

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE,
PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 19th DECEMBER
2005.**

ILATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mayor P. Hynes

BAILL: Cllrs. S. Canney, S. Connaughton, J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. O’Cuaig, Cllrs. 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. C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O’Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

OIFIGIGH: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, J. Cullen, J. Morgan, K. Kelly, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, Directors Of Services, J Brann A/Director of Service, G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, M. Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer, Michael McGovern, Management Accountant, A. Comer, T. Murphy, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers, M. O'Donnell, A/Administrative Officer, J. Keane, Staff Officer, P. Delaney, Clerical Officer, P. O Neachtain, Irish Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

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The County Manager referred to the draft Budget for the year 2006 which had been circulated to each member of the Council. He stated that the general report and the reports of the Directors of Services, give an overview of the work of the Council, under each programme group for the year 2005 and proposals for 2006.

He outlined that all statutory requirements had been complied with and that consultation had taken place with the Corporate Policy Group. The Corporate Policy Group considered the preparation of the Draft Budget at its meetings held on 28th October, 18th November, and 19th December, 2005.

The Corporate Policy Group he added had been mindful of the need to adopt the draft Budget with or without amendment and to determine the annual rate on valuation to be levied while at the same time deciding on the competing requests for funding.

He indicated how decisions on the allocation of resources to various expenditure heads of the Draft Budget were taken in the context of the total projected income available for 2006, contractual demands, servicing annual borrowings, supporting SPC's and the relative demands on services particularly with a view to maintaining progress and promoting economic development.

He stated that an allocation of €35,171,271 from the Local Government Fund had been received and that it represented over 27% of the total revenue income available for 2006. He outlined that the increase / adjustments in the allocation from the Local Government Fund is made up of: a general increase of 5% on the 2005 final allocation amounting to €1,633,161; a sum of €1,000,518 via the Needs and Resources Model, and a decrease of €125,636 arising from Global Valuations.

He said that the total County Valuation on which rates were to be levied for 2006 amounted to 261,100, an increase of 22,100 on the 2005 figure and that this represented a 69% increase in the commercial base over the last eight years.

He pointed out that this increase was a clear indicator of the economic development and progression in the County and that there remained good grounds for anticipating further widening of the valuation base in future years. He added that whilst the income from County Rates was a vitally important income source for the Council that the Council had consistently endeavored to maintain rate increases to the minimum level necessary to maintain and support essential services. He stated however that it was necessary to build on the yield from rates income in order to underpin the investment in economic infrastructure in the county and to match the increased income from the Local Government Fund.

He stated that the proposed Rate for 2006 is 60.79 per Unit of Valuation for Galway County and that this represents an increase of 4% on the 2005 rate. He added that this rate would accrue an income of €15,872,269, and includes an amount of €1,343,459 resulting from additional valuations and €559,260 representing a 4% increase on 2005 rates, and that each 1% increase in the rate level amounts to €152,613. He stated that the proposed increase was considerably less than the 11% increase he sought for the 2005 budget and the 8% increase approved by the Council. He also referred to appendix 4 which showed the relative levels of the 2005 rate for County Galway, compared with other County Councils. He stated that it was worth noting that the rate level in counties of similar topography and area were considerably higher than the Galway rate.

He compared the available income sources for 2006 with 2005, outlining that the total estimated income for 2006 was €131,204,788. He referred to page 4 of his report and drew attention to the basis on which income from water services is estimated in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle. Government policy dictates that the marginal cost, related to non-domestic use, of water production and distribution, and waste water treatment, both in respect of Capital provision costs and on-going maintenance, be recovered, from the users of these services. He added that for schemes, contracts for which were entered into, since March 2000, the Capital Grant towards construction, paid by the State, covered only the domestic element of schemes. Government policy dictates that cost recovery from users be calculated on the basis of actual use, and impact on costs, by individual users, and requires that all non-domestic connections be metered by 2006. He stated that the water metering programme has commenced, and pending the completion of the metering programme, the current mix of

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metered and fixed charges will apply, and that the structure of the individual charges for 2006, is set out in full in Appendix 1 to the report.

He indicated that a number of particular factors and requirements impinged on 2006 expenditure. These include:

- the increase in the range, complexity and extent of services delivered by local government in recent years, and the additional demand for services in a county with an increasing population.
- advice from the CPG to which he has had regard, in particular in providing for; continuation of the Community Wardens scheme (subject to Departmental approval), increases in the revenue provision for Disabled Persons Grants and local road maintenance; and the need to make provision to commence the implementation of the Council's recently-adopted 'Taking in Charge' policy for housing estates developments.
- commitments to improving the quality of customer services and communication with the public, such as Area Offices, requirements under the Official Languages Act, statutory and non-statutory consultation regarding Council policies and programmes, and ICT improvements.
- The need to make provision for improved premises and facilities for the Council to conduct its business at Area and HQ level
- The Council's draft Social Inclusion Strategy.
- as for any other large enterprise, increased overheads such as energy and insurance costs.
- Water pricing policy: national government policy has determined, on the one hand, that costs of water be recovered transparently on the basis of actual use (and impact on costs) of individual users; and on the other hand, that domestic users of water are not to be charged by local authorities (with Councils, in principle, being recompensed by central government in respect of such domestic users). Local government has impressed on the Department the importance of demonstrating clearly in allocations to local authorities that such recompense is being made, if net domestic water services costs are not to become an undue burden on Local Authority Budgets over time.

He referred to the three year programme for capital projects for the period 2006-2008 which had been prepared in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001. He added that the details are based on current information and are subject to the availability of the necessary funding and sanctions.

He stated that, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Council adopted a Development Contributions Scheme in early 2004. The Act provides that (i) money accruing to a Local Authority from such contributions shall be accounted for in a separate account and shall only be applied as capital for public infrastructure and facilities (i.e. may not be used for revenue purposes); (ii) that the Local Authority Report on the operation of the scheme in its Annual Report. He said that the latter statutory requirement will be met in the 2005 Annual Report (when published), and added that he had attached to the Report on the Three-Year Capital Programme, for the information of members, a progress report regarding income received under the Development Contributions Scheme since its adoption.

He said that the preparation and adoption of the annual Budget is never an easy task for staff and elected members of the Council. One of the reasons for this is that while the range of functions and services that the Council is asked to provide is broad, the revenue base available to generate income to fund such functions and services is limited. He referred to last year's report, and said that he had hoped that this issue would be addressed in the current Review of Local Government Financing. He added that he understood that this review has been completed, and that a report has recently been submitted to the Minister for his consideration.

He expressed his confidence that the elected members of the Council will continue the positive approach which has been adopted by their predecessors. He stated that the Council is a major contributor to the county economy, employing a workforce of over 1400, with revenue expenditure of over €131 million and capital expenditure planned at €173 million for the year ahead.

He sincerely thanked the Members of the Council for their support over the last year. In particular, he wished to record his appreciation and thanks to the Mayor, Cllr. Pat Hynes, and his predecessor Cllr. Willie Burke, for their commitment and dedication to the special duties of their office and also for their courtesy and co-operation. He acknowledged the assistance and involvement of the Corporate Policy Group in the Budget process. He thanked the Council's Directors of Services, and all the Council staff for their continued commitment and support. He also thanked Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance, and all the Finance staff for their work in drafting the Budget for 2006, as well as Mr. Brian Barrett, Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Unit, and Páid Uas. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, for their assistance.

