

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES,
TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 13TH
FEBRUARY, 1998**

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor M. Finnerty

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

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, J. Tierney,
Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, R.C.
Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, B. Callagy, P. Ridge,
L. Kavanagh, S.E.E.'s, P. Carroll, B. McDermott, T.
Connell, S.S.O.'s & A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

4697

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Mr. Paul Ridge on the death of his Father.

**TIME SCHEDULE FOR REVIEW OF TOWN
DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

4698

The Members had been circulated with a report dated 6th February 1998 setting out a schedule of dates for the review of Town Development Plans. The County Manager indicated that the dates set out are maximum time periods and it is anticipated that the Town Development Plans will be completed earlier. As there is such an increase in planning applications, it is important to have these Plans in place as quickly as possible.

He stated that the review of the County Development Plan took over three years which in turn held up the review of Town Plans.

Councillor Mannion proposed that the timescale be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor J. Burke. Councillor McClearn pointed out that Loughrea is in need of urgent review as no development land is available within existing town zoning. He also stated that with the provision of a new sewerage scheme in Portumna, the existing land zoning in the County Development Plan may have to be revised.

Councillor Regan agreed with the previous speaker. He said that more land was needed in Loughrea for residential development and that a shorter time scale was necessary for completion of Loughrea Town Plan.

Councillor O'Neachtain asked how Barna and Oranmore Action Plans were progressing.

The County Manager replied indicating that there was a substantial increase in the number of planning applications in 1997 during which 3,735 applications were received. The County Development Plan took three years to review and was adopted in May 1997. Additional staff resources are being provided for the Planning Section and it is expected that new staff will be assigned very shortly.

He also stated that the Land Use and Transportation Study was progressing and it was hoped to have a preliminary report available at the March meeting. In relation to the Oranmore Plan he said that following public display, observations had been received and are being studied at the moment. He said that 75% of work had been done on the Barna Plan. The Manager also stated that an Action Plan for Claregalway will also be prepared.

Councillor Loughnane requested that Loughrea Town and Environs be classified as one unit. Mr Callagy pointed out that the environs of Loughrea was included in the County Development Plan.

Councillor Regan proposed that the review date for the Loughrea Town Plan be brought forward. This was seconded by Councillor McClearn and the following revised schedule was agreed by the Council for the Review of Town Development Plans:-

TOWN PLAN

FINAL ADOPTION

Athenry	October 1998
Clifden	December 1998
Tuam	April 1999
Gort	July 1999
Loughrea	July 1999

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

4699

Councillor Loughnane referred to General Objectives of the County Development Plan. Councillor Loughnane stated that there were facilities in small towns and villages such as schools, post offices and garda barracks and that very little development was taking place at these locations. It should be an objective that these small towns and villages be strengthened and regenerated. He stated that any development which increases the size of a village or small town should be allowed. He described a recent case where a development within 150 metres of the centre of a village on a National Secondary Route was refused planning permission and stated that very little planning applications were granted in villages throughout the county. Villages should be maintained and developed to allow for population increases. He stated that planning policy being implemented at the moment could result in post offices being closed.

Councillor Cunningham asked for a definition of a farm holding and he said that no encouragement was being given to develop villages that have services.

Councillor Quinn said that she fully supported Councillor Loughnane's statement and stated that villages are dying because of planning restrictions and that the only way to keep small towns alive was to keep the people in them.

Deputy Connaughton questioned the policy in relation to ribbonisation and questioned the distance required from town to allow the development of 5 houses.

Councillor O'Neill asked for clarification on speed limits and asked what restriction apply within/outside speed limit zones.

Councillor J Burke said that rural Galway must be developed and that the best rural development involved bringing people and new families into these areas. He said that people who wish to build in rural areas should be accommodated and that these villages need revival.

Councillor W. Burke suggested putting a working group together to consider these villages in rural areas and to look at land banks in these areas. He also stated that the Derelict Sites Act should be utilised more frequently.

The County Manager thanked the members for the debate and stated that 9 out of 10 planning applications in Galway County are granted permission. He agreed that towns and villages needed to be developed, and emphasised that they must be developed in a proper and orderly fashion. He said that the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme was continuing with money being made available to towns and villages.

He said that Councillor Loughnane referred to an application which was refused as the development was to take place on a National Road. The County Development Plan was very specific in relation to development on National Roads and the National Roads Authority had issued a circular on development on National Routes. He highlighted the concern of the National Roads Authority regarding the control of development on these routes.

Mr. Callagy stated that the County Development Plan encourages development in villages but such developments were subject to the normal planning control requirements. He stated that in relation to ribbonisation that a cordon was agreed with the Councillors when the County Development Plan was being reviewed. In relation to farmholdings he said that no definition was included in the County Development Plan and each planning application was considered on its merits.

Mr. Liam Kavanagh S.E.E. stated that there were villages in the county without a special speed limit but that the Planning Authority are reasonable and fair in assessing applications in these locations. He said that developments had been granted where there are no speed limits because a church, school, and shops exists in the area e.g. Newcastle, Claddaghduff and Kiltullagh. He said that developments have been granted in Williamstown, Dunmore and that in the case of Monivea a development which was granted by the County Council was refused on appeal by An Bord Pleanala following local objections.

The County Manager stated that the Planning Authority were continuing to improve the quality of service being provided to the public and that a seminar for planning agents will be held on 25th February 1998. The objective of this seminar is to make the agents more aware of the requirements of the Planning Acts.

It was agreed by the Council that Village Development would be referred to the Area committee for consideration.

House Design Guidelines

The Chairman welcomed the compilation of House Design Guidelines and said that these would be available for the public and would be useful to applicants for planning permission. He indicated that this Guide followed the publication of a Guide to Making a Planning Application and would enhance the quality of service to customers of the Planning Department.

WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAMME FOR 1998 4700

The County Manager outlined details of the Water and Sewerage Programme for 1998, details of which had been circulated to Members. Councillor W. Burke welcomed the Report and congratulated the County Manager and in particular Mr. P. Ridge, S.E.E. and his Staff for successfully advancing the schemes listed and for the innovative approach taken which will be used as a model in other E.U. countries. He welcomed in particular the progress of the Portumna Sewerage Scheme.

Deputy McCormack welcomed the £.74m for Moycullen Sewerage Scheme and queried the projected population that the scheme proposes to cater for. Referring to the proposed Mutton Island Treatment Plant, he expressed a wish that the persons involved in a Court Appeal against the location of the Plant would drop their action and allow the treatment plant to go ahead, as the people of Galway have expressed their wish for the Mutton Island Treatment Plant to go ahead. He also referred to the Connemara Environmental Scheme which had been submitted to the Department of the Environment in 1994 stating that the delay in sanctioning this scheme was holding up

plans for some of the more urgent schemes that are part of the Connemara Environmental Scheme. He further stated that as the Connemara Environmental Scheme was unlikely to be sanctioned in the near future, the Council should seek sanction in the interim for the Carna/Kilkerrin Scheme.

