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - DEPUTY E. O'CUIV 4129

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

In view of the limited funds available and other priorities in the region it is unlikely that the above location will be included in the 1997 Public Lighting Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - DEPUTY E. O'CUIV 4130

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

"It is unlikely that this road will be included in the 1997 Road Works Programme in view of the limited funds available and other priorities in the region. However, routine maintenance will be carried out as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD REPAIRS - DEPUTY E. O'CUIV 4131

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

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

N.O.M. NO. 40 - WATER SUPPLY ON INIS MÓR - CLLR. S O'NEACHTAIN 4132

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

"I am to inform you that the Contract Documents for the provision of additional storage capacity on Inis Mór were submitted to the Department of the Environment for approval in March, 1996. A report on the trial well drilling and testing programme was also submitted at that time."

Since March, reminders have been sent to the Department of the Environment requesting the early approval of the Contract Documents. The Department have been made aware of the water shortages encountered on the Island in the Summer of 1996 and during the more recent dry spell."

N.O.M. NO. 41 - ROAD - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4133

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

"The N.R.A. have been requested to provide funding for the N18 Lydican."

N.O.M. NO. 42 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4134

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

"There are no definite proposals at present for a bypass of Claregalway Village. A more detailed evaluation of the option at Claregalway will take place in the context of the Galway Transportation and Planning Study."

N.O.M. NO. 43 - RUMBLE STRIPS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4135

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The above locations are situated within the 30 mile speed limits and the provision of rumble strips within such limits is not appropriate.

"Rumble strips generate a lot of noise and would result in inconvenience to house owners."

N.O.M. NO. 44 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4136

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Repairs will be carried out at the above location in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 45 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4137

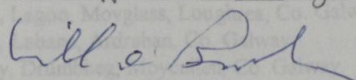
The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"A request for the provision of funding for the carrying out of realignment works at above location will be submitted to the N.R.A. within the next few days."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

- Mrs. Maddy Lynch & Family, Marex, Gramore, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Eileen Hanley, The Wood, Henry, Co. Galway
- Mr. Frank Chenery, The Wood, Henry, Co. Galway
- Mr. & Mrs. Liam Conroy, The Wood, Henry, Co. Galway
- Mr. Milo Mullins & Family, The Wood, Henry, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Mary Clarke & Family, The Wood, Henry, Co. Galway
- Mr. Pat Lyons, Ros, Woodford, Long, Co. Galway

Submitted Approved + Signed:

Chairman

24th February 1997
DATE

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS,
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 10th JANUARY, 1997**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor W. Burke

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. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack,
Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins,
C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P.
O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley
and T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson,
Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary,
R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, P. Ridge,
S.E.E., C. Greene, S.S.O., M. Power, A/S.O., & C.
O'Hara, S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

4089

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Mrs. Mandy Lynch & Family, Maree, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Eileen Hardiman, Tuam Road, Athenry, Co. Galway.
Mr. Frank Glynn & Family, Church Street, Gort, Co. Galway.
Mr. & Mrs. Liam Connaire, Lagoo, Moyglass, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Mr. Milo Mullins & Family, Labane, Ardahan, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Mary Clancy & Family, Drumbheg, Moycullen, Co. Galway.
Mr. Pat Lyons, Rea, Woodford, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Meeting was adjourned for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect on the death of Mr. Martin Lynch, Athenry who was a Member of Galway County Council from 1985 to 1991 and a

current Member of the County V.E.C. The Chairman, Members and County Manager paid tribute to Mr. Lynch's work as a public representative.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT(PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO INIS OIRR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, INCLUDING RESERVOIR **4090**

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary referred to the report dated 9th January, 1997 which had been circulated under Part 10 of the 1994 (Planning & Development) Regulations. He advised that the works involved improvement works including a reservoir to the Inis Oirr Water Supply Scheme and that no submissions had been received.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain urged that the proposal would proceed and that it was important that the works be carried out before the Summer.

Deputy McCormack concurred with An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain and stated that these works were essential for the Island.

Councillor Gavin said he was in favour of the development as the uncertainty of water supply each Summer made life difficult for the people on the Islands especially with increased tourist activity.

Councillor Varley also welcomed the development and hoped that it would solve the water supply problems for the Islanders especially in the Summer.

Deputy O'Cuiv welcomed the development which he felt was urgently required and requested further improvements.

Mr. Paul Ridge, S.E.E. advised the Members that with the new reservoir on Inis Oirr, the water supply would be adequate in the medium term. He also stated that the situation would be closely monitored in conjunction with the increased growth of tourism on the Island. He pointed out that the Council would be closely monitoring the quality of the water.

The Report was adopted on the proposal of an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor Gavin.

BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT -A PROGRAMME FOR CHANGE **4091**

The Members had been circulated with the report Better Local Government - A Programme for Change and Circular Letter dated 19/12/1996 in relation to Local Authority funding. It was agreed that the County Manager would outline the important aspects of the document to the Members.

The County Manager outlined the main aspects of the document. He said that in his view there were five broad areas of change, enhancing local democracy and increasing local involvement; the issue of funding for local authorities; the importance of the customer; enhancing the role of Town, County and Regional Authorities; an increased involvement of/role for local authorities in the local community. He pointed out that the important social and economic role of local authorities is confirmed by the following facts: local authorities spend 5% of G.D.P., raise £340m in tax annually; employ over 30,000 people; provide accommodation for one third of the population; 98% population has a piped water supply; oversees 96,000 km of roads, protects and enhances the environment; provides infrastructure and community services and brings democracy closer to the people.

Local authorities however do have some weaknesses, the principle ones being - its narrow role, shortage of resources, being by-passed at national level when newly founded community development organisations are established eg LEADER and A.D.M.'s, thereby diminishing the role and involvement in the local community, stifled by excessive control by the Department especially in relation to staffing matters and that the policy making role of the Elected Members has not been fully developed. It must be recognised that some improvements have occurred and the advent of the Strategic Management Process has also assisted Local Authorities to focus on strategies to cope with demands being made on them and their changing role. He pointed out that Galway County Council was the first in the Country to have a strategic plan in place.

The importance of customer satisfaction and quality service is highlighted in the report with performance indicators and efficiency receiving particular attention. The Manager noted that the changing culture and ethos of the Council was focused on the customer. In relation to funding the Manager said he hoped that Galway County Council would not be penalised for good financial management over the years.

An important aspect of the document for the Members is the area of enhancing local democracy as other than Dail Eireann, local authorities are the only bodies elected by the people and the status this document gives to local authorities above other bodies is to be welcomed.

Chapter 2 recognises the legitimacy of Local Government, offers constitutional recognition to local authorities, proposes that Ireland signs the European charter of local self government, embraces the concept of partnerships and the policy and leadership role of the elected members. The Manager outlined the proposed changes to the role of the Councillors and their role in the corporate governance of local authorities and in the preparation of the budget. He also referred to the proposed Strategic Policy Committees for the major services and the Corporate Policy Group.

The County Manager pointed out that local authorities have a history and reputation of high integrity and a relatively scandal free system to-date and the emphasis on staff training and development is a positive one as the staff are our greatest resource.

The County Manager concluded that the document provided a new focus and opportunity for local authorities.

Councillor Brennan requested clarification on the changes in the financing of local government.

The County Manager replied that as per Department Letter of 19/12/96, 80% of Motor Tax income from non-commercial vehicles was to be retained by local authorities from 1/1/97 with the local authorities empowered to raise this tax by 6% subject to a ceiling of 3% increase in 1998.

He also advised that an equalisation fund would be financed from the income raised from Motor Tax on commercial vehicles and 20% of the Motor Tax from non commercial vehicles collected by each local authority.

A general discussion ensued and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hussey and seconded by Deputy Connaughton that there would be a half day seminar on this document on 14th February instead of the Council Meeting. It was also agreed that the County Manager and Staff would have the following data, if available, for the Members at that Seminar.

- (a) Assessment as to whether Galway County Council would be better off financially with these changes;
- (b) Details as to how the equalisation grant will operate;
- (c) Details of the cost to Group Water Schemes and what the customer will have to pay;
- (d) Clarification as to whether water consumption by Farmers is metered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4092

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta proposed that items 3, 4 and 5 on the agenda be included on the agenda for the February Monthly Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Gavin.

Councillor Mullins requested clarification concerning a reply received to a recent notice of motion concerning ESAT Digifone's breach of planning permission and wished to be advised if the Council will be instituting proceedings against ESAT Telecom.

Mr. Kavanagh advised that An Bord Pleanala had granted planning permission for this development and that he would seek legal advice on the matter.

CONFERENCES

4093

The following Members were nominated and approved to attend the conference outlined below on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Hussey.

Seminar - G.C.C.C.- Westport - 24/25 January, 1997

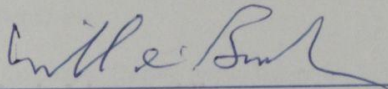
Cllr. M. Finnerty
Sen. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Ryan
Cllr. E. Varley
Cllr. M. Mullins

Cllr. M. Cunningham
Cllr. T. Hussey
Cllr. S. O'Neachtain
Cllr. K. Quinn

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Orifigh:

Submitted, Approved + Signed:



Chairman

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4043

The Members extended their sympathy to the Loughmans and Family on the death of his Father.

