

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY  
ON MONDAY, 26th APRIL, 1999**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

*An Comhairleoir J. Brennan*

**LLATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

*Cllrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, J. Callanan,  
Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M.  
Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T.  
Hussey, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P.  
McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P.  
McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn,  
M. Regan & T. Walsh.*

**Oifigigh:**

*Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy County Manager, J.  
Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/  
Asst. Co. Manager, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer,  
E. Lusby, Finance Officer, E. Power, A/  
Co. Secretary & P. Carroll, S.S.O.*

**VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

**5474**

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

*Councillor Loughnane on the death of his Sister, Mrs. Mary Kilkenny  
Mr. John Kilkenny, Kinreask, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co Galway  
Mrs. Teresa Fahy, Aran, Ballindereen, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway  
Mrs. Sheila Stanley, Market Street, Clifden, Co. Galway  
Michael & Teresa Coughlan, Fairfield, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe.*

**MINUTES**

**5475**

*The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 12th March 1999 were approved by the  
Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Deputy Connaughton,  
seconded by Councillor Regan.*

## **Monthly Meeting - 26/04/1999**

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*The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22nd March, 1999 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Callanan.*

*The Report of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 12th March, 1999 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Finnerty.*

*The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 16th March, 1999 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Callanan.*

*The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 22nd March, 1999 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor McHugh, seconded by Senator McDonagh.*

### **CONNACHT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STUDY 5476**

*Mr. P.J. Rudden, M.C.O'Sullivan & Co. Ltd. gave a presentation to the Members on the Connacht Waste Management Strategy Study, which had been commissioned by County Councils of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon, and which when completed would provide the basis for informed decision making by each Authority as to the most appropriate option to achieve optimum waste management over the next 20-25 years. The Study would also form the basis for the preparation of Waste Management Plans by the local authorities concerned.*

*He stated that there was a serious waste crisis which had up to recently been due to the lack of support nationally and legislation. He noted that Galway is planning itself out of this crisis and that measures taken would help to alleviate the short-term problem. He identified three strategies namely: short-term strategy 1999-2000; medium term strategy 2000-2005 and long-term strategy 2005-2014. He stated that the overall objective of the study is to advise on future waste management policy in accordance with up-to-date Irish and E.U. legislation. The Study had been conducted according to the following phases:-*

*Phase 1 - Inception Stage involving a baseline study and public consultation*

*Phase 2 - Consideration of strategy options*

*Phase 3 - Development of optimum strategy for the region*

*Thirty six submissions had been received with a strong emphasis on the need for education, improved recycling facilities and proper siting and management of landfills.*

*He stated that the new National Waste Policy sought the following:-*

- reduce dependence on landfills*
- follow regional approval*

Monthly Meeting - 26/04/1999

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- involve private sector more
- implement "Polluter Pays Principle"
- start future planning now

The long-term waste targets are 50% diversion of household waste from landfill; 65% reduction in biodegradable waste from landfill, 35% recycling of municipal waste.

A number of scenarios were developed to assess and determine the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for Connacht's Waste:-

- Scenario 1: Achieve maximum realistic recycling
- Scenario 2: Achieve National and EU targets by recycling thermal treatment
- Scenario 3: Achieve maximum landfill diversion through fastest possible implementation of recycling and thermal treatment

Scenario 3 is recommended as the most favourable environmental option.

He stated that if Galway is to move away from landfill it needs a thermal treatment plant as there would be 3 times more landfill without thermal treatment. He advised that there is not enough waste generated in Galway to justify a thermal treatment plant and that it would be necessary to divert Connacht waste to this plant to justify it. He stated that using thermal treatment would reduce landfill back to 17%.

The study made a number of recommendations on waste minimisation and recycling including employment of a Environmental Education Officer in each local authority and public education on waste reduction, employment of one Regional Industrial Waste Management Officer, kerbside collection etc.

Six new recycling stations have been recommended for Galway together with a Green Waste Recycling facility in each county. Material Recovery Facilities would be needed, one in Galway and also in Sligo.

Referring to thermal treatment he stated that the strategy recommended that one regional facility be provided in Galway City or environs to handle all of Connacht Waste and that there was a slight possibility of a second facility at Sligo.

Deputy Connaughton queried whether the location of the thermal treatment plant site might be one of the shortlisted landfill sites. Cllr. McClearn stated that Galway was being asked to bring in all of the waste for the Connacht region for thermal treatment as part of the strategy and that this was unacceptable. Cllr. Mullins expressed concern regarding the amount of waste going to thermal treatment, that some experts had given much higher estimates and that he had understood that with thermal treatment, landfill would only have to take 10-15% of waste.

Cllr. Walsh stated that it was reasonable to defer investigation of a landfill site until investigation of a site for thermal treatment was as far advanced as the landfill sites. P.J. Rudden stated that none of the three shortlisted landfill sites had been identified as a potential thermal treatment plant site. He stated that biological treatment must

be carefully introduced over the long term but that there would be no associated environmental problems.

He stated that only 65% of waste can be handled by thermal treatment as 35% must be recycled according to government policy. He stated that he was giving the best available advice regarding thermal treatment.

Referring to the selection of a landfill site he stated that there was an open mind on which of the three sites would be selected and that the site would pick itself following the required site investigation.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Rudden for his presentation The Connacht Waste Management Strategy Study as presented by P.J. Rudden was noted by the Members.

**RAISING OF LOAN FROM HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY 5477**

This item was deferred.

**CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR ENDED 31.12.98. 5478**

This item was deferred.

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS 5479**

**Official Opening of County Hall**

Councillor Gavin paid tribute to the Chairman and Staff involved in the official opening ceremony for the new County Council Headquarters.

**Portumna Sewerage Scheme**

Councillor McClearn referred to a second submission made to the Department of the Environment and Local Government to include Woodpark in the proposed extension to the Portumna Sewerage Scheme and proposed that a letter prioritising the extension to the scheme be forwarded to the Department immediately.

Councillor W. Burke seconded the proposal stating that the second submission had been with the Department since 24th March, 1999.

Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager confirmed that a formal submission had been made to the Department and added that the Department would be approached again to reconsider its decision.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**N.O.M. NO. 8 - SEWERAGE - DEPUTY P. CONNAUGHTON 5480**

The following written reply was given to Deputy Connaughton:-

"The contract documents for a sewerage scheme for Headford have been submitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The site investigation contract has not been finalised and approval to same is awaited from the Department of the Environment and Local Government. I am to advise that the Council are at the present time preparing an assessment of needs in the case of water and sewerage infrastructure requirements and the provision of a sewerage scheme for Headford will be examined in the context of this assessment."

**N.O.M. NO. 10 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5481**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The cost of line of sight improvement would be £2,940. The high cost is mostly due to the large volume of earth banks to be removed. The price is subject to the land being given free and concrete post and wire fencing being acceptable to the landowner once the relevant Notice of Motion funding is committed our engineer will approach the landowner."

**N.O.M. NO. 11 - SIGNS - CLLR M. CUNNINGHAM 5482**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Heritage Town" signs will be erected on the approaches to the Town. The use of the original name "Gort Inse Guaire" will be taken up by the Council with An Coimisiún Logainmneacha.

**N.O.M. NO. 12 - WALL - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5483**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The Council would be concerned that any modification to the frontage of the school would increase traffic movement on this poorly aligned section of road. The situation is further aggravated by the presence of the nearby regional road junction. The

setting back of the wall is a matter for the school authorities and would be subject to Planning Permission in the usual way."

**N.O.M. NO. 13 - SPEED LIMIT SIGNS - CLLR. M. FAHY 5484**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The speed limit has already been extended on the N18 Gort/Limerick Road under the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws 1998, which came into operation on 23rd April, 1998. Further extension of the speed limit is not recommended."

**N.O.M. NO. 14 - SEWERAGE SCHEME - CLLR. M. FAHY 5485**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"A formal submission has been made to the Department of the Environment and Local Government requesting approval and funding to the linking of the Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme to Craughwell. The Council is awaiting a reply from the Department."

**N.O.M. NO. 15 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. FAHY 5486**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This work would require substantial funding and it is not included in this year's roadworks programme."

**N.O.M. NO. 16 - DRAINAGE - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5487**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The Council has supplied the pipes to repair this culvert."

**N.O.M. NO. 17 - TRAFFIC LIGHTS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5488**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"A budget of £25,000 has been provided in the 1999 Roadworks Programme for the provision of traffic signals in Claregalway at the junction of the N18 and N17."

**N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5489**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Work to bring the small number of fire hydrants and stop-cocks to the surface is ongoing in consultation with the caretaker of the group water scheme."

**N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD SAFETY MEASURES - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5490**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This school is inside the speed limit and it is not usual practice to erect no-overtaking signs inside speed limits.

Following observation of the school it was noted that vehicles do not park on the carriageway. There was a problem with parking on the opposite side of the road to the school. This has now ceased following intervention by the school authorities."

**N.O.M. NO. 20 - SCEIM TEORAINN - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5491**

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

"Beidh muid ag scrudú an cás seo in eineacht le áiteacha eile nuair a bheidh muid ag aithbhreathnu ar an scéim teorainn luas i gceann dhá bhliain."

**N.O.M. NO. 21 - "SIGNAGE" - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5492**

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

"Déanfar an obair seo i mbliana."

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5493**

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

"Déanfar obair deisiuchán ag an láthair seo go gairid."

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5494**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There is £200,000 provided in this year's roadworks programme for improving this road. Lighting and footpaths will be dealt with when the roadworks are complete."

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5495**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"This road is not included for improvement in this year's roadworks programme. Routine maintenance work will be carried out in the near future."

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5496**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"The Brownville road will be repaired in the course of routine maintenance of county roads."

**N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5497**

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

"This is a private road for which the Council has no responsibility."

**N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5498**

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

"Some sight distance improvement can be carried out on one corner of the junction if Notice of Motion funding is allocated. The estimated cost is £2,100. Due to the siting of a dwelling house and garden with tall shrubs sight distance improvements cannot be carried out at the other side of the junction."

**N.O.M. NO. 28 - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5499**

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

"Our Road Design team will carry out a traffic and pedestrian count at the location to establish if it meets the warrant for a pedestrian crossing."

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - ROAD MARKING - CLLR. M. REGAN 5500**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Regan:-

"The N.18 will be subject to lining contract by the National Roads Authority this year. The matter will be dealt with as part of this."



**N.O.M. NO. 30 - ROAD RESURFACING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5501**  
**VARLEY**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"All the necessary works have been carried out at this location. It is not proposed to carry out additional works as such works would be of no benefit to road users."

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - FLOODING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5502**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Remedial work will be carried out as part of this year's roadworks programme."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5503**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"Routine maintenance work will be carried out when the unit is next in the area."

**N.O.M. NO. 33 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. T. WALSH 5504**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Walsh:-

"Remedial work will be carried out as part of this year's roadworks programme."

**N.O.M. NO. 34 - SEWERAGE TREATMENT - CLLR. T. WALSH 5505**  
**WALSH**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Walsh:-

"A Preliminary Report on a proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Creggs has been submitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government and approval to this report is now awaited."

**CHRICHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J. Brennan  
Chairman

24<sup>th</sup> May 1999  
Date

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN-COMMITTEE AT COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 26th APRIL, 1999

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

**ILATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Cllrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, J. Callanan,  
Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M.  
Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin,  
T. Hussey, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P.  
McCormack, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P.  
McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, K.  
Quinn, M. Regan & T. Walsh.

**Oifigigh:**

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy County Manager, J.  
Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/  
Asst. Co. Manager, J. Collieran, Co. Engineer,  
E. Lusby, Finance Officer, E. Power, A/  
Co. Secretary & P. Carroll, S.S.O.

**Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.**

### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - REVIEW OF PLANNING CONTROL POLICY**

**5472**

The Chairman, Councillor J. Brennan, indicated that the meeting had been convened to discuss the planning control policy.