An Comhairleoir O Neachtain expressed the wish that the Mutton Island controversy be resolved once and for all as it was holding up progress in both the city and county. He welcomed in particular the Inishmore Water Supply Scheme. He also welcomed the Spiddal/Rossaveal Trunk Main and hoped that the completion date of June 1998 would stand. He stated that a lot of work remained to be done in Connemara and he hoped that the Department would provide funding for the Connemara Environmental Scheme.

Councillor McClearn welcomed the Loughrea and Portumna Sewerage Schemes but was concerned that the proposal for Portumna relates to existing pipe work only and that the opportunity to greatly extend the scheme should not be lost. He queried whether the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 1 would provide water to Kiltormer and parts of Clontuskert.

Councillor Walsh stated that he felt that the money provided for improving the water supply in Glenamaddy would not solve the problems there and sought assurances that there would be adequate funds provided for this purpose.

Deputy Connaughton stated that strategic planning was used in the preparation of the programme and that the Council were to be complimented on their approach. He queried whether the supply for the Tuam Regional Water Supply Schemes (Phase 2) would be from Lough Corrib and the period for the completion of the scheme. He also queried the capacity of the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme to service both the town and the outlying areas and whether the town supply would be adequate.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the Council on the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme and queried whether all adjoining schemes will connect to the Tuam Scheme as it advances.

Councillor O'Sullivan asked if there was funding available for augmentation of the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Councillor Mullins welcomed the Programme and stated that he would like to see more expenditure in future years on smaller villages.

Councillor Fahy while welcoming the Programme, stated that it was deplorable that there was still no sewerage scheme for Oranmore, resulting in a health risk to the people of Oranmore and damage to the Environment. He stated that the smaller rural villages require sewerage schemes and that if funding is not received before the year 2000 all future funding may be in doubt.

Councillor Gavin welcomed the allocation of £.74m for the Moycullen Sewerage Scheme and requested that there be regular consultation with local people regarding

the scheme. As Chairman of the Islands Committee, he welcomed funding of the £4.2m for Inishmore Water Scheme.

Councillor Mannion expressed his disappointment at the lack of funding for schemes in Connemara and hoped that some progress could be made next year.

Mr. P. Ridge thanked the Members for their compliments to both him and his team. He stated that the Connemara Environmental Project was the best approach to getting a scheme into Connemara and that a positive message should go out from the Council supporting the project. He added that the Council had recently met with the Deputy Head of the E.U. Cohesion Fund and had visited Tuam with her, which she had been impressed by, and had invited her back to tour Connemara at a later date. He confirmed that the Department of the Environment have funded two schemes that are part of the Connemara Environmental Project.

He stated with regard to Moycullen Sewerage Scheme that consultation would take place. With regard to Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme - Stage 1, he confirmed that an extension of the scheme to supply Kiltormer and Clontuskert will be included in the next stage of the scheme. He stated that it would be possible to upgrade the supply of water to Ballinasloe Town to serve the intended outlying areas and that service to other areas will be dealt with at a later stage.

Referring to Glenamaddy Water Supply, he stated that funding provided this year will improve the water supply, but that the overall solution is to extend the Dunmore Supply into Glenamaddy at a cost of £2.3m.

Referring to Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme he stated that approval has been received to extend water supply from Tuam to the City and Claregalway to Oranmore. Contract Documents are being prepared for the whole scheme and it is hoped that funding for this will be provided. Regarding connections to the sewer on Weir Road, he confirmed that there will be enough water from the scheme for all that use it. Connections to new lines are available to those connected to an old pipe line, but new connections to a scheme are required to pay a connection fee.

With regard to Group Water Supply Schemes, Mr. Ridge added that the Council has no desire to take schemes in charge but would encourage them to avail of a public water supply where one is available. With regard to water supplies/sewerage schemes, he confirmed that the Council has an active programme for smaller towns and villages and many have been submitted to the Department, but that it is unlikely that funds will be available for these schemes for some years. He added that it would require funding of £1.3 billion to bring the country up to the standard of the Urban and Waste Water Directives.

Deputy McCormack stated that he was encouraged by what he had heard in relation to the Connemara Environmental Project, but that he was frustrated by the lack of action in relation to approval for the project.

The County Manager welcomed the allocation for the Water and Sewerage Programme 1998. He referred to the provision of a sewerage scheme for Claregalway

which has been submitted to the Department of the Environment for funding. He stated that the scheme which will cost £900,000 will be eligible for 40% funding where the land is opened up to residential development. He confirmed that 130 acres will be opened up to housing development and that this is the first Local Authority to put in place resources for the scheme and to submit a detailed Strategic Plan. An initial £5m will be provided nationally under the Special Fund for 1998.

Referring to the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme, he stated that when this scheme is finished at a cost of £50m, it will serve 40% of the county. He confirmed that the Council continues to seek sanction for the Connemara Environmental Project.

DRAFT BYE-LAWS UNDER THE CONTROL OF HORSES ACT, 1996 **4701**

The Draft Bye-Laws had been circulated to Members. Councillor Mannion, Chairman of the Control of Horses Sub-Committee stated that the Sub-Committee had considered and discussed the Draft Bye-Laws and recommended them for approval by the Council.

The Assistant County Manager indicated that the Draft Bye-Laws would now go on public display and any submissions made in respect of the Draft Bye-Laws would have to be considered by the Council before the Bye-Laws are made.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Deputy McCormack, the Council approved the Draft Bye-Laws under the Control of Horses Act, 1996.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS **4702**

The County Manager informed the Members that the Council is preparing a submission and an Integrated Area Plan in respect of Tuam, under the revised Urban Renewal Scheme announced by the Department of the Environment. He stated that the plan is being prepared incorporating public consultation with Area Committee Members, Town Commissioners, Statutory and Other Bodies and the public. In addition, the Council has carried out a Scoping Study of Loughrea and Ballinasloe to evaluate whether or not similar action should be taken for them. He stated that the criteria for selection is extensive and includes that towns should contain populations of over 6,000; concentrations of urban decay in evidence, large areas physically run down etc. and it is evident that neither Ballinasloe or Loughrea meets the criteria stipulated. He further stated that both Ballinasloe U.D.C. and Loughrea Town Commissioners had been informed of the position.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the County Manager in the preparation of the Integrated Area Plan for Tuam and acknowledged the expertise and work of the Council in its preparation. He further acknowledged the support by the rest of the county for the Tuam Integrated Area Plan which is recognised and appreciated.