24th Feb. 1997

Date

The Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff gives in the expression of sympathy.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1996

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir W. Burke

ILATHAIR 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. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Crotty, A/Co. Engineer, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., J. Eising, Project Engineer, D. Barrett, A.O., P. Carroll & T. O'Connell, S.S.O.'s, and E. Hourigan, A.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4043

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Councillor Loughnane and Family on the death of his Father.

The Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff joined in the expression of sympathy.

Councillor Loughnane thanked the Members for the kindness expressed to him and his family on their bereavement. He especially wished to thank all those who travelled to attend the funeral as it was very much appreciated.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Council agreed to adjourn the Meeting until 3.00 p.m. as a mark of respect.

Resolutions of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

Mr. Mark Lally, 95 Parkmore, Tuam, Co. Galway.
The Sellars Family, Cappagh, Ballyshrulce, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
The Family of Séan MacDonaicha, Ahascragh Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
The Family of Edward Fitzgerald, Ballindereen, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
Mr. Gerry Seale, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Ms. Therese Loughnane, Charter House, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Mr. Liam Scully, Kilnadeemna, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

GOOD WISHES

4044

The Council extended good wishes and a speedy recovery to Mr. Patrick Duggan, Kiltroge, Claregalway, Co. Galway from his recent ordeal.

MINUTES

4045

The Minutes of the Preliminary Estimates Meeting held on 11th November, 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The Minutes of the Statutory Estimates Meeting held on 15th November, 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Ryan the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 25th November, 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Mannion, the Minutes of the adjourned Statutory Estimates Meeting held on 29th November, 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Report of the Islands Committee Meeting held on 1st October, 1996 was considered. The Secretary stated that the figure of £2m at bottom of page 1 should read £1m and that the amounts shown for priorities 7 and 8 on page 3 should be reversed subject to these amendments, the Report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain.

The Report of the Casual Trading Committee Meeting held on 19th November, 1996 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Hussey.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Material Contravention of the County Development Plan - Minute No. 3991

Councillor O'Neill stated that one of the points made in connection with this development was that prior improvements to the public services would be carried out and that this would be a condition of planning permission. He stated that there was no mention of this in the Minutes. Councillor O'Neill proposed that it be included in the Minutes and *questioned if the development was going ahead whether or not improvement works were carried out.*

The County Manager said that there have been decisions to grant planning permission for two applications in the Clifden Area. In relation to those applications, conditions were attached requesting financial contributions for improvements to the water supply and sewerage scheme in Clifden. An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanala in relation to one application, and the Manager was not sure whether an appeal was lodged in relation to the second application. An Bord Pleanala is now to decide in the case of the appealed decision.

Councillor O'Neill *queried whether sanction was received from the Department of the Environment to the commencement of improvements to the Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme in the Clifden area and said that planning permission was conditional on commencement of this work.*

The County Manager replied stating that financial contributions were levied in respect of both applications. When the monies have been paid, the respective improvements will be carried out to the services.

Deputy McCormack stated that Mr. L. Kavanagh, Planning Officer said that there would be a condition of the planning decision that improvement to the water and sewerage facilities would have to take place before the development could be carried out.

The County Manager stated that Section B of the Report circulated and included on page 5 of the Minutes indicated that the financial contributions would enable improvements to be carried out sufficient for the works to go ahead.

Deputy McCormack said that to collect the money, do the work and then say the development can go ahead would be more appropriate. He stated that it is quite clear that major works needed to be done and that we should proceed with the work pending sanction to improvements to existing schemes.

The Manager replied stating that proposals for major improvements have been lodged with the Department of the Environment. In the interim, improvements cannot take place until funds are received.

Deputy McCormack requested that pressure be placed on the Department for approval. He further stated that the Minutes do not reflect the debate that took place at the Meeting and asked if the Minutes would be corrected. The Secretary stated that the report of the Planning Officer which was circulated was clear in relation to the planning application and that the Minutes were a fair reflection of the debate which took place.

Councillor O'Neill questioned whether amongst the conditions attached to the grant of permission, that payment of contribution must be made prior to commencement of development. He stated that preliminary work has already commenced.

The Manager said that the Council strives to develop local towns and villages and work with Promoters to facilitate development, and developers must pay contributions which have been levied.

Deputy McCormack wished to know what improvements the contributions will enable to be carried out. The A/County Engineer stated that the details would be forwarded to the Deputy.

REPORT ON ISLANDS COMMITTEE

4046

Councillor Gavin, Chairman of the Islands Committee thanked Officials and Members of the Islands Committee for their work on a very detailed submission which was forwarded to the Department. Hopefully, more money will be allocated to the Islands in the New Year.

NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

4047

The Chairman introduced Mr. John Fitzgerald, who represented the Architects A. & D. Wejchert in relation to the new Council offices. A Progress Report from the Architects dated 11th December, 1996 was circulated to each Member. Mr. Fitzgerald outlined to the Members the changes made to the plans following the Councillor's requests at the last presentation and answered the queries raised in relation to same. Some Councillors queried the amount of unused space in the Council Chamber. Councillor McClearn stated that the question of the cost of the building should be dealt with prior to going to tender. He stated that at design stage last August, the Scheme costs were £5.5ml. and asked how the cost had risen to £6.3ml. taking the savings into account.

The Chairman replied to the questions raised regarding the Council Chamber. He said that Members requested this layout and the Accommodation Committee raised these issues with the Architect and it was felt that the horse-shoe shape would be more

conducive to the working system of the Chamber. The Chamber could also be used for other functions, not just Council Meetings. He also stated that portraits of previous Chairpersons would be placed along the walls as one enters the Chamber.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the last time this item was presented to the Members, it was very much a sketch plan, and a lot more investigation into site conditions, etc. were carried out. The result of these investigations showed that the existing ground conditions are very poor and will require more foundation work than first envisaged. This work will increase the cost of the project. The budget allocated/set in 1995 must be revised to take into consideration increases that occurred in the Construction Industry, and current figures are as realistic as possible. The provision of Crèche, car-parking, stone-work, etc. as requested by Members all increase the costs.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the costs outlined for the new office building included the following:

- Stone-work on outside of building;
- Atrium Space;
- Tax Office/Planning Offices will have certain built-in features;
- Plaster on walls;
- Carpets on floors;
- Building surrounds to be landscaped.

The Manager said that it is the Council's objective to control the cost of the project. The Members requested certain variations be made and these had cost implications. The items detailed above by the Architect are included in the cost of £6.3ml. together with Consultants fees and V.A.T., but it does not include loose furniture and fittings. It is estimated that these costs will be in the region of £800,000. In regard to the Motor Tax Office, the D.O.E. have confirmed that they will recoup the estimated cost of £0.9ml., thus bringing the revised net cost of the project to £6.2ml.

Deputy McCormack suggested that the Council might be jeopardising its position in a tender situation by discussing these figures.

Councillor McClearn requested that once tenders, etc. have been received that the Council be informed. He said that everyone shared the responsibility for this project and hoped to get the best deal for Galway and a building that everyone can be proud of. The Members agreed with this sentiment and stressed that the final net building cost to the Council (allowing for Motor Tax recoupment) must not exceed £6.2ml.

The Manager agreed that the net cost should be pegged at £6.2ml. He said that Staff in various Departments are working in terrible conditions. The Manager assured the Members that they would be kept informed of all details of the project. He thanked the Members for accommodating the project in the way the Estimates had been approached. The control of costs on this project is vital and will be kept in mind at all times.

The Manager confirmed that negotiations are in progress in relation to temporary accommodation on the Tuam Road - 18,000 sq. metres of office accommodation. The

Manager said that the Western Health Board had agreed to provide alternative accommodation for the holding of Council Meetings. It is envisaged that the official opening of the new offices will coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the first meeting of Galway County Council in 1899.

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Varley, the Members agreed to go to tender on the project as recommended by the Accommodation Committee.

Mr. E. Lusby, County Finance Officer presented indicative annual loan repayment figures based on a £7ml. loan at current estimated interest rates. He informed the Council that the loan would be subject to E.U. public procurement procedures and interested parties would be invited to tender through the E.U. Journal. The tendering process would be used to ensure the maximum flexibility and economy to the Council in repaying the loan and regard would be had to the option of refinancing if long-term rates are affected downwards as a result of European Monetary Union. The £7ml. loan included the cost of the Motor Taxation element of the new building, for which the Council would be recouped the annual loan service costs by the Department of the Environment.

The Finance Officer requested the Council's approval to the raising of the £7ml. loan and assured the Members that full details of the terms of the loan would be notified to them after the completion of the public procurement process.

It was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Fahy and resolved:-

"That Galway County Council hereby approve the raising of a loan of £7ml. for the construction and fitting out of new Council headquarters at Prospect Hill, Galway, the loan repayment terms to be agreed after public procurement procedures have been complied with."

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT 4048
PLAN IN THE TOWNLAND OF FARRANNAMARTIN, TUAM
APPLICANT: THOMAS TOGHER & CO. LTD.
PLANNING REF: 96/1471

Councillor McHugh expressed an interest in this development and duly left the meeting.

Mr. L. Kavanagh, Senior Executive Engineer went through the following report which was circulated with the agenda.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposal relates to the carrying out of site development works for serviced industrial/commercial park.

LOCATION: The site is located at the rear of the Togher Sawmills premises which is on the outskirts of Tuam on the Galway/Tuam Road.