He finished by recommending to the Council, the adoption of the Draft Budget as presented, and stated that he was glad to have the endorsement of the CPG.

The following views were expressed by the Members in relation to the proposed Budget :

Cllr. Joyce complimented the CPG on their work on the Budget process. He stated that this year there is a record amount of funds available and that the Manager and the CPG should have made a better effort to reimburse the areas that experienced cutbacks last year. He said that the Budget should also do more for the weaker areas of the county and that Galway is a very unbalanced county as regards economic development. He added that the areas closer to the city are more developed and the further out from the city the weaker the economic development. He indicated that Ballinasloe area in particular was in need of increased development. He referred to the provision of housing in the Ballinasloe area and stated that in 2005, 171 houses were completed in the county, only 5 of which were in the Ballinasloe electoral area. He added that for 2005, out of 135 affordable houses, none were allocated to the Ballinasloe area and that none were proposed for the area for 2006. In relation to Water Services, Cllr. Joyce stated that the low level of progress in the area of water & sewerage in the county was frustrating. He also referred to distribution of funding from the Development Contribution Scheme, and stated that a more balanced distribution was necessary, as the Ballinasloe area was at a disadvantage and required funding and development in order to redress the imbalance.

Cllr. McHugh congratulated the CPG and the officials of the Council on the Budget, but expressed concerns about the level of service that will be provided from the combined capital and revenue expenditure budgets of over €300m for 2006. He outlined the difficulties faced by commuters due to traffic congestion, and questioned the commitment to Quality Bus Corridors and stated that an allocation was made available during the Summer for this but that nothing had been done yet. He also stated that there was no mention of the Western Rail Corridor. He referred to page 19 of the Draft Budget document relating to the nine planned major road schemes and said that none of these will go to construction in 2006. He referred to pages 63 and 64 of the Draft Budget document in relation to Water Services, and noted that of the 29 schemes listed to go to construction, there was no mention of Milltown, Creggs, or Ballygar. He asked what is happening with the capital allocation as no new roads are being built and stated that this will lead to greater problems in the future. He suggested referring to the Budget document on a monthly basis for a progress report.

Cllr. Canney stated that the Bus Corridor from Claregalway was not being taken seriously enough. He also said that many burial grounds are in need of expansion and more land needs to be acquired for this purpose, and questioned the amount of money provided for land acquisition for burial grounds.

Cllr. McDonagh stated that credit was due to the CPG and officials for the lower proposed rate increase, given the constraints of limited resources. He said he hoped that in the context of the Local Government Finance review, more generous funding would be available in the future. He proposed that the draft Budget be accepted.

Cllr. Mullins stated that there was a lack of activity and investment in East Galway, that little was being done to address development in the area, and that this was the fault of the Government. He complimented the CPG on keeping the proposed rate increase to 4%. He welcomed the fact that the Community Warden Scheme would now be on a permanent basis. Regarding the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme, he questioned the extent of the current backlog and how much funding would be required to clear same. He stated that there was little investment throughout the county on local and regional roads and said that an in-depth discussion in relation to this would be necessary in the new year. He referred to the €1.95m allocated for the installation of central heating in Local Authority houses and questioned how many houses this allocation would cover. He also mentioned the issue of public lighting, and said that this was an issue he would like to revisit and suggested discussions with the ESB regarding same. On the issue of waste management, he referred to the €3 per tonne development charge, and said he hoped that the members of the electoral area concerned would be involved with the scheme along with representational community involvement. He suggested that the development charge of €3 per tonne should be paid by Green Star as a token of goodwill. He also questioned the geographical spread of playground facilities, and stated that the East of the county needs to be better represented, specifically mentioning a proposal for New Inn. He also asked what the progress was on the Ballinasloe Library project. He welcomed the funding for the N6 Galway-Ballinasloe Road and said that he had previously expressed reservations on the issue of tolling, and that this needed to be revisited and a full discussion held at the earliest possible opportunity. He complimented the Mayor, Management Team, and the CPG on the Budget and suggested that progress on the Budget proposals be reviewed on at least a quarterly basis.

Cllr. Welby welcomed the draft Budget, and said that it was an improvement on last years draft Budget, in particular, the reduced proposed rate increase. He referred to the increase in income from water charges of approximately €1.3m in 2006 compared with 2005, and questioned where the extra revenue would come from. He asked whether the collection base

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was being widened or whether businesses would take the impact of the charges. He also questioned the decrease of approximately €100,000 in library rents.

Cllr. Cannon said that the business sector is shouldering much of the economic burden and that an effort should be made to reduce the impact on this sector. He mentioned the closure of pubs in rural areas, and stated that the rates bill is a large factor in the survival of small businesses. He stated that in Co. Clare last year, 25 rural pubs closed down.

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Warden Scheme and also complimented the work of the Community Wardens themselves. He welcomed the increased provision for the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme, as well as the provision for the implementation of the Taking in Charge policy.

Cllr. Willers welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens, and also complimented them on the work they do. She referred to page 50 of the report, which states that the Aughrim and Gort Heritage Centres are proving to be non-viable, and suggested that an invitation be extended to the people in Gort to get involved with the project, and that increased funding was required. She referred also to the proposed Loughrea Swimming Pool, stating that planning permission was granted last year, and a developer is standing by, but no funding had been received from the DEHLG yet. She suggested that other options be explored for the proposed development. She stated that overall, the proposed Budget was positive and congratulated the County Manager & staff.

Cllr. Mannion expressed disappointment that there was no increase in Notice of Motion allocation for 2006, and stated that this was a backward step. He said that the presence of the landfill site in Ballinasloe is hindering industrial development and that the landfill site is a disgrace and would not attract industrialists to invest in the area. He stated that the Ballinasloe area is entitled to a greater share of the Development Contribution funds. He referred to the Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, and said that although he was aware that this is the responsibility of Ballinasloe Town Council, he had concerns about it and said that he would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Town Council.

Comh. Ni Fhatharta stated that the proposed Budget was not going to please everyone. She said that she understood the frustration of the members and the public regarding delays on water and sewerage schemes. She complimented the Minister on his pledge to cut back on the bureaucracy and streamline the process in relation to these schemes. She stated that one of the problems is that companies can apply for these contracts, then pull back and cause delays. In relation to Burial Grounds, she said that there is not enough money allocated in the proposed 2006 Budget and that some of the burial grounds were very hard to look after as they were in very bad condition. She commended the community groups for making great efforts in this area, but said that more support was needed from the County Council, and that she was very disappointed that there was no increase in the funding. She said the Council should continue to search for a site so that a Fire Station would be provided in An Ceathrú Rua. She stressed the need for recycling, and said that there was no centre in South Connemara for the recycling of bigger items, and urged that a place be found for this purpose. With regard to Housing, she stated that there has been a lot of progress in general but the housing list was still very long, and that there has not been much progress in the area around An Ceathrú Rua.

Cllr. Healy Eames welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens but expressed her disappointment at the reduction in state funding for the scheme. She stated that it was important to examine the needs of the county with reference to the County Poverty Profile, Social Inclusion Strategy and adult literacy rates. With regard to the Library Service, she expressed disappointment in the reduction in State support for rented properties. She referred to page 66 of the proposed Budget, and stated that €1.2m was collected in Development Contributions in the Oranmore Electoral area in 2005, but questioned how much of this was collected for planning permissions granted prior to 2004.

