

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES,
TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 8TH MAY, 1998**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor M. Finnerty

Cllrs. J. Brennan, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan,
Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Fahy,
P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane,
J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen.
J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C.
Ni Fhatharta, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, M.
Ryan, E. Varley & 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, E. Lusby, Finance
Officer & P. Carroll, S.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

4869

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the families of Jim Donnellan and Johnny O'Dowd, former Councillors.

A Resolution of Smypathy was also passed with:-

Francy Ward, Bayleek, Clifden, Co. Galway on the death of his sister
Michael O'Brien, Derroe, Maam Cross, Co. Galway on the death of his mother
Family of P. Piggott, Gort, Co. Galway.

COUNCIL FINANCES

4870

(A) ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1997

A Copy of the Abstract of Accounts and a Report of the Finance Officer dated 27th April, 1998 was circulated to each Member. The Report included full details of

receipts and expenditure on Revenue and Capital Accounts for the year 1997. The Finance Officer stated that 1997 had been an exceptional year in that the State had acceded to the annual requests over many years to recoupment of Higher Education Grant expenditure in the year of payment by the Council. The cash-flow improvement of under £4.9m during the year was mainly due to the earlier payment of the Higher Education Grant recoupment. He added that targets in respect of collection accounts and expenditure had been generally good.

Councillor Hussey suggested that the Finance Officer might give a talk to the Members on the introduction of the Euro Currency and its consequences for Galway County Council. It was agreed to include the matter on the Agenda of a future meeting.

Deputy Connaughton queried the level of accident claims made against Galway County Council and the percentage of fraudulent claims submitted and whether Galway County Council was experiencing similar difficulties to that encountered by some other Local Authorities.

The Finance Officer stated that Galway County Council had a good record for dealing with accident claims and had a Risk Management system in place where information was gathered on the basis of incidents arising in advance of claims being submitted. He added that the Council had been involved in a serious case recently, had successfully defended the action and were complimented on the outcome by our Insurers.

He confirmed that systems were in place for protection against fraudulent claims and that the Council has not experienced the difficulties of some other Local Authorities in that regard. He stated that a good deal has been agreed with the Council's Insurers and that the annual premium payable has been reduced on the basis of the Council's good record.

Deputy McCormack stated that the tendency now was not to award costs to Claimants against Local Authorities without a genuine reason and that this was a good deterrent against making unwarranted claims.

The County Manager stated that the Council had good procedures in place for dealing with claims and had a good record reflected in the fact that the premium had not risen. He complimented Mr. P. Duffy, Risk Controller and Mr. J. Morgan, S.E.E. in their defence of a recent serious claims action.

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Council approved of the expenditure and receipts for each of the Programme Headings in the Finance Officer's Report.

(B) NEW HEADQUARTERS

The Finance Officer informed Members of a proposal for refinancing of the new Council Offices arising from the improved cashflow position resulting from the changes in recoupment of Higher Education Grants. He stated that he proposed to

utilise £2m of this benefit to reduce the borrowing requirement from £8.5m to £6.5m and which would, based on current information, show a reduced annual average requirement of £216,523 over the 20 years term.

He recommended the proposal to Members as the most cost efficient use of the improved cashflow position.

The Chairman complimented the Finance Officer on his proposal adding that the use of the best interest rate possible was an example of good house-keeping. He also stated that the new Council Offices were ahead of schedule and should be finished by January to be occupied by February, 1999.

Councillor Byrne stated that it was good news that the Council were saving £4.3m over 20 years which could be utilised in the provision of services.

The County Manager acknowledged the tributes made by the Members and congratulated the Finance Section on its management of funds. He also paid tribute to the Members for their management of finances stating that today's savings was a good achievement. He added that the Council had been selected to carry out a pilot study on Needs & Resources, to be financed by the Department of the Environment, and that a presentation on the Study would be made to Members at a future Meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Hussey the Members approved the proposed financing of the new Council Offices as set out in Report dated 27th April, 1998, reducing the borrowing requirement from £8.5m to £6.5m.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

4871

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Mullins, it was agreed that Galway County Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the maximum sum of £3m for the period of six months ending on 31st December, 1998, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment & Local Government.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN PROGRAMME 1998

4872

Mr. D. Nelson Assistant County Manager outlined details of the Draft 1998 Environmental Campaign. He stated that the Campaign has been set out in the context of the Waste Management Strategy being prepared and taking account of requests/concerns expressed by the public on the environment. He stated that the campaign involves reduction in waste, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste. He stated that with regard to recycling, he proposed to increase the number of bottle and can recycling banks, including clothes banks made available to Community Groups/businesses during 1998 where a site is provided and will encourage partnerships with such groups.

With regard to the Tidy Town Competition, he felt that the National Tidy Town Competition should not be mirrored in the local competition and he proposed to introduce a new and novel scheme where towns and villages will be judged not only on the tidy appearance of the town/village but also on a list of works submitted and the success of the town/village in the achievement of these works/activities.

The Chairman stated that M.C. O'Sullivan, Consultants would attend the meeting of Ballinasloe U.D.C. on Tuesday and that M.C. O'Sullivan needed to get information out to the public as quickly as possible as groups were forming who are not in possession of the full facts regarding the landfill site.

He also stated that the Strategy was still only a proposal and that no final decision had been taken by Galway County Council and Galway Corporation.

Deputy Connaughton stated that there should be an opportunity for concerned persons to view a well run landfill site and that no money should be spared in ensuring that people understand the true facts of the matter.

He added that a guarantee that the proposed landfill site at Ballinasloe was only an interim measure needed to be given to let people know the true situation as there was a lot of mis-information and concern evident.

Councillor O'Sullivan proposed that the use of Ballinasloe as a temporary landfill site for the city and county be deferred until a suitable long-term site is identified. He stated that residents living near affected areas should be met by the Council and Consultants.

Councillor Callanan stated that people in Ballinasloe do not believe that the use of Ballinasloe landfill will be temporary given the investment proposed and that a long-term site should be identified first.

