

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY, 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, 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, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

**Oifigigh:-**

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, R.C. Killeen, Deputy Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., D. Barrett & E. Power, A.O.'s, P. Carroll, S.S.O. & A. Whelan, C.O.

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

**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. Della Greaney & Family, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.  
O'Connor Family, The Square, Headford, Co. Galway.  
Mr. Bertie Fahy, Rathbane, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.  
Mrs. Teresa Moloney, Ennis Road, Gort, Co. Galway.

**DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT CLIFDEN 4641  
TO ROYBRIDE PROPERTIES LTD.**

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Conneely, it was resolved:

“that Galway County Council hereby approve the sale of a plot of land in the townland of Clifden to Roybride Properties Ltd. in accordance with notice dated 30th December, 1997 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 which had been circulated to each Member”.

**SUBMISSION TO D.O.E. ON HOUSE IMPROVEMENT 4642  
GRANTS**

Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager outlined the content of the Report dated 31st December, 1997 on House Improvement Grants which had been circulated to Members. Deputy Connaughton welcomed the proposed House Improvement Grant Scheme but stated that the grant should cover at a minimum two thirds of works costing in the region of £13,000 - £15,000. Grants in the region of £2,000 - £3,000 would be of little benefit.

Deputy McCormack suggested special conditions in the Scheme to attract persons to return to care for elderly relatives, stating that the greatest pressure is for repairs to houses for the elderly, and he felt that there would be people who would move back to live with elderly relatives, if a house improvement grant to a maximum of £30,000 was available.

Councillor Quinn recommended a ceiling of £10,000 for a House Improvement Grant and that the grant should apply to young married couples.

Councillor McHugh welcomed the proposal for means testing and confining eligibility to owner occupiers and proposed that the report be used as a basis for a submission to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

Councillor Regan stated that the amount of grant should be related to the cost of the works carried out.

Councillor Loughnane expressed the wish that the House Improvement Scheme be administered by Local Authorities but he did not want to see Local Authorities involved in means testing and he was therefore against the introduction of a means test. He stated that confining eligibility to owner occupiers was restrictive, and the scheme should make provision for persons in private rented accommodation.

Councillor Walsh welcomed the proposed scheme and agreed with the introduction of means testing and income limits.

Councillor Fahy proposed that the existing demountable dwellings be replaced by small rural dwellings. He further proposed that means testing be in two categories (a) 100% grant for persons eligible for a grant and (b) 50% grant to be paid to others less well off.

Councillor Varley stated that the grant would be of particular importance to the elderly and disabled. She further stated that she was aware of a number of persons who were in need of housing grants, but due to pride would not acknowledge this need.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the proposal for a House Improvement Grant, and while he agreed with means testing, he felt that means testing should not apply to elderly persons for works done for their benefit solely. He also felt that the present new House Grant of £3,000 should be increased to £7,000 - £8,000.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail stated that there should be a committee at local level comprising of representatives of the Council, Health Board and Social Welfare who would go through grant applications, and examine how best to maximise investments.

Councillor Conneely stated that the previous grant scheme was good but had been abused. He recommended an improvement grant of at least £20,000 for pre 1940 houses and £15,000 maximum grant for pre 1960 houses. He also felt that the new house grant scheme should be increased to £7,000.

Councillor Gavin stated that Roinn na Gaeltachta should be involved in a submission to the Minister, as it is also involved in house improvements and extensions. He felt that the word "genuine" needed to be an important element in any scheme.

Councillor Brennan hoped that the grant would be geared to persons building necessary and essential housing, that the income limit should be £25,000 net, and that the amount of grant should not be a percentage of the works but be based on a set grant e.g. for a bathroom costing £10,000 - a grant of say £7,000 should be available. He felt that the allocation of house improvement grants should only be vested with Local Authorities.

Councillor J. Burke felt that the age of the house, age of occupants, number of children in house etc. should be considered in means testing and that the word "essential" was the key word.

Councillor Hussey stated that there should be a subsidy available to young persons buying a house, possibly in the site acquisition phase. He also felt that more assistance should be given to Voluntary Housing Associations.

Councillor Cunningham stated that the first time buyers grant of £3,000 was too low and that the limited house size for grant eligibility was out of date and too restrictive.

Councillor McClearn felt that the scheme may not need to be means tested but that family income should be taken into consideration. He also felt that no grant aid should be available for extension to houses over 1,300 sq. ft. unless the family situation requires it.

Councillor W. Burke stated that grants need to be two thirds up to a maximum of £10,000 to be of any benefit, and that by doing so housing lists would be shortened and towns and villages revitalised.

The Assistant County Manager thanked the Members for their comments and stated that the scheme needs to be realistic, and be addressed within the Social Housing context. He would welcome any further ideas on income limits. He confirmed that he was in favour of administration of the scheme by local authorities, and that efforts would be made to make the suggestion of bringing persons back to care for elderly relatives more attractive. He further confirmed that the draft scheme would be put before Members at the February Meeting.

It was also agreed to circulate a summary report on the Reconstruction Loan Scheme to Members.

**CONSIDERATION REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - CONSTRUCTION OF 12 HOUSES AT CLIFDEN** **4643**

Councillor Conneely said that he had met with the residents who objected to the development. He said that they were happy that the Council will provide a play area, and that works will be done in relation to footpaths and public lighting. He said that improvement works need to be carried out to the front of the estate which is an eyesore, and that the entrance to the estate is very narrow. It is a very well kept estate, and the residents are to be complimented on this. He asked the Council to co-operate with the residents. There are 100 children in the estate with no play area. Councillor Conneely submitted letter from residents withdrawing their objection.

Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager said that the Council had met with the residents, and had provided a letter stating what works will be done in 1998, and that the Council gave a commitment in relation to open space. He stated that some of the works on the Galway Road will be subject to funding from the National Roads Authority. He said that the Council will continue to meet with the residents in the future.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Conneely the Council agreed and noted the Report.

**ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ON GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY** **4644**

The County Secretary stated that nomination papers for the election of a representative of the Council on the Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway

had been circulated to each Councillor, and two nominations had been received nominating Councillor Tiarnan Walsh and Councillor Sean O'Neachtain.

Councillor Ryan proposed Councillor Walsh. Deputy Connaughton seconded this proposal.

Councillor Conneely proposed Councillor O'Neachtain. Councillor Fahy seconded this proposal.

A Vote was taken and it resulted as follows:-

**FOR COUNCILLOR WALSH:**

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

**FOR COUNCILLOR O'NEACHTAIN:**

Cllrs. J. Callanan, J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, M. Regan. (11)

Ghabh an Comhairleoir Ó Neachtain agus na Comhairleoirí uilig, comhghairdeas do Comhairleoir Breathnach.

The Chairman declared Councillor Walsh as the Council's representative on the Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTS**

**4645**

The Members agreed to defer consideration of this item to the Monthly Meeting of the Council on 26th January, 1998.

**PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL FOR THE WEST**

**4646**

**- OBJECTIVE ONE STATUS**

The Chairman welcomed the Chairperson of the Council for the West - Marian Harkin and Sean Hannick representing County Mayo on the Council for the West. Ms. Harkin addressed the meeting, stating that Galway County Council was the fourth Council to receive the Council for the West, the purpose of which was to create a focus on problems in the West of Ireland. She stated that while the success of the Irish Economy may be evident at National level the same does not apply in the West of Ireland and there was now a danger of a dual economy being created in the Country.

Stating that the West is in crisis, she said that the Council for the West are seeking Objective One Status until the year 2006, and for the implementation of regional

policies at government level. In 1991, the west region was at 75.99% of National GDP and by 1993 it was at 71.9% of National GDP. By 1993 the National average earnings was at 80% of the European average, but the cause for concern was the fact that the West earnings averaged only 60% of the European average. She added that while labour figures for 1996 showed an increase of 50,000 nationally, only 2,000 jobs were created in Connaught/Ulster over the same period. She requested Members to use their influence to ensure that the plight of the West remains a "live" issue.

