

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES,
MERLIN PARK, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 28TH
SEPTEMBER, 1998**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

An Comhairleoir J. Brennan

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

*C'lrs. J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan,
Deputy P. Connaughton, C'lrs. 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, C'lrs. M.
Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M.
O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn,
M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.*

Oifigigh:

*Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, J.
Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co.
Secretary, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, J.
Colleran, Co. Engineer, E. Power, A.O., C.
Wallace, S.S.O. & E. Hourigan, A/S.O.*

Thosnaigh an crinniu leis an paidir.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

5120

The Members congratulated the Galway Senior Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Football Championship.

The Chairman informed the Members that a Reception, hosted by Galway County Council in conjunction with Tuam Town Commissioners, would take place in Tuam that night, to celebrate the Team's success. The Members also acknowledged Pens for the Team donated by A.T. Cross of Ballinasloe.

The Manager on behalf of the Staff and on his own behalf wished to be associated with the good wishes to the Galway Team, and mentioned, Mr. Shay Walsh, who worked for Galway County Council as a temporary Engineer.

A Vote of Congratulations was also passed to:

Milltown Tidy Town Committee
Tullycross, Mountbellew and Portumna Tidy Town Committees
Kellers in Ballinasloe on winning Shop Window display.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

5121

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with:-

Clann Micheál Ó Domhnaill, Iarchomhairleoir Chontae
The Gallagher Family, Gort, Co. Galway
Family of Martin Kitt, former Clerk in the Mountbellew Office with Galway County Council
Family of B. Burke, Tuam, Co. Galway

MINUTES

5122

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14th August, 1998 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor McClearn.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th August, 1998, were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 9th June, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Callanan.

The Report of the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 10th July, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 14th August, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Varley.

The Report of the Galway Area Committee Meeting held on 11th September, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by Councillor Gavin.

The Report of the Connemara Area Committee Meeting held on 27th July, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Mannion, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Tuathail.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 14th August, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor W. Burke.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 27th July, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor McClearn, seconded by Councillor W. Burke.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 20th April, 1998 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor McClearn.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Waste Management Strategy - Minute No. 5066

Councillor Callanan stated that his proposal on page 10 of the Minutes is incorrect. On the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, the Members agreed that the Minutes be amended as follows:

"Councillor Callanan proposed that the Waste Management Report be rejected. Councillor O'Sullivan seconded this proposal."

Report of the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 10th July, 1998

Millennium Projects

The County Secretary said that the following three Millennium Projects were recommended to the Protocol Committee:-

Tuam Town Hall	£100,000
Loughrea Town Hall	£100,000 (subject to premises being handed over by the Trustees to the Council)
Clifden Square	£100,000

He said these projects were being recommended after careful consideration and on the basis that they should be significant projects, strategically located. In making the recommendation, it was borne in mind that the Council would be building new Headquarters in Galway City, there would be new Council Offices in Ballinasloe in conjunction with Ballinasloe U.D.C., and Heritage Projects were approved for Athenry and Gort. He said that provision would have to be made in the Council's budget of £100,000 per year over three years commencing in 1999. He requested the Council's approval to the projects in order that they could be advanced.

The Members agreed to the projects in Clifden, Tuam and Loughrea, on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

Report of the Connemara Area Meeting held on 27th July, 1998
Connemara Environmental Project

On the proposal of an Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, the Members agreed that a Deputation be sought with the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Junior Ministers for the Environment and MEPs to discuss the current position of the Connemara Environmental Project.

The Members agreed that representatives of the Galway and Connemara Electoral Areas be included in Deputation on the proposal of Deputy McCormack, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain.

APPLICATION FOR RATES REMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA ACT 1979 FROM CONCORDE ANOIS TEO 5123

A copy of the Report dated 21st September, 1998 was circulated to the Members. On the proposal of An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, the Members agreed to grant a remission of two thirds of the rate leviable to Concorde Anois Teo for a period of ten years following completion of the undertaking, in accordance with the Udaras na Gaeltachta Act 1979.

