

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 8TH JANUARY, 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, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, A/Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, J. Collieran, Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., E. Cunnins, Exec. Engineer, B. McDermott & E. Maloney, S.S.O.'s, R. McNally, Town Clerk

Also Present:

P.J. Rudden and associates from M.C. O'Sullivan

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

5306

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to Deputy Frank Fahy on the death of his Mother.

TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF LOUGHREA AND ENVIRONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT 18 NO.

5307

**SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES AND ANCILLARY WORK
IN THE TOWNLAND OF GORTEENAPHEEBERA,
LOUGHREA - APPLICANT: STEPHEN O'ROURKE
PLANNING REF: 97/2225**

Deputy McCormack expressed concern over the number of Material Contraventions in the towns where existing town Development Plans are under review. He stressed the importance of having the Development Plans reviewed and new Plans adopted for these towns. Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager stated that the review of the Town Plan was continuing and would be considered at the Area Committee Meeting.

Councillor O'Neachtain expressed concern about the interpretation and implementation of planning control policy and stated that the Council should discuss this matter in detail. The Chairman asked Members to make submissions for consideration on the policy areas of concern prior to any debate by the Council. It was agreed that the discussion on the Development Plan and planning control would take place at the February Monthly Meeting.

Councillor Fahy also requested that a discussion be held on the level of development contributions levied as conditions of planning permission.

The Chairman called for Item No. 1 to be proposed. The Meeting was informed by Councillor Callanan that the applicant in this case did not want to proceed with this planning application. In these circumstances the item was not considered further.

TO APPOINT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION LOCAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 5308

Report dated 4th January 1999 had been circulated to the Members for consideration. Mr. John Tierney, Assistant County Manager referred to the Report and he stated that the following nominations were received from the various Traveller Bodies in the County following public advertisement.

Ms. Ellen Mongan, Parkmore, Tuam
Mr. Martin Ward, 36 Tirboy, Tuam
Ms. Kathleen Warde, Cosmona, Loughrea
Ms. Nora Dowd, 22 St. Grellans, Ballinasloe

The following Council Officials have been recommended for appointment to the Traveller Accommodation Local Consultative Committee:-

Assistant County Manager with responsibility for Housing (Mr. John Tierney)
Housing Officer (Mr. Danny Barrett)
Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. Gerry Dunne)
Social Worker (Ms. Mary Forde)

It was agreed that Members from each of the Electoral Areas would be nominated to the Traveller Accommodation Local Consultative Committee as set out hereunder:-

Loughrea Electoral Area

It was proposed by Councillor Fahy and seconded by Councillor Cunningham and agreed by the Council that Councillor Loughnane be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Mannion and agreed by the Council that Councillor J. McClearn be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

Ballinasloe Electoral Area

It was proposed by Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Ryan and agreed by the Council that Councillor J. Brennan be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Ni Fhatharta and agreed by the Council that Councillor J. Callanan be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

Tuam Electoral Area

It was proposed by Councillor McHugh, seconded by Councillor Fahy and agreed by the Council that Councillor J. Burke be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Fahy and agreed by the Council that Councillor Hussey be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

Galway Electoral Area

It was proposed by Senator McDonagh, seconded by Deputy Connaughton and agreed by the Council that Councillor E. Varley be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

Connemara Electoral Area

It was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Callanan and agreed by the Council that Councillor Conneely be appointed to the Consultative Committee.

The appointment of the Traveller Accommodation Local Consultative Committee comprising of representatives of the Traveller Bodies and Travellers, Officials of the Council and Elected Members was proposed by Councillor Mullins, seconded by Senator McDonagh and agreed by the Council.

It was agreed by the Council that the first Meeting of the Consultative Committee would be held on 22nd January in the Menlo Park Hotel at 11.30 a.m.

WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STUDY

5309

A copy of the Waste Management Strategy Study had been circulated to the Members together with an Executive Summary. The Chairman welcomed P.J. Rudden of M.C. O'Sullivan & Co. and invited him to make a presentation to the Council on the Study. Mr. Rudden said that the Study reflected modern thinking in relation to Waste Management. He emphasised that landfill was no longer acceptable and that waste minimisation, recycling, thermal treatment and residual waste to landfill now formed the waste hierarchy. He said that greater public awareness and education in relation to litter and unauthorised dumping would be necessary. In Mr. Rudden's presentation, he referred to the new National Waste Policy and specified recycling targets to be achieved. He emphasised that landfill was to be reduced from 95% to 17% over a 15 year period and that Waste minimisation, waste regulation and recycling would be the major elements in achieving this objective.

In relation to landfill, he indicated that three locations had been identified for further investigation - Ballynahistal, Loughrea; Boherbannagh, Newbridge/Ballygar; and Cross, Loughrea/Athenry. Each site covers a number of townlands and extensive examination of the three sites will now be required to decide which is the most suitable. He indicated that the landfill will be licensed by the E.P.A. He also stated that costs of Waste Disposal in landfill will continue to rise. It is intended that the long term landfill site would be selected in July 1999.

In relation to the financial aspects of the Study, Mr. Rudden indicated that £150m needs to be spent to manage Galway's waste to the highest E.U. and Irish standards over the 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Rudden also informed the Members that the Study recommended that Thermal Treatment be in place in Galway City or its environs by the year 2007. This is needed along with recycling to provide a dramatic decrease in the quantities of waste going to landfill. He advised that thermally treated waste would provide a valuable source of energy for industry or for district heating.

Mr. Rudden referred to the appointment of Environmental Education Officers by the County Council and Corporation. He emphasised the role that these Officers will have in relation to raising awareness of waste minimisation and recycling. These Officers will work with communities, schools and industries and there will be ongoing educational campaigns in the city and county to address the problems of litter and unauthorised dumping.

Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager informed the Members that the Council had a statutory duty to prepare and adopt a Waste Management Plan for the County and this Study would form the basis on which a plan would be prepared.

Councillor Finnerty noted that landfill charges were increasing in County Galway as a consequence of the closure of Carrowbrowne landfill. He stated that Ballinasloe U.D.C. had provided £2m for the management of the Poolboy Landfill site in the Estimates. He called on the Members to follow the advice of the Consultants rather

than react hastily to the contents of the Study. He welcomed the proposals in relation to thermal treatment and he stated that a properly managed landfill site was necessary for Galway.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the Council on honouring commitments given in relation to Tuam landfill site and he recommended that the strategy be implemented rigidly.

Councillor Callanan also welcomed the thermal treatment proposal and asked if agreement had been reached for all refuse to be disposed of in the Poolboy site from the 11/1/1999. He also queried if an E.P.A. licence had been granted and requested to know the volume of waste. He also queried if land owners had been notified and how it was proposed to acquire the land. He was also concerned to know the proximity of the possible sites to towns and villages.

Councillor Hussey stated that the waste issue should be considered in a regional context and he had reservations about achieving the recycling targets in the Study having regard to the fact that there was no market for waste paper at present.

Deputy Connaughton referred to the thermal treatment aspect of the Strategy and suggested that the discussion on this should take place in tandem with the landfill site selection process. He also sought assurances from the Deputy Manager that the communities would be afforded an opportunity to have consultation with the Council in relation to landfill site selection.

Councillor Mullins also welcomed the concept of thermal treatment of waste and requested the Council to actively consult with the local communities in relation to the landfill site selection process.

The appointment of an Environmental Education Officer was welcomed by Councillor O'Neachtain as it would generate greater awareness amongst the public on litter and waste management matters.

Councillor Walsh considered reduction in landfill to 17% to be optimistic. He also called for consultation with the communities in relation to the site selection process.

The necessity for consultation with local communities was also emphasised by Councillor Quinn.