Councillor Brennan stated that residents in the affected area and the Chamber of Commerce should be met by the Consultants and given assurances that Ballinasloe will not be a long-term landfill site. Examples such as the feasibility of continuing to bring waste from Clifden to Ballinasloe could be used to show that the proposal was short-term.

Councillor McClearn stated that the condition of Ballinasloe landfill site was disgraceful and that people are not convinced of the duration of the temporary dump.

Mr. Nelson stated that it was likely that there was a need for public meetings in Ballinasloe on the issue and that it will be necessary to enter into a legal agreement with Ballinasloe U.D.C. to accept refuse to the year 2005.

The County Manager stated that he was aware of the need for the public to get the right information and agreed that the public could be met in Ballinasloe and visit appropriate facilities. He stated that the interim proposal was to allow time to locate a long-term site.

The Chairman stated that the Consultants are to identify a long-term site in September 1998 and that the site will not be located at Ballinasloe.

Councillor McClearn stated that the concept of a best improved village was a novel idea as previously a lot of villages and towns felt intimidated by the success of others and don't enter the competition. He added that there should be a competition within villages for the best premises.

Referring to dumping, he stated that there was indiscriminate dumping everywhere and that the problem was getting totally out of hand. He added that as a Council the problem has not been tackled and effective remedial measures needed to be taken.

Councillor Gavin stated that Tidy Towns Groups become frustrated due to the fact that the same people are responsible for litter and dumping. While welcoming the competition for schools, he felt that the timing of the competition was wrong and it should be launched over the Summer.

He also stated that Islanders on Inishmore were concerned with the shortened opening hours of the landfill site.

Councillor Hussey stated that the Council has a big job in educating people on the environment and that the co-operation of the public is needed. He stated that more information should be circulated to the public on composting and recycling schemes in order to promote the schemes further.

Councillor Quinn stated that schools were the place to start in educating people on the environment.

Councillor Mullins stated that a campaign like the drink/drive campaign was needed and recommended that facilities be provided on particular days in the major towns for the disposal of metal.

Councillor Walsh stated that he feared that the same discussion will be held in ten years time and that the people who dump are known in each area.

Mr. Nelson stated that he agreed with what had been said by Members and added that he felt that the Irish were regarded by others as being a dirty nation with respect to litter and dumping. He agreed to investigate the Inishmore landfill site opening hours. With regard to dumping on bogs, he stated that it did not appear to be the same people who were dumping from evidence gathered. He added that a brief was being drawn up for the employment of a security firm as part of future control policy and should be finalised before the Summer.

He stated that a pilot programme for composting was in place and that it will be followed up with a questionnaire. Referring to prosecutions for litter and dumping offences, he stated that two cases were pending but that people were needed who are prepared to give evidence in Court. Referring to collection facilities for metal in towns, he stated that there was a tendency to dump domestic refuse in them and that individuals should arrange to bring metal waste to recycling centres.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Hussey, the Members approved the 1998 Environmental Campaign Programme.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4873

Action Plans

The County Manager advised that following the retirement of Mr. B. Callagy, the Local Appointments Commission have been requested to make arrangements to fill the vacant post. He further advised that negotiations had been completed with Brady, Shipman, Martyn, Planning Consultants for the preparation by them of Development Plans for the Scheduled towns of Loughrea, Clifden, Gort, and Tuam, and Action Plans for Claregalway and Moycullen with most of the Plans to be completed within seven months. He stated that the Oranmore Action Plan would be looked at again in the context of the resolution of the Mutton Island Treatment Plant and that he wanted to see balanced development and the creation of employment opportunities in Oranmore.

He also stated that sanction had been received from the Department of the Environment under the Serviced Land Initiative for a Sewerage Scheme in Claregalway up to a cost of £900,000, 40% of which would be funded by the Department and 60% by development levies. He added that it will also be necessary to increase development levies in villages and towns to build up a fund for land and open space.

Councillor Loughnane stated that there was great interest in the Athenry Draft Plan and queried whether copies of maps and the plan would be made available to interested groups or individuals. He stated that some concern had been expressed regarding the lack of preservation of the heritage of Athenry.

Councillor Gavin stated that the imposition of extra development levies will be passed on to the purchasers and overall the cost of houses will increase by that amount.

The County Manager stated that the next stage for the Athenry Town Plan was to put the Draft on public display for three months and copies of the plan will be made available to the public. The public are entitled to make submissions on the Draft which will then go back to the Members together with the Planning Officers' comments on submissions made.

Industrial Action by Local Authority Craftsmen and General Operatives

The County Secretary read out a Notice which is to be circulated to the media advising the public of the curtailment of services to the public in the event of the industrial action taking place.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4874

Traffic Control Measures

Councillor Loughnane stated that he wanted the Kileeneen Road junction to be included as part of the traffic control measures being taken at Craughwell.

Referendum

Councillor Fahy stated that this was the last Meeting before the Referendum on 22nd May and recommended that the Peace Initiative and Amsterdam Treaty be given a mandate by Galway People.

Traders

Councillor Brennan referred to a letter which some Traders in Ballinasloe had received directing them to remove display items from the footpath outside their shops. He asked why the notice was sent and what could be done to allow the Traders continue displaying trade items outside their shops.

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager replied stating that Ballinasloe U.D.C. had to sort out parking problems in Ballinasloe and it had been decided to enforce one hour parking. The placing of equipment/foods outside premises was not allowed.