Cllr. Feeney welcomed the proposed Budget, especially the reduction in the rate increase. He stated that this was largely due to the broadening of the rate base. He welcomed the safeguarding of the Community Wardens Scheme. He also welcomed the increase in Disabled Persons Grants. He also referred to the pressure that development places on infrastructure and this should be taken into account in the calculation of levies.

Cllr. Hoade referred to the allocation for Burial Grounds and commented that the increase of €20,000 on the 2005 allocation was insufficient. She recommended that the Maintenance Grant be increased from €700 to €1,000. She also commented on the Park & Ride system operated by the City Council for the Christmas period and said that it was very successful and the provision of this service on a permanent basis should be examined.

Cllr S. Walsh referred to the Notice of Motion allocation and said that €20,000 per Councillor had been promised. He said there was a misconception that Notice of Motion funds were wasted and this was not the case. He stressed the importance of members' discretion, as local representatives, in the disbursement of Notice of Motion money. He proposed that the Notice of Motion allocation be increased to allow greater discretionary spend, although he stated that he was not looking for an overall increase in the Budget. He also stated that the provision of the Oughterard Sewerage Scheme was very urgent.

Comh. O'Tuairisg seconded the proposal to increase the Notice of Motion allocation. He stated that the Burial Grounds in Connemara are full and also called for continued investment on the road West to Connemara. He said that Rates on the Islands should be abolished and that no water charges should be levied on Inisheer.

Cllr. Fahy stressed the importance of the water and sewerage programme, and referred to the allocation of €2.67m for the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme and he emphasised its importance to tourism in the area. He stated that water meters had been installed in Gort town, and stated that the water supply was poor, and that people should not be charged until the Regional Water Scheme is in place. Regarding Burial Grounds, he said that there is no crematorium in Galway and that this should be looked at as a joint venture between the County and City Councils.

Cllr. Cuddy welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens, and commended the wardens themselves on the work they have done. He welcomed the increase in Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants. Regarding Roads & Transportation, he stated that there were a lot of requests last year re hedge & grass cutting and the increase in roads funding in the coming year will help to alleviate this. He suggested asking central government for an increase in the Local Government Fund allocation. He also stated that land is currently at a premium and there is a need to identify lands on the periphery of towns for the provision of sports/amenity facilities that can be used by all groups in the area. He welcomed the Minister's proposed streamlining of the process with regard to water & sewerage schemes, and said that the bureaucracy and red tape would be reduced as a result.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the reduction in the rate increase for 2006. He also welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens, and said that there should be continued focus on this scheme in the future. He asked what was happening in relation to providing a new Branch Library in Ballinasloe. He stated that the Minister's announcement of the reduction in bureaucracy with regard to water & sewerage schemes will hopefully help Galway. With regard to water charges, he expressed concerns about full-time farmers, and said that they will have a tough time in the future. He said that their livelihoods will be at risk and that Galway County Council should try to explore ways to alleviate the difficulties.

Comb. O'Cuaig stated that there were problems in the Connemara area with regard to roads, water & sewerage, broadband access, burial grounds and swimming pools. He also referred to the low numbers in schools in the area. He stated that the image that Connemara is being looked after by the Government is not the case, and that the area deserves its fair share. He said he would be keeping a close eye on all programmes throughout 2006.

Cllr T. Walsh thanked the Manager, Head of Finance, and staff for their work on the Budget, and for taking on board the views expressed at the CPG meetings.

Cllr. Reilly welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens, and commended the wardens themselves on the work that they do. Regarding the Burial Grounds, he stated that extensions were badly needed, that he was disappointed with the allocation in the Budget, and that this needs to be addressed. He referred to the Tuam Bypass and stated that the Ring Road should be built in conjunction with this. He welcomed the increase in Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants, and he called for an increase in the Notice of Motion allocation.

Cllr. Kyne said that the provision of amenity land in Moycullen was very urgent and he asked the Council to take cognisance of the fact that the cost of land in the area was prohibitive. He referred to the Oughterard Sewerage scheme and expressed disappointment that this was not on the list for 2006, that there was no concrete start date, and that this must be rectified. He referred to the proposed Moycullen Bypass, and stated that there was no commitment or concrete plans for this. He also stated that there had been little spent on roads in the Moycullen area in the last number of years.

Cllr. Connaughton complimented the County Arts Officer, Marilyn Gaughan, and the Arts Office staff for their work and the very worthwhile initiatives they have introduced. She also referred to the Young Citizen award and said that this was very important to young people. She welcomed the permanent arrangement for the Community Wardens, and also the library development programme. With reference to Water Services, she expressed disappointment that the Mountbellew, Glenamaddy and Milltown schemes will not start until 2007. She stated that sewerage schemes were a high priority, that they were only at the preliminary stage, there have been long delays, and there seemed to be no progress. She welcomed the increase in Disabled Persons Grants. With regard to Higher Education Grants, she stressed the importance of these being issued as early as possible each year to alleviate the financial pressures on students and families.

Cllr M. Connolly referred to the Water and Sewerage Programme and said that there were unacceptable hold-ups that need to be addressed, and that there was too much bureaucracy. With regard to the Notice of Motion allocation, he said that this should be index linked and should rise with the percentage increase in the overall Budget each year. With regard to roads, he said that the five-year works programme needs to be more flexible and that emergency money should be available. He referred to the Western Rail Corridor and said that

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this was now a reality, will happen, and will have a positive effect on the county, but was critical of the timeframe. He thanked the CPG and all those involved in preparing the Budget.

The County Manager, responded to the issues raised by the members. Regarding the Water & Sewerage Programme and the Rural Water Programme, he stated that last year, members raised concerns, and that a serious effort had been made to improve performance on the delivery of these programmes. He said that a number of extra staff had been recruited and that following discussions with the Department, a set of measures had been agreed to streamline procedures and he is awaiting confirmation of details of same.

Regarding the concerns raised by members about monitoring of the delivery of measures contained within the Budget, he said he would be happy to co-operate with the members' request, and that this can be built into the quarterly Finance Meetings.

He referred to the Notice of Motion allocation, he stated that the policies and procedures were under review by the SPC, that progress had been made on the review, and that the report should be available early in the new year. He recommended that no adjustment be made to the Notice of Motion allocation until the Council has considered the report's findings.

He referred to the Development Contributions scheme, and said that the report shows differing levels of development, and that efforts would be redoubled to ensure balanced development throughout the county. He said that this was a rolling programme and as time goes on, resources will be made available for works to be undertaken. He stated that the draft Annual Financial Statement will contain details of all monies received.

Mr. Morgan addressed the issue raised by the members regarding a lack of progress on major schemes. He referred to page 61 of the Budget Report, and he outlined the Council Capital Programme for major road improvements over the period 2006-2008.

Mr. Kelly said that the provision of a new Branch Library in Ballinasloe was a priority and he hoped to report progress on this matter in the near future. He referred to the issue of reduced income from library rents and indicated that this was due to a reduction in the government funding element of rents. The reduced income for library charges, he stated, was due to a reduction in the outturn for 2005 as a result of a secondment arrangement with Dublin VEC coming to an end. In relation to the issues raised re the Leisure Centre in Ballinasloe, he said that he can arrange for a meeting at Town Council level to discuss same. He referred to the Ballinasloe landfill site, and stated that the facility was being run strictly in accordance with the licence, that it is subject to regular inspection by the EPA, and that it is fulfilling all the requirements of the EPA, specifically mentioning water control and the permanent gas and leachate collection system.