Mr. Hannick then addressed the Meeting and stated that in 1995 80% of new IDA created jobs went to the larger centres of population such as Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford and that 0.86% of all jobs went to the West inclusive of Galway City. He advised that in 1997 rural Ireland got 17% of jobs with 2.86% of jobs going to Galway City. He stated that the NESC Report highlighted the plight of the West, but the solution to the problem as outlined in the Report, to centralise development in larger towns, was worrying and in his opinion the opposite should happen.

He felt that the Government needs to ask the IDA and Forbairt to set County and Sub County targets and tiered incentives to encourage a move out to rural towns especially for capital intensive projects. While the IDA give remoteness as reasons for not bringing jobs to small towns, he felt that better marketing can overcome this.

The Chairman thanked both Speakers for their excellent presentation and invited Councillors O'Neachtain and McClearn to reply on behalf of the Members.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that he concurred with what had been said and that special status was needed for the West. He felt that Udaras has the authority and methods needed to make major improvements in the West. He further felt that a structure needed to be put in place to highlight the lack of infrastructure in the West and the need for improvements.

Councillor McClearn agreed that the West region is in crisis, that it was well known that the Department of Finance did not want to sub-divide the country into different objective status groups and unless politicians stand up to the Department of Finance Officials, Objective One Status will not be achieved for the West. He formally proposed that a case be put before the European Commission on the plight of the West, as the Department of Finance cannot be relied upon to do it.

Councillor J. Burke seconded the proposal and stated that each County Council in the West should be represented on the Council for the West to strengthen and articulate the facts about the plight of the West.

Ms. Harkin stated in reply that a decision on Objective One Status will be taken within the next six months and the years 1993-1995 will be taken as averages to assess the justification for retaining Objective One Status. She confirmed that the Council for the West will have reports prepared for Europe, and requested the backing of Galway County Council and other Western Counties. She also confirmed that a liaison will be set up between Galway County Council and the Council for the West.

Councillor W. Burke proposed that the Council should host a conference on the matter to be held in a provincial town within the next few months, and to issue invitations to An Taoiseach, other Party Leaders and Department and European Officials to attend. Councillor J. Burke seconded the proposal and it was agreed to consider further the holding of a conference at the next Meeting of the Council.

**FIXING OF DATE FOR MEETING OF COMMITTEE 4647**  
**ON CONTROL OF HORSES**

It was agreed that the Committee on Control of Horses would meet on Friday, 16th January, 1998 at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Offices at Liosban Retail Centre. As the Members of the Control of Horses Committee are the same Members as are on the Casual Trading Committee, it was agreed that a Meeting of that Committee could also be held on that day.

Deputy Connaughton requested that Casual Trading be also included on the agenda of the next Meeting of the Council.

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS 4648**

The Chairman expressed his appreciation of the work of Council Staff in 1997 and to emergency services provided by the Council over the Christmas period.

Councillor McClearn also paid tribute to the services provided over the Christmas by Council Staff, the Fire Service, Gardai and especially the E.S.B. Workforce.

**County Development Plan**

Councillor Loughnane referred to Chapter 2 of the County Development Plan and to one of the Strategic Objectives for rural development, the aim of which is to strengthen the social and economic viability of towns and villages in order to improve their potential as growth centres. He requested that a clear interpretation of what this meant be given and that it be included on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

**Speed Limits**

Councillor Byrne queried the position regarding the extension of speed limits which had been agreed by Members some time ago. The County Secretary replied that a response had been received from the National Roads Authority on 7th January, 1998 regarding revised speed limits on National Primary and National Secondary Roads and a report will be prepared for the next Meeting of the Council.

Overhanging Trees

Councillor Mullins welcomed the recent advertisements in local newspapers advising farmers of their liability in relation to trees which over-hang public roads, especially in light of the storms over the last few weeks. However, he enquired as to the position where farmers/landowners do not respond to the notices issued.

The Acting Deputy County Engineer replied stating that under the 1993 Roads Act responsibility in relation to hedge cutting/over-hanging trees etc. rests with landowners. He advised that where it comes to the Council's notice that over-hanging trees are a danger, and where no action is taken by the farmer/landowner, the Council can remove the dangerous trees and recover costs of such work from the landowner concerned.

Council Meeting

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that in future the Monthly Meetings of the Council should be held in Merlin Park, with the Planning Meetings continuing to be held in the Council's temporary offices.

Irish Council on European Movement - Referendum to Ratify the Amsterdam Treaty

The Chairman referred to correspondence received from the Galway Branch of the European Movement on the forthcoming Referendum to ratify the Amsterdam Treaty requesting permission to address the Council.

It was agreed that representatives of the Galway Branch be invited to address the next Meeting of the Council.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

4610

Submitted, Approved + Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Michael Finnerty*

Chairman

23<sup>rd</sup> February 1998

Date



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, LIOSBAN RETAIL CENTRE, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 1997**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** An Comhairleoir M. Finnerty

**IL LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

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

**Oifigigh:**

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Cullen & D. Barrett, A.O.'s, E. Hourigan, A/Staff Officer.

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

The Chairman extended the compliments of the season to the Members, Manager and Staff of the Council.

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

4610

The Members extended their deepest Sympathy with the Mulroe, Flaherty and O'Sullivan Families, whose son/daughter died following a tragic road traffic accident at the weekend. The Members paid tribute to the young people of the area for the dignity shown to their colleagues on this sad occasion.

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

The Walsh Family, Headford, Co. Galway.

**GOOD WISHES**

4611

The Members extended Good Wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor P. Finnegan.

The Members extended Good Wishes to Mr. T. Murphy, Senior Staff Officer in his new post as Freedom of Information Officer.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

4612

A Vote of Congratulations was passed to:-

Sarsfields Hurling Team  
Corofin Football Team.

**MINUTES**

4613

The Minutes of the Preliminary Estimates Meeting held In-Committee on 31st October, 1997, were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Brennan.

The Minutes of the Statutory Estimates Meeting held on 10th November, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain.

On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th November, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

The Report of the Seminar held on 14th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council, on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 5th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

The Report of the Employment Committee Meeting held on 20th October, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta.

The Report of the Islands Committee Meeting held on 6th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of an Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Conneely.

*The Report of the Arts Committee held on 19th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Fahy.*

*The Report of the Protocol Committee held on 19th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor McHugh.*

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### Late Late Show

*Deputy McCormack read the response received from R.T.E.'s Controller of Programmes in relation to recent Late Late Show, wherein RTE stated that fault rested with them and extended a wholesome apology and regretted any offence caused. Deputy McCormack complimented RTE on its response. Councillor Fahy concurred with same.*

#### Strategic Policy Sub-Committee

*The Chairman informed the Members that the Meeting of the Strategic Policy Sub-Committee will be held on Monday, 12th January, 1998. Due to the Minister's visit, it was not possible to hold same on Monday, 24th November, 1997. The County Secretary to forward notification to the Members of time and place for same.*

*The Chairman read a letter he received from SIPTU - Local Authority Professional Officers Branch, regarding the proposed Strategic Policy Committees to be established wherein they state that SPCs should not be introduced prior to agreement with the staff side. The Members noted the contents of the letter.*

### **CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT(PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994** 4614

#### ITEM 4(a)

*The Members were circulated with Report dated 4th December, 1997 regarding the following development:-*

1. **Construction of 14 houses at Parkmore, Tuam, Co. Galway.**
2. **Demolition and replacement of 8 houses at Gilmartin Road, Tuam.**

*The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Hussey. Councillor J. Burke complimented all those involved in the Gilmartin Road Housing Project to-date. He stated that this project had improved the quality of life within the area for all concerned and welcomed the new proposals in relation to same.*

**ITEM 4(b)**

**Effluent Treatment System to serve existing and proposed County Council houses at Kilcornan, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.**

A Report dated 8th December, 1997 was circulated to each Member. On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Council agreed to the development.

**ITEM 4(c)**

1. **Construction of 4 houses at Oughterard, Co. Galway.**
2. **Construction of 12 houses at Clifden, Co. Galway.**

A Report dated 10th December, 1997 was circulated to each Member. The Council agreed to both developments, on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Deputy McCormack.

