

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK,  
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1997**

**Cathairleach:-**

Councillor M. Finnerty

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

**Oifigigh:-**

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh,  
A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary,  
L. Kavanagh, S.E.P., B. McDermott, S.S.O. & E.  
Hourigan, A/S.O.

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**4472**

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Members agreed to suspend with the Standing Orders in order to let Mr. Derek Nally address the Meeting. Mr. Nally was seeking the Council's nomination to be a candidate for the office of President of Ireland.

Mr. Nally thanked the Chairman and Members for affording him the opportunity to address them. He congratulated Galway County Council on being instrumental in breaking new ground after sixty years by exercising its right to nominate a candidate to the Office of President.

Following Mr. Nally's address, the Chairman proposed an adjournment for ten minutes, seconded by Councillor Cunningham and the Members agreed to same.

**TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR THE NOMINATION 4473  
BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OF A CANDIDATE  
FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF IRELAND**

Councillor Gavin said that in light of Dana Rosemary Scallon having already received four nominations, a nomination by Galway County Council would be superfluous and he proposed that Mr. Nally be nominated by Galway County Council for the office of Uachtarán na hÉireann, in accordance with the Presidential Election Act, 1993, An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail seconded this Resolution.

The Acting County Secretary confirmed that Mr. Derek Nally had indicated to Galway County Council.

Councillor Brennan said that it was regrettable that Galway County Council were not amongst the nominators for Dana (Rosemary Scallon), considering that this Council was first to raise her nomination at its Meeting of 18th July, 1997. Councillor Brennan thanked everyone for the wonderful welcome given to Dana and complimented the Council on the stand made on this matter. He stated that as Dana (Rosemary Scallon) had received five nominations to-date, he was not opposing Councillor Gavin's proposal to nominate Mr. Derek Nally.

Councillor Hussey queried whether or not it was in order to nominate Mr. Nally. He said that in accordance with Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993, "not less than three clear day's notice must be given", of the intention to resolve to nominate a person as a candidate for the Office of President. This is the first time Mr. Nally's name had come before the Council. He stated that he opposed the nomination of Mr. Nally or any other person as the Fianna Fáil Party had nominated an excellent candidate, Prof. Mary McAleese, and he and fellow Fianna Fáil Councillors intend to stand behind this candidate in order to secure her election to the Office of President.

The Acting County Secretary stated that in accordance with legal advice received, the Notice as circulated calling the Special Meeting is in order. He said that legal advice had been received in relation to the drafting of the notice for this Special Meeting concerning the consideration of a resolution under Section 16 of the Presidential Election Act 1993. He indicated that he was satisfied that the form of Notice was correct and in order.

Deputy McCormack stated that it is vital that the nomination and procedures are correct as the Council cannot make any further nominations.

The Acting County Secretary reiterated his earlier reply regarding the notice. He said that a resolution if passed by the Council under Section 16 of the said Act would specify one named person.

The Chairman reminded the Councillors that at the meeting of 12th September, 1997, he informed the Members that Mr. Nally was also seeking a nomination. Mr. Nally was afforded the opportunity to address the Meeting of 12th September, 1997 but was unable to attend.

The Chairman called a vote on Councillor Gavin's proposal, seconded by an Cmhairleoir O'Tuathail that:-

"Having complied with the terms of Section 16 of the Presidential Election Act 1993 and being satisfied that the nominee is eligible for election to the office of President and having received the nominee's consent to the nomination, Galway County Council hereby resolve to nominate:-

<u>Surname of Candidate</u>	<u>Other Names</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Nally	Derek	Carrickduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.	Company Director

to be a candidate at the Presidential Election to be held on the 30th of October, 1997, in accordance with Section 16 of the said Act and that the Nomination Paper be completed and sealed on behalf of Galway County Council."

**AR SON:**

Cllr. J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, M. Finnerty,  
S. Gavin, M. Mullins, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail,  
M. Ryan & E. Varley. (10)

**IN AGHAIDH:**

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

**GAN VOTAIL:**

Deputy P. McCormack & Sen. J. McDonagh. (2)

The Chairman declared the proposal lost.

Councillor Brennan stated that what happened was a sad day for democracy. As this is one power that the Councillors could exercise every seven years.

The Chairman informed the Members that the Presidential Election is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 30th October, 1997 and people who did not have a vote at the last Election should apply for inclusion on the Supplementary Register, the closing date for which is 11th October, 1997.

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, the Members agreed that people who applied for inclusion for Supplementary Register for last Election held in June, should now be part of Official Register.

Mr. Kavanagh, Acting Assistant County Manager agreed to check the relevant legislation in relation to same.

Councillor Byrne proposed that a letter be written to the Minister for the Environment requesting that the Election be held on a Friday instead of Thursday. Deputy McCormack seconded this proposal, and the Members agreed to same.

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT 4474**  
**PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF TUAM**  
**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 96/2845**  
**APPLICANT: WOODLAND**

The following Report dated 2nd September, 1997 was circulated to the Members and was detailed by S.E.E. Planning as follows:-

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** The planning application is for outline permission for 4 detached dwellinghouses with septic tanks at Airgloony.

**LOCATION:** The site is located at Airgloony, approximately 1.5 miles Northwest of Tuam Town Centre and within the Environs of Tuam as defined in the Development Plan.

**ASSESSMENT:** The location of the site adjoins the former Irish Sugar Company lands and Industrial Complex, and the access is by means of the road which serves 10 existing houses, most of which were constructed by the Sugar Company for its employees.

Initially the application was for 4 no. houses on a site of 1.39 acres, each house being served by a conventional septic tank and percolation area.

Further information was sought in relation to (a) site suitability tests, (b) compliance with site size requirements of S.R. 6, (c) water supply. Revised details were subsequently lodged which reduced the house numbers to 3, proposed puraflo sewage treatment units and provided for a new connection to the public watermain through third party lands. The new watermain will improve the supply to the existing houses because it is presently substandard due to inadequate pipe size.