Councillor O'Sullivan had a query on the size of the proposed landfill sites and queried if the relevant land owners at the 3 sites had been notified. He also expressed concern about recycling targets but he welcomed the appointment of an Environmental Education Officer as it would lead to greater public awareness.

Councillor McClearn was concerned that the strategy did not include measures to deal with unauthorised dumping. He also was concerned that Members had not been notified of the 3 shortlisted areas in the first instance.

Councillor Varley welcomed the closure of Carrowbrowne landfill site. She also queried if a hardship clause would be included in any schedule of landfill charges.

Councillor Byrne welcomed the thermal treatment option and also suggested that this be costed along with the site selection process.

Councillor Regan enquired about the area required for the landfill site and also asked how many land owners would be affected.

The Chairman acknowledged the contribution of the Members to the debate and called for the co-operation of the public in relation to recycling and waste minimisation so that the targets set out in the strategy can be achieved. He then called on Mr. Rudden to reply to the queries raised by the Members.

In relation to recycling, Mr. Rudden indicated that recycling regulations and bye-laws would be in place to promote recycling. The economic circumstances would also act as a recycling incentive. He also stated that disposal by landfill would be priced out of the market over time. He advised that in Denmark that residual waste going to landfill represented 10% of waste production. He indicated that a 50 acre site plus a buffer zone would be required for landfill purposes. It would be necessary for houses to be a maximum of 300 metres from the landfill site.

Mr. Rudden said that Thermal Treatment would also be incorporated into the plan. He stated that there was no incineration plants in Ireland at present and advised that Thermal Treatment would reduce significantly the volumes of waste going to landfill. He acknowledged that the decision on the site selection should be made at the earliest possible date.

The County Engineer indicated that site A - Ballynahistil, Loughrea was approximately 600 acres; Site B - Cross Loughrea/Athenry was approximately 583 acres; and that Site C - Boherbannagh, Newbridge/Ballygar was approximately 700 acres. The County Engineer indicated that there were 60/70 house-holders in each of the areas and that land owners had been contacted on the same day as the Council Meeting.

In response to Members' concerns that they should have been notified of the three possible sites prior to the land owners, Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager advised the Members that there was an onus on the Council to notify the land owners in the first instance and this precedent had been established in the Courts.

The County Engineer said that it is now proposed that soil surveys and tests would be carried out in the three possible sites. The Council would consult the local communities who will be kept informed. A formal public consultation process will also take place at a later stage.

The Deputy County Manager referred to the role of the Environmental Education Officer in relation to waste management in the county. He emphasised the key role that this Officer will have in relation to raising public awareness on recycling and

waste minimisation. He also indicated that the Council will meet with the communities and consult with them in relation to the waste management strategy. He advised that the E.P.A. had not granted a Waste Licence for the Poolboy site in Ballinasloe. However, once an application for a licence had been submitted, the rules allow for the use of the landfill. Accordingly, he was satisfied that the landfill operation in Poolboy was in order. He also indicated that no formal agreement had been made with Galway Corporation regarding the disposal of waste from Galway city in Ballinasloe.

The Waste Management Strategy Study was noted by the Members.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J. Aine ~ ~ ~
Chairman

1st March 1999

Date

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the family of John Francis King, former Mayor of Galway

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

- The Larnor Family, Knockahard, Over, Co Galway
- Mr Tom Simson, 361 Theellan Heights, Headford Road, Galway
- Mrs Mary Devaney & Family, Bookla, Ballynac, Co Galway

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ORANMORE LODGE HOTEL, ORANMORE ON MONDAY, 21st DECEMBER, 1998

CATHAOIRLEACH:

An Comhairleoir J. Brennan/M. Ryan

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

Oifigigh:

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson & J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer, R.C. Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh & G. McCarthy, S.E.E.'s, J. Harrold, Arts Officer, D. Barrett, A.O., B. McDermott, S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/S.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

5269

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the family of John Francis King, former Mayor of Galway.