**ITEM 4(d)**

**Construction of 12 houses at Carraroe, Co. Galway**

The County Secretary stated that a report dated 17th November, 1997 was circulated to each Member for consideration. An updated report dated 8th December, 1997 sets out the background to the inclusion of this proposal in the Council's Housing Construction Programme for 1997, and a copy of same was also circulated to each Member. The County Council purchased 2.09 acres of land at Carraroe from Udaras na Gaeltachta. Eight houses were erected on the land and are now occupied by tenants. At the time of purchase the County Council indicated to Udaras na Gaeltachta that further land at this location may be purchased, based on the Council's assessment of housing need in the area. The Council now propose to build a further twelve houses as part of its 1997 Housing Construction Programme. The land in the Council's ownership currently available for development comprises of 1.2 acres approx. This is not sufficient for the construction of the full development as proposed. Udaras na Gaeltachta have been approached with a view to purchasing the remainder of their lands at this location, in order to provide for the proposed twelve houses and additional open space. Private sites may also be provided from the remaining land if acquired.

The County Secretary said that there is an established need for the proposed housing at this location. The current assessment of housing needs relating to the Carraroe area shows a total of 79 applicants for housing in Carraroe. A break-down of the address of applicants was contained in report dated 8th December, 1997.

In relation to the proposed development, the County Secretary stated that three objections/submissions were received and the Planning Officer's observations in relation to same are contained in report dated 17th November, 1997, which he read out to the Meeting. Mr. Kavanagh said that the Council wished to proceed with the proposed development as soon as possible.

*An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail said that while he was not against the proposed development, he wished to highlight the de-population of other areas and possible school closures.*

*Deputy McCormack welcomed the report of 8th December, 1997 outlining the list of applicants for housing in the area. He said that twenty houses on two acres exceeds the tradition of housing in the area. Deputy McCormack stated that he was not objecting to the proposal but requested that a report of the land available in other villages in the Connemara area be prepared, in order that an over-all plan for housing can be initiated.*

*An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta welcomed the report of 8th December, 1997 outlining the number of applicants in need of housing in the carraroe area. She said that the number requiring housing will increase due to the high price of sites in the area. She stated that there are a lot of mis-givings amongst the local people in regard to the number of houses on this particular site. Meetings have been held with Officials of the Council, Udaras na Gaeltachta, Coiste Pobail and others with a view to reaching a suitable compromise. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta proposed that as a compromise ten houses be constructed instead of twelve.*

*An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain seconded this proposal. He said that a compromise must be reached on this contentious issue. He stated that the village is not urban but rural and it is imperative that same is borne in mind at all times.*

*Deputy McCormack proposed that a report on the other lands available be prepared for the April Meeting of Galway County Council.*

*The County Manager thanked the Members for the debate. He stated that work has commenced on the preparation of a three year programme in relation to public housing in the county. The Programme will be presented to the Members at the March Meeting. Part of the programme will consist of the acquisition of land in advance of detailed planning. The County Manager said that any assistance given by the Members in identifying land would be welcomed. He stated that once the Programme is adopted, the Council will buy the land and thus maximise the Council's position in regard to its Housing Programme.*

*Deputy McCormack said that he would amend his proposal to coincide with this Report.*

*The Chairman stated that it is imperative that there is no loss as to the number of houses available in the County. He said the compromise proposed is well within the Department Guidelines. The Chairman stated that a balance must be met, between the needs of the people on the housing list and those objecting, and discussions have been on-going between Officials and the local people. He recommended the proposal to construct ten houses at Carraroe North and the Members agreed to same.*

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

4615

- (a) *Extension to Boyounagh Burial Ground*
- (b) *Extension to Kilkerrin Burial Ground (Ballinasloe)*

*The Members were circulated with Report dated 10th December, 1997 regarding the above developments. On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Council agreed and noted the Report.*

*Councillor Hussey complimented the local Boyounagh Burial Ground Committee for the improvement works carried out to-date.*

*Councillor Quinn requested the Council to consider extending the Killeeneen Burial Ground at Newbridge.*

*Councillor Brennan asked the current position in relation to the transfer of Fohenagh Cemetery to the local community.*

*The County Manager said that a report would be prepared and circulated in the new year.*

**FINANCING OF NEW COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS 4616**

*The Chairman said that the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new County Hall, prior to the Meeting was an historic occasion. He thanked everyone concerned in the planning and preparation of same.*

*The County Manager stated that the Members had given approval in principle to the raising of a loan of £8.5m at its meeting of 4th July, 1997. A detailed report dated 4th December, 1997 outlining the Financial Package proposed following the public tender process, was circulated to each Member. The Housing Finance Agency offered the lowest rate of interest and also satisfied the Council's requirements regarding flexibility of repayment.*

*On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, it was resolved:-*

*"that subject to the sanction of the Minister for Environment and Local Government, Galway County Council hereby approve the raising of a loan for the construction of the Council's new Headquarters of £8.5m from the Housing Finance Agency over a period of 20 years and in accordance with the details set out in the report of the Finance Officer dated 4/12/1997."*

**CONFERENCES**

4617

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Mannion and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved to the conferences set out hereunder:-

**Planning Conference - Sligo - 23/24 January 1998**

Cllr. M. Mullins	Cllr. M. Ryan	Cllr. P. O'Sullivan
Cllr. P. O'Tuathail	Cllr. J. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. M. Cunningham	Sen. J. McDonagh	Cllr. T. Byrne
Cllr. T. Hussey	Cllr. P. McHugh	Deputy P. McCormack
Cllr. E. Varley		

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

Cllr. T. Byrne	Cllr. M. O'Neill	Cllr. J. Callanan
Deputy P. Connaughton	Cllr. T. Walsh	Cllr. J. Conneely

**Tourism Seminar - Auburn Lodge Hotel - 28/29 November, 1997**

Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. S. O'Neachtain
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**FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR:**

4618

- (a) **Air Strip on Inishboffin**
- (b) **Development of Harbour Infrastructure - Inis Moir**

Councillor Gavin proposed that discussion on this item be deferred until after same has been considered by the Islands Committee. Councillor Mannion seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the Members should have an opportunity to discuss both Feasibility Studies, which are of vital importance to the Island Communities.

The Chairman agreed that following the Islands Committee Meeting, the Feasibility Studies for Inishboffin and Inis Moir would be an item on the next agenda.

**MANAGER'S BUSINESS**

4619

**Road Safety Committee**

The County Engineer informed the Members of the work of the Road Safety Committee established under the aegis of Galway County Council. The Committee

consists of representatives of the Council Members, Staff, the Gardai, Western Health Board and National Safety Council. The aims of the Committee is to produce a co-ordinated approach to road safety and accident reduction. The following are amongst its proposals to achieve same:-

1. To extend Junior School Warden Scheme.
2. To promote a Cycle Training Programme on a pilot basis initially to primary schools.
3. To seek sponsorship from commercial companies in promotion of programmes, especially in the area of pedestrian safety.

The County Engineer stated that the Council is proposing, subject to the Members agreement, during the discussion of the roadworks schemes, that the Low Cost Accident Reduction Scheme be extended to include Regional Roads where accident statistics dictate same.

The Members agreed and welcomed the proposals.

#### Appointment of Freedom of Information Officer

The Manager informed the Members that Mr. T. Murphy has been appointed Freedom of Information Officer to prepare for the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997. The County Secretary to circulate a brief resume of the Act to the Members.

#### Telephone System

The Chairman informed the Members that there was some abuse of the telephone numbers issued to Councillors. The Chairman informed the Members that the facility will be withdrawn if this abuse continues.

Councillor Fahy stated that it was unfair to penalise all Councillors. He said that the Councillor responsible should be named. Councillor J. Burke proposed that the County Secretary write to the offending Councillor and advise him/her that if abuse does not stop that the facility will be withdrawn. Other Councillors agreed with this.

#### Local Elections 1999

The Manager informed the Members that the Minister for the Environment and Local Government announced that the Local Elections will now be held in 1999.

Councillor Fahy asked that the funds allocated in the 1998 Estimates for the Local Elections be transferred to public lighting.

The Chairman replied to Councillor Fahy stating that if a particular area require lights, the community should group together, pay for the installation of lights and the Council will maintain same.



