

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1998

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor J. Brennan

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

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, E. Power, A/Co. Secretary, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh & G. McCarthy, F. Gilmore, S.E.E.'s, D. Barrett, A.O, P. Carroll, S.S.O., M. Killoran-Coyne, S.O. & A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

5255

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with the Family of Councillor Seamus Loughnane., Birr, Co. Offaly and Member of Offaly County Council.

CONGRATULATIONS

5256

The Members congratulated Mr. Liam Kavanagh for his contribution to athletics and on receiving a County Galway Sport Stars Athletics Award for 1998.

CHANGE OVER TO EURO

5257

A presentation was given by Mr. E. Lusby, Finance Officer on the implications of the forthcoming changeover to Euro, a copy of which was circulated to Members.

He stated that Ireland satisfied the criteria for membership, namely a balance of payments deficit of less than 3% of G.D.P., a public Capital debt deficit of less than 60% of G.D.P., inflation of not more than 1.5% above average of best three Members States and long term interest rates not more than 2% above 3 lowest. Ten other E.U. Countries met this criteria and opted for membership.

He stated that the European Central Bank would be directed by a Council composed of Governors of Central Banks of the eleven participating members and would be based in Frankfurt.

The Euro would be introduced on the 1st January 1999 with irrevocable exchange rates and the Euro would become the currency the State. The Euro can be used for cashless transactions, for example Credit Transfers, Direct Debits, Cheques. During this period, the Irish Notes and Coins will continue in circulation.

From the 1st January 2002, Euro Notes and Coins will come into circulation and Irish Notes and Coins will start to be withdrawn. The last date for withdrawal of Irish Notes and Coins will be the 1st July 2002. During the transition period, 1st January 1999 to 1st January 2002, any banking service required in Euro will be available, while lodgements and payments in Pounds or Euros will be processed regardless of denomination of customer account. On the Irish Stock Exchange, Irish equities will be traded and settled in Euro only, the Revenue Commissioners will provide a choice of Euro or Pounds to customers while the Social Welfare Payments will continue to be made in Irish Pounds.

Regarding the implications of the changeover for the Council, the Finance Officer advised that the Council's Accounts system will be in Irish Pounds, while payments will be accepted in Euro or Pounds. Where specifically requested by Supplier, payments will be made in Euro, otherwise all Creditor payments will be made in Pounds. Regarding contracts, he advised that Tenderers will have the option of quoting in Euro or Pounds. He stated the Council will play its part in raising public awareness by showing, where possible, dual amounts and exchange rate on bills and other communication, and by generally making notices and literature available to the public. This will be intensified as 1st January 2002 approaches. He advised that all computer systems will have to be prepared for changeover to Euro currency on the 31st December 2001, while front-line staff dealing with cash handling will have to be familiar with the new notes and coins before 1st January 2002. He stated that the Government will be reviewing legislative charges, for example Planning Fees etc. and that a review of Council bye-law charges will have to be carried out.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain complimented the Finance Officer on his presentation and stated that there will be teething problems and a need for public education. Councillor Callanan queried the position with regard to pricing amongst States from a farming point of view. Deputy McCormack queried whether there would be price rises due to the changeover as happened in the decimal conversion.

The Finance Officer stated that interest rates would not change with the introduction of Euro and that it was unlikely that the price rises as had occurred with decimal conversion would occur due to the three year lead in of the Euro currency.

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TOWN OF CLIFDEN - EXTENSION OF TIME 5258

It was proposed by Councillor J Mannion seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed by the Council that an application for a further extension of the of the statutory period for the review of the Clifden Town Plan to 30th September 1999 be submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - EXTENSION TO HIGH CASHEL BURIAL GROUND, CONNEMARA 5259

The Members were circulated with Report dated 17th November, 1998 regarding the development of an extension at High Cashel Burial Ground, Connemara. The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Conneely.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ON NATIONAL ROUTE N6 IN THE TOWNLANDS OF FOATS ATTIDERMOT & COOLTYMURRAGHY (AUGHRIM) 5259

The Members were circulated with Report dated 30th November 1998 regarding the realignment of the N6 West of Aughrim Village, alteration to the vertical sight distance east of the village, which will also include traffic calming measures at the principal entrance to Aughrim Village and major improvement to sight distance at the junction of the N6 and local road 4401. The project includes landscaping and all other ancillary work.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) 5260

**REGULATIONS 1994 - CONSTRUCTION OF A
NEW BRIDGE BETWEEN INISHNEE ISLAND &
THE MAINLAND**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 26th November, 1998 regarding the construction of a new bridge between Inishnee Island and the mainland, together with new approach embankments and removal of the existing bridge.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 **5261**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 3rd December, 1998 regarding construction of single rural houses with appropriate treatment facilities at the following locations:

Inishnee, Roundstone, Co Galway	Loughaunbeg, Spiddal, Co Galway
Ballyhogan, Kilrickle, Loughrea	Aleendarra East, Woodford, Co Galway
Carrowkeel, Dunmore, Co Galway	Knock South, Inverin, Co Galway
Urlith, Headford, Co Galway	Ballylara, Ardrahan, Co Galway
Meelick, Williamstown, Co Galway	Bohoona East, Spiddal, Co Galway
Derryinver, Renvyle, Co Galway	Curries, Williamstown, Co Galway
Lettermore, Co Galway	Cappaghcon West, Kylebrack, Loughrea
Currawee, Lettermullen, Co Galway	Glennagevlagh, Leenane, Co Galway
Doonreaghan, Cashel, Co Galway	Currywongaun, Kylemore, Co Galway
Carrowroe, Kylebrack, Loughrea	

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain.

DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE PUBLIC ROAD **5262**

Having complied with provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and on the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Walsh, the Council agreed to declare the road in the townland of Caherwalter, Loughrea (Beechwood Close) to be a public road. The road commences at its intersection with N6 in the townland of Caherwalter and running north - north east and north to the turning area outside No. 10 Beechwood Close for a total distance of 185 metres.

LEASE OF LAND AT TONABRUCKY **5263**

*APPLICANT: *Luxury Homes (Galway) Ltd.*

The Members had been circulated with Report (under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946) dated 30th November, 1998 regarding the lease of a plot of land in the townland of Tonabrocky to Cellcom Ireland Ltd., Deerpark, Oranmore, Co. Galway.