Mr. Gilmore addressed the issue of the Disabled Persons Grants and said that there were 779 outstanding at the moment, and he welcomed the increased funding. On the issue of central heating provision, he said that there were approximately 250 houses outstanding at the moment and that the scheme was due to be finished by the end of 2006.

Mr. Cullen said that there are 225 burial grounds in the county, and that from 2006 onwards, an attempt will be made to accelerate extensions through provision in the capital account, effectively front-loading the expenditure. He said there were no plans to increase the maintenance grant, and that it would remain at €700 for 2006.

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Mr. Cullen referred to the water and sewerage schemes, he stated that the Investment Programme had been revised, and that there had been additional staff appointed in the last year. Mr. Cullen said in accordance with new arrangements schemes under €5m would not need Departmental approval and that quite a number of schemes would be under this threshold and this should accelerate progress on them. He said that a site for a Recycling Centre in South Connemara was being sourced and likewise a site for a Fire Station in An Ceathrú Rua.

Cllr. Regan stated that he was very disappointed with the Development Contributions scheme. He said that there were massive contributions due in, and suggested that the Council take the initiative and take out a loan, over 3 years, to be offset by future contributions, in order to speed up development. He said that the Loughrea area is not getting its fair share of the development contributions and that there is a complete imbalance between East & West.

In reply to Cllr. Joyce, the County Manager said that the Development Contributions Scheme would be reviewed and that it can be discussed at the next Finance Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that the Draft Budget be adopted, and that the Notice of Motion issue be passed to the relevant SPC for discussion at the January meeting.

The County Manager advised the members that the SPC be allowed to conclude their report on Notice of Motion funds, and then consider any adjustments at that time. He stated that if changes to the Notice of Motion funding did not entail any increase in the overall Roads & Transportation budget, or the overall Budget, then the Budget could be adopted, and the issue be revisited on completion of the Report by the SPC.

Cllr S. Walsh raised the issue of the cut in members' expenses for foreign travel and questioned why the increase in Notice of Motion funding had to go to the SPC.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2006

691

It was proposed by the Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Burke.

“That Galway County Council hereby adopt the draft Budget as presented for the financial year ending 31/12/2006.”

The motion was passed unanimously and the Mayor declared the resolution carried.

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2005

692

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Burke

“That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget as adopted for the Financial Year ending 31/12/2006, the Rates as set out in Table B and

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C to be the Rates on Valuation to be levied for the several purposes as set out in those Tables for the Financial Year Ending 31/12/2006”.

The motion was passed unanimously and the Mayor declared Cllr. McDonagh's proposal carried and declared that the Rate on Valuation for the various purposes specified in the Budget for the Financial Year Ending 31/12/2006 had been determined by the Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH

Deputy Mayor P. Feeney

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

LEATHAIR FREISIN

Baili:

Cllrs. W. Burke, S. Carney, C. Cannon, S. Connolly, Com. S. O'Connell, M. Cuddy, M. Fahy, P. Healy, M. Hoadle, J. Joyce, M. Mannon, Mullins, O'Tuairis, Tierney, S. Willers.

Submitted, Approved & Signed

23.01.06

PAC Healy
Date

Offigh:

Mr. P. Maher, County Manager; Messrs. J. Morgan, E. Dawson, E. G. Ridge, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; L. Davin, M. Ni Chionna, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; T. Murphy, County Secretary; A. Comer, D. Barrett, G. Scally, Senior Executive Officers; P. Carroll, Administrative Officer; M. Mannon, Heritage Officer; B. Donnellan, G. Healy, Staff Officers.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

656

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that a Resolution of Sympathy be extended to the family and friends of the late Bishop McLoughlin stating that his contribution to the Church and Community of Galway had been outstanding and that he would be greatly missed by the people of Galway. Cllr. Healy Eames seconded this

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 28th
NOVEMBER 2005.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deputy Mayor P. Feeney

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, J. Morgan, F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; L. Gavin, M. Ni Chionna, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; T. Murphy, County Secretary; A. Comer, D. Barrett, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; P. Carroll, Administrative Officer; M. Mannion, Heritage Officer; B. Donnellan, G. Healy, Staff Officers.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

656

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that a Resolution of Sympathy be extended to the family and friends of the late Bishop McLoughlin stating that his contribution to the Church and Community of Galway had been outstanding and that he would be greatly missed by the people of Galway. Cllr. Healy Eames seconded this

proposal and also proposed that a minutes silence be observed in memory of the late Bishop. A minutes silence was then observed.

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Moira & Jack Daly, Knockatee, Dunmore, Co. Galway.

Joe Devaney & Family, Roy, Dunmore, Co. Galway.

Mairead Bn. Uí Chiostealbha, Bóthar Buí, An Cheathru Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Mr. Fergal Bermingham & Family, Chairman Ardrahan Hurling Club, Shrove, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.

Bishop Martin Drennan, Bishops Residence, Galway.

John & Phil Dempsey, Lakeview, Moylough, Co. Galway.

Martin & Margaret Mellotte, Lakeview, Moylough, Co. Galway.

Mary Crowe & Family, Brierfield, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Sean & Aine & Muintir De Paor, Bothar a'Cillín, An Cheathru Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 657

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th October, 2005 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins and seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. T. Walsh stated that the public lighting at Ballymoe village was still not fixed and asked that this be rectified.

Comh. O Cuaig complained at the length of time it had taken the Council to reply to queries raised by DoEHLG in relation to the Preliminary Report for the Costello Regional Water Supply Scheme. Mr. Cullen said that the Council was accelerating the scheme as quickly as possible and that extra staff had been assigned to the Water Services Section in the last few months to deal with the heavy workload involved in the Water Services Programme.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Kyne stated that on page 14 of the Minutes, under the heading Salmon Fishing, it was stated that he had seconded Cllr. Canney's proposal. However, he stated that he did not second this proposal. It was noted that it had been agreed at the Meeting to defer this item.

Cllr. Healy Eames stated that she wished to make a correction on Page 6 of the Minutes. She stated that she wished to take out the sentence which read "She explained that there were 288 acres zoned for residential use in the town of Headford in comparison to 43 acres zoned for Community facilities" and replace it with the following: "She explained that there were 288 acres zoned for residential use in the town of Headford in comparison to a nett gain of 9 acres zoned for Community facilities".

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Mullins asked if any progress had been made regarding the junction at Ballyeighter, Aughrim and Mr. Morgan stated that the Senior Engineer would discuss this matter with the National Roads Authority and that the Members would be informed of the outcome of this discussion.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

658

Copies of Reports were already circulated to each Member.

(a) Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 17th October, 2005.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 17th October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

(b) Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 28th October, 2005.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 28th October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

(c) Housing S.P.C Meeting held on 11th October, 2005

The Report of the Housing S.P.C Meeting held on 11th October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Regan

(d) Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 6th September 2005

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 6th September 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

(e) Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd November, 2005.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

(f) Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 17th October, 2005

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 17th October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Healy Eames, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

(g) Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 20th October, 2005

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 20th October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Healy Eames, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

**REPORT BY CHAIR OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
S.P.C ON ACTIVITIES OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
S.P.C.** 659

Cllr. Cannon, Chairperson of the Planning & Sustainable Development Strategic Policy Committee, presented a report on the activities of the SPC which had already been circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Hoade that the report on activities of Planning & Sustainable Development SPC be noted

**REPORT BY CHAIR OF CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPC ON
ACTIVITIES OF CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPC.** 660

Cllr. Keaveney, Chairperson of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee, presented a report on the activities of the SPC which had already been circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Cuddy asked if there was any progress regarding the provision of a branch library at Claregalway and Mr. Kelly stated that the proposed Draft Library Development Programme would be put before the Council in the new year.

