

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1999

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor J. Brennan

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, J. McClearn, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, P. Ridge, S.E.E., D. Barrett, A.O., P. Carroll, S.S.O. & A. Felle, A.S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

SALE OF DWELLING AT KILLUREBEG, 5342 AHASCRAGH

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Finnerty, the Council approved the sale of a dwelling at Killurebeg, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway to Martin and Anne Kelly, 4 St. Michael's Place, Ballinasloe, in accordance with Notice dated 20/1/1999 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 - a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

WATER AND SEWERAGE INVESTMENT 5343 PROGRAMME 1999

A Report dated 5/2/1999 on the Water and Sewerage Investment Programme 1999 had been circulated to each Member. The Report sets out the status of the various projects under the following headings:-

- Schemes in construction stage
- Schemes to come to construction in 1999 and
- Schemes to advance through planning

Councillor Callanan queried the time scale for commencement of the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Councillor Conneely queried the time scale for Clifden Sewerage Scheme, Tully Sewerage Scheme and Carna Kilkerrin Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Councillor Fahy stated that £1m had been ear-marked for a sewerage scheme in Craughwell. He understood that a submission had been made to the Department regarding the quality of water in the village and queried whether the sewerage scheme would be deferred until a new supply of water is obtained. He stated that there was concern regarding the sewerage seeping into Kinvara Bay and queried how long it would be before a sewerage scheme is provided in Kinvara. He also queried the order of priority to the Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme which had been submitted to the Department.

Councillor Byrne stated that a commitment had been given that plans for a sewerage treatment plant for Kinvara would be drawn up and sent to the Department. He stated that the plans would have to have regard to the development plan for Kinvara and queried the time-scale for the drawing up of the plans.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain welcomed the fact that tenders were to be sought this month for Inishmore Water Supply Scheme. He also referred to the need for sewerage schemes for Barna and Spiddal.

Councillor McClearn stated the Loughrea Sewerage Scheme was important in the context of a sewerage scheme for Craughwell and he proposed that the Department be requested to reallocate the £1m under the Serviced Land Initiative from a sewerage scheme to a water supply scheme in Craughwell.

Councillor Regan stated that the Craughwell Sewerage Scheme should be included with the plan for Loughrea Sewerage Scheme.

Councillor Varley stated that she was disappointed that Stage 3 of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme was going ahead in advance of Stage 2 which would have included Headford.

Councillor Walsh queried when works would start on Glenamaddy Water Supply Scheme.

Mr. P. Ridge, S.E.E. replied to the various comments and queries raised by Members. He stated that it would be optimistic to have the Ballinasloe R.W.S.S. completed by the year 2000 as land purchase has to be finalised before site investigation can be completed, following which tender documents would be forwarded to the Department

for approval. He stated that Clifden Sewerage Scheme and Carna Kilkerrin R.W.S.S. were major schemes costing £7.5m and £5.1m respectively. Consultants would be appointed to prepare contract documents. He indicated that it would take two years for significant progress to be made on these schemes.

Referring to Roundstone, he stated that a number of small schemes are in place to improve water quality and quantity. The next stage would be effluent treatment and replacement of sewers which should be carried out this year. He proposed to examine some levels of treatment to discharges direct to sea. He proposed primary treatment as surveys some years ago identified that there was no need for secondary treatment facilities. Referring to Craughwell village, he stated that the allocation of £1m for a sewerage scheme was under the serviced land initiative and 60% of costs of the scheme would be recovered by way of development charge. He stated that a proper water supply was required to permit development and that a submission for funding to extend the regional water supply scheme out to Craughwell had been made to the Department. It would not be recommended to provide the extended water supply under the Serviced Land Initiative because the Council would have to fund 60% of the cost. It would be necessary to await funding for the water supply scheme before proceeding with the sewerage scheme.

With regard to Kinvara he stated that it would be necessary to have regard to the development plan for Kinvara in order to determine the need for a sewerage scheme. Consultants have been appointed to carry out a detailed out-fall survey. On completion of this in approx. 8 weeks time, an up-date on the planning of Kinvara Sewerage Scheme will be provided.

Referring to Gort R.W.S.S., he stated that Contract Documents had been submitted to the Department for consideration and the Council were stressing the importance of this scheme.

Mr. Ridge stated that it was unlikely that plans for a sewerage scheme for Barna would be before the year 2000.