### Oranmore Library

The County Secretary informed the Members that a letter dated 25th November, 1997 was forwarded to the Department of the Environment in relation to the proposed funding for Oranmore Library. The Department of the Environment replied stating that they would have extreme difficulty with the approach taken for the Oranmore Project, whereby the Department would pay £70,000 for a project, without any guarantee as to when the project would be finalised. He said that a meeting will take place with the Department on 16/1/98 to discuss how library development in Galway can be advanced.

Deputy McCormack requested that the Council Officials urgently meet with the Department Officials to discuss and clarify same. He said that following the last Council Meeting, he assumed that the money was forthcoming and he relayed same to the Oranmore Community at a recent meeting.

Councillor McClearn stated that at the Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting of 24th November, 1997 a satisfactory solution was found which secured the building. He said that clarification be sought from the Department of the Environment as to what they are actually saying. Councillor Fahy concurred with Councillor McClearn and stated that this money is urgently needed in Oranmore.

### **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

4620

#### Verge/Hedge Trimming/Overhanging Trees

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain requested clarification as to the Council's policy in relation to verge/roadside trimming. He said that while land-owners are responsible for hedge trimming, the Council must be concerned with regard to public safety. He stressed that the Council's policy must be clear and operated on a uniform basis throughout the county. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain requested a ruling on same which can be conveyed to local communities. He also asked that the Collinamuck/Burnt House area be examined.

Councillor Gavin agreed with An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain's statements. He requested that a media campaign, highlighting land-owners' responsibilities be initiated.

Councillor Hussey said that in light of the recent tragedy in Tipperary, farmers should be notified of their liability in relation to trees which over-hang public roads.

The Chairman asked the Members of the Press in attendance at the Meeting to take note and highlight same in their reports.

The County Manager acknowledged the work done to-date by many land owners and stated that a campaign will be launched in January, 1998 which will highlight the responsibility of farmers/land-owners. He said that the campaign will involve advertisements in local newspapers, inserts on the local radio station and meetings

with local Farming Organisations. The Manager appealed to farmers in the county to take note and examine roadside trees, as the responsibility in relation to hedge-trimming/over-hanging trees, etc. rests with farmers under the 1993 Roads Act.

#### Killimor Water Supply Scheme

Councillor McClearn thanked the Manager and Staff for the measures taken to improve the Killimor Water Supply Scheme.

#### Price of Livestock

On the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Members agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture that an increase of £50 per animal be applied to the 20/22 month Beef Premium Scheme. A copy of the letter be sent to the Taoiseach and other local authorities for support.

Councillor Callanan stated that farmers are finding it extremely difficult to make an adequate livelihood from farming and is an area that needs to be addressed.

#### Aughrim/Cappataggle Road Junction

The Chairman informed the Members that a meeting with the residents of Aughrim will take place on 12th December, 1997. The County Engineer explained the revised layout of the Aughrim junction. The improvements include the following works:-

1. Widening of southern side of road.
2. Cars turning right - protected by Islands, hence avoiding hard structures in the middle of the road.
3. Stretch of road will have ribbed delineation.
4. Rumble strip will also be incorporated to white line delineation.

Mr. Colleran stated that a substantial amount of land has been acquired and it is hoped that a sizeable grant will be forthcoming in 1998 from the NRA to commence works.

Councillor J. Burke asked that improved signage highlighting the location of the Aughrim Interpretative Centre be incorporated into the plan.

Councillor Callanan thanked and complimented Mr. Colleran, Mr. F. Gilmore and Ms. M. McHugh for the work carried out to-date in this area, given the nature of the negotiations involved.

The County Manager thanked the Members for the compliments paid to the Engineering Staff and also wished to be associated with same.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**N.O.M. NO. 11 - DANGEROUS BEND - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4621**

The following written reply was given to Councillor M. Cunningham:-

"Improvement of this bend would necessitate land being dedicated by a landowner who is not willing to do so. It is therefore not possible to proceed with work at present.

**N.O.M. NO. 12 - GORT WATER SUPPLY - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4622**

The following written reply was given to Councillor M. Cunningham:-

"Part of the water source serving the Gort area is from a river. It is a feature of all rivers at particular times of the year, that high colour levels exist due to a number of factors including decaying vegetation and Autumn leaf fall. I have arranged for the Health Board to take samples for assessment purposes."

**N.O.M. NO. 13 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4623**

The following written reply was given to Councillor M. Cunningham:-

"Consideration will be given to improving the footpath as far as Fahy's Cross in the 1998 programme. It will not be possible to extend the work to Cloone House due to budgetary constraints."

**N.O.M. NO. 14 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4624**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The house referred to fronts on to the N.66. There is a private boreen exiting at the north east of the house on to the N.66. This exit is obscured by a high hedge. There are no funds available to improve the view.

This work could possibly be carried out by way of the Community Involvement in Roadworks scheme. The closing date for receipt of applications for 1998 was 30/10/1997. An application for the 1999 scheme would be considered if one were submitted when the scheme is advertised in late 1998."

**N.O.M. NO. 15 - SIGN POSTS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4625**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"Signage in Oranmore will be replaced as the need arises. It is not considered necessary to replace all the signposts and this would not be possible in the light of budgetary constraints."

**N.O.M. NO. 16 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. FAHY 4626**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This location will be considered along with others when the 1998 Public Lighting Programme is being compiled."

**N.O.M. NO. 17 - WOODFORD SEWERAGE SCHEME - 4627  
CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Galway County Council have no plans to extend Woodford Sewerage Scheme."

**N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD RE-SURFACING - CLLR. M. 4628  
LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road was not included in the 1997 surface dressing programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as required."

**N.O.M. NO. 19 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - 4629  
CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The school is located on a local secondary road and it is considered that flashing lights are not warranted. Two school signs will be erected shortly."

**N.O.M. NO. 20 - FOOTPATHS - DEPUTY P. 4630  
MCCORMACK**

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"This footpath will be considered along with others when the programme for footpaths repair is being finalised".

**N.O.M. NO. 21 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - SEN. J. 4631  
MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

*"A lighting and signing scheme has been submitted to the National Roads Authority under the Low Cost Accident Reduction Measures Scheme and approval is awaited. In the interim the lighting will be erected."*

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - TRAFFIC ROUTE LIGHTING - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4632**

*The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-*

*"The junction will be examined by the Design Team with a view to establishing whether or not traffic lights would improve the situation or what if any other measures can be taken."*

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - SIGNAGE - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4633**

*The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-*

*"Signage will be erected at this location in early 1998."*

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - SCEIM UISCE - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4634**

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

*"Is mian liom a chuir in iúl duit go raibh an Chomhairle ag plé leis an Bord riartha ó Grúp Scéim Doire a'Choill. D'álfar uisce don Grúp Scéim ó scéim phoiblí Charna. Ba cheart do Grúp Scéim innealtóir a fhostú chun an scéim a chuir chun cinn níos faide."*

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - BÓTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4635**

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

*"Bheadh ar an Comhairle Chontae an bóthar a athrú go dtí an taobh eile de na tithe chun an obair a dhéanamh suas go dtí an caighdeán ceart. Bheadh costas an mhór i gceist agus dá bhri sin nil aon phlean ag an gcomhairle an obair seo a dhéanamh."*

*Dá mbeadh uainearaí an talamh sásta na ballaí a athrú isteach bheadh muid sásta breathnú ar an sceal arís."*

**N.O.M. NO. 26 - CÓRAS SÉARACHAIS - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4636**

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

"Is mian liom a chuir in iúl duit gur déanadh suirbhéireacht ar an gcóras séarachais sa gCeathrú Rua. Thaispeáin toraí an suirbhéireacht go raibh an córas atá in áireamh faoi láthair sásúil."

**N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD WORKS - AN COMH. S. 4637**  
**O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"There is a major realignment in progress on the N59 at both Woodstock, Clydagh and Tooreeny Townlands. The principal work being carried out to date involves earthworks and main drainage. Progress on the work has been satisfactory to date. Future work required involves undergrounding of existing services, drainage and further earthworks. Continuation of work will depend on funding being provided by the National Roads Authority and acquisition of the necessary land."