CONFERENCES

4875

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the costs of the Conferences having been circulated to each Member:-

General Council of County Council's Seminar - Sligo- 23/24 January, 1998

Cllr. K. Quinn

Millenium Conference - Dublin Castle - 21/22 May, 1998

Cllr. T. Walsh

Cllr. J. McClearn

Deputy P. Connaughton

General Council of Council Council's Seminar - Tullamore, 2/3 July, 1998

Sen. J. McDonagh

Cllr. J. McClearn

Cllr. M. Cunningham

Cllr. T. Walsh

Cllr. M. Finnerty

Cllr. J. Conneely

Cllr. T. Byrne
Cllr. M. Ryan

Deputy P. McCormack
Cllr. P. Finnegan

Cllr. T. Hussey
Cllr. E. Varley

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

Michael Finerty
Chairman

2nd June '98

Date

SUBMISSION PRIORITIES FOR POST 1999 STRUCTURAL COHESION FUNDS

On the motion of the Chairman, the Council agreed to take this item first. Some Members' interests of Galway Corporation remained for this Presentation.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Jim McGovern, Secretary of the West Regional Authority and Dr. Kevin Bradley, Consultant from ERM Economics to the Meeting for the Presentation.

Mr. Jim McGovern stated that Agenda 2000 set out a number of guidelines and framework for the overall financial packages. Cohesion funds will continue at the same level in year 2003 when a review will take place. Based on expected growth rates, Ireland may exceed the 90% average per capita of GNP for Cohesion Funding and may no longer qualify. In the case of Structural Funds for the period 2004-2006,

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARDILAUN HOUSE HOTEL, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 27th APRIL, 1998

CATHAOIRLEACH: *An Comhairleoir M. Finnerty*

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. Callanan, 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, J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Managers, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, B. Callagy & J. Morgan, S.E.E.'s, D Barrett & E. Power, A.O.'s, B. McDermott, S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/S.O.

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITIES FOR POST 1999 STRUCTURAL & COHESION FUNDS

4827

On the proposal of the Chairman, the Council agreed to take this item first. Some Members/Officials of Galway Corporation remained for this Presentation.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Jim McGovern, Secretary of the West Regional Authority and Dr. Kevin Bradley, Consultant from ERM Economics to the Meeting for the Presentation.

Mr. Jim McGovern stated that Agenda 2000 set out a number of guidelines and framework for the overall financial packages. Cohesion funds will continue at the same level to year 2003, when a review will take place. Based on expected growth rates, Ireland may exceed the 90% average per capita of GNP for Cohesion Funding and may no longer qualify. In the case of Structural Funds for the period 2000-2006,

Ireland, if designated as one region may be Objective One Transitional. However these negotiations will continue until early 1999.

The Department of Finance has advised the Regional Authorities and other Government bodies to forward submissions in relation to EU funding by early June. The Department of Finance intend to have the National Development Plan finalised by September, 1998.

The West Regional Authority appointed ERM, Economic Consultants, to prepare a submission for the West Region. Meetings are being held with key organisations in connection with the preparation of the plan.

Mr. Kevin Bradley of ERM, Economic Consultants stated that their brief is to help the West Regional Authority in preparation of a submission for EU funding for the years 2000-2006.

Mr. Bradley stated that it is imperative that the regions within Ireland develop their own Economic Planning Strategy. It must be borne in mind that the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund monies will be reduced. The first step is to plan an overall joint strategy which will identify key priorities. These priorities must be economically robust (not a wish list) as same could be rejected by either the Department of Finance or the EU. In regard to Structural Funds, consideration must be given to Ireland's position viz. a viz. Objective One Status.

According to recent figures from the Central Statistics Office those in the West region are disadvantaged. They also highlighted the disparity between the west and other areas in terms of disadvantage, and highlighted the need for regional competitiveness measures. Competitive advantage must be developed and maintained. Mr. Bradley stated that consideration must be given to the types of priorities that are important in a regional context. It is necessary that there is interaction of priorities for detailed discussion and debate. It is necessary for the region to have its own Development and Economic Strategy which can be used for levelling resources from whatever sources and not just the EU.

The Commission intends to amalgamate various instruments used over the previous periods for rural development in disadvantaged area into one measurement for rural development.

The Commissions proposal is interesting from two respects:-

- (a) It does wish to see rural development taken seriously in an integrated way rather than compensation to farmers living in marginalised conditions and*
- (b) Rural Development should be integrated into the Regional economic planning process - Rural development priority will be further developed within the West Regional Plan and will be an important part of the proposals.*

Dr Bradley stated that under the Environment Services Area, the Waste Management Strategy for the county and problems regarding the supply of water and waste water

treatment will be addressed with the geographical spread of the area taken into consideration.

Deputy Connaughton thanked Dr. Bradley for his presentation. He stated that Galway County Council adopted a Strategic Management Plan for years 1995-2000, which set out the Council's priorities for the County. Deputy Connaughton queried the rules laid down by EU in relation to funds for regional development - Objective One Status and whether County Councils/Regional Authorities or other Government Bodies can apply for same.

Councillor Finnegan stated that the development and feasibility of a commuter railway line should be examined, as this would bring numerous advantages and help revitalise the Western Rail System.

Councillor W. Burke said that it is imperative that Government Bodies and Dail Deputies are aware that the West will settle for nothing less than Objective One Status. He stated that there is a huge gap in the standards of living amongst people living in this country. There are 250 different regions in the EU. In England, there are three different regions with Objective One Status. Councillor W. Burke stated that there must be equalisation and fair distribution of monies this time.

Councillor McClearn confirmed that the West Regional Authority in conjunction with ERM Consultants will submit a detailed and comprehensive plan for the region. However, Councillor McClearn expressed his concerns with Officials at the Department of Finance to include these proposals in European Submission, and the interest at National level with the regionalisation of the country.

Councillor Callanan stated that should the region be successful in obtaining Objective One Status matching funds for various projects will be required and queried whether the State will assist the region.

Councillor McHugh agreed with sentiments expressed by Councillor McClearn, wherein the Officials from the Department of Finance are the key people rather than politicians.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that this represents a great opportunity for areas like the West of Ireland to be regionalised. However, the regions should have autonomy. The Department of Finance are reluctant to relinquish control. The Celtic Tiger is reigning in Dublin and this is an opportunity to address the imbalance of past years. The Counties of the region must work together. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain urged caution that no area is left out. In regard to matching funds, An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that in the case of Objective One Status and Regional autonomy where matching funds are required, the state must assist the region.

