

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON 26th JUNE, 2000

Cathaoirleach

Cllr P. McHugh

I LATHAIR FREISIN;

Baill:

Deputy U. Burke, Cllrs. J. Burke, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Connolly, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, N. Grealish, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. T. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, P. O'Foighil, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, T. Rabbitt, M. Regan, S. Walsh & T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, J. Colleran, County Engineer, E. Lusby, Finance Officer, B. McDermott, A/A.O., D. Barrett, A.O. T. Murphy, A.O., G. McCarthy, S.E.E. 's, M. Jordan, A/S.S.O. C. Mac Aodha Bhui, Oifigeach Gaeilge, A. Whelan, C.O.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

614

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Fr. Sean McHugh, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. John McHugh, The Nursing Home, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. John Haverty, Woodville, Craughwell, Co. Galway.

CONGRATULATIONS

615

Councillor Mullins congratulated Carmel Breen, Kilgariff Park, Ballinasloe on winning a gold and silver medal at the Special Olympics. Deputy U. Burke said that he wished to congratulate the Loughrea Hurling team and Davitts Camogie team on reaching the Under 14 Finals of Feile na Gael.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the number of items on the Agenda and the Council agreed to defer the following items;

Item No. 8 - Presentation on new Financial Management System for Local Authorities

Item No. 9 - Local Government Bill 2000.

Item No. 10 - Prior Notices in relation to planning applications

It was agreed that Item No. 11 – Cathaoirleachs Allowance would be dealt with Item No. 2 (e)

MINUTES

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The Minutes of Special Meeting held on the 12th May, 2000 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Councillor M. Regan, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Foighil.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 22nd May, 2000 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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It was agreed to defer the confirmation of reports of the following meetings;

Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting held on 20th March, 2000

Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting held on 27th March, 2000

Loughrea Electoral Area Meeting held on 12th May, 2000

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 22nd May, 2000 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Councillor M. Connolly, seconded by Councillor T. Mannion.

Councillor Gavin stressed the importance of getting the S.P.C.'s up and running in view of the fact that the chairs of the S.P.C.'s are already involved in Working Groups and the C.D.B. level.

In reply to a query from Councillor Hynes the Cathaoirleach said that the Corporate Policy Group was now replacing the Protocol Committee. This was confirmed in the minutes of the Protocol Meeting held on the 22nd May and that the structure of the Corporate Policy Group was defined in Better Local Government. In relation to S.P.C.'s he said that some Councillors had not given their preference. The County Secretary explained that the closing date for nominations from Community Groups for positions on S.P.C.'s was Friday the 24th June, 2000.

The Report of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 22nd May, 2000 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comhairleoir O'Foighil, seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

CATHAOIRLEACHS' ALLOWANCE

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In reply to a query from Councillor Hynes, the Cathaoirleach explained that there was no provision for the payment of an allowance to the Leas-Cathaoirleach and that it was decided at the Finance Committee Meeting on the 22nd May, 2000 that the Cathaoirleach's allowance should be increased.

It was agreed by the Council on the proposal of Councillor Callanan, seconded by Councillor Cunningham to increase by £6,000, the provision under Estimate heading 8.9 – Chairman's Allowance, to assist with expenses incurred by the Cathaoirleach (and Leas-Cathaoirleach representing him/her) such increase to be offset by estimated additional income in Estimate 4.1 – Planning Fees.

SALE OF PLOT OF LAND AT POOLBOY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BALLINASLOE

619

On the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Mullins the Council approved the sale of plot of land at Poolboy Industrial Estate to Mr Frank Kelly, Ballymana, Clonstuskert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway in accordance with Notice dated 1st June 2000 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 – a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

AUDITORS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/98.

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A copy of the Auditors Report on Accounts for Galway County Council for year ended 31/12/1998 was circulated to each Member. Deputy U. Burke referred to item no. 4.1.2 - Housing Loans, on the report and said that the Council should write to the Minister to restructure housing loans charged at a fixed rate. He asked that this be done at no cost to the Council or to the loanee. The Cathaoirleach read section 7.1 – Value for Money – Risk Management and complimented the Council staff. Councillor Mullins said that he was happy with the Auditors Report and praised the staff of the Finance Section. He also asked if it was the Councils intention to expand the Internal Audit Section. Councillor Loughnane asked if details of the fees paid to Consultants on the various capital projects could be made available. Mr Lusby said that information was available on request. In reply to Councillor Fahy, Mr Lusby said that an order had been placed for the Councillor's computers and they would be delivered within a couple of weeks.

The Report was noted.

APPROVAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS SCHEME, 2000 621

The County Secretary referred to Report dated 20th June, 2000 which had been circulated and outlined the main changes in the Scheme for 2000.

He said that there was an increase of 5% on Maintenance Grants and the income limits have increased by approximately 5.2% from those in the 1999 Scheme.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the increase but said that it was not sufficient considering the costs of accommodation for students. He said that the Council should write to the Minister requesting him to double the grant. Councillor Connolly said that the income limit should be increased to £30,000. Councillor Mullins said that the increase was not sufficient and he said that a Deputation should be organised to meet the Minister for Education on this issue as a matter of urgency. The Cathaoirleach should arrange to head the deputation. Councillor Gavin said that he welcomed the scheme but felt that the increase was not in line with inflation. He asked if a grant had been made available to nurses for their final degree year. Mr Kavanagh said that there was no grant available to nurses in this case. The Council wrote to the Minister for Education as requested at the last Council meeting but have not yet received a response. Deputy U. Burke said that the Council should write to the Minister for Education asking him to verify whether the Local Authorities or the Health Boards were responsible for funding this course.

It was proposed by Councillor Fahy, seconded by Senator J. McDonagh and resolved that the Higher Education Grant Scheme for 2000 be adopted.

REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 REGARDING CONSTRUCTION WORKS UNDER THE COUNCIL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME 622

Report dated 19th June 2000 had been circulated to each Member.

An Comhairleoir O'Foighil said that he was pleased that seven of the twelve houses were for the Gaeltacht area. He also said that it proves that the Council is constructing single rural houses in the Gaeltacht.

- (1) Construction of single rural houses at the following locations;
Derrynea, Costello, Co. Galway.
Clynagh, Carraroe, Co. Galway.
Creelogh, (Knock), Lettermullen, Co. Galway
Lettermore, (Curryulka), Co. Galway
Gortdrishagh, Oughterard, Co. Galway
Carraroe North, (Derrarthabeg), Co. Galway

The works as proposed were approved on the proposal of Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor S. Walsh.

- (2) Construction of 2 no. houses with services at Turlough, Rosmuc, Co. Galway (change of house plan)

The works as proposed were approved on the proposal of An Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Foighil.

- (3) Construction of 4 no. houses with services at Corralough, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved on the proposal of Councillor T. Walsh, seconded by Councillor Quinn.

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED TOWN OF CLIFDEN 623

Report dated 23rd June 2000 had been circulated to each Member.

The Cathaoirleach stated that it was necessary to suspend Standing Orders to deal with this item. It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed unanimously that Standing Orders be suspended.