**N.O.M. NO. 28 - PUBLIC TOILET - AN COMH. S. 4638**  
**O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"The Council have no funding for such projects."

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - FOOTPATHS - AN COMH. S. 4639**  
**O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"It is hoped to repair these footpaths in the near future."

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted. Approved + Signed:

26<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1998

Chairman  
Michael Finerty  
Date

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 24th NOVEMBER, 1997**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** An Comhairleoir M. Finnerty

#### **IL LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. J. Brennan, 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, 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. Colleran, Co. Engineer, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, G. Dunne & L. Kavanagh, S.E.E.'s, E. Power & D. Barrett, A.O.'s, B. McDermott, S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/Staff Officer.

### **VISIT OF MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MR. NOEL DEMPSEY, T.D. 4562**

The Chairman, Cllr. M. Finnerty, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf, welcomed the Minister to Galway. He presented the Minister with a plaque with both the crests of Galway County Council and Minister's (Dempsey) crest as a token of his visit.

The Chairman, gave the order of speakers for the meeting, and stated that the difficulties facing the Council in meeting the legitimate service demands of its customers, would be outlined.

The Chairman stated that the Governments commitment to the restoration of real decision making and power to local authorities and local people is welcomed. However, in order to achieve this the fundamental issue of financing the local government system must be addressed and local discretion on how funding is to be spent must be given.

The Chairman outlined Galway County Councils' financial Management since the abolition of Rates, in 1977 to date. He expressed the Council's dismay at being excluded in 1995 from a share-out of additional Rate Support Grant funds. He requested that future allocations of state funding be based on the real needs and available resources of each authority. He said that Galway County Council is presently investigating the feasibility of carrying out an in-depth study to identify the real needs and resources of the County, which may be used as a national pilot for the benefit of the whole local government system.

The real financial difficulties created in the following specific areas were highlighted.

- (1) Degree of dependence on State Funding.
- (2) Lack of certainty in annual income available.
- (3) Increasing demands on Councils' funds, by various departments in respect of co-financing of schemes.
- (4) Additional maintenance costs as a consequence of commissioning Capital Schemes.
- (5) Financial implications regarding upgrading/establishing Waste Disposal facilities.

The Chairman concluded by stating that in October, 1995, Galway County Council was the first local authority to adopt its Strategic Plan, for period 1996 - 2000. He requested the Minister to proceed with the objectives outlined in the Governments' programme to enable this Council to respond positively to local demands.

Cllr. Hussey informed the Minister of the challenges facing the Council in relation to the Management and disposal of Waste. He said that Galway Corporation and Galway County Council, working jointly, recently appointed a Consultant to review the Waste Management Studies for the city and county. The studies will ensure that waste strategies in the County conform with both National and EU policies and regulations. Cllr. Hussey stated that substantial financial costs are involved and requested the Minister to consider to grant aid such studies. The Councils' activities, in association with local communities and schools in various environmental projects were also outlined.

Deputy McCormack addressed the Councils' needs in relation to Water and Sewerage facilities in the County, in particular the Connemara area. He said that this area is served by small water supply systems which are unreliable both in terms of quality and quantity. The Connemara Environmental Project has been forwarded to the Department of the Environment for funding under the aegis of the EU-Cohesion fund. Deputy McCormack requested that urgent attention be given to this scheme, considering the importance of this region to the tourist industry of the County.

Deputy McCormack stated that the Minister's intervention to the on-going problems of Galway city - Mutton Island Treatment works would be welcomed. He stated that major development within towns and villages in the County will be curtailed due to inadequate sewerage collection and treatment facilities. He urged the Minister to ensure that adequate funding be provided so that schemes in Portumna, Loughrea and Oranmore can proceed.



*The Councils' needs in the areas of roads and housing were outlined by Cllr. Gavin. An increase in the level of improvement funding for National Secondary roads was requested, and that a separate allocation of funds be considered for the reconstruction and repair of bridges.*

*Cllr. Gavin welcomed the Departments' revised conditions, etc. to various schemes in the Social Housing Programme. Cllr. Gavin asked the Minister to consider, the re-introduction of House Improvement Grants, increasing the Essential Repairs Grants and the extension of the community facilities scheme to include local Authority Housing Schemes.*

*Cllr. Brennan outlined the Councils' role and needs in the provision of adequate recreational facilities. He said that proposals for the provision of Libraries in Loughrea, Westside and Oranmore were with the Department. Refurbishment proposals for Tuam and Ballinasloe Swimming Pools were also submitted for funding. A new swimming pool was planned for Loughrea. Councillor Brennan appealed to the Minister to substantially increase the Capital provision for Libraries and Swimming Pools.*

*The Manager, on behalf of the staff and on his own behalf welcomed the Minister to Galway. He praised the Members for their commitment to the development of the County, and their acceptance of the responsibilities and challenges facing the Council.*

*The Minister welcomed the opportunity to address the Members. He said that one of the reasons for his visit was to hear from Members the needs and priorities within each local authority. He paid tribute to Members and executive staff, for their forward-planning. The importance of local government was acknowledged by him in changing the name of his Department to include Local Government.*

*The Minister accepted that a proper funding base for the future is one cornerstone of real local government reform. He stated that he intends local authorities to have adequate resources for the future. A comprehensive package of measures will be announced shortly.*

*The package will include the establishment of a local government fund whereby local authorities will be notified of their allocations on a three year rolling basis. This will enable local authorities to plan for future development.*

*The Minister stated that the major problems outlined by the Chairman will be addressed. In 1998, a local Government Reform Bill will be produced, incorporating the introduction of a community charge system. This will allow local authorities in consultation with local organisations, to levy a charge for the provision of facilities.*

*An important aspect of any future funding system must be equalisation. The proposed equalisation system will take into account the needs and resources of local authorities. The Minister complimented the Council on its' initiative to evaluate its'*

needs and resources and assured his Department's continued co-operation and support in relation to same.

### HOUSING

The Minister noted the Councils welcome to the recently announced improvements to certain social housing schemes. These are important and necessary due to increasing housing pressures. He stated that Minister R. Molloy has given approval to a new voluntary housing development for Loughrea. The project by Respond is in association with Galway County Council. The Minister said that £214 million has been allocated for the Local Authority Housing Programme for 1998, an increase of 23% on 1997 expenditure. He advised each local authority to use their discretion to spend their allocation wisely.

In regard to the programme of house improvements and essential repairs, the Minister stated that same are being re-examined at present and the Councils' proposals will be taken on board.

### ROADS

The Minister confirmed his commitment to the improvement of the non-national road network. Earlier this year, an extra £5 million was provided for maintenance works on Class III roads, of which Galway County Council received £352,000. The Minister stated that he was aware of the problems experienced by local authorities in relation to the national secondary roads network. In 1997, the Minister allocated an extra £5 million to the NRA for maintenance of this network. Galway County Council were allocated an additional £400,000 from same. He re-affirmed the importance that all funding is distributed to the local authorities fairly and equally.

### WATER AND WASTE WATER SERVICES

The Minister said that investment in water and waste water services is a prerequisite for sustainable development. The Government has provided £185 million for this programme in 1998, an increase of £24 million on 1997. Given the high level of Group Water Supply Schemes and the necessity to provide water in the County, this investment is vital to ensure that infrastructure is in place to cater for present and future development. The Minister outlined the current situation regarding the Portumna and Williamstown sewerage scheme and the Rossaveal/Spiddal water supply scheme.

In regard to Waste Management, the "Polluter Pays" principle applies. However, whether extra monies could be allocated to the E.P.A. in respect of licensing of landfills will be considered. The Minister welcomed the participation of the Council in the Connacht Regional Waste Management Study. The importance of the study is highlighted by the approval in principle for European Regional Development Fund Grant assistance.

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.**

4565

The Minister noted Galway County Councils' commitment to providing a comprehensive library service for the City and County. He stated that a certain amount of disagreement exists in regard to the priority list of libraries in the County. The Minister said that he has been informed that £70,000 is the money needed to finalise the Oranmore library. The Minister stated that if Oranmore was No. 1 priority £70,000(maximum) would be made available, however, no further requests for funding for this project would be considered.