It was proposed by Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames that the report on activities of Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC be noted.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
THE ROADS ACT 1993** 661

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, the Council approved the declaration of the following roads to be public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

- Conamara**
- (a) The road from the northern end of the LS5140 for a length of 166 metres to it's southern end near the Cloonamore beach where it rejoins the LS5140 all in Cloonamore Townland. This section of road will also be known as the LS5140.
 - (b) The road to be designated LS5141 from its northern junction with the LS5140 for a length of 357 metres to it's southern junction with the LS5140 all in the townland of Middlequarter.

- (c) The road to be designated LS-5142 from its northern junction with LS-5140, for a length of 222 metres South to its southern junction with LS-5140, all in townland of Middlequarter.
- (d) The road to be designated LS-5143 from its northern junction with LS-5140, for a length of 478 metres South-West to its southern junction with LS-5140, all in the townland of Middlequarter.
- (e) The road to be designated LT-51401 from its junction with LS-5140 for a length of 238 metres Northwest, all in the townland of Fawnmore.
- (f) The road to be designated LT-51402 from its junction with LS-5140 for a length of 539 metres North to the gate to the mountain pasture near Thomas Cunnanes' house, all in townland of Middlequarter.
- (g) The road to be designated LT-51403 from its junction with LS-5140, for a length of 472 metres North to the gate to John Gerard Burkes' house, all in townland of Cloonamore.
- (h) The road to be designated LT-51404 from its junction with LS-5140 for a length of 59 metres South-East, all in townland of Knock.
- (i) The road to be designated LT-51441 from the end of LS-5144 in townland of Westquarter, for a length of 509 metres North-West to the gate near the western end of North Beach, all in townland of Westquarter.
- (j) The road to be designated LT-51442 from junction with LS-5144, for a length of 339metres North-West to George Lacey's house, all in townland of Westquarter.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGERS REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE AMENDMENTS AND MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT LOUGHREA LOCAL AREA PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 9 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002

662

The Mayor invited Mr. Gavin to present the Manager's Report on the Amendments and Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan.

Mr. Gavin explained that in accordance with the provisions of the Planning & Development Act, the Amendments and Material Alterations to the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan were on public display from the 1st September to the 30th September 2005. Four submissions were received. Of these, three related to the advertised Material Alterations to the draft Plan. The remaining submission related to a new issue and therefore cannot be addressed at this stage of the plan making process.

He stated that this report is based on the submissions received during the display period for the amendments and material alterations to the draft Plan and contains the Manager's response to the issues raised. The report forms part of the statutory procedure for preparing new Local Area Plans that is set out in the Planning and Development Acts. It is a key element in the process of bringing the draft Plan to final adoption with or without amendments by the members of the Council.

Mr. Gavin commenced with Issue 1.

Issue 1: Additional Residential Zonings
(MA1, MA 2, MA3, MA5, MA6, MA7, MA8, MA9,
MA11, MA12, MA18, MA19, MA20, MA22, MA23)

Submitted by: Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Introduction:

The following issue relates to the additional residential zonings as proposed in the material Alterations. Map 1 illustrates where the issue relates to.

Recommendation:

- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 1 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 2 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 3 Recreation & Amenity.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 5 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 6 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 7 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 8 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 9 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 12 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 18 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 19 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 20 Agricultural.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 22 Community Facilities.
- Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 23 Community Facilities.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan and seconded by Cllr. Fahy, it was agreed that the lands the subject of MA1, MA2, MA3, MA5, MA6, MA7, MA8, MA9, MA11, MA12, MA18, MA19, MA20, MA22, MA23 be zoned residential as in the amended Draft Plan.

Issue 2: MA 10

Submitted by:

Stephen O'Rourke c/o Cyril J Kelly & Associates. and zoned for Recreation and Amenity.

Introduction:

This issue relates to Material Alteration 10: Zone Lands from Residential to Agricultural.

Recommendation:

Recommend to zone lands the subject of Material Alteration 10 Agricultural.

It was proposed by Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Cannon and agreed to zone the lands the subject of MA10 residential.

Mr. Gavin stated that he strongly opposed this zoning. He referred to An Bord Pleanála's refusal of planning permission on this site, which was a very elevated site and was not suitable to this particular zoning and it was the recommendation of the Planning Department to retain the site as agricultural

Issue 3: MA 21

Submitted by: Peter Walsh, National Roads Authority.

Introduction:

This issue relates to Material Alteration 21: Zone Lands from Agricultural to Enterprise.

Recommendation:

- Lands outside the CPO and within Material Alteration 21 are zoned Enterprise.
- Lands within the CPO area and MA 21 revert to Agriculture. (See Map 1)

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

Issue 4: Recreation & Amenity

Submitted by: Spatial Policy, DoEHLG.

Introduction:

The following issue relates to the provision of lands for Recreation and Amenity in the Plan.

Recommendation:

Recommend

- I. To state in the Plan the amount of land zoned for Recreation and Amenity.
- II. To remove Policy 3.10.15 from the text of the Plan

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Regan, it was agreed to adopt the Loughrea Local Area Plan.

Cllr. Regan complimented staff for their effort and work put into compiling the Loughrea Local Area Plan

Mr. Ridge complimented the members on the adoption of the Loughrea Local Area Plan, however, he stated that proposals need to be brought forward for provision of appropriate recreation and amenity space in towns and villages and it is intended to advance this issue in the review of the county development plan.

Cllr. Healy Eames suggested that the Council look at other models to achieve balanced development.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADE AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS IN RELATION TO THE WATER STORAGE AND TREATMENT FACILITY OF 4 PRIVATE GROUP WATER SCHEMES AND 1 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SCHEME. 663

Report dated 28th November, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Comh Ní Fhatharta the proposed construction, upgrade and associated site works in relation to the water storage and treatment facility of 4 private Group Water Schemes and 1 Public Water Supply Scheme, was approved.

Cllr. Burke referred to a statement that had been made publicly in the recent past to the effect that of the €14m allocated to the Council under the Rural Water Programme, only approx €4m had been drawn to date.

Mr. Cullen said that he could not be precise about the actual figures but he was aware that the total allocation had not been drawn down, due to difficulties encountered with regard to commencing contracts. He said that most difficulties had now been overcome and that substantial sums would be drawn down before the end of the year and in the early part of 2006.

Cllr. O’Cuaig stated that difficulties had been encountered by some group schemes in securing an electrical supply and Cllr. Mullins proposed that a representative from the E.S.B. be asked to attend a future Council Meeting to discuss the service being provided and this was seconded by Cllr. McHugh and agreed.

Cllr. Joyce stated that there was some confusion regarding public and private water schemes and he stated that this matter should be discussed at an SPC Meeting. Mr. Cullen stated that this matter would be put on the Agenda for a future meeting of the Environment, Water & Emergency Services SPC for discussion.

AUDIT REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2003 664

Report dated 22nd November, 2005 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, the Audit Report on the Accounts of Galway County Council for Year Ending 31st December, 2003 was approved.