Referring to a sewerage scheme for Spiddal, he stated that the level of treatment required needed to be determined and that there was a difficulty in locating a site for a treatment plant.

With regard to Loughrea Sewerage Scheme, he stated that if approval to proceed was given that it could commence before the end of the year. Referring to Tuam R.W.S.S, he stated that Stage 3 of the Scheme was largely pipelines and that when Stage 3 is at Contract Stage, approval to Stage 2 will be sought.

Referring to Glenamaddy W.S.S. he stated that £75,000 had been provided in the 1999 Estimates to improve water supply in Glenamaddy and that the Council would be seeking to connect to the Dunmore/Glenamaddy R.W.S.S.

Councillor Byrne proposed that a Deputation comprising of Members of the Loughrea Electoral Area should seek to meet the Minister regarding the provision of infrastructure in Kinvara, Gort and Craughwell.

Councillor McClearn proposed that a Deputation meet with the Department seeking £1.6m for a water supply scheme for Craughwell under the Serviced Land Initiative.

Mr. D. Nelson, Deputy County Manager suggested that a formal application for capital schemes be made to the Department in the first instance. He suggested that funding under the capital works programme should be sought rather than have the water supply scheme for Craughwell dealt with under the Serviced Land Initiative.

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM **5344**

A copy of the Report together with Circular Letter LG P1/99 on Recruitment of Directors of Community and Enterprise had been circulated to each Member.

The A/County Secretary summarised the content of the Report and Circular stating that the new framework as set out in the Report combines the best of Local Government and Local Development forging a new partnership for the betterment of local communities.

He referred to the Department Circular regarding the recruitment of Directors of Community and Enterprise as recommended in the Report of the Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development systems and indicated that the Members' approval to proceed with the recruitment process was now required.

On the proposal of Councillor W. Burke, seconded by Councillor McHugh, the Members agreed to the recruitment of a Director of Community and Enterprise.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY **5345**

On the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Deputy Connaughton, the Council approved the nomination of Councillor McClearn to the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Council approved the nomination of Councillor Varley to the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain the Council approved the nomination of Councillor Fahy to the Board.

HACKNEY LICENCES

5346

The A/County Secretary referred to letter dated 1st February 1999 from Galway Corporation seeking a meeting with representatives of Galway County Council to discuss the issue of hackney licences.

The Council nominated the following Members to meet with representatives of Galway Corporation to discuss the matter:-

- Councillor S. O'Neachtain
- Councillor J. Conneely
- Councillor M. Finnerty
- Senator J. McDonagh

CONGRATULATIONS

5347

The Members congratulated Minister Noel Treacy, T.D. on his selection as a candidate to contest the forthcoming election of Members of the European Parliament.

The Members also congratulated Councillor O'Neachtain on his selection as a replacement candidate in the forthcoming European Elections.

FIRE SERVICE

5348

Councillor Cunningham complimented the Gort Fire Brigade on their dealing with a recent serious fire, but stated that the water supply was a major issue on the night and requested that the Council take steps to improve the situation. He stated that four firemen were on duty on the night out of a staff compliment of eight. He stated that there were two problems, namely water supply and staffing and queried when fire service personnel would be recruited.

Councillor Regan stated that it was unacceptable that there was only one fire brigade in Gort, particularly if there had been a second incident on the night in question.

Mr. Kavanagh, A/Assistant County Manager stated that it was intended to hold recruitment interviews the following week for retained fire service personnel in Gort.

Councillor W. Burke stated that the fire tender brought into operation in Portumna was dangerous and sought an independent report on its condition. Mr. Kavanagh, A/Assistant County Manager stated that he did not accept that the fire tender was dangerous, that a second tender had been purchased with low mileage and the Chief Fire Officer would not allow a fire tender that was dangerous to go into operation.

Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager requested that Councillor W. Burke supply him with any information in support of his contention that the fire tender was dangerous.

The A/Assistant County Manager stated that two of the most experienced Fire Officers had travelled over to England to view and test the appliance before a decision to purchase the appliance was made. He added that during the course of the discussion he had spoken to the Chief Fire Officer who had confirmed that both fire appliances in Portumna were in good working order.

MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

5349

Councillor Gavin referred to a number of Millennium Projects being planned by Local Committees and queried whether the Council should have a co-ordinating role in prioritising projects.