PLANNING HISTORY: The related planning files pertaining to the site are as follows:

- PR 20169 - Permission granted to Mr. Thomas Togher for retention of workshed on 29/11/75.
- PR 26007 - Permission granted to Mr. Patrick Togher for retention of sawmills on 23/1/78.
- PR 33626 - Permission granted to Mr. Patrick Toher for erection of sawmills complex on 31/12/79.
- PR 54529 - Permission granted to Thomas Togher & Co. for erection of ESB substation on 28/9/87.

ASSESSMENT: The site is in the Tuam Town Environs within the 40 mph speed limit. Its access is proposed from the access road to the travellers hardstand site. The front portion of the site is zoned industrial in the Environs Plan, having been regarded as part of the Togher sawmill operations. The rear portion is zoned agricultural.

Initially a more extensive site coverage was proposed but this has been reduced in scale so as to allow for adequate storage and parking on site and to comply with site coverage requirements of the Development Plan. The developer also confirmed that he had adequate space on his sawmill site for all of his activities without encroaching on the site to the rear. The site can be drained to the public sewer and there is mains water supply adjacent.

Because there is a relatively small area of land involved (2 acres) adjoining a long established industrial operation and surrounded by lands zoned for industry, and since the access is from an existing roadway within the 40 mph limit, there is no objection on planning grounds to the proposal.

SUMMARY: The principal constraint to the proposal is the zoning of approximately half of the site for agricultural use. It would thus materially contravene Table 3.6 of the Tuam Town and Environs Development Plan which prohibits commercial development in Agricultural zones. Consequently, the procedure as set out in the 1963 Planning and Development Act, as amended has been implemented.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION: A decision to grant permission cannot be made unless a resolution is passed by the members, requiring that such a decision be made in accordance with Section 26(3) of the 1963 Planning Act as substituted by Section 39(d) of the 1976 Planning Act, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act 1991.

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant permission was given on 19th October, 1996. The notice indicated that members of the public could submit objections or representations to the proposed development. There have been no submissions received by the Planning Department.

If a resolution is passed requiring that a decision to grant permission be made, such a decision will issue encompassing suitable conditions, otherwise a decision to refuse permission must issue.

The latest date for a decision on this application is the 17th December, 1996."

Councillor Finnegan proposed:-

"That having considered the Planning Application made by Thomas Togher & Co. Ltd. for permission for the carrying out of site development works for serviced industrial/commercial park in the townland of Farrannamartin, Tuam - Planning Ref. No. 96/1471, and having considered the report by the Senior Executive Engineer, Planning on the matter, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(3) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1963, as amended by Section 39(d) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991, hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application."

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Quinn. A vote taken for or against the motion resulted as follows:-

AR SON:- Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. 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. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllrs. M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh. (26)

IN AGHAIDH:- -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

EXTENSION OF TIME - DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4049

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Deputy McCormack, the Members approved that an application be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment for an extension of time to 30th June, 1997, to consider the adoption of the Draft County Development Plan. A Report dated 10th December, 1996 in relation to same, was circulated to each Member.

Deputy McCormack wished to know the status of certain planning applications as a result of extension of time for Draft Development Plan.

The County Secretary stated that planning applications are granted in accordance with the Development Plan in operation at present, and will remain so until the draft plan has been adopted. All the amendments made by the Council must be made to the Draft Plan, and it will not be ready for publication until January. Where there is a material alteration to the draft plan, it must go on public display and submissions may also be received. However, it is hoped to have the draft plan in operation by June, 1997 or earlier.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

4050

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Hussey, it was resolved that Galway County Council hereby approve the raising of overdraft to the extent of £3m on the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts for the period of six months ending 30th June, 1997, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment.

PROVISION OF SCHEME HOUSES

4051

The Members had been circulated with this Report dated 20th November, 1996, regarding the provision of scheme houses with services and the provision of single rural houses with appropriate treatment facilities at the locations listed hereunder. On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the Council agreed and noted Report.

SCHEME HOUSES:

Parkmore, Tuam - 5 infill houses

SINGLE RURAL HOUSES:

Ross Demesne, Rosscahill

Dolan, Roundstone

Lakeview, Claregalway

Cloonkeenmore North, Athenry

Ballynew, Cleggan

Fortbrown, Clonberne

Frenchfort, Oranmore

PROPOSED GORT RIVER (BRIDGE STREET) DRAINAGE SCHEME

4052

The Members were circulated with a Report dated 11th December, 1996 regarding proposed drainage scheme which has been prepared by the Commissioners of Public Works under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, as amended.

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary said that this proposal must come before the Council to note and forward any observations to the Office of Public Works. He also stated

that Galway County Council has no objection to same, and the Office of Public Works should be contacted regarding any queries.