Councillor McHugh stated that if Tuam does not get Urban Renewal status, it will not be through lack of effort of Council Officials.

The Manager also indicated that in the preparation of the 1998 Roadworks Programme, it was proposed to increase the Notice of Motion Money by £1,000 per Councillor. He also stated that it was proposed to increase this by a further £1,000 in 1999.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4703

Conference

The Chairman referred to the proposed Conference on Objective One Status for the West, stating that Local Authority Members from all Western Counties should attend.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that a submission needed to be made quickly as detailed proposals on Agenda 2000 will be finalised very soon. He further stated that while certain areas of the West could be accorded special status, the County may suffer due to the exposure and success of the City.

Councillor W. Burke stated that the Conference must go ahead and that lobbying needs to take place to ensure special status for the West. He also suggested that Mr. Liam Scallon of Western Development Commission should be invited to address the County Council at a future date.

It was agreed that the Conference would take place at Haydens Hotel on the 30th March, 1998.

Western Distributor Road

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the proposed roundabout on the main road at the junction with Ballymoneen Road will impede traffic movement to and from of Barna and South Connemara, on the only route they have to Galway City. He further stated that where a decision of one Local Authority impinges on another Local Authority, the voice of the affected Local Authority needs to be heard and he recommended that the Council make representation to the Corporation in this regard and that a final decision on the roundabout be deferred pending the consideration of the Council's views.

Deputy McCormack agreed that there should be better liaison between the two Authorities and that a liaison Committee dealing with matters which affect both authorities is required, but confirmed that when the Western Distributor Road goes ahead the roundabout in question will be removed as it is only a temporary traffic control facility. As a Member of Galway Corporation, he stated that he would take into account all views expressed on the proposal.

The County Manager stated that there was co-operation between the Corporation and the County Council at the highest level, and he agreed that a small committee of elected Members meeting from time to time was a good idea. He confirmed that he would ask the County Engineer to discuss this Road Project with the City Engineer.

SPC and Electoral Area Meetings

It was agreed to hold meetings of the Five Electoral Area Committees on the following dates and it was also agreed that the 1998 Road Works Programme and Village Development be listed on the Agendas for discussion.

Galway	9th March, 1998	4.00 p.m.	Council Offices
Connemara	10th March, 1998	3.30 p.m.	Clifden
Tuam	2nd March, 1998	10.30 a.m.	Council Offices
Ballinasloe	4th March, 1998	3.30 p.m.	Ballinasloe
Loughrea	2nd March, 1998	3.00 p.m.	Loughrea

It was also agreed that the Chairpersons of the five SPCs would meet at Western Health Board, Merlin Park on 2nd March, 1998 at 6.00 p.m., to allocate the portfolios to each SPC.

Island Committee Meeting

Councillor Gavin advised that Deputy Eamon O’Cuiv, Minister of State, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, would attend the next meeting of the Islands Committee at a date to be agreed.

CONFERENCES

4704

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Senator McDonagh, 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:-

L.A.M.A. Conference - Rosslare Harbour - 16/18 April, 1998

Cllr. E. Varley	Cllr. J. Conneely	Cllr. T. Byrne
Cllr. M. Ryan	Cllr. M. Mullins	Cllr. J. Callanan
Cllr. K. Quinn	Cllr. M. Cunningham	Cllr. M. O’Neill
Cllr. P. McHugh	Cllr. P. Finnegan	Deputy P. McCormack

Conference on Nuclear Hazards - County Hall, Dun Laoghaire - 4/5 December, 1997

Cllr. P. Finnegan

Planning Conference - Sligo - 23/24 January 1998

Cllr. S. O'Neachtain

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1998

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Ball

Cllrs. J. Drinan, W. Burke, J. Burke

T. Byrne, J. Callinan, Deputy P. Connolly

Cllrs. J. Connolly, M. Cunningham

P. Finnegan, J. Hanley, T. Hickey

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

Michael Innathy

Chairman

23rd March, 1998

Date

Thosnaigh an cruinniú an pailde.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4649

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Mr. Jim McGovern on the death of his wife.

A Resolution of Sympathy was also passed with the following:-

The Devlin Family, Clonbridge, Co. Galway

Michael and Margaret Travers, Carrispeck, Wilkesstown, Co. Galway

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK, GALWAY
ON MONDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1998**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

An Comhairleoir M. Finnerty

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

*Cllrs. J. Brennan, W. Burke, J. 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, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs.
P. McHugh, 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.
Collergan, Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E.,
T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary,
J. Cullen A/Finance Officer, D. Barrett, A.O.,
C. Wallace & B. McDermott, S.S.O.'s &
E. Hourigan, A/Staff Officer.*

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

4649

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Mr. Jim McGovern on the death of his Father.

A Resolution of Sympathy was also passed with the following:-

The Devine Family, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway

Michael and Margaret Trayers, Cornspeak, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

CONGRATULATIONS

4650

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf congratulated An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta on her recent appointment to the National Roads Authority, and An Comhairleoir Ó Neachtain on his re-appointment to the European Council of the Regions.

The Manager, on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf, wished to be associated with the good wishes expressed to An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta agus An Comhairleoir Ó Neachtain.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf welcomed back Councillor Finnegan following his recent illness.

MINUTES

4651

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 12th December, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on the 2nd October, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Brennan.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 24th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Regan.

The Report of the National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 11th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Varley, seconded by the Chairman, Councillor Finnerty.

The Report of the Islands Committee Meeting held on 22nd December, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Conneely.

The Report of the Strategic Policy Committee Sub-Committee Meeting held on 12th January, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Traffic Flow Plan - Athenry Town

Councillor Loughnane requested that the Traffic Flow Plan proposed for Athenry Town, be an item on the next Agenda. All the Members of the Loughrea Area Committee agreed that the implications for traffic movement should be re-examined at the next area meeting.

Nomination of Substitute to Islands Committee

Councillor Conneely proposed that Mr. S. Murray be a nominated person to sit in on the Islands Committee as a substitute for the existing Member of the Committee when unable to attend the Meeting. Councillor McHugh seconded this proposal.

The Chairman requested Councillor Conneely seek approval from the Islands Committee to this proposal and the Council to reconsider same. It was noted that the substitute would not have any voting rights at such Meetings.

REMUNERATION FOR PART-TIME BRANCH LIBRARIANS

4652

A Report dated 20th January, 1998 outlining the increased rates of remuneration for Part-Time Branch Librarians was circulated to each Member. On the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Deputy Connaughton, the Members approved of the increased remuneration for Part-Time Branch Librarians, as outlined.

