

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, ON MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2006

#### CATHAOIRLEACH

Mayor Pat Hynes

#### Baill:

Cllrs. S. Canney, C. Cannon,  
Comh. S.O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Conneely,  
D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, M.  
Fahy, P. Feeney, 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, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T.  
Welby, B. Willers.

#### Oifigigh

Messrs. P. Gallagher, County Manager, P.  
Ridge, K. Kelly, J. Cullen, F. Gilmore,  
Directors of Services, T. Murphy, County  
Secretary, C. Mc Connell, Senior Planner, J.  
Brann, Senior Executive Officer, P. Carroll,  
Administrative, Officer, Ms. M. McGrath,  
Senior Staff Officer, B. Donnellan, Staff  
Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

#### RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

748

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Pat Creaven & Family, Marley, Tuam, Co. Galway  
Marion Coy, Kilbannon, Tuam, Co. Galway  
Mrs. Mary Mullins & Family, Moylough, Co. Galway  
Kenneth Coyne, No. 3 Knocknagreena, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

**TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES 749**

Report was circulated to Each Member on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006.

The Mayor invited Ms. McConnell to give a presentation on the Draft Development Management Guidelines

Cllr. J. McDonagh asked what guidelines were in place in relation to settlement centres. Ms. McConnell explained that the Guidelines focussed on process rather than policy. Their purpose is to provide a better service in the development management process.

Cllr. T. Mannion stated that there should be better linkage between the various sections such as roads and environment in planning matters, in order to achieve the best practice, consistency and uniformity that the Development Guidelines are promoting. He referred to the recent planning seminar in particular to the presentation on difficult sites by Mr. Donal Daly and he said the perception was given that there were very few suitable areas in the county to build on. He stated that the presentation should have focussed more on what could be done with these sites. He stated that he could not see the problem with Councillors getting prior information on planning decisions and said that the prior notice system should be reinstated. He stated that there should be an agreed written report signed by the planner and the applicant/agent following a pre-planning consultation in order to alleviate the problems arising with changes in planning staff. He felt there was no relationship between the County Development Plan adopted by the elected members and the housing need requirements now being set. He added that the reasons for refusal should be clear and also that a situation should not arise where new reasons for refusal appear on second subsequent applications. He stated that in a situation where pre-maturity is a reason for refusal in relation to a road not yet completed under the local improvement scheme, that there should be some discretion allowed between the applicant and the planning authority. He queried the requirement for housing need for development on national routes where an existing access point is being used.

Cllr. S. Walshe referred to the policies for development on Non National Roads and added that a family member seeking permission on a family farm holding, should not necessarily have to be a farmer. He also agreed with Cllr. Mannions comments on new reasons for refusal appearing on second subsequent applications.

Cllr. T. Walsh agreed that the planning authority had a difficult job, but added that whatever the regulations stated, that there should also be room for discretion. He referred in particular to allowing small businesses in rural areas (outside speed limits and settlement centres) to expand within reason and that such businesses should be encouraged to develop, where they are not causing serious problems.

Cllr. Canney stated that pre-planning consultations were helpful, but added that the development pressure areas should be identified as part of the pre-planning report. He suggested that a map identifying development pressure areas should be made available. He stated also that there was a vast improvement in the service provided by the Planning Office since the availability of the planning reports to the applicant/agent and he stated that councillors no longer needed to be the conduit for this information and that it was the interaction between the agent/applicant and planning officials that was important.

Cllr. Cannon complimented Galway County Council's achievement of best practice in the validation process as referred to in the Development Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. He referred to the pre-planning meetings and requested that a signed report by the applicant/agent and the relevant planner should be available at the end of each meeting so as to alleviate any problems that may arise due to changes in personnel and this report should then be submitted with the planning application. He stated that there was a problem with the lack of consultation between the applicant/agent and the planning office when a planning application goes on extension of time. He agreed with Cllr. Canney that areas of development pressure should be identified but added that it is necessary to look at the bigger picture when restricting development such as catchment areas for schools. He queried the confidentiality aspect of information on planning files and asked why some information which was available on public files was not available on the internet. He also agreed with previous speakers in relation to development restrictions on national routes where a new access is not required.

