

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TUAM ROAD, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1998

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor J. Brennan

Cllrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, 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, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan & 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, M. Flynn, Executive Planner, T. Connell & P. Carroll, S.S.O.'s

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RETIREMENT

5177

The Members expressed Best Wishes and many happy years to Ms. Julia Forde on her retirement from the Council. The Manager on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf also expressed Best Wishes to Julia on her retirement and thanked her for all her good work in her 46 years service with the Council.

CONGRATULATIONS

5178

The Members congratulated Declan Varley, Tuam Herald on receiving the European Journalism Award 1998 for his article on the Euro.

MINUTES

5179

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11th September, 1998 were approved by the Council, and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor McClearn.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 28th September, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

The Report of the Islands Committee Meeting held on 6th July, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Conneely.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Brennan.

The Report of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 28th September, 1998 was considered. It was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Conneely, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Islands Committee Meeting of 6th July, 1998

Councillor Gavin stated that a special tribute should be paid to Members and Officials of the Islands Committee which had been in operation for seven years, and who contributed to the great improvements now evident on the four Islands. He stated that Island representation was very important and that there would be a representative of the Islands on the SPCs.

DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS 1998

5180

Mr. T. Kavanagh, County Secretary informed the Members that the Council at its Meeting held on 12th June 1998, approved revised Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws for the county and that the Draft Bye-Laws had been advertised, made available for public inspection and a period allowed for submissions, as provided for under the Casual Trading Act, 1995.

The County Secretary stated that one submission was received and must now be considered by the Council. The submission and observations thereon were circulated to the Members.

From: Maura O'Toole, Upper Glantrasna, Camus, Co. Galway

Re: Clifden Casual Trading Area

Summary of Submission

Licence fee too high

Organic growers should be exempt from licensing requirement.

Observations on Submission

The fee of £200 or £150 for the three smaller bays on Market Street, is not considered unreasonable. The fees in the initial Bye-Laws were greater but have been reduced.

As the purpose of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws is to control casual trading it is not recommended that organic growers (of which there are a number trading at existing designated casual trading areas), be exempted from licensing requirement.

Having considered the submission, it was proposed by Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor J. Burke and resolved that Galway County Council in accordance with Section 6 of the Casual Trading Act 1995 hereby adopt the Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 1998 for the County Health District of Galway, the Bye-Laws to come into effect on 1st January, 1999, on which date the existing Casual Trading Bye-Laws 1997 will stand repealed. The Bye-Laws were then sealed.

LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 1998

5181

The County Secretary informed the Members that a Draft Litter Management Plan, prepared under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 had been put before the Members at a Meeting of the Council on 12th June, 1998, where it was agreed that the Draft Plan be put on public display. He stated that the plan had been put on public display, and notices published in local newspapers, and local radio inviting submissions. He stated that no submission has been received and that the Plan was recommended to the Members for adoption.

Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that the major causes of litter were:

- (a) Public apathy and lack of awareness
- (b) Illegal/indiscriminate dumping
- (c) Presentation/placing of refuse
- (d) Litter from Retail and Fast Food Outlets
- (e) Major Events
- (f) Flyposting
- (g) ATM Receipts

He stated that interviews for an Environmental Education Officer would be held shortly and the duties of the post will include the creation of heightened environmental awareness amongst the public. He stated that the appointment of two full-time Litter/Traffic Wardens will improve the enforcement of litter control.

With regard to dumping of litter, he stated that there had been four prosecutions under the Litter Act to-date, with four pending and that the Council had been successful in

three of the four prosecutions. He added that Staff had been asked to inform the Environment Section of black spots in their areas. He stated that the use of surveillance companies would be for specific locations.

Referring to the placing of refuse, he stated that there would be more control when regulations are in place, and that the Council intend to introduce bye-laws for the presentation/placing of refuse for collection.

He stated that clean-ups of litter arising from retail and fast-food outlets was expensive and that Retailers or fast-food outlets will be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of collecting and removal of litter generated by customers, where they have not provided or maintained litter bins near their premises.

With regard to fly-posting, he stated that there had been great co-operation from the operators of discos etc., and while there were some persistent offenders, it was not a major litter problem.

Referring to ATM receipts, he stated that financial institutions have been asked to provide for optional receipts at ATMs and that the Council can require a financial contribution from these institutions where there is a lack of co-operation.

The Chairman stated that Galway is a beautiful county and everyone should do their utmost to ensure that the county is kept clean and litter-free. He congratulated the Assistant County Manager for the initiatives contained in the Litter Management Plan.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the Council Officials on their handling of litter problems in Tuam and the closure of Tuam landfill site. He welcomed surveillance videoing of specific locations and suggested that video surveillance be carried out each year at specific locations and which would act as a deterrent to litter offenders.

He stated that where a process of negotiation is entered into, and where rules are implemented fairly and rigidly that the public will co-operate and the benefits of actions taken may be seen.

Councillor Fahy welcomed the recruitment of the two Litter Wardens for the county.

The Litter Management Plan 1998 was adopted on the proposal of Senator McDonagh, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - BOOKLA GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEME **5182**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 29/10/1998 regarding the construction of a water reservoir of capacity 280m³ and associated watermain in the townland of Lisnageeragh.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Hussey.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - CLIFDEN WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT WORKS 5183

The Members were circulated with Report dated 29/10/98 regarding the construction of a water reservoir and associated works in the townland of Tullyvoheen.

Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that it is proposed to proceed with the development before the end of the year.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Conneely.

SALE OF HOUSE AT CASHEEN, RENVYLE 5184

On the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Conneely the Council approved the sale of dwelling at Cashleen, Renvlye, Co. Galway to Barley & Mary Heanue in accordance with notice dated 7th October, 1998 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 - a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

AMENITY & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY GRANTS 1998 5185

A Report dated 9/11/98 was circulated to the Members. The County Secretary informed the Members that in accordance with the 1998 Estimates, £40,000 was allocated to the provision of Amenity Grants and £35,000 for Economic Activity Grants for the County.

The number of applications received for Amenity Grants was 102 and the number for Economic Activity Grants was 55, which is an increase on last years. The following matters were taken into account in considering the applications and in arriving at recommendations:-

- The amenity or economic value/rating of the proposal
- The innovative quality of the proposal, and the backup material supplied with the application
- The proposed budget and local contribution
- The interest shown by the communities previously, and their interest in Urban/Village Renewal, etc.

The list of grants recommended in the Report was as follows:-

AMENITY GRANTS 1998

NAME	AMOUNT
Castleblakeney Community	£1,975.00
Ahascragh Community Council	£1,700.00
Clonfert Development Group	£1,700.00
Abbey Community Development	£1,500.00
Loughrea Athletic Club	£1,500.00
Glenamaddy Pre-school Playgroup	£1,500.00
S.E. Organic Horticultural Dev. -	£1,500.00
Moycullen Community Development	£1,375.00
Shannon Bank Development Group -	£1,375.00
Claregalway Amenity Group	£1,375.00
Caherlistrane G.A.A. Club	£1,125.00
Caherlistrane Community Council	£1,125.00
Ballinasloe Rugby Club	£1,125.00
Ballinakil Community Development	£1,125.00
Athenry Area Development Company	£1,125.00
Five Year Dev. Plan - Millstream Park	£1,125.00
Mountbellew & District Development	£750.00
Meelick Development Association	£750.00
English Parents Association -	£750.00
Williamstown Handball Club	£750.00
Coiste Pobail na Ceathru Rua	£750.00
Meitheal Oibre Chill Einne - Inishmar	£750.00
Caltra Sportsfield & Community	£750.00
Beagh Integrated Rural Development	£750.00
Comhairle Pobal an Spideal	£750.00
Claregalway Leisure Centre	£750.00
Dublin Road Residents Association -	£750.00
Gurteen Community Development	£500.00
Pat Keane Committee	£500.00
Newbridge Development Association	£500.00
Inishbofin Development Co. Ltd	£500.00
Oranmore Development Association	£500.00
Oughterard Community Centre	£500.00
Moyleagh Parish Sportsfield	£500.00
Shiven Rovers - Newbridge	£500.00
St. Joseph's Park Residents - Killimar	£500.00
Duniry Development Association	£500.00
Sonass Senior Citizens Group -	£500.00
Coiste Pairc Ros a Mhil	£500.00
Glinsk Community Development	£500.00
Garrafrauns Community Council	£500.00
Tynagh & District Development	£500.00
Williamstown Development Company	£500.00
Ahascragh Hurling Club	£500.00
Moyné Villa A.F.C. - Headford	£500.00
Mountbellew Regional Co-Op	£500.00

Economic Activity Grants 1998

Group	Recommendation
Tuam Festival Steering Committee	£5,000.00
Glenamaddy Community	£4,500.00
North West Connemara Project Ltd	£2,750.00
Castleblakeney Community	£2,750.00
Clonfert Development Group	£2,750.00
S.E. Organic Horticultural Dev. -	£2,750.00
Athenry Area Development	£1,500.00
Oughterard Tourist & Development	£1,500.00

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Mountbellew & District Development	£1,500.00
Mullagh Community Dev. Committee	£1,250.00
Tynagh & District Development	£1,250.00
Clarinbridge Parish Hall Committee	£1,000.00
Killimor & District Development	£1,000.00
Kilkerrin Community Development	£1,000.00
Eglish N.S. Parents Association -	£1,000.00
Beagh Integrated Rural Development	£1,000.00
Maycullen Community Development	£1,000.00
Clifden Chamber of Commerce	£1,000.00
Caltra Historical Society	£500.00

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Fahy, the Members approved of the allocation of Amenity and Economic Activity Grants, as recommended.

Councillor Gavin welcomed the increased allocation for these grants and stated that it was money well spent involving a huge amount of voluntary activity in the county.

Councillor Fahy stated that unsuccessful applicants should be written to in order to keep the spirit of local development going.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the allocation and while unsuccessful applicants will be disappointed, priority should be given to these applications next year.

Deputy Connaughton stated that the Council gets great value from these grants as they act as a stimulus county-wide.

Councillor McClearn stated that first time applicants should be awarded a grant to encourage their future participation in development of their local area.

The County Secretary stated that unsuccessful applicants are awarded two points extra the following year.

The County Manager thanked all the Voluntary Groups for the efforts they have put into their towns and villages and that it was hoped to provide over £90,000 in Amenity and Economic Activity Grants in 1999.