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

- The Earnor Family, Knocklahard, Ower, Co Galway*
- Mr. Tom Stenson, 361 Tirellan Heights, Headford Road, Galway*
- Mrs. Mary Devaney & Family, Bookla, Ballymoe, Co Galway*

Mr. Eamon Noone, Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Aindi & Brid Ó hEidhin, Sconse, Leitir Móir, Co. na Gaillimhe
Clann Uí Chartúir, Leitir Mucú, Camus, Co. na Gaillimhe

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS 5270

The Members congratulated the Editorial Committee on the launch of Council Magazine "Cuaille na Chomhairle". A copy of the magazine is freely available to Council Staff and Members of the Public.

MINUTES 5271

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11th November, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Gavin.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23rd November, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

The Minutes of the Estimates Meeting held on 23rd November, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Mullins.

The Report of the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 13th November, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor J. Burke.

The Report of the Office Accommodation Committee Meeting held on 23rd November, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Senator McDonagh.

TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION 5272
OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE
SCHEDULED TOWN OF LOUGHREA

APPLICANT: STEPHEN O'ROURKE PLANNING REF: 97/2225

On the proposal of Councillor M. Fahy, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Members agreed to defer this item to the next Council Meeting, i.e. 8th January 1999.

**TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION 5273
OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE
SCHEDULED TOWN OF LOUGHREA & ENVIRONS
OF LOUGHREA PLANNING REF: 97/1977
APPLICANT: CASTLESIDE PROPERTIES LTD.**

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

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposal relates to permission for a mixture of 9 no. detached and 26 no. semi-detached houses gathered round a green open space.

LOCATION: The site is located in the townland of Farranalynch, Loughrea within Loughrea town along a boreen which is South of the N.6 and which is partly widened and realigned to give access to 12 no. newly constructed houses.

ASSESSMENT: The site is close to the centre of the town where the land rises southwards towards the water reservoir. Until recently, most of the development consisted of detached houses fronting the N6 with no in-depth development. With growing pressure for housing, the Planning Authority granted 12 no. houses to the rear of the established houses and adjoining this site.

At the time of lodgement of this application, it was considered that the development was premature but as housing demand persisted, and, as the review of the Loughrea Town development plan got underway, it became apparent that the lands were likely to be zoned for residential development in the Draft Plan. The draft will be completed shortly, and indeed the lands will be proposed for residential development.

Further information was sought in relation to details of the access road to the site including its junction with the N6, and also in relation to the disposal of surface water drainage. In the interim, the County Council have carried out improvements to the surface water drainage system in the area and there is now adequate provision for this development.

The proposed housing density on this 1.69 hectare site will be 20 houses per hectare or 8 houses per acre which is within normal estate standards. There is approximately 0.4 hectares open space which is adequate for recreational and amenity purposes.

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 November, 1998 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. None were 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 January, 1999."

Councillor Regan left the Meeting at this point.

Councillor Callanan proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Castleside Properties Ltd. for planning permission for a mixture of 9 no. detached and 26 no. semi-detached houses gathered round a green open space, Planning Ref. 97/1977, and having considered the Report dated 15th December, 1998 on the matter, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26(3) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1963, as amended by Section 39(d) of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991, hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application. Deputy Connaughton seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

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

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

Councillor Brennan, Chairman, wished the Members, Manager and Staff the compliments of the Season and left the Meeting. Councillor Ryan, Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

Deputy McCormack requested that a policy decision be taken stating that until the development plans for the scheduled towns are adopted, no further Material Contravention developments should be presented to the Council. The current system of Members considering changes of zoning from Agricultural to Residential areas in a piece-meal fashion is undesirable.

Councillor Regan disagreed with Deputy McCormack. He said that Galway City's growth is significant because the necessary lands for development were available. In the smaller towns, there is a demand for residential land, and Galway County Council is catering for this development and he as a Member is fully in favour of what the Council is doing at present.