Cllr. Regan agreed that pre-consultation was the way forward and the planning authority should aim for 100% grant rate. He queried the length of time it takes for a planning decision to be made as decisions appear to be made on the last day. He also referred to the whole issue of proper planning and sustainable development and stated that this should include keeping local communities vibrant. He also added there should not be an issue of enurement clauses on planning permissions outside the 15k restriction. He referred to the 96 settlement centres identified by the planning authority and stated that these centres are not working as there are still problems with the provision of water and sewerage services in these areas. He stated that the members should be entitled to contact planners in relation to clarification on Further information replies.

Cllr. O'Cuiaig stated that this was a process rather than a policy document and that it was difficult to separate the two issues. He stated that care must be taken not to restrict development in areas of development pressure where class numbers in schools are declining. He also referred to the need to encourage development of smaller industries in addition to farming, outside of the settlement centre areas in Connemara to achieve sustainable development. He sought details of planning clinics and pre-planning consultations in the Connemara area for 2005. He

suggested a league table be set up for the Agents and referred to the agents liaison group set up by Clare County Council and suggested that something similar be set up in Galway County Council.

Cllr. Mullins stated that he did not agree that there was a need for the prior notice system as it was wasteful and was not using the resources of the Council properly. He stated that pre-planning consultation was a better approach and more useful to the applicant. He referred to the implications of the data protection act and the amount of personal information available on planning files. He agreed with previous speakers on the need to encourage development in areas of decline and also that the Development Management Guidelines should be implemented with some degree of flexibility and common sense.

Cllr. Keaveney stated that the prior notice system was giving an unfair perception to the general public that Councillors have a greater influence over the planning process. He stated that pre-planning consultation was a cost effective method of getting information for the applicant without the financial burden of lodging a planning application.

Cllr. T. McHugh welcomed the guidelines but like other speakers stated that a common sense approach was required, he also referred to the need for more experienced staff in both the public and private sector. In relation to enforcement, he stated that the planning authority should have a dedicated compliance inspection section. He stated that a common sense approach should be taken in relation to development on non public roads where local improvement schemes are involved.

Cllr. Willers requested that statutory and non statutory information required for a planning application be notified to applicants at the pre-planning stage and that it should not be necessary for Councillors to contact the planning department for information which was the responsibility of the agent employed by the applicant. She stated that conditions should not be attached to planning decisions, which in practice could not be enforced.

Cllr. Fahy stated that all family members should be entitled to get planning permission on family lands. He also stated that confidential information such as health issues should not be available on the internet or on the public file. He suggested that a development in a settlement centre area should also include the provision of water and sewerage facilities.

Cllr. Hoade asked how long the waiting list for pre-planning meetings was and if all pre-planning meetings were held in the area offices and if it was the intention of Galway County Council to set up an Agent's Liaison group similar to that in Clare County Council.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that he was disappointed with the guidelines as they were not legally binding and were open to interpretation, he referred to the various interpretations of "local" in the County Development Plan. He stated that care must be taken not to allow the de-population of communities by pushing people into urban areas. He also disagreed with the availability of confidential information on planning files. He stated that the planning authority should be more pro-active in relation to enforcement and that there was a need for at least one enforcement officer in each electoral area.

Cllr. Sean Kyne stated that he disagreed with the prior notice system and said that the system now in place was more equitable. In relation to planning files referred to the NRA, he asked if a yes or no answer on planning applications is given by them. He suggested that community development associations should meet with planning officials in relation to major developments in their area. He queried the requirement of housing need for planning applications outside the 15 k restriction area.

Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta stated that Galway County Council should contact other local authorities in Gaeltacht areas in order to make one submission in relation to the enurement and Irish language clause conditions on planning decisions. Cllr. Reilly stated that the house type should be finalised at the pre-planning stage. He also stated that landowners/farmers should be allowed to sell sites to pay off debts. Cllr. Feeney stated that more resources were needed for the enforcement section. Cllr. Welby also referred to the issue of planning restrictions on national routes for development where a new access is not required. He stated that requests for safety audits and purpose design interchanges on national roads is not feasible for the ordinary applicant and should not be requested.