He congratulated Ms. Mary Flynn for the work done by her. He informed the Members that it is intended to hold seminars at various locations in the county in January 1999 to allow discourse between Community Groups and the Council.

The Members welcomed this proposal and paid tribute to Ms. Flynn for her work.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

5186

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Gavin, it was agreed that Galway County Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the maximum sum of

£3m for the period of six months ending on 30th June, 1999, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

REVISED RATES OF REMUNERATION FOR GENERAL OPERATIVES AND RELATED GRADES **5187**

On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Senator McDonagh, the Council approved the revised pay rates for General Operatives and Related Grades, details of which had been circulated to Members.

MEETINGS **5188**

The dates set out hereunder were agreed by Members for the following Meetings:-

- (a) December Monthly Meeting - 21st December 1998 at the Oranmore Lodge Hotel
- (b) Loughrea Area Meeting - 7th December 1998 at a venue to be arranged
- (c) Inaugural Meeting of County Water Monitoring Committee - 20th November, 1998 at 3.00 p.m.

It was also agreed that the Finance Officer will give a presentation on the Euro at the Planning Meeting to be held on 11th December, 1998 and that the presentation of the 1998 Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards will be held at the Menlo Park Hotel at 6.00 p.m., following the Planning Meeting.

NATIONAL ROADS NEEDS STUDY **5189**

The County Engineer outlined to the Members details of the National Roads Needs Study published by the National Roads Authority in July 1998, a summary of which had been circulated to Members.

He stated that a detailed analysis of the National Roads Network had been carried out and that the study:-

- constitutes the primary basis on which Government policy on the continued development of the National Road network can be made, including the formulation of proposals seeking E.U. financial support in the post 1999 period;
- examines the current levels of service provided by the National Road network;
- recommends the appropriate type of roadway for each segment of the network to cater for the projected traffic flows over the twenty year period 2000-2019;

- puts forward a suggested schedule for the phasing of road improvements;
- provides a computerised National Roads Database/GIS, and
- pavement maintenance database.

The Study indicated that expenditure of £6,140m is required nationally during the period 2000-2019 to ensure that none of the National Roads network falls below the 80kph average inter urban speed objective/level of service. Expenditure of £430m is indicated as required on County Galway National Road network in accordance with the suggested schedule of improvement needs for County Galway.

Deputy Connaughton stated that the average expenditure on Galway roads of £6m would hugely increase if the proposals indicated were implemented and queried whether the Council would have any control over the roads design and whether there was a likelihood that plans would be formulated for future roads that would not be constructed for years if funds are not forthcoming.

Councillor McClearn queried how flexible the proposals would be in allowing for cost escalation by the time the roads are constructed. He stated that the N65 and N66 had not been mentioned in the Report and queried whether any works would be carried out on these roads over the 20 year period.

On the proposal of Councillor McClearn, seconded by Councillor Regan, it was agreed by the Members that the N.R.A. should be written to outlining its dissatisfaction that no provision had been included in the Report for the N65 and N66.

Councillor McHugh stated that the Report focused on National Primary Route at the expense of National Secondary Routes and that a better distribution was required between National Primary and National Secondary routes.

Councillor O'Sullivan queried whether the total funding of National Primary and Secondary routes was the prerogative of the N.R.A. and would the N.R.A. fund the cost of design works.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta stated that the Report was not a hard and fast document and that she had written to the N.R.A. stating that the National Secondary routes were not getting a high enough priority.

Councillor W. Burke stated that a representative of the N.R.A. should meet with the Council to discuss the proposals and queried the need for so many reduced dual carriageways.

An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail queried whether any study on the needs of Regional Roads was being carried out.

The County Engineer stated that the Needs Study was a theoretical assessment of the money that should be spent in future years to provide an adequate level of service and that the survey was based on accurate on-the-spot measurements by the N.R.A. He

stated that the design involved two phases where phase one was the initial selection of routes and phase two was a detailed design closer to the period when the work would be carried out. He confirmed that the cost of design works would be fully funded by the N.R.A.

The County Manager stated that a major prohibitive factor to future growth is the level of infrastructure and that the Government recognises this problem and that he expected a significant increase in investment in roads over the next few years.

SCHEMES APPROVED UNDER SERVICED LAND INITIATIVE 5190

A Report dated 6/11/1998 together with details of the schemes approved nationally by the Minister for the Environment under the Serviced Land Initiative was circulated to Members.

Mr. D. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that £4.2m had been approved for County Galway under the initiative, 40% of which would be exchequer funded with the balance of 60% to be recouped by way of development levies through the planning process. He stated that he would examine the implications of the initiative and recoupment through development levies.

Councillor Byrne stated that the initiative was welcome for towns that have infrastructure in place but an area such as Kinvara could not absorb 152 houses and he would object to such a large development discharging to the Bay until adequate treatment facilities are in place.

JOINT PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE 5191

The County Secretary informed the Members that a request had been received from Galway Corporation seeking the establishment of a Joint Planning and Environmental Committee to discuss issues of common concern.

The Members agreed that the question of an informal Committee or group could be dealt with at the next meeting of the Planning and Economic Development SPC.

RIVER SUCK JOINT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE 5192

The Auditors Report for River Suck Joint Drainage Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1997 was noted by the Members.