Councillor Cunningham agreed with sentiments expressed by Councillor Regan. He said that the current procedure makes land available for development in small towns, at a reasonable cost which benefits people wishing to purchase houses.

Councillor McHugh agreed with the sentiment expressed by Councillor McCormack. However, the Development Plans for the scheduled towns are being revised and published at present. The only way land can be rezoned to cater for the demand for land is by way of Material Contravention. Any Material Contravention development presented to the Council has the sanction and approval of the Council's Technical and Planning Staff. The Members consider the reports prepared and judgements are passed on same. Councillor McHugh stressed that development cannot be upheld because the Development Plans for the scheduled towns are not available.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain requested that urgent attention be given to the Barna Action Plan, considering its close proximity to Galway City and the on-going problems associated with same.

Councillor Fahy stated that development in out-lying towns and villages cannot be delayed. He requested that the County Development Plan be reviewed to clarify ribbon development.

Councillor Loughnane queried the information sources upon which the future development of towns and projected growth increases are based, whether the figures from C.S.O. are used or other sources. The members of the public request the fullest information possible as to why land is being rezoned; the need for rezoning; and sufficient and adequate infrastructure should be available.

The County Manager stated that Deputy McCormack has proposed the ideal situation where up-to-date development plans are available. He assured the Members that Material Contraventions presented to the Members for consideration are well researched and in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area with suitable infrastructure for proposed development. In regard to the Development Plans for the scheduled towns of Loughrea, Clifden, Athenry, Tuam and Gort, these are stand-alone plans and do not form part of the County Development Plan. The Development Plans for the Scheduled Towns once adopted by the Members becomes the framework for future development within the town. The Action Plans for Barna,

Oranmore, Clarinbridge, Kinvara, Moycullen and Claregalway are underway and will be presented to the Members early in 1999.

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT GARBALLY DEMESNE, 5274
BALLINASLOE**

On the proposal of Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, the Council approved the disposal of 9.915 acres at Garbally Demesne, Ballinasloe to Ballinasloe Urban District Council in accordance with Notice dated 10th December, 1998 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.

**VACANCY ON LOCAL RURAL WATER MONITORING 5275
COMMITTEE**

The County Secretary informed the Members that Councillor Varley has resigned from the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee, resulting in a vacancy.

Councillor Varley thanked the Members for being nominated to this Committee, however due to work commitments is unable to devote the necessary time etc. to participate on this Committee.

It was proposed by Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Mannion, that Councillor Walsh be nominated to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Fahy, that Councillor Quinn be nominated to this Committee.

A vote taken on these proposals resulted as follows:-

FOR COUNCILLOR WALSH:

Cllrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. M. Mullins, P. O'Tuathail, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh (15)

FOR COUNCILLOR QUINN

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

The Vice-Chairman declared Councillor Walsh appointed to the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

**TO NOTE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON
INTEGRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS**

5276

The County Secretary outlined the details of the report of the Task Force on the Integration of Local Government & Local Development contained in letter dated 3rd December 1998 from the Department of the Environment and Local Government. A copy of the letter and enclosures were circulated to each Member.

Councillor O'Sullivan welcomed the Report and stated that extra monies will be required to finance the additional areas of responsibility.

Deputy Connaughton agreed with sentiments expressed by Councillor O'Sullivan. He requested that this be an item on the agenda for further discussion. He referred to the Strategic Policy Committees and said they will be deemed a failure if further meetings are not arranged soon. He proposed that the Strategic Policy Committees and all the component posts be put in place by end of January 1999.

Councillor Loughnane stated that there have been a proliferation of agencies and local development groups throughout the county, and welcomed the proposal to bring these groups together in a more coherent fashion.

Councillor McHugh endorsed this document and complimented the Minister for the Environment and Local Government for preparing same.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain agreed with sentiments expressed by the other Members. He stated that further changes are required in order to meet the level of Local Authorities in other European States. He queried whether there will be two Development Boards, i.e. one for Galway City and another for Galway County. He stated that there is need for a liaison committee given the city's influence on development on bordering towns/villages.