AUDITORS REPORT ON RIVER FERGUS JOINT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1997 5124

A copy of the Auditors Report on the River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee for year ended 31st December, 1997, was circulated to each Member. The Auditors Report for the year ended 31st December, 1997 was noted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McClearn.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DOMINICAN PRIORY AND BURIAL GROUND - KNOCKAUN GLASS, ATHENRY 5125

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Deputy Connaughton, the Council approved the disposal of 0.278 hectares - Dominican Priory and Burial Ground, Knockaun Glass, Athenry to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, National Monuments and Historic Properties Section, in accordance with Notice dated 4th September 1998, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DERREENMEEL 5126

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor J. Burke, the Council approved the disposal of 0.0375 acres at Derreenmeel to William Brand and Jane Christine Brand, in accordance with Notice dated 8th September, 1998, under Section

83 of the Local Government Act 1946, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT PARKMORE, TUAM 5127

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, the Council approved the disposal of 1.21603 hectares at Parkmore, Tuam, Co. Galway to the Tuam Voluntary Housing Agency Ltd, in accordance with Notice dated 15th September, 1998 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

EU CO-FINANCED SPECIFIC ROAD GRANT PROPOSALS 1999 5128

A copy of the Report dated 4th September, 1998 outlining EU Co-financed Specific Grants Proposals for 1999, was circulated to each Member as approved at each Area Meeting. The Members agreed to the programme of EU Co-financed Specific Grants proposals for 1999, on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Mannion.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that the grant provided for the R336 Road is insufficient and wished to have his dissatisfaction recorded.

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS (GRATUITY) SCHEME 1998 5129

The County Secretary informed the Members that in accordance with the provisions of Section 12(4)(e) of the Local Government Act, 1998 and Article 6 of the Local Authority Members (Gratuity) Scheme 1998, Local Authorities are to furnish Members of the Authority with a Statement of the number of decisions made by them to grant a gratuity. This statement is to be furnished to Members at the next Meeting of the Authority. A copy of Report dated 25th September, 1998 outlining applications received and decisions made or pending was circulated to each Member.

The Members noted the Report.

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING 5130

The Members agreed that the October Monthly Meeting be held on Monday, 19th October, 1998 commencing at 3.00 p.m.

ESTIMATES MEETING 5131

The Members agreed that the Estimates Meeting be held on 23rd November, 1998.

CONFERENCES

5132

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Finnerty and agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the conferences set out hereunder. An estimate of the cost per delegate for attendance at the conferences having been circulated to each Member.

Bord na Gaeilge Seminar - 2/4 October, 1998

Cllr. T. Byrne

Island of Ireland Conference - 7/12 November, 1998

Cllr. E. Varley to replace Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

5133

The Members agreed to refer this item to the Protocol Committee.

A Meeting of the Protocol Committee was arranged and will be held on Monday, 19th October, 1998 at 2.00 p.m.

PROBLEMS AFFECTING FARMERS

5134

The Members expressed their concern at the current crisis in the farming sector. Deputy Connaughton stated that there are a number of factors involved:

- *Adverse weather conditions*
- *shortage of fodder*
- *collapse of the Russian Economy*
- *Low market prices for cattle and sheep*

Deputy Connaughton said that the crisis in farming effects the entire economy, because as spending by the farming community decreases, business people's tills will not be ringing. This is a matter for the entire economy of Galway and Ireland. Many families earn their living principally from farming, and every assistance should be given to them in their hour of need.

Councillor Hussey supported Deputy Connaughton. He said that Ireland is dependent on its export trade and is the highest exporter of beef in Europe. The loss of the Russian market had a very serious impact on the Irish cattle trade. The Government must be kept on its toes and ensure that there is sufficient carrying capacity on ships for our cattle markets. It is important that the shipping service be extended on a permanent basis. Councillor Hussey stated that he had confidence in

the farming sector as things improved over last few weeks, with resumption of Libyan trade/market.

Councillor Callanan agreed with the sentiments expressed. He stated that people should be compensated for taking extremely low market prices. He requested that the Family Income Supplement Scheme be extended to Farmers and self-employed, and cater for every section of the Community.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the early payment of the Headage Scheme, and complimented the Minister in relation to same. He requested that the Extensification Payments payable for cattle should be extended and include payments for sheep.

Councillor McClearn called for the introduction of a Fodder Subsidy Scheme to alleviate farmers from current crisis situation. He stated that if this was any other sector, 2/3 Task Forces would have been established. He said that animals are exported in vessels with highest standards applicable and cases of animal cruelty are unfounded. Councillor McClearn also stressed the need for proper markets for live exports.