Councillor Gavin stated that the local people were against an additional mast at this location of high scenic amenity. He queried the effect of a negative decision today on the planning application decision and queried whether the Council would benefit from this lease. He also stated that rent of approx. £26 a week appeared very low.

Deputy McCormack stated that a decision should not be made until the planning application had been decided upon.

Councillor O'Neachtain stated that the whole issue of masts needs a policy direction and that he wanted further information regarding the implication of this lease on the planning application.

Mr. F. Gilmore, S.E.E. stated that if the Council were to lease this land to Cellcom Ireland Ltd., the Council would get free rent on other sites at Derrybrien and Shanapheisteen for facilities which will enable the Council to receive and transmit radio signals.

The County Manager stated that a decision date on the current planning application had been extended to the 7/1/1999.

On the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain, the Council agreed to defer any decision on the lease of this land until the planning application was decided upon.

REVISED TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS 5264 FOR LOUGHREA TOWN

The A/County Secretary stated that the revised Traffic and Parking Regulations for Loughrea Town had been agreed at a recent meeting of the Loughrea Area Committee. On the proposal of Councillor W. Burke, seconded by Councillor Regan, the Council agreed to the revised Traffic and Parking Regulations for Loughrea Town.

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT - 5265 PLAN IN THE TOWNLAND OF TOWN PARKS (1st DIVISION) TUAM PLANNING REF. 98/1052 APPLICANT: LUXURY HOMES (GALWAY) LTD

A report dated 9th December 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. L. Kavanagh, S.E.E. outlined the nature of the development as follows:

"APPLICANT: Luxury Homes (Galway) Ltd.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Permission to construct 134 dwelling-houses and associated services and demolish one dwelling-house

LOCATION: Off Ballygaddy Road in the townland of Town Parks (1st Division), Tuam

NO PLANNING HISTORY:

DESCRIPTION: The site of the proposal is located off the Ballygaddy Road, in Tuam town. The area of the site is 7.9 ha., the proposal includes for 153 houses, reduced to 134 houses of 4 house types, with accepted amendments to the access, site layout and open space required, following a request for further information.

The site rises from the public road levelling off to a plateau in the middle, falling to the north and wrapping around the existing farmhouse. A dwelling located near the public road is to be demolished.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN: The site includes two land-use zoning objectives, one for residential which covers the majority of the site and therefore indicates that the proposed use - residential is compatible with same. A portion of the land to the north which includes 32 houses and open space, is located on lands zoned for agricultural use. The Tuam Plan states that this use is not normally permitted on lands zoned for this use and therefore the proposed use would contravene the Plan.

ASSESSMENT: The section of land zoned for agricultural use is part of the large open field on which part of the proposal is located. There is no great argument to preserve this for agricultural use, it abuts residential development and other lands to the east zoned for residential purposes. In addition owing to access from the Ballygaddy Road it would make a logical extension to the built up area of Tuam town and can be easily serviced. Because a large track of open space is included in this zoning (approximately 50%) the actual contravention of the zoning objectives is further lessened.

Roads: No objection to proposal.

Sanitary Services: No objection, subject to conditions.

Archaeology: Condition 12 includes for archaeological monitoring.

THIRD PARTY OBJECTORS 10 objections have been received initially - one of which contains a number of signatures. The general grounds for objection are as follows:

1. **Boundary walls** with Bel-Air; A suitable condition will address the objections.

2. **Services** - fears regarding capacity of public sewer and watermains - Sanitary services have no objection subject to conditions.
3. **Traffic:** Consider access to the development a hazard - The Road Design Section are satisfied with shared entrance as proposed in reply to further information.
4. **Shop:** States no need for shop - Condition requires site reserved for same for 5 years only. If no need exists, could be used for residential use subject to planning permission.
5. **Scale/Density:** Fears regarding "high density", social impacts, noise - Density/layout was changed following request for further information.
6. **E.I.A.:** Request for same. The Planning Authority do not consider that an E.I.A. is necessary in this case.

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 12th November, 1998 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. Two further objections/submissions were received, the contents of which are similar to previous objections/submissions.

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 11th January, 1999."

Councillor Mannion proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Luxury Homes (Galway) Ltd. for planning permission to construct 134 dwelling-houses and associated services and demolish one dwelling-house in the townland of Townparks (1st Division) Tuam, Planning Ref. 98/1052, and having considered the Report dated 9th 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. Councillor Hussey seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

ARSON: Cllrs. J. Brennan, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh (22)

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

LEADER FUNDS

5266

Mr. Denis Neilan, Galway Rural Development Company gave a presentation to the Council on Leader Funds. Mr. Neilan stated that the Leader Programme was in operation from 1996 and would finish at the end of 1999.

He stated that of the £5.5m total projected investment, £3.3m was funded under the EU Leader II Programme, the balance of £2.2m met by private commercial investment matching funds.

He stated that various sectors were covered by the Leader Programme as set out hereunder:-

Animation/capacity building	12.8%
Rural Tourism	16.8%
Natural Resources	13%
Small Firms	15.6%
Environment	17%
Training & Recruitment	11%
Technical Support	6%
Administration	7.8%

He stated that consideration could not be given to funding of golf clubs, hotels or works involving agricultural input and that it was intended to give as much support as possible to communities that lag behind. He also stated that the level of grant that could be awarded under the above sub-headings varied.

He stated that the factors in project assessment were (a) eligibility, (b) risk of displacement, (c) issue of dead weight, (d) added value, (e) innovation, (f) direct and indirect employment potential, (g) demonstration, (h) transferability.

Five hundred and five proposals had been received by the 31st October 1998 with 180 not approved and 242 approved.

He gave details of the remaining budget by Sector on the 31st October 1998.

Rural Tourism	budget expended
Small Firms	36%
Natural Resources	8.8%
Environment/Living conditions -	24%
Technical Assistance	31%
Training & Recruitment	4.5%

No commitment for funding could be made beyond the end of 1998. He stated that under the Leader Programme payment can only be made on receipt of all certification and documentation on the projects and that the time scale for the completion of projects will have to be tightened in 1999. He stated that other than a net balance of £150,000, all of their funds had been committed in 1999.

He stated that the Leader Programme was trying to support as many communities as possible. He stated that if it were not possible to complete works within the due dates, there will have to be a decommissioning of funds and the portion of funding that cannot be utilised will be reallocated.

