

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, ON MONDAY, 12th
AUGUST, 2005**

CATHAOIRLEACH

Mayor Pat Hynes

Baill:

Cllrs. W. Burke S. Canney, C. Cannon,
Comh. S.O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Conneely,
D.Connolly, M.Connolly, J.Cuddy, M.
Fahy, P. Feeney, F. Healy Eames, M.
Hoade, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne,
T.Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh,
M.Mullins, Comh. Ni. Fhatharta
S.O'Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly,
J.Tierney, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B.
Willers.

Oifigigh

Messrs. P. Ridge Deputy County Manager, F.
Gilmore, J. Morgan, Directors of Services, T.
Murphy, County Secretary, Messrs. L. Gavin, R.
Killeen, Senior Engineers, Mr. P. O'Neachtain,
Irish Officer, Ms. Roisin Burke, Planner, Ms.
M. McGrath, Senior Staff Officer, B. Donnellan,
Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

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A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following: -

The Mayor and members expressed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Hoade on the death of her mother in-law, Ms. Scully.

Mr. Paraic & Carmel Laffey & Family, Gleantréig, Clochbreac, An Fháirche, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Ms. Kathy Daly, Bridge Street, Dunmore, Co. Galway.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN. 562

Before considering the Manager's Report on the submissions Mr Ridge requested time to highlight some general concerns.

He stated that as well as taking into account the principles of proper planning and sustainable development when making a development plan, cognisance should also be taken of other issues. He continued by stating that a development plan is needed for the following reasons, (1) guide the development and use of land in the public interest.

He added that the proposed zoning in the Loughrea Plan does not meet this need of the people of Loughrea.

(2) Create a positive vision of how physical development can improve a community.

He added that if the proposed zoning is implemented there will be no clear vision of what Loughrea will become in the long term. It is a proposal to construct housing estate after housing estate and no proper provision is proposed for Recreation and Amenity and for the development of the commercial and economic needs of the town.

(3) Promote economic prosperity by delivering land for development in the right place and at the right time. Mr Ridge stated that the proposed distortion of land zoning in favour of residential development in Loughrea will not sustain the town.

(4) Identify and encourage the type, nature and scale of development necessary to sustain economic and social activity. This had not been achieved.

(5) Form the basis for an efficient and user-friendly planning service.

Mr Ridge added that the development plan was a contract between 3 groups, the planning officials, the Members, and the Public.

Members of the public should be able to read and understand what is meant in the development plans, if an area is zoned for residential it should generally mean that housing development can be expected to be allowed there.

Mr Ridge quoted extracts from a complaint received from members of the public regarding the Planning Department's decision to grant planning permission for an application on a particular site. It was a clear example of how the planning system can be brought into disrepute by poor zoning decisions. He requested of the Members to give serious consideration to the recommendations put before them in the Manager's Report by the planning officials before deciding on the land zonings.

Mr Ridge invited Mr Gavin to present the Manager's Report on the submissions received on the Loughrea Draft Local Area Plan.

Mr Gavin outlined that there was currently 218 acres of land zoned residential and that the requirement was 100 acres max for the duration of this plan. He stated that there was sufficient land zoned for the next two plans.

He stated that 38 submissions were received during the draft display period and these have been subdivided into a range of 13 issues.

Mr Gavin began with issues 1.

Issue 1: Requests for Residential Zoning

Submitted by: Carl Creavin c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd, Anthony Glennon c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd, Dr. John J Ryan & Colman B Ryan, Thomas P Considine, Martin & Evelyn Callanan, Margaret McNamara, Lena Kilboy, Peadar & Marian Fitzgerald c/o Cyril J Kelly & Associates, Michael McCarthy, Benedict Donnellan,

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Leabhras O Murrig Cumann Bhreandain Naomha, Brian Curran, Michael Stankard, John Cunningham, Gerry Cahill, Michael H Burke, Sean & Patrick Leahy c/o Conor Hayes, John Curley & Paul Connolly c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants, Butler Family c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants, Seamus Skehill c/o R.G. Greene & Associates, Seamus Skehill, Liam & Ann McDermott c/o Michael McGowan & Associates.

Introduction:

The following issues relate to zoning requests for residential. Map 1 illustrates where each request relates to.

1A Carl Creavin c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Willers it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1A residential

1B Anthony Glennon c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr. Regan it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1B residential

Mr Gavin stated that there was a lack of amenity zoning in this area.