Councillor J. Burke concurred with sentiments expressed by pervious speakers. He formally proposed that Galway County Council support and adopt Objective One Status for the Regions i.e. West, Midlands and Border Regions. He highlighted deficiencies in infrastructure particularly the road and rail network systems.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.

Dr. Kevin Bradley replied to the queries raised. The position on Objective One Status is still under negotiation. It must be borne in mind that Ireland is a small country with a small population base. Regions of Ireland have developed at different paces. Dr. Bradley highlighted the benefits gained by Dublin, e.g. development of financial centre, etc.

He confirmed that the West needs Objective One Status, based on Regional Plans. In regard to matching funds, he could see no reason why national Government would not underwrite the monies required. However, it must be viewed as part of central control situation, and Central Government Departments must consider surrendering control.

The development of the rail system is a priority of the trans-European network. The Guidelines in relation to same are being re-examined at present.

In conclusion, Dr. Bradley stated that the projects and priorities for the region must be clearly defined.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf thanked Dr. Bradley and Mr. Jim McGovern for their presentation. He advised the Members that a copy of the Council's Structural and Cohesion Funds Submission dated April, 1998 was circulated to the Members.

The Manager advised the Members that a report on the proceedings of this debate together with the Report will be formally sent to the Secretary of the West Regional Authority.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4828

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Mr. Joe Kelly, Perssepark, Aghrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Mrs. Chrissie Shinnors, Perssepark, Aghrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

4829

The Chairman on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf extended good wishes to Mr. Brian Callagy, S.E.E. (Planning) on his forthcoming retirement from Galway County Council. The Manager, on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf joined in the good wishes extended to Mr. Callagy.

MINUTES

4830

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 13th March, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23rd March, 1998 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

On the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Ryan the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 6th April, 1998 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Report of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Regan.

The Report of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 4th March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Mullins.

The Report of the Galway Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 9th March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor McHugh, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

The Report of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 19th March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 19th March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Callanan.

The Report of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 20th March, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Regan.

The Report of the Meeting of Control of Horses Bye-Laws Committee held on 16th January, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McHugh.

The Report of the Meeting of the Control of Horses Bye-Laws Committee held on 13th February, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McHugh.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Report of Tuam Electoral Area Committee - 2nd March, 1998

Naming of Roads

On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Council agreed with recommendations of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee as follows:-

- (a) the outer link road be named Bobby Burke Road (connecting Milltown-Dunmore Roads)
- (b) the road from Vicar Street to the roundabout be called Purcell Road and
- (c) the road from the roundabout to the Dublin Road be called Stockwell Road.

Naming of River Nanny Path/Walk in Tuam

On the recommendation of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee and on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Mullins, the Council agreed that the Walk along the River Nanny be named "Finnegan's Walk".

Control of Horses Bye-Laws Committee

The County Secretary informed the Members that a Meeting of this Sub-Committee will be arranged shortly to consider the submissions received in connection with the Control of Horses Bye-Laws for County Galway Health District.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT TULLYVOHEEN

4831

On the proposal of Councillor O'Neill, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, the Council approved the disposal of 0.285 acres of land at Tullyvoheen, Clifden to the Connemara Sheltered Housing Association Ltd. in accordance with Notice dated 8th April, 1998, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 and Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT
LIMEHILL, TYNAGH**

4832

Having complied with the provisions of Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993, the Council agreed to extinguish the Public Right of Way over 179 metres of Local Road 42092 at Limehill, Tynagh, in accordance with Report dated 20/4/1998 on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor W. Burke.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS

4833

Having complied with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, and on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Council agreed to

declare the road in the townland of Coolorta, Tuam to be a public road. The road commences at the junction with the N63 and extends south for a distance of 175 metres.

Having complied with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, The Council agreed to declare that the road in the townland of Bellayarha North, Loughrea, to be a public road, on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Ryan. The road commences at junction with Local road 32026 and extending north for a distance of 135 metres.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TOWN OF ATHENRY 4834

A copy of the Traffic Management Plan for the town of Athenry which includes a one-way traffic system and parking restrictions which will come into effect on 18th May, 1998, was circulated to the Members.

On the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Members agreed to the Traffic Management Scheme for Athenry as outlined in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 1994 and Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations 1997.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED TOWN OF ATHENRY 4835

Mr. Brian Callagy, Senior Executive Engineer (Planning) gave a brief summary of the Draft Development Plan for the Scheduled Town of Athenry which was circulated to the Members. He recommended/outlined some minor amendments in addition to the following amendments to the Draft Plan:-

Table 5 - Commercial zoning to include Residential zoning also.

Table 4 - Zoning at Point C
Primarily for Commercial use, also to include Residential use.

Table 7 - Land Use - Parking Spaces
Two Schedules for Table 7 included on Draft circulated to Members. The Schedules were incorporated and amended appropriately - now one schedule.

Page 13 - Planned strengthening of the town:-
Omitted reference to Rail network - Galway/Dublin Sligo & Limerick lines

Page 19 - Residential Land Use. The following was included.
Apportionality of scale of future growth in relation to existing size of town.

Mr. Callagy stated that Athenry is an ideal town to plan. The town centre is very concentrated. The development plan will cater for a population of 9,000. The plan examines the road system, sanitary services infrastructure and lands available for development. He said that on the lands zoned, approx. 25 townhouses per hectare will be catered for with a result that no one would be more than a ten minute walk from the town centre.

To avoid congestion of the town centre, a link road is essential and an outer ring road is proposed. Mr. Callagy stated that the link road to the National Primary route must be improved. The towns rail link with Galway City, and the further development of the commuter line will be an advantage. Included in the plan is land reserved for commuter parking adjacent to the railway station.

The plan allows for the enhancement of heritage areas around the town. Parks and open spaces will be provided in the town which will be an attractive addition to the town.

In conclusion, Mr. Callagy added that the Athenry Plan is very compact and should all proposals materialise, it will result in the town becoming a very attractive town.

Councillor J. Burke thanked Mr. Callagy for his presentation. He asked Mr. Callagy's views on the development densities outlined.