LOUGH CORRIB NAVIGATION TRUSTEES

5193

The Auditors Report for Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees for the year ended 31st December, 1997 was noted by the Members

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5194

Local Improvement Schemes

The County Secretary advised the Members that the Department of the Environment in letter dated 16/10/98 had allocated an additional £21,000 towards Local Improvement Schemes and the allocation would be spent on four extra schemes next on the L.I.S. list.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5195

Moycullen Village

Councillor Gavin requested that the Council carry out remedial works to road hollows outside Moycullen Village that had recently filled with rain water.

Urban Renewal Scheme

Deputy Connaughton expressed concern at the delay in approving the Integrated Action Plan for Tuam and that the Council should support the designation of Tuam under the above scheme.

Councillor J. Burke stated that the designation of Tuam would be a huge advance for the town and that the Council should write to the appropriate E.U. office expressing the importance of the scheme to a community such as Tuam.

Councillor McHugh stated that the application was being dealt with at European level and that he understood that a favourable decision would issue shortly subject to terms of the scheme.

Councillor J. Burke stated the Council had complied fully with the requirements of the application but was concerned that the Government had submitted the application with larger proposals such as the Docklands and Financial Services Developments and it would not receive an adequate hearing.

LEADER Funds

Councillor W. Burke stated that it had been rumoured that LEADER funds may not be fully spent. On the proposal of Councillor W. Burke, seconded by An Comhairleoir

O'Tuathail, it was agreed that a LEADER representative be invited to the next meeting of the Council to discuss LEADER funds.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 20 - VERGE TRIMMING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5196

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"It is hoped to carry out verge trimming in this general area in the course of the next few weeks."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - C.E.S. - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5197

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"There is a large programme of work already set out for the proposed Community Employment Scheme in the Gort area. Priority is given to works of general public utility and this wall does not fall into this category."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5198

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"Resurfacing work was carried out at this location recently."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - LITTER PROBLEM - CLLR. M. FAHY 5199

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"Galway County Council propose to recruit a Traffic/Litter Warden for Loughrea and Environs early in the new year. It is intended that Gort will be included within the area of operation of the Traffic/Litter Warden."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - FAS SCHEME - CLLR. M. FAHY 5200

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"£7,000 is provided in the draft estimates for 1999 for work at this Burial Ground and it is hoped to commence work early in the New Year."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - FAS SCHEME - CLLR. M. FAHY 5201

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This location will be considered when reviewing the existing programme of works for the Community Employment Scheme when the scheme re-commences."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 5202

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"This road will be considered for improvement in the 1999 roadworks programme subject to funding and other priorities at the time. In the meantime routine maintenance will be carried out."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 5203

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"This road will be considered for improvement in the 1999 roadworks programme subject to funding and other priorities at the time. In the meantime routine maintenance will be carried out."

N.O.M. NO. 28 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. P. FINNEGAN 5204

The following written reply was given to Councillor Finnegan:-

"The visibility at this bend is restricted by a 20 metre old concrete wall which forms part of the land owners cattle pen. If the landowner agrees the cost of setting back this wall is estimated at £950. No provision has been made in the 1998 Road Works Programme for this work. It would be a suitable project on which to expend Notice of Motion funding."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5205

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The Council have agreed to accede to the groups request and they have been informed accordingly."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - WATER MONITORING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5206

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"There are seven monitoring points on the Dunkellin River into which the Ballymurray stream flows and these are monitored four times a year by the E.P.A. Monitoring is not undertaken on the Ballymurray due to limitations on resources and the nearest sampling point is east of Craughwell."

**N.O.M. NO. 31 - CAHERFINISKER G.W.S.S. - CLLR. M. 5207
LOUGHNANE**

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This work is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly."

**N.O.M. NO. 32 - FLASHING LIGHTS - DEPUTY P. 5208
MCCORMACK**

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"This location will be considered when the 1999 programme for school flashing lights is being drawn up. Its inclusion will be subject to funding and other priorities at the time."

N.O.M. NO. 33 - SIGNS - SENATOR J. MCDONAGH 5209

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This location has been examined and signage is considered to be adequate."

N.O.M. NO. 34 - ROAD - SENATOR J. MCDONAGH 5210

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The road will be examined with a view to carrying out any necessary remedial works".

**N.O.M. NO. 35 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - SENATOR 5211
J. MCDONAGH**

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"The road at this location was resurfaced recently and signage was improved. There are no proposals to remove bends at the location."

**N.O.M. NO. 36 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 5212
FHATHARTA**

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

"Rinneadh obair dheisiucháin ar an mbóthar seo le gairid."

N.O.M. NO. 37 - SOILSI POIBLI - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5213

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

"Cuireadh cuid mhaith soilsi poiblí ar fáil timpeall na háite seo le blianta anuas. Tá an tairgead a bhí leaghta amach le haghaidh soilsi poiblí I mbliana caite. Cuirfear an áit san áireamh nuair atá an gclár á chur le chéile do 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - AIT PAIRCEAIL - AN COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 5214

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

"Chuir an innealtóir aitiuil in iúl dúinn go mbeadh costas, isteach is amach le, £10,000.00 í gceist chun an áit pairceáil a chur ar fáil agus an bóthar rochtanna a dheisiú agus níl an méed sin airgead sa chiste faoi láthair."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5215

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There are not sufficient funds remaining in this year's maintenance budget to carry out the necessary repairs which would cost approximately £6,000. It will be considered for next year's programme."