Deputy McCormack highlighted the difficulties for Hill Sheep Farmers in Connemara following the introduction of SACs, NHAs and REPS Schemes. Dé-stocking of these areas must take place and as a result farmers are suffering financial loss as market prices are so low.

Councillor Walsh called on the Government to take a serious look at the situation. It is not possible for Farmers to make an acceptable standard of living from farming. Families will leave farming unless things change. He stated that all material difficulties can be overcome, if the will to do so is there.

Councillor Fahy stated that a recommendation /ease be made to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. J. Walsh, highlighting the case for farmers here in the West of Ireland and requesting that every assistance be given in this current crisis. A copy of the letter to be circulated to the Junior Minister, Dail Deputies and Senators. He stated that land is a sacred thing and people will not surrender it easily.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that from a European point of view, the whole area has to change. The problem lies with CAP, and that is why farmers are suffering today. 47% of the European Budget goes to CAP at present. This must come down to a more realistic level in order for small farmers to benefit.

The Chairman thanked the Members for their contributions. The Members considered a proposal to write to the Minister for Agriculture requesting him to set up a task force to examine the crisis in farming.

Following discussion, the Members agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Varley, that the Minister for Agriculture be invited to address a meeting of Galway County Council in order for him to become aware of the problems facing farmers in the West of Ireland and Representatives/Members of other Local Authorities be invited to attend.

NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR FISHERY HARBOUR CENTRES 5135

The County Secretary informed the Members that a new Management Structure for Fishery Harbour Centres is being prepared by the Minister for the Marine and National Resources. The new structure will provide for local representation for the purpose of managing the centres. The only Harbour concerned in Galway is Rossaveel.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain welcomed the local involvement in the managing of Fishery Harbours, e.g. Rossaveal, which is the major Fishery Harbour in the county, and a major industry and valuable asset to the county.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain said that Local Authority membership on the Board would strengthen it from a development point of view. Chuidigh an Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta le sin.

Councillor Byrne queried whether the new structure provides for local representation or Local Authority representation.

The County Secretary replied stating that it may be similar to the Galway Harbour Board structure.

The Members noted the contents of the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources letter of 31st August, 1998.

JOINT PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WITH GALWAY CORPORATION 5136

The Members agreed to defer this item to the next Meeting.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS 5137

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

A copy of letter dated 31st August, 1998, from the Department of the Environment regarding the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was circulated to each Member.

The County Secretary informed the Members that in accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 - Section 21, each County Council and County Borough Corporation is required to establish a Local Traveller Accommodation Committee to advise on Traveller Accommodation.

The letter stated that while the SPC system facilitated the elimination of other committees, it is considered that the urgent social and often intractable problems

relating to the accommodation of travellers justifies the establishment of a specific local Traveller Accommodation Committee. Councillor Gavin stated that the provision of traveller accommodation is a national problem. Galway, as a county, has facilitated the travelling community, however regardless of the work Local Authorities have done the problem just escalates. The Department and Government have now referred the problem to Local Authorities. He stated that a penalty system should be introduced for Local Authorities who have not facilitated the travelling community.

Councillor Varley queried the number of hardstands in other Local Authority areas.

Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager replied stating that the details of hardstands, etc. were circulated to the Members at a previous Meeting.

The County Secretary stated that the Council is awaiting guidelines in relation to the composition of this committee, and upon receipt of same will be on the agenda for further discussion.

The Members noted same.

House Reconstruction/Improvement Grants

The County Secretary informed the Members of reply from Department of the Environment regarding the re-introduction of the House Reconstruction/Improvement Grant, wherein it stated that no funds are available. However, it may be considered in the context of the Government's Action Programme for the Millennium.

Memorial - Australia

The County Secretary informed the Members of a letter received from the Great Famine Commemoration Committee in Sydney, Australia who are constructing a National Monument to the Great Irish Famine at the site of Hyde Park Barracks which had been dedicated recently by President Mary McAleese. The letter said that it was in this building that thousands of Irish Orphan Girls commenced a new life in the aftermath of the Great Famine and the names of orphans from some parts of County Galway would appear on the sculpture. A donation of £500 was requested towards the cost. Payment of £500 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5138

Development Plans

Councillor Loughrane stated that at the Loughrea Area Meeting of 27th July, 1998, the Athenry Town Plan was considered. It was proposed that the restriction of development within a 1.5 mile radius of the south side of Athenry be lifted.