SPEED LIMITS

4653

A Report dated 19th January, 1998, giving copy of N.R.A. approval to revise the Speed Limits on certain National Roads was circulated to each Member. On the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Deputy Connaughton, the Members noted and welcomed approval to the revised speed limits.

The Members asked as to how soon the new speed signs would be in place. The County Secretary outlined the procedure to revising Speed Limit Bye-Laws, whereby consent of the N.R.A. must be obtained before revising speed limits. Upon receipt of same, a draft of revised Bye-Laws must be prepared and notice circulated to relevant statutory bodies for submissions. The revised Bye-Laws together with submissions received will be brought before the Members at the March Monthly Meeting for consideration and adoption. Upon adoption, the speed limits will come into effect on the dates specified in the Bye Laws.

The County Secretary read to the Members, page 2 of the N.R.A. letter of 22nd December, 1997, wherein it states that:-

"Statistics have shown a higher rate of road accidents occurring on the approaches to towns and villages than occur along the adjoining rural sections. This higher rate of road accidents can generally be attributed to a combination of two factors; the need for drivers to make adjustment to their speed as they approach a built-up area and the unpredictable nature of motorist and pedestrian movements associated with roadside developments on approaches to towns and villages. A 40 m.p.h. buffer zone outside the 30 m.p.h. speed limits will allow drivers to reduce speed in safety. Therefore, to maintain safety and service on the approaches to towns and villages, the planning

authority should inhibit roadside development within the 40 m.p.h. speed limit zones. The control exercised by the Council in relation to developments within the buffer zone will be taken into consideration in the event of future extensions of special speed limits being sought.

In order for a cohesive approach to speed limit reviews, the Council should plan to undertake a comprehensive speed limit review at interims not less than every 2 years."

Deputy Connaughton stated that this was a very serious issue and when Galway County Council were reviewing the Development Plan, one of the proposals made was that development would be permitted within the 40 m.p.h. speed limit. He queried the current situation in regard to the Development Plan in light of N.R.A. advice.

Deputy McCormack queried the length of time involved in finalising the Draft Speed Limits Bye-Laws. He also asked whether the revised limit for the entrance to Glenlo Abbey on the Galway/Moycullen Road and the extension of speed limit on main Dublin Road - approach to Oranmore/Derrydonnell were included in same.

In regard to Deputy McCormack's queries, the County Secretary replied stating that it is not possible at this point to include any new additions other than those approved by the N.R.A. The NRA had queries in relation to certain roads and the Council made a case for their inclusion. The letter from the NRA substantially approves the Councils proposals. The items raised by Deputy McCormack were not formally agreed to by the Council, in time for the current review.

Deputy McCormack stated that these roads were agreed by the relevant Area Committees and requested a full re-examination of the matter.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR:

4654

(A) AIR STRIP ON INISHBOFFIN

**(B) DEVELOPMENT OF HARBOUR INFRASTRUCTURE
- INIS MOR**

Councillor Gavin stated that both Reports were considered at the Islands Committee Meeting. He sought the support of the Council for the reports and proposed the Council forward the studies to the relevant Government Departments. Councillor Mannion seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.

Councillor Mannion welcomed both Reports, especially the development of the Air Strip on Inishboffin, whereby the last inhabited Island will receive an air service.

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

4655

The Members were circulated with Report dated 16th January, 1998 regarding the following developments:

- Item 6(1)** *Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a dwelling-house with appropriate treatment facilities at Cuileen, Headford, Co. Galway*

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Varley, seconded by Councillor McHugh. Councillor Varley requested that the Tenancy Agreement in relation to this property be strictly enforced to ensure the property is properly maintained and landscaped.

- Item 6(2)** *Construction of dwelling-house with appropriate treatment facilities at Banagher, Milltown, Co. Galway.*

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Council agreed to the above development.

- Item 6(3)** *Demolition of existing house and construction of a dwelling-house with services at 26 Liam Mellows Street (in the townland of Tirboy) Tuam, Co. Galway*

A Report dated 18th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

- Item 6(4)** *Provision of septic tanks and percolation areas to serve demountable dwellings at the following locations:*

*Raruddy East, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Cellar, Rosmuc, Co. Galway (2 dwellings)
Kilbricken, Rosmuc, Co. Galway*

A Report dated 18th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Deputy Connaughton.

- Item 6(5)** *Provision of extension, septic tank and percolation area to dwelling-house at Lakefield, Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway*

A Report dated 18th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the Council agreed to the said development.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta requested an up-to-date report on the Council's progress regarding the phasing out of Demountable Dwellings. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail asked that Council's proposals for the vacant demountable dwellings be included in same.

The Manager replied stating that the question of Demountable Dwellings will be included in the Three Year Housing Programme to be presented for the Members consideration in March, 1998.

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN -4656
APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION FOR HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING OF 62 HOUSES AT
CAHERWALTER, LOUGHREA
APPLICANT: G & G DEVELOPMENTS PLAN REF: 97/1090**

A Report dated 13th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., Planning outlined the nature of the development as follows:-

"PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Planning permission for the construction of 62 no. dwellinghouses and associated services in the townland of Caherwalter, Loughrea.

LOCATION: The site is located in the town of Loughrea off the Danesford Road and inside the 30 mph speed limit. The site is located approximately 70 m from the National primary Route and the proposed access point would be approximately 250 m from the National Primary Route.

ZONING: The site of the proposed development is within the agricultural zoning according to the current Loughrea Town Plan.

ASSESSMENT: The site has an area of approximately 8 acres and the proposed development is located entirely within the agricultural zoning in the Loughrea Town Plan. The proposed development has a density of approximately 8 houses to the acre. The site is served by the public water supply scheme and the public sewer and the Sanitary Services Department has no objections subject to conditions which would be incorporated into the decision. The Road Design Department has no objection to the development subject to conditions which would be incorporated into the decision.

The proposed site is located very close to the centre of Loughrea Town, is served by a County Road and would have little impact on the traffic flow on the National Primary Route.

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 Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963 as substituted by Section 39(d) the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1976, 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 5th December 1997 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished. No objections have been received.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is the 4th February, 1998."

Councillor Loughnane queried whether there would be access to this development from the Garrybreda Road, and asked that same be re-examined given the current volume of traffic on the said road.

Councillor Loughnane stated that he received submissions from some local people with adjoining property. He said that they were not objecting to the development, and asked that the walls surrounding their property be of minimum height size, i.e. 2 metres.

Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E. replied stating that both areas, Garrybreda Road and adjoining boundary walls would be re-examined.

Councillor Fahy proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by G & G Developments for planning permission for the construction of 62 houses and associated services in the townland of Caherwalter, Loughrea - Planning Ref. 97/1090, and having considered the Report dated 13th January, 1998 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 and 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. Councillor Cunningham seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

ARSON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllr. P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh (26).