It is considered that this modest extension of an existing attractive group of houses in a pleasant rural hinterland of Tuam Town would be in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area and would help satisfy the demand for good quality housing development in the Tuam area which has been evident for the past few years.

However, since the land is zoned agricultural in the Tuam Environs Plan and since housing estate development, modest though this be, is not normally permitted in this zone a material contravention of the Tuam Town Plan and its Environs is necessary.

**Objections**

The objections to the development relate to contravention of zoning, public health, backlands, road safety and residential amenity. The proposal will contravene the zoning provision of Tuam Environs Plan thus resulting in the implementation of the

material contravention procedure set out in the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963, as amended.

In regard to public health, the site is 1.39 acres or 5,600 m<sup>2</sup>. The minimum site size per house required by S.R. 6 1991 is 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>, where there is piped water available and the trial hole tests are satisfactory. The trial hole tests in this case conform with the requirements of S.R. 6 and the site area is greater than the minimum required by the specification for a standard septic tank and percolation area. In fact further purification of effluent is proposed by means of puraflo.

The site would be considered backlands but it is a very modest addition to the existing estate without overlooking any of the existing houses.

The existing estate road joins the Regional Route at a point where the carriageway width is approximately 36 ft., half of the roadway having a concrete surface having been built to accommodate the large volume of trucks tending the sugar company during the beet harvesting season. It no longer has to carry this traffic but affords greater than average width for traffic turning into or emerging from the estate.

The estate road varies in width from 16 ft. to 20 ft. and has 3 no. right angled bends. However, this is not unusual in housing estates which serve well in excess of the 12 houses which exist here and the additional three proposed.

Finally, since the houses will be located more than 25 metres from the nearest house and can be designed so as not to overlook back gardens, it cannot be accepted that existing residential amenity will be significantly reduced.

**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 2nd August, 1997 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished. There were a number of objections lodged against this development, the details of which have been outlined in this report.

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 19th September, 1997."

Councillor J. Burke stated that the residents object to this development on the basis of the number of houses, with inappropriate access to the site for traffic. He said that this

land was purchased by speculative people on the basis for further industrial development in Tuam.

Deputy McCormack wished to know on a point of information details regarding the availability of piped water, and queried the different criteria applied to rural and urban areas.

Councillor J. Burke proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Woodland for outline permission for the erection of 4 no. detached dwelling-houses with septic tanks in the townland of Airgloony, Tuam - Planning Ref. No. 96/2845, and having considered the report dated 2nd September, 1997 on the matter, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(3) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1963, as amended by Section 39(d) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991, hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application.

Councillor Hussey seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

AR SON: -----

IN AGHAIDH:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, Deputy P. McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn & E. Varley. (19)

GAN VOTAIL: Cllr. M. Ryan. (1)

The Chairman declared the Motion lost.

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

4475

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

The Dunne Family, Ballyfruit, Headford, Co. Galway.  
Mrs. Hughes & Family, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

*Michael Innaty*  
Chairman

20 Oct 19  
Date

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS,  
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1997**

**Cathaoirleach:-**

Councillor M. Finnerty

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

**Oifighigh:-**

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson,  
Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co.  
Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, P. Carroll,  
A/A.O. & B. McDermott, S.S.O.

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

**4459**

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the following:-

The Devane Family on their recent tragedy.  
Diana, Princess of Wales.  
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**4460**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf congratulated President Mary Robinson on her appointment as Human Rights Commissioner with the

United Nations and expressed both his and the Members appreciation for her good work and achievement as President of Ireland for the last seven years.

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF TUAM APPLICANT: WOODLAND PLANNING REFERENCE NO. 96/2845** 4461

The Members agreed to defer consideration of this item to the Special Meeting of the Council on 19th September, 1997.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED REMUNERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARTNERSHIP 2000** 4462

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, the Council approved the implementation of revised remuneration in accordance with Partnership 2000 for Inclusion Employment and Competitiveness.

**CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OF CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF UACHTARAN NA hEIREANN** 4463

On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor J. Brennan, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Dana Rosemary Scallon, to address the Council. Councillor Brennan commended the Members in permitting Ms. Scallon to address the Council and stated that he hoped that the same opportunity would be afforded to Ms. Scallon in other County Councils throughout the Country.

Deputy McCormack stated that all candidates for the presidency should be afforded the opportunity to address the Council.

The Chairman confirmed that he had afforded the same opportunity to another possible candidate, Mr. Derek Nally, President of Victims Support, but that Mr. Nally had to decline the invitation due to a prior commitment, but his nomination may be considered at a future meeting.

The Acting County Secretary informed the Members that nominations for the Presidential Election could only be considered by the Council after the making of Presidential Election Order by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Council agreed to consider a resolution for the nomination of a candidate to the Office of

Uachtaran na hEireann at a Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 19th September, 1997.

Ms. Scallon then addressed the Council seeking its consideration of her nomination as candidate in the Presidential Election. She thanked the members for the opportunity to address them.

Following her address to the Council, the Members agreed to adjourn for fifteen minutes.

### **FIXING OF DATE FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF 4464 TUAM REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME**

On the proposal of Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Quinn the Council agreed to have its meeting in Tuam on the date of the official opening of Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme and to extend an invitation to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Noel Dempsey, T.D. to perform the official opening ceremony and to attend the Council Meeting on the date.

The County Manager confirmed that it is intended to invite the Minister to perform the official opening and to the meeting. He recommended to the Members that the official opening of the Williamstown Sewerage Scheme be considered for the same date if possible.

### **CAPPATAGGLE GROUP WATER SCHEME 4465**

A Report dated 8th September, 1997 on the Capptaggle Group Water Supply Scheme was circulated to each Member.