1C Dr. John J Ryan & Colman B Ryan.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Cannon it was agreed accept the Manager's Report.

1D Thomas P Considine.

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to zone part of subject land residential and part recreation and amenity.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly to zone the lands the subject of submission 1D 50% residential and 50% Recreation & Amenity

It was proposed by Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Regan to zone the lands the subject of submission 1D which are situated within the plan boundary residential

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A vote was taken to accept or reject Cllr. Cannon's proposal which resulted as follows:-

For: Cllr Cannon, Cllr . Conneely Cllr M. Connolly Cllr Cuddy Cllr Fahy, Cllr Hoade, Cllr Hynes, Cllr Joyce, Cllr Regan, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr S. Walsh, Cllr Welby (12)

Against Cllr Burke, Cllr. D Connolly Cllr. Feeney, Cllr Healy Eames, Cllr Keaveney Cllr Kyne, Cllr McHugh, Cllr Mullins Cllr T Walsh, Cllr Willers (10)

The Chairman declared Cllr. Cannon's proposal carried.

1E Martin & Evelyn Callanan

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1E residential

1F Margaret McNamara

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Cannon it was agreed accept the Manager's Report.

1G Lena Kilboy

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr Willers and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to zone 7 acres as outlined by Cllr Willers on the map submitted by Lena Kilboy on the 8/8/2005 to the Planning Authority The 7 acres includes the lands the subject of submission 1G.

Mr Gavin stated that there were no services available here and was strongly opposed to this zoning.

1H Peadar & Marian Fitzgerald c/o Cyril J Kelly & Associates.

Recommendation:

No change to the Draft Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Regan it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1H residential

No change recommended.

1I Michael McCarthy

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr. Willers it was agreed accept the Manager's Report.

1J Benedict Donnellan

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed accept the Manager's Report.

1K Leabhras O Murrig, Cumann Bhreandain Naomha

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

Mr Gavin stated that it was critically important that we retain lands for recreational & amenity and that these lands were a valuable asset to the town of Loughrea

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed accept the Manager's Report.

1L Brian Curran

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

1M Brian Curran

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to zone:

- (a) the lands immediately south of the graveyard community facilities and the lands immediately east of the graveyard residential, and*
- (b) the second parcel of land to the south to remain agricultural as per the Manager's recommendation.*

1N Michael Stankard

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Regan it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1N residential

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1S(i) residential

1O John Cunningham

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to retain as agricultural the lands the subject of submission 1O which are within the RMP,GA105-189 area and to zone the remaining lands of this submission as residential

Mr Ridge stated that he was totally opposed to this zoning

1P Gerry Cahill c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1P residential

Mr Gavin stated that there were no services in this area and that there was also a very poor road structure

1Q Michael H Burke c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

Cllr Willers submitted a revised map which outlines a reduced area to be included for residential

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1Q which are situated inside the red line as shown on the revised map submitted by Cllr Willers to the Council Meeting residential and to zone the remainder of the lands as shown on the revised map recreational and amenity.

1R Sean & Patrick Leahy c/o Conor Hayes

Recommendation:

Recommendation:
Amend Plan to zone lands residential.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed to accept
On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

1W Liam & Ann McDermott c/o Michael McGowan & Associates

1S(i) John Curley & Paul Connolly c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

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Recommendation:

Recommendation:
No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1S(i) residential

1S(ii)

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

1T The Butler Family c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr Hynes it was agreed to zone the Butler lands which had been identified by reference to a map supplied to the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting on the 8 July 2005 be zoned residential and further, that the lands of the Carmelite Order as shown on the same map be zoned agriculture with the area of the Carmelite Order House and walled garden to be retained as community facilities.

1U Seamus Skehill c/o R.G Greene & Associates

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Hynes it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 1U residential

1V Seamus Skehill

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Managers Report.

1W Liam & Ann McDermott c/o Michael McGowan & Associates

Recommendation:

Amend plan to zone lands agricultural.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Hynes that the residential zoning on the lands the subject of submission 1W be retained

It was proposed by Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr Burke to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report, that the lands the subject of Submission 1W be zoned from residential to agricultural

A vote was taken to accept or reject Cllr. Cannon's proposal which resulted as follows:-

For: Cllr Burke Cllr Cannon Cllr Cuddy, Cllr. Feeney Cllr Healy Eames Cllr Kyne, Cllr Welby Cllr Willers (8)

Against Cllr Fahy, Cllr Hynes, Cllr Mullins Cllr Regan, (4)

The Chairman declared Cllr. Cannon's proposal carried.