Councillor S. O'Neachtain indicated that the public in general are dissatisfied with planning. The Councillors were the Architects of the Plan but the interpretation by officials is not what was adopted by the Councillors. He wishes to have three points clarified:- The rights of (1) local people living in their own area (2) people working in the area (3) emigrants returning to the area. He felt that planning applications are not being assessed in accordance with the Plan as adopted by the Council. There was not enough emphasis being given to the right of local people to live in their own locality. He also requested clarification on the enurement clause.

Meeting held In-Committee - 26/04/1999

Councillor S. Gavin stated that he felt there were difficulties with interpretation of the Plan and these should be addressed. He pointed out that there is a problem with the Prior Notice facility as Councillors are not receiving enough notice.

The Chairman asked Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E. to list details of refusals which had issued on the basis of ribbon development and he gave the following details:-

In 1998 a total of 60 applications (1.2%) were refused on the grounds of ribbon development.

- 3 houses refused in Tarramuid, Clarenbridge
- 2 houses refused in Classaghroe, Cloonminda
- 3 houses refused in Seefin, Craughwell
- 5 houses refused in Rusheen East, Clonbur
- 3 houses refused in Gloves Middle, Athenry
- 3 houses refused in Annaghbeg, Ahascragh
- 2 houses refused in Castlehackett, Belclare
- 3 houses refused in Gortatleva, Claregalway
- 3 houses refused in Drum, Ballymote, Tuam
- 3 houses refused in Ballygarrieff, Craughwell
- 3 houses refused in Caherhenryhoe, Loughrea
- 3 houses refused in Caherhenryhoe, Loughrea
- 5 houses refused in Tawnaghmore, Corofin
- 7 houses refused in Moycullen
- 3 houses refused in Derrydonnellmore
- 2 houses refused in Ballynakillew, Headford
- 3 houses refused in Kilmeen
- 3 houses refused in Kilbeg Lower, Clonbur
- 3 houses refused in Castleboy, Kilchreest
- 3 houses refused in Castleboy, Kilchreest
- 8 houses refused in Bushfied, Oranmore

He stated that there were many other cases which he could also list. He stated that originally when the Development Plan was being drafted a 9 mile radius around the city and a 3 mile radius around towns was proposed to restrict ribbon development but this was not acceptable to Councillors who agreed to a 5 mile radius around the city and 1/12 mile radius around towns.

Mr. D. Nelson, Deputy County Manager, pointed out that a total of 60 applications were refused on ribbon development grounds during 1998. A total of 284 decisions were appealed to an Bord Pleanala and the Council's decision was reversed in 24 of these cases. The Council's refusal rate is much lower than Cork, Wicklow and Meath and Galway is not out of line with other counties.

*Meeting held In-Committee - 26/04/1999*

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Councillor J. Callanan stated that when the 1 1/2 mile restriction was being imposed, he thought it only referred to the towns concerned. He did not think ribbon development restriction extended beyond that.

Councillor P. McHugh said that he also agreed with Councillor Callanan's interpretation and proposed that the restriction on ribbon development would not apply beyond the 1 1/2 mile radius of towns. The County Engineer said that the County Development Plan clearly states that "it is the objective of the County Development Plan to control ribbon development in rural areas."

Mr. Declan Nelson, Deputy County Manager, said that a formal Variation of the County Development Plan would be required if such a proposal was agreed.

Councillor P. McHugh said that the Plan is quite clear and he did not consider his proposal to constitute a Variation of the Development Plan.

Mr. T. Kavanagh, Acting Assistant County Manager, informed the meeting that if any wording in the County Development Plan was to be changed, it would involve compliance with the procedure for a Variation to the Development Plan.

Councillor P. McHugh stated that he did not want a change in the wording of the Development Plan but only wanted to restate what was intended by the Councillors when they adopted the Plan.

Deputy P. McCormack pointed out that there was a conflict between the Councillors' and the Planners' interpretation. He did not think that it was necessary to make a Variation of the Development Plan.

Senator J. McDonagh said that there was a difficulty arising with farmholder/landholder. A site for a son or daughter should be allowed he said and requested the Council to look at this again.

Deputy P. Connaughton said that it is obvious that the planning office is inundated with planning applications but he felt that there was not enough staff. He pointed out that it was quite difficult to meet a Planner and he felt that public representatives should be able to meet with Planners sooner than a member of the public. He queried whether the delay in issuing decisions where a reply has been submitted to a request for Further Information is because of an administrative or a technical difficulty.

Councillor M. Regan stated that the planning office got bad publicity as a result of the last meeting and this was due to the office being understaffed. He had spoken to the Minister who indicated to him that he had sanctioned extra staff for the Planning Section one year ago. He requested clarification on this. He pointed out that he had always found the planning staff helpful and courteous.

Meeting held In-Committee - 26/04/1999

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In regard to staff matter Mr. D. Nelson, Deputy County Manager, pointed out that last July the Council had requested the Local Appointments Commission to recruit an Executive Planner and a recommendation was only received in the last few weeks. He also said four temporary Planners were employed at present. In relation to Further Information requests he pointed out that only one Further Information request could be made and on receipt of a reply it may be necessary to refer it to other Departments for assessment. Because of the volume of applications being lodged it can take some time to process applications and replies to request for Further Information.

Mr. Nelson said that when the additional staff are employed the situation should improve. He said that if planning agents send in incomplete applications, it resulted in delays in the processing of applications.

Mr. Nelson then referred to the Council meeting of 12th April 1999, at which Deputy McCormack said he was abused in the Planning Office. He asked Deputy McCormack to elaborate on this. Deputy McCormack said he would give an example to the Manager. The Deputy County Manager then requested Deputy Padraic McCormack to withdraw the remarks made at the last meeting.

Deputy McCormack said he would not withdraw what he said and that he expected an apology for the way he was treated.

Councillor J. Burke said he did not think it was the intention of Deputy McCormack to offend anyone.