Deputy Connaughton stated that a number of issues relating to the County Development Plan have arisen, and requested that the plan be revised in line with situation on the ground. There are many cases similar to Athenry, within the County.

The County Manager replied stating that Mr. Gus McCarthy, Senior Executive Planner will take up duty with Galway County Council on 15th November, 1998. The matters raised can be considered after his arrival.

Speed Limit Signs/Speeding on Roads

Councillor Byrne requested that the speed limit signs (30 mph and 40 mph) on the Craughwell/Ardrahan road be extended. The Chairman stated that this matter should be referred to the next Area Committee Meeting for discussion/consideration.

Councillor Gavin stated that speed signs do not prevent people from speeding. Numerous speed patrols take place within the county, however, these are only effective for a period of ten minutes. He requested that consideration be given as to what Local Authorities can do to make motorists/pedestrians more aware of road signs.

The Chairman recommended that an invitation be extended to the Garda Chief Superintendent to address/discuss road safety in the county.

Notice of Motion

Senator McDonagh requested an up-to-date report on his Notice of Motion request regarding the provision of Traffic Lights at Claregalway.

Clean-Up Campaign

Councillor Varley requested the Council to consider conducting the Environmental Clean-up Campaign twice a year. She also highlighted the problem of illegal dumping on the N84, adjacent to the hardstand at Carrowbrowne and requested the Council to write to the Corporation in relation to same.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 19 - ROAD REPAIRS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5139

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Routine maintenance work was recently carried out on this road. It is included for restoration in the Five Year Roads Plan for the Year 2000 subject to funding and other priorities at the time."

N.O.M. NO. 20 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5140

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The Council is prepared to take responsibility for the running costs and maintenance of the light provided it is erected by the owner of the licensed premises who we understand is pursuing the matter with the E.S.B."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5141

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"A public light at this location would not have high enough priority on the basis of public utility. The best solution would be for the Church Authorities to erect their own light on a switch, to be used as required."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - LIGHTING - CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM 5142

The following written reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:-

"The Church Street/Tubber Road area will be considered for public lighting at the time of compiling the 1999 Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 23 - ARDRAHAN VILLAGE - CLLR. M. FAHY 5143

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"Landscaping is required along the realigned section of the N18 in Ardrahan and this will be considered when the 1999 Roadworks Programme is being prepared. The lighting issues will also be considered then.

Traffic calming measures will be considered for the village."

N.O.M. NO. 24 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. M. FAHY 5144

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"This road is not included for improvement in the 1998 Roadworks Programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out as necessary."

N.O.M. NO. 25 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. M. FAHY 5145

The following written reply was given to Councillor Fahy:-

"It is hoped that passing bays will be developed on this road before the end of the year. There are no funds available for further improvement works on the road surface. Routine maintenance will be carried out as resources permit."

N.O.M. NO. 26 - FLOODING - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5146

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"The culvert referred to is located at the junction of local road A2403 with local road A240. This culvert will be replaced before the end of the year."

N.O.M. NO. 27 - COLDWOOD VILLAGE - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5147

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"This road, which includes the location referred to, is included for improvement in this year's Roadworks Programme. Drainage problems will be examined as part of the proposed work"

N.O.M. NO. 28 - COUNCIL HOUSE - CLLR. M. LOUGHNANE 5148

The following written reply was given to Councillor Loughnane:-

"Windows for this house are on order and it is expected that work will be completed by the end of September, 1998."

N.O.M. NO. 29 - FOOTPATH - DEPUTY P. MCCORMACK 5149

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"The estimated cost of providing 250 metres of footpath at Lemonfield to the graveyard is circa £10,000. This work will be considered when the Roadworks Programme is being compiled. Its inclusion will be subject to funding and other priorities at the time."

N.O.M. NO. 30 - LIGHTING - DEPUTY P. MCCORMACK 5150

The following written reply was given to Deputy McCormack:-

"Street lighting has now been extended to Billamore Cross. Further extension to the graveyard is not proposed. The location does not have sufficient priority, having regard to other demands on the limited funds available."