The Deputy County Manager stated that the Council were already involved in three projects and felt it would be inappropriate to interfere with other independent projects. He agreed however that the matter would be considered further.

Councillor Mullins felt that the Council should undertake a practical Millennium project such as the elimination of demountable dwellings. The Deputy County Manager stated that there were now less than 200 demountable dwellings in the county as against 400 five years ago and it would cost in the region of £10m to eliminate all of demountable dwellings and provide appropriate housing.

TULLYKYNE CASTLE

5350

Councillor Gavin stated that a local landowner had been refused permission to make safe a dangerous wall at the Castle and that the Council had to divert traffic from the nearby local road due to the dangerous condition of the Castle wall.

In response Councillor Gavin was advised that the matter would be investigated.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5351

County Hall

Mr. E. Power, A/County Secretary informed the Members that the Minister for the Environment would officially open the new Council Headquarters on 22nd April 1999.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council would be held at County Hall on Monday 1st March, 1999.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted Approved + Signed:

Chairman of Brewnah.

22nd March 1999
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1999

CATHAOIRLEACH:

An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

LLATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. J. 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, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:

Messrs. J. Tierney, Deputy Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., T. D'Arcy, A/S.E.E., B. McDermott, S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

5310

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with Deputy McCormack on the death of his Brother-In-Law, and the Keane Family of Derrygimla.

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Senator McDonagh, the Members agreed to adjourn the Meeting for ten minutes as a mark of respect.

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

*The Family of James M. Hession, Solicitor, Tuam, Co. Galway
Mrs. Chris Costello, Skehana, Menlough, Co Galway*

*Ms. Brid Bhreathnach, Aird Thiar, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe
Mr. Padraic Carroll, Senior Staff Officer, General Purposes on the death of his
Mother.*

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

5311

The Members congratulated Councillor Finnerty on his 40th Birthday.

MINUTES

5312

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11th December, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Gavin.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st December, 1998 were approved by the Council, and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Callanan.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 8th September 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Regan.

The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on the 11th December, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Varley, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

The Report of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th December, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor J. Mannion, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on the 21st December, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Polling Scheme - Minute No. 5267

Councillor Loughnane expressed his concern at the changes to the Polling Scheme (outlined hereunder) which were discussed under Manager's Business and did not appear as an item on the Agenda for Special Meeting of 11th December, 1998.

Townlands	Position	Recommendation
Kilconieran	This townland is landlocked	Move Kilconieran back to

Monthly Meeting - 25/01/1999

	<i>from voting at Carrowbaun NS</i>	<i>vote at Craughwell NS</i>
<i>Conicar, Gortawullaun, Lurgan, Killaspugmoylan, Glenatallan, Knockauncoura</i>	<i>These townlands are landlocked from voting at Ballynahanagh NS by Boherduff & Carrownaclogh which vote at Carrowbaun NS</i>	<i>Move Boherduff & Carrownaclogh to vote at Ballynahanagh NS</i>

He said that Galway County Council conducted a review of the existing polling scheme and submitted a revised polling scheme to the Department of the Environment and Local Government for approval. Councillor Loughnane stated that the changes proposed by the Department would adversely affect local democracy. The Members considered the changes taking into account local knowledge of townlands concerned. It was proposed by Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Regan and agreed by the Members that the following amendments be submitted to the Department of the Environment and Local Government:-

Electoral Area	Townlands	Position	Correction to Decision
Loughrea	Conicar, Gortawullaun, Lurgan, Killaspugmoylan, Glenatallan, Knockauncuara	Land locked from their Polling Station at Ballynahanagh N.S.	Move the named townlands to Carrowbaun N.S. Polling Station
Loughrea	Kilconierin	Landlocked from Carrowbaun N.S. Polling Station	Move Cregg Townland to Carrowbaun N.S. Polling Station

Galway/Connemara/Tuam Electoral Area Committee - Minute No. 5278

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that he understood that as a result of the Local Electoral Area boundary changes for County Galway that the Members agreed that the Members standing for election in the new areas could attend the area meetings for these areas. He proposed that Members from outside of new Local electoral areas be allowed to attend the relevant area committee meetings of the Council. Councillor Gavin seconded this proposal.