Councillor W. Burke stated that he was concerned with the actual funds spent as opposed to committed funds. He stated that of the £3.3m allocated to Galway Rural Development, he understood that only £953,000 was spent and queried how likely it would be that the balance would be spent within the 18 months remaining in the programme. He queried whether the percentage of spent money was gone on hard-nosed projects and there was a level of disquiet regarding what Leader has done for Galway, but added that he appreciated that Leader had a difficult task. He stated that as a Local Authority, Members should have a remit in ensuring that funds are fully spent.

Councillor Gavin stated that it is difficult to evaluate dead-weight projects and queried how they should be evaluated. Councillor Callanan queried whether there was funds remaining in natural resources budget.

Councillor McClearn stated that there are 36 Leader Companies and that the amount of finance that it takes to administer these companies with a limited budget is high. He stated that with only £150,000 left for projects no reasonable sized project could be funded and if this was the case this should now be clearly stated before projects are evaluated and refused. He stated that the county had suffered because it had not Leader I and it had to wait 18 months to get Leader II off the ground and that there were lessons there for future Leader Programmes.

Councillor O'Neachtain queried whether an invitation had been extended to other Leader Projects in Connemara area to attend, and that he would like to see their progress and that companies such as Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeilge should be invited to a further meeting.

Mr. Neilan acknowledged that there was disappointment that Leader had not been involved in agriculture which was covered in another Operational Programme. He agreed that Local Authorities should be involved and hoped that that situation would be corrected in future programmes. He stated that it was a matter of concern to

Galway Rural Development Company regarding the level of funds spent to date but that there were difficulties with applicants complying with requirements on time. He stated that he is confident that all the commitments made will be achieved. He stated that the dead-weight factor was one amongst a number of evaluation factors and not a stand-alone criteria. He acknowledged that the acceptance of an application can raise expectations but Galway Rural Development make it clear that no commitments should be made in anticipation of funding. He stated that Galway Rural Development Company were committed to making as much an impact in the natural resource sector as possible despite the restrictions of the programme.

The Chairman and Members thanked Mr. Neilan for his presentation.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5267

Polling Scheme

A Report dated 11th December, 1998 regarding the revised Polling Scheme was circulated to Members. The Acting County Secretary stated that following a recent meeting with Officials of the Department of the Environment and Local Government, a number of minor amendments to the Polling Scheme were sought by the Department Officials due to the fact that a small number of townlands are landlocked from their Polling Stations by townlands voting in other polling stations.

On the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, the Members agreed to amendments to the Loughrea Electoral Area as detailed hereunder:-

Townlands	Position	Recommendation
Ballykilladea Caherglassaun	These 2 townlands are landlocked from voting at Ardrahan NS by Cahermore which vote at Kiltartan NS	Move Cahermore to Ardrahan NS
Kilcolgan	This townland is landlocked from voting at Kiltiernan NS by Newtown Kilcolgan which vote at Ballindereen NS	Move Newtown Kilcolgan to Kiltiernan NS
Blackgarden	This townland is landlocked from voting at Carrowbaun NS	Move Blackgarden back to vote at Ballymanagh NS
Kilconieran	This townland is landlocked from voting at Carrowbaun NS	Move Kilconieran back to vote at Craughwell NS
Conicar, Gortawullaun, Lurgan, Killaspugmoylan, Glenatallan, Knockauncoura	These townlands are landlocked from voting at Ballynahanagh NS by Boherduff & Carrownaclogh which vote at Carrowbaun NS	Move Boherduff & Carrownaclogh to vote at Ballynahanagh NS

SPECIAL MEETING - 11/12/1998

Bookeen North	This townland is landlocked from voting at Kiltulla NS	Move Bookeen North to Carrowbaun NS
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On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Brennan, the Members agreed to the changes to Ballinasloe Electoral Area as detailed hereunder:-

Townlands	Position	Recommendation
Annaghbeg Ballyglass	These townlands are landlocked from voting at Ballinasloe NS	Move Annaghbeg & Ballyglass back to vote at Ahascragh NS

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor O'Neachtain, the Members agreed to changes to the Conamara Electoral Area as detailed hereunder:-

Townlands	Position	Recommendation
Croaghnut Island Illaunacroghnut Island	These townlands are cut off from their Polling Station at Loch Con Aorta NS	Move Croaghnut Island & Illaunacroghnut Island to Carna NS (Note: No Voters)
Turbot Island	Turbot Island vote at Clifden NS	Move Turbot Island to vote at Kingstown NS
Beaghy North Island	These voters vote at Loch Con Aortha NS while adjacent Islands vote at Turlach NS	Move Beaghy North Island to vote at Turlach NS

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Deputy McCormack, the Members agreed to changes to the Oranmore Electoral Area as detailed hereunder:-

Townlands	Position	Recommendation
Fiddaun Island Island Eddy	These townlands vote at Clarinbridge NS while adjacent to Mweenish Island vote at Maree NS	Move Mweenish Island voters to Clarinbridge NS

Mr. P. Carroll, S.S.O. confirmed the Collinamuck Polling Station would remain open. He also stated that the Officials at the recent meeting have indicated that it is intended to present the scheme to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government for confirmation before the Christmas recess.

CONFERENCES

5268

.On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Senator McDonagh 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 Member:-

Waste Management Seminar - Larne, Co. Antrim - 4th December, 1998

Cllr. T. Hussey Cllr. P. McHugh Deputy P. Connaughton

“Expanding Our Heritage” - Bunratty, Co. Clare - 20th November, 1998

Cllr. J. Callanan

1798 Seminar - Youghal, Co. Cork - 30/31 October, 1998

Cllr. P. McHugh

“Interpreting & Implementing Sustainability” - Navan - 26th November, 1998

Deputy P. Connaughton

European Support - 2000-2006 - Oranmore - 30th October, 1998

Cllr. T. Hussey

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

J. Brennan

25/11/99.

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY ESTIMATES MEETING OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL
OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 23RD
NOVEMBER, 1998**

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

ILATHAIR 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, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, R.C.
Killeen, A/Deputy Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh &
G. McCarthy, S.E.E.'s, D. Barrett, A.O., B.
McDermott, S.S.O., C. Nevin, S.O., E.
Hourigan, A/S.O. & A. Whelan, C.O.

ESTIMATES 1999

5250

The County Manager gave a summary of the contents of the Estimates as contained in the Book of Estimates 1999, a copy of which was circulated to each Member on 13th November, 1998.