N.O.M. NO. 31 - SIGNS - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5151

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"This location will be examined and whatever safety measures are considered necessary will be put in place."

N.O.M. NO. 32 - ROAD - SEN. J. MCDONAGH 5152

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Expenditure of £30,000 would effect a significant improvement to sight distances. There are however no funds available for same at this time. It is not envisaged that there would be any increase of pavement width".

N.O.M. NO. 33 - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - 5153
SEN. J. MCDONAGH

The following written reply was given to Senator McDonagh:-

"Considerable improvement works were carried out including a staggered junction to improve safety. There is adequate lining and signage. Any further improvement of the junction would have to be in the context of major realignment of the N63.

N.O.M. NO. 34 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 5154
FHATHARTA

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

"Cuirfear feabhas ar dhromchla an bhóthair seo le gairid"

N.O.M. NO. 35 - COMHARTHAÍ GAELIGE - AN COMH 5155
C. NI FHATHARTA

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

"Cuirfear na comharthaí suas gach dara ceann i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla leis an chéad ceann i nGaeilge, sa todhcháí."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. C. NI 5156
FHATHARTA

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

"Cosnóidh sé timpeall £150,000 chun an choirnéal seo a fheabhsú go ceart ó thaobh radharc de. Níl an t-airgead ar fáil faoi láthair chun an obair a dhéanamh".

N.O.M. NO. 37 - ROAD REPAIRS - CLLR. J. 5157
CONNELY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"A grant has been sought from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to improve the pier and repair the access road. If funding is made available, this work will be carried out."

N.O.M. NO. 38 - ROAD SIGNS - CLLR. J. 5158
CONNELLY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"New signs have been erected. It is not proposed to erect lights at present."

N.O.M. NO. 39 - GRAVEYARD WALL - CLLR. J. 5159
CONNELLY

The following written reply was given to Councillor Conneely:-

"The sea protection wall was damaged by storms some years ago. The Council does not have the necessary funding to repair it. We have applied for funding to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. If the funding is provided, the wall will be repaired."

N.O.M. NO. 40 - CHUIMHNEACHAIN NA mBADOIRI - 5160
AN COMH. S. O'NECHTAIN

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir O'Neachtain:-

"Pléfar an scéal leis an Choiste Forbairt Aitiúla chun an obair atá ag teastáil agus cursaí airgeadais a reitiú."

N.O.M. NO. 41 - SCEIM UISCE - AN COMH. S. 5161
O'NECHTAIN

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir O'Neachtain:-

"Tá áiteamh curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Comhairleoir na nGrúpscéimeanna agus tá an doiciméad seo á scrúdú faoi lathair."

N.O.M. NO. 42 - BOTHAR - AN COMH. S. O' 5162
NEACHTAIN

Seo leanas an freagra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir O'Neachtain:-

"Tá an deontas a fuairéas don bhóthar seo caite ach déanfar obair deisiúchán de réir mar atá airgead ar fáil."

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

5163

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

"It is hoped to carry out some patching work on this road funded by the Notice of Motion allocation referred to."

**N.O.M. NO. 44 - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - CLLR. P.
O'SULLIVAN**

5164

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

"There are no funds available to carry out this work at present."

**N.O.M. NO. 45 - NO DUMPING SIGNS - CLLR. P.
O'SULLIVAN**

5165

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

"I wish to inform you that the signs have been erected."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed

____ J. Brennan ____

13/11/98.
Date.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

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

Cathaoirleach:-

Councillor J. Brennan

Cllrs. J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P.
Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, 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, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill,
P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan,
M. Ryan, E. Varley & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. Nelson, Deputy Co. Manager, J. Tierney,
Assistant Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary,
J. Collieran, Co. Engineer, J. Eising, A/S.E.E., D.
Barrett, A.O., T. O'Connell, A/A.O., B. McDermott &
P. Carroll, S.S.O. & A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an crinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY 5104

A Resolution of Sympathy was passed with:-

Mrs. Rita Darcy, Beagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT 5105

It was agreed that a Resolution in support of American President Bill Clinton be forwarded to the American Ambassador in Ireland in recognition of his contribution to Ireland and to the Peace Process since his election as American President.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - LOUGHREA SEWERAGE SCHEME 5106

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th September, 1998 regarding the construction of a new treatment works in the townland of Ballygasty with an outfall line for treated effluent from the works.