Councillor J. McClearn did not think the County Development Plan needed to be changed but rather interpreted properly. He said that there were real problems in the administration of Planning Department.. While he realised that there is a huge increase in the number of planning applications, he suggested that two members of the planning staff check applications upon receipt. He suggested dealing with planning applications within a 6 week period. He stated that there were inconsistencies in the manner in which Planners deal with replies to requests for Further Information, some Planners deal with them straight away, others leave them for 2 months. Clearly staff numbers are not sufficient to deal with the volume of applications being lodged. He suggested referring some of the applications to the Area Engineers. He proposed that a Planning Committee be set up until S.P.C. commence business.

Mr. J. Collieran, County Engineer, said that the staff in the Planning Office work very hard and sometimes in their own time. There is no scope to get assistance from the Area Engineers as they are extremely busy themselves.

Councillor W. Burke said that temporary staff were not the answer.

**Meeting held In-Committee - 26/04/1999**

Councillor S. Gavin said that the Press were only looking for news and awaiting a response from the officials in relation to the planning issues raised at the last meeting. He stated he was always well treated in the planning office.

Councillor M. Cunningham said that he attends the planning office very often and complimented all the staff on their courtesy.

The Chairman proposed that the Members meet and put specific proposals forward for the next planning meeting on 14th May 1999. The was seconded by Councillor P. McHugh and agreed by the Council.

Councillor J. Burke said it was a pity to leave the meeting without clearing the air in relation to the comments made by Deputy McCormack at the previous meeting. He believed that no offence was intended.

The Chairman said that he felt that was understood.

It was agreed that the Members would meet informally on 4th May 1999 at 5 p.m. to discuss the issues in advance of the Council Meeting scheduled for 14th May 1999.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**5473**

Mr. E. Power, Acting County Secretary, informed the meeting that details of Councillors expenses since the 1991 Elections had been requested by the Press under the Freedom of Information Act 1991. He advised that only records created after 21st October 1998 were governed by the Freedom of Information Act. The Council's obligations in this regard under the Freedom of Information Act were noted.

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J. Brennan  
Chairman

24<sup>th</sup> May 1999

Date

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**CENTENARY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY  
ON THURSDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1999**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

**LLATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

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

**Oifigigh:**

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D.  
Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh,  
A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co.  
Secretary, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, J.  
Colleran, Co. Engineer, R.C. Killeen,  
A/Deputy Co. Engineer, T. Murphy, A/A.O.,  
P. Carroll & B. McDermott, S.S.O.'s and E.  
Hourigan, A.S.O.

**PRAYER** 5459

*Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.*

**ROLL CALL** 5460

*A Roll Call was taken of Members present.*

**CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS** 5461

*The Chairman of the Council, Councillor J. Brennan addressed the Council.*

*"Ar an lá seo céad bliain ó shin shuigh 35 duine le chéile i dTeach na Cúirte I nGaillimh chun tús a chur le scéim nua rialtais áitiúil. Toghadh iad ó seacht gceantar déag ag lucht ioctha rátaí an chontae agus iniú beannaím dóibh as ucht a ndiograis, a ndánaíocht agus a misneach, chomh maith lena gcumas intleachta toisc gur chuir siad tús le feachtas nach bhfaca muintir na tíre seo roimhe sin.*

*Manager, Assistant Managers, County Secretary, County Engineer, Officials, fellow Councillors, members of the media, 100 years ago today, 35 honourable men met in Galway Courthouse to chart a new course in Local Government in the County. Chosen from 17 districts by the ratepayers of the County, they courageously and intelligently laid the foundation stone for a system which has served this County well. I salute these men of vision and I know that all of us owe them so much for developing a system which was to benefit all people, not just a particular class.*

*Later on in the meeting the history of Galway County Council by Gabriel O'Connor will be launched and it is not my intention to reflect on the early days as I would be depriving you of the pleasure of reading for yourself the conditions which existed then and the manner in which they went about their work. Suffice to say that they were men of remarkable quality, since members travelling from the far ends of the County took perhaps two days to attend meetings due to transportation problems and for which they were paid no expenses.*

*What a contrast exists between the venue for the first meeting one hundred years ago and our meeting today in this most modern building where all of us benefit from the most up to date modern technology and comforts.*

*It is our privilege to be part of the ongoing development of local government and this County Hall is in itself a tribute to both Management and Councillors who took the correct decision to erect a building of which the public and ourselves can be justifiably proud. Deserving tributes must indeed be paid to all concerned in the decision making process and in the planning, design and building of our new offices. I congratulate the Architects, A. & D. Wejchert, the Structural Engineers, P. J. Tobin & Co., the Quantity Surveyors, Mulcahy, McDonagh and Partners, the Mechanical and Electrical Consultants, Delapp and Waller, and of course, our own Jack Eising, the Project Engineer who monitored the efficient construction undertaken by Michael McNamara & Company. I pay special tribute to the members of the staff who co-operated in a very professional way in moving to temporary offices in Liosban Estate. Their return to Prospect Hill was a joyful one and we can sense a new burst of enthusiasm amongst the staff as they work in their new spacious, modern and well equipped offices.*

*I feel proud as a Ballinasloe representative that Ballinasloe stone has been used in the external walls, that the foundation stone was laid and the Contract signed by a fellow Ballinasloe colleague who was then Chairman, and that I am now Chairman as the new County Hall is being officially opened. For this honour and privilege I am most indebted to you, my colleagues and I shall remain forever grateful to you.*



## *Centenary Meeting - 22/04/1999*

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*My task today, however, is not to dwell on the past but to reflect on the role each of us plays in implementing Council policy for the benefit of the communities which we serve. Each of us, I'm sure, offered ourselves to the electorate from the highest motives of service to our communities. I fear that this particular point is lost sight of by the public and I wish to lay particular emphasis on this. Debates and discussions at meetings, during my term of membership, often conducted with great intensity, passion and fervour leave no one in any doubt concerning the commitment to, and concern for, the public on the part of Councillors. When I first took my seat, politics surfaced quite often but due to ongoing developments in the system we have little or no political infighting except when it comes to election of Chairman. This is to be welcomed as Councillors concentrate on policies and services to their communities. In the Ballinasloe Electoral Area all five Councillors work very harmoniously without any reference to politics as we co-operate with one another. We might as well be all Independent such is the level of co-operation and absence of political infighting. This, I believe, is true of all the other Councillors in their respective areas. The advent of the S.P.C.'s was a particularly significant development which was warmly welcomed by Councillors but which regrettably are not functioning due to problems outside our control. I appeal to those involved, to resolve these matters as speedily as possible for the benefit of the community at large.*