The County Secretary informed the members that the submissions for the Draft Development Plan for Clifden had been considered by the Connemara Electoral Area Committee at their meeting of 29th November, 1999 and the recommendations were adopted by the full council at its meeting of 28th February, 2000. The Draft Plan was again placed on the agenda for the Connemara Electoral Area Committee Meeting on the 6th June, 2000 and the members reconsidered the submissions in respect of numbers 1, 3, 4, 7(12C), 8 and 9(12D) and amended their recommendations in respect of these submissions and it was agreed that the recommendation at that meeting be put before the full council for consideration.

Mr. Gus McCarthy, Senior Executive Planner, indicated to the members that 15 submissions in total were received. The members of the Connemara Electoral Area Committee had requested that the following submissions be reconsidered by the members and Mr. McCarthy went through the submissions.

Submission No. 1:

Mary Flynn, c/o John F. Mannion

Submission Reference Number: 1

LOCATION: Lands of approximately 3 acres (1.214 hectares), bounded by the town boundary to the north the N59 (Westport Road) to the east, and a minor access road to the south servicing 12 No. existing houses, the GAA sports complex, the Hospital, School and the Western Health Board Clinic, Clifden Townland, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agriculture.

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential.

- The proposed access would be off the minor road described above.
- The services, both water mains and town sewerage are located within 100 metres of the site.
- There is a desirable gradient to the nearest manhole, and the proposed service connection would cause minimum disruption to St. Anne's road.
- Lands adjacent to the south are zoned as residential in the draft. However, these lands consist of soft, flat, boggy ground which are not conducive foundations for housing development.
- In contrast, the proposed lands have a substratum of rock near the surface and are more amenable to housing development.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Approx. 59 acres of land have been proposed for residential zoning in the 1999 Draft plan in addition to 38 acres of undeveloped residentially owned land. Most of the residentially owned land are in this general location (i.e. North of the town centre) and sufficient lands have been zoned in this area for residential use for the duration of this plan. The lands are in relatively elevated and prominent locations on the main Clifden – Westport road, and houses developed would be likely to have a significant visual impact.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed that the recommendation of the Senior Executive Planner was acceptable.

Submission No. 3:

Mary and Joe King

Submission Reference Number: 3

LOCATION: Lands of approx. 6.5 acres (approx. 2.63 hectares) directly east of the Ballyconneely road, Springfield, Ardbear, Clifden. (Same as Submission No. 4).

1992 ZONING: Agriculture.

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential.

- To enable the couple to build a house for their retirement.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

These lands are located on the Ballyconelly road outside the existing and proposed development zones and in a relatively elevated and exposed location and their development for residential purposes on a main access and tourist route would detract from the unique scenic setting of Clifden.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed that the recommendation of the Senior Executive Planner was acceptable.

Submission No. 4:

Pat Guy

Submission Reference Number: 4

1992 ZONING: Agriculture.

LOCATION: Lands of approx. 6.5 acres (approx. 2.63 hectares) directly east of the Ballyconneely road, Springfield, Ardbear, Clifden (Same as Submission No. 3).

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential.

- Mr. Guy hopes to be married in the near future and wishes to build a private home away from his business in the town.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

(Same as Submission No. 3). These lands are located on the Ballyconneely road outside the existing and proposed development zones and in a relatively elevated and exposed location and their development for residential purposes on a main access and tourist route would detract from the unique scenic setting of Clifden.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed that the recommendation of the Senior Executive Planner was acceptable.

LOCATION: Lands of approx. 1.6 acres (0.65 hectares), bounded by the Sky road to the north and the Clonowen Orphanage to the east, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agricultural.

Submission No. 7:

Tom Kearns, c/o O' Riain and Associated Architects.

Submission Reference Number: 7

LOCATION: Lands (1.028 acres or 0.4163 hectares) bounded by the Sky road to the south, and the Development Boundary to the west, Cloghaunard, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agriculture.

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential.

- Intends to create an orderly develop 4 No. residential dwellings, this would be in keeping with Section 2.1 of the Development strategy of the plan; 'to formulate a framework for the sustainable development of Clifden permitting expansion to occur in an orderly manner, whilst conserving the town's unique character and amenity.'
- It is felt that the rezoning of these lands would greatly reduce the pressure for one-off individual housing in the area.
- Surface water drainage could be discharged directly to the water course at the eastern end of the site.
- Due to the scenic nature of the catchment area, it is proposed that a 'Puraflo' filtration system would be used for foul sewage. This would be installed in addition to a normal septic tank.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

These lands are located on the Sky road at the edge of the town boundary and some distance from the existing and proposed development zones. The development of these lands for housing as proposed would be contrary to section 2.1 of the draft plan as set out above, and is outside the existing and proposed serviced area in a relatively scenic unspoilt location.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

Submission No. 12(C):

Map Reference No. : 12C.

LOCATION: Lands of approx. 1.6 acres (0.65 hectares), bounded by the Sky road to the north and the Glenowen Orphanage to the east, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agricultural.

REQUEST: To Promote Tourism Development at this location.

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

These lands are located on the Sky road in a relatively scenic unspoilt area outside of the existing and proposed development zones and serviced areas.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Conneely, seconded by Councillor S. Walsh and agreed that the lands be rezoned from Agricultural to Residential in relation to submission numbers 7 and 12(C). Councillor J. J. Mannion abstained.

Submission No. 8:

***Action Construction Ltd., c/o Simon J. Kelly and
Partners, Architects.***

Submission Reference Number: 8

LOCATION: *Lands of 9.9 acres (4 hectares) containing two parcels of land straddling the Dooneen road to the south east of the town, Ardbear, Clifden.*

1992 ZONING: *Agricultural.*

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential.

- *Client wishes to develop 10 No. dormer bungalows (4 No. to the north of Dooneen road and 6 No. to the south).*
- *Houses would take cognisance of design guidelines as contained in the County Development Plan.*
- *Locally sympathetic materials e.g. natural stone slates/ walls would be used as much as possible.*

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

These lands are located on the Dooneen road outside the existing and proposed development zones. The lands are extremely exposed and their development for residential use would seriously detract from a scenic unspoilt area.

No change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor P. O'Foighil and agreed that the Senior Executive Planners recommendation was acceptable.

Submission No. 9:

Roche Family, c/o Noel F. Heavey and Partners

Submission Reference Number: 9

LOCATION: Extensive lands (Approx. 25 acres or 10.1 hectares) directly to the north and north-east of Rock Glen Country House Hotel, bounded by the proposed Commercial zoning (in Draft) to the north, Salt Lake to the east and Ardbear Bay to the South, Ardbear, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agricultural.

REQUEST: Rezoning from Agricultural to Residential / Tourism to enable the development of Holiday Homes.