The County Manager stated that the financial arrangements set out in the Local Government Act 1998, have now been enacted. This Act provides for the establishment of the Local Government Fund, into which are paid the proceeds from the Country's Motor Taxation and Driver Licensing operations. A sum of £270m is also paid into the fund out of monies provided by the Oireachtas.

Estimates Meeting - 23/11/1998

He said that 1999 Estimates have been prepared having regard to Galway County Council's allocation of £11,888,864 from this fund. This is an increase of £1,425,264 on the 1998 allocation. The increased funding has enabled many essential and desirable projects to be included in the 1999 Works Programmes, which will be reflected in improved level and quality of services provided. However, further works to the value of £3 million for which proposals for inclusion in the Estimates were received from the various Sections of the Council could not be provided for. It was noted that the Road Grant allocations for 1999 have not been notified at this stage.

The Minister for the Environment and Local Government has directed that the 1999 Rate in the £ shall not exceed by more than 5% the rate for 1998. The Council's work and activity programmes for 1999 must be related to the level of income available for spending. Any reduction in any specific income levels must essentially be compensated for, by either corresponding reductions in expenditure programmes, or additional income under some other heading, to this end a 5% increase in the Rate in the £ has been provided. The Revenue Account Income is comprised as follows:-

• State Grants	£38,156,424
• Locally Determined Income	£ 6,708,970
• Other Income	£6,226,370
TOTAL INCOME	£51,091,764

State Grants amount to almost 75% of 1999 Income. The 1999 proposed rate in £ for County Galway is £36.18. County Galway's rate is the sixth lowest in the country, and has the lowest % increase in the country since 1977, when domestic rates were eliminated.

The product of the proposed rate for 1999 at £4,631,040 shows an increase of £392,460 over the 1998 rate income. The increase is comprised of £180,900 resulting from increased valuation base, and the balance of £211,560 being 5% increase on existing warrant.

The County Manager said that there are no changes in 1999 to the level of charges for water and sewerage, and proceeded to outline how the income of £51,091,764 has been distributed amongst the Programme Groups.

HOUSING & BUILDING

The County Manager stated that having regard to the growing number of people on the Councils Housing List, it is imperative that all the initiatives included in the Plan for Social Housing are pursued. In 1998, 80 new houses were constructed by Galway County Council. The National Plan is to increase to 4,500 new starts, thus reflecting a 15% increase on new houses for 1999. The Housing Programme for 1999 will be presented to the Members in due course.

The Framework for the establishment of a new Traveller Accommodation Committee has just been agreed by the Members. This Committee will prepare a Programme for the provision of Traveller Accommodation within County Galway.

The Manager stated that it is part of the County Council's policy to encourage County Council tenants and tenant purchasers to participate with the Council in the management of Local Authority Housing Estates through the formation of representative tenants/residents associations. Tenants/Residents Estate Management Courses were arranged. The Manager welcomed the involvement of the Respond Voluntary Housing Association, and the Galway Rural Development Company and complimented Mr. J. Tierney and the Housing Staff on their work.

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

The Roadworks Scheme for 1999 will be circulated when the 1999 Road Grants are notified to the Council by the National Roads Authority, and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. An increased level of funds is required for National Secondary Roads. A Draft Five Year National Secondary Roads Improvement Programme has been prepared for consideration by the Members at the next Area Committee Meeting. The Estimates also provide for a sum of £50,000 for the provision of new lights, an increase of £17,000 on 1998 figure.

The Motor Taxation Office deals with the administration of Road Tax and Driver Licenses system for Galway City and County. The 1997 collection figures show an increase of 8% over 1996, with increases also in the number of new vehicles registered and Driver Licences issued. At present, there are 86,000 vehicles licensed by residents of County Galway.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

The County Manager said that a sum of £5 million has been allocated for the Serviced Land Initiative. This will open up more serviced land to assist in the provision of housing accommodation. Page 34 outlines list of locations for which grant assistance is proposed. Grant assistance is set at 40% of approved scheme cost, the balance to be provided by the Local Authority, ultimately through development levies raised under the Planning Acts.

The implementation of a Rural Water Programme is of great importance and the Council has been pro-active in progressing the various elements within the programme in an effective and efficient manner. In accordance with the Rural Water Programme, a Local Rural Water Committee has been established. The Committee will advise on the development of the Counties Strategic Rural Water Plan, oversee the operation of the Rural Water Programme and will have an input to the National Monitoring Water Committee. The importance of the partnership approach between the Council and the Group Scheme sector must be emphasised and in this regard, Mr. Tom Connell has been appointed the County's Liaison Officer. He will provide assistance and advice to the Trustees of Group Water Schemes in relation to the Rural Water Programme. Increased staffing together with additional resources have been assigned to the

Estimates Meeting - 23/11/1998

Section. The Members were informed that Mr. Noel Forde, Executive Engineer will shortly join the Water Services Section.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROL

Mr. A. McCarthy, Senior Executive Engineer was introduced to the Members. The County Manager said that Mr. McCarthy is currently reviewing the Town and Action Plans for County Galway. Galway County Council continues to receive increasing numbers of planning applications which necessitated a review of the staffing levels, resulting in additional staff being appointed. A Building Control Officer was also appointed to liaise with developers regarding the Building Control Regulations.

A sum of £100,000 is included in the Estimates, as an initial contribution towards a fund for the execution of projects appropriate to the year 2000. It is proposed to increase this provision, cumulatively by £50,000 for each of the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 to enable a total fund of £700,000 to be available. Three projects have been identified by the Council, and are the subject of on-going negotiations.

Refurbishment of Town Halls in Tuam and Loughrea Civic Project at Square in Clifden

The Council's contribution to the Western Regional Tourism Organisation has been increased by £2,000 to £37,000 for 1999.

The County Manager stated that expenditure in the sum of £400,000 has been provided for two projects, i.e. Connemara Tourism Free Flow and Towards Island Sustainability, submitted under the Bord Failte's Pilot Initiatives on Tourism and the Environment. A local contribution of 25% of the project costs is required with the balance funded from the Operational Programme for Tourism 1994-1999.