*Elections are around the corner for many of you and I can say with conviction to the public from the knowledge I have of your work rate on behalf of your Constituents, that you are most certainly very deserving of their support and re-election. I sincerely wish you success.*

*For those of you, like myself, who will not be seeking re-election, I thank you for your contribution to public life. You had the courage to place yourself before the electorate with a view to bringing your ideas and efforts to fruition in the pursuit of a better lifestyle for those whom you represent. You will leave knowing that you have achieved a certain amount and that by your contributions in discussions and debates you have enhanced the system of Local Government. I wish you very many happy years as you and I will continue to be interested in the increased activities of the new Council and we will naturally be reading and listening with interest to the media reports of Council meetings. On behalf of the public you serve, I thank you most sincerely for your dedication to their service and of your loyalty in upholding Council policy in your public utterances.*

*During my years of membership all of us have witnessed a major increase in Council undertakings. When money was scarce it was natural that tensions existed between Councillors and Executive as priorities were disputed. In the current economic climate finances have improved in a major way so that developments in all the areas of Council activities are being experienced throughout the County. Councils never have enough money and the fact that all monies received from the Department are spent in accordance with Government directives and on time, is in itself a credit to the Council management and staff. We have been most fortunate in Galway that we have had over the years executives of the highest calibre with whom all Councillors had an excellent rapport. Today, I pay tribute to all of them and I particularly thank our Manager, Donal O'Donoghue, our Assistant Managers Declan Nelson and John*

*Tierney, our County Secretary and often Acting Assistant County Manager, Tom Kavanagh, our County Engineer and his staff, Heads of Departments, and members of staff and other employees for their service to the public in this County.*

*I thank them for the co-operation you and I receive from them and for the courtesies they always show us. I hope that during Local Government Open Week when the public is invited to visit the Council offices and Council facilities, that they will become aware of the vast range of services provided for them and that the combined efforts of Officials and Councillors will come to be appreciated. Changes are on the way making more demands on all concerned as communities throughout the County understandably call for improvements in their living standards which are experienced in other areas.*

*Finally, I turn my attention to the ladies and gentlemen of the media. I compliment you for your patience and diligence which is required of you at times as you try to inform the public of discussions at Council meetings. I don't envy you your task. I thank you sincerely for informing the public and for many of the witty comments you make on some statements made at meetings.*

*May I, with respect, suggest that being such a powerful and influential source of education that a section of your reports would be allocated to Local Authority information so that the public would be fully informed of services and on-going developments for the benefit of communities. The Council, including Management and Councillors, can be targeted now and again for criticism which is unjustified and in an era when it appears that all authority in this Country is viewed with a certain amount of scepticism and mistrust, I feel that there is a need for the Council to establish closer links with the media for the benefit of everyone. Once again, I thank you for your presence and interest in our proceedings and for your coverage in the past.*

*I cannot conclude without referring to Councillors' spouses who are frequently left to rear their families on their own as their respective husbands/wives are attending to their public duties and who are always acting as unpaid secretaries, answering phones and doors, recording messages and reminding them of queries to be dealt with. They are rarely honoured for their devotion to so many duties and I take this opportunity today to warmly commend them as I publicly acknowledge their massive contribution to their families, communities and society in general.*

*We have all experienced massive developments which enhance our living standards. Yet there are major concerns facing us not alone in our beautiful country but throughout the world. While we joyfully celebrate this centenary year of Local Government and the official opening of our modern County Hall, my thoughts rest on the situation in Northern Ireland and on the troubles in the Balkans. My sincere prayer is that before we reach the end of this Century that structures will be put in place for a permanent peace in the North. Our hearts go to the suffering people of Kosovo and I'm sure the Irish people will live up to their world-wide reputation for their charity and hospitality in their catastrophic situation.*

*The future holds many challenges for us and I have every confidence in the ability of the current Management, and in the new Council Membership of which many of you will be part, to administer Local Authority affairs very satisfactorily. You are concerned people; you are progressive in your thinking and you are determined to ensure that County Galway benefits from the continuing economic development which the Country experiences. What we do now and what you do in the future will have major implications for all our people, young and old, for centuries to come.*

*Tá mé bródúil gan a bheith uaibhreach, as an gComhairle seo. Tá mé mórálach as na hoifigí agus comhairleoirí ar chuir mé aithne orthu le linn mo thréimhse seirbhíse anseo. Guím rath Dé ar chuile dhuine a bhfuil baint aige nó aici le hobair an chomhairle. Tá súil agam go mbeidh scéal fiúntach spéisiúil le scríobh ag an gcéad staraí eile a thabharfaidh faoi stair an céad bliain eile.*

*Beannacht Dé is Muire oraibh go léir agus guim solas na bhFhlaitheas orthu siúd go leir idir comhairleoirí agus baill de fhoireann an chomhairle atá anois ar Shlí na Fírinne."*

*The following letter was received from the Director of the General Council of County Council's on the occasion of the Council's Centenary Meeting.*

*"I write on behalf of the Chairman, Cllr. Tom Kelleher, and members of the General Council of County Councils to congratulate your Council on reaching its Centenary on 22nd April.*

*It is difficult in the scope of a letter such as this to give full expression to the significance of this milestone for your Council and for the people of the county you serve.*

*One wonders if those first elected members of April 1899 could have foreseen that the enterprise in local democracy, of which they were the inaugural exponents, would continue to flourish 100 years later.*

*County Government in Ireland has endured many setbacks over that period; a war of independence, a civil war, economic depression, the straitjacket of central control, and many other tribulations.*