- The Roches intend to develop 2 clusters of holiday homes (approx. 20 No. suites in total), fully serviced by, and in close proximity to the Hotel itself.
- The site of the derelict 'Island View House' could accommodate some of the proposed cluster development.
- The Hotel needs to expand its accommodation facilities, in response to the intense competition in the hotel industry from throughout Ireland and from Abroad.
- The full year opening of the Hotel requires more customers, additional and more varied accommodation, including additional staff accommodation.
- Therefore this expansion of the Hotel would be in line with the development plan objective, to counteract the rigid seasonal nature of the tourist industry in Clifden.
- As the three members of the Roche family participate in the business with their parents they are likely to require their houses in the grounds.
- Due to the high cost of the proposed development, it would go ahead on a phased basis, and would be low density and delux in character. The initial houses would function as permanent residences and "located and incorporated into the natural environment through good siting and design" as recommended in the development plan.
- The development would be accompanied by all relevant technical information including a Visual Impact Assessment.
- The cluster housing development could reduce the pressure for one-off housing / ribbon development in the area.

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- *The development would provide some executive housing and would therefore comply with the development plan objective that “The County Council will seek to attract further employment generating activities.”*
- *General access will be enhanced once the development plan objective to “widen and re-align” the Ballyconneely road.*
- *Lands are unsuitable for agricultural purposes.*

ORAL HEARING

In relation to the submissions received, an Oral Hearing took place on 19th August, 1999. The following information was made in addition to these submissions.

- *Rock Glen House Hotel need to upgrade and expand their business in order to compete -, incredible increase in standards - now a 4 star hotel going on 5 star. 60% big time golfers.*
- *Looking for group accommodation, comprising of self-catering units.*
- *Business objectives of the Hotel comply with the Development Plan objective to extend the tourist season in Clifden.*
- *Require rezoning to enable the Roches to build a house for themselves and family members, as well as staff accommodation.*
- *2 small clusters to accommodate the hotel expansion, located in dipped unobtrusive locations, to the north of their lands. Expansion would require substantial borrowing.*
- *Maximum no. of houses -10
Max. No. 20 Suites
Max No. 2-3 family houses.*

OBSERVATIONS

The zoning in this case as clarified at the oral hearing submission is to change the zoning of a considerable portion of the lands to accommodate the housing development for family use, for sale/letting of expansion of the hotel business in the form of self catering units. These lands are located a considerable distance from the town of Clifden in a sensitive landscape overlooking Ardbear bay. While the expansion of the existing hotel business and the accommodation of family members merits consideration, the development of a considerable part of the grounds for residential use even at low densities is not recommended due to;

- *The scenic qualities of the landscape in major access tourist route,*
- *The distance of the lands from the existing and proposed development areas and,*
- *Distance from services etc.*

RECOMMENDATION

Written objective to be included in the Draft plan to allow for expansion of the Hotel business. However, no change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

Submission No. 12(D):

Map Reference No.: 12D

LOCATION: Lands Surrounding the 'Rock Glen House Hotel' Ardbear, Clifden.

1992 ZONING: Agriculture.

REQUEST: To Promote Tourism Development at this location.

OBSERVATIONS

(Same as Sub ref. No. 9.) The zoning in this case as clarified at the oral hearing submission is to change the zoning of a considerable portion of the lands to accommodate the housing development for family use, for sale/letting of expansion of the hotel business in the form of self catering units. These lands are located a considerable distance from the town of Clifden in a sensitive landscape overlooking Ardbear bay. While the expansion of the existing hotel business and the accommodation of family members merits consideration, the development of a considerable part of the grounds for residential use even at low densities is not recommended due to;

- The scenic qualities of the landscape in major access tourist route,
- The distance of the lands from the existing and proposed development areas and,
- Distance from services etc.

RECOMMENDATION

Written objective to be included in the Draft plan to allow for expansion of the hotel business. However no change recommended in the zoning of these lands.

It was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion, seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed that the Senior Executive Planners recommendation was acceptable in respect of submission numbers 9 and 12(D).

Standing Orders were then resumed.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Gavin, seconded by Councillor P. O'Foighil and agreed that the Report of the Connemara Electoral Area Committee Meeting of 6th June, 2000 be adopted.

Draft Development Plan for Clifden

The County Secretary then read out the Resolution for the adoption of the amendments to the Draft Development Plan for Clifden as follows which was proposed by Councillor J.J. Mannion and seconded by Councillor J. Conneely and agreed:-

“That Galway County Council, having prepared a draft of a proposed Development Plan for Clifden, having sent copies of the prescribed documents to the prescribed authorities, having published the required notices, having considered the submissions and representations made to the Draft Plan and having complied with the provisions of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 1963, as amended, and having regard to the fact that material alterations have been made to the Draft Plan, hereby resolve that the material alterations to the Draft Plan be put on public display for not less than one month in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Acts”.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his thanks to Mr Gus McCarthy, Snr Executive Planner who is leaving the Council.

2 (F) REPORT ON THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JUNE, 2000. 624

It was agreed that Items No. 2(f) (Connemara Electoral Committee Meeting Report of 6th June, 2000) and 7 (Clifden Draft Development Plan) would be dealt with together.

Councillor Gavin referred to a resolution passed at this meeting regarding the inclusion of the Council on the sign along with An Roinn Ealaion, Oidreachta, Gaeltachta agus Oilean. Councillor Gavin referred to item two – deputation from Inis Mór re: firemen on the islands. He said that the firemen on Inis Mór should get parity with other firemen and asked that a report be prepared for the Members as quickly as possible as the eight firemen on the island were in danger of dropping out of the service. Councillor J. J. Mannion said that the Council should provide a fire service on Inis Boffin. This was seconded by Councillor Gavin. Councillor S. Walsh asked if the Planning Officer could attend a meeting one day per month on the Inis Mór. The County Manager said this would be investigated but it is difficult to recruit planning staff at present.

BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION – RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 625

Councillor Connolly said that £310,000 should be made available for a desalinisation plant for Inis Méan. The Cathaoirleach said the Council awaited the allocation from the Department.

GORT HERITAGE CENTRE 626

Councillor Cunningham complimented Galway County Council on Gort Heritage Centre and thanked the Council for having an open day for the public on the 25th June, 2000. He requested that the signpost for Gort be changed to Gort Inse Guaire.

It was noted that a grant of £1,000 would be paid to the Galway Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and £1,000 to Galway Swan Rescue under the Expenditure

DRAFT SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY GRANTS 627

A report dated 20th June, 2000 outlining a new Draft Scheme for Economic Activity Grants for 2000 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of An Cohanairleoiri Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Councillor Quinn the Scheme for Economic Activity Grants for 2000 was approved.

- Agricultural Committee Meeting at 12.00 on Monday the 10th July, 2000
- Ballinalsoe Area Committee Meeting at 4.00 p.m. on the 4th July, 2000
- Loughrea Area Committee Meeting at 2.00p.m. on the 17th July, 2000 (Deas Hotel)
- Planning Meeting 2.00p.m. on the 14th July, to consider the submissions received on the Waste Management Plan.