Mr. Ridge thanked all the members for their comments and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Development Management Guidelines and compile a submission based on the various issues raised. He stated however, that many of the issues raised by the members were un-related to the Guidelines and suggested that they be dealt with under the review of the County Development Plan. This was agreed. He stated that he did not agree that the seminar had a negative approach but that there was a need to focus on the broader vision for the county, and the need to link together all local and national issues that impact on the county such as the National Spatial Strategy and that this vision needed to be communicated to every body. He stated that 260 people attended the Planning Seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> January, many of whom were agents. In relation to the presentation given by Donal Daly from Geological Survey of Ireland, Mr. Ridge stated that he was asked to address the issues that arise with difficult sites and this was done in an informed way. Mr. Ridge added that the EPA requirements were not being met and that the purpose of the presentation was to show that difficulties on problem sites could be addressed if the proper approach was taken. He stated that Ms. Julie Fossett of National Parks and Wildlife addressed the issue of Natural Heritage and Planning and explained the

legal requirements involved. He stated that Ms. McConnell gave a presentation of the draft Development Management Guidelines followed by Ms. Doddy, Conservation Officer's presentation on conservation and managing change in relation to protected structures. He added that Mr. Naughton in his talk stressed the need for greater participation of all parties at the pre-planning stage while Cllr. Cannon in his speech stressed the need to make the Local Area Plans more meaningful to the needs of the local people.

He stated that the prior notice system which was provided to a select number of people had now been expanded to include all applicants, through the availability of the new extension of time facility. He added that the decision which was taken by all the members was a major step forward and has freed up resources in the Planning Department. He acknowledged that the pre-planning reports were very general and that it was intended to customise them and to have more input from the planner. He stated that there was a need to ensure a structured method of recording pre-planning meetings and that the outcome of the meeting be committed to writing. Mr. Ridge stated that there was a grey area in relation to entering into negotiations with applicants in relation to files on extension of time as the planning process is still ongoing. He stated that the reasons for refusal could be broken down as hard issues and soft issues. The hard issues should be dealt with by the applicants agent, such as site distance triangles or group water scheme letters. The soft issues such as house design and housing need may necessitate additional advice/meeting with the Planning Department. He stated that he would consider this, but added that such issues should be determined at the pre-planning stage and added that he would like to bring as much of the process as possible forward in to the pre-planning stage. In relation to the suggestion of league tables for agents, he stated that there were some excellent agents available and that the onus was on the applicant to check their track records. He added that there is a need to establish a better link with applicants and stated that all applicants in future will receive a guidance document in addition to the acknowledgement sent to their agent, when a valid application is lodged by an agent on their behalf.

Ms. McConnell stated that the planning department is committed to adhering to the signed reports following pre-planning consultations, unless third party issues arise during the planning process. She also referred to a check list being presented to the applicants outlining issues that need to be addressed prior to lodging the application such as non – statutory documents. She stated that it was a statutory obligation of the planning authority to forward all applications which affect the national routes to the national roads authority for their comments.

In relation to pre-planning clinics, Ms. McConnell stated that there were six clinics for the county, fifty two pre-planning meetings held per week and 2,808 held per year, she also stated that Senior Executive Planners take meetings. She stated that currently clinics were being held in Ballinasloe and Loughrea and it is intended to roll out to other areas when IT services are available. In relation to

the Connemara area office, she stated that there was a commitment to provide the service through Irish but the Council were not in a position to provide this service as yet.

Mr. Ridge stated that the Irish language was intrinsically important and a major asset and that other gaeltacht areas would be contacted prior to finalising the submission. Ms. McConnell acknowledged that there was sensitive information on planning files but from the point of view of openness and transparency on how a planning decision is arrived at, this information must be made available on the public file, however, every effort is made not to make this information available on the internet. In relation to Cllr. Kyne's comment on community groups and planning applications for large developments in their area, she stated that the preplanning meetings were generally attended by the applicant or agent, and that it would not be correct protocol to discuss a planning application with third parties. She stated that all planning decisions were referred to the Senior Executive Planners and this should lead to more consistency. In relation to enforcement issues, she stated that it was intended to amalgamate the development control and enforcement sections and that this should lead to some improvement in dealing more efficiently with enforcement.