Finally, in relation to swimming pools, the Minister stated that final plans and costings in relation to the refurbishment of Ballinasloe Pool are awaited. A revised costing for the minimum works required to keep Tuam Pool operational is to be forwarded to the Department within the next few weeks. He stated that limited funding is available for libraries and swimming pools in the governments budget for 1998. The total estimated value of projects on hands for libraries £37 million pounds and swimming pools is £30 million pounds. The monies for libraries for 1998 and 1999 were allocated prior to the Minister taking up office. He advised that alternative methods of financing, i.e. from commercial bodies, must be considered.

In conclusion, the Minister thanked the Members for their views and ideas about local government in Galway and generally. He stated that his desire and aim is to put local government back into peoples lives, with local councillors making decisions for local people. He asked that his proposals be judged on the basis of practicality, and to this end, he will strive to provide local authorities with the necessary legal, fiscal and policy framework.

The Chairman thanked the Minister for his replies and his frank outline of his plans for Local Government. He said that any Councillor wishing to ask further questions of the Minister could do so during the short adjournment.

Leigh an Rúnaí an paidir nuair a atosaiigh an criunniú.

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

4566

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

Mr. Joe Joe Ridge, Tiernee, Lettermore, Co. Galway.  
Mr. & Mrs. Damien Tuohy, Moyglass, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

4564

A Vote of Congratulations was passed to:-

Ardrahan U-16 Camogie Tuam  
Kinvara Junior Camogie Tuam  
Pearses Camogie Team

**MINUTES**

4565

*The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 20th October, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.*

*The Report of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 29th September, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Mannion.*

*The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 29th September, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Varley, seconded by Councillor Gavin.*

*The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 29th September, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Ryan.*

*The Report of the Galway County Libraries Committee Meeting held on 7th November, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Quinn.*

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**Bridges - Connemara Area Committee Meeting**

*An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister requesting that bridges be funded by way of additional funds so as not to reduce allocation available for road improvement works and that a letter be circulated requesting support from other Councils in relation to same. Councillor Mannion seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.*

**Tuairini National School - Galway Area Committee Meeting**

*Councillor Gavin expressed his thanks to the Council for improvement works carried out on that particular road.*

*A request to receive a deputation from the Shrule/Headford Residents at the next Area Meeting was proposed by Councillor Varley, seconded by Deputy McCormack, and agreed by the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor McHugh.*

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT 4566  
PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF CLIFDEN  
IN RELATION TO TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-**

- (a) *Application for 20 no. semi-detached houses and 4 no. detached houses together with a sewerage treatment plant, water filtration*

if required) and ancillary site works at Westport Road in the townland of Clifden.

Applicant: Acton Construction Co. Ltd. Planning Ref: 97/2239

(b) Application for 6 no. terraced townhouses, together with a sewerage treatment plant, water filtration (if required) and ancillary site works at Westport Road in the townland of Clifden.

Applicant: Acton Construction Co. Ltd. Planning Ref: 97/2240

Mr. T. Kavanagh, County Secretary informed the Members that the proposed development is located within the development plan boundary of the scheduled town of Clifden. The land is zoned for agricultural use with a small area zoned communal. The development, because of its size would require a Material Contravention in order to be granted. A Report dated 14th November, 1997, was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Liam Kavanagh, S.E.E. Planning outlined the nature of the developments as follows:-

**"PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS:** The proposed developments comprise two planning applications:- (1) Ref. No. 97/2239, Permission sought for 20 no. semi-detached houses and 4 no. detached houses with ancillary services. (2) Ref. No. 97/2240, Permission sought for 6 no. terraced townhouses with ancillary services. As both planning applications would be served by the same public road access and the same sewage treatment plant, they will be considered as a single entity.

**LOCATION:** The site is located within the development plan boundary of the scheduled town of Clifden and is predominantly zoned for agricultural use with a small area at the South East corner zoned for communal use.

**PLANNING HISTORY:** (1) Reference No. 95/2400 - Permission sought for the construction of 57 no. holiday cottages with ancillary roads, play areas and parking facilities. Application withdrawn.

(2) Reference No. 96/1343 - Permission sought for the construction of 37 no. private residences with ancillary roads, play areas, street lighting and sewage facilities. Decision to grant permission by Planning Authority appealed by third party. An Bord Pleanala refused permission on 22.4.1997.

**ASSESSMENT:** The two principal constraints to the proposed development are:-

- (A) Contravention of Zoning
- (B) An Bord Pleanala refusal of Reference No. 96/1343

(A) Contravention of Zoning

The site is predominantly zoned for agricultural use and, while this zoning permits residential development in certain circumstances, the scale of the proposed development is of such a magnitude as to preclude such consideration.

It is the general objective of the Planning Authority to encourage residential development in existing serviced towns and villages. This objective is particularly relevant in the town of Clifden in view of its importance in the tourism industry and the severe restrictions that are imposed on residential development in the hinterland of the town in areas designated as being of high or outstanding scenic amenity. In pursuit of the policy of restricting the spread of ribbon development on the outskirts of the town and of encouraging the growth of an established town, there would be no objection in principle on planning grounds to the proposed development provided the site was zoned for residential use.

(B) An Bord Pleanála refusal of Reference No. 96/1343

An Bord Pleanála cited 3 no. reasons for refusal of Reference No. 96/1343:

- (1) Traffic Hazard
- (2) Prejudicial to public health
- (3) Inappropriate form of development, out of character with the existing pattern in the area.

(1) Traffic Hazard

The site is located within the 30 m.p.h. speed limit. The Road Design Section had no objection to the more extensive development proposed in Reference No. 96/1343.

(2) Public Health

An Bord Pleanála determined that the proposed development would have been prejudicial to public health in the absence of adequate information in relation to improvements to the public water supply and sewerage facilities and the time scale for such improvements.

(i) Water Supply

A new ground water source is being developed which is capable of delivering in excess of 100,000 gallons per day which should be operational early next year. In the event that this public source is not available, the applicant has bored 2 no. insitu wells with a flow rate of 10,000 gallons per day.

(ii) Sewerage Facilities

Improvement works to the public sewer network have been completed. The applicant proposes to provide a package effluent treatment plant on site and to discharge effluent to B.S.:6269:1983 to the public sewer.

There is no objection to the proposed development from the Sanitary Services Section.

(3) Inappropriate Development

The pattern of recent developments in this area is mixed consisting of single private dwellings; large B & B's/guesthouses on small sites; restaurant, craft shop and other

commercial developments. The proposal for 30 no. dwelling units on a site of area approximately 5 acres would result in a very low intensity development which would not be out of character with the area and would be similar to many other similar housing estates on the outskirts of towns and villages throughout the county.

*Visual Amenity:* The proposed development will not obstruct any views of special amenity value and will have no adverse impact on the visual amenity of the area.

Objections:

2 no. objections received based primarily on the reasons for refusal of Reference No. 96/1343

Summary:

The outstanding constraint to the proposed development is the zoning of the site largely for agricultural use. As the proposal would materially contravene the scheduled town plan of Clifden, the procedure as set out in the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963 as amended has been implemented.

**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 3rd October 1997 and the notice invited Members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished. One objection received which was based primarily on the Bord Pleanala refusal of 96/1343.

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 these applications is 2nd December 1997."

Councillor O'Neill stated that he opposed this very controversial development. He said that when the previous planning application was being considered, meetings were held with the Residents Association and the Developer. A Material Contravention was carried by this Council, which was overturned by an Bord Pleanala, on the following grounds:-

1. Traffic Hazard
2. Prejudicial to Public Health
3. Inappropriate form of development, out of character with the existing pattern in the area.

He said that a traffic hazard still exists, and the physical standards have not changed either. The Council is in favour of this development, albeit on a smaller scale compared to last time. Councillor O'Neill proposed that the Material Contravention be turned down.

The Chairman asked if there was a proposer and a seconder for the Material Contravention. As there was no proposer for the Material Contravention, he declared it lost.

### **ORANMORE LIBRARY**

4567

Councillor Fahy welcomed the Minister's statement allocating £70,000 for Oranmore Library. He said that the Minister clarified the situation stating that this allocation will not affect the Council's Priority list. He proposed that the monies allocated for Oranmore be accepted rather than incur a loss of funds to the County.