On the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Members noted and welcomed this project, as it will hopefully ease the flooding problems of South Galway.

**PROPOSED SCHEME OF GROUP HOUSING FOR 4053
TRAVELLERS AT CAPIRA, PORTUMNA**

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager said that Report dated 10th December, 1996 which was circulated to each Member outlines the proposals for construction of three dwelling houses at Capira, together with existing house on the land. The matter had been discussed at the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting and the Members had agreed to proceed with proposals as outlined. A formal report under Part 10 of the 1994 Regulations would be considered by the Members at a later meeting.

Councillor McClearn confirmed that considerable discussion and progress has been made in relation to this matter. He expressed concern over the amount of land required for the percolation area. He also expressed the need for tenancy agreements to be enforced. Councillor McClearn proposed that the scheme be proceeded with and that the percolation area to be walled in and included as part of the overall site. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Regan and agreed by the Members. The Members complimented the people of the area, the Council Officials and all involved in advancing this proposal.

In response, Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that the exact dimensions of the percolation area cannot be determined until detailed designs are available. The percolation area would be walled in and would form part of the overall development. On the proposal of Councillor McClearn, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Members also agreed that the additional lands not required for the development would be disposed of. Mr. Nelson stated that the excess lands may be required to accommodate the Travellers during construction.

Councillor Cunningham requested that Capira be declared a controlled area when the Control of Horses legislation becomes law. Councillor J. Burke asked that the Control of Horses/Animals in the Tuam area be controlled in accordance with Control of Horses legislation.

Councillor Byrne requested that the construction of a house in the Rinville Area, Oranmore recently advertised be discussed. The Chairman stated that this matter will be discussed at the January Meeting.

CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS 4054

Mr. T. Kavanagh, County Secretary stated that in accordance with the Casual Trading Act, 1995 the Council is obliged to make bye-laws for control, regulation, supervision

and administration of casual trading in the County. A report dated 10th December, 1996 which was circulated to each Member, outlines the Council's proposals for the County, together with maps for the areas. The Members are requested to approve the proposed bye-laws which will be advertised in the local newspapers and the public may make submissions.

Councillor Regan queried the size of trading bays in the Loughrea area, and stated that 5m x 3m would be too small for traders selling calves, etc. The County Secretary replied stating that a person selling livestock must take two bays as there is no other way they can be facilitated.

Councillor Loughnane requested that the trading at West Bridge, Loughrea be left the way it was, as people have been operating there for years and it appears to be working well.

The County Secretary said that as explained to the Area Committee, in the past the Casual Traders selected their own trading spot but now the Council will have to allocate bays to them taking into account road safety etc. The Road Design Staff have stated that the current situation cannot continue from a safety point of view.

Councillor Regan questioned whether any accidents had occurred at this location. He also stated that these traders are in a bind whereby they have to pay £400 rather than £200 for trading. The County Secretary stated that these lorries take up two bays and in accordance with the draft bye-laws, the charge would be £400. Councillor Mannion suggested that the charge for calf lorries using two bays be fixed at £200.

On the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Council agreed that the traders concerned be charged £200 per truck.

The County Secretary replied to Councillor Varley stating that the bye-laws can be reviewed as often as required.

LEADER II PROGRAMME & REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 4055

The Members agreed to defer the above items to the next Meeting.

CONFERENCES 4056

Seminar - Culture & Communication - Gweedore - 27/29 September, 1996

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Hussey, it was agreed that Councillor Mannion substitute for Councillor Ryan at above conference.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4057

Mr. Kavanagh, County Secretary stated that the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D., will open the refurbished City Library on 23/1/1997. The Members will be notified accordingly.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4058

Erection of Christmas Trees

Councillor Ryan requested clarification from Council Officials regarding the need for insurance, etc. for the erection of Christmas trees and lights in small towns and villages throughout the County. He stated that the charges vary between £ nil to £300, in different areas, and queried how this matter has only arisen this year.

The County Secretary replied stating that where a Community Group or Chamber of Commerce request permission to erect Christmas tree/lights on public property, the Council insist on them providing public liability insurance to the value of £2 million. This is a standard condition which is in place for a number of years and is based on advice received from our Insurers. Prior to this, groups may have received approval from the ESB to erect lights/trees without Council's approval. He stated that the public liability insurance was similar to that for group water schemes, road openings, etc. and was also a protection for the group promoting the work.

Telecom Masts

Councillor Quinn stated that there were numerous planning applications for the erection of 100 ft masts in the Ballygar area by Telecom Eireann. She stated that there are three masts at present in the Ballygar area and the people of the area are totally against the erection of additional masts. Councillor Quinn proposed that no additional masts in the Ballygar area be allowed.