Cllr Mannion sought more clarification on the referrals of planning applications to the National Roads Authority. Ms. McConnell stated that if the site was not affected by a national route or a proposed national route it was not referred to the NRA.

In relation to Cllr. Canneys request for a map of all the development pressure areas, Ms. O'Connell stated that in the Rural Housing Guidelines all local authorities have been requested to produce a map identifying these areas and Galway County Council are in the process of doing this. She added that the Rural Housing Guidelines will form a variation to the County Development Plan and this would clearly identify where an applicant is required to substantiate a housing need.

Cllr. Canney asked if the national roads authority can overrule a decision by the Council to allow development on family lands adjacent to a national route. Ms. McConnell stated that the issue of safety must always be foremost.

Cllr. Feeney referred to Cllr. Reilly's issues in relation to allowing development in pressure areas in order to prevent declining school numbers and also to the issue of selling sites in order to pay debts, he stated that these were issues for the review of the County Development and not the Development Management Guidelines. Cllr. Cannon proposed that a submission be lodged to the Department of the Environment on the Draft Development Management Guidelines and this was seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

Mr. Ridge stated that a copy of the submission would be circulated to all the members.

CROMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> J **CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Mayor P Hynes

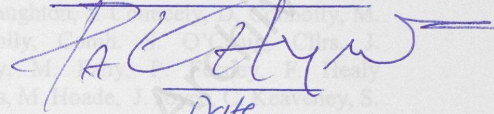
*Submitted, Approved & Signed*

LLATHAIR FREISIN:

Baili:

Cllr. W. Burke  
Comaigh  
Conolly  
Cuddy  
Eames, M. Hoade, J. Mangan, J. Mangan, T. Kyne, T. Mangan, J. Mangan, T. McHugh, M. Mangan, Comh. C. Ni Phatharta, S. Mangan, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, J. Mangan, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, Cllrs.

27.02.06



Date.

Oifigíoch:

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager; Messrs. Dallen, J. Morgan, F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; L. Gavin, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; T. Murphy, County Secretary; A. Comer, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; G. McConnell, Senior Planner; P. O'Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaoilge; B. Donnellan, G. Healy, Staff Officers.

Thomais an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

724

Cllr. Cuddy proposed that a Resolution of Sympathy be extended to the family of the late Bridie O'Flaherty, stating that she was twice Mayor of Galway and had



served the city with distinction and would be greatly missed by the people of Galway. Cllr. Cannon seconded this proposal.

A Resolution **CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2006.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Mayor P Hynes

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:** New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

**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, 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, 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. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; T. Murphy, County Secretary; A. Comer, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; C. McConnell, Senior Planner; P. O’Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; B. Donnellan, G. Healy, Staff Officers.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

724

Cllr. Cuddy proposed that a Resolution of Sympathy be extended to the family of the late Bridie O’Flaherty, stating that she was twice Mayor of Galway and had

served the city with distinction and would be greatly missed by the people of Galway. Cllr. Cannon seconded this proposal.

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Antaine & Treasa Uí Chathain, Doire Fhearta, An Cheathrú Rua  
Máirtín & Triona Uí Chonghaile, Tra Bháin, Léitir Móir  
Johnny O Donnchú Gleann Mór, An Cheathru Rua  
Noirin Bn. Uí Fhlatharta, Aird Mhóir, Cill Chiaráin  
Michael Hanlon & Family, Belview, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Tom Glynn & Family, Ballinasloe Road, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Finnerty, Clough, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Mrs. Bernadette Donohue, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Tony & Muintir Uí Mhistil, An Cheathru Rua  
Múintir Uí Fhatharta, Aill na Brún, Cill Chiarain, Conamara  
The Lee Family, Mossfort, Belcare, Tuam, Co. Galway  
Joe Flanagan & Family, Cove, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway  
Paddy & Sadie Ford, Mountkelly, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway  
Billy Boden, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Claire & Jerry O'Flaherty, Monivea Road, Galway  
Mr. Michael Murray & Family, Roxboro, Kilchreest, Co. Galway

Cllr. Joyce stated that he objected to the holding of the car rally in February in light of recent road traffic accidents. He stated that although the rally drivers were professional drivers, the car rally could influence other road users to drive at speed and it could be a bad example to younger, less experienced drivers.