N.O.M. NO. 40 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5216

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"Routine maintenance will be carried out on the portion of this road which is in charge of the Council."

N.O.M. NO. 41 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. CONNEELY 5217

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"There are not sufficient funds remaining in this year's maintenance budget to carry out the necessary repairs which would cost approximately £8,000. It will be considered for next year's programme."

N.O.M. NO. 42 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLL. P. O'SULLIVAN 5218

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

"The location has not been included in the Council's 5 Year Non National Road Works Programme. It will be considered for inclusion under the next review which is due to take place early in 1999."

N.O.M. NO. 43 - ROAD - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5219

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

"It is hoped to provide funding in the 1999 draft estimates for this project."

N.O.M. NO. 44 - SIGNS - CLLR. P. O'SULLIVAN 5220

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

"It is not Council policy to erect directional signs to Townlands.

The Council would have no objection to the erection of stone townland signs in Ballyeighter by the local community."

N.O.M. NO. 45 - LIGHTING - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5221

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"This location will be considered when the 1999 public lighting programme is being prepared."

N.O.M. NO. 46 - SPEED LIMIT SIGN - CLLR. E. VARLEY 5222

The following written reply was given to Councillor Varley:-

"The Road Traffic (Speed Limits) County Galway Bye Laws 198 Section 31(c) included the provision of a 30 m.p.h. speed limit for the Claran or Greenfields road for a distance of 306 metres from its junction with the Galway Shrule Road. This section is an exact repeat of section 28(c) of the Road Traffic Speed Limits Regulations 1987 which have been repealed. I enclose copy of relevant extracts for your information. However, this location will be checked to ensure that the position of the speed limit sign is in accordance with Speed Limit Bye-Laws."

Approved & Signed: **CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

G. O'Sullivan
Chairman

21st December 1998
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT OYSTER MANOR HOTEL, CLARENBRIDGE, CO. GALWAY ON MONDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 1998

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, 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, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, J. Tierney, Assistant Co. Managers, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, L. Kavanagh & J.Eising, S.E.E.'s, D. Barrett, A.O., T. Murphy, A/A.O., B. McDermott & P. Carroll, S.S.O.s, A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION 5166 OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF GORT - TOWNLAND OF BALLYHUGH. PLANNING REF. NO. 98/2235 - APPLICANT: ROBIN LAHIFFE

Mr. L. Kavanagh outlined the details of the proposed Material Contravention set out in the following Report dated 30th September, 1998 which had already been circulated to the Members.

"PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposed development is for the construction of 47 residential units comprising 23 detached houses, sixteen apartments, eight townhouses on a site at Church Street, Gort. Outline Planning Permission is being sought.

LOCATION: The site is located at Church Street, Gort

GORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN: The current Development Plan for Gort has zoned the lands on which the proposal is located for agricultural purposes. The proposal which involves a medium density of development would contravene the zoning objective which only facilitates residential development of a low density i.e. 0.5 acre per house.

PLANNING HISTORY: No previous planning history on the site.

ASSESSMENT: The site of the proposal is located on lands fronting onto Church Street. The development is bounded to the South by the Cannahowna river and it is proposed to develop a linear walk with public access along the river bank. One vehicular access only is proposed out of Church Street with pedestrian access onto the laneway to the river. The proposal comprises 23 detached houses, 4 pairs of semi-detached houses and the two groups of 8 apartments which will overlook the riverside. A large area of open space will separate the apartment blocks and will separate the houses from the river. Other incidental green areas are located throughout the site. The development is medium density of approximately 6 units per acre with a site area of 3.27 hectares.

CONTEXT: The site is located within the town boundary. It is bounded to the front by Church Street, to the rear by the library and nun's burial ground and to the South by the river and a cul-de-sac leading to the river.

SERVICES: The public sewer and the watermain run along Church Street and it is proposed to connect into same.

MERITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT: Taken in context the development is located adjoining the built up areas of Gort with commercial zoning adjacent to the North, community facilities zoning to the East and residential zoning across Church Street to the West of the site. The land lends itself to residential use given its prime location at the edge of the commercial area and close to all services required. Such use at this location would be so located as not to cause conflict between uses or a reduction in amenity. The opening up and development of the riverside walk for the public will enhance the overall amenity value of the town and will provide a further link in the development of the riverside walk along the Connahowna river.

The density of the development is consistent with other recent developments in Gort town and is considered appropriate in the context of the scale of Gort.

OBJECTIONS: There have been no objections to the proposed development.

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 outline permission was given on 31st August 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 outline 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 30th October 1998."

Councillor Cunningham said that he wished to compliment the Council in bringing forward the proposal and that the location was ideal for such a development.

Councillor Fahy said that there was a great need for housing development in the whole of South Galway area and that suitable sites were needed. He welcomed the development not only for Gort but for South Galway as well.

Councillor T. Byrne said that the proposed development was a worthwhile project on a site which would improve the amenities of the area especially the proposed walks by the river.

Councillor Loughnane said he also agreed with the proposal and wished to be associated with it.