Senator McDonagh stated that in the context of any development plan, infrastructure must be considered. He highlighted the need for improvements to the link roads of Athenry/Craughwell onto the Dublin/Galway roads, and the road leading from Athenry Town to the Cemetery.

In reply to queries raised, Mr. Callagy stated that the cost of housing is a limiting factor. A number of small townhouses to cater for certain age groups is proposed, which is a high density urban type housing, i.e. 25 per hectare. For housing development outside the town walls, 8 houses per acre. To reduce the number of residences per acre will result in increased houses prices, and with market changes, it is not advisable to be too restrictive. At present the maximum number is 10 residences per acre.

Mr. Callagy confirmed that an inner road system is also proposed.

The Draft Development Plan for the Scheduled Town of Athenry was approved by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor W. Burke.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf thanked Mr. Callagy for his presentation. The County Engineer extended his good wishes to Mr. Callagy on his forthcoming retirement and thanked him for his commitment given to Galway County Council.

CONFERENCES

4836

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Hussey and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, an estimate of the cost per delegate for attendance at the conferences having been circulated to each Member.

1798 Bicentennial Conference - Dublin Castle - 21-23 May, 1998

Cllr. J. Mannion

NASC Seminar - Killarney -

Cllr. K. Quinn

Association of Health Boards Conference - Wexford - 1/2 May, 1998

Cllr. E. Varley

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4837

Industrial Action

The County Secretary informed the Members of an on-going dispute on behalf of the Craftsmen employed in Local Authorities and Health Boards throughout the Country. The Labour Court recommendation has been rejected by the Unions involved and notice of industrial action from the 11th May, 1998, has been served. The Members of SIPTU, i.e. General Operatives have written to Management confirming that they will be joining in the industrial action from same date. The Manager stated that on-going negotiations on behalf of the Local Authorities and Health Boards are being conducted by the Local Government Management Services Board. It is hoped that these negotiations will be successful and proposed action will not proceed.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4838

Islands Committee

Councillor Gavin said that with the establishment of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Island Representatives wished to be involved in island development. In light of this, Councillor Gavin asked that consideration be given to retain the Islands Committee in its current form but was informed that this was contrary to the SPC Guidelines.

Councillor Gavin proposed Ms. M. O'Conghaile, of An Trá, Inishere, Aran Islands, as a Member of the Islands Committee in lieu of Mr. E. O hEanaigh. Councillor Conneely seconded this proposal. The proposal was agreed.

Councillor Gavin also paid tribute to Mr. E. O hEanaigh for his contribution and commitment to Island Development.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**N.O.M. NO. 11 - BOTHAR - AN COMH C. NI 4839
FHATHARTA**

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

"Tá príomh obair ag teastáil ar an mbóthar seo agus bheadh airgead mór I gceist. Nil aon airgead curtha ar fáil sa chlár na mboithre 1998 le haghaidh an obair seo.

Dá mbeadh sceim C.E. ar bun sa gcentar bheadh an Comhairle Chontae sásta leabhairt leo faoi, má dhéanann siad teagmhail linn."

**N.O.M. NO. 12 - SIGNS/MARKINGS - CLLR. M. 4840
CUNNINGHAM**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"School flashing lights and statutory signs are in place and this is considered adequate."

N.O.M. NO. 13 - ROAD - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4841

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This road does not qualify for taking in charge as it does not serve two landowners."

**N.O.M. NO. 14 - UNDERGROUND WIRING - CLLR. M. 4842
CUNNINGHAM**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"E.S.B. wires were placed underground from Glynns Hotel towards the Railway Bridge under the Village Renewal Scheme in 1996. There are no further funds available for continuation of the work at present.

Estimates have been invited from the E.S.B. for:

- (i) completion of public lighting at the location indicated.

- (ii) Extension of the lighting on the Ennis Road to take account of the new speed limit locations.
- (iii) Replacement of some old substandard lighting in the town centre.

Once estimates are available the question of funding will be addressed.

N.O.M. NO. 15 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - 4843
CLLR. FAHY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"A traffic calming scheme has been installed on the N18 on the northern (Galway) side in 1997. No further funds have been provided in 1998 but Gort will be considered for traffic calming in future programmes."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - 4844
CLLR. FAHY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"No funds were provided for traffic calming in Ardrahan in 1998. Ardrahan will be considered for future traffic calming schemes."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - 4845
CLLR FAHY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"No funds were provided for traffic calming in Craughwell in 1998. Craughwell will be considered for future traffic calming schemes."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4846

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"This road is not included in the 1998 Road Works Programme. However, it is considered to be in a reasonable condition. It will be subject to routine maintenance as resources permit."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD MAINTENANCE - CLLR. P. 4847
FINNEGAN

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

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

N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4848

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"Remedial works will be carried out at the above location as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4849

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"This section of road which is in charge of Galway County Council will be repaired as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4850

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

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

N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4851

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road is not included in the 1998 Road Works Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as funds allow."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - ATHENRY DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4852

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Submissions received in relation to Athenry Town Plan were taken into consideration when preparing the Draft Development Plan for Athenry."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4853

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"5 new lights will be provided at the above location in the current year under the 1998 Public Lighting Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - SPEED LIMIT - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4854

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The provision of a 40 mile speed limit at this location is not recommended."

A full Traffic Route Lighting scheme was recently installed at this location.