Councillor Mannion proposed that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next area meeting. Senator McDonagh seconded this proposal.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at area level.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 19 ARD AOIBHINN, ATHENRY 5313

On the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Council approved the disposal of 0.073 acres at 19 Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry, to Marie O'Sullivan of 193 Ragoon Park, Galway in accordance with Notice dated 7th January, 1999 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 and Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 17, ARD AOIBHINN, ATHENRY 5314

On the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Council approved the disposal of 0.073 acres at 17 Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry to Ann Shields, Raheen, Athenry in accordance with Notice dated 7th January, 1999 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, and Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF 5315
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED TOWN
OF LOUGHREA & ENVIRONS OF LOUGHREA
TOWNLAND OF CUSCARRICK, PLANNING REF:
98/3893 APPLICANT: JARDONELLE LTD.**

Mr. Liam Kavanagh, S.E.E. outlined the details of Material Contravention set out in the following Report dated 19th January 1999 which had been circulated to the Members.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposal relates to permission for the construction of 3 no. detached dwelling houses with associated services.

LOCATION: The site is located in the townland of Cuscarrick, Loughrea on a County Road between the Gort Road and the Old Galway Road.

ASSESSMENT: The site is located between a line of existing cottages in an area zoned for Agricultural development in the Loughrea Town Plan. The site is served by both the public water supply and the public sewer. Under P.R. ref. no. 98/720, planning permission was refused for a similar development on the basis that the lands were zoned for Agricultural use. However, in the meantime, planning permission has been granted under P.R. Ref no. 98/854, by way of Material Contravention, for the erection of 14 dwelling houses to the South of this site. This effectively means that the site is surrounded by housing and its use for Agricultural purposes is extremely limited. This site is proposed to be zoned for Housing Development in the Draft

Revision of the Loughrea Town Plan. The site complies with the requirements of the Loughrea Town Plan in relation to housing development.

RECOMMENDATION

Taking into account the demand for housing in the area, the suitability of the site for residential development and the likelihood that the land will be zoned for residential purposes in the new Draft Development Plan for Loughrea town, a grant of permission is recommended.

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 1963 Planning Act as substituted by Section 39(d) of the 1976 Planning Act as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act 1991.*

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant permission was given on 17th December, 1998 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. None was received.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is 15th February, 1999."

Councillor Regan proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Jardonelle Ltd. for planning permission for construction of 3 no. detached dwelling-houses with associated services, Planning Ref. 98/3893, and having considered the Report dated 19th January, 1999 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 Cunningham seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

AR SON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, 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, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, E. Varley & T. Walsh. (24)

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 1999 5316
REVISED THREE YEAR PROGRAMME 1999-2001

Mr. J. Tierney, Deputy County Manager outlined the Housing Programme for 1999 and the revised Three Year Housing Programme for period 1999-2001, as contained in report dated 19th January, 1999, which had been circulated to each Member.

Mr. Tierney said that the Council's allocation of 100 houses for 1999 was one of the highest allocation in the Country. The Housing Programme was prepared having regard to need and availability of land. He indicated that the Council has difficulty in locating suitable land, particularly in the west of the county. The Council's strategy has placed emphasis on mix of private, social and public housing.

The Members welcomed the Programmes as presented. Councillor O'Sullivan requested that greater emphasis be placed on housing people in rural areas where population is decreasing, particularly in areas east of Loughrea.

Councillor Hussey welcomed the allocation of houses but said that it was not enough. He agreed with Councillor O'Sullivan that greater emphasis be placed in building in smaller towns like Glenamaddy and Williamstown rather than concentrating on bigger towns. He requested that the Shared-Ownership and Rural Re-Settlement Schemes be encouraged and promoted where possible.

Councillor Cunningham queried whether people who redeem Council loans on fixed interest rates are penalised.

Councillor McClearn expressed concern over the number of people on the Council's waiting list. He complimented the Staff in the Housing Section and said the Local Authority should take on board the social aspect in relation to housing. He also queried the provision of two additional houses in Killimor Estate and asked if these would affect the open space on the Estate.

Councillor Fahy said that demountable dwellings should be replaced with small rural houses. He also expressed concern over lack of houses being built in the Gort/South Galway area.

Councillor J. Burke welcomed the improvement in rural housing programme which is of benefit to rural communities. He welcomed the proposed housing for Tuam. However, with the increased numbers seeking houses in the town it will not be adequate to meet the demand there at present. He said that the allocation to the Council is inadequate, with Galway getting the same as Mayo, even though Galway's population is greater.