Cllr. Mannion stated that the issue of road safety should be placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Council for discussion and Cllr. Reilly stated that the Council should call on the government to introduce the system operating in Northern Ireland where it was a requirement that everybody passing their driving test, must display an "R" on their vehicle for a year.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that an extra item be discussed at the meeting, namely Development Management - Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities, and this was seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

Cllr. McDonagh also proposed that the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006 and this was seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 725**

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 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. D. Connolly asked that the proposed metering of water supplies in relation to agricultural users be placed on the Agenda as an item for the next Monthly Meeting of the Council.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. O’Cuaig asked why some people in the Cill Ciarán/Carna area would not be served by the Cill Ciarán/Carna Regional Water Supply Scheme. Mr. Cullen stated that the scheme as designed was under construction but said he would request information about the original design.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. M. Connolly stated that allegations that Galway County Council had not spent the allocation received from the Department of the Environment and Local Government in 2005 in respect of water supply schemes were untrue and that the Council had expended the whole allocation received.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION** 726

Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2005.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 19th December, 2005.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 19th December, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. D. Connolly asked for an update regarding the pedestrian crossing at Ballinasloe and the speed limit at Ballaghlee National School.

Mr. Morgan stated that no reference was made to these items in the Report, however he confirmed that an allocation of €80,000 would be made available by the National Roads Authority for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Ballinasloe and €30,000 for a pilot periodic speed limit at Ballaghlee National School.

Report dated 30th December, 2005 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the proposed construction of a single rural house with services at Cooke, Moylough, Co.

Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Keaveney asked if Notice of Motion monies could be allocated by the Members towards the provision of adequate safety measures outside primary and post primary schools and Mr. Morgan stated that Notice of Motion money could be allocated for the provision of school flashing lights

On the proposal of Cllr. Connaughton, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the proposed construction of a single rural house with services at Cooke, Moylough, Co.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF 16 NO. HOUSES AT ST. LAURENCES FIELDS LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY.**

727

Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh. Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Regan, the proposed construction of 16 no. houses at St. Laurences Fields Loughrea, Co. Galway was approved.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames, the proposed construction of 2 no. single rural houses with services at Ard East, Carna, Co. Galway was approved.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. SINGLE RURAL HOUSES WITH SERVICES AT ARD EAST, CARNA, AND TO DEMOLISH THE EXISTING OLD DWELLINGHOUSE CURRENTLY ON SITE.**

728

Report dated 30th December, 2005 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Cuaig, seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta, the proposed construction of 2 no. single rural houses with services at Ard East, Carna, and to demolish the existing old dwellinghouse currently on site was approved.

County Council's statement of strategy in relation to achieving the social inclusion objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005 – 2009. He stated that

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE WITH SERVICES AT COOLOO, MOYLUGH, CO. GALWAY.**

729

Report dated 30th December, 2005 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the proposed construction of a single rural house with services at Cooloo, Moylough, Co. Galway was approved.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE WITH SERVICES AT CARRAGHDUFF, NEWBRIDGE, CO. GALWAY.** 730

Report dated 30th December, 2005 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Connaughton, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the proposed construction of a single rural house with services at Carraghduff, Newbridge, Co. Galway was approved.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF 62 NO. HOUSES AT GORTNAHOWN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY.** 731

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames, the proposed construction of 62 no. houses at Gortnahown, Athenry, Co. Galway was approved.

**TO ADOPT DRAFT SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY** 732

Report dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 was circulated to Each Member.