Deputy Connaughton proposed that this Scheme be placed number one on the priority list for the 1998 Programme. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Callanan. Councillor W. Burke requested a progress report on the 37 schemes approved by the Department of the Environment.

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that the Council are currently processing the 37 approved schemes, and confirmed that there will be sufficient funding to meet the demands of schemes for the current year. However, he said that the balance of the 37 schemes will have to be funded in 1998 as the current allocation from the Department does not cover the full amount of commitments in respect of these schemes.

Councillor O'Sullivan queried whether all relevant documents on Cappataggle Group Water Scheme were with the Department.

The Assistant County Manager confirmed that the Council will now be responsible for administering all Group Schemes.

Deputy McCormack asked what effect the Cappataggle Group Water Scheme would have on the major Spiddal Rossaveal Scheme. The Assistant County Manager stated that as that Scheme would be entirely funded by the Department of the Environment, it would not effect the Cappataggle Group Water Supply Scheme. He confirmed that negotiations were taking place regarding charges for the supply of water from the Council main to Knock/Inverin Group Water Scheme.

**SECOND REPORT OF THE DEVOLUTION COMMISSION**

**4466**

The Members agreed to defer consideration of this item to a further Meeting.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain suggested that it might be worthwhile to have this item on the agenda of the Meeting at which the Minister for the Environment would be attending. He also recommended that Mr. Liam Kenny, Director of General Council of County Councils be invited to address the Council on that day.

**NOMINATION FOR PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS 4467**

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Deputy McCormack, the Council approved the nomination of Dr. Fred Given and Ms. Michelle Smith-De Bruin for the People of the Year Awards.

**E.U. PACTE PROGRAMME**

**4468**

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

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

**4469**

**Telephone System**

Councillor Regan expressed dissatisfaction with the present telephone system in the Temporary Offices stating that the delay in getting through was too long.

Deputy Connaughton queried whether Staff could be assigned to deal with telephone queries from Councillors.

Councillor Loughnane queried whether the last three digits of the main Council number could be replaced by extension numbers thereby permitting direct access to individuals.

Mr. T. Kavanagh, Acting Assistant County Manager said that the new telephone system was the most up-to-date system available but that he would discuss improvements to the system with Telecom Eireann.

The County Manager stated that an early meeting would be arranged with Telecom Eireann to resolve the situation. He also confirmed that a list of extension numbers would be supplied to the Members.

#### Venue for County Meetings.

Councillor Regan stated that the present facility provided for Council Meetings at Merlin Park Headquarters was inadequate to accommodate the numbers attending such meetings and that Meetings should be held at the Council's temporary offices.

Following a discussion, Members agreed to refer the matter to the Protocol Committee for consideration.

#### Steam Roller

Councillor Walsh asked what was the intention regarding the steam roller at the former Council offices at Prospect Hill, and stated that it should be retained by the Council and restored.

The County Manager confirmed that the steam roller should be retained and restored. However, restoration could be expensive and he confirmed that the question of a possible joint venture was being investigated.

#### Spiddal Pier

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the road to the New Pier at Spiddal was totally blocked by caravans owned by the members of the Travelling Community. He further stated that as they were parking on the road they were a danger to the public and prevented access to a public amenity. He requested that immediate action be taken to remove the caravans from the road.

The County Engineer confirmed that the Council were investigating the situation and will take appropriate action in accordance with current legislation.

#### Portumna Sewerage Scheme

Councillor W. Burke queried the present status of the Portumna Town Sewerage Scheme. The Assistant County Manager stated that Department of the Environment approval to the contract documents for the scheme had been received, and at present tender documents are being prepared by the Consultants which will be submitted to the Department of the Environment.

**Consultation on Planning Application.**

Councillor J. Burke referred to delays experienced by Developers in obtaining meetings with Planning Officers and he felt that the present situation was unsatisfactory.

The County Manager agreed to investigate the matter but pointed out that the facility existed for a Developer to seek a consultation with a Planning Officer prior to submitting an application.

**Traveller Accomodation**

Councillor Byrne congratulated the Assistant County Manager and Acting County Secretary and Council Staff on their efficient and rapid response to recent criticism of the housing of a Traveller Family within city environs.

The County Manager complimented the Staff for dealing with a difficult situation in an efficient manner.

**N59 Road Fatality**

Councillors Gavin and O'Neachtain said that the Council should make a strong case to the N.R.A. seeking funding for the removal of dangerous bends on the N59 near Killeen Guesthouse which was the scene of a recent fatality.

**MANAGER'S BUSINESS**

4470

**New Council Offices**

The County Manager stated that the contract for the new Council Headquarters had been signed and the Contractor had moved in on the site.

The Chairman and Members paid tribute to all involved in the construction of the new headquarters.

**Correspondence Received**

The Acting County Secretary advised the Members of correspondence received from Deputy E. O'Cuiv, Minister of State for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, expressing his appreciation of the recent letter of congratulations on his recent appointment which he received from the Council.

The Acting County Secretary advised the Members of correspondence received from the Warrington Trust regarding the proposals to set up a Warrington Centre for Peace.

The Members noted the contents of the correspondence received.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

CONFERENCES

4471

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion , seconded by Senator McDonagh, the Council agreed that the following Members be nominated and approved to attend the above mentioned conference. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was noted. Details of the estimated costs were given to the Members in accordance with D.O.E. Circular dated 17th December, 1993:-

Conference - "Cleared for Take-Off" - Dublin - 18th September, 1997

Cllr. T. Byrne  
Cllr. M. Regan  
Cllr. P. Finnegan

Sen. J. McDonagh  
Cllr. M. Finnerty  
Cllr. K. Quinn

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

Michael Finerty  
Chairman

20 Oct 1997  
Date

The Members complimented the Chairman and fellow delegates for their role in promoting Galway on the recent Trade Delegation in Milwaukee, USA

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Councillor P. O'Sullivan extended a Vote of Sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and Family on the tragic death of her son, John, which shocked and saddened the people of Ballinasloe.