Issue 2: Requests for Commercial / Town Centre Zoning

Submitted by: Joe, Brendan & Gerry McGrath c/o Ignatius T Greaney & Associates Ltd, David Glennon, P.T. Sweeney, Thomas P Considine, Gerry Keane & Stephen O'Rourke, Vincent Murray c/o Cyrill J Kelly & Associates, Mary O'Neill c/o A P McCarthy Planning Consultants, Carmelite Fathers The Abbey c/o E. Spellman & Associates.

Introduction:

The following issues relate to zoning requests for commercial / town centre. Map 2 illustrates where each request relates to.

It was noted that submission nos. 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F all related to the same issue and it was agreed to take these issues together and record the decision then in respect of each.

2A Joe, Brendan, & Gerry McGrath c/o Ignatius T Greaney & Associates Ltd.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2B David Glennon

Recommendation:

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No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2C P.T. Sweeney

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

It was proposed by Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Burke and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2D Thomas P Considine

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

Cllr Cannon that there was commercial activity on these land for years.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 2D town centre.

2E Gerry Keane & Stephen O'Rourke

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Willers it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2F Vincent Murray c/o Cyril J Kelly & Associates

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2G Mary O'Neill c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to zone lands town centre.

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to zone lands enterprise.

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On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

2H Carmelite Fathers, The Abbey. c/o E. Spellman & Associates.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and, seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of submission 2H recreational & amenity

Mr Gavin stated that this location was more suitable for town centre development

2I Carmelite Fathers, The Abbey. c/o E. Spellman & Associates.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Feeney it was agreed to zone 8 acres of the lands the subject of submission 2I town centre and 1.5 acres recreation & amenity along the northern boundary to separate the residential and town centre zonings..

Issue 3: Requests for Industrial / Enterprise Zoning

Submitted by: Anthony Downey c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd, Pat Finnerty.

Introduction:

The following issues relate to zoning requests for commercial. Map 3 illustrates where each request relates to.

3A Anthony Downey c/o Dolan & Associates Ltd.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Cannon it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

3B Pat Finnerty

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to zone lands enterprise.

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6B N6 Tynagh Road Link (Tesco Ireland c/o Channoe Strattan Reynolds,
On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Recommendation:
No change recommended.

Issue 4: Expansion of Town Centre

Submitted by: Loughrea Chamber of Commerce c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to extend the town centre zoning north of the existing town centre.
On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Introduction:

Issue 5: Lough Rea Lake

Submitted by: Western Regional Fisheries Board

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Amend Policy 3.5.7 to read: Improve and maintain an adequate surface water drainage system throughout the Plan area.
On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Issue 6: Transport & Road Infrastructure

Submitted by: Tom Fahy c/o O Cuimin McCallion Architects, Tesco Ireland c/o Cunnane Strattan Reynolds. Loughrea Chamber of Commerce c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants

Introduction:

Introduction: to the requirement to screen plans for Strategic Environmental
The following issues relate to transport and road infrastructure.

6A Tom Fahy c/o O Cuimin McCallion Architects.

Recommendation:

Recommendation:

Amend policy 3.4.12 as above.
On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

6B N6 Tynagh Road Link (Tesco Ireland c/o Cunnane Strattan Reynolds, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce c/o AP McCarthy Planning Consultants)

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Issue 7: Retail

Submitted by: Tesco Ireland c/o Cunnane Strattan Reynolds.

Introduction:

The following issues relate to retail development in Loughrea.

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to accommodate the suggested changes as in the Manager's Report

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Issue 11: Archaeological Heritage

Submitted by: Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Issue 8: Strategic Environmental Assessment

Introduction:

This issue relates to Loughrea archaeological heritage.

Submitted by: Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to accommodate the suggested changes.

Introduction:

This issue relates to the requirement to screen plans for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Submitted by: E. Spellman & Associates

Introduction:

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Issue 9: Settlement Strategy for Loughrea

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

Submitted by: Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Recommendation: *Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to accept*

No change recommended. *Manager's Report*

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Issue 13: Forward Planning Submissions

13A Amend Plan to change zoning from residential to community facility. This

Issue 10: Natural Heritage

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to

Submitted by: Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to accommodate the suggested changes as in the Manager's Report.