Councillor Mullins welcomed the increase in housing allocation, but he stated that this figure will not cater for the increase in need for Local Authority houses throughout the County. Councillor Mullins proposed that the Council take appropriate action to remove demountable dwellings within the county as a millennium project. Councillor Fahy seconded this proposal.

Councillor Gavin said that the proposed Programme is too restrictive. He said that the Council should have regard to the money allocation, costs of houses, etc. as it is cheaper to buy houses now as opposed to year 2002.

Councillor Callanan agreed with sentiments expressed by Councillor O'Sullivan, calling for greater emphasis in housing in towns east of Loughrea. He queried the level of co-operation between Galway County Council and Ballinasloe U.D.C. regarding provision of housing, sites, etc. Councillor Callanan welcomed the increase in Disabled Persons Grants and requested that this scheme be publicised more.

Councillor Regan queried the number of applicants on Council's Waiting List, and the price of land paid by the Council in towns as opposed to land in rural areas.

Councillor Varley complimented the Council on the standard of housing provided and asked that the Council ensure that the Programme of Works be carried out in 1999.

An Comhairleoir O Tuathail stated that a 20% increase in number of houses being provided is not enough. He said that people were in danger of never being housed in a situation where only 100 houses are allocated every year, while waiting lists grow at a faster rate. The Council needs to build hundreds of houses, and the Council must stop adding to built up areas. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail stated that the Council should be trying to populate areas, where schools are closing and losing teachers, rather than building in built-up areas. An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail proposed that the Housing Programme be further discussed at Area Meetings, and a Report giving a break-down of numbers on waiting list, length of time on list, etc. be made available. An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain seconded this proposal.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that statistical information is required in order to evaluate the current situation. He requested the Council to utilise areas of rural Galway for small housing schemes, and that further liaison with Udaras na Gaeltachta regarding housing be encouraged.

Councillor Loughnane said that according to 1996 Assessment - 682 houses were required, and the next assessment will take place on 31st March, 1999. He stated that with changing life styles and social patterns, more updated information is required on the number added to list in intervening years.

Councillor Byrne asked whether the introduction of a list system could be considered, wherein applicants know where they are on housing waiting list. A list system may offer hope to people of getting a house some time in the future.

Councillor O'Neill agreed with sentiments expressed by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail. He said that the system of assessing housing need wherein people are forced out of rented accommodation into mobile homes, to their strengthen case for need for a house, needs to be reconsidered and examined. He stated that people in rented accommodation should not be discriminated against.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta acknowledged that it was difficult to acquire suitable land for housing in the Connemara area. She suggested that where no suitable land is found in Carraroe, that the possibility of providing 8 additional rural houses to compensate for this be investigated. She requested that people should be encouraged to stay within their native area, where possible.

The Deputy County Manager replied to the Councillors queries. He said that the Three Year Programme outlines what the Council proposes to do, however it is subject to change and may vary from year to year. The Council is actively promoting Voluntary Housing Schemes, in the Kilkerrin, Clonberne and Abbey areas in particular. He said that a list of voluntary schemes currently in progress will be presented to the Members.

The Deputy County Manager said that approx. 900 people require Scheme Housing and a further 200 requesting rural houses, giving a total of 1,100 people requiring housing of which 250 are in acute need, i.e. those in unfit or overcrowded conditions.

The Deputy County Manager advised the Members that approx. 100 applicants applied to participate in the Shared-Ownership Scheme. He said that the increase in house prices has made acquisition difficult even for Shared-Ownership and that all options under the Plan for Social Housing are promoted by the Council. He outlined details of Tenant Participation Scheme which commenced in Tuam in 1998 and said that another similar scheme being planned for Loughrea.

In regard to demountable dwellings, he said that the sites for demountable dwellings are given to the Council on a temporary basis on the premise that a permanent building will not be constructed. He indicated that voluntary housing is one area where elderly people may be re-housed within safe surroundings and with other ancillary facilities being available.

Mr. Tierney noted points raised by Councillor O'Neill in relation to people leaving of rented accommodation. He said that an Assessment of Need will be held on 31st March, 1999, and the figures/statistics in relation to numbers on list, and length of time on housing list, etc. will be presented to Members in May. Mr. Tierney said that any such system would require careful drafting to ensure that it was equitable.