Excessive speed is a matter for the Garda Síochána and we will be writing to them regarding same within the next few days."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - DANGEROUS BEND - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4855

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"There is no funding available in the current year to carry out the above works. However, this location will be included in the draft 5 Year Roads Plan for National Secondary routes which is presently being prepared by Galway County Council"

N.O.M. NO. 28 - CULLAIRBUAN ESTATE - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4856

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"These matters will be examined by the County Council and a meeting will be arranged with the representatives of the Cullairbaun Residents with a view to discussing the future development of this estate."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - PIOPA SEARACHAIS - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4857

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

"Níl aon phlean ag an gComhairle, faoi láthair, áiseanna scáthlán a chur ar fáil don séarachas ag an Sruthán, An Cheathrú Rua. Ba mhaith liom a chur in uil duit, ó staidéar a rinne an Comhairle le goirid, gur fritheadh amach ó thaobh caolú agus scailpeadh, go bhfuil an sruth ag obair go sáisiúil. Mar is eol duit, tá feabhsú séarachas an Cheathrú Rua san áireamh sa Tionscnamh Comhshaoil Conamara."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - BOSCA BRUSCAIR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4858

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

"Níl aon ga faoi lathair boscaí bruscair a chur ar fáil i Tir a Fhia. Roimh re, bhí a lan gearrain bruscair ag baint leis an aite seo ach tá sé níos fearr anois."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4859

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

"Níl an bóthar seo faoi chúram an Comhairle Chontae. Dá bhri sin ní bheidh muid ag déanamh aon obair air."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 4860

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"Extensive routine maintenance has already been carried out to the above road. Further routine maintenance will be carried out within the next few weeks."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD MAINTENANCE - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 4861

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"Routine maintenance will be carried out at the above location in the near future. Strengthening works will be carried out later in the year."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 4862

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

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

N.O.M. NO. 35 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4863

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

"It is assumed that the location referred to is the Lacklea junction in which case work will commence within the next few weeks."

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - SPIDDAL VILLAGE SEWERAGE SCHEME -4864
CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"There is no treatment works at present in Spiddal. The existing sea outfall system is operating adequately and the water quality is satisfactory. There are no plans to upgrade this system in the near future."

**N.O.M. NO. 37 - DRAFT BARN A ACTION PLAN - 4865
CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"Discussions are still ongoing with the National Building Agency in relation to the Action Plan for Barna, however it is hoped to have the Draft ready in approximately 2 months time."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4866

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

"Minor works will be carried out at the above location as a result of £1,000 N.O.M. funds allocated by you."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4867

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

"The above works will be carried out under the 1998 White Lining Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 40 - TRAFFIC PROBLEMS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4868

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

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

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:-

Michael Innata
Chairman

25/5/98

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES,
TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON TUESDAY, 14TH APRIL,
1998**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor M. Finnerty

Cllrs. W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy
P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham,
M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M.
Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P.
McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins,
C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, 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 &
J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Managers, T. Kavanagh, Co.
Secretary, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, J.
Eising, A/S.E.E., D. Barrett, A.O., T. Connell & P.
Carroll, S.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

4816

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D. on the recent death of his Mother.

CONGRATULATIONS

4817

The Members congratulated the Taoiseach and others involved in the Peace Process in Northern Ireland and expressed their unanimous support of the Taoiseach in ongoing peace negotiations.

Members congratulated Bobby Burke and his family, Mountbellew on his recent success in the Irish Grand National.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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Congratulations were also extended to Seamount College, Kinvara in winning the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 **4818**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 26th March, 1998 regarding the construction of septic tank and percolation areas to existing dwellings at the following locations:-

Ballyeighter (ED Oatfield), Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Corrabaun, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Moyardwood, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Treaunbaun, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway
Gortbrack, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Clover Park, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Grange (ED Killererin), Togher, Tuam, Co. Galway
Tigreenaun, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway
Omaun More, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway
Whitepark, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Deputy Connaughton.

DISPOSAL OF PLOTS OF LAND IN THE TOWNLAND OF GARRAUN SOUTH **4819**

On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, it was resolved:-

"that Galway County Council hereby approve the sale of plots of land in the townland of Garraun South to Mr. James Furey, in accordance with Notice dated 27th March, 1998 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 which had been circulated to each Member."

CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORT ON SANITARY SERVICES CAPITAL WORKS AND GROUP WATER SCHEMES **4820**

A copy of a Progress Report dated 7th April, 1998 on Sanitary Services Capital Works was circulated to each Member. Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager gave an update on the various projects being undertaken in the water services sections under

the headings of Capital Schemes, Small Schemes Programme and Group Water Supply Schemes.

Councillor W. Burke welcomed the Report and the multi-annual Programme it involves. He stated that schemes should be brought before Area Committees.

Deputy McCormack referred to the Connemara Environmental Project which had been submitted to the Department of the Environment in 1994, and which had not yet been approved for funding. He stated that it needed to be determined whether the project will or will not be funded by the E.U. and if not funded by E.U. funds, arrangements should be made to seek alternative funding sources.

He referred to individual water supply schemes which had been submitted for approval to the Department some years ago and for which approval was still awaited. He added that the Council should make direct contact with Brussels to determine the position.

An Comhairleoir O Tuathail stated that the Progress Report on Capital projects should be discussed in detail by the Area Committees prior to consideration by the Council.

Councillor Gavin stated that the allocation of £4.2m towards Inis Mór Water Supply Scheme had created great expectations on the Island. He requested that as land purchasing can be a lengthy process, that a time schedule be set out for the different stages of the scheme. He stated that he would like to see the Moycullen Sewerage Scheme completed in 1998 but queried what progress had been made on land purchase given the difficulties caused by the high cost of land in Moycullen and whether account had been taken of the massive potential in Moycullen in years to come.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain welcomed progress to date but expressed concern at the queue of schemes awaiting sanction. He stated that the Connemara Environmental Project was now very urgent but that the problem was not entirely the E.U., as it has only limited funds available. He added that the Council should ask the Department of the Environment to put pressure on Brussels.

Deputy Connaughton queried that as not every county had taken up Cohesion Funds, would this mean that these funds would be transferred to countries seeking funding, like Galway. He stated that while he appreciated the frustrations expressed regarding lack of progress in the Connemara Environmental Project, there are many small villages in the East of the county where there are no capital schemes and at the rate of capital investment in projects it would be twenty years before some of the areas listed would see development of projects.

He agreed that it was not possible to adequately discuss the report at this meeting and that it first should be considered by the Area Committees. He suggested that the Council should now seek tenders for the Cappataggle Group Water Scheme in advance of official sanction to avoid delays in advancing the scheme.