The monies allocated to the Councils Economic Activity Grants Scheme has been increased to £45,000 for 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The County Manager said that the County is facing huge challenges in the areas of Waste Management and meeting ambitious national targets for waste minimisation and recycling. The recommendations in the Inception Report prepared by M.C. O'Sullivan and Co. Ltd., Consultants, have, with the exception of the Ballinasloe Landfill, which is a matter for Ballinasloe U.D.C., been adopted by the Council and are being implemented. Tuam Landfill is closed and the first Civic Amenity Site/Recycling Centre in the county is now in operation at Rinkippeen, Tuam, on a temporary basis.

The various strategies regarding recycling and litter control were outlined to the Members.

Estimates Meeting - 23/11/1998

A sum of £15,000 is allocated in the Estimates to launch a new scheme to provide £1 for £1 assistance to communities willing to provide maintenance/improvement works at burial grounds.

RECREATION AND AMENITY

Public Swimming Pools are located at Tuam and Ballinasloe. Provision is made for contributions to Ballinasloe U.D.C. and the Tuam Swimming Club for the operation of the pools. A formal application for funding of £1.5m for the refurbishment of Tuam Pool has been submitted to the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.

In accordance with the County Library Development Plan, which was adopted by the Council in March, provision is made in the 1999 Estimates for new Branch Libraries at Oranmore, Loughrea and Carraroe. The book fund for the library has been increased by £20,000, resulting in revised provision of £140,000, thus improving the service available to readers.

The Manager confirmed that agreement has been successfully concluded with the Presentation Sisters for the purchase of approx. 8.3 acres of land in the Oranmore area for recreational and playing facilities.

The Amenity Grants Scheme operated by the Council facilitates Voluntary and Community Groups in providing amenity areas, playing fields and landscaping works to enhance the local environment. The amount provided in 1999 Estimates is £50,000, representing an increase of £10,000 over 1998 provision.

Contributions towards the Gort, Loughrea and Athenry Heritage Projects, Kilmacduagh Burial Ground and Aughrim Interpretative Centre are also included in the Estimates. In relation to the Gort Heritage Centre, the Manager stated that arrangements regarding the leasing of the Town Hall in Gort must be finalised before construction can commence. A meeting has been arranged for this Thursday, to advance this project. However, if agreement is not reached within the next few weeks, it may result in the project not being pursued as all works must be completed by 30th June, 1999 in order to qualify for Bord Fáilte Funding, which represents 75% of project costs.

AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The number of students assisted under the Higher Education Grant Scheme for academic Year 1997/98 was 1979. Assistance is provided to qualified students who are ordinarily resident in this county by means of grants, and/or payment of fees, and is administered in accordance with Higher Education Grants Scheme issued by the Department of Education.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Proposals for the refurbishment of the Clifden, Tuam, Oughterard, Portumna and Spiddal Courthouses have been forwarded to the Department of Justice. The Council

is awaiting sanction and it is hoped that the refurbishment of Clifden and Tuam Courthouses will proceed in 1999.

The County Manager updated the Members on the construction of the new Council Offices. He stated that the contract is on schedule, completion date for the main Contract is 16th December, 1998. The fit-out of the offices will then commence and the proposed date of occupation is 6th February, 1999. The Manager acknowledged the co-operation of Staff and Members over the past 2 years.

He said that the Council will be employing an "Irish Officer" in 1999 in accordance with the scheme operated by Bord na Gaeilge. The main function of the "Oifigeach Gaeilge" will be the promotion and development of the use of the Irish language, particularly in Galway County Council and the implementation of the Council's Irish Language Policy.

A sum of £100,000 has been provided for training and development. It is proposed to continue the necessary training for skills development in Information Technology for both Members and Staff.

In order to improve communications between Headquarters and Council Members and with a view to enhancing the Members policy making role, it is proposed to supply each Member with a personal computer.

The Manager outlined the national and local plans for the commemoration of the centenary of Irish Local Government. He said that the Council is collecting photographs of former Chairmen for display in the new offices.

The inaugural meetings of the five Strategic Policy Committees were held in August 1998. Regretfully, further meetings cannot be held until the Industrial Relations aspect has been finalised.

January 1999 marks the implementation of the single European currency, when the Euro will replace the Irish Pound as the currency of the country. Mr. E. Lusby, Finance Officer will make a presentation at next Council Meeting regarding changeover to the Euro.

In conclusion, the County Manager stated that Local Government faces formidable challenges in the shape of the requirement for sustainable development, the influence of the EU in the context of new legislation and regulation provisions, the need to match infrastructural development with economic demands in the face of a fundamental requirement to achieve greater efficiencies and cost reductions. The enhancing of local democracy through the implementation of the policies of Better Local Government - A Programme for Change, and in particular, the Strategic Policy Committees and the strengthening of Management must be welcomed and fully exploited.

The Chairman on behalf of the Members and on his own behalf, thanked the Manager for his presentation and praised the layout of the Estimates document.

Councillor Fahy expressed concern over the number of Trustees not availing of Group Water Schemes subsidies. He proposed that a recommendation be made to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government for monies to be allocated to the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme, so that works can commence as soon as possible. He also requested that following works being completed on Local Improvement Scheme Roads, that the Council consider making these roads public roads.

Councillor Loughnane welcomed the appointment of Mr. T. Connell, as County Liaison Officer for the Rural Water Programme, and paid tribute to the Staff of the Water Services Section for works carried out to-date. In regard to the taking over of existing Group Schemes, Councillor Loughnane stated that a five year delay is not acceptable and asked that a case be submitted for increased funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Councillor Loughnane asked that every effort be made to have funding provided for the Craughwell/Kilcolgan Road under the EU co-financed projects. He welcomed the monies provided for Kilmacduagh Burial Ground.

Councillor Mullins said that no changes in the water and sewerage charges is welcomed, however, he expressed concern at the 5% increase in rates.

Councillor Mullins noted with concern the growing number of people on the Council's Housing List, due to the increased housing costs. Based on a quick calculation he said that it will take Galway County Council ten years to accommodate all on the list at present. He requested that the housing crisis be an item on a future agenda. Councillor Mullins complimented the Council on its Estate Management initiatives and said that every estate within the county should be encouraged to participate in Tidy Town Competitions etc. he welcomed proposal for I.T. Training and asked that an Irish Course for the Members also be considered.

Deputy McCormack stated that following the inclusion of Counties Clare and Kerry for proposed Objective One Status, funding for the Connemara Environmental Scheme may be delayed, and requested every effort be made to advance this scheme.