The Chairman replied stating that each application must go through the planning process and objections could be raised at that point.

Limerick/Claremorris Railway Line

Councillor Fahy proposed that a deputation from this Council meets with Irish Rail to safeguard the future of the railway and jobs on the Limerick/Claremorris railway line. He said that no guarantee has been given that the line will be kept open after 20th December, 1996. Councillor Cunningham seconded this proposal.

Knock/Inverin G.W.S.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain proposed that a deputation from the Council go to the Department of the Environment regarding water contamination of the Knock/Inverin

G.W.S. The D.O.E. have not yet sanctioned improvements to this scheme. Deputy O'Cuiv seconded this proposal.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 15 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES 4059
- SEN. J. MCDONAGH

The following written reply was giving to Senator McDonagh:-

"The junction will be evaluated with a view to improving signing and lining at this location as part of a low-cost accident prevention scheme."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. NI 4060
FHATHARTA

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

Ní bheidh dhóthan airgid ar fáil san mbliain seo chugainn chun feabhas a chur ar an mbóthar seo. Déanfar gnáth obair deisiúcháin I rith na bliana mar atá gá leis."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - DORICHEAD BEAL A DAINGEAN 4061
- AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

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

De réir tuarascáil na nGardai ní raibh ach timpist amháin sa mbliain ag an láthair seo le deich mbliana anuas.

Nil aon eolas ann faoi timpisti nár cuireadh in úil do na Gardai.

N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. 4062
O'NEACHTAIN

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

"This is a new access road into three new houses at Lakeview and is not in charge of the Council. The estimated cost of bringing the road up to standard is £4,620. This includes surfacing, drainage and soakpits."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD WIDENING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4063

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is intended to provide funding for this road in the 1997 Estimates from the Road Reconstruction Grant."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - GORT WATER SCHEME - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4064

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"I wish to inform you that the Tenders for the Site Investigation Contract for the Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme were forwarded to the Department of the Environment for approval in October 1994.

The Council will continue to press the Department of the Environment to approve these Tenders so that the Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme may be advanced."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - REPAIR WALLS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4065

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is hoped to carry out the above works under the 1997 Roadworks Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - HOUSING - CLLR. M. FAHY 4066

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The Council are providing dwellings in that area in the following locations:-

- (a) Four two-bedroomed houses in Gort in accordance with the 1995 House Construction Programme (Nearing completion).
- (b) Two two-bedroomed houses in Kinvara in accordance with the 1996 House Construction Programme.
- (c) Four two-bedroomed houses in Clarenbridge in accordance with the 1996 House Construction Programme.

The provision of further houses in that area will be considered when the 1997 House Construction Programme is being formulated."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - LIGHTS - CLLR. M. FAHY

4067

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This location will be considered along with others when preparing the 1997 Public Lighting Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. FAHY

4068

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This road will be considered along with others when preparing the 1997 Roadworks Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - TUAM SEWERAGE - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN

4069

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"I wish to inform you that Galway County Council are at present preparing a revised Preliminary Report for Stage 2 of the Tuam Main Drainage Scheme, which is estimated to cost £5 million approximately.

This report will be submitted to the Department of the Environment early in 1997, for their consideration and approval."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - GROUP WATER SCHEMES - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN

4070

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"I wish to inform you that if the Council approves, such a resolution will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - SITE FOR BUILDING - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN

4071

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"This matter is being investigated at present and a reply will be available for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4072

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road referred to is approximately three miles long. The cost of large-scale widening would be prohibitive in the light of present levels of funding. It is included for surfacing in the Five Year Plan. Localised widening would be considered under the Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme should any local group wish to apply in the coming years."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4073

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This light has been erected and became effective on December 3, 1996. It had to await connection by the E.S.B."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - HOUSE - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4074

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"These Council tenants applied to the Council for an extension in February, 1996. Their family consists of husband, wife, one son and one daughter, and they live in a three bedroomed Council house. The Council has 55 applications on hand for extensions to Council dwellings. In view of the family size in this case, they would be deemed of low priority for such an extension."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGNPOSTS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4075

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"All regulatory and warning signs at Cussaun crossroads are new and are considered adequate. The Cartymore crossroads will be examined and if new signs are necessary they will be erected."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - SPEED LIMIT - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4076

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This is a rural section of the National Secondary Route N63 and the provision of a speed limit at this location is not considered appropriate."

Funding has been requested from the N.R.A. for strengthening an alignment improvement of the N63 under the 1997 road grant allocations.

N.O.M. NO. 33 - BRIDGE - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4077

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This bridge will be inspected and it will be included in a future programme if deemed appropriate."