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK, GALWAY  
ON MONDAY, 25th AUGUST, 1997**

**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, Sen.  
J. McDonagh, 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.*

**Oiffigigh:**

*Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, .  
E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, R.C. Killeen,  
Deputy Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E.,  
D. Barrett, A.O., T. Connell, S.S.O., C.  
O'Hara, A/S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/S.O.*

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**4417**

*The Members complimented the Chairman and fellow delegates for their role in promoting Galway on the recent Trade Delegation in Milwaukee, USA*

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

**4418**

*Councillor P. O'Sullivan extended a Vote of Sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and Family on the tragic death of her son, John, which shocked and saddened the people of Ballinasloe.*

*The Chairman, on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf wished to be associated with the sentiments expressed.*

*The Manager, on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf also wished to be associated with same.*

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

*Mrs. Mary Casey, Clifden, Co. Galway.*

*Mrs. Phylis Fallon, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.*

*Families of Karl & Catherine Doyle, Caraun, Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon*

## **MINUTES**

**4419**

*The Minutes of the Special Meeting held In Committee on the 4th July, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain.*

*On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 4th July, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.*

*The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th July, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Mannion.*

*The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 28th July, 1997 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Brennan.*

*The Report of the National Monuments Advisory Committee Meeting held on 8th July, 1997 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Hussey.*

## **CO-OPTION OF A PERSON TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**4420**

*Mr. Joseph Conneely of Mannin, Ballyconneely was proposed by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta and seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain to fill the Casual Vacancy in the membership of Galway County Council arising from the cessation of the membership of Deputy Eamonn O'Cuiv, Junior Minister at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.*

*The Members welcomed the approach taken in relation to this housing scheme.*

Councillor Ryan proposed Senator Pól O Foighil, of Spiddal, Co. Galway. Deputy Connaughton seconded this proposal.

The Chairman said that as there are two people nominated and both have declared their consent to be nominated in accordance with the Local Election Regulations, 1965, a vote should be taken, and it resulted as follows:-

**For Pól O Foighil:-**

Cllrs. J. Brennan, T. Byrne, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, P. O'Tuathail, M. Ryan & T. Walsh. (12)

**For Joseph Conneely:-**

Cllr. J. Burke, J. Callanan, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, M. Regan & E. Varley. (15)

The Chairman declared that Joseph Conneely be co-opted to Galway County Council and asked him to join the Meeting.

The Chairman, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Members welcomed Councillor Conneely onto the Council.

The Manager, on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf, welcomed Councillor Conneely as a Member and looked forward to working with him in the future.

Councillor Conneely thanked his proposer, seconder, all who voted for him and fellow Members of the Council for their kind words and wishes.

**SITE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL GROUP HOUSING SCHEME AT CLOONLYON, BALLYGAR 4421**

Deputy Connaughton proposed that this item be deferred until the consultative process has been completed. Councillor Walsh seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same. Councillor J. Burke stated that an excellent meeting was held between the Tuam Councillors and the residents of the area. He said that it is imperative that submissions from all sections of the community are heard and that this scheme at Ballygar be viewed as a pilot scheme on which to base other group housing projects.

The Manager informed the Members that a meeting will be held shortly as part of the consultative process.

The Members welcomed the approach taken in relation to this housing scheme.

**SALE OF HOUSE AT CLOONMORE, TUAM**

4422

*In accordance with the Notice under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, dated 11th August, 1997, which was circulated to each Member, the Council agreed the sale of house on 0.297 hectares at Cloonmore, Tuam, Co. Galway, to John and Teresa Tierney on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor J. Burke.*

**NOMINATION BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
MRS. ROSEMARY SCALLON, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
DANA, AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF  
UACHTARAN NA hEIREANN**

4423

*The Acting County Secretary informed the Members no resolution could be passed regarding Dana's nomination until the Minister of the Environment had signed the relevant order specify the dates for receipt of nominations and fixing polling day. He said that President Mary Robinson had not formally resigned and the election process would not commence until the Presidential Election Order has been signed by the Minister.*

*Councillor Brennan said that non-political candidates were being discriminated against and that he found the whole situation very disturbing and alarming. He said that in order for Dana to be nominated as a candidate for the office of President, Dana needs the support of either four County Councils or any twenty Oireachtas Members.*

*Councillor McClearn stated that the same rules should apply to all candidates irrespective of political party, and if they discriminates against individuals then the law apparently needs to be changed.*

*Councillor Gavin noted that following various interviews with Dana on radio, Journalists throughout the Country are now taking her candidacy seriously. He said that the process favours the political parties. Councillor Gavin said that the general public should have an opportunity to vote for Dana and her name should appear on the ballot paper.*

*Councillor Hussey said that Dana was no more disadvantaged than any other candidate. He said that the political parties had not selected their candidates as yet, and once selected, the candidate had to go through the same process as Dana.*

*Councillor J. Burke stated that it was not the job of the County Council to tell people how to vote, but people should be given the opportunity to vote for her. Councillor J. Burke queried whether the Council could indicate its willingness to nominate Dana as a candidate at this stage and validate the Resolution once the orders are signed by the Minister for the Environment. He indicated that should Councillor Brennan propose same, he would second this proposal.*

Councillor O'Neill queried the number of candidates the County Council could nominate.

In reply the Acting County Secretary stated that three clear days notice must be given of a proposed resolution to nominate a person for the office of president. He indicated that only one person could be named on the resolution and that no resolution could be passed until the Minister had made the Presidential Election Order.

The Chairman said that once the order is signed by the Minister for the Environment that a Special Meeting could be convened to consider the Council's nomination. The Council agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next Special Meeting to be held on 12th September, 1997.

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Brennan, the Council agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister for the Environment requesting him to sign the relevant orders at an early date.