Councillor Connolly said that Eircom are now charging for the removal of poles due to roadworks. He asked if the Council held meetings with the E.S.B. and Eircom. The County Engineer said that the Council had to pay for the removal of poles when a major roadworks scheme is taking place but there was no formal agreement with the E.S.B. and Eircom. Deputy U. Burke said that the roads in Portumna are in an unsatisfactory state due to the works on the Portumna Sewerage Scheme. He said that the contractors should organise a meeting. Councillor McCleurn said that he acknowledged that some improvements had been carried out on the roads in Portumna but they were not satisfactory. He said that he would like to know the progress of this scheme at the next meeting. The County Engineer said that he would pursue the matter with the Contractor and the Consultants of the Scheme.

The County Secretary referred to letter from An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gaeltachta agus Turasóire, dated 20 Meitheamh, 2000 which had been circulated to each member notifying the Council of grants for the following strategic Gaeltacht Roads, 2000.

Route	Cost
R336 Spiddal- Carraroe	£322,000
R340 Seroob/Carna	£100,000
R340 Seroob/Carna	£300,000
R345 Cong - Cornamona - Maam	£250,000
R345 Cong - Cornamona - Maam	£250,000
R374 Lettermullen - Costelloe	£300,000

MANAGERS BUSINESS

On the proposal of Councillor Mullins, seconded by Councillor Fahy it was agreed that a grant of £1,000 would be paid to the Galway Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and £1,000 to Galway Swan Rescue, under the Expenditure Heading Environment.

The following meetings were arranged;

- Joint meeting in Committee with Galway Corporation to consider route corridor options for the Western Approach at 12.00 on the 7th July.
- Meeting of Galway County Council at 2.30 p.m. on 7th July 2000 to consider the Galway Transportation and Planning Study
- Agricultural Committee Meeting at 12.00 on Monday the 10th July, 2000.
- Ballinalsoe Area Committee Meeting at 4.00 p.m. on the 4th July, 2000
- Loughrea Area Committee Meeting at 2.00p.m. on the 17th July, (O'Deas Hotel).
- Planning Meeting 2.00p.m. on the 14th July, to consider the submissions received on the Waste Management Plan.

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Route	Cost
R336 Spiddal- Carraroe	£322,000
R340 Screeb/Carna	£100,000
R340 Screeb/Carna	£300,000
R345 Cong – Cornamona – Maam	£250,000
R345 Cong – Cornamona – Maam	£250,000
R374 Lettermullen – Costelloe	£300,000

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The Council welcomed the notification of the grants and the following resolution was proposed by Councillor Gavin, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Foighil and agreed.

That Grant notification of projects be given to the Council at the same time as the D.O.E. notifications

That the Council should not have to co-fund in excess of 25% of the cost of works

That the following Notice be placed at major projects only;

“Rinneadh An Comhairle Condae na h-oibreachta seo le cunamh ón Roinn Ealaíonn,

Oidreacht, Gaeltachta agus Oileán”

CONFERENCES

629

On the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor T. Walsh, it was agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member;-

Local Government Bill 2000 Seminar – Tralee – 6th July 2000

Sen. J. McDonagh	Cllr. T. Walsh	Cllr. J. McClearn
Deputy U. Burke	Cllr. N. Grealish	Cllr. J. Joyce
Cllr. T. Mannion	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. T. Rabbitt	Cllr. S. Walsh	Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. J. Conneely	Cllr. P. O'Foighil	Cllr. T. McHugh
Cllr. M. Mullins	Cllr. J. Callanan	Cllr. J. McClearn

Humbert Summer School – Ballina – 16-19 August 2000

Sen. J. McDonagh	Cllr. N. Grealish	Cllr. J.J. Mannion
Cllr. M. Mullins		

Parnell Summer School – Avondale – 13/18 August 2000

Cllr. T. Walsh	Cllr. T. McHugh
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Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference – Ballaghaderreen - 21/23 July 2000

Cllr. J. Joyce	Cllr. P. O'Sullivan	Cllr. M. Connolly
Sen. J. McDonagh	Cllr. N. Grealish	Cllr. J. Conneely

Cloone Aughavas Community Partnership – Cloone - 4/5 August 2000

Monthly Meeting – 26/06/2000

Cllr. M. Cunningham
Cllr. K. Quinn
Cllr. N. Grealish

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan
Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. J.J. Mannion

Cllr. M. Hoade
Sen. J. McDonagh

William Carleton Summer School – Clogher - 7/11 August 2000

Cllr. M. Regan
Sen. J. McDonagh

Cllr. T. Mannion
Cllr. N. Grealish

Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. J. Conneely

Mid West Regional Authority Conference – Ennis – 16/17 June 2000

Cllr. K. Quinn

Mid West Regional Authority Conference – Killarney – 14/15 September 2000

Cllr. M. Cunningham
Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta
Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. N. Grealish

Cllr. T. Mannion
Cllr. K. Quinn
Sen. J. McDonagh
Cllr. T. Walsh

Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. T. McHugh
Cllr. J. Callanan

A.M.A.I. Conference – Clonakilty – 11/14 September 2000

Cllr. M. Regan
Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. J. Conneely
Cllr. J. Callanan

Cllr. T. Mannion
Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. P. O Foighil
M. Cunningham

Cllr. K. Quinn
Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. M. Mullins

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

N.O.M. NO. 16 – BACKFILL WALL – CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM

630

The following reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:

“This matter is currently under investigation”.

N.O.M. NO. 21 – CEMETERY – CLLR. M. FAHY

635

The following written reply was given to Cllr. M. Fahy:

The Council has purchased land for an extension to Drumcree Burial Ground. An archaeological assessment will have to be undertaken before work can proceed. There are no funds available at present to undertake this assessment.

N.O.M. NO. 17 - ROAD - CLLR. P. HYNES

636

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. Hynes:

"A traffic bollard will be erected at this junction in the near future"

N.O.M. NO.17 – SPEED LIMIT-CLLR.M. CUNNINGHAM

631

The following reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:

"This location is one mile from the existing speed limit and extending this speed limit would not be feasible. Consideration will be given to putting a speed limit in place for a short distance south of the new hurling field and north of the Cannahowna junction in the course of the forthcoming speed limit review."

N.O.M. NO. 18 – FLOODING-CLLR.M.CUNNINGHAM

632

The following reply was given to Councillor Cunningham:

"It is proposed to carry out repairs to these walls shortly".

N.O.M. NO. 19.- WALL-CLLR.M.FAHY

633

The following reply was given to Councillor Fahy:

"The total length of wall is 270m. The Council will have to rebuild 143m. of wall which will require careful excavation due to the close proximity of graves to the wall and a large number of kerbs around the graves. Also spoil and stones from graves have been dumped against the wall together with root growth of recently felled trees which has resulted in the wall being out of plumb and partially collapsed. Estimated cost of this project is £18,000.00. I regret that there is no funding available to carry out this work this year, however, works to make the cemetery stock proof will be carried out as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO.20 - CEMETERY - CLLR. M. FAHY

634

The following written reply was given to Cllr. M. Fahy:

"The grass has been cut at this cemetery recently. I regret there is no funding available to carry out any further work at this location."

N.O.M. NO. 21 - CEMETERY - CLLR. M. FAHY

635

The following written reply was given to Cllr. M. Fahy:

"The Council has purchased land for an extension to Drumacoo Burial Ground. An archaeological assessment will have to be undertaken before work can proceed. There are no funds available at present to undertake this assessment."