The Deputy County Manager said the Department of the Environment and Local Government have indicated that the number of housing starts for 1999 is 100 for County Galway. The Council will endeavour to have houses started in 1999, and completed in year 2000. The Council concentrates its Housing Programme on current allocation and on where people wish to be accommodated. The areas must have adequate water and sewerage facilities and be close to shops and other

facilities. In relation to the Carraroe proposals, Mr. Tierney agreed that Councillor Ni Fhatharta's suggestion be examined. However, he pointed out that the scheme in Clifden was a better option. In regard to the purchase of sites, he indicated that the purchase of land for scheme houses is more economical as once-off rural sites are extremely expensive at present. He stated that the Council has received a large number of applications for Disabled Persons Grants and they are being processed as quickly as possible.

He indicated that any person who wishes to redeem their Council Loan can do so without any interest penalty being applied.

On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Varley, the Council agreed to the Housing Programme.

On the proposal of Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Mullins, the Members agreed to discuss all aspects on the need for Housing, following completion of the assessment of Housing Needs.

Councillor O'Sullivan requested that a meeting of Housing Strategic Policy Committee be arranged to discuss the facts and figures regarding need for social housing. Councillor J. Burke stated that the need for housing is extremely serious and a case should be prepared on a factual basis and forwarded to the Department of the Environment and Local Government highlighting the need for extra allocations.

Mr. J. Tierney, Deputy County Manager replied stating that negotiations are progressing in relation to the Industrial Relations Aspects of "Better Local Government".

NOMINATION TO COUNTY STRATEGY GROUP

5317

Mr. E. Power, A/County Secretary informed the Members that in accordance with the Report of the Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems, it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach of the County Council and Mayor of the Corporation will have a seat on the County Strategy Group in addition to its existing Councillor membership. The Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council is a current Member of the County Strategy Group. Galway County Council should now nominate an additional member of the County Strategy Group for the period up to June 1999.

It was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Deputy McCormack that Councillor Varley be nominated to the County Strategy Group.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Regan that Councillor Quinn be nominated to the County Strategy Group.

A vote taken on these proposals resulted as follows:-

FOR COUNCILLOR VARLEY:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, Deputy P. Connaughton, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, E. Varley & T. Walsh (14)

FOR COUNCILLOR QUINN:

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

The Chairman declared Councillor Varley as the Council's nomination to the County Strategy Group.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GORT 5318

Mr. J. Tierney, Deputy County Manager stated that the revised Traffic and Parking Regulations for Gort Town had been agreed at a recent meeting of the Loughrea Area Committee. On the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Members agreed to the revised Traffic and Parking Regulations for Gort Town.

Councillor Cunningham requested the Council to consider the provision of a car-park in Gort Town. He also requested that the Council consider the installation of traffic lights at the George's Street/Loughrea junction - N66 and N18 roads, and that subject to sufficient road space, that a separate lane for traffic turning right to Loughrea be provided.

The County Engineer replied stating the provision of a car-park in Gort is being considered. In regard to the provision of traffic lights at the Georges Street junction, it was stated at Area Meeting that this junction does not meet the necessary criteria for the installation of traffic lights. A hatched box junction will be provided and the situation reviewed. The provision of a separate lane at this junction will be examined.

CONFERENCES

5319

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

Road Safety Conference - Castlebar - 26/27 February 1999

Monthly Meeting - 25/01/1999

Cllr. T. Byrne Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta Cllr. M. Loughnane
Cllr. J. Brennan

"Urban Ireland-Rural Ireland" - Malahide - 19/20 February 1999

Cllr. J. McClearn Cllr. T. Byrne Cllr. E. Varley
Sen. J. McDonagh Cllr. M. Cunningham Cllr. M. Finnerty
Cllr. T. Walsh Deputy P. McCormack Cllr. J. Conneely
Cllr. M. Loughnane Cllr. T. Hussey Cllr. J. Brennan
Cllr. K. Quinn Cllr. M. O'Neill Cllr. S. O'Neachtain
Deputy P. Connaughton

Agenda 2000 - Skibbereen - 19th February 1999

Cllr. J. Callanan Cllr. P. Finnegan Cllr. M. Ryan
Cllr. K. Quinn

Colmcille Heritage Trust - Letterkenny - 26/28 February 1999

Cllr. J. Callanan Cllr. J. Mannion Cllr. P. O'Tuathail
Cllr. E. Varley Deputy P. Connaughton Cllr. M. Ryan
Cllr. K. Quinn

Conference organised by Dublin Regional Authority - Beattystown - 25th February, 1999