**N.O.M. NO. 34 - REILG AN tSEANBHAILE - AN COMH. 4078
C. NI FHATHARTA**

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

"Tá orm a chur in iúil duit go bhfuil an Comhairle Chontae tar éis talamh a cheannach chun an reilig I Sheanbhaile a mheadú agus tá an proiseas dlí críochnaithe anois chun teideal ghlan a fháil.

Tá sé beartaithe ag an Comhairle Chontae dul I mbun oibre I mí Eanáir, 1997."

**N.O.M. NO. 35 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 4079
FHATHARTA**

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

"Beidh muid ag scrúdu an chás seo agus má mheasann muid go bhfuil gá le comharthaí, beidh muid sásta comharthaí feiliúnach a chur ar fáil."

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - AN CASAMH - AN COMH. C. 4080
NI FHATHARTA**

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

"Beidh muid sásta na ballaí a aithriu isteach ag an láthar seo chun radharc níos fearr a thabhairt, má thugann uainearaí na suíomh cead dúinn"

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

**N.O.M. NO. 37 - DEMOUNTABLE DWELLINGS - 4081
- DEPUTY E. O'CUIV**

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

"The Department of the Environment has approved funding in the current year for the replacement of demountable dwellings which are in poor condition and for the provision of water and sewerage facilities to demountable dwellings where this is feasible. The total funding approved is £200,000 i.e. £100,000 in each category.

The County Council's policy is to eliminate the use of demountable dwellings over time and to promote the use of village or "cluster" developments which would be near the facilities required by the elderly. In furtherance of this policy, the County Council has acquired land at Rosmuc, Carna and Carraroe and dwellings for the elderly people are included in scheme housing projects throughout the County where there are suitable persons on the list of approved applicants. Every effort is made to encourage and assist the development of Voluntary Housing projects throughout the County which would cater for the elderly or other special housing needs.

It frequently occurs, however, that occupants of demountable dwellings cannot be persuaded to take a house on a scheme or a "cluster" development and in many such cases the provision of a permanent house on the site of the demountable is not a practical proposition, i.e. such sites are often located in remote areas where the prospect of reletting the dwelling after the first tenancy has terminated would not be good, the sites of demountable dwellings are not generally in the ownership of the County Council but are held under licence and may not be made available to the Council for the construction of a permanent house or may not be suitable for such development, etc."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - COASTAL EROSION - DEP. E. O'CUIV 4082

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

"It is estimated that the necessary work at these locations would cost in the region of £30,000 and £20,000 respectively. The Council does not have the necessary funds to undertake this work. Funding has been sought from the Department of the Marine and Inishboffin has been included on the Report for Infrastructural Needs of the Islands to the Department of the Taoiseach.

We have had no indication as to whether or not funding will be provided."

**N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROUNDSTONE HARBOUR - DEP. 4083
E. O'CUIV**

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

"There are no funds available at present to carry out this work. The Council is in the process of carrying out a survey of all piers and harbours with a view to seeking funds for necessary works."

The following written reply was given to Councillor Regan:-

N.O.M. NO. 40 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4084

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

"This road will be subject to routine road maintenance as funds allow."

N.O.M. NO. 41 - ROADS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4085

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

"The A.A.D.T. figures are as follows:

Galway Furbo (R336))	5,600
Galway-Spiddal (R.336))	
Galway-Moycullen (N59)		6,500
Galway-Clonboo (N84)		4,599
Galway-Headford (N84)		3,945

There are no up to date figures available for

Galway Barna (R336)
Galway Knock Bridge (R336)"

N.O.M. NO. 42 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4086

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

"The provision of footpaths at these locations will be considered subject to funding being available."

N.O.M. NO. 43 - PARKING - CLLR. M. REGAN 4087

The following written reply was given to Councillor Regan:-

"This location is subject to a Planning Application and no decision will be made on the taking in charge of the parking area until the Planning process is complete."

N.O.M. NO. 44 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. M. REGAN 4088

The following written reply was given to Councillor Regan:-

"Roadside drains and water tables will be opened at this location early in the new year. There are no plans to carry out any further works."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

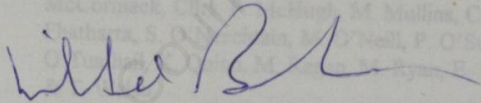
MINUTES OF ADJOURNED STATUTORY ESTIMATES
MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY ON FRIDAY,
29th NOVEMBER, 1996

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor W. Burke

Baili:

Submitted, Signed + Approved:



Official:

Chairman

27/1/97

Date

Thomascán na cruinní leis ar paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4031

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

- Mrs M. Mullins, Cooloo, Brierfield, Belmullet, Co. Galway
- Mrs Myra Flynn, Abbey Trinity, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mr. Tony Gavin, Millowa Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

ESTIMATES 1997

4032

Opening the Adjourned Estimates Meeting the Chairman invited comments from the Members of the Council.