N.O.M. NO. 22 - ROAD - CLLR. P. HYNES 636

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. Hynes:

“A traffic bollard will be erected at this junction in the near future”.

N.O.M. NO. 23 - ROAD - CLLR. P. HYNES 637

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. Hynes:

“This road is not included for resurfacing in the current roadworks programme. Routine maintenance will be carried out”.

N.O.M. NO.24 - HOUSING - CLLR. P. HYNES 638

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. Hynes:

“A kitchen, bathroom and bedroom extension has already been provided in this case to facilitate a disabled member of the family. The tenants are currently applying to purchase the house.”

N.O.M. NO.25 - ROAD - CLLR. J. JOYCE 639

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. Joyce:

“This stop end road is not included for surface dressing in the Roadworks Programme. The local primary road from Kiltormer to Dowds Angle is included in the Five Year Roads Plan for surface dressing in 2003 and it may be possible to include the road to Mr. Heffernan’s house as part of this if funds allow.

N.O.M. NO.26 – ROAD - CLLR. J. JOYCE 640

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. Joyce:

“The parking area will be surface dressed this year in conjunction with restoration work arising from the Eyrecourt/Lawrencetown Water Scheme.”

N.O.M. NO.27 – ROAD – CLLR. J. JOYCE 641

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. Joyce:

“The road leading to Mr. Headd’s house is a private road and is not in charge of the Council. Part of the adjacent bog road is in charge of the Council but there are no funds available to re-surface that section of road at present.

N.O.M. NO.28 – ROAD – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

642

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. McDonagh:

“In the Assessment of Needs, the village of Turloughmore is included in the time period 2007 to 2018 and Lackagh is in the period post 2018. With the review of the Assessment of Needs Programme, the Council will re-examine the sewerage proposal for the villages”.

N.O.M. NO.29 - ROAD – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

643

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. McDonagh:

“There is £10,000 allocated in this year’s Programme for Traffic Route Lighting for Turloughmore. Lackagh is not included in the Programme.”

N.O.M. NO. 30 – ROAD – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

644

The following written reply was given to Cllr. J. McDonagh:

“The flooding at this location is caused by unauthorised development. An enforcement notice has been served and legal proceedings are being considered.”

**N.O.M. NO. 31 – DTRÁ AN DÓILÍN AN COMH. C.NÍ
FHATHARTA**

645

Seo leanas an fregra a tugadh do’n Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

“Tá lifebelts maraon le rópai in áit i dTrá an Dóilín agus a lán trána eile ar fud an Chomntae. Táimid ag súil go gcuirfear lifebelts ar an cuid is mó de na trána eile chomh luath agus is féidir.”

**N.O.M. NO. 32 – LEITHREAS POIBLI-AN COMH.
C. NÍ FHATHARTA**

646

Seo leanas an fregra a tugadh do’n Comhairleoir Ni Fhatharta:-

“Ní dhearnadh aon soláthar i meastáin na bliana seo le haghaidh leithreas poiblí in Inis Meán. Tá an Chomhairle ag ullmhú clár le haghaidh leithris poiblí agus breathnófar ar chás Inis Meáin ann”.

N.O.M. NO. 33 -REILIG MHUIGHROS- AN SULLIVAN 647
COMH.C.NÍ FHATHARTA

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

"Cheannaigh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe píosa talún chun an reilig seo a leathnú ach ní feidir aon dul chun cinn a dhéanamh leis an obair go dtí go bhfaighfear bealach feiliúnach isteach go dtí an talamh seo.

N.O.M. NO. 34 – LIGHTING - CLLR. S. O' NEACHTAIN 648

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

"There are no funds available in the Public Lighting Programme for this location. However, an application for funding has been submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands and if a grant is provided, this lighting would be provided."

N.O.M. NO. 35 - LEITHREAS POIBLI - 649
CHOMH. S.O'NEACHTAIN

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

"Ní dhearnadh aon soláthar I meastacháin na bliana seo le haghaidh leithreas phoiblí in Inis Meán. Tá an Chomhairle ag ullmhú clár le haghaidh leithris phoiblí agus breathnófar ar chás Inis Meáin ann."

N.O.M. NO. 36 - BOTHAR - CHOMH. S.O'NEACHTAIN 650

Seo leanas an fregra a tugadh do'n Comhairleoir S. O' Neachtain-

"Tá deontas £11,500 curtha ar fáil ó Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gaeltachta & Oileán agus £11,500 ón Chomhairle Chontae chun obair dheisiúcháin a dhéanamh ar Chéibh Chill Mhuirbhígh. Déanfar an obair seo i mbliana.

N.O.M. NO. 37 – ROAD - CLLR. P. O' SULLIVAN 651

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. O' Sullivan:-

"This road is not included for surface dressing in this year's roadworks programme. It is on the five year plan for 2003 and 2004. Routine maintenance will be carried out in the meantime.

N.O.M. NO. 38 – FLOODING – CLLR. P. O' SULLIVAN 652

The following written reply was given to Cllr. P. O' Sullivan:-

"There is no flooding at this location at present. In order to assess the situation, it would need to be inspected while it is flooded. The persons affected should contact the Council's Ballinasloe Office when next it is flooded so that it can be inspected in its flooded state."

Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. K. Quinn

LAATHAIR

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Baili:

Deputy U. Burke, Cllrs. J. Burke, P. Callanan,
Deputy P. Cunningham, J. Connelly, M.
Connelly, M. Cunningham, P. Fahy, S. Gavin,
N. Grealish, M. Horgan, J. Joyce, M.

Submitted, approved & signed

Paddy McHugh
Chairman

Dáil:

D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D.

10/9/00

Date

George

Thosaigh an t-ábair le h-ádh.

In the absence of Councillor McHugh who was attending the Spirit of Ireland Trade Mission in Boston, Councillor Quinn, Leas-Cathaoirleach took the Chair

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

599

A resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Kay O'Donnell, Clonbur, Co. Galway

Mr. Martin Connelly & Family, Graean Road, Galway

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2000

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. K. Quinn

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Deputy U. Burke, Cllrs. J. Burke, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Cllrs. J. Conneely, M. Connolly, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, N. Grealish, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughnane, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, Senator J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, P. O'Foighil, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, T. Rabbitt, M. Regan, S. Walsh & T. Walsh

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, D. Nelson, J. Tierney, Asst. Co. Managers, T. Kavanagh, Co. Secretary, P. Martin, S.E.E., A. Power, A/S.O. & C. Mac Aodh Bhui, Oifigeach Gaeilge

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

In the absence of Councillor McHugh who was attending the Spirit of Ireland Trade Mission in Boston, Councillor Quinn, Leas-Cathaoirleach took the Chair.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

599

A resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Kay O'Donnell, Clonbur, Co. Galway
Mr. Martin Connolly & Family, Grattan Road, Galway.

SALE OF PLOT OF LAND AT POOLBOY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 600

This item was deferred as the statutory ten day period had not expired.