Councillor J. Burke proposed that a Special Meeting be held to discuss/study the implications of this report. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta seconded this proposal. Councillor J. Burke queried the number of Council Representatives proposed to participate on LEADER Committees; appointment of a Chief Executive Officer, etc. He stated that as an elected body within County Galway, it is imperative that proposed bodies, i.e. C.D.B. is of benefit to the people represented by the Members.

The County Manager replied to queries raised stating that this document proposes to bring Local Authorities and Local Development Groups together. What is proposed is a general framework for the extension of role of Local Representatives. He said that an examination of the frame-work proposal and a thorough discussion on the implications of same will be arranged. The Manager confirmed that the C.D.B. will be in place by 1st January 2000, and the Director of Services will be an official of the

Council. In regard to the SPC's, he said that Union negotiations are on-going and the Members will be informed of progress.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5277

Twinning Grant

The County Secretary advised the Members that an application for a Twinning Grant had been received from Mountbellew/Moylough Twinning Association. He said that Mountbellew/Moylough had twinned with Elliant and the Twinning Ceremony took place in Mountbellew on 29th July 1998 and had been a great success. Having regard to the expenditure incurred, he recommended that a Grant of £1,000 be paid to Mountbellew/Moylough Twinning Association. The Council agreed to this on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Hussey.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5278

Radon Gas

Councillor J. Burke said that following recent a report of high levels of radon gas in the Clare area and the Galway region yet to be examined, that effective action should be taken by Galway County Council and others when constructing new houses, and a statement regarding same included in the County Development Plan.

Galway Electoral Area/Connemara/Tuam Electoral Area Committees

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain proposed that with the boundary changes for County Galway, wherein the Galway Electoral Area will no longer exist, that the Members of this Electoral Area Committee be incorporated with the Connemara/Tuam Electoral Area Committees and attend the Area Meetings. Councillor McHugh seconded this proposal.

Councillor McHugh said that the Galway Electoral Area will no longer exist after June 1999. He said the Members will be standing for election in other areas, and now wish to become involved in the meetings of the relevant areas.

Senator McDonagh stated that he had no objection to the proposal.

The County Secretary sought clarification on the proposal and said that officially no change could take place until June 1999 and that the Galway Area Committee would continue until then.

Launch of Road Safety Campaign

Mr. John Colleran, County Engineer welcomed Garda T. O'Donnell and Mr. E. Doyle of the National Safety Council to the Meeting. He informed the Members that a

Road Safety Together Committee was established which comprised of Members of the Gardai, Western Health Board, National Safety Council and Galway County Council. Several meetings were held and various initiatives undertaken to target specific groups and problem areas in a co-ordinated approach with each of the Agencies involved.

Galway County Council in its Five Year Roads Plan identified the need for junction improvements, traffic route lighting, traffic calming measures and school flashing lights along National Primary, Secondary and Regional routes throughout the county. To this end a number of improvements to **sight distance** have been carried out at various junctions, together with the placement of **Low Cost Accident Reduction Schemes**, at accident black-spots.

The Junior School Warden Scheme is operated at seven schools throughout the county. The National Safety Council has withdrawn from the operation of the scheme, and Galway County Council will be dealing with all aspects of the scheme from 1999 onwards.

Galway County Council continues to mount a Christmas campaign on drink driving and advertises in the local media to remind people of the perils of drink driving.

The Road Safety Together Committee has prepared a Draft Road Safety Plan and will be finalised in 1999. The Lifesaver campaign has also been introduced during the life-time of the Committee. In addition, the Committee was involved in the drive to locate a GATSO van in the west of the country.