On the proposal of Cllr Fahy and seconded by Cllr D Connolly it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

13C Amend Objective TGI to read: Propose an Urban Design Framework for Loughrea.

Issue 11: Archaeological Heritage

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Submitted by: Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

13D Amend the zoning matrix to have retail warehouses permitted in principle in

Introduction:

This issue relates to Loughrea's archaeological heritage.

Mr. Ridge advised the members that it would be preferable if retail warehousing was

Recommendation:

Amend Plan to accommodate the suggested changes.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr D Connolly it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

consideration" in the Enterprise zone as advised by Mr Ridge at the Area Committee meeting on the 8/7/2005.

13E Amend the zoning matrix to have Tele Services permitted in principle in the Enterprise zone.

Issue 12: Amenity Pathway along Lakeshore

Submitted by: E. Spellman & Associates

13F Amend Section 5.2.8 backland Development to read:

Introduction:

This issue relates to the development of an amenity pathway along the lakeshore.

Recommendation:

No change recommended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Issue 13: Forward Planning Submissions

13A Amend Plan to change zoning from residential to community facility. This is the location the new swimming pool.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

13B Amend Plan to change zoning from agricultural to recreation & amenity.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

13C Amend Objective TC1 to read: *Prepare an Urban Design Framework for Loughrea.*

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

13D Amend the zoning matrix to have retail warehouses permitted in principle in the Enterprise zone.

Mr. Ridge advised the Members that it would be preferable if retail warehousing was "open for consideration" rather than "permitted in principle" as was proposed in 13D.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Willers, and agreed to amend the zoning matrix to have retail warehouses "open for consideration" in the Enterprise zone as advised by Mr Ridge at the Area Committee meeting on the 8/7/2005.

13E Amend the zoning matrix to have Tele Services permitted in principle in the Enterprise zone.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

13F Amend Section 5.2.8 backland Development to read:

The development of backland sites¹ can in some cases conflict with the established pattern of development in the town centre resulting in uncoordinated piecemeal development. Piecemeal and uncoordinated development of lands, including the construction of extra dwellings in former back gardens, can result in inappropriate and disorderly development. This form of development is considered undesirable where there is an adverse effect on the residential amenity of adjoining properties, particularly where such intensification might overload infrastructure and the established use framework of an area. It can also result in missed opportunities for large scale renewal. It is an objective of this Plan to ensure that no development takes place that would compromise the overall development of backlands in any area. (See Urban Design Framework & Maps)

The Planning Authority will consider backland development where they are part of an Action Plan for a specific area and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development assimilates with and complements the existing character of the town.

¹ Backland developments is generally described as lands with no existing road frontage

It was proposed by Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Regan, and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

13G Amend Section 5.1.2 Outer Residential Areas to read 'In development zones at the outer edges of the Plan boundary the Planning Authority will encourage energy efficient eco-clusters, with a high degree of integration with existing landscape features, at a density of up to 8 to the acre on appropriate sites.'

Cllr. Regan stated that there was no outer residential zoning on the maps circulated with the Plan. Mr. Ridge said that the amendment proposed at 13G referred to development and design considerations for residential zones at the outer edge of the plan boundary.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

13H Any text, spelling, grammatical and mapping errors will be corrected in the amended Plan.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Regan, and agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

On behalf of the Councillors, Cllr. Hynes thanked the Officials for the time and effort that had been put in to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan.

Mr Ridge stated that the amount of zoning of residential land was excessive and that there was not sufficient lands zoned for Recreational & Amenity to accommodate

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this. He added that the Council must consider some means of accumulating money in order to acquire lands for Recreation & Amenity.

He requested a proposal from the Council which could be appended to this Loughrea Local Area Plan to explore a possibility of a scheme to enable the Council to accumulate money to purchase lands for Recreation & Amenity. He added that the public are requesting better facilities and a better quality of life.

Cllr D.Connelly welcomed the comments of the Director and for highlighting the need for more lands for Recreation and Amenity. The obligation is on the Councillors as the legislators to provide a means to secure lands for recreation and amenity. He urged all Councillors to take the comments of the Director on board.

Cllr Willers proposed that the Council explore a means of securing lands for recreation and amenity and added that it was well worth pursuing.

She referred to a Council owned site along Lake Road which in her opinion would be an ideal location for recreation and amenity facilities and suggested that the Council should look at their own sites first.