Deputy Connaughton asked when development works would commence. Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager stated that the Contract Documents are with the Department of the Environment and if approval to the project is received shortly from the Department, it is expected that works will begin in 1999.

The Council agreed to the development on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Fahy.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - MOYCULLEN SEWERAGE SCHEME 5107

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th September 1998 regarding the upgrading of Moycullen Sewerage Scheme with the provision of new preliminary units and stormwater holding tank, installation of additional treatment units adjacent to the existing works, provision of sludge storage/treatment facilities and the provision of a constructed wetlands arrangement to Ballyquirke Canal.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain welcomed the proposal and hoped it would be proceeded with quickly as planning applications have been held back until the works proceed.

Mr. J. Eising, A/S.E.E. stated that the Department are keen to proceed with the development and the pipework associated with the Project could begin at end of 1998 or early 1999. He stated that planning applications are being deferred if they are within the existing collection system but once the scheme is up and running, there will be adequate capacity for proposed developments.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - TUAM REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME - STAGE 3 5108

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th September, 1998 regarding Stage 3 of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme which will involve the extension of the trunk water main from Claretuam to Oranmore and from Claregalway to the City Boundary at Twomileditch.

Councillor Finnegan queried why Stage 2 of the Scheme had not proceeded in advance of Stage 3.

Councillor J. Burke stated that he did not want Stage 3 of the Scheme to proceed in advance of Stage 2, in fairness to people who have awaited completion of Stage 2 for a number of years.

Deputy Connaughton stated that in order to utilise the Luimnagh Plant, it might suit the purpose to pump water to Galway City, but that consideration must be given to the rights of the people of North Galway to have an adequate water supply.

The Deputy County Manager stated that approval to the appointment of the Consultant for Stage 2 of the Scheme had been received and that the scheme stage was not indicative of the priority of one stage over another.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - BALLINASLOE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME 5109

The Members were circulated with Report dated 7th September, 1998 regarding the construction of a water trunk main, pumping station and reservoir as part of the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme, Stage 1 (Advance Section).

Councillor Callanan queried the time-scale for this development and whether works on the Lawrencetown Group Scheme would have to await completion of this stage of works on the Ballinasloe Water Supply Scheme.

Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager stated that approval to site investigation had been received and works will commence shortly. He stated that it would not be economic to pump water into a group scheme that had serious leakage problems and that a waste water survey of the Lawrencetown Scheme was required.

Mr. T. Connell stated that the Eyrecourt/Lawrencetown Group Water Scheme will be examined and upgrading works will be carried out on the scheme in conjunction with the Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme, Stage 1 (Advance Section).

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

PLANNING HISTORY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - BRANCH LIBRARY IN ORANMORE 5110

The Members were circulated with Report dated 4th September, 1998 regarding the conversion of St. Mary's Church, Oranmore to a Branch Library.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 - BRANCH LIBRARY - LOUGHREA 5111

The Members were circulated with Report dated 4th September, 198 regarding the conversion of St. Brendan's, Church of Ireland, Church Street, Loughrea to a Branch Library. Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager stated that funding of the Oranmore Library would be provided over two years and over four years for the Loughrea Library. He added that tenders for both projects would be advertised next week.

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

TO CONSIDER MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF TUAM AND ENVIRONS OF TUAM, TOWNLAND OF KILLALOONTY. PLANNING REF: 98/2721 APPLICANT: TOM LAVELLE CONSTRUCTION 5112

A Report dated September, 1998 was circulated to each Member. Mr. Liam Kavanagh, S.E.E. Planning outlined the nature of the development as follows:-

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The proposal includes for a development of 9 houses on a site of approximately 0.73 ha. The site already has the benefit of planning permission for housing development for 9 houses. The current proposal includes for a variation from the previous planning permission in house type and layout but has essentially the same impact.

LOCATION: The site is located at Killaloony, Tuam

PLANNING HISTORY:

- 14465 Outline Permission refused for housing development and granted on appeal - M. Monaghan (1973).
- 43102 Outline Permission granted for housing development - Monaghan (1982).
- 68032 Outline Permission granted for 8 houses - J. Monaghan (1993).
- 70899 Planning Permission granted under material contravention procedure for 9 houses (1994).
- 98/187 Application for 21 houses withdrawn (Lavelle 1998)

TUAM PLAN POLICY:

The current proposal is located on lands which are zoned for agricultural purposes and which include lands reserved for the ring road around Tuam. These lands already have the benefit of previous planning permissions. The most recent planning permission went to material contravention procedure as it included the route of the now redundant ring road.