SALE OF SITE AT CLARINBRIDGE 601

On the proposal of Councillor Grealish, seconded by Senator McDonagh the Council approved the sale of site comprising 0.123 hectares at Ballinacourty, Clarinbridge to Colm O'Grady in accordance with Notice dated 24th May 2000 under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 and in accordance with Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966, a copy of which had been circulated to Members.

REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994 602

A Report outlining the proposed development had been circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Councillor Connolly, seconded by An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, the Council approved the disposal of material from the dredging of Derryinver Pier on land in the townland of Derryinver adjacent to the pier.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR REVIEW OF TOWN PLANS FOR: 603

- (a) LOUGHREA & ENVIRONS
- (b) GORT
- (c) ATHENRY

A Report dated 2nd June 2000 had been circulated to the Members recommending that an extension of time for the plans for the three scheduled towns to the 31st December 2000 be sought from the Minister.

Some Members felt that the plans should be finalised sooner than 31st December 2000. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Cunningham, seconded by Councillor Regan and resolved that an extension of time be sought for the review of the Development Plans for the scheduled towns of (a) Loughrea & Environs, (b) Gort and (c) Athenry to the 30th September 2000.

The County Manager agreed that it was important to complete the review of the plans as soon as possible and urged the Members to arrange Area Meetings to deal with the submissions. The County Manager also advised the Members that Mr. Gus McCarthy would be leaving the Council shortly. He paid tribute to Mr. McCarthy's work with the Council and the huge contribution he had made in the Planning Department. He said that many Planners are being attracted to the private sector and there is a shortage of Planners in the Local Authority Sector.

All the Members paid tribute to Mr. McCarthy for his work with the Council. They also expressed their concern about the difficulties being experienced by applicants trying to get planning permission and reference was made to the housing scheme in Turloughmore which was granted by the Council and refused by An Bord Pleanála. The Members said that it was most important that small towns and villages in the county would have the necessary infrastructure to allow the towns develop thereby relieving the planning problem. The Members also asked that the review of the County Development Plan would be commenced as soon as possible.

The County Manager stated that the number of planning applications continued to increase and 1,430 applications had been received up to the end of March. As regards refusals, he said that the Council's refusal rate of approx. 10% was well within the national average, some Councils having a rate as high as 25%.

APPROVAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT SCHEME 2000 **604**

The County Secretary informed the Members that the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2000 had not been received from the Department but it was due in the next day or so. The Members were critical of the fact that the Scheme for the current year was not yet available. They had hoped that the Scheme would be placed before them at an earlier date in order to give them time to make submissions on it.

Councillor Gavin said that the maintenance grants were far too low and that the distance of 15 miles for the adjacent grant should be reduced to 10 miles.

Councillor Loughnane proposed that the Council seek a Deputation with the Department of Education & Science in order to discuss these important issues. Councillor Quinn seconded this proposal.

On the proposal of An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor Cunningham it was agreed that the Council could commence processing the applications as soon as the scheme is received, subject to the scheme being put before the Council at the next Council Meeting.

Deputy Burke proposed that the Secretary write to the Minister for Education and Science asking them to resolve the dispute involving the payment of University Fees for Nurses for the final Degree year. Deputy Connaughton seconded this proposal.

PRESENTATION BY AN BORD GÁIS **605**

The Cathaoirleach introduced Messrs. Jack O'Connell and Michael Snee of An Bord Gáis. Using overheads Mr. O'Connell gave a presentation on the development of a gas pipeline to the west. The proposed ring main will run east to Swords, Co. Dublin and south to Newcastle, Limerick. He said that it is An Bord Gáis' intention to have natural gas available in Galway by Autumn 2002. He said that plans were already

well advanced in the engineering stage and because of a huge growth in the demand for natural gas, the network within the country must be developed. He said that the Department of Public Enterprise commissioned a study looking at the requirements for gas until 2025. He said that a massive increase in the demand for natural gas is likely due to the economic growth and because of various environmental constraints, i.e. industries must maintain carbon dioxide levels at their 1990 figures.

He outlined the benefits of Gas:-

- Environmental
- Payments to Exchequer of over £400m to-date
- Energy Competition
- Diversity of Supply

Mr. O'Connell said that during the Department's study and before the recent Corrib Gas discovery, it was found that the cheapest way to supply gas to Ireland was a link from South West Scotland through the Isle of Man and on to North Dublin. He said that the owners of the Corrib Field – Enterprise Oil, Statoil Exploration and Marathon Petroleum are continuing to evaluate the field, and the Ring Main would be constructed regardless of the size of the field. He said they were hoping to have the supply available by 2002 because of the depletion of the Kinsale supply.

Mr. O'Connell said that An Bord Gais is committed to network development where commercially feasible. He said that current projects include:

- Compression in Scotland (2 locations)
- Reinforcement on the West of Dublin connecting to the Interconnector

Recently completed projects include:-

- Pipeline to Poolbeg Power Station
- Navan
- Athy
- Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
- Reinforcement on the North of Cork City, Bray and Co. Wicklow

He said that the main factors considered in the decision for Dublin-Galway-Limerick Ring Main included gas availability in the west, Government policy on regional development and the location of power generation.

He explained that Galway has a population of c.60,000 and is the fastest growing city in the country and the Ring Main makes gas available to several major towns in the West. With regard to the Industrial Market, he said that allowable state aid for objective one counties is 55% (Dublin 17%) and is seen as a key driver for industrial growth in the West and the availability of gas would facilitate the location of industry in the West.

Mr. O'Connell explained that under the Gas Act, the Minister for Public Enterprise is responsible for the approval of pipelines built by Bord Gais. The proposal for the Galway Ring Main is currently being evaluated by the Minister's Department and

would go ahead irrespective of the commercial viability of the Corrib Gas Field off the coast of Mayo if full approval is given.

The presentation was welcomed by the Members.

Councillor Cunningham welcomed the presentation and said that gas would be a huge asset to the west of Ireland. He said it should increase competitiveness and attract industry into the west. He asked if the pipeline would be going through lands and roads.

An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain expressed dissatisfaction that the benefits of the construction of the Ring Main in Galway would seem confined to urban areas and said that the pipeline to rural areas, such as Connemara, would be a huge incentive for industry in the Gaeltacht. He said that Udaras na Gaeltachta and An Bord Gais should meet and discuss the possibilities open to them, otherwise the urban areas will keep getting bigger and the rural areas declining.

Councillor Gavin concurred with An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain's comments and he expressed his concern that some areas in County Galway will inevitably benefit while others would not. He asked if the completion date of 2002 was realistic and achievable.

Deputy Connaughton asked in regard to national energy policy, how cheap and competitive is natural gas. He also queried that if the pipeline is from Dublin-Galway how long would it take to put spurs out to towns like Tuam, etc.

Councillor Connolly said that the gas service so far has supplied major towns and cities. He asked had Bord Gáis any long-term plans to serve smaller towns like Newbridge and Glenamaddy. Deputy Burke asked if it was likely that a power station would be located in County Galway. Councillor Mullins said that the provision of natural gas will help boost economic activity in many forms. He queried if there would be major disruption to traffic. Councillor Rabbitt asked what were the safety aspects of it – i.e. pipes running under people's homes.