**NOMINATION FOR GALWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY/ERNST & YOUNG 1997 BUSINESS AWARD** 4424

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain proposed the Maysteel Company, of Kylerua, Inverin, County Galway. He said that this company is currently located in Inverin and has developed over the years and is now a very important employer in the area. Following his recent visit to company headquarters in Milwaukee, he stated that future proposals will include improvements to the company in Inverin with a view to increasing the workforce there. The Chairman also wished to be associated with this proposal. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta seconded this proposal, and the Members agreed to same.

**ADVERTISING SIGNS/HOARDINGS** 4425

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Mullins, the Members agreed to defer this item to Special Meeting of 12th September, 1997.

Deputy Connaughton queried whether planning permission is required for the erection of signs notifying people of local festivals in their areas and the use of land for such festivals.

Mr. L. Kavanagh, Senior Planning Officer said that there are exemptions under the planning regulations which relate to signs and festivals. However, the Organisers of such festivals should contact the local Area Engineer's and confer in advance

regarding size of signs and safe locations of same, and their removal after festival/carnival.

Councillor Gavin stated that some signs are erected in very prominent positions and they often constituted a traffic hazard, interfering with sight distance of on-coming traffic. He stressed that such signs are very dangerous and no Area Engineer would have granted permission for same.

The County Manager stated that all festival organisers must consult with the relevant Area Engineers prior to the erection of signs for their festival.

### **CONTROL OF HORSES ACT, 1996** 4426

A Report dated 19th August, 1997 regarding the Control of Horses Act was circulated to each Member.

The Members welcomed the introduction of this legislation. Councillor Loughnane highlighted the need to control horses particularly in Housing Estates and outlined problems in the Athenry and Loughrea areas. Councillor Loughnane also proposed that the Council consider the need to adopt Bye-Laws along the lines of those in Dublin, in relation to the Council housing development. He reiterated that people must be made responsible for the control of animals.

Councillor O'Sullivan proposed that a sub-committee be formed to consider the preparation of Bye-Laws and prepare a report for consideration by the Council. Councillor Callanan seconded this proposal.

Deputy Connaughton stated that this is a very serious problem. At present there are a few areas highlighted, but it was imperative that the necessary facilities, i.e. Pounds, Finance, Personnel, etc. also be in place in order to put this Act into operation immediately.

The Acting County Secretary informed the Members that there are three types of Bye-Laws:-

1. Bye laws designating control areas within which horses had to be licenced.
2. The Bye laws dealing with welfare of the horses..
3. Bye-laws - prohibiting the keeping of horses in certain areas.

He stated that in preparing Bye-Laws, the need to prevent nuisance, to persons or property must be considered.

The Chairman proposed that the Casual Trading Committee be re-constituted with a view to address Control of Horses Bye-Laws. Councillor J. Burke seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.

*The County Manager stated that Council Officials will research the problem and a date will be arranged for the Committee to discuss its findings.*

*On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Members agreed that Councillor Loughnane be nominated to this Committee.*

*Councillor Gavin stated that he wished to withdraw from this Committee. On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Cunningham it was agreed that Cllr. McClearn be nominated in his place.*

### **TO NOTE WASTE MANAGEMENT (FARM PLASTICS) 4427 REGULATIONS 1997**

*The Acting County Secretary stated that the Waste Management (Farm Plastics) Regulations 1997, apply to importers and manufacturers of farm plastics, who supply to the Irish Market. The Regulations impose certain obligations on importers and manufacturers in relation to the collection and recovery of waste arising from farm plastics.*

*The Members noted and welcomed same.*

*Councillor Callanan complimented Farmers on the amount of clean-up work done over the last few years. This was seconded by Councillor Quinn.*

*The Manager also wished to be associated with compliments made to farmers in respect of their work in relation to the Environment.*

### **MANAGER'S BUSINESS 4428**

*The County Manager informed the Members that approval to the Preliminary Reports for Tuam Town Distribution Network and Rural Distribution Network schemes had been received from the Department of the Environment.. At present the Contract Documents are being prepared and will be forwarded to the Department for approval.*

*The Members noted and welcomed this announcement.*

#### **Private Bus Facilities**

*The Acting County Secretary read to the Members the reply from the Assistant Town Clerk, Galway Corporation in relation to Private Bus Facilities.*

*The Members noted same.*

**Cardiac Facilities**

The Acting County Secretary stated that the Department of Health acknowledged the Council's correspondence in relation to Cardiac facilities in the West of Ireland. A copy of the letter was circulated to each Member for their information.

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

4429

**September Monthly Meeting**

The Chairman proposed that the September Meeting of Galway County Council be held on the 29th September, instead of the 22nd. Councillor Mannion seconded this proposal and the Members agreed to same.

**Contract for Construction of Council Headquarters**

The Chairman informed the Members that the Contract for the construction of the new Council Headquarters at Prospect Hill, Galway will be signed on Thursday, 4th September, 1997 at 4.30 p.m., in the Mayoral Parlour, City Hall, College Road, Galway.

Councillor Ryan stated that a tree was planted by the Late President E. Childers in Prospect Hill in the early 1970's and requested that this tree would not be damaged. The County Manager replied stating that arrangements have been made to move the tree once the growing season is over. He also said that a suitable plaque/memorial will be erected at the Children's Burial Ground.

**Glenamaddy Water Supply Scheme**

Councillor Walsh highlighted some of the problems with the Glenamaddy Water Supply Scheme, in particular in the Ballyhard area. He proposed that the County Council investigate the problem, prepare a report outlining the needs and costs of remedying same. Councillor Finnegan seconded this proposal.

**75th Anniversary of Garda Siochana**

Councillor Gavin read a Resolution from Clare County Council regarding the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the Garda Siochana. On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Members agreed that Galway County Council would afford due recognition and appreciation to Representatives of the Garda Siochana in the County to mark the 75th Anniversary of establishment of the Force.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**N.O.M. NO. 12 - TAKING IN CHARGE OF ROAD -**

4430

**SEN. J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The estimated cost of bringing this road up to the required standard is approximately £2,000."