Following examination of the road accident statistics, it has shown that pedestrians are a high risk category. The Committee decided to publish an advertisement aimed specifically at pedestrians, outlining the main causes of pedestrian accidents and the action to be taken. A Pedestrian leaflet was produced which the Vice-Chairman officially launched at the Meeting. The leaflet has been distributed by An Post and is displayed in all local Post Offices. The Members of the public were invited to apply to Galway County Council for a free supply of armbands, and there has been a great demand from the public for same.

In conclusion, Mr. Colleran thanked all the Members of the Road Safety Together Committee for their commitment.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ryan on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf expressed the Members support and complimented the Committee on their efforts, and stressed the importance of Road Safety in the weeks and months ahead.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta stressed the importance of this Committee and the need to draw attention to road safety for all road users. Councillor O'Sullivan complimented the Committee and requested that where funds permit that visits be arranged to Primary Schools within the county to highlight the dangers to cyclists and pedestrians.

The Vice-Chairman on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf wished the Manager and Staff and Members of media a very Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas. The County Manager on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf reciprocated the compliments of the season to the Members.

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 10 - FOOTPATH - CLLR. M. FAHY 5279

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"It is proposed to re-instate this footpath as soon as possible in 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 11 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5280

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"An order has been placed with E.S.B. for a light on a pole between the Church and the village. This along with the existing light at the Church should be sufficient."

N.O.M. NO. 12 - WALL REPAIRS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5281

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is hoped to provide post and wire fence at this location as part of the 1999 roadworks programme."

N.O.M. NO. 13 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5282

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Improvements at this location would be a major project which the Council could not finance from its own resources. If funding is provided by the National Roads Authority for the N18 improvement could be carried out to the road pavement."

N.O.M. NO. 14 - GORT R.W.S.S. - CLLR. M. FAHY 5283

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"A Preliminary Report for Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme has been submitted to the Department of the Environment, together with Contract Documents. The Council awaits approval to this submission. This proposed Regional Scheme will address the quality and quantity shortfalls of the present Scheme."

N.O.M. NO. 15 - IMPROVEMENT WORKS - CLLR. M. FAHY 5284

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"Potholes and flooding will be dealt with as part of routine maintenance. There are no funds available to carry out improvement works to this road."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - SEWERAGE SCHEME - KINVARA - CLLR. M. FAHY 5285

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"It will be necessary to prepare a brief for a proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Kinvara for submission to the Department of the Environment. It is envisaged that the brief will be submitted in 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - HOUSING ASSESSMENT - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5286

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The County Council is obliged under the terms of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1988 to carry out an assessment of Housing Needs in its area at intervals of not less than three years. The existing assessment shows that at the 29th. March, 1996, 682 households were in need of local authority accommodation. The profile of these households/applicants is as follows:-

a) Homeless Persons	1
b) Travellers (Persons to whom Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1988 applies)	41
c) Persons living in accommodation that is unfit or materially unsuitable	256
d) Persons living in overcrowded accommodation	76
e) Persons sharing accommodation involuntarily and having a reasonable requirement for separate accommodation	39
f) Young persons leaving institutional care or without family accommodation	1
g) Persons in need of accommodation for medical or compassionate reasons	17
h) Elderly persons	25
i) Disabled or Handicapped persons	0
j) Persons not reasonably able to meet	226

the cost of the accommodation they are occupying or to obtain suitable alternative accommodation	
Total:-	682

The next statutory assessment of Housing Needs is about to be undertaken with a view to establishing the position in March, 1999 and members will be provided with the detailed results of the Assessment."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - DEMOUNTABLE DWELLINGS - 5287
CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"It is the Council's policy to phase out the use of demountable dwellings and the implementation of this policy is ongoing. The number of occupied demountables has decreased from 382 at the end of the year 1991 to 173 at present.