Councillor M. Cunningham proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Robin Lahiffe, Cloon House, Gort for outline planning permission for the construction of 47 residential units comprising of 23 detached houses, 16 apartments and 8 townhouses at Church Street in the townland of Ballyhugh, Planning Ref. 97/2235, and having considered the Report dated 30th September, 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 and Development) Act, 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991, hereby require that a decision to grant outline permission be made in the case of this application. Councillor Fahy seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

AR SON:

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

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

**TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION 5167
OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED
TOWN OF LOUGHREA AND ENVIRONS OF LOUGHREA
IN THE TOWNLAND OF CUSCARRICK - PLANNING
REFERENCE NO. 98/854. APPLICANT: JARDONELLE LTD.**

A Report dated 6th October, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. Liam Kavanagh, S.E.E. Planning outlined details of the proposed Material Contravention as follows:-

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The construction of 14 dwelling houses and associated services.

LOCATION: The site is located at the Western end of Loughrea Town between the Gort Road and the Tulla Hill Road.

ASSESSMENT: The proposal is to construct 14 houses on a site of area 0.525 hectares which is at the upper density allowed in the Loughrea Town Plan. The site adjoins a site on which permission was granted for twelve houses earlier this year on lands zoned residential. This proposal takes its access through the permitted estate and is a reasonable extension of same. It is on a block of land which is sandwiched between the ribbon of houses on the Gort Road and the ribbon of houses on the Tulla Hill Road. It is presently zoned "agricultural" but as it is serviced by drainage and water supply and has a very pleasant aspect overlooking Loughrea Lake it is proposed to zone it "residential" in the Draft Plan which is being prepared for Loughrea.

The proposed house types are two storey, semi-detached with brick cladding, set into two cul-de-sac roads which form part of the adjacent permitted housing estate. They will not overlook existing residential amenities.

There is an objector to the proposed development, his objection being concerned with the vulnerability of the boundary between his property and the site. This can be dealt with by condition if permission is granted.

CONCLUSION: As there is a continuing demand for housing in Loughrea and because this is an extension of a small housing estate in an area of the Town which is almost exclusively devoted to housing development, there is no objection on planning grounds to the development.

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 31st August 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 30th October 1998."

Mr. L. Kavanagh said that there was an objector to the proposed development, this objection being concerned with the vulnerability of the boundary between his property and the site. He stated that this can be dealt with by condition if permission is granted.

Councillor Loughnane said that the proposed development was on a very nice site on the Gort Road close to Loughrea which would improve and enhance the locality.

Councillor Regan said he welcomed the development and that there was a great need for more housing developments in the Loughrea area and that he wished the developer well.

Councillor J. Burke complimented the officials on how they handled the objection by proposing a condition. This is a legitimate way of resolving this type of issue he stated.

Councillor Loughnane proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Jardonelle Ltd. for planning permission for the construction of 14 dwelling-houses and associated services in the townland of Cuscarrick, Planning Ref. 98/854, and having considered the Report dated 6th October, 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 and 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 Regan seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

AR SON:

Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Senator J. McDonagh, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley, Deputy P. McCormack & T. Walsh. (27)

IN AGHAIDH:

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

Councillor McClearn complimented the applicants but said that there was still a huge problem with planning in Loughrea. He asked what was the situation with regard to the review of the Loughrea Town Plan.

The County Manager said that it was not correct to say that there was a huge problem with planning in Loughrea. In relation to the Draft Plan for Loughrea he said that it would be before the Area Committee by the end of November. The Draft Plans for Tuam and Claregalway would be before the Council by end of December, Clifden by the end of January and Gort, Moycullen, Oranmore and Bearna by February/March. The County Manager said that the new Senior Executive Planner would be taking up his position in Forward Planning in a months time which should be of great benefit to the Planning Section.

Councillor McClearn said that a number of applications had been refused in the Loughrea area because of zoning and asked when would the Loughrea Town Plan be adopted by the Council.

The County Manager said that the Draft Plan for Loughrea would come before the Council after the Area Committee had considered it and would then be put on display for 3 months before finally being adopted. He said that an application is only brought before the Council for the consideration of a Material Contravention when all other aspects of the application are in order and the application is in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS (GRATUITY) 5168
SCHEME 1998

The County Secretary informed the Members that a Report dated 9th October, 1998 which had been circulated to Members contained a supplementary list to statement of decisions issued on 28th September 1998 in respect of applications received under the scheme.

The Members noted the Report.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL 5169
GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)
REGULATIONS 1994 - EXTENSION TO KILTARTAN
BURIAL GROUND

The Members were circulated with Report dated 1st October, 1998 regarding the development of burial ground extension and car parking at Kiltartan, Gort.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - INISHMORE WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME **5170**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 5th October, 1998 regarding the provision of a reservoir, pumping station, rising main, distribution network, access road and associated works at Oghil, Inishmore.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the proposed development was one of the most important developments to take place on Inishmore and he paid tribute to Officials and others who had brought the development to this stage.

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that the Contract Documents for the development are with the Department of the Environment and Local Government, and the Council is awaiting for approval to go to tender. He stated that the reservoir had been designed to blend in with the landscape.

He added however that it was unlikely that the development would be completed in time for the 1999 summer season.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 **5171**

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th October, 1998 regarding the following works:-

1. Construction of 4 houses at Woodford, Co. Galway comprising 2 x 3 bedroomed houses and 2 x 2 bedroomed houses.
2. Demolition of house (fire damaged) and construction of rural house with appropriate treatment facilities at Levally East, Tuam, Co. Galway.
3. Construction of dwelling-house at St. Laurences Fields, (St. Brendan's Court), Loughrea, Co. Galway.
4. Construction of single rural house with appropriate treatment facilities at Cloonfaghna, Glinsk, Co. Galway.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor W. Burke.

**TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF TIME FOR
REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
TOWN OF ATHENRY**

5172

The following report of the County Secretary dated 12th October, 1998, putting forward a time-scale for the completion of the Review of the Development Plan for the Town of Athenry was submitted:-

“The Development Plan for Athenry is being reviewed at present. The draft plan will be on public display until 25th October, 1998 a period of 5 months having been allowed for submissions.

Given the interest shown in the draft and the public meetings held, it is obvious that a number of submissions will be made. The submissions will have to be considered and reported on to the January meeting of the Council. If material changes are required to the draft, the amendments will have to be advertised for a further month. Any submissions received will have to be examined and reported on to the April meeting of the Council, when hopefully the plan will be adopted.

As regards the current town plan, the Council applied to the Minister to extend the time for its review to 31st October, 1998. Sanction has not issued. I now recommend that the Ministers approval be sought to extend the time for the review of the plan to 30th May, 1999.”

The Report was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Loughnane, agreeing to request a further extension of time for the review of the Athenry Development Plan to 30th May, 1999.

Councillor Loughnane asked that the time be extended for the receipt of submissions on the Draft Plan as the local community are carrying out a survey. The County Secretary said that a further extension of public display period had been applied for but this had been refused as the Draft Athenry Town Plan will have been on display for 5 months by 25th October 1998 which is deemed more than sufficient time for the submission of observations. Any further extension would create a serious precedent and the County Council could not agree to same.

Deputy McCormack raised an issue in relation to planning reference no. 97/3512 which relates to a grant of planning permission for the construction of joinery workshop, paints shop, offices, storage yard, advertising signs, septic tank and percolation area in the townland of Moyveela, Oranmore on 17th September 1998 to Lockwood Joinery. Deputy McCormack queried the granting of planning permission for a commercial development in a residential area and the fact that the applicant was not asked to submit a letter from the Trustees of the Group Water Scheme consenting to a connection to same whereas applicant's for a domestic house are asked to do so.

Councillor Regan also asked that the issue be clarified in relation to the submission of letter of consent from Trustees of Group Water Schemes.

The County Manager said that as the matter raised was not on the Agenda he did not know the details of the case and would revert back to Deputy McCormack.

The County Manager updated the Members in relation to the Development Plans for the various towns which are being prepared at present.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1997

5173

The Members were circulated with Report dated 6th October, 1998 on the Freedom of Information Act 1997.

The County Secretary outlined the main features of the Act and the requirement for the Council to (a) publish a reference book under Section 15 of the Act outlining the services being provided for the public and how these may be availed of and (b) publish a reference book under Section 16 of the Act listing the rules which govern delivery of the services being provided by the Council and outlining the procedures and practices used in making decisions.

He stated that a formal request under the Act must be made in writing, acknowledged within two weeks and a decision made on the request within four weeks. A charge of £16.50 per hour may be made where information has to be retrieved. Where a request is refused, the applicant can seek an internal review. He stated that the required reference books were now prepared, and would be circulated and that the Act would come into effect in the case of Local Authorities on the 21st October, 1998.

Councillor Gavin stated that individuals and groups appear to have a wide range of rights to information under the Act and asked if the right of individuals and groups to know the criteria for all decisions made would be a legal minefield.

An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta stated that the reference books and application forms should be bilingual and that Staff should be available to converse in Irish where required.

Councillor J. Burke welcomed the Act and felt that where a doubt existed as to an individual's right to information, it would be best to be transparent and give the information required. He asked who would requests for information be addressed to.

Councillor O'Neill referred to a previous incident where a complaint was made against an individual and the Council would not make available the identity of the Complainant to that individual and asked what the Council policy was in matters like this.

Councillor Loughnane queried the need for an application form and stated that a letter should be sufficient.

Councillor O'Sullivan stated that requests should be on standardised application forms as he would be wary of letters which could contain a number of requests for information.

The County Secretary stated that the Council had little to hide with regard to decision making and that applications would be dealt with as informally as possible. He confirmed that reference books and application forms would be in Irish and English. With regard to personal information about third parties, he stated that some of these requests may require legal advice to determine whether information should be given out. Enquiries initially would be directed to the relevant Section, to be followed by a written request if necessary and the person making the request must state that they are making the request under the Freedom of Information Act. He added that if a person making a complaint about any particular matter and requests that it be confidential, then it will be treated in confidence.

Councillor Walsh stated that complaints are made for different reasons and complainants should be prepared to sign their name to a complaint.

Councillor J. Burke stated that in some housing estates a person making a complaint will require confidentiality for their own safety and the Council should use its common sense in these matters.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5174

Group Water Schemes

The Chairman referred to the concern expressed by the Minister for the Environment recently that Councils were not spending their allocation of funds for Group Water Schemes, and that he had made a strong case for these funds to the Government and that it was embarrassing where allocations remained unspent. He added that this Council has spend all of its allocation in accordance with guidelines and that extra funds have been made available to the Council. He queried why there was not a reallocation of funds where funds remain unspent.