TO APPROVE HERITAGE GRANTS SCHEME 2005 665

Report dated 23rd November, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, the Heritage Grants Scheme 2005 was approved as follows:-

Ref. No. (Year/No.)	Contact Name / Organisation Address	Grant Recommended
HG/ 05/01	Risteárd Dónal Mac Aodha, Coiste Chóilin Sheáin Dharach, An Chrannóg, Turloch Beag, Ros Muc, Co. na Gaillimhe	€500
HG/05/02	Tom Gillooly, Killereerin Community Council, Cahergal, Tuam.	€500
HG/05/03	Leo Hallissey, Conamara Environmental Education & Cultural Group Letterfract N.S.	€500

	Conamara.	
HG/05/04	Mrs. Ann Fenton, Bellevue Gate-Lodges Restoration Group c/o Lawrencetown Community Enterprise Co. Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe	€700
HG/05/05	Seamus O' Connell, Claregalway Historical & Cultural Society, Cloonbiggen, Claregalway, Co. Galway	€700
HG/05/07	Geraldine Kelly, Forum (Intergenerational Project) Ellis Hall, Letterfrack, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/09	Pat O' Gorman, Creggs National School, Creggs, via Roscommon, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/10	Olivia Monaghan, Kilskeagh Cemetery Group, Lackaghmore, Turloughmore, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/11	Margaret Carne, Milltown Community Council Ltd., Fisherman's Cottage, Cloondroon, Milltown, Tuam Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/12	Brid O' Donnell. Peterswell Book Reunion Committee, St. Thomas N.S., Peterswell, Co. Galway	€700
HG/05/13	Leo Finnegan, Williamstown Heritage Society, Corrolough,	€500 toward

	Williamstown, Co. Galway	
HG/05/14	Rosemary Hanley, Maam Women's Group, Maam, Co. Galway.	€500
HG/05/15	Larry Kilcommins, Kilbegnet/Ballinakill Historical Society, c/o C. S. Parnell Heritage Centre Creggs, Co. Galway	€300
HG/05/16	Maurice Laheen, The Old Tuam Society, Old Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/17	Desmond Walsh, Williamstown Tidy Towns Group, Williamstown, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/18	Barry Finnegan, Mountbellew District Dev. Ass Tuam Rd., Mountbellew, Co. Galway	€700
HG/05/19	Kieran Jordan, Turoe Celtic Society, Strawhill, Fermoy, Co. Cork	€500
HG/05/20	Con Mc Cole, Caherlistrane Community Alert & Development Group Lodge, Headford Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/21	Pat Treacy, Churchill Cemetery Committee, Drumscar, Portumna, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/22	Brenda Winters, Loughrea Environmental Group Tidy Town Committee, Lake Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/23	Valerie Kinsella, Castleblakeny Church Restoration Ass, Gallagh, Castleblakeny,	€500

	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	
HG/05/24	Noel Healy, Garrafrauns Heritage Group, Garrafrauns, Dunmore, Tuam, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/25	Karen O'Neill, Ardrahan/Labane Community Development Ass Seeoma House, Cregaclare Ardrahan, Co. Galway	€600
HG/05/26	Tina Ward, Ballymoe Community Dev Ltd., Heritage Sub Committee, Fr. Flanagan Memorial Centre, Ballymoe, Co. Galway.	€600
HG/05/27	Joe Murphy, Clarinbridge Community Dev 128 Costa na Mara, Oranmore, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/29	Jimí Ó Finneadha, Coiste Pobail na Tulaigh, An Tulach, Baile na hAbhann, Co na Gaillimhe	€500
HG/05/30	Mary Cuffe, Ballymoe Parish Council, Ballymoe, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/31	Tony Dervan (RIP), Killimor District & Dev Society, Killimor Cultural & Heritage Group, Killimor, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/32	Frank Glynn, Milltown Community Council, c/o Community Centre, Cartron, Milltown, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/33	Fr. S. Farragher, Tuam Community Heritage Ass The Presbytery, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/34	John Collins, Kildaree Cemetery Committee, Polredmond,	€600

	Williamstown, Co. Galway	
HG/05/35	Christy Cunniffe, Clonfert Development Group Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€400
HG/05/36	Kathleen Hanley, IRD Heritage & Training Project, Civic Buildings, Abbey St., Portumna, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/37	Christy Cunniffe, South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society, Civic Buildings, Abbey St., Portumna, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/38	Christy Cunniffe, Eyrecourt Heritage Task Group, Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/39	Brid Higgins, Glenamaddy Community Dev Co. Clondoyle Training Centre, Ballyhard, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway	€400
HG/05/40	Brid Higgins, Glenamaddy Community Dev Co. Clondoyle Training Centre, Ballyhard, Glenamaddy Co. Galway	€400
HG/05/41	Brid Higgins, Glenamaddy Community Dev Co. Clondoyle Training Centre, Ballyhard, Glenamaddy Co. Galway	€400
HG/05/42	Brid Higgins, Glenamaddy Community Dev Co. Clondoyle Training Centre, Ballyhard, Glenamaddy Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/43	Frances O'Reilly, Headford District Association, Deerpark, Headford, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/44	Sean Canney, Belclare/Sylane Community Centre, Claretuam, Tuam Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/45	Margaret Jennings,	€500

HG/05/55	Kilkerrin Heritage Group, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/46	Lily Considine, Oranmore, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/47	Maire Uí Ghiobuin, Aonad Thionasclaiochta, Casla, Co na Gaillimhe	€500
HG/05/48	Sean Collins, Clarinbridge Community Dev Ass. Ltd, Parish Office, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway	€300
HG/05/49	Eamonn Mc Nally, Loughrea Boxing Club, Piggott Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/50	Frank Glynn, Milltown Community Council, c/o Community Centre, Cartron, Milltown, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/51	Veronica Kelly, Moylough Community Council, Meadow Court, Moylough, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/52	Patrick Stone, Killererin Community Council, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/53	Kieran Hoare, Galway Archaeological & Historical Society, Archives Service, James Hardiman Library, N.U.I.G.	€500
HG/05/54	Michael Carroll, Cargin Cemetery Committee, Clydagh, Headford, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/56	Michael Kilgannon, Woodlawn Heritage Group, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€700
HG/05/57	Sean Kelly, Clontuskert Heritage Group, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe	€500

	Co. Galway	
HG/05/58	Bridie Willers, Kilina Graveyard Restoration Group, Granagh, Ardrahan, Co. Galway	€600
HG/05/59	Mike P Ó Conaola, Comhairle Pobail an Spideil, Sidhean, An Spideal, Co na Gaillimhe	€500
HG/05/60	Margaret Jennings, Kilkerrin Heritage Group, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€500
HG/05/61	Gerard Costello, Fr. Sammon Hall Management Committee, Monivea, Athenry Co. Galway	€300
HG/05/62	Sheila Mitchell, Galway Lifeboat Station, 15 University Road, Galway	€300
HG/05/63	Veronica Kelly, Moylough Community Council, Meadow Court, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€300
HG/05/64	Niamh Philbin, Connemara Pony Breeders Society, The Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway	€500

Cllr Fahy referred to the Liam Mellows Memorial at Killeen, Craughwell and said that renovation work needed to be carried out to it as a matter of urgency. Mr. Ridge said that if the Memorial was on the Record of Protected Structures it may be eligible for a conservation grant. It was agreed that a report on the matter be made available to the Council.

COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME – FOURTH AND FINAL ROUND ALLOCATION.