A Study on proposed Millennium Projects is being considered on a national basis will be issued in May, 1999. Deputy McCormack suggested that the construction of another bridge over the Corrib be pursued in light of increased number of cars, etc.

Deputy McCormack highlighted an anomaly in relation to the calculation of the Differential Rent for Local Authority Tenants, i.e. the inclusion of Carers Allowance from Department of Social Welfare. Deputy McCormack proposed that when the Rent Scheme is revised that the Carers Allowance be exempted from conditions of fixing rent for Local Authority Housing.

Councillor McHugh welcomed the appointment of the Building Control Officer. He said that the Strategic Policy Committees will have a great influence on the future of the Council and regretted that no further progress has been made to-date.

Deputy Connaughton said that every effort must be made to progress/promote the schemes included in the Plan for Social Housing, and that a co-ordinated plan for housing be prepared. Councillor O'Sullivan agreed with above sentiments and said that the Council should be the only public body involved in provision of Housing.

Councillor O'Sullivan stated that following brief meeting with the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey, he was informed that monies will not be allocated to Housing Reconstruction Grants. Instead extra monies will be provided for Essential Repairs and Disabled Persons Grants. Councillor Gavin upon hearing this, expressed his disappointment and asked that the Council contact the Minister regarding same.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the increased allocation of monies for the Amenity and Economic Activity Grants Schemes. Senator McDonagh praised the voluntary work carried out by Local Communities under with these schemes, and welcomed the proposed Maintenance Scheme for Burial Grounds.

Senator McDonagh said that any assistance/training provided for Members on information technology, together with an option of a computer for Members is particularly gratifying.

Councillor Conneely requested that the proposed renovations for Clifden Courthouse be proceeded with as soon as possible. He stated that the Council consider as a matter of priority, the provision of Fire Engines for Inishboffin Island and in Carraroe, to cover South Connemara area.

Councillor Byrne stated that people should be proud of the work of the County Council. In regard to the Council's Housing List, he requested that people be informed on a regular basis of their current position/standing on same. Councillor Byrne queried the anomaly in Water Charges rates applicable to public houses and said that the introduction of water meters was to reduce water charges and not increase same. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta requested the Council to re-examine water charges paid by schools.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta reiterated sentiments expressed by Councillor Conneely regarding provision of Fire Brigade in Carraroe area. She highlighted variations in burial ground costs and requested the Council to re-examine same.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that the retention of Objective One Status for the county and the proposed regionalisation of the country is an important step in advancing the Local Government System. It is imperative that day-to-day contact with Europe is maintained and the NASC Office has provided this vital link for Galway County Council and Údaras na Gaeltachta and University College Galway. He said Cohesion Funding will continue for period 2000-2006, and EU legislation will have an impact in the areas of the Environment and provision of water and sewerage facilities.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that it is important that the Irish language must be focused in our minds at all times. He stated that Administration costs are increasing, and the Council must plan for future cost implications.

Councillor Finnerty agreed with planning for future administration costs. He said that the Council should seek the optimum loan interest rate for new Council Offices.

Having considered all the Programmes, the Chairman thanked the Members for their comments. He said that the public is not fully aware of how the vast range of Council activities affect people's everyday lives.

ADOPTION OF ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES 1999 5251

It was proposed by Councillor Hussey, seconded by Councillor Gavin and resolved:-

"That Galway County Council hereby adopt the Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending 31st December, 1999 as presented and as set out in Tables A, B and D of the said Estimate of Expenses."

The Chairman then declared the Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending 31st December, 1999 adopted as presented.

**DETERMINATION OF THE RATE IN THE POUND 5252
TO BE LEVIED FOR THE SEVERAL PURPOSES
SPECIFIED IN THE ESTIMATE FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1999**

It was proposed by Councillor Fahy, seconded by an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain and resolved:-

"That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending 31st December 1999 as presented and adopted, the rates as set out in Table B and Column (7) Table D, to be the rates in the Pound to be levied for the several purposes as set out in Table B and Table D for the financial year ending 31st December, 1999."

The Chairman declared Councillor Fahy's proposal carried and declared that the Rate in the Pound for the various purposes specified in the estimate for the financial year ending 31st December 1999 had been determined by the Council. The prescribed certificate was then signed.

DEMAND ON BALLINASLOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 5253

It was proposed by Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Mullins and resolved:-

“That the statutory demand on the Ballinasloe Urban District Council for the year ending 31st December 1999 be signed and sealed.”

The demand was then signed and sealed.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME OUT-TURN FOR 1998 5254

On the proposal of Councillor Varley, seconded by an Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, the Council noted and approved the estimated out-turn figures as set out in the Book of Estimates.

The County Manager acknowledged the points raised by the Members. He acknowledged and paid tribute to the contribution made by the Members, Management and Staff.

The County Manager informed the Members of the forthcoming Launch of a Council Newsletter. The Newsletter will outline what is happening in the Council.

He said that a Report on Housing will be presented to the Members in January and the proposed Draft Plan for National Secondary Roads for period 1999-2003, will be presented to the Members for consideration at next Area Committee Meeting.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

Mr. Noel Treacy, Williamsdown, Co. Galway

Family of & Mr. Michael Bermingham, Black Water, Gort, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Eileen Brennan, Stone, Williamsdown, Co. Galway

J. Brennan
Chairman

BEST WISHES

21st December 1998

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1998

CATHAOIRLEACH: An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

ILATHAIR 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.

Oifigeigh:

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson & J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Colleran, Co. Engineer, L. Kavanagh, S.E.É., D. Barrett, A.O., B. McDermott, S.S.O., E. Hourigan, A/S.O. & A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY 5223

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with:-

*Mr. Noel Tarmey, Williamstown, Co. Galway
Family of Mr. Michael Bermingham, Black Water, Gort, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Eileen Brennan, Stonetown, Williamstown, Co. Galway*

BEST WISHES 5224

The Members extended Best Wishes to Mr. Noel Treacy, Minister for Science and Technology, on his recent announcement to contest for a seat in the next EU Election.