The County Secretary stated that at the Libraries Committee Meeting of the 7th November, 1997, a Resolution was passed that a request for increased funding for Libraries be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government. The Members agreed that this Resolution be forwarded to the Department.

The County Secretary said that at the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee held earlier in the day, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that the Oranmore Library Project be divided into two phases and prioritised as follows:-

- Phase 1: £60,000 - £70,000 to be spent to complete the proposed Oranmore Library building and the Oranmore Library Project to have Priority No. 1 status on a temporary parallel basis with the proposed library at Loughrea.
- Phase 2: Completion of the Oranmore Library Project and to remain as Priority No. 3 in the Library Programme.

Councillor Loughnane stated that he did not vote for this proposal and wished to have that recorded.

The Members agreed with the recommendation of the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee. The Manager said that the recommendation would be faxed immediately to the Minister.

### **OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION**

4568

On the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed that Galway County Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the maximum sum

of £3 million for the period of six months ending on 30th June, 1998, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.



TO CONSIDER REPORTS UNDER LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)

4572

**COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

4569

*On the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, the Members agreed that Councillor J. Conneely replace Deputy O'Cuiv on the following Committees:-*

- (a) Islands Committee
- (b) Casual Trading Committee
- (c) Office Accommodation Committee

*Councillor Gavin, as Chairman of the Islands Committee welcomed Councillor Conneely's nomination. He also thanked Deputy O'Cuiv for his work on the Islands Committee.*

*Councillor Gavin requested that the Feasibility Study in relation to Kilonan Pier be an item on the next agenda. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain supported.*

**DATE FOR MEETINGS**

4570

*The Members agreed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on 12th December, 1997 in the Council Offices at Liosban Retail Centre.*

*The Chairman informed the Members that the foundation stone for the new Council Headquarters will be laid that day.*

**GOVERNING BODY - U.C.G.**

4571

*The Secretary stated that he had received notification from University College Galway that the term of Office of the existing Governing Body will expire on January 31st 1998. Under the University's Act 1997 the first Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway will come in to office on 1st February, 1998 and Galway County Council has the right to elect one Member. Under the rules the Chairman of the Council has to fix a date on which the election will take place. In order to comply with the requirements in regard to public notice, submission of nomination forms etc., the meeting must be held between the 1st and 17th January, 1998 and the Secretary suggested that the election might take place at the Planning Meeting on Friday, 9th January, 1998. The Chairman and Members agreed to this date.*

**TO CONSIDER REPORTS UNDER LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT(PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)  
REGULATIONS 1994**

4572

**ITEM 7(a)**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 18th October, 1997 regarding the following developments:-

1. Provision of septic tanks and percolation areas for demountable dwellings at the following locations:-

Ballynakill, Glinsk, Co. Galway  
Corlacken, Creggs, Co. Galway  
Pollarassa, Williamstown, Co. Galway

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Hussey, the Council agreed to the developments.

2. Provision of Housing Development at Creggaun, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway - Group Housing for Travellers as follows:-

Construction of 4 no. 5-bedroomed houses  
Extensions to 2 no. existing houses.

Councillor Brennan stated that there were problems in relation to this proposed development. Following negotiations, the Residents of the area were happy provided the Council gave a commitment that there would be no caravans on site. The Council agreed to this on the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Brennan.

3. Construction of single rural houses with appropriate treatment facilities at the following locations:-

Carna, Co. Galway	Aille, Inverin, Co. Galway
Killough, Spiddal, Co. Galway	Bredagh, Caltra, Co. Galway
Rinn, Craughwell, Co. Galway	Stowlin, Killimor, Co. Galway
Knock, Lettermullen, Co. Galway	Laghtgannon, Oughterard, Co. Galway
Billymore, Oughterard, Co. Galway	Ballargadaun, Kylebrack, Co. Galway
Caltraghreen, Menlough	Ballynacorra, Newbridge, Co. Galway
Cornarona, Inverin, Co. Galway.	
Derryunlam, Ballyshrul, Portumna, Co. Galway	
Banraghbaun South, Ballinahown, Co. Galway	

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

ITEM 7(b)

Construction of single rural house with appropriate treatment facilities at Ardmore, Carna

The Members were circulated with Report dated 17th November, 1997 regarding the above development. On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, the Council agreed and noted the Report.

ITEM 7(c)

Construction of 12 houses with services at Carrowroe North, Co. Galway, comprising 6 x 2 bedroomed houses and 6 x 3 bedroomed houses

The Members agreed to defer this item pending the outcome of negotiations with Udaras na Gaeltachta. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta requested a report on the housing needs of the Connemara Area.

Deputy McCormack requested that a detailed list of available land in villages throughout Connemara be included in the report.

ITEM 7(d)

Demolition of 3 existing houses at Caherroyn (Ballydavid), Athenry, Co. Galway and construction of 3 new houses to replace them (Group Housing for Travellers)

Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager said that at the Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting held earlier in the day the above proposed development was considered. A resolution was passed recommending that the development proceed subject to:-

- (a) the adjoining Council land being walled off;
- (b) that these lands be offered for sale;
- (c) that the area be included under proposals for control zones under the Control of Horses Bye-Laws.

Mr. Tierney confirmed that:-

- (a) a proposal would be forwarded to the Department of the Environment requesting funding to have the adjoining Council land walled off;
- (b) that these lands would be offered for sale and
- (c) the area would be included under the draft Control of Horses Bye-Laws to be considered by the Council in the New Year.

Councillor Loughmane stated that the bad publicity received in relation to housing development is due to the fact that the Council has not previously introduced these type of conditions. He requested that proper housing management be put in place.

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Council agreed to proceed with the development on the recommendations outlined.

**DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE PUBLIC ROAD 4573**

Having complied with the Provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Varley, the Council agreed to declare road in the Townland of Forramoyle West, Barna to be a public road. The road taken in charge commences at junction with LS 5386 and extending west for a distance of 345 metres.

**REVISED LIMITS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING OPTIONS 4574**

A copy of Circular H 10/97 dated 13th November, 1997 outlining revised limits for Social Housing Options was circulated to each Member. The Members noted and welcomed same.

Deputy Connaughton queried whether the monies allocated for new houses in 1997 will be spent. Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager replied stating that a roll-over programme is in place. There are a number of new house acquisitions, construction of rural houses and group housing schemes each year, commenced in the current year and carried over to the following year. He assured the Members that none of the allocation would be lost.

**CONFERENCES 4575**

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Callanan and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved to the conferences setout hereunder:-

**Peatlands 2000 Conference - Royal Dublin Hotel, Dublin - 14 November, 1997**

Cllr. M. Regan

Cllr. M. Loughnane

**Regional Studies - London - 21 November, 1997**

Cllr. M. Regan

**Conference to Review Planning Legislation - Dublin - 27 November, 1997**

Cllr. M. Ryan

Cllr. T. Hussey

**9th National Tourism Seminar - Auburn Lodge Hotel - 28/29 November, 1997**

Cllr. M. Ryan

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan

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

Cllr. M. Regan

Cllr. J. Callanan

Cllr. M. O'Neill

**MANAGER'S BUSINESS**

4576

The County Manager said that notification had been received from the Department of the Environment of an increase of £31,736 for Local Improvement Schemes. This will enable some 1993 Local Improvement Schemes to be processed.

Councillor Loughnane queried as to when the back-log of Local Improvement Schemes will be dealt with.

The County Secretary confirmed that each year a request for additional funds for Local Improvement Schemes has been put forward to the Department.

Councillor Varley stated that Mr. Robert Molloy, T.D., Minister of State at Department of the Environment will make an announcement regarding funding of Local Improvement Schemes in the new year.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail stated that a report on the non-public roads within the county, together with relevant maps was requested earlier in the year.

The Manager confirmed that the report on non-public roads is being prepared at present.

Deputy McCormack asked whether any of the roads listed under the Council's L.I.S. schemes may be considered for Roinn na Gaeltachta money. He was advised that non-public roads may be considered.