Deputy P. McCormack Cllr. P. Finnegan Cllr. E. Varley
Cllr. J. Mannion Cllr. P. O'Tuathail Cllr. K. Quinn

Conference on Environmental & Consumer Issues - Liverpool - 12/14th February, 1999

Cllr. J. Mannion Cllr. P. O'Tuathail Cllr. T. Hussey

Old Irish Brigade Ceremonies - New York - 15/18 January, 1999

Cllr. J. Brennan

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5320

Hackney Licences

The A/County Secretary said that nominations are sought for four Members to meet with a delegation from Galway Corporation to discuss the issue of Hackney Licences, in the city and county area. The Members agreed to defer this item to the next Meeting.

Sanitary Services Allocation

The A/County Secretary informed the Members of the Capital allocations for Sanitary Services Schemes as announced by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government. Details of specific allocations to be forwarded in writing, and a report will be presented to the Members.

The Members noted and welcomed allocations outlined. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta queried the current situation regarding the Connemara Environmental Scheme, and request forwarded to the Department regarding meeting to discuss and enhance this project.

The County Secretary replied stating that no response received, however, a further letter would be forwarded to the Department.

National Roads Authority - 1999 Allocation

Mr. John Colleran, County Engineer, informed the Members of the 1999 Grant Allocations from the N.R.A. The grants give a 50% increase on 1998 figures for National Primary Roads, and a 10% increase for National Secondary Roads. Thus ensuring the continuation of works on the Cappataggle Road N6, and completion of works on the N59 at Moycullen. Mr. Colleran stated that in order to advance projects additional staffing will be assigned to the Design Team, and Consultants employed for certain works. Mr. Colleran stated that the National Secondary Roads Plan for Years 1999 - 2003, will be presented to the Members for discussion at Area Committee Meetings, and 1999 allocations for National Secondary Roads will be spent in accordance with same.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that roads should be improved in terms of need, and highlighted problems on R3361 - Coast Road. He said that the LUTS and National Roads Plan should be integrated into one overall plan, so that categories of road that require immediate attention are highlighted.

Councillor Varley outlined the need for improvements to the Lugawanna Road which is excluded from the Five Year Plan.

The County Engineer replied stating that the NRA allocations are in accordance with the Council's Five Years Roads Plan as submitted.

Development/Action Plans

Mr. J. Tierney, Deputy County Manager gave revised time-scale for consideration/adoption of Town Development and Action Plans. He said that the Loughrea and Clifden Draft Development Plans are to be considered by Members at next Area Meetings. The Members must consider submissions received regarding Athenry Development Plan prior to adopting same.

The Draft Development Plans for Tuam and Gort will be finalised and presented to the Members in February. The Draft Action Plans for Claregalway, Moycullen, Barna and Oranmore will be finalised in February for consideration by the Members and the Draft Plans for Craughwell and Kinvara to be presented in March.

Mr. Tierney indicated that difficulties in relation to the Development Plan Policy will be on the agenda for discussion at the next Monthly Meeting and requested Members to forward submissions in advance of Meeting.

Aughrim Interpretative Centre

Having regard to the termination of the Management Agreement between the Council and Ireland West Tourism, the A/County Secretary informed the Members that it was proposed to advertise for interested parties to operate and manage the Aughrim Interpretative Centre for period May to September 1999.

The Members noted same.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5321

Flooding - Gort Mart

Councillor Cunningham congratulated the Council on works carried out at the entrance to Gort Mart which were very welcome. However, as a result of works carried out, a flooding problem has occurred which was very dangerous and would lead to accidents in the area. He requested that the Council examine the area with a view to making road safe for all road users.

The County Engineer agreed to investigate the problem.

Clifden Engineering Area

Councillor Conneely highlighted road maintenance works that should be carried out in the Clifden Engineering area.

He stated that he had allocated £6,000 in Notice of Motion Money for repairs to roads that were in a terrible condition due to potholes, but he understood that there was insufficient manpower to carry out the work. He requested the Council to consider using private contractors for the work.

Councillor Conneely highlighted the works carried out on the Lettergesh Road, which appears to be very bad value for money, and requested a break-down of monies spent to-date.