In the latter half of 1996 there were 260 occupied demountables and, of these, it was estimated that 100 did not have water and sewerage facilities. A programme for the provision of water and sewerage facilities to demountables, wherever feasible, was initiated in 1997 and to date these facilities have been provided in 45 cases. A further 40 dwellings have been identified for inclusion in a programme for the year 1999 in respect of which the County Council will be seeking an allocation of capital funds from the Department of the Environment. Given the reduction in the number of occupied demountables since 1996 and the ongoing phasing out of this type of accommodation, the completion of the programme for 1999 would mean that virtually all of the Council's demountables which are capable of being serviced would have water and sewerage facilities."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD WIDENING - CLLR. M. 5288
LOUGHNANE

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Galway County Council have no proposals to carry out road widening at this location at present."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - VILLAGE RENEWAL - SEN. J. 5289
MCDONAGH

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Turloughmore is not included in the current Village Renewal Programme which will finish in 1999. If there is a future programme after 1999 the village will be considered. The scheme is part of an E.U. Sub-Programme and we do not know whether or not there will be funding after 1999."

**N.O.M. NO. 21 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - SEN. 5290
J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This location on the N17 will be included in the lining contract for National Routes. It is hoped that the lining contract for the N17 will be executed in 1999.

**N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. 5291
MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The necessary work will be considered when the roadworks programme for 1999 is being finalised."

**N.O.M. NO. 23 - BÓTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 5292
FHATHARTA**

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

"Níl an bhóthar seo ar an bPlean Chúig Bhliana 1999 - 2002. Cuirfear an bhóthar seo san áireamh nuair atá athbhreathnú á dhéanamh ar an bplean go luath i 1999. Déanfar gnáth obair dheisiúcháin ar an mbóthar seo de réir mar a bheidh airgead ar fáil."

**N.O.M. NO. 24 - BÓTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 5293
FHATHARTA**

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

"Cuirfear an bhóthar seo ar an gclár do 1999."

**N.O.M. NO. 25 - SOILSE POIBLI - AN COMH. C. NI 5294
FHATHARTA**

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

"Cuirfear an áit seo san aireamh le haghaidh soilsí poiblí nuair atá an chlár do 1999 á chur le chéile."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5295

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

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

"Some work has already been carried out on this road and it is hoped to carry out routine maintenance work early next year. Major works are required at this location but it is not included in the Five Year Roads Plan 1998 - 2002. When the plan is reviewed early next year the matter will be considered."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5296

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"Work is underway on this road at present."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5297

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"This road is not included for improvement in the Council's Five Year Plan 1998 -2002. However, this plan will be reviewed early next year and this road will be considered in the course of the review. In the meantime routine road maintenance will be carried out."

**N.O.M. NO. 29 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES.- 5298
CLLR S. O'NEACHTAIN**

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

"This matter is currently under review and will be reconsidered in the light of an overall strategy for traffic in the Barna Village area."

**N.O.M. NO. 30 - SPIDDAL R.W.S.S. - CLLR. S. O' 5299
NEACHTAIN**

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

"There was a recent incident where localised flooding occurred when a power out interfered with the operation of the automatic gates. Apart from this incident the gates are operating satisfactorily."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGNS - CLLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN 5300

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

"A "No Dumping" sign, with details of penalties for dumping, will be erected at the appropriate location in Brownville."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - FLOODING - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5301

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

"It is expected that remedial work will commence at this location in the very near future.

N.O.M. NO. 33 - FLOODING - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5302

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

"Remedial work for this location will be included in the 1999 Roadworks Programme".

N.O.M. NO. 34 - MOORE CEMETERY - CLLR. M. RYAN 5303

The following written Motion was given to Councillor Ryan:-

"The Council will write to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to agree the works to be carried out to make this structure safe."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - SIGNS - CLLR. M. RYAN 5304

The following written Motion was given to Councillor Ryan:-

"It is proposed to carry out this work in early spring."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5305

The following written Motion was given to Councillor Varley:-

"This road is not included in the Five Year Roads Plan 1999 - 2002. Routine maintenance will be carried out as funds allow."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Approved, Agreed + Signed:

J. Brennan
Chairman

25/1/1999
Date