MINUTES

5225

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 12th October, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman, on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

**HOUSING (TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION) ACT 1998 5226
LOCAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The County Secretary informed the Members that Guidelines/directions for the establishment of a Local Consultative Committee under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 were received. A Report dated 17th November 1998 which was circulated to each Member outlined the Guidelines, together with a copy of timetable for the adoption of the first Local Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Based on these guidelines, he suggested that the Committee consist of sixteen Members, comprised as follows:-

- The number of Elected Members on the Committee to be eight, representing the following Electoral Areas:

Loughrea	2 Members
Ballinasloe	2
Tuam	2
Galway	1
Connemara	1

- The number of Council Officials to be four, i.e.
 - * Assistant County Manager with responsibility for Housing
 - * Housing Officer
 - * Senior Executive Engineer (Housing)
 - * Social Worker

- The number of representatives of Travellers and Traveller Bodies to be four.

The County Secretary said that approval is sought for the composition of the Local Consultative Committee for Traveller Accommodation as outlined in order to proceed and advertise in the local newspapers for nominations from Traveller and various Traveller Bodies for appointment to the Committee.

Councillor McClearn stated that this area is closely aligned to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, and ideally the Members of the SPC Committee should also be on this Committee.

Councillor Gavin said that this Consultative Committee is laid down in law and independent of the SPC Structure, and applies to all Councils within the Country. He

queried as to when the Committee will be in operation. Councillor Gavin stated that he hoped that all County Councils and Local Authorities would be as positive to Travellers as Galway County Council. He suggested that a penalty system be introduced for Local Authorities who have not provided accommodation for Travellers.

Councillor McHugh queried the formation of the Committee and asked for its incorporation into the Housing SPC.

The County Manager replied stating that the time-scale for the adoption of the first Local Traveller Accommodation Programme is 31st March, 2000. The Manager welcomed this Committee as it encourages Local Authorities to be positive towards Travelling People's needs. In regard to the formation of this Committee, the legislation, i.e. Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 is quite specific and the Department has requested that this Committee be established. He stated that this item will be placed on a future agenda for nominations of Elected Members and the Council could consider Councillor McClearn's idea that the Members of the Housing SPC also be on this Committee.

Councillor J. Burke said that he had no objection to proposed Committee, but queried whether four nominations from Traveller Organisations is sufficient given the size of County and allowing for full geographical representation.

Councillor Walsh said that this was an excellent case for having other committees. A special Agricultural Committee could be established, as this is an area that requires special help and attention at this particular time.

Councillor Fahy acknowledged the assistance of the Staff of the Housing Department in the provision of Traveller Accommodation.

Mr. Tierney, Assistant County Manager said that the primary reason for this item being on the agenda was to determine the number of representatives in order to advertise and seek nominations from Travellers and Travellers Bodies. The first Meeting of the Consultative Committee will be held in January, 1999. In regard to the number of representatives from Travellers/Traveller Groups, the number can be re-examined depending on the amount of submissions received, and the Members will be advised accordingly.

Mr. Tierney also advised the Members that a Census of Travellers will be held on Friday, 27th November, and the results will be issued in January, 1999.

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Hussey, the Members agreed to the adoption of the composition of the Local Consultative Committee on Traveller Accommodation as outlined.

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT - 5227
PLAN - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO
EXTEND HOUSING SCHEME, IN TOWNLAND
OF KILLALOONTY PLANNING REF. 98/3135
APPLICANT: TOM LAVELLE CONSTRUCTION

A report dated 17th November 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. L. Kavanagh outlined the nature of the development as follows:

“PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: *Permission to extend housing scheme to include 12 no. additional houses*

LOCATION: *Killaloonty, Tuam*

PLANNING HISTORY: *70899 - To construct 9 dwelling houses and associated services granted by material contravention on 7th November, 1994.*

98/2721 - Variation on 70899 to alter house type and layout granted by material contravention on 27th October, 1998.

98/187 - Application for housing development partly on site, the subject matter of this application was withdrawn on 20th July, 1998.

ASSESSMENT: *The site is located on the Galway road, on the south west outskirts of Tuam town and to the rear of a row of houses fronting onto the main road. Immediately on the eastern boundary of the site is an existing housing estate constructed over twenty years ago. Immediately on the western boundary is open ground on which there is permission for a small housing estate. The proposed development will complement and be integrated with this permitted development. The site will be served by means of pumping station on the adjoining lands to the west.*

At present, this land is zoned for agricultural purposes. In view of its location between an existing and a permitted housing estate and the excellent access it enjoys from the main public road, it is reasonable to recommend that the zoning of this site be changed from agricultural to residential.

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 23rd October, 1998 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections.

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 22nd December, 1998."

Deputy Connaughton proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Tom Lavelle Construction for planning permission to extend housing scheme, i.e. 12 no. additional houses in the townland of Killaloonty, Planning Ref. 98 3135, and having considered the Report dated 17th November, 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. Councillor J. Burke seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

ARSON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, 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, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan & T. Walsh. (22)

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5228

Bobby Burke Road

Mr. John Tierney, Assistant County Manager informed the Members that the Official Opening of the Bobby Burke Road (N17 - Milltown/Dunmore Relief Road) will take place on Saturday, 5th December, 1998.

Grant Allocation

The County Secretary informed the Members that notification had been received from the Department of Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht and the Islands of grant of over £300,000 for works to roads, footpaths, village renewal and storm damage in Gaeltacht areas and on the Islands. This is a 100% grant and no matching funds are required.

Chuir An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta fáilte róimh an deontas seo.

Deputy McCormack welcomed this money. He queried the criteria/method of selecting roads to be improved under this scheme and expressed his concern that some legitimate roads are not included.

Councillor Gavin also welcomed this grant. He stated that the Council should prepare plans and costings, etc. in connection with the Bóithre Áise, so that the Council can avail of full grant.

The County Manager replied stating that over the years the Council has made representations to Roinn na Gaeltachta regarding repair of roads, piers etc. The list of roads, etc. was forwarded by the Department. A Meeting with Officials from both Departments will be held on 24th November, 1998.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail requested that the Council consider taking over the Bóithre Áise. He proposed that a Programme of Works for the taking in charge of these roads be prepared. An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta seconded this proposal.

Deputy McCormack compared estimates for roads repaired under Roinn na Gaeltachta grants to those of the Council, and asked whether the repair of Roinn na Gaeltachta roads are being conducted in an economical manner.

Mr. J. Colleran, County Engineer stated that both Bóithre Áise and public roads were included in the list from Department of Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht and Islands for improvement/repair. Estimates for proposed works were prepared by the Council and the works will be conducted to a reasonable standard.