Mr. Snee then replied to the various questions. He said that 2002 was a feasible completion date. He said that it was well advanced in routing, design and site investigation. He said there was no reason why it could not be completed by October 2002. Last year 120km of pipeline was built in 18 months so there was no reason why the new Ring Main couldn't be completed by 2002.

In reply to Councillors concerns about the safety aspects of the pipeline, Mr. Snee assured them there was no need for concern. He said that Bord Gais place a major importance on safety. The pipeline will be made of a high quality carbon steel under three layers of polyethylene plastic. He said that they also employ a corrosion protection system, whereby a current of electricity is sent through the pipe to prevent rust. He said that a helicopter also flies over the length of the pipeline every two weeks.

Mr. Snee stated that 99% of the pipeline was across land and the effect on traffic would be minimal but said there would be disruption to agricultural activity. He

stated that the pipelines would be built during the summer period so there would be minimal disruption. He said they had a good relationship with the I.F.A. and the I.C.M.S.A. and will be in constant discussions with them. In reply to Councillor Callanan's query, Mr. Snee said there would be good compensation for farmers. He said that the pipeline would be fenced during the construction period, and would then be removed and the land restored to its original state. When laid the pipe will not affect agriculture, and farmers will be compensated.

He said that spurs to Galway towns would be built onto the pipeline according to demand and they would do so where there was a commercial demand.

He said they hoped to receive interim approval from the Minister to identify landowners, but said that until the plan is given the go-ahead they were not in a position to divulge the exact route the pipeline is proposed to take.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Quinn thanked Messrs. O'Connell and Snee for the presentation.

PROPOSED RIVER SHANNON AUTHORITY

606

The County Secretary referred to correspondence circulated to the Members from the Sub Committee on the River Shannon Authority dated 15th May 2000 inviting submissions in relation to the management of the River Shannon and proposed River Shannon Authority.

A general discussion took place and the following observations/submissions were made:-

- That the River Shannon is a major national resource and must be developed in the best interests of all.
- The management and maintenance of the river is of critical importance.
- That the River Shannon must be developed to attract more leisure activity, i.e. angling, boating, etc.
- That the proposed Authority would liaise and assist developments being carried out by private concerns to improve the tourist potential.
- That the 1994 Bye-Laws in relation to berthing be implemented and enforced.
- That measures be taken to control the zebra mussel.
- That in the event of a fish kill, pollution incident or other occurrence, that the new body would have responsibility for dealing with it expeditiously. In this regard, the Members recalled an incident in recent years when hundreds of bream died and nobody appeared to be responsible for removing them from the water.

- That the new Authority would have responsibility for flora and fauna and any development by State Bodies.
- That the new Authority would be able to engage new expertise as required.
- The interaction between the proposed new Authority and Planning Authority was not clear.
- Flooding is the greatest problem that has to be tackled. Water levels in the whole catchment area need constant monitoring in order that flooding can be alleviated as much as possible. Many small rivers are blocked and need to be cleaned. The funding provided by Drainage Committees is totally inadequate. The need for the co-operation of Duchas was highlighted.

It was agreed that the County Secretary would forward the submissions made by the Members to the Sub Committee on the River Shannon Authority.

REVISED FOUR YEAR MULTI-ANNUAL LOCAL AUTHORITY AND SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME 2000-2003 **607**

Report dated 18th May 2000 was circulated to each Member. Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager referred to Housing Programme approved last year based on 500 starts over period 2000 – 2003. He advised the Members that notification had been received from the Department of the Environment and Local Government of a revised allocation of 548 starts. The revised programme is based on this new allocation and also includes revised proposals for voluntary and affordable housing.

In reply to Councillor Burke's query, Mr. Tierney said the Council were aiming to commence all approved starts this year. He said that the biggest difficulty presently was in relation to the capacity of market and land acquisition.

Councillor Hynes referred to rural housing and proposed that the number be doubled for rural areas. Councillor Callanan welcomed the report and recommended that there be strong emphasis on rural housing. Deputy Connaughton queried how many were on the housing list at present. Mr. Tierney replied that there were 1550 (gross) of which 300 were eligible for Social Housing Options. Of the remaining 1,250 approx., 350 were applicants for rural housing.

Deputy Burke complimented the Housing Staff on their work and commented on the improved style of Council houses. He said there was huge demand for housing in Loughrea and the list is growing. He recommended that the Council buy land in Loughrea and that a proposal be sent to the Minister to increase the upper income limit.

Councillor Mullins said that the improved quality of Council houses will ensure lower maintenance costs in future. He asked if cost of building local authority houses had increased.

Councillor Joyce asked if there was a reluctance from the Community to make sites available for scheme housing. Councillor Rabbitt asked if there would be Affordable Housing in Oranmore, Claregalway and Clarinbridge. Councillor S. Walsh said he would like to see the number of rural houses doubled so that people would be living in their own environment.

Councillor Fahy asked that the Council would purchase more land in the south Galway area for local authority housing. There is a great need for more housing as people like to live in their own area.

In reply Mr. Tierney said that the design and style of local authority houses had improved since 1993 and that the costs were increasing in line with market trends. He confirmed that the Council needs land in 16 locations to complete the Four Year Programme. So far the Council had avoided the need to use the C.P.O. procedure but he indicated that it would be unavoidable in the near future. In relation to rural housing, he said that the Council already had one of the largest rural housing programmes in the country and it would be difficult to increase output in this area. Referring to Affordable Housing, he pointed out that the Council had an ambitious programme in place which would be augmented with the enactment of the new Planning Bill.

The County Manager acknowledged the tributes and compliments made by the Members. He said that there is a continuous review of design at all stages and he hoped to have sanction in the coming weeks for additional staff. He said that there will be 548 local authority housing starts and that the Council would be striving to bring it up further. He said that it was important to get maximum potential from these schemes. He complimented the Voluntary Groups on the great work they were doing and said that it was the Council's policy to encourage the provision of voluntary housing.

The revised Four Year Multi-Annual Local Authority and Social Housing Programme 2000 – 2003 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Fahy, seconded by Councillor McClearn and agreed by the Members.

It was agreed to take Item No. 10 next

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

608

Some Members complained about the use of the land valuation system for determining the rate of contribution under the L.I.S. scheme. They said that it would save a lot of administrative work if a flat rate of contribution was operated. It was proposed by Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Callanan and agreed that the Minister for Environment & Local Government be requested to introduce a flat rate of 10% local contribution for these schemes.

REPORT ON RECYCLING INITIATIVES FOR COUNTY 609

The Members welcomed the Report on Recycling dated May 2000 which had been circulated. Deputy Connaughton and Councillor Grealish accepted that recycling was very costly but was necessary and that the Government would have to subsidise it. Deputy U. Burke asked about identifying a town or village for a pilot scheme but Mr. Nelson pointed out that this would be difficult in the absence of Regulations. It was agreed that a copy of the Recycling proposals be circulated to each Member of Ballinasloe U.D.C. On the proposal of Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Grealish the Council approved the proposals for improved recycling infrastructure as circulated in the Report.