IN AGHAIDH: -----

Councillor Regan said he had an interest in the application and left the meeting.

The Chairman declared the Motion carried.

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4657
FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF ATHENRY - PLANNING
PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT 7 NO. DWELLING-HOUSES
& ASSOCIATED SERVICES AT CAHERROYN, ATHENRY
APPLICANT: MATTIE MCNAMARA PLANNING REF: 97/2274**

A copy of Report dated 14th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., Planning outlined the nature of the development as follows:-

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: *Planning Permission for construction of 7 no. dwellinghouses and associated services in the townland of Caherroyn, Athery*

LOCATION: *This site is located in the town of Athery just off the Caherroyn Road and is opposite the local school and within the 30 m.p.h. speed limit.*

PLANNING HISTORY: *This is the only planning application that relates to this site. There is a commercial garage on the front part of the site which appears to have been constructed prior to the Planning Act of 1963.*

ZONING: *The front part of the site i.e. the area adjoining Caherroyn Road is zoned for residential purposes but the other part of the site where the bulk of the development is proposed is within the agriculture zoning according to the current Athery Town Plan.*

ASSESSMENT: *The site has an area of 0.3 hectares approximately (3/4 acre approximately). There is a commercial garage on the area fronting the main road and the area for the proposed development is between the garage and the river. It is proposed to provide an access road from the Caherroyn Road by widening the existing entrance. There is no objection to the development from the Sanitary Services Department. The site is located close to the centre of Athery Town and it can easily be serviced and our forward planning section has no objection to the proposal.*

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION: *A decision to grant permission cannot be made until 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 December 1997 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished. No objections have been received.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is 18th February 1998."

Councillor Loughnane proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Mr. Mattie McNamara for permission for the construction of 7 No. Dwelling-houses and associated services in the townland of Caherroy, Athenry - Planning Ref. 97/2274, and having considered the Report dated 14th January, 1998 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 and 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. Deputy Connaughton seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

AR SON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllr. P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh (26).

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Motion carried.

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4658
FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF CLIFDEN - OUTLINE
PERMISSION FOR CONNEMARA WALKING/CYCLING
CENTRE WITH CARETAKERS RESIDENCE, BICYCLE
STORAGE AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION
APPLICANT: MR MICHAEL GIBBONS PLANNING REF: 97/1776**

A Report dated 15th January, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E. Planning outlined the nature of the development as follows:-

"PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Construction of walking/cycling centre with caretakers residence, bicycle storage and staff accommodation.

LOCATION: The site is located on a spur road off the N.59 on the northern outskirts of Clifden but within the development plan boundary.

ASSESSMENT: The site is on the northern outskirts of the town where there is a mix of existing development including a number of B & B houses, a restaurant/craft shop and a nursing home. The proposal, combining the concept of commercial/residential/holiday home, would not seem to be out of context with neighbouring developments, provided that the scale was not excessive and that the building design was fitting for a very scenic location. Further information was sought to determine the various usages of buildings and the floor space quoted each use.

Although this is an outline application building design details were also sought so as to provide for a suitable building type. Outline drawings of an acceptable design were submitted.

The development proposes to connect to the Town Sewer which has had improvements carried out recently to cater for the hotel and allied development of the Galway Road. The Council's Sanitary Services Section has no objection to the discharge of foul effluent into the Town Sewer but advises that the surface water must discharge to suitable outlets on site or to neighbouring drains.

The Clifden Plan, in its analysis of land use and in its consequent recommendation, advised that additional land was required to accommodate housing estates and holiday homes. It also advocated extending the commercial zone because of the lack of infill sites in the Town Centre. The proposal would, therefore, be compatible with this expression of policy, but because the site, of area 2 acres, has half of its area zoned residential and half zoned agricultural, it would be regarded as a material contravention of this zoning.

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 Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963 as substituted by Section 39(d) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1976, 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 12th December, 1997 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished. An objection was received from the Connemara branch of the I.F.A. on 22nd December and on 29th December, 1997. This objection was withdrawn by letter received on 9th January, 1998.

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 11/2/98."

Councillor Mannion proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Mr. Michael Gibbons for outline permission for Connemara Walking/Cycling Centre with Caretakers Residence, bicycle storage and Staff Accommodation, Planning Ref. 97/1776, and having considered the Report dated 15th January, 1998 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 and Development) Act, 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991, hereby require that a decision to grant outline permission be made in the case of this application. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

ARSON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, P. Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllr. P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh (26).

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
& PLANS FOR SCHEDULED TOWNS**

4659

Councillor Loughnane requested clarification of Clause 2.1.2 on Page 10 of the County Development Plan, which aims to promote the economic and social development of villages in the County. He highlighted a case in Kilchreest where planning permission was refused because the location was outside the speed limits but inside the village sign. Councillor Loughnane proposed that Clause 2.1.2 on Page 10 be clearly defined, and same be an item for discussion at the next Planning Meeting.

Deputy McCormack seconded this proposal.

Councillor Mannion said that a review of the scheduled towns in the County is required so that the Council can plan ahead rather than responding to demands.

Deputy McCormack said that further land zoning is required in the towns and queried whether this can be done separately other than going through the process of development plan.

The Manager replied stating that the review of the scheduled towns has commenced. The review of the Athenry Development Plan was going ahead at present, the plans required updating in order to reflect the development going on in the towns. The Manager stated that 3,700 Planning Applications were received by Galway County Council in 1997. This was an increase of 600 on the 1996 figures, the latter being an increase of 500 on the 1995 figures. Thus, an increase of 50% in the number of applications received in the last two years. It is proposed to increase the staffing in the Planning Control and Forward Planning Sections.

DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD

4660

Having complied with the Provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Members agreed to declare the road commencing at junction with LS8583 and extending south for a distance of 330 metres in the townland of Geehy South in the Gort Area to be a public road.

NOMINATIONS OF CHAIRPERSONS TO SPCs

4661

The Chairman stated that the SPC Sub-Committee recommended the nomination of Chairpersons for the five SPCs.

Councillor Hussey and Councillor McHugh were nominated as Chairperson on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

Councillor W. Burke was nominated on the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor McClearn were nominated as Chairperson on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Deputy Connaughton.

The Council approved of the nominations.

The Chairman proposed that the existing SPC Sub-Committee be disbanded and the five Chairpersons nominated namely:

Cllr. Hussey, Cllr. McHugh, Cllr. W. Burke, Cllr. Byrne & Cllr. McClearn;

form the new SPC Sub-Committee, together with the Chairman of the Council. The Members agreed to same. The Chairman said that the Members would be asked to submit their preference (first, second, etc), as to which SPC Committee they wish to serve.