666

Report dated 21st November, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the Community Based Economic Development Financial Assistance Scheme – Fourth and Final Round Allocation was approved as follows:-

Ref No	Group	Area	Amount Recommended
E05/02	Na Calai Community Development Project Co Ltd	Loughrea	€4,000
E05/05	Cluid Residents Association	Conamara	€500
E05/14	Killiererin Community Council	Tuam	€2,000
E05/15	Killimor Leisure and Fitness	Ballinasloe	€2,000
E05/16	Killimor and District Development Society	Ballinasloe	€700
E05/18	Killimor & District Development Soc	Ballinasloe	€1,500
E05/24	Ballincurry Leisure Centre Co Ltd	Tuam	€4,000
E05/31	Oughterard Tourism & Development Assoc Ltd	Conamara	€3,000
E05/34	Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited	Ballinasloe	€8,000
E05/39	Fr Sammon Centre	Loughrea	€1,000
E05/41	Oughterard Community Centre	Conamara	€1,000
E05/43	Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo	Conamara	€3,000
E05/46	North East Galway Development Company	Tuam	€2,000
E05/53	Athenry Snooker Club	Loughrea	€1,500
E05/56	Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd	Tuam	€5,000
E05/58	Clonbur Community	Tuam	€700

Total Allocation – November 2005 €39,900

Cllr. Mannion stated that he wished to compliment the staff in the Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Department for their work in relation to this Scheme.

AMENITY GRANT SCHEME 2005 - 3RD ROUND ALLOCATION. 667

Report dated 21st November, 2005 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, the Amenity Grant Scheme 2005 - 3rd Round Allocation was approved as follow:-

A05/129	Galway Youth Federation	Ballinasloe & Tuam	€10,000
A05/130	Ecclesiastical Heritage Steering Group	Countywide	€3,000

Total Allocation €53,000

TAKING IN CHARGE POLICY

668

Mr. Ridge introduced the taking in charge policy and the proposed revisions to same. He noted that the taking in charge policy had been discussed with all of the area committees and their views were now considered and introduced into the proposed amendments to the original document.

Mr. Ridge then outlined a number of options for consideration in relation to bonds.

The sentence originally contained in the taking in charge policy and presented to the electoral area meetings was "All bonds should be open ended and shall remain in place until the estate has been taken in charge by Galway County Council"

A second option was suggested by the SPC

"All bonds/Securities shall be open ended and shall remain in place until the estate is deemed to be satisfactorily completed or is taken in charge by Galway County Council"

A third option was also suggested which omitted all reference to the bond in the Taking in Charge Document.

Cllr. McHugh stated that he was not in agreement with option number 1 as he claimed it was impossible for the smaller developer to get an open ended bond and insurance companies and financial institutions will not issue open ended bonds. He stated that other counties issue bonds for the duration of the planning permission and then extend the bond further and that it should be possible to come to some arrangement here. In relation to the policy document he asked if Galway County Council had the resources to implement the document.

Cllr. Kyne, stated that new estates now have Management Companies in place, often costing up to €1,300 per house, per year and he asked if it was possible to get rid of the management company if problems arise.

Cllr. Keaveney stated that it was a good policy and asked if there was a statutory basis requiring management companies to be put in place. He asked if an individual could opt out of a management company if he was not happy with it.

Mr. Ridge stated that there was a statutory basis in the Planning Act for the establishment of management companies and that various developers have provided bonds and that open ended bonds are available from major banks. He stated that it would not be possible to put in place a bond which required renewal after 5 years as there was a risk of missing the renewal date. He stated that it was important to continue the current practice of open ended bonds.

Mr. Ridge indicated that management companies would deal with the softer areas such as grass cutting and landscaping and the Council would take responsibility for the maintenance of roads, sewers, water mains and public lighting. He stated that a management company could be dissolved if an alternative suitable means of maintaining the estate was put in place.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that there were difficulties with management companies, the quality of service provided can be inferior and he stated that the developer should not impose a management company in estates.

The Manager stated that there was a need to have some arrangement in place as the scale of housing has brought big demands and that he would be happy to discuss alternative arrangements.

Cllr. Canney asked if the enforcement section had the resources available. Mr. Ridge stated that firstly a proper policy was needed following which the issue of resources would be addressed. The Manager stated that if a policy was in place before the Budget, it would have to be taken into account when preparing the Budget.

Mr. Ridge stated that putting in place a policy would avoid a situation where the developer can put a management company in place outside of planning conditions. If the Council have the setting up of a management company as a condition, this would give some control over the matter.

Mr. Ridge stated the Council's legal department would look at the format for management companies and would seek legal advice as to whether they should be registered or not and that historical estates would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Welby it was agreed to adopt Issue 1 – Bonds - Option 2 “All Bonds/Securities shall be open ended and shall remain in place until the estate is deemed to be satisfactorily completed or is taken in charge by Galway County Council”.

On the proposal of Comh. Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, it was agreed that the document be altered to delete the reference that calls for road and footpath construction in all housing estate developments to be of insitu concrete and the text changed as follows:

“Galway County Council require that road and footpath construction in all housing estate developments be in accordance with the requirements set out in recommendations etc..”

It was agreed that the following minor alterations be included:

The use of the word “development”, in section 1.4.1 Item I be replaced with the word “Estate/Development” and likewise the bullet point at the bottom of page 3 “Take all development” be replaced as follows “Take all of the Estate/Development as a whole in charge and associated services”.

With respect to item 1.4.2 Historical Estates, Item no 1 page 4, this sentence to be replaced with the following:

“the fact that a development/estate has **not** been satisfactorily completed will not be taken into account in deciding whether or not to take the development/estate in charge. All that will be required is that the requirements of section 180 (2) are met”

Bullet point 2 in the same section to be replaced by the following:

“In preparing, the estimated costs in maintaining the estate to an agreed standard of care, the financial implications to the local authority of maintaining roads which are to be declared public as part of this process will not be taken into account in preparing the estimated cost of maintenance.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cannon seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed to adopt the Taking in Charge Policy as amended.

MAYORS BUSINESS

669

Irish Ferries Dispute

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the Irish Ferries Dispute whereby Irish workers were being replaced by foreign nationals who were being paid at a much lower rate. He condemned the tactics being employed by Irish Ferries in relation to this matter and said that it had serious implications for Social Partnership. He proposed writing to the Taoiseach asking that this matter be resolved as quickly as possible. Cllr. D. Connolly supported Cllr. Keaveney and said that the Government should take an active role in resolving this matter.

Tuam Recycling Centre

Cllr. Reilly referred to the decision to cease the "black bag" facility at Tuam Recycling Centre with effect of the 3rd of December, 2005. He suggested that it would be a serious mistake if this decision was not reversed and that illegal dumping would substantially increase if the Council decided to go ahead with this proposal.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the fact that many areas of the County had no waste collection and the facility like the one being offered at present in Tuam was very important for those people. He referred to a recent report from the Competition Authority and he made the following proposal, "*This Council are calling on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to amend the Waste Management Act to allow competitive tendering of household waste collection services. This system of competition for the market should replace the existing model of competition within the market, i.e. where waste contract providers compete side-by-side with each other. This competitive tendering would be administered and adopted by each local authority*". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Reilly and agreed. Cllr. Canney asked that the Council get a licence from the EPA in respect of Tuam Civic Amenity Site. Cllr. Keaveny asked that the decision to cease this facility be suspended pending clear guidance from the SPC regarding the Waiver Scheme. Cllr. McHugh said that closing down this facility would penalise those who want to conform and those being denied such a facility because of the fact that private collectors won't collect in their area.