Cllr Burke agreed to second this proposal to explore avenues that will allow the Council to accumulate resources to acquire recreational and amenity lands. He added however that this was a national problem and that the Government should also make funds available.

Cllr Mullins stated that he strongly supported the Director especially if towns continue to grow at the rate they're growing but added that it was also a national issue.

Cllr McHugh stated that the Council have lost opportunities within the local area plan procedure when it has not got involved in land deals with landowners whose land values the Council have enhanced through zoning. He added that any new levies will eventually be passed onto the house buyer.

He requested that during the review of the County Development Plan we should have a policy where more open space can be acquired by the Planning Authority at the planning decision stage.

Cllr Joyce requested that this issue be on an agenda for a Council Meeting as it will have financial implications for the Council.

He also enquired as to how much the Council have received from Development Contributions since the new development contributions scheme was introduced and how it is to be spent..

Cllr Cuddy suggested that a time period be put on the length of time one can hold on to undeveloped zoned lands.

Cllr Kyne stated that it was pointless zoning lands for community facilities if these lands are not available He added that when the Moycullen Community Council engaged with Coillte to provide lands for Community facilities the Council did not agree with this.

He also stated that Moycullen and Oughterard will not benefit sufficiently from the development contributions as the monies will be divided among the electoral areas.

Cllr Burke stated that the Council should negotiate with landowners when their lands are being zoned otherwise an opportunity is lost for acquiring lands for recreation and amenity.

Cllr Hoade agreed with Cllr Burke's comments.

Ink Orr Water Supply

Mr Ridge stated that the site at Long Point referred to by Cllr Willers was reserved for the Regional Water supply scheme.

He explained that monies were still being received under the old development contributions scheme. He stated that a report would be available shortly on the amount of money collected per each electoral area under the new Developments Contributions scheme.

He stated that the Council cannot negotiate lands deals for planning permission or for zoning and suggested investigating the introduction of a levy or increasing the open space requirement for developments from 15% to say 30% and by permitting the developer to use the extra 15% to purchase open space at a central location for which the local authority would pay the full market value.

He stated that he believed that the levy could be charged to the first link on the chain i.e. the developer and that it should not be borne by the house buyers.

Cllr McHugh stated that the Council have made many landowners very wealthy through the zoning of their lands and enquired as to how the Council can get these people to contribute to the provision of the necessary recreational & amenity facilities. He further stated that the development contribution would be paid by the house buyer not the landowner.

Mr Ridge did not agree. He stated that if the costs are signalled well in advance it will impact on the price of development land and will not increase the cost of houses. It will ensure that those buying houses can look forward to a good quality environment to bring up their families.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Cannon it was agreed to put the amendments and material alterations to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan as agreed on public display.

MAYORS BUSINESS

563

School Transport

Cllr. Fahy referred to the problem in relation to school transport and the fact that some students had not been issued with bus passes to attend the school of their choice.

Following discussion the following resolutions were passed;

- It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames and agreed "to write to the Minister for Education requesting that tickets be made available to all students in County Galway, to Secondary, Vocational and Community Schools and additional school buses be provided where required".

- It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed "to write to the Minister for Education and Science, requesting that the Minister immediately undertake a review of school catchment areas and that the decision of catchment areas be decided by the Minister and not the schools"

Inis Oirr Water Supply

Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the problem in relation water supply in Inis Oirr. He said that the Council indicated earlier this year that a new tank would be provided on

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the Island but this has not happened. In reply to Comh O'Tuairisg, Mr. Killeen said that desalination was being explored and that the transport of water from Ros an Mhll to Inis Oirr would begin as soon as possible.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

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Mr. Morgan said that the Department of Transport had allocated funds of one million euro to progress works on the N17 Quality Bus Corridor approach to the City. The works will provide for a Quality Bus Corridor on the N17 Galway/Tuam National Primary Road to include traffic signals to the Parkmore Road Junction, and adjustments to the hard shoulders on both sides of the N17 and to tie in with the Font Roundabout. In accordance with the terms of Section 85 agreement entered into with the Galway City Council on the 5th July 2005 all works associated with the projects shall be undertaken and managed by Galway County Council. The design work involved in the project is in progress and it is currently anticipated that work will commence prior to the end of the year.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

26.09.05
PAC Hynde S.
Date

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY

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A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Liam & Maureen Bergin, Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Eamon Cahill, Lydican, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Annie Golding, Killaan, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- The Cooke Family, Cornfield, Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.