The Chairman informed the Members of the forthcoming Seminar on Strategic Policy Committees to be held in Dublin Castle on February, 5th 1998. The Chairman, Councillor Finnerty, Vice-Chairman, Councillor O'Neill, the County Manager, and County Secretary would be attending.

The Chairman thanked Councillor J. Burke and An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta for their contributions.

Councillor O'Neill stated that it is assumed that all existing sub-committees will be phased out over time. He proposed that the Council have an opportunity to discuss the Headings of proposed SPCs, together with the functions of each Committee.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor O'Neill's comments. He requested that Councillors make submissions regarding the SPCs to the County Secretary for consideration at the next Meeting of the SPCs Sub-Committee.

Deputy Connaughton requested that the interaction of the SPCs with the full Council, responsibility and delegation be highlighted. Councillor Regan asked about the proposed staff structures involved.

The Manager outlined the proposed new structure, i.e. Full Council, the Corporate Policy Group, SPC Committees, and Area Meetings. He stated that Galway County Council was well advanced in relation to the SPCs compared to other Local Authorities. He said that the outcome of the Meeting in Dublin Castle on 5th February, 1998, was awaited. He said that in regard to the proposed staff changes, discussions with relevant Staff Unions are on-going at present.

Councillor Walsh proposed that given the serious issues involved that a special meeting of the Council be arranged to discuss the SPCs, after the Council Sub-Committee has considered submissions, etc. Councillor Quinn seconded this proposal.

**ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF GALWAY 4662
BRANCH OF EUROPEAN MOVEMENT**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Deirdre Healy, Information Officer, European Movement, Prof. Jim Doolin, U.C.G., Mr. Bernard O'Farrell, Galway Branch Chairman.

Ms. Deirdre Healy thanked the Chairman and Members for the opportunity to address the Council meeting on the European Movement and on the Amsterdam Treaty. Ms. Healy explained briefly about the European Movement and the background of the Amsterdam Treaty.

European Movement

The European movement is an independent cross party, cross sectoral organisation, which promotes debate and discussion on the economic, political and social development of Europe. There are 33 European Movement Councils throughout Europe, the Irish Council, was launched in 1954, and is one of its most active.

The Amsterdam Treaty

The Amsterdam Treaty is the conclusion of 16 months of negotiations between the Governments of the member states. The government negotiators set themselves three main tasks;

- *to bring Europe closer to the people by addressing issues that directly affect them*
- *to give Europe a stronger voice on the world stage*
- *to prepare the EU for enlargement*

Employment

One of the main benefits of the Treaty is the critical importance given to employment. Unemployment is a feature of society right across Europe - 18.5 million in Europe are currently jobless. The Amsterdam Treaty states that the high level of unemployment is a main priority of the EU. This means that when any policy is being drafted in any area, its effect on employment must be considered. An Employment Chapter is also included and this provides a strategy for improving employment

opportunities. These new provisions allow member states and the Union to work together to co-ordinate strategies for employment and in particular to promote a skilled and flexible labour force. Individual Employment policies will remain the responsibility of the member states. The Treaty Chapter also provides for the establishment of an employment committee to monitor the employment situation and policies of each of the member states and the union. The EU will also fund new measures to encourage employment.

Tackling Crime and Drugs

International crime, terrorism and drug trafficking affect citizens throughout the EU and are of cross-border in nature. The fight against drugs has been cited as a specific objective of the Union. The Treaty provides for a stronger role for Europe in the fight against crime and drugs. Europe is a system where police forces of the member states can pool and exchange information on criminal activity.

Peoples Rights

The Amsterdam Treaty recommitments the EU to basic human rights and legally empowers the EU to take action to eliminate sexual, racial and religious discrimination. Equality of the sexes has also been placed as a main priority of the EU. The EU is now legally empowered to support member states in areas such as Health & Safety, working conditions and equality in the work place. The Treaty also provides for funding on programmes to combat social exclusion.

The environment and consumer protection is included in the Amsterdam Treaty as core priorities of the EU.

European Foreign and Security Policy

The Treaty has reformed the mechanisms of CFSP. It has done this by creating a new Planning and Policy Unit. The tasks of the unit will be to advise EU Foreign Ministers, anticipate crisis situations before they arise and to prepare policy documents.

The Treaty provides for the appointment of the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers as a High Representative of EU Foreign Policy, who will assist Foreign Ministers in drafting and implementing Foreign Policy decisions. The new security measures in the Treaty gives the EU a new role in regard to humanitarianism and rescue missions, peacekeeping and peacemaking and crisis management.

Representation - Commission and Council of Ministers/European Parliament

The Treaty confirms every member states right to representation on the European Commission. The membership of the Commission will remain at 20 to be reviewed after two or more countries join the EU and the provision that the weighting of votes will also be reviewed.

The powers of the European Parliament have been extended. Parliaments right to make decisions jointly with the Council of Ministers have been extended to cover a range of areas including employment, equal opportunities, customs co-operation,

public health, anti-fraud and discrimination measures, certain aspects of Social Policy and measures dealing with the openness and transparency of European institutions. The Treaty has provided for more input by the European Affairs Committees of national parliaments who will now be entitled to make submissions to the EU institutions.

Conclusion

The Amsterdam Treaty is a step forward for the people of Europe and offers scope for the future development. The European Movement welcomes the concept of flexibility and the new measures regarding employment, crime and citizens rights in the new Treaty.

These are important elements in proving that Europe has an integral role to play in tackling issues that directly impact on people's lives. The Irish people have benefited and indeed contributed enormously to the success of Europe as we know it today.

The European movement acknowledges that the Irish people must have access to full information and need to be engaged on how the Amsterdam Treaty will affect them and therefore an active information campaign consisting of public meetings, free-phone information service, etc is envisaged.

Ms. Healy thanked the members again for their time and stated that the involvement of the members in the campaign is welcomed.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr. S. O'Neachtain, seconded by Cllr. S. Gavin.

Cllr. J. Brennan proposed that another speaker be invited to address the Council giving an opposing view on the Amsterdam Treaty. The Chairman stated that further requests to address the Council are welcome.

ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4663

The Members agreed to defer this item to the next Meeting.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

4664

Mr. Colleran, County Engineer gave a brief synopsis of Report dated 20th February, 1998, a copy of which was circulated to each Member. He said that during the period 1988 to 1997, 266 L.I.S. Schemes were completed. The total mileage involved is 85.57 miles, which can be broken down as follows:-

64.83 miles - L.I.S. Roads on the Mainland

20.74 miles - L.I.S. roads on the Islands

Mr. Colleran stated that it is estimated that approx. 30 miles of road may qualify to be taken in charge by the Council. However, a detailed physical report would need to be prepared, prior to roads being taken in charge.