Referring to private group water supply schemes, he stated that less than half of the estimated 500 private schemes had applied for payment of a subsidy. He stated this was due to the fact that many of these schemes are unable to assess the amount of

water supplied and used for domestic purposes as against water supplied for other purposes. He added that he understood the grant was for the enhancement of water supplies and that if the requirement to identify the water usage was removed, approximately another 200 private schemes would apply for subsidies.

Councillor Byrne stated that what was required was a commitment from the Department for funding to enable the schemes to proceed. He stated that the report identified some £250m of capital investment, with a time span of from one to twenty years. He questioned whether some of these schemes will ever be completed. He also stated that the Council were responsible for the discharge of raw sewerage into Kinvara Bay, which had partially wiped out oyster beds and led to a back-up of raw sewerage around the quay. He added that he had been informed that it would cost £20,000 to carry out a survey but had been given no commitment that the survey would be carried out.

Councillor Walsh proposed that another Special Meeting should be called to allow all Members to express their views on the Progress Report.

Deputy McCormack proposed that the meeting of the Connemara and Galway Area Committees be combined and this was agreed by the Members.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager would respond to the queries raised by Members at the Area Meetings to be arranged.

CONSIDERATION OF THREE YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME 4821

A copy of Report dated 7th April, 1998 on the Housing Programme 1998-2000 was circulated to each Member. Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager outlined the details of the Programme adding that he wished to develop a rolling programme which would be reviewed on an ongoing basis. He stated that the programme was based on housing needs as identified in the report and that approximately 30 Rural Housing starts per annum was proposed. He added that due to the difficulties in acquiring land by agreement, it may be necessary to use the compulsory purchase order procedure in certain circumstances.

Councillor Fahy stated that the continuing use of demountable dwellings in 1998 was wrong and proposed that the Department of the Environment be asked to ensure that people living in demountable dwellings be given small rural houses in villages or on the lands of their family homes and that a special allocation be given by the Department for this purpose. He also stated that it was unfair to house traveller families in the centre of estates, that the travellers prefer to be allocated together in group housing schemes and that it was unfair to have traveller families in environs that they were not used to.

Councillor Finnegan welcomed the extensions to Council houses and urged the Members to press the Department for a further extension to the scheme. He stated that it was important when transferring tenants to ensure that the tenancy regulations

are complied and good standards maintained. He further stated that many tenants would be glad to move to rural houses or buy rural houses and repair them and queried whether the Council could provide assistance.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta queried whether land would have to be acquired beside the existing housing estate in Carraroe and would more land be acquired elsewhere in Carraroe. She added that a lot of applicants were from the Islands area and queried whether the Council were still looking for land in that area. Regarding housing at Rosmuc, she stated that it was no good in pushing applicants to move to an area that they don't want to go to. She felt that the Council don't appear to be able to purchase as many houses in Connemara as in other areas and queried whether this would rule out more Council housing where people don't have their own sites.

Councillor Cunningham stated that the Council should try to purchase land in rural areas and by doing so would keep rural Ireland alive.

Councillor Callanan stated that the quality of Council housing in rural areas was first class and expressed approval to the continuation of construction of rural dwellings, which ensure the continued existence of many rural schools. He suggested that the Council should try and acquire some land in rural villages. He queried the position of transfer applications from Ballinasloe Town to the county area where two different authorities are involved.

Councillor Quinn stated that while she welcomed the rural resettlement initiative, a lot of young persons from the county were looking for housing and these should be facilitated first.

Councillor W. Burke stated that the Programme does not do much for the revitalisation of villages and that the submissions made by Members do not appear to have been taken into account. He added that the programme should be presented as a draft document at Area Meetings, and the Programme should try to help reduce rural decline and to do something towards revitalising villages.

Councillor Mullins stated that each Engineering Area should look at its stock in its area and investigate the potential for purchasing and renovation of some houses in its area.

Councillor Hussey referred to the housing repairs backlog and that incentives should be given to residents groups to carry out small repairs themselves.

An Comhairleoir O Tuathail asked that the Council investigate and take remedial action in respect of abandoned demountables.

Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager replied to the questions and comments of Members. He stated that since 1991, the number of demountable dwellings has been reduced from 430 to 200, and while he would like to eliminate the need for demountable dwellings, and would continue trying to reduce the numbers, a difficulty arose where landowners on whose land the demountables were sited were not willing to give land on a permanent basis.

Mr. Tierney stated that with regard to the Three Year Programme he will come back to the Council with appropriate revisions for 1999-2000, if required. He stated that the list was based on preferences expressed by people generally. With regard to extensions to Council houses, fifty applications had been received and it was hoped to advance their applications as quickly as possible.

He confirmed that a pilot tenant participation and management programme was operating in Tuam at the moment and it was hoped to start 2-3 other such programmes shortly.

He also confirmed that separate sites would be acquired for proposed housing in Carraroe and added that the purchase of houses in this area is low as the Council build so many rural houses. With regard to tenant transfers between Ballinasloe U.D.C. and Galway County Council - he stated that the possibility of such transfers are being examined. He also stated that the rural resettlement programme had no significant impact on the availability of Council housing.

He stated that a comprehensive survey of housing stock was needed to formulate a planned maintenance programme and that he would come back to the Members with a maintenance programme following completion of the survey.

The County Manager stated that the thrust of the document is to prepare long term plans for housing which would help in advancing the acquisition of required land. He stated that the design of Council houses was continuously under review. He added that with regard to house repairs, that it may be necessary to obtain a loan to get rid of the backlog but that detailed proposals would be put before the Members within the next three to four months. He also stated that lands owned by the Council may not be in the right location and he would like to see as much co-operation as possible from landowners in purchasing land.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSING (TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION) BILL, 1998 **4822**

A copy of report dated 7th April, 1998 on the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Bill, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager stated that the Bill when enacted will require the preparation and adoption of a Five Year Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of travellers within the county. The programme provides for public consultation and the Bill when enacted will continue the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group to which the County Manager has been appointed.