Mr. Cullen said that the objective to increase the level of household collecting was undermined by the acceptance of mixed household refuse at the Tuam Recycling Centre. He said that the most effective way of dealing with household waste was by collecting and the promotion of pay by use which in time promotes recycling and prevention. This was the surest way to reduce dependence on landfill which is the least favoured method of waste disposal. He said that the household collection rate in Tuam was approx 40% or less and that the balance of 60% was certainly not being accounted for at the recycling centre. He said that the collection of household waste in rural areas would always be uneconomic unless the number availing of a service increased. This could not happen while some of those in rural areas brought waste to the Tuam centre.

He stressed that the centre in Tuam was intended to be a Recycling Centre and not a Waste Transfer Station. It did not have the necessary authorization to continue with the activity and as the Council is a regulatory body it was highly unacceptable to allow the unauthorized activity to continue.

CONFERENCES

670

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, 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: -

**“EAN Inaternational Conference & AGM” All Hallows College, Grace Park Rd., Drumcondra, Dublin
29th & 30th November 2005.**

Cllrs. W. Burke, M. Regan.

**“Target Setting to Reduce Health Inequalities & Poverty” Croke Park Stadium, Dublin.
6th December 2005.**

Cllrs. M. Fahy, M. Regan.

**“Irish Association of Sucidology” Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel.
7th – 9th December 2005.**

Cllr. M. Regan.

“International Conference on Economic Social & Cultural Rights” Croke Park, Dublin.

Cllr. W. Burke, M. Fahy.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 - CLLR. S. CANNEY

671

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that the road has been included for reconstruction works in 2006 as part of our three year Roadworks Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

672

The following reply was given: -

"The Housing Unit have had no communication with the Health Service Executive relating to these lands but the Council have been advised by the DoEHLG that these lands have been offered to them for their Affordable Housing Initiative. The Roads & Transportation Unit had discussions with the Health Service Executive with a view to providing car-parking facilities on part of the site."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17- CLLR. S. CANNEY

673

The following reply was given: -

"Lands are available at the Weir Road, Parkmore and Tirboy areas of Tuam"

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 - CLLR. S. CONNAUGHTON

674

The following reply was given: -

"Creggs Village is bundled with seven other schemes for the preparation of a Preliminary Report by the appointed Consultant. The Preliminary Report is due within the next few weeks. This scheme is not included in the current Water Services Investment Programme; however it is included in the assessment of needs."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 - CLLR. S. CONNAUGHTON

675

The following reply was given: -

"I wish to inform you that Galway County Council have no plans at present to widen the bridge but this can be looked at and assessed with regard to available funding and priority."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. S. CONNAUGHTON

676

The following reply was given: -

"Officials from Galway County Council met with the Creggs Rural Development Association/Creggs Tidy Towns group on 4th November, 2005 to discuss their needs. Their application for funding under the Village and Urban Renewal Scheme is being considered. In addition consideration will be given to providing additional funding under the 2006 and future roadworks programmes for village enhancement within the limits of funding available."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 - CLLR. M. FAHY

677

The following reply was given: -

“Galway County Council will request funding for the Seven Eye Bridge at Kilchreest, Loughrea on the N66 from the National Roads Authority in 2006.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 678

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council investigated the possibility of taking the above road in charge, however, this section of the above road is not servicing any dwelling house. The criteria for the taking in charge of a road states that the road must be servicing at least two dwelling houses, therefore, Galway County Council cannot take the above road in charge at present. If circumstances change on the above road in the future we can once again examine same for taking in charge.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 679

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council is currently examining the possibility of a solid white line at this location in consultation with the Garda Superintendent and if local conditions permit.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 680

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that the Oranmore Area Office have reviewed the above corner, and have placed an order for some additional road signage for same. It is expected that this signage will be erected by the end of November 2005. The area office has been in contact with the landowner at this corner with a view to carrying out works to improve sight distance at this corner in 2006.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25– COMH C. NI FHATHARTA 681

The following reply was given: -

“Teastaíonn uaim a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil buiséad do shaoráid athchúrsála 2005 caite anois agus mar sin nach féidir airgead a chur ar fail do pointí

bailiúchán ábhair leictreach. Tá ionad athchúrsála an Chlocháin ar oscailt ar an Luan agus ar an Satharn ó 8.30-4.30 agus glactar le ábhar leictreach ansin saor in aisce ón bpobal. Tá an Chomhairle Chontae faoi láthair ag iarraidh suíomh oiriúnach a aimsiú do ionad athchúrsála I gCeantar Chasla/Na Cheathrún Rua.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – COMH C. NI FHATHARTA 682

The following reply was given: -

“Beidh scrúdú déanta ar an Sorn ag an Innealtóir Títhíocht I rith na seachtaine seo romhainn le súil agus na deisiúcháin riachtanacha ar fad a chur i gcrích.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – COMH. C NI FHATHARTA 683

The following reply was given: -

“Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag forbairt Plean Feidhmiúcháin Taitneamhachta agus Caitheamh Aimsire agus déanfar machnamh ar an ábhar seo sa gcomhthéacs sin.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. T. WALSH 684

The following reply was given: -

“Creggs Village is bundled with seven other schemes for the preparation of a Preliminary Report by the appointed Consultant. The Preliminary Report is due within the next few weeks. This scheme is not included in the current Water Services Investment Programme; however it is included in the assessment of needs.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. T. WALSH 685

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that the National Roads Authority will be asked to provide funding for this project in their 2006 allocations.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. T. WELBY 686

The following reply was given: -

“The Preliminary Report has been completed and is with the DoEHLG for approval. There are a number of such Reports submitted to DEHLG awaiting

approval and the Council understands that the Glenamaddy P.R. is accorded priority no. 4 behind Ballinasloe & Clifden RWSS's and Oughterard Sewerage Scheme."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 31 – CLLR. S. KYNE 687

The following reply was given: -

"The Buntas programme is only available to an area in which a Local Sports Partnership operates and a local authority not involved in a LSP is not eligible to apply for the scheme. As Galway County Council is not included in the area covered by a LSP it is not eligible to make an application under the Buntas Scheme. An application to the Irish Sports Council for funding to establish a Local Sports Partnership was made in 2003 through the County Development Board but was unsuccessful. There may be another call for proposals for funding in 2006 from the ISC and in such case Galway County Council will seek to make a successful application to establish a Local Sports Partnership."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 – CLLR. S. KYNE 688

The following reply was given: -

"The supply referred to in your notice of motion query is part of the former Gortacleva Group Scheme now taken in charge by Galway County Council and supplied by the Galway City West Water Supply Scheme. There are pressure difficulties particularly at the end of the mains in Gortacleva due mainly to the size of the mains and the major increase over the years in the number of houses being supplied by these mains. There is currently a review of the Galway City West Scheme being carried out to highlight any upgrades/deficiencies and to assess future needs and this matter will be brought to the attention of the relevant consultants."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 – CLLR. S. KYNE 689

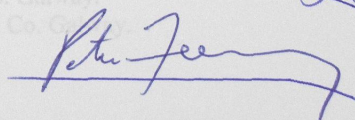
The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that the National Roads Authority will be asked to provide funding for this project in their 2006 allocations."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Mr. Liam Connolly, Killina, Ger., Co. Galway
The O'Donnell Family, Cappaid, Peterswell
Ms. Margaret Dolan, Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Ms. Rose Dervan, Ramore, Kiltitor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Submitted, Approved & Signed



*19.12.05
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