*But its record of success is much greater: the provision of housing; of infrastructure for roads, water and sanitation; of education grants; of libraries and arts; of fire and emergency services, to name but a few. Nor should people forget that it was county councils who for the most part of this century were responsible for running hospitals, dispensaries and public health schemes.*

*And all of this activity took place under the direction of locally elected representatives with a democratic mandate from the people they represent.*

*The General Council of County Councils, which also celebrates its centenary this year, has shared that century-long journey with Ireland's county councils and at*

*national level has relentlessly promoted the contribution which county government has made, and will continue to make, to the betterment of Irish life.*

*With renewed congratulations to your council on reaching its centenary."*

## **RESPONSE OF MEMBERS**

5462

*The Chairman then invited the Members to respond.*

*Senator J. McDonagh said that it was a great privilege to be present on this auspicious occasion. He said that Galway County Council had stood the test of time and he praised the wonderful work that has been done over the last one hundred years by the officials and elected members of the Council. He said it was appropriate that the Council should have a new state of the art building to mirror the importance of this great Council and the contribution it makes to the people of County Galway. He said that it was also a nostalgic occasion for the Members and he recalled the contribution that former Members, now deceased, had made to the Council.*

*He said that Galway County Council is a most professional organisation and he saluted the staff and the Elected Members who contributed so much to the development of the County over the last one hundred years. He said that it was a day unchallenged and unsurpassed in the history of Galway County Council and that everybody should feel proud and privileged to be present and part of it.*

*The Chairman then called on Councillor Hussey to respond.*

*Councillor Hussey said that it was a very historic occasion as it marked the definitive Centenary of the County Council. It was a time to look back with pride at the contribution of local government to Irish Society. He stated that the great breakthrough of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 was that it extended the right to vote to the widest section of the Irish population and it marked the first time that women were given the right to vote. The priorities set by those first Councillors were the building of roads, providing water schemes and starting a housing programme. He said that during those 100 years, local Councils were served by dedicated staff and Members who believed in the local government system. He believed that Council, Manager and Staff will continue to expand and develop local government services for the betterment of the people of Galway.*

*The Chairman then called on Councillor J. Burke to respond.*

*Councillor J. Burke said that he was delighted to be present at the Centenary Meeting of the County Council as this was a very special day for the Council. He said that the occasion was also special because the new County Hall had been completed. He paid tribute to the present and former Members and staff of the Council for their dedication and commitment to County Galway over the years. He acknowledged that many changes had taken place since Galway County Council was established in 1899.*

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*In conclusion he stated that he was confident that Galway County Council would continue to work on behalf of the people of County Galway.*

*The Chairman then called on Councillor Gavin to respond.*

*Thagair an Comhairleoir Séamus Ó Gabhain do thábhacht an Rialtais Áitiúil i saol na linne. Déantar dearmad go minic ar an il-iomad seirbhísí a cuirtear ar fáil. In imeacht na mblianta, thug daoine go leor seirbhís den chéad scoth ainneoinn deacaireachtaí taistil agus cumarsáide. Tá géar-ghá le cumhachtaí breise agus go minic is ionann cumhachtaí agus an t-airgead nó an infheistíocht a cuirtear ar fáil. Tá na h-éilimh atá orainn ag méadú go laethúil. Le céad bliain ó 1898, tá an -dul chun cinn deánta ag an gCóras Rialtas Áitiúil agus is beag scanail a bhain lena chuid oibre. Chuidigh an Ghaeilge agus an ath-bheochaint cultúr go mór le forbairt na feiniúilachta agus an Córas Rialtas Áitiúil. Tá gá, fós, an teangan an chuir chun cinn in imeachtaí na gComhairlí. Thraoslaigh an Comhairleoir Ó Gabhain le bainistíocht agus feidhmeannaigh na Comhairle. Is breá, go bhfuil oifigi agus áiseanna den scoth againn i 1999 agus muid ag comóradh céad bliain de Rialtas Áitiúil in Éirinn*

*Councillor Gavin also referred to the major changes which had occurred since Galway County Council first met on the 22nd April 1899. Major changes had taken place in Irish society and the Council had kept pace with these changes. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to the continued success of the local government system.*

*The Chairman then called on Councillor Byrne to respond.*

*Dúirt an Comhairleoir O'Broinn gur Lá stairiúil í seo do gach bhall den Chomhairle agus go raibh sé an bhródúil a bheith í lathair ag an cruinniú seo.*

*Councillor Byrne also referred to the Centenary Meeting as being a great occasion for the Council. He also paid tribute to the former and present Members and Staff of the County Council who had contributed greatly to the development of County Galway down the years. In particular he paid tribute to his fellow members and extended his good wishes to all Members seeking re-election in the Local Elections 1999.*

*The Chairman then called on An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain to speak.*

*Dúirt an Comhairleoir O Neachtain gur ócáid thabachtach í ócáid an lae inniu mar go bhfuil muid ag ceiliuradh 100 blian Rialtais Áitiúil sa tir seo. Lá stairiúil í seo do gach bhall den Chomhairle.*

*Sé an Comhairleoir Contae an t-ionadai is giorra don phobal agus is sampla maith e an Rialtas Áitiúil den daonlathas ag oibriú ag an leibheál is giorra don phobal. Dúirt sé go mba cheart cuimhniú ar ghach duine idir bhaill den Chomhairle agus foireann an Chomhairle a ghlac pairt san seirbhís i rith na blianta ó 1899 go dtí an lá atá inniu ann, toisc gur chabhraigh siad go mór le forbairt an Chontae.*

*Mar fhocal scoir, dúirt sé gur rud mhaith é go bhfuilimid ag ceiliúradh an ócaid seo i Halla nua an Chontae.*

*The Chairman then called on Councillor Finnerty to speak.*

*Councillor Finnerty said that he was delighted to be present at the Centenary Meeting of Galway County Council in its new County Hall. He stated that this is a great occasion for the Council and he looked forward to the Council continuing its proud tradition of service to the people of County Galway. In his capacity of Chairman of Ballinasloe U.D.C., he invited the Chairman and Members of the Council to hold the May Monthly Meeting of the Council in the U.D.C. offices.*