Councillor Loughnane raised the question of the service of Notices on Landowners to enter the sites identified for landfill. A long discussion followed during which the following points were made:-

- That there should only be a walk-over of the lands and that no machinery enter.
- The Archaeological importance of the Ballinahistle site was highlighted and clarification that the County Manager and Consultants received a copy of the Archaeologists Report.
- That machinery could do severe damage and enough information should be available from a walk-over.
- That the Members were not anti the Waste Management Plan but that their suggestions re alternatives and Coillte lands were not being taken on board.
- Has the Council the authority to do excavations?
- Concern expressed at the finding of asbestos at the old New Inn Dump and that the Dump be remediated.
- That the whole process of democracy was in danger as Members views carried no influence.
- That each County should be responsible for its own waste.
- That many countries are not providing incineration and why should Galway.
- That Galway should not have to take all the waste of the region.

In relation to the sheets of material (3% asbestos) found at the old landfill at New Inn, Mr. Nelson said that the Council had been in contact with a firm with a view to having it removed.

In response, the County Manager highlighted the importance of proceeding with the site selection process. He said that Galway County Council would be facing a major crisis if the necessary infrastructure was not in place. He said that the projected targets in the Draft Regional Waste Management Plan is 47% for recycling; 35% for waste to energy and 18% to landfill. He said that Galway County Council is the first Local Authority to employ an Environmental Education Officer to encourage recycling in the County. He said that a progress report on recycling has been presented to the Members and the initiatives have proved successful. He said it was difficult to get a market for recyclable products, and that a landfill will always be necessary.

He said it was suggested that the Executive wasn't being fair to Members, but the Council Officials have co-operated in every way over the last fourteen months since the first report was presented. The same procedure is followed for roads projects. The Members requested that entry on the sites be deferred until (a) sites for Thermal Treatment were found; (b) to give Members an opportunity to visit Waste Management Facilities in Germany and (c) to allow further consultations on the proposed sites to take place. All these requests have been acceded to, but the Members haven't honoured their side. He said the onus was on local authorities to ensure that the necessary level of infrastructure i.e. roads, water, sewerage, waste facilities etc., was in place. He said that a golden opportunity would be lost in job creation if the necessary infrastructure is not in place.

The County Manager said that the Archaeological Report on the Ballinahistle site will be assessed in consultation with the Consultants and Duchas, and the Council will inform Duchas when the sites are being examined. He said they were only asking entry to those sites to start the process and some of these sites may need very little exploration. He assured the Members that they would enter the sites with due care and would like their co-operation.

Mr. P.J. Rudden, of M.C. O'Sullivan assured the Members that any requirements of Duchas would be followed. He said that the walk-over of the lands was part of an overall procedure laid down by the E.P.A. and was a safeguard so as not to cause damage to lands and national monuments. Lightweight machinery will be used so as to ensure minimum damage to ground structure and will be carried out in co-operation with an Archaeologist. The next stage is Boreholes which will determine the suitability or otherwise of the sites for landfill. With regard to the proposal that the Council approach Coillte to see if they have a site suitable for landfill, Mr. Rudden said that the E.P.A. requirements/procedures don't specifically make reference to Coillte owned sites. The E.P.A. guidance on site selection outlines the general procedure to be followed in selection of landfill sites.

In reply to a query regarding the Draft Waste Management Plan, Mr. Rudden said that the plan can be amended having regard to submissions made. The second report will contain the recommended amendments/revisions and submissions.

Regarding the household questionnaires, Mr. Rudden said that for the Connacht region, 85% were in favour of the proposals in the Draft Waste Management Plan.

DoELG Document – "Thermal Treatment & The Environment"

The Members noted this Report.

PRIOR NOTICES IN RELATION TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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It was agreed to defer this item.

CONFERENCES

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On the proposal of Councillor Loughnane, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, it was agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member:-

A.M.A.I./L.A.M.A. Conference – Tralee – 6th July 2000

Cllr. M. Cunningham	Cllr. S. O'Neachtain	Cllr. P. O'Sullivan
Cllr. T. Mannion	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. J. Conneely	Cllr. S. Walsh	Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. N. Grealish	Cllr. T. McHugh	Cllr. T. Walsh
Deputy U. Burke	Cllr. P. O Foighil	Cllr. M. Mullins
Deputy P. Connaughton	Cllr. M. Fahy	

Offaly/Kildare Waterways Conference – Tullamore – 13th June 2000

Cllr. M. Connolly

Mid West Regional Authority Conference – Ennis – 16/17 June 2000

Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. P. O Foighil	Cllr. M. Mullins
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Parnell Summer School – Avoca – 13/18 August 2000

Cllr. M. Loughnane	Cllr. J. Callanan	Cllr. M. Cunningham
Cllr. M. Regan	Cllr. S. O'Neachtain	Cllr. T. Mannion
Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. N. Grealish	Cllr. T. McHugh	Cllr. J. McClean
Cllr. P. O Foighil	Deputy P. Connaughton	Cllr. M. Mullins

Environmental Conference – Tralee – 25/26 May 2000

Cllr. T. Walsh

London/Galway Association Annual Function – London – 4th December 1999

Cllr. P. McHugh, Cathaoirleach

Coventry/Galway Association Function– Coventry – 13th May 2000

Councillor Connolly requested that the Block Grant Allocation for the Rural Water
Cllr. P. McHugh, Cathaoirleach the June Monthly Meeting and this was agreed.

Spirit of Ireland Trade Mission – Boston 8/10 June 2000

Cllr. P. McHugh, Cathaoirleach UGH AN CRUINNIO ANSIN

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

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The County Manager informed the Members that the Gort Heritage Centre would be opened to the public on 19th June 2000. He said that the official opening would be at a later date. He paid tribute to everybody involved in the project.

The County Manager informed the Members that because of the size of the city and county and the expanding role of the Arts, it had been decided that the Council and Galway Corporation would have their own Arts Officer. Mr. James Harrold would be going to Galway Corporation. He said that the Council would be making a proposal to the Department of the Environment and Local Government to the creation of an office of Arts Officer as an additional post.

The County Manager informed the Members that letter dated 29 Bealtaine 2000 had been received from An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gaeltachta agus Oileáin notifying the Council of a grant totalling £500,658 for improvement works on off-shore Islands.

The County Manager informed the Members that letter dated 6th June 2000 had been received from the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources approving of grants for coastal protection works on Inishboffin and Inishmore and roadworks at Cleggan Beach and protection works at Clifden Beach as follows:-

Location	Description	Total Cost	Dept's Contrib.
Inishboffin Island	South Facing Shore	£100,000	£75,000
Inishmore Island	Beach Road	£100,000	£75,000

The Members welcomed both announcements.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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LUTS Meeting

Councillor Loughnane proposed that the LUTS Meeting be changed from 6th to 7th July as the A.M.A.I. Conference is on the same day.

The County Manager said he would check if the Consultants were available for that day.

Councillor Connolly requested that the Block Grant Allocation for the Rural Water Programme be on the Agenda for the June Monthly Meeting and this was agreed.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

Kathleen Quinn
Chairperson

19/12/00

Date.