**N.O.M. NO. 13 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 4431**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"It is hoped to renew the white lines at these locations in the near future."

**N.O.M. NO. 14 - COSAN COISITHE - TEACHTA E. O'CUIV 4432**

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

"Nil airgead curtha ar fáil chun an obair seo a dheanamh i mbliana."

**N.O.M. NO. 15 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4433**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"There are no funds provided in this year's programme for repairs to existing footpaths. While the provision of new footpaths at the location mentioned is desirable, there are no funds at the Council's disposal to carry out the work."

**N.O.M. NO. 16 - SPEED LIMIT - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4434**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"A revision of speed limits in Athenry is not considered warranted."

**N.O.M. NO. 17 - ROUNDABOUT - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 4435**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This location will be examined by the Council's Road Design Team to establish what if any improvements can be made."

**N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4436**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This road is included in the 1997 Roadworks Programme and it is expected that work will be carried out during next month."

**N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4437**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The road at this location is in reasonably good condition. Surface dressing or repairs are not considered necessary at present."

**N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. FAHY 4438**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This road is in reasonably good state of repair. A winter lake rises to the south east of Mr. Keanes house which causes the lodging of water. The cost of raising the road would be prohibitive and in any event there is access to dwellings on both sides of the winter lake."

**N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4439**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"The appropriate road signs will be erected."

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - SIGHT DISTANCE - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4440**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"There are no funds available for realignment of the road at this location."

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 4441**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"It is proposed to shape this road as part of the 1998 Roads Programme."

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - SIGNS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4442**

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

*"The signs will be erected as soon as possible."*

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - SIGNS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4443**

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

*"It is hoped to erect the signage shortly."*

**N.O.M. NO. 26 - SIGNS - CLLR. S. GAVIN 4444**

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

*"Appropriate signs will be put in place."*

**N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4445**

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

*"This work is now completed."*

**N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. M. LOUGHANE 4446**

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

*"This road is in fairly good condition. It is not included on the 1997 Roadworks Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as necessary."*

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - FLOODING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 4447**

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

*"Drainage will be improved at this location".*

**N.O.M. NO. 30 - BALLYMORE CEMETERY - CLLR J. MCCLEARN 4448**

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

*"The sign will be erected later this year."*

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGN - CLLR J. MCCLEARN**

**4449**

The following written reply was given to Councillor McClearn:-

"This sign will be erected as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - FLOODING - CLLR. J. MCCLEARN**

**4450**

The following written reply was given to Councillor McClearn:-

"Flooding does not occur to the extent of rendering the road impassable but occasional localised lodging of water may occur. Routine maintenance will be carried out as far as resources permit."

**N.O.M. NO. 33 - WARNING SIGNS - SEN. J.**

**4451**

**MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Signage will be improved at this location as soon as possible."

**N.O.M. NO. 34 - TEORAINN LUAIS 30 M.P.H. - AN**

**4452**

**COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA**

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

"Nil gá le 30 m.p.h. ag an láthair seo."

**N.O.M. NO. 35 - COSAN BÓTHAR - AN COMH. C.**

**4453**

**NI FHATHARTA**

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

"Nil airgead ar fáil chun cosáin a dheanamh ar an mbóthair R336 ach amháin na cosáin ata á dheanamh faoin scéim Community Involvement in Roadwork, in aice leis an estát tionscail ag Tully, Inverin."

The following written reply was given to Councillor Yalley:-

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - REILIG CLADHNACH - AN COMH. 4454**

**C. NI FHATHARTA**

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

"Ta deontas £200 ceadaithe ag an Chomhairle Chontae do Choiste Phobail an Cheathru Rua chun slacht a chur ar an reilig.

Ta se bearthaithe freisin go gcuirfear caoi ar na ballai faoi sceim le FAS."

**N.O.M. NO. 37 - KILRONAN PIER - AN COMH. 4455**  
**S. O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"A feasibility study is currently being carried out on Kilronan Pier and Harbour under the Islands Development Programme, funded by the Interdepartmental Committee for Islands Development. A draft report on the findings of the study is currently being examined with the final report anticipated by the end of September. In addition Bye Laws for Kilronan Pier and Harbour are being prepared with a view to regulating activities on the

**N.O.M. NO. 38 - SIGNS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4456**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"There are no funds available for this work. If the local community are prepared to pay the cost of the sign it will be erected by the Council. Alternatively it could be funded from Notice of Motion funds if made available."

**N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. E. 4457**  
**VARLEY**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"It is hoped to resurface the road at the bend in the vicinity of Mrs. McGuirke's house in 1998. In the meantime it is proposed to carry out some minor improvements. The bushes and banks are such that their removal would not contribute significantly to improving the situation."

**N.O.M. NO. 40 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 4458**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"This road will be considered for inclusion in the community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme. The local residents may apply when the Scheme is advertised later this year. Councillors will be notified when the advertisement is being placed."

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed

*Michael Bennett*

29/9/97  
DATE

Chairman

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT MERLIN PARK,  
GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1997**

**Cathaoirleach:-**

Councillor M. Finnerty

Cllrs. J. Brennan, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy  
P. Connaughton, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P.  
Finnegan, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, J. Mannion, M.  
Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan,  
K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T.  
Walsh.

**Oifigigh:-**

Messrs. T. Kavanagh, Deputy Co. Manager, E.  
Lusby, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co.  
Secretary, P. Martyn, A/Deputy Co. Engineer,  
L. Kavanagh, S.E.P., D. Barrett, A.O., T. Connell  
& C. Wallace, S.S.O.'s & C. O'Hara, A/S.S.O.

**Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.**

**VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**4408**

The Council passed a Vote of Congratulations to Senator Jarlath McDonagh on his success in being returned to the Seanad.