Councillor Loughnane highlighted that the Council is five years behind in the processing of Local Improvement Schemes. He proposed that Galway County Council request an increase if not doubling of funding for Local Improvement Schemes. Councillor Finnegan seconded this proposal.

The Members welcomed and noted the Councils Agreement to consider the taking over of roads improved under the L.I.S. Scheme. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail asked that the Gaeltacht Roads also be included and requested a list of roads involved.

1998 HOUSING PROGRAMME

4665

A Report dated 19th January, 1998 outlining the Housing Construction Programme for 1998 was circulated to each Member. The 1998 Programme as outlined was agreed by the Members on the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

Councillor Loughnane queried the level of housing being provided in the Loughrea area. Councillor Gavin highlighted the number of Estate - v - Rural Houses. He stated that there was an imbalance between the number of Estate and Rural Houses, leading to rural decline in certain areas. He requested that same be reversed in future years.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail requested an up-to-date report on the building of extensions to existing houses.

Councillor McClearn stated that the Council is responsible for the economic development of villages. He said that there are a number of derelict sites in villages throughout the County and the Council should clean them up and consider them for housing.

CONFERENCES

4666

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Senator McDonagh and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder:-

La Touche Seminar - Greystones, Co. Wicklow - 3/5 October, 1997

Cllr. M. Loughnane

Conference on Nuclear Hazards - County Hall, Dun Laoghaire - 4/5 December, 1997

Cllr. M. Loughnane

Conference on Hazardous Waste - Imerial Hotel, Cork - 6/7 November, 1997

Cllr. M. Loughnane

Colmcille Heritage Trust - Letterkenny, Co. Donegal - 27 February/1 March, 1998

Cllr. J. Mannion

Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

Cllr. M. Fahy

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan

Cllr. E. Varley

Communications Technology in the Community - Dublin Castle - 6 March, 1998

Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

Cllr. P. Finnegan

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4667

Casual Trading

Deputy Connaughton queried the situation regarding the Council's Casual Trading Bye-Laws and review of charges in relation to same. He requested that a public debate be held to discuss the Casual Trading Bye-Laws. Councillor Hussey supported this motion.

The County Secretary informed the Members that a Meeting of the Casual Trading Committee was held to discuss difficulties in the Clifden Area, and the Bye Laws may have to be revised. A review of charges levied is also being considered. Based on recommendations of the Committee, a Report will be prepared and presented to the Council for debate. The Members agreed and welcomed same.

Radiation from Telecommunications Masts

Deputy Connaughton had proposed at Monthly Meeting held on 24th November, 1997 that the question of radiation from telecommunications masts be an item on the next Agenda.

The Manager stated that details of a Conference entitled "Communications Technology in the Community" to be held in Dublin on 6th March, 1998 had been circulated to the Members. The Conference will deal with the question of radiation from masts, etc. In light of the foregoing, the Members agreed to defer this item to the March Monthly Meeting.

Mobile Phones - Council Meetings

On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Members agreed that mobile phones should be turned off during Council Meetings.

Repair of Culvert

Councillor Byrne asked that the Council forward a report on the culvert at Kiltartan which was closed during road construction. The County Engineer agreed to investigate same.

75th Commemoration of Foundation of State

The Chairman informed the Members that Councillor Mullins deputised for him at Dublin Castle on 6th December, 1997, for the 75 Commemoration of the Foundation of the State. The Members approved the attendance of Cllr. Mullins, on the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Mannion.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

4668

Equalisation Programme

The Manager informed the Members that a new system of funding for Local Government was announced by the Minister for the Environment on Monday, 12th January, 1998. A copy of the Minister's Speech outlining the new system of funding was circulated to each Member. The fund will be distributed amongst the Councils in a manner which equalises differences in spending needs and the revenue capacity of the different Councils. This is known as the equalisation process.

Needs & Resources Study

The Manager informed the Members that the Department of the Environment had selected Galway County Council to study the issue of needs and resources with a view to preparing a framework document. The project will require three Staff Members to be allocated on a full-time basis for a period of six months. The salaries of the Project Team will be recouped from the Department. Therefore, Galway County Council will act as a model for the distribution of funds based on needs and resources.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members, paid tribute to Mr. E. Lusby, Finance Officer and acknowledged the Council's appreciation to the Minister in choosing Galway as a role model.

Libraries

The Manager stated that the Council met Department Officials on 16th January, 1998 and discussed the Library Programme for the County. A response in relation to same is due within the next few weeks and the Members will be notified accordingly.

N.R.A. - Road Allocations

The Manager informed the Members of the National Roads Grants for 1998. A copy of letter dated 13th January, 1998 from the N.R.A. was circulated to each Member. The monies allocated are an increase of £230,000 on 1997 Grants. The Members noted and welcomed the 1998 Grant allocation.

Water/Sewerage Schemes

The Manager stated that notification had been received of approval of Cohesion Funding to the Portumna Sewerage Scheme and Stage 3 of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme.

1898 Centenary & Millennium Celebrations

On the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Mannion, the Members agreed that the Protocol Committee consider proposals for the 1898 Centenary of the establishment of County Councils and Millennium Celebrations.

Urban Renewal Scheme

The County Manager advised the Members of the 1998 Urban Renewal Scheme to be launched on 1st August, whereby towns with population of 6,000 are eligible for inclusion. He stated that Consultants were appointed to examine and prepare an Integrated Area Plan for Tuam, and also prepare scoping reports for Loughrea and Ballinasloe.

The new Urban Renewal Scheme differs significantly from previous schemes in that as well as physical development, the new scheme covers the wider issues of local socio-economic benefit, including training, education and social housing. A copy of the procedures involved to be circulated to the Members.