Waste Management

The County Manager stated that the Council's Waste Management Strategy is in accordance with the strategy at Government level and that the recommendations in the strategy now needed to be implemented. He stated that waste management was now a major challenge and it was important to have a strategy in place.

He said that the City and County Managers had recently met with the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and there was a prospect of further funding being made available for Island developments.

Councillor Finnerty stated that he understood that the proposed Waste Management facility at Ballinasloe would be rejected at the next meeting of the U.D.C. where he

expected the majority of Members would vote not to lease the landfill site to the Council and Corporation.

Councillor J. Burke suggested that representatives of the Council and the Corporation meet with U.D.C. Councillors in camera prior to the Meeting of the U.D.C.

Councillor Walsh queried whether it would be advisable for Members of one Authority to try and pre-empt a decision of another Authority. Councillor Fahy stated that Members were not aware at the Council Meeting held in August that a vote on the adoption of the Waste Management Report was to be taken at that Meeting and that Members had left unaware of this fact. Councillor Regan queried whether the Manager had any new information on the new Central Landfill site and if he had, progress could be made on the matter. Councillor Callanan stated that the Ballinasloe U.D.C. Members should make their own decision and that Council Officials should be examining some form of compromise on the matter.

The Chairman stated that a Special Meeting could be arranged to discuss the Interim Landfill site, if required.

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager advised that Members should await the final report of M.C. O'Sullivan, Consultants which should be available in a month or so and discuss the report at a Meeting to be arranged.

Inver Group Water Scheme

Councillor Gavin welcomed the proposal for Inver Group Water Scheme but felt that the contribution cost per household of £882 was excessive. He queried whether it was necessary for Trustees to submit an application to the Council before the scheme progresses.

The County Secretary stated that according to the file, there had been no activity by the Group for some time and that the Group Scheme needed to update its application.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that Members of the Group Scheme have no hope of getting water under present arrangements and that the Department needed to make special provision to facilitate this scheme.

Mr. Nelson, Assistant County Manager stated that no scheme had been held up due to lack of money and he felt that Inver Group Water Scheme were not yet ready to proceed. He added that the Council cannot add to the grant of £1,600 and that a submission had been made to the Department of the Environment regarding the need to increase the level of grant.

The Chairman proposed that a deputation should be sent to the Department of the Environment regarding the level of grant.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain seconded this proposal and it was agreed that the Deputation comprise of the following members:

An Comhairleoir S. O'Neachtain, An Comhairleoir C. Ni Fhatharta, Cllr. W. Burke and Cllr. J. McClearn

Objective One Status

Councillor McClearn referred to a recent delegation to Brussels which included representatives of the I.C.T.U. and who proposed to make a submission as to the reasons why the Country should not be subdivided for Objective One Status purposes. He stated that the Community Guidelines as to whether an area merited Objective One Status was clear and that areas under 75% of GDP would qualify for Objective One Status. He stated that 13 counties satisfied the criteria for Objective One Status as they were under the 75% GDP limit and questioned why the delegation went to Brussels to argue the case against dividing the Country for EU funding purposes.

He said it was not the role of I.C.T.U. to try and prevent qualifying areas getting the funds that they are entitled to and proposed that the Council write to the I.C.T.U. expressing its disappointment at the action taken by them.

Councillor J. Burke seconded the proposal and stated that the Government should be written to on the matter. He stated that the whole county could not be expected to obtain Objective One Status and that a case should be made for Objective One Status for certain qualifying areas.

Deputy McCormack stated that the Government should be forced to apply for Objective One Status for the West of Ireland and areas under 75% of GDP, adding that the West had helped in the past in obtaining Objective One Status by reducing the national average GDP.

He added that the Environmental Scheme for Connemara won't get off the ground unless Objective One Status was achieved and he appealed to Ministers representing the West to make a case to the Government.

He also stated that the Government has not as yet made an application for Objective One Status.

Councillor McHugh stated that he understood that the Government will make a case for Objective One Status for the 13 qualifying counties.

It was agreed to write to I.C.T.U. and the Taoiseach stressing the need for Objective One Status for the 13 counties and to ask the Taoiseach for his support to ensure these areas achieve Objective One Status.

National Lottery

Councillor Mullins proposed that the Council write to the National Lottery criticising the recent increase in Lotto tickets and stated that the promised injection of £1m for every draw was not true and misleading.

The Chairman seconded the proposal and it was agreed to write to the National Lottery expressing the Council's concern at the 50% increase for tickets and the misleading information given to the public.

Compensation Claim

Councillor Regan referred to the alleged £1m paid out by the Council and queried the type of cases involved and where the money was found to pay these claims.

It was agreed that a report on the matter would be prepared for the Members.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

5175

SPCs

The County Manager advised that the first meeting of the SPCs had been held and negotiations with the Staff and L.G.M.S.B. were continuing. He added that he had discussed the SPCs with Middle Management at a recent meeting.

CONFERENCES

5176

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Finnegan 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:-

One Stop Shop Seminar - Maynooth, Co. Kildare - 16 October 1998

Cllr. K. Quinn

Cllr. M. Ryan

Cllr. J. Mannion

Cllr. M. Cunningham

Cllr. M. Loughnane

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

Cllr. K. Quinn

Cllr. M. Mullins

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J. Brekhan
Chairman

23rd November 1998
Date