The County Engineer said that he was aware of the problems in the Clifden Engineering area. The Council are in the process of recruiting additional supervisory staff. At present, there are three crews in the area. There is a lot of additional work

as a result of marine and other grants being available. In relation to the Lettergesh Road, the County Engineer confirmed that he had correspondence with Councillor Conneely in relation to this road. On the face of it, the work carried out to-date appears minimum, but it involved draining in rock; repairs to improve the lie of the road, etc. The County Engineer confirmed that a breakdown of work and costs will be forwarded to Councillor Conneely.

Signs in Gaeltacht Areas

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that the Council and Údaras na Gaeltachta are currently preparing to erect signs regarding entering Gaeltacht areas and he requested that the Members be involved in the discussions on same.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 11 - REPAIR TO BRIDGE - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5322

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is hoped that repair work on the bridge will commence over the course of the next few weeks."

N.O.M. NO. 12 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5323

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is proposed to provide a surface water drain at this location as part of the 1999 Roadworks Programme to alleviate occasional flooding."

N.O.M. NO. 13 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5324

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This location would not have a high enough priority to be included in the 1999 public lighting programme given the level of funding and other priorities throughout the area. If the local community are prepared to pay the cost of erecting the light the Council would take responsibility for maintenance and running costs."

N.O.M. NO. 14 - DRAINAGE WORK - CLLR. M. FAHY 5325

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The drainage work at this location has been carried out. The N18 and approach roads will be the subject of a lining contract which will be carried out in 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 15 - COUNCIL OFFICES, LOUGHREA - 5326
CLLR M. FAHY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"I wish to advise that the Council has no proposals to upgrade the existing Council offices in Loughrea. However, a proposal is currently under consideration whereby the Town Hall in Loughrea might be developed and the Council offices located there."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. 5327
FAHY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"It is proposed to include this road for improvement in the 1999 Roadworks Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - TREES - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5328

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"I refer to the matter of dangerous trees at Calvary Cemetery, Portumna, and wish to confirm that funds have been provided to carry out the necessary work this year."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. 5329
MCDONAGH

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Improvements to sight distance at this location have been agreed with the Western Health Board but have not yet been implemented. These measures should help the safety situation at the Health Centre."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. 5330
MCDONAGH

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"A scheme for improved lining and signing is currently being prepared as part of the N18 Lining Contract. This work will be carried out in 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. 5331
MCDONAGH

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conroy:-

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Repairs will be carried out to this road shortly."
"A low cost accident reduction scheme is being considered for this location. Details have not yet been finalised."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROADS -AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5332

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

"Attempts to purchase land for the Knockasreena location were unsuccessful in the"
"Nil an bóthar seo faoi chúraim an Chomhairle Chontae."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5333

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

"The Council has made a further"
"Tá sé beartaithe obair fheabhasacháin a dhéanamh ar an mbóthar seo I mbliana in einaight leis an obair a dhéanfar ar dhroichead Chasla.."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - SÍNITHÍ SCOILE - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5334

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

"The Council has made a further"
"Tá an scoil taobh istigh den theorainn luais 30 m.s.u. agus tá na sínithí scoile in áit. Ceaptar nach bhfuil gá le níos mo siniú."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - REPAIRS TO WATER MAIN - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5335

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"The Council has made a further"
"The water leak was repaired last November and it is proposed to carry out the further works in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5336

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"The Council has made a further"
"The estimated cost of carrying out the above works is £20,000. No provision has been made in the Council's 5 Year Restoration Programme for this work. It is unlikely therefore that it will be included in the 1999 Road Works Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as resources permit."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5337

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"Repairs will be carried out to this road shortly."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - FOOTPATHS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 5338

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

"Land would be required to facilitate construction of both sections of footpath. Attempts to purchase land for the Knocknagreena location were unsuccessful in the past. We will continue to pursue the matter."

N.O.M. NO. 28 -ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 5339

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

"Short sections of the road are in need of repair and the work will be carried out in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - SEWERAGE SCHEME - CLLR. T. WALSH 5340

The following written reply was given to Councillor Walsh:-

"It is proposed to carry out works on the Kilkerrin Sewerage Scheme as part of the small schemes programme in the year 2000. The Council has made a further submission to the Department of Environment requesting additional funding for the project."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - FLOODING - CLLR. T. WALSH 5341

The following written reply was given to Councillor Walsh:-

"The flooding is caused by roadside development impeding the natural flow of water from the public road. There are no funds available to carry out remedial work."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed:

J. Brennan
Chairman

1st March 1999
Date