Waste Management Act

The Manager informed the Members that the Council have appointed Consultants to prepare a Waste Management Strategy for the County (including Galway City and Ballinasloe U.D.C.). The project will provide for the Council's legal obligations under the Waste Act 1996, and E.P.A. licensing requirements. A Report to be furnished to the Members within the next few weeks.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**N.O.M. NO. 19 - EXTENSION TO BURIAL GROUND - 4669
CLLR. J. BURKE**

The following written reply was given to Cllr. Burke:-

"The current situation is that the Council has arranged for trial holes to be excavated on land identified by the Kilconly Development Association and these have been successful. The Development Association are now going to enter into negotiations with Mr. Martin Blake to purchase the land for an extension and develop same. We are awaiting further developments."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - VILLAGE PLAN - CLLR. T. BYRNE 4670

The following written reply was given to Councillor Byrne:-

"At the present time, village plans are being prepared for Oranmore and Barna. It is intended to prepare plans for other satellite villages when these are finalised. It is not envisaged that Craughwell will be included in the foreseeable future."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - SEWAGE PROBLEM - CLLR. T. BYRNE 4671

The following written reply was given to Councillor Byrne:-

"A reply will be available on this motion for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. T. BYRNE 4672

The following written reply was given to Councillor Byrne:-

"It has been arranged that this work will be carried out at the end of this month."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - RESURFACING OF ROAD - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4673

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This road is in relatively good condition and is not in need of surface dressing. Routine maintenance and repairs will be carried out as necessary."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - VERGE CUTTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4674

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Most of the roads in this area have had verges trimmed about two months ago. Trimming on the road in the Toureen/Ballinderreen areas was completed earlier this month. The remaining roads are not in bad condition and it is not anticipated that verge trimming will be carried out on them. The situation will be reviewed later this year."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - RESTORATION OF BELLEVUE GATES - CLLRS. M. CUNNINGHAM, M. LOUGHNANE & K. QUINN 4675

The following written reply was given to Councillors Cunningham, Loughnane and Quinn:-

"This structure is not in the charge of the Council. It is of historic importance to the area. It would require considerable financial and other resources to repair and maintain safely. The question of implementing height restrictions is under examination."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4676

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"£40,000 was spent widening and improving this road in 1997. It is hoped to continue improvements over the next three years as part of the five year roads plan."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4677

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This is a class two county road. The surface is in a satisfactory state of repair. The road is narrow which causes difficulty when two large vehicles meet. There are long stretches where the width between fences does not allow for the widening of the road. It would be too expensive to set back fences along the whole length of the road. We will however, consider developing passing bays where the width of the margin permits"

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD MARKINGS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4678

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The contractors have been requested to put lining in place. It is expected that it will be done before the end of this month."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - PROPOSED SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR LOUGHREA - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4679

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The Contract Documents for Loughrea Sewerage Scheme are presently being prepared."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - CAR PARKING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4680

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This is a matter for the school authorities concerned. Our area engineer has informed the school principal of this."

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - DEPUTY 4681
P. MCCORMACK & SEN. J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack and Senator McDonagh:-

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

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - DEPUTY 4682
P. MCCORMACK & SEN. J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack and Senator McDonagh:-

"The bend at Horesvalley is on the N84. Major realignment is required at this location and substantial funding would be required from the National Roads Authority."

**N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - DEPUTY 4683
P. MCCORMACK & SEN. J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack and Senator McDonagh:-

"The estimated cost of improving the bend at Mounterry is £20,000. There are no funds available to carry out this work at present."

**N.O.M. NO. 34 - BELCLARE VILLAGE - CLLR. P. 4684
MCHUGH**

The following written reply was given to Councillor McHugh:-

- (1) Speed limit signs are not warranted as it is not a built up area.
- (2) School warning signs are in place.
- (3) Flashing lights will be considered for the location subject to funding and other priorities.
- (4) Appropriate road markings will be provided this year."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - WIDENING BRIDGE - CLLR. P. MCHUGH 4685

The following written reply was given to Councillor McHugh:-

"The cost of widening the bridge will be investigated and a further reply will issue as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - FLOODING - CLLR. P. MCHUGH 4686

The following written reply was given to Councillor McHugh:-

"The Council are in discussion with a land owner with a view to having flooding alleviated."

N.O.M. NO. 37 - CLÁR SOILSÍ POIBLÍ - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4687

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

"Cuirfear an áit san áireamh nuair atá clár soilsí poiblí á chur le chéile do 1998."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - "FLASHING LIGHTS" - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4688

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

"Tá gá le flashing lights ag an scoil seo agus cuirfear san áireamh é nuair atá an chlár do 1998 á chur le chéile de réir an méid airgid atá ar fáil agus tosaíochtaí eile."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4689

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

"Nil leathmú an mbóthar seo ar an gclár oibre 1998. Nil muid dóchasach go mbeidh airgead ar fáil chun an obair a dhéanamh amach anseo. Tá seans ann gur féidir cuid den obair a dhéanamh faoin Scéim Pílotach chun Bóithre Áitiúil a Fheabhsú más mian le grúpa áitiúil iarratas a chur isteach do 1999. Beidh fógra fen scéim ins na páipéirí timpeall mí Deire Fomhair, 1998."

N.O.M. NO. 40 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4690

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

"Routine maintenance will be carried out on this road." LR. E. 4696

N.O.M. NO. 41 - FOOTPATH - AN. COMH. S. 4691
O'NEACHTAIN

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

"There are no funds available at present to carry out this work."

N.O.M. NO. 42 - ROAD REPAIRS - AN COMH. S. 4692
O'NEACHTAIN

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

"Routine maintenance will be carried out on this road as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 43 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4693

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

"Some works have been done at this location. It would be best if you would meet with the area engineer to discuss the exact location you have in mind."

N.O.M. NO. 44 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. E. 4694
VARLEY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"This road is not included in roads for surfacing in the five year roads plan. It could only be considered for inclusion if additional funds become available. The road will be subject to routine maintenance as resources permit"

N.O.M. NO. 45 - ILLEGAL DUMPING - CLLR. E. 4695
VARLEY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The area in question has been tidied up. A "No Dumping" sign will be erected on the site."

N.O.M. NO. 46 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. E. VARLEY

4696

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"This road is not included for surfacing in this year's works programme. However, this road will be subject to routine maintenance as resources permit."

TEAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 1998

Cathainleach:- Councillor M. Finerty

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

J. Callanan, Deputy P. Coonaughton, Clr.
Conerly, M. O'Connell, M. Finerty
S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughran, J. Merton,
J. McClean, Deputy P. McCreech, J.
McDonagh, Clr. P. McHugh, Clr. S.
O'Neel, M. O'Neill, P.
O'Tuohy, A. Quinn, M. Ryan, E.

Submitted, Approved + Signed:-

Óglaigh:-

Messrs. D. Deputy Co. Manager, J. Hervey,
T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, P.C.
Engineer: L. Kavanagh S.E.E.
A.O.'s P. Carroll, S.S.O. &

Michael Finerty
Chairman

Thosnaigh an cruinniu an paidir.

23rd February 1998

RESOLUTION OF SYMPTOM Date

4640

The Members extended their deepest sympathy to Ms. Julia Forde on the death of her Mother.

A Resolution of Sympathy was also passed with the following:-

- Mrs. Delia Geaney & Family, Carrmore, Grammore, Co. Galway.
- O'Connor Family, The Square, Rosford, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Bertie Fahy, Rathbone, Ardaraun, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Teresa Moloney, Elmis Road, Gort, Co. Galway.