The Council passed a Vote of Congratulations to Councillor Michael Mullins and his Wife Mary, on their recent marriage.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER L.G. (PLANNING & 4409  
DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - DEVELOPMENT  
AT CLOONLYON, BALLYGAR**

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed by the Members that this item be deferred.

## **REPORT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**4410**

A Report on planning applications dated 5th August, 1997 had been circulated to the Members. The Deputy County Manager said that planning is a complex and detailed procedure which involves consultation with Technical Staff and other Bodies on the various aspects of the development proposal. He said that the number of planning applications received by Galway County Council had increased from 2,374 (1994), 2,533 (1995) to 3,074 in 1996, with the estimated number of applications for 1997 in excess of 3,500. He said that of major importance was the fact that a substantial number of applications submitted were incomplete. He advised the Members that Galway County Council had introduced measures to counteract this which included: a series of seminars with the Consultants, establishment of planning advice centres in Clifden, Ballynahown, Ballinasloe and Head Office; the publication of a booklet on "A Guide to Making a Planning Application" which is available free of charge. He said that there had been a reduction in the number of further information requests with 70% of the applications received in the first quarter of 1997 being dealt with in the two month period. He said that a refusal rate of 10-11% was good having regard to the size and diversity of the county. He advised that Galway County Council had done a lot to improve the planning process in County Galway. He advised that the Council was currently preparing design guidelines to promote good design throughout the County.

The Chairman said that he had visited the new Offices in Liosban and complimented the Management and Staff on the successful way the move was carried out.

Councillor Gavin said that the number of planning applications received reflects the level of economic activity and development growth in the county. He said that as Consultants are currently responsible for submitting planning applications, it is important that they are fully briefed on the Council's planning policy and in the planning procedure. He expressed concern about the number of Further Information requests being issued by the Council. He also expressed concern about the number of planning refusals in the Moycullen area which he estimated to be 50% of applications for the area. He acknowledged that the existing sewerage scheme is not capable of handling additional connections but he was extremely concerned about this having a negative effect on the area. He stressed the need to improve the sewerage scheme which would have the effect of increasing the number of people residing in the area and ensure its development.

Councillor Brennan expressed concern that the staffing levels have not been increased to deal with the increased volume of work and proposed that the Department of the Environment be requested to allow Galway County Council to increase its staffing numbers to deal with the increased volume of work. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mannion.

The Deputy County Manager in advising the Members that Galway County Council must remain within its Staff complement, indicated that additional technical and administrative staff had been assigned by the Planning Department.

Councillor Mannion requested a break-down of the 10-11% refusal of planning applications into East and West of the Corrib.

The Deputy County Manager said that this information would be made available to the Members.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain acknowledged the work being carried out by the Planning Office and said that an increase in the volume of work should be reflected by an increase in staffing levels. He also sought details of how the planning areas were defined and whether planning applications could be scrutinised upon receipt to determine whether further information was required.

Deputy Connaughton said that the increased numbers of planning applications reflected the economic activity of the county and will naturally produce its own problems. He said that the public should be aware of the fact that Galway County Council grant 90% of planning applications received and that potential applicants should discuss their plans with the relevant planning officer prior to submitting same. He also said that both the public and consultancy agencies should be encouraged to avail of the planning clinics and that additional advertising of these clinics should be carried out. He said that because the planning office had a high profile and considerable interaction with the public it was important that adequate staff was provided to ensure an acceptable level of customer service.

He also asked whether there was any contact between Council staff and the consultants prior to planning applications being lodged and asked if an annual conference would be organised to increase the Councils profile and requirements.

Cllr. J. Callanan said that the planning clinics were definitely an advantage and complimented the staff in the planning office on the work they were doing. He asked for details of the development charges placed on applicants in the various towns/villages in the county and details as to how they were calculated.

He also asked that development charges for small business in rural areas be reviewed and reduced to encourage small and medium enterprises to establish there.

He queried the implementation of new legislation with regard to water supply in conjunction with the planning process and asked whether it was a uniform condition that a water supply must exist before making a planning application and if not could it be amended.

Cllr. M. Cunningham concurred with the previous speakers with regard to staffing levels and the work being carried out and asked for clarification on the need to bore a well prior to receiving planning permission as this process can be expensive.

Cllr. M. O'Neill also concurred with the previous speakers but said that it was often difficult to obtain an appointment with a planner. He asked whether it was possible for applicants to meet the planner on site.

Cllr. T. Byrne said that he agreed that 70% of applications dealt with in two monthly time limit was good but that the Council should aim to increase this to 80% in the course of the next 6 months. To assist this he said that additional staff should be allocated to the planning department, the planning advice centres must be promoted and increased interaction between the applicant and the planners must be encouraged.

Deputy Connaughton said that where a water supply scheme was being developed that planning permission should be given in advance of water supply becoming available.

Councillor Fahy concurred with the other speakers and said that some of the planning conditions imposed were unjust, in particular where the sale of a house is restricted to other family members only. He considered the Enurement Clause to be unconstitutional and referred to Case Law.

Councillor Gavin referred to the Enurement Clause and requested that a time limit be put on same for example, 5 to 7 years.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne seconded by Cllr. S. Gavin, the Members agreed that the issue of advertising hoardings in the towns and villages in County Galway would be placed on the agenda for the next Planning Meeting.

Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.P. advised that it was not always feasible to meet applicants on site but would encourage meetings on site with the applicants where a problem may exist. He said that up to 400 meetings had been held with members of the public and Planning Officers since 1st January, 1997. He confirmed that meetings and seminars with Consultants have reduced requests for Further Information and he advised that further efforts would be made to reduce the number of Further Information requests. He said that the conferences/seminars held for Consultants have been successful and are attended by a majority of Consultants who deal with Local Authorities. He said that the requirement to have a water supply upon applying for planning permission is a requirement under the Building Regulations and there is always a risk of the water from the bore hole being unsuitable. The request for water quality samples will only occur where the outstanding constraint against the grant of planning permission is the provision of a potable water supply.