ASSESSMENT:

The proposal includes lands which have already had the benefit of several planning permissions for housing. It is located adjoining lands which have already been developed and is of a mixed use - residential, commercial. It is argued, that the current proposal is an orderly progression of development and makes good use of valuable serviced urban lands.

OBJECTIONS:

No objections received.

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 20th August 1998 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections if they so wished.

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 19th October 1998."

Councillor P. Finnegan proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Tom Lavelle Construction for planning permission for variation to previously granted planning permission (Ref. No. 70899) to alter site layout and change of house type of 9. no. houses in the townland of Killaloonty, Tuam, Planning Ref. 97/2721, and having considered the Report dated 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 permission be made in the case of this application. Councillor Kathleen Quinn seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

AR SON: Cllrs. J. Brennan, J. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Ryan, E. Varley, Senator J. McDonagh & T. Walsh. (24)

IN AGHAIDH: -----

The Chairman declared the Resolution carried.

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BARRACK STREET, 5113
DUNMORE**

On the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Quinn, the Council approved the disposal of 0.215 acres of land at Barrack Street, Dunmore to Homes for Dunmore Ltd., in accordance with Notice dated 19th August, 1998 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 and Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966 - a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

REVIEW OF POLLING SCHEME 5114

The County Secretary referred to correspondence received from the Department of the Environment on the revised Polling Scheme and to Report dated 3rd September, 1998 which had been circulated to Members.

He stated that the Department had advised that in light of the proposed Electoral Area Boundary changes and changes to Dail Constituencies, it would not be possible for the

Minister to confirm the proposed Polling Scheme and had suggested that the Council review the Scheme and submit a revised scheme incorporating changes where necessary, resulting from changes to the Electoral Area Boundaries and Dail Constituency Boundaries.

He further stated that a detailed examination of the scheme has now been completed and other than territorial changes to the five Electoral Areas, change of spelling of Connemara Electoral Area to Conamara Electoral Area and renaming of Galway Electoral Area to Oranmore Electoral Area, no other changes to the polling scheme are required.

He stated that these changes would now be made to the scheme and the scheme forwarded to the Department requesting that the Minister confirm the scheme in order to have the revised scheme in force for the upcoming Local Elections in 1999.

Councillor Regan stated that there should be no recurrences of the problems encountered on previous Election Days.

It was proposed by Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Hussey and resolved that Galway County Council in accordance with the Electoral Acts 1992-1997, hereby adopt the Polling Scheme for County Galway in accordance with the Draft Scheme circulated to Dail Returning Officers, Dail Deputies, Ballinasloe U.D.C. and the Commissioners of the towns of Loughrea and Tuam, as amended at this Meeting and affixed the Seal of the Council thereto.

TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS 1998 **5115**

On the proposal of Councillor Gavin, seconded by Councillor Brennan the Council agreed to nominate Dr. Padraig Conneely, Galway Hospice for the People of the Year Award 1998.

On the proposal of Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Hussey, the Council agreed to the nomination of Traditional Musician, Joe Burke, Kilnadeemna, Loughrea for the People of the Year Award.

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 98/2906 **5116**

Councillor Walsh referred to the above application No. 98/2906 which was for the erection of a proposed mast at Lisnageeragh, Ballymoe. He said that he felt masts were a health risk and that there was no expert medical opinion to prove otherwise. He said that more people were moving into the area and that the masts would devalue property. He said that other applications for masts had been refused and he quoted some of the reasons for refusal and said that these same reasons would refer to this particular planning application. Councillor Walsh said that there were 6 masts already in the vicinity of Ballymoe with 3 more planned, and he felt that the concerns and

views of the people of the area must be expressed and put to the Council. He urged that permission be refused.

Councillor Gavin said that while he appreciated the opinions expressed by Councillor Walsh he felt that it was not in accordance with the Planning legislation to discuss this application in an open debate before a decision is made by the Planning Authority.