The Chairman added that expenditure on roads is a major issue and all monies allocated are always spent. He complimented the Engineers and staff within the County for their commitment.

CONFERENCES

5229

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

Conference on Interpreting & Implementing Sustainability - Navan - 26th November, 1998

Cllr. M. Cunningham
Cllr. M. Fahy

Cllr. J. Callanan
Deputy P. Connaughton

Cllr. K. Quinn

10th National Tourism Conference - Ennis, Co. Clare - 27/28th November, 1998

Cllr. J. Callanan
Deputy P. Connaughton

Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. M. Fahy

Cllr. M. O'Neill

Conference on Nuclear Hazards - Manchester - 3/4 December, 1998

Cllr. J. Cunningham

Monthly Meeting - 23/11/1998

Role of Local Government in Rural Development - Ballina, Co. Tipperary - 30/31 October, 1998

Cllr. M. Mullins Cllr. K. Quinn

Island of Ireland Conference - Flanders - 7/12th November, 1998

Cllr. J. Brennan

1798 Seminar - Youghal - 30/31 October, 1998

Cllr. M. Loughnane

Agenda 2000 - Choices and Challenges for Ireland in New Millennium - 13th November, 1998

Cllr. P. Finnegan

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5230

Review of Development Plans

Councillor Loughnane requested that a meeting be arranged to review the County Development Plan.

The County Manager replied stating that Mr. G. McCarthy, S.E.E. with responsibility for Forward Planning took up duty on Monday, 16th November, 1998. At present he is involved in the review of the Town Development Plans for Loughrea and Athenry. The Manager requested that the Members submit in writing problems they have with the County Development Plan, so that a meeting can be arranged early in new year to discuss same.

N59 Corcullen/Woodstock Road

Councillor Gavin complimented the Officials and Workers on the improvements made to the N59 Corcullen/Woodstock Road. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to Mr. M. Cahill and M. Tobin of the N.R.A. and if possible, that they be shown the progress made to date.

The County Manager acknowledged Councillor Gavin's sentiments. He said the Council have prepared a Five Year Draft Plan for Secondary Roads which will be discussed at the various Area Committee Meetings.

Claregalway Village

Senator McDonagh highlighted the problems for motorists at Claregalway, i.e. particularly those coming from the Oranmore Road onto the main Galway/Tuam

Road. He requested the Council to review the current situation, as a matter of priority.

Mr. John Colleran, County Engineer stated that a traffic count would be conducted and some form of signalisation if required, would be put in place.

Area Committee Meetings

The following Area Committee Meetings were arranged:-

- Loughrea Area Committee Meeting - 7/12/1998
- Connemara Area Committee Meeting - 8/12/1998 @ 2 p.m.
- Galway Area Committee Meeting - 11/12/1998 @ 2 p.m.
- Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting - 8/12/98
- Tuam Area Committee Meeting - 21/12/98 @ 12 noon

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 6 - SIGNS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5231

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"These signs have now been erected."

N.O.M. NO. 7 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5232

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"This location is in a rural area. Public lighting would not be of sufficient public utility to justify expending the very limited resources available. The best solution would be for the owners of the museum to erect lighting on a switch which could be turned on when the premises is in use."

N.O.M. NO. 8 - GORT R.W.S.S. - CLLR. M. FAHY 5233

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. 9 - FOOTPATH - CLLR. M. FAHY 5234

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This matter will be examined and a reply will be available for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 10 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. FAHY

5235

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The section of road concerned is in a rural area. Public lighting would not be of sufficient public utility to justify the expenditure of the very limited resources available. Priority has to be given to more built up areas."

N.O.M. NO. 11 - WATER SUPPLY - CLLR. M. FAHY

5236

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"The prospective members of the Farnblake and Mountain South areas should form a group water scheme and liaise with the Water Services Section in progressing a scheme for the area mentioned."

N.O.M. NO. 12 - SEWERAGE SCHEME - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE

5237

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Under the Serviced Land Initiative, 40% funding of the cost of the sewerage scheme for Craughwell is being provided by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. The situation regarding the deficiency in the water supply for the village must be addressed in conjunction with any proposed scheme."

N.O.M. 13 - SIGNPOSTING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE

5238

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"It is hoped to erect these signs in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 14 - ROAD WORKS - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE

5239

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"It is hoped to carry out remedial works at this location as far as funds allow. This work will commence shortly."

N.O.M. NO. 15 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH

5240

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The Council is at present carrying out a review of Local Improvement Schemes to determine which schemes meet the criteria for taking in charge. This scheme will be considered in this review."

N.O.M. NO. 16 - FLOODING - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5241

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Remedial work is needed at this location but there are no funds available at present to carry out the work. It would be a suitable job on which to expend Notice of Motion funds if such were available."

N.O.M. NO. 17 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5242

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"It is hoped to put suitable signage in place as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 18 - SOILSE - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5243

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

"Tógfar an scoil seo san áireamh nuair atá an Chlár soilsí á chur le chéile do 1999. Beidh sé ag breath ar an méid airgid agus na príoireachtaí a bheis ann ag an am sin."

N.O.M. NO. 19 - UISCE POIBLI - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5244

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

"Déanfar soláthar uisce a chur ar fáil do ghrúpscéimeanna uisce molta i gceantar Leitir Caladh nuair a bheas na hoibreacha feabhsúcháin reatha ar Shlóthar Uisce Poibli Thir an Fhia curtha i gcrích."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5245

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

"Tá guais thráchtá ag an acomhal seo mar nil áit oiriúnach ann chun na páistí a ligint amach agus a phiocadh suas. Dá gcurfeadh an scoil spás ar fáil feabhasóidh sé an fadhb. C000uirfear an scoil san áireamh nuair atá an chlár soilsí scoile á chur le chéile do 1999 ach braitheann sé ar an méid airgid a bheis ar fáil agus na príoireachtaí eile."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5246

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There are no funds available to carry out repairs at present as the maintenance budget has been expended. It is hoped to carry out routine maintenance in 1999. Some work could be carried out if Notice of Motion funding was made available."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5247

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There are no proposals to widen this road at present."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5248

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There are no funds available to carry out repairs at present as the maintenance budget has been expended. It is hoped to carry out routine maintenance in 1999. Some work could be carried out if Notice of Motion funding was made available."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - SIGNS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5249

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

"This sign has been erected."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

P. Brennan
Chairman

21st December 1998

Date