*The Chairman thanked the Speakers for their contributions.*

## **ADDRESS OF COUNTY MANAGER**

**5463**

*Mr. D. O'Donoghue, County Manager then addressed the Meeting.*

*"I would like to join with the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Brennan, in paying a well deserved tribute to the members and indeed staff, who have served this County since 22nd April, 1899 up to the present. Those members gave and are giving of their time, unselfishly, in the promotion and development of the County. The Council can look back, over the last 100 years and can point to the colossal strides, that have been made in that time in the provision of services to the people of the County - advances in the housing field, provision of public water and drainage services, roads, environmental services, libraries, recreational facilities, fire stations, heritage centres and many others. The Council can reflect with considerable pride on the services that its members and staff have given and are giving to the people of the County.*

*Whilst looking to the past and paying a well deserved tribute, the future will also demand more change. We must face this challenge together - elected members, staff and the people of the County. I am confident that the Council is well equipped and ready to serve the County into its second century and the provision of these new offices is one step in that preparedness.*

*As the Cathaoirleach has said, 100 years ago to-day, the Council held its first meeting and I would beg your indulgence, to read a report of that first meeting. The report clearly shows, the competency and professionalism of the members in dealing with its business. I am glad to say, that, from my own experience and having perused past minutes of meetings and various press reports, the same business like approach has continued ever since, and now the report of that first meeting.*

### **Galway's Parliament**

*Upon last Saturday, in the Grand Jury Room of the County Courthouse at Galway assembled under very favourable auspices, the first representative body that ever met to transact public business in this great County. In that same spacious and handsome*

building, we were accustomed to see, meet twice a year a self elected and exclusive body, but the Grand Jury with all its pomp, prejudice and prestige is now a thing of the past and its doings and misdoings are but memories. Its place and power are taken by democratic and properly chosen body of 35 men, not ticked off and brought together by an accommodating Sheriff from a very restricted list of favoured individuals, but comprising men of every rank and profession in the County, chosen by the rate paying community on the broadest franchise and through the safe security of the ballot. From Williamstown and the confines of Roscommon, to Portumna on the borders of Tipperary, and from the picturesque recess of Connemara to the plains of Kinvara, came men of the people, chosen freely by the people themselves. They possessed, that best of all claims to public consideration, popular approval and sanction upon their choice and for three years they are pledged to and will we are sure, honestly and independently strive to do their duty as in the words of their declaration to the best of their skill and understanding. The elections, which resulted in their return, were an expression and indication of the opinion of the people of Galway and the members who came up from the eighteen districts, were, every man of them, respectable and credible representatives of the patriotism and intelligence of the County. In every respect, that Galway Parliament of last Saturday was a worthy one, and while it will, we are confident, reflect honour and credit upon all concerned, it can also, we are equally certain, be a comparison with any similar body in Ireland and favourably contrast with any of the other 32 County Councils.

Its constitution, as we remarked last week, was as varied as representative, and in this respect it is a true and fitting reflect of the County itself. The manner of men whom Galway selected as its first Councillors was shown by their conduct on the first occasion of their assembling. They set about choosing a Chairman and laying aside all these miserable sectional differences in politics, which have disgraced public life, they, by a majority, fixed upon a man to take his place as their head who for long and honourable public service has no equal in Ireland. Colonel J.P. Nolan was a fit and proper person to preside over the deliberations of the first people's parliament in his native County, for, for over 23 years, through storm and stress, he well and worthily represented that constituency of Galway in the House of Commons. His rival Dr. Pye, is a distinguished and well known Professor in the Queens College, but he never laid any pretentious to the long record of public service of Colonel Nolan and in regard to public affairs, he is comparatively unknown and untried. It is likely he would, by attention and ability, steer the Council through the quicksands and shores of its first voyage, but his choice would be at best an experiment and it undoubtedly, is for the advantage of the County that no risks be run and that a man of the greatest and proven experience should be chosen as Chairman. We are sorry, Dr. Pye as he was in the running for the Chair did not graciously accept the graceful compliment paid to him by the Chairman and the entire meeting and consent to be the Vice Chairman, but as he did not think well of so doing we, for our part, think the Council in choosing Mr. Henry A. Murphy made an admirable choice and will find in him a painstaking, energetic and efficient co-auditor of Colonel Nolan. He is one of Galway's rising Solicitors, and a gentleman of talent and ability, and in him the Council will have the benefit of his legal knowledge to guide them in the smooth path of action. By the co-option of Mr. John C. McDonnell and Mr. Stephen J. McDonagh, they have made a choice that reflects credit in their discernment, for two better or more intelligent

## *Centenary Meeting - 22/04/1999*

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colleagues they could not have selected, while of the co-opted gentlemen themselves it may be said that they should feel justly proud of the fact that out of an assembly of 33 members Mr. John McDonnell found 27 supporters and Mr. McDonagh 25. Of the Members of the Galway County Council as a body, they form an assembly of which the County should be justly proud.

The several resolutions passed by the Council, were all of an excellent and proper character and voiced the undoubted opinions and views of the people of Galway with the exception of a small and we hope by conversions to the popular belief, a diminishing body. The Home Rule resolution, so expressive of the natural national yearning of a people to be able to manage their own affairs was dissented from by Pye and 3 out of the 34 voting and we are not without hope that at the end of 3 years, these dissentionists may be found among the majority when they see in Galway and elsewhere how tolerant of each others religious and political views, the new bodies are and how desirous they are to do their work honestly and well. The new democratic regime must and will result in political autonomy if the Irish people are only true to themselves and are permitted to follow their own better instincts and far from the new Councils in City and County doing away with the necessity for Home Rule they would intensify the need and want such a settlement. The epitaph grows on what it feels and the instalment of Home Rule now given will increase among every class the desire for a larger measure of self government and now that the English Government have cut the last plank that connects the Irish landlords with their system of rule and robbery, the Irish landlords will turn to their proper allegiance to their own country and to their natural reliance on their own people. Even amid many provocations and inducements to do otherwise, like the stupid advice to ostracise them, the landlords have secured a fair representation on the new bodies and their present numbers are the lowest water mark for every new County Council will have more and more the desire to fall back upon the old hands and as they in every instance were chosen from the District Councils, so will they be on the County Councils of the future in increasing numbers. Of course, if they declare themselves Home Rulers the one only bar to their complete absorption into the new bodies will be removed and the old Grand Jurors, might as the new County Councillors with the sanction of popular approval be more powerful in the deliberations of the new bodies than ever they were in the old, where being self elected they never felt that confidence in their position that comes from popular selection. We were pleased to see that the three able men nominated by the Grand Jury in Galway took such an active and prominent part in the business of the new body and we are sure, they felt whenever they made a suggestion borne from their experience it was listened to with respect and adopted.