The Deputy County Manager advised that every effort is being made to encourage consultants to furnish all documentation when the application is lodged but that in some instances the need for further information may only arise when the application is being processed. He said that the Councils refusal rates of 10-11% is quite low and that 75% of refusals are upheld by an Bord Pleanala.

He said that an additional seminar is being organised for consultants with regard to the Council's new Development Plan.

Having noted the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Hussey and agreed that the following Members be nominated to attend the Conferences set out below:-

**TO NOTE WASTE MANAGEMENT (LICENSING) REGULATIONS 1997 (S.I. NO. 133 OF 1997) 4411**

A Report on these Regulations had been circulated to the Members. The Acting County Secretary outlined the provisions of the Regulations. The Regulations relate to the operation of a system of Licensing by the E.P.A. of waste disposal activities and they apply to both private sector and Local Authority facilities. These Regulations were noted by the Members.

**TO NOTE WASTE MANAGEMENT (PLANNING) REGULATIONS 1997 4412**

A Report on these Regulations had been circulated to the Members. The Acting County Secretary outlined the provisions of the Regulations. The Regulations set out matters to be addressed in a Waste Management Plan made under Section 22 of the Waste Management Act, 1996. The Regulations were noted by the Members.

**TO NOTE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) REGULATIONS, 1997 4413**

A Report on these Regulations had been circulated to the Members. The Acting County Secretary outlined the main provisions. These Regulations update the current Traffic Regulations, including Bye-Laws. Road Authorities may make Bye-Laws governing the type of paid parking system they wish to employ and to control the charges and contributions which will apply to such parking. The Regulations were noted by the Members.

**TO NOTE AUDITORS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE RIVER FERGUS JOINT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/1996 4414**

The Auditors Report on the Accounts of the River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee for the year ended 31/12/1996 was considered by the Members. On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Report was noted by the Members.

**CONFERENCES 4415**

Having noted the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Hussey and agreed that that the following Members be nominated to attend the Conferences setout below:-

**LAMA Conference - Bray, Co. Wicklow - 10/12 October 1997**

Cllr. M. Ryan  
Cllr. K. Quinn  
Cllr. P. Finnegan  
Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

Cllr. M. Fahy  
Cllr. T. Hussey  
Cllr. M. Cunningham

**Seiminear - An Ghaeilge agus An Pobal - Dungarvan, Co. Waterford - 3/5 October, 1997**

Cllr. M. Ryan  
Cllr. P. Finnegan  
Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta  
Cllr. M. Mullins

**Spirit of Galway Festival - U.S.A. -13/20 August, 1997**

Cllr. S. O'Neachtain

**MANAGER'S BUSINESS**

**4416**

**Specific Grants for Improvement Works on Non-National Roads**

The Acting County Secretary advised the members that the Department of the Environment had increased the 1997 allocation of specific grants for improvement works on non-national roads under the EU Co-financed scheme of grants in the sum of £350,000 in respect of the following schemes.

Scheme	Grant Allocation	Length of Road
1. R341- Clifden-Ballyconneely	£150,000	3,000 metres
2. R336- Maam-Leenaun	£100,000	2,000 metres
3. R344- Inagh Valley	£100,000	2,000 metres

The Acting County Secretary also advised the members that these allocations were conditional on the Council confirming immediately that these amounts would be fully expended by 30.11.1997 on the length of road specified.

Cllr. J. Mannion welcomed the increased allocation. Cllr. S. O'Neachtain also welcomed the additional funding and said that the R336 - Galway to Spiddal was also in need of urgent attention. He said that lengthy delays on the road is reducing the number of tourists visiting or indeed revisiting the area. He requested that any further additional funding for non-national roads must include this road. He also sought clarification as to how the costings for the specified lengths of road were carried out.

Cllr. S. Gavin proposed that while the Council were working on the main roads on Inishmore, could the workers remain on the Island to carry out additional works. This was seconded by Cllr. S. O'Neachtain..

**National Secondary Maintenance Grant**

The Acting County Secretary advised the members that Galway County Council had been advised by the National Roads Authority of additional funding for National Secondary roads maintenance works. He said that these additional resources was to fund a programme of pavement rehabilitation works on the National Secondary Routes detailed below:

	<b>Route</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
1.	N59	£200,000
2.	N84	£100,000
3.	N63	£100,000

Cllr. J. Mannion requested clarification as to where on the N59 were the works to be carried out. Cllr. T. Hussey asked who decides where the works are to be carried out.

Cllr. K. Quinn welcomed any additional increase in funding especially any allocation for the N63 and requested that some or indeed all of the funding would be spent in the Mountbellew Engineering Area and in particular in the Moylough, Ballygar and Abbeyknockmoy areas.

Cllr. M. Ryan proposed that the allocation of £100,000 for the N63 be spent in the Moylough and Abbeyknockmoy areas as these areas had to date received no funding and the roads were in a bad condition.

The Chairman, advised the members that expenditure on these roads had been agreed previously and asked that the term "pavement rehabilitation" be clarified.

P. Martyn A/County Engineer advised the members that "pavement rehabilitation" involved the strengthening works on roads. He also stated that the N.R.A. had not indicated the specific locations for the pavement works.

**Supplementary Restoration Grant for Local Tertiary Roads**

The Deputy County Manager informed the Members that the Council had been allocated a Supplementary Restoration Grant for local Tertiary Roads by the Department of the Environment amounting to £352,000. He advised that the additional road restoration grant had to be spent by 31.10.1997, and involved surface dressing works. The Council's proposed works had to be submitted to the Department of the Environment by August 22nd 1997.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. J. Callanan it was agreed that this additional funding would be allocated to each engineering area on a pro-rata basis of Class III Local Roads.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted Approved + Signed

*Michael Finnerty*

Chairman

29/9/97

DATE