The Chairman said that Councillor Walsh was entitled to express the views of the people of the area but that the Council did not have the power to dictate to planners as the application is still under consideration.

Councillor Hussey said that he supported the views of Councillor Walsh and the people of Ballymoe. Councillor Finnegan said he also expressed his opposition to the proposed mast. Deputy Connaughton suggested that all antennae be erected on one mast.

Councillor Quinn said that she fully supported the people of Ballymoe who were opposed to the mast and who were upgrading their village and surrounding areas with new developments. She hoped that the question of the proposed mast would not deter developers. Councillor Callanan suggested that all mobile phone companies using one mast should be an option. Deputy McCormack said that he supported Councillor Walsh's proposal and that the same considerations should be given to the proposed masts in Tonabrucky and in Maam. Councillor Fahy stated that local communities cannot be taken for granted. Councillor J. Burke said that the people of Ballymoe seriously believe that these masts are a health hazard. Councillor Ryan supported Councillor Walsh and made the point that there were already too many masts which were all unsightly and that the people of Ballymoe were justified in objecting to the proposed mast at Lisnageeragh. Councillor McClearn said that he supported the views of his colleagues and the people of Ballymoe.

The Chairman said that he felt there was a consistency in dealing with planning applications for masts and that the planning section are following guidelines laid down by the Department of the Environment.

The Deputy Manager said that he had listened to the opinions expressed by the Councillors and a note had been taken of them. He said that he could not discuss the proposal any further as the application was going through the planning process with a decision due by 3rd October.

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 97/1364 **5117**

Councillor O'Neachtain said this planning application was for a media park in Spiddle West. He said that the public notice was in Irish and did not include the other two townlands through which a sewerage pipe was to be laid to a treatment plant owned by Udaras. Councillor O'Neachtain said that the public notices did not mention this fact and if the local people were aware of it they would have objected. He said that there was no mention of Spiddle East on the application and that he wished the matter to be reviewed.

Councillor Gavin said that he was aware of the situation and that there seemed to have been a misunderstanding in the interpretation of the proposal.

The Deputy Manager said that he would examine the situation which would appear to be a legal matter. He said that he would refer the issue to the Law Agent.

CONFERENCES

5118

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor Callanan 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:-

LAMA Conference - Kenmare - 4/5 September 1998

Cllr. M. O'Neill

General Council of County Councils - Tullamore - 2/4 July 1998

Cllr. S. O'Neachtain

**National Association of Councillors - Gateshead, England - 9/11 October 1998
& L.A.M.A.**

Cllr. J. Mannion
Cllr. T. Hussey

Cllr. T. Byrne

Cllr. P. O'Tuathail

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5119

Farming

On the proposal of Deputy Connaughton, seconded by Councillor Callanan, the Members agreed to discuss problems encountered by farmers at a future Council Meeting.

County Development Plan

Councillor J. Burke stated that Planners have reverted to the definition contained in the previous Development Plan in respect of ribbon development in determining planning applications.

Deputy Connaughton requested that a Report be prepared for the next Council Meeting and that planning applications be determined in accordance with the definition of ribbon development as agreed by the Council in the current Development Plan.

The Chairman stated that the matter would be discussed at the next Planning Meeting.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain stated that problems are emerging with regard to the Development Plan and that now is the time to raise and discuss these problems. He added that land-holders should be considered as owners.

The Chairman stated that it was a little early to change the Plan at this stage but it could be considered at a later stage. It was agreed that the matter could be discussed at a future meeting and that the County Secretary should be notified of planning problems in advance of any discussion.

Councillor Mannion stated that existing permissions should be honoured when the time period for development has expired.

Mr. Nelson, Deputy County Manager agreed that the County Development Plan could be reviewed at any time but it was not recommended at this early stage.

Loughrea Bye-Pass

Councillor O'Sullivan queried when the Loughrea Bye-Pass would commence. The County Engineer stated that the tendering process for the contract would commence towards the end of 1999 and that work should start in the year 2000.

All-Ireland Football Final

Councillor McHugh referred to the official function to be held for the Galway Team and queried why the function should be held in Galway City. He proposed that discussions be held with the G.A.A. and that the function be held in Tuam as many of the Players are from that area.

It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss the matter with the County Board.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed:

J Brennan
Chairman

15/11/98
Date