This shows how desirous the Council was, to do the best it could and to use all its opportunities for advice and suggestions for the furtherance of the common good. This should encourage the old Grand Jury class here as elsewhere, that only to continue for their own sakes their support but not to slacken in their zeal to do all they can to help the Council to efficiently and economically manage the important affairs entrusted, to it so that each County may benefit from the cordial co-operation of all classes, in the management of its affairs. The meeting of the County Council of Galway in an informal parliament, called by the public voice of the whole community,



and even assembled on a broader franchise than sends 5 members to Westminster. Day by day, its usefulness will increase and spread until every matter of public interest will be within its scope and reach and while it cannot make laws for the general public guidance, it can by its regulations and byelaws control the public life of these parts and instil into an almost moribund community that spirit of commercial activity and industrial energy which brings with them so much prosperity and comfort. The Council has a great future of utility before it and it has commenced well on its career and we hope it will continue to proceed on those broadminded and proven liberal lines.

As might be expected, every member of the Council, had a desire to obtain something for the District which he represented, and not least among these was the energetic City representative Mr. Henry M.A. Murphy who proposed the erection of a pier at Salthill for the benefit of fishermen, the formation of a building committee, to see the advisability of getting a County Hall, and other improvements relative to waste sites which might become a source of revenue to the County Council."

**PRESENTATION OF CENTENARY MEMENTO TO MEMBERS 5464**

The Chairman presented each Member with a specially commissioned Clarinbridge Crystal Bowl engraved with the Local Government Centenary logo as a memento of the Centenary Meeting. A photograph was taken of each presentation.

**PRESENTATION OF CENTENARY SCROLLS TO MEMBERS 5465**

The Chairman then made a presentation of a Centenary Scroll to each Member. The Scroll acknowledged the service of each individual Member of the Council.

**PRESENTATION OF "LIST OF CHAIRMEN" TO PAST CHAIRMEN 5466**

The Chairman then presented a decorative scroll on which was listed the names of each of the past Chairmen of Galway County Council to each past Chairman currently on the Council.

**PRESENTATION OF "LIST OF CHAIRMEN" TO MEMBERS 5467**

The Chairman then presented the remaining Members of the Council with a smaller version of the List of Chairmen.

**LAUNCH OF "HISTORY OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL"**

5468

The Chairman then welcomed Mr. Gabriel O'Connor and his wife to the Meeting and congratulated him on the completion of an excellent history of Galway County Council. He noted that the original idea for the book came from the County Manager, Mr. D. O'Donoghue and he praised him for initiating this very worthwhile and interesting publication. The Chairman thanked Mr. Pat McMahon, County Librarian, Library and Council Staff associated with the project. He also thanked the Connacht Tribune for publishing the history. In launching the publication of the "History of Galway County Council", the Chairman strongly recommended it to the Members as a very enjoyable book.

In response, Mr. Gabriel O'Connor said that he was delighted to have the opportunity to write the History of Galway County Council and he hoped that the people of Galway would enjoy reading it.

**PRESENTATION OF NEW CHAIN OF OFFICE AND FAMINE SCULPTURE BY BANK OF IRELAND**

5469

The Chairman welcomed Messrs. McNamara, Bradshaw, Lennon and other Officials representing the Bank of Ireland to the Centenary Meeting. He said that Bank of Ireland wished to make two presentations to the Council. He said that the Bank of Ireland as the Council's Treasurers wanted to be associated with the Centenary celebrations and were presenting the Council with:-

- (1) a new solid gold Chain of Office and
- (2) a "Famine" sculpture for the atrium in the new County Hall

He then called on Mr. John McNamara, General Manager for Area West, Bank of Ireland to address the Council. Mr. McNamara said that he was delighted to have the opportunity to present a new Chain of Office and the Famine Sculpture to the Council. As the Council's Treasurers they had a long association with the Council and they were delighted that the Famine Sculpture, which is a replica of the life-size sculpture located at Custom House Quay, Dublin would be on display in County Hall. The Chairman thanked Mr. McNamara and Bank of Ireland for the Chain of Office and the Sculpture and he presented Mr. McNamara with a Clarinbridge Bowl. Photographs were taken of each presentation.

**PRESENTATION OF ORIGINAL CHAIN OF OFFICE BY EAMONN CORBETT**

5470

The Chairman reminded Members that the longest serving Chairman of Galway County Council was Mr. Eamonn Corbett from Killeeneen, Craughwell, who was

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Chairman from 1928 - 1945. He indicated that his son Eamonn was present at this Meeting and he wished to make a special presentation to the Council of the original Chain of Office used during his Father's Chairmanship.

On behalf of the Corbett Family, Mr. Eamonn Corbett said that he was pleased to be in a position to return the original Chain of Office to Galway County Council on this historic occasion. He then presented the Chairman with the original Chain of Office and photographs were taken.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Brennan said that he was delighted to receive this Chain of Office and thanked Eamonn Corbett and Family.

**CENTENARY MEETING PHOTOGRAPHS 5471**

Photographs of Members and Staff were then taken on the occasion of the Centenary Meeting.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J. Brennan  
Chairman

24<sup>th</sup> May 1999  
Date