**NASC - ECO-Label - Environmental Quality Awards**

The County Manager said that two Galway Pilot Areas were successful in achieving Beatha Environmental Quality Awards. The successful areas were:

**Unit 5**

Cashel	Roundstone	Clifden	Recess
Cleggan	Lenane		

**Unit 6**

Maam	Cornamona	Clonbur	Tourmakedy	Cong
Cross	Neale			

The awards will be presented to the Chairman in Dublin on Thursday next. Five invitations were received and if a Member from any of the areas listed wishes to attend, he/she should contact the County Secretary for an invitation.

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

4577

President's Visit to Clifden

The Chairman informed the Members that President McAleese will visit Clifden on Thursday, 27th November, 1997. Councillor O'Neill to deputise for the Chairman.

Radiation from Mobile Telephone Masts

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, the Members agreed that the question of radiation from mobile telephone masts be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Speed Limits

Councillor Cunningham requested an up-to-date report on proposed speed limit changes. The County Secretary said that a report would be prepared for the next meeting.

Laurecetown Sewerage Scheme

Councillor Brennan requested a report on the Laurecetown Sewerage Scheme.

Structural Funding

A letter from Castlebar Urban District Council dated 3rd November, 1997 was circulated to each Member. On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McClearn, the Council agreed to support the resolution to call on the Government to seek objective one status in structural funding from the EU for Connacht/Ulster.

The County Secretary informed the Members that the Council for the West wish to address the Council at the next Meeting on the same subject.

The Members also agreed to further discuss this item following the Council for the West's presentation.

Late Late Show

Councillor Fahy requested a letter be sent to the Controller of Programmes, R.T.E., outlining the Council's outrage to last Friday's Late Late Show, where a Comedian/Performer ridiculed and mocked our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Deputy McCormack confirmed the public outrage in relation to same.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**N.O.M. NO. 12 - BOTHER - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4578**

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

*"Tá thart ar tri mhíle bóthar i gceist idir an dá dhroichead seo.*

*Nil an láthair seo luaite i bplean na mbóithre le haghaidh an tréimhse 1998 - 2002.*

*Measam an Comhairle Chontae go gcosnoidh se thart milliún punt ar a laghaid an bóthar agus na droichid a leathnú go dtí an caighdeán a bheadh ag teastáil."*

**N.O.M. NO. 13 - SPEED CONTROL RAMPS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4579**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-*

*"The Council is not convinced that the need for ramps would justify the inconvenience to the general public. The hazard could be eliminated if motorists were to abide by the rules of the road. The matter will be kept under review."*

**N.O.M. NO. 14 - REMOVAL OF CARAVANS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4580**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-*

*"The Caravans which were parked illegally at Crowe Street, Gort have now been removed."*

**N.O.M. NO. 15 - STREET LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4581**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-*

*"Additional street lights for Athenry will be considered when the 1998 Public Lighting Programme is being compiled subject to funding and other priorities."*

**N.O.M. NO. 16 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4582**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-*

*"This road has not been included in the 1997 Roadworks Programme. The grass cutting budget for this year has been spent. The road will be considered for verge trimming in next year's programme subject to availability of funds and other priorities."*

**N.O.M. NO. 17 - ROAD - CLLR. M. FAHY 4583**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This work has now been carried out."

**N.O.M. NO. 18 - STREET LIGHTING - CLLR. M. FAHY 4584**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"There are no plans for traffic route lighting on the National Secondary Road through the village. When the 1998 Public Lighting Programme is being prepared, the need for extra lighting on the Non-National Roads in the Village will be reviewed."

**N.O.M. NO. 19 - SIGN - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4585**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"A "No Dumping" sign will be erected on the road adjacent to the location."

**N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4586**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"The Glann Road is not included in the 1997 Roadworks Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as fund allow."

**N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD WIDENING - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4587**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"This matter will be examined."

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - SIGN - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4588**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Gavin:-

"This matter is currently being examined and it is hoped to resolve the problem in the course of the ongoing works."

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD SURFACING AND GRASS TRIMMING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4589**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-



*"The road past the house mentioned at Caherlinna is in reasonably good condition. Some work was done in the area recently and there is no further work planned for this road.*

*The road at the Isserkelly location is not included in the 1997 Roadworks Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as funds allow."*

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - PUBLIC LIGHTS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4590**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-*

*"The Council is willing to take these lights in charge as soon as the E.S.B. connects them. We have now informed the E.S.B. accordingly."*

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - PLAN FOR SOCIAL HOUSING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4591**

*The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-*

*"The Council is to continue its efforts to acquire land in the Athenry area for housing purposes. In accordance with the Department of the Environment's policy on social integration, it would be the intention of the Council to provide Local Authority Housing and sites for private housing on any such lands which would become available."*

**N.O.M. NO. 26 - SIGNPOSTING - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4592**

*The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-*

*"Four prescribed signs are in place. The location of one of these will be altered in the near future. White lining will be renewed in 1997."*

**N.O.M. NO. 27 - SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4593**

*The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-*

*"There are no funds available for the erection of these signs."*

**N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROADWORKS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4594**

*The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-*

*"Temporary remedial work was recently carried out at this location. This Council is negotiating with third parties with a view to carrying out further remedial work."*

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - "FLASHING LIGHTS" - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4595**

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

"Beidh muid ag scrudú an láthair seo in éineacht le láithre eile nuair a bheidh muid ag cuir an clár soilse flashing lights 1998 le chéile."

**N.O.M. NO. 30 - BOTHER - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 4596**

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 se luaite sa scéim E.U. specific le haghaidh 1998 a chuireadh chuig an Roinn tamall ó shin.

Tuigim go bhfuil Community Employment Scheme ag obair sa gceantar faoi láthair faoi chúram Údaras na Gaeltachta agus bheadh muid sásta cainnt leo i dtaobh an balla a athrú siar."

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - BOTHER - CLLR. C. NI FHATHARTA 4597**

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

"Nil an bóthar seo luaite i gclár na mbóithre 1997. Beidh muid ag déanamh gnáth obair deisiucháin go gairid."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD WORKS - AN. COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4598**

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

"Major funding would be required to bring this junction up to the required standard. Minor improvements could be made if an application were made under the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme for 1999. The closing date for receipt of applications for the 1998 Scheme was 31st October, 1997."

**N.O.M. NO. 33 - LUAS TRÁCHTA - AN COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN 4599**

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

"Tá luas tráchta 40 míle san uair ag an láthair seo faoi láthair. Ni mheasann an Comhairle Condae go bhfuil gá é seo a aistriú sios go dtí 30 míle sa uair."

**N.O.M. NO. 34 - ROADSIDE MARGINS - AN COMH. 4600**  
**S. O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"Verge trimming was carried out in this area recently. There are no funds available to carry out any further cutting this year."

**N.O.M. NO. 35 - PUBLIC LIGHTING - CLLR. M. O'NEILL 4601**

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

"This lighting will be taken in charge by the Council and the E.S.B. will be advised accordingly."

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. M. O'NEILL 4602**

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

"The existing footpaths at these locations are the responsibility of the Council and the ones under construction will be taken in charge once they are complete."

**N.O.M. NO. 37 - ROAD - CLLR. M. O'NEILL 4603**

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

"This road is already in charge of the Council."

**N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4604**

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

"This road was surface dressed three years ago. More recently, some work was carried out to divert water outside the house mentioned. There is no further work planned for this section of road."

**N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROADWORKS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4605**

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

"The surface of this road is in good condition. Routine maintenance will be carried out as resources permit."

**N.O.M. NO. 40 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 4606**

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

"This road is not included in the 1997 Roadworks Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as funds allow."

**N.O.M. NO. 41 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4607**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The Council's Road Design Section is currently engaged in a detailed assessment of the County's needs in relation of the maintenance and improvement of National Secondary Roads.

The N84 will be dealt with in this exercise which will produce a five year priority listing of schemes throughout the County based on current levels of grant assistance.

This plan will be put before the Council for approval within the coming weeks."

**N.O.M. NO. 42 - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4608**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The Council proposes to provide a pedestrian crossing at this location in 1998."

**N.O.M. NO. 43 - FOOTPATH - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4609**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

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

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Michael Finerty  
Chairman

12<sup>th</sup> December 1997  
Date