Councillor Gavin stated that the Act will represent a fundamental change in traveller accommodation country-wide. However, he stated that Galway was the victim of its own success and that traveller families continued to come to Galway because it was so popular. He added that other counties were not doing their share in traveller accommodation and that this must change.

NOMINATIONS FOR EUROPEAN BRIEFING PROGRAMME

4825

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Mannion and agreed that the attendance of the following Member be approved to attend the 1998 European Briefing Programme, details of which are set out hereunder, the costs of the Programme having been circulated to each Member.

European Briefing Programme - Leuven - 2/7 May, 1998

Cllr. P. Finnegan

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4826

The County Manager informed the Members of his recent appointment to both the National Economic and Social Forum and the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Group.

The Members congratulated the Manager on his appointments.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted Approved + Signed:

Michael Finnan

Chairman

25/5/98

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ORANMORE LODGE
HOTEL, ORANMORE, CO. GALWAY ON MONDAY, 6TH
APRIL, 1998**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor M. Finnerty

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne,
J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J.
Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan,
S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion,
J. McClean, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen. J.
McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, S.
O'Neachtain, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan
M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh,
Co. Secretary, C. Wallace, T. Connell & P. Carroll,
S.S.O.'s, A. Farrell, S.O. & C. Naughton, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

**CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSION TO 4815
ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

The Chairman asked the Chairmen of each Local Electoral Area to indicate the decision of its area with regard to a submission to the Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

Councillor Brennan, Chairman of Ballinasloe Electoral Area stated that the decision of the Members was that there should be no change to the boundaries of their area.

Councillor Hussey, Chairman of Tuam Electoral Area advised that the Members of the Area Committee had agreed that the boundaries of their area should be adjusted to include the District Electoral Divisions of Claretuam, Cummer, Ballinderry and Kilmoylan.

Councillor McHugh, Chairman of Galway Electoral Area advised that the Members of the Area Committee were equally divided regarding adjustments to the boundaries of their area.

Councillor Cunningham, Chairman of Loughrea Electoral Area advised that no definite decision had been taken by the Area Members, that the imbalance in electoral areas was recognised and the Members would accept a slight adjustment to its area to reduce this imbalance.

Councillor Mannion, Chairman of Connemara Electoral Area advised that the Members were satisfied with the present boundary, but that consideration should be given to transfer of Killannin D.E.D. which is located in Galway Electoral Area but votes in Connemara Electoral Area, to the Connemara Electoral Area.

Deputy McCormack suggested that the Aran Islands might be transferred from Galway to the Connemara area. He felt that the reference by the Boundary Committee to aligning of Local Electoral Area boundaries to that of Dail Constituency boundaries could be seen as a recommendation and that this may be the eventual outcome.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that Connemara Electoral Area, while it had a minus deviation from the Council average, should be left as it is due to its scattered rural population and spread and that the Boundary Committee should not make a decision on the review of local electoral areas solely on the basis of population figures.

Councillor McHugh proposed that the Members recommend the alignment of local electoral area boundaries with Dail Constituency Boundaries and to sort out the boundaries of each local electoral area within this framework.

Senator McDonagh stated that the Galway Electoral Area was being penalised due to its growth and was losing its population to other electoral areas. He recommended that Galway Electoral Area be left as it is.

Councillor Finnegan stated that Tuam Electoral Area was unlikely to be left with a deviation of -10.68% and that Chart A, transferring the District Electoral Divisions of Claretuam, Cumber, Ballinderry and Kilmoylan from Galway to Tuam Electoral Area and Oranmore from Loughrea to Galway Electoral Area, was the best solution.

Councillor Fahy stated that it was the wrong time to redraw local electoral area boundaries and that the review should be deferred until after the Local Elections in 1999.

Councillor Brennan stated that Chart B, which showed possible electoral area changes to minimise deviations was the better option and queried what percentage deviation from Council average might the Boundary Committee consider favourably.

The County Secretary stated that if a proposal with a deviation of less than 5% was submitted to the Boundary Committee, it should receive serious consideration. He also felt that the proposals in Chart B would affect existing local electoral areas more drastically than the proposal in Chart A. He also stated that the position where Galway Electoral Area voters vote in the Connemara Electoral Area had been corrected in the review of the polling scheme.

Councillor Conneely stated that the Aran Islands should be included in the Connemara Electoral Area.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that Connemara Electoral Area should remain below the standard deviation due to its unique terrain.

The County Manager stated that the Council could only get an indication of what might happen by the terms of reference set out for the Boundary Committee. However, if the Members' proposal is realistic the Boundary Committee may find it difficult to reject it and he recommended that the Members make a genuine effort to agree a submission that is feasible.

The County Secretary advised that were the Aran Islands transferred from Galway To Connemara Electoral Area the percentage deviation from Council average would be reduced to plus 1.29% and plus .34% respectively.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain argued that percentage deviations could be adjusted by moving any District Electoral Divisions and not just by moving the Aran Islands from one area to another.

Councillor McHugh argued that if agreement is not reached by the Members as a group, that members should be permitted to make their own submission.

Councillor J. Burke proposed that Chart A be accepted by the Members, namely the transfer of the District Electoral Divisions of Claretuam, Cummer, Ballinderry and Kilmoylan from Galway Electoral Area to Tuam Electoral Area and the transfer of the District Electoral Division of Oranmore from Loughrea Electoral Area to Galway Electoral Area, and that if any balancing of deviations from Council average is required, the Boundary Committee should take into account the terrain in the Connemara Electoral Area.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mullins. On a show of hands Members agreed to vote on the proposal which resulted as follows:

AR SON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, M. Loughnane, J. McClearn, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn, M. Regan, J. Conneely & T. Walsh. (18)

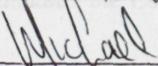
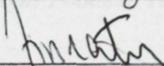
IN AGHAIDH:

Senator J. McDonagh, Cllr. P. McHugh & Cllr. E. Varley (3)

GAN VOTAIL:

Cllr. S. Gavin

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:
 
Chairman

27/4/98
Date