Cllr. Keaveney, Chairperson of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee gave a summary of the Draft Social Inclusion Strategy 2006 – 2009 stating that the purpose of the Social Inclusion Strategy was to set out Galway County Council's statement of strategy in relation to achieving the social inclusion objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2005 – 2009. He stated that Galway County Council was more than a service provider, because, as a democratically elected and accountable body, it had the authority and legitimacy to speak and act on behalf of its community. He stated that the Social Inclusion Strategy identified a series of practical objectives and actions that could be

progressed over the life-span of the Strategy, which could positively impact on disadvantage, poverty and quality of life issues. He informed the Members that the Draft Strategy had been endorsed by the Members of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs S.P.C. and he recommended its adoption by the full Council.

Cllr. Mannion welcomed the Strategy, however he referred to Ballinasloe Leisure Centre and stated that the high cost of membership of the leisure centre resulted in many people being excluded from using the leisure centre as they could not afford the membership fees. He stated that in the interests of social inclusion, the membership fee should be reduced.

Cllr. Connaughton also welcomed the Strategy and she stated that the Council should consider providing a waiver system in relation to refuse collection in the county. She said that this would alleviate the hardship of the elderly and less well off who found it difficult to pay for refuse collection.

Cllr. Keaveney proposed that the Manager would arrange that a feasibility study be carried out by the Council to determine the cost to the Council of operating a refuse charge waiver system in the county and this was seconded by Cllr. Connaughton.

Cllr. Mullins stated that it would be a good idea if the Department of Social Welfare were to issue refuse charge vouchers similar to fuel vouchers to Social Welfare recipients.

Cllr. Reilly stated that less than 60% of households in the county had access to refuse collection and he stated that the Council should strive to achieve a 100% collection rate, in order to stop illegal dumping.

Cllr. Cannon stated that it was evident from the Strategy that Kilreekill had strongly disimproved in terms of affluence between 1991 and 2002 and he stated that he felt that this was because of the lack of a satisfactory water supply to Kilreekill. He asked that the officials bring serious pressure on the Department of the Environment and Local Government to respond to the Council on the Preliminary Report which was submitted regarding the Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Mr. Dawson stated that the production of the Social Inclusion Strategy 2006 – 2009 was only the beginning of the process of social inclusion by Galway County Council and he stated that the Council would have regard to social inclusion issues in all its policy decisions in the future. He said that the implementation of the Social Inclusion Strategy would be measured through the Strategic Policy Committees and he thanked Mr. Mahon for the production of the document.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the Draft Social Inclusion Strategy was adopted by the Council.

**APPOINTMENT OF 5 MEMBERS TO REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM,  
WEST** 733

Report dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 was circulated to Each Member.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Willers and Cllr. Healy Eames be appointed to the Regional Health Forum, West and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mullins, and agreed.

Comh. Ní Fhatharta proposed that Cllr. Mannion and Cllr. S. Walsh be appointed to the Regional Health Forum, West and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hoade, and agreed.

The following members were appointed to the Regional Health Forum

- Cllr. Keaveney
- Cllr. Willers,
- Cllr. Healy Eames
- Cllr. Mannion
- Cllr. S. Walsh.

**MANAGERS BUSINESS**

734

**Roads Programme - 2006 Non-National Roads- Early Starts**

Mr. Morgan referred to the Early Starts Programme for 2006 which had been circulated to each member and asked for the approval of the Council to proceed with the works as listed. In reply to Cllr. Joyce, Mr. Morgan said that the schemes listed had been submitted by the Area staff pending the receipt of the Roadworks Programme from DoEHLG. Cllr. M. Connolly said that it is important that works be carried out as soon as possible on the Tiaquin/Mountbellew road. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed to approve the list of Early Starts as circulated.

**Notice of Motion Funding**

Mr. Morgan said that a meeting of the Roads & Transportation SPC had discussed the review of the Notice of Motion system and that a report on the matter will be made to the February meeting of the Council.

**Review of Speed Limits**

Mr. Morgan said that a review of the speed limits had been carried out in relation to most of the Schools in the County. He said that a report on this matter would be presented to the Council at the February Monthly Meeting. He said that the NRA have allocated funding towards a pilot project at Ballaghlea National School but that Bye-Laws must be made before the work be carried out. Mr. Morgan confirmed to Cllr. Mannion that speed limits for towns would be discussed by Area Committees prior to going to the full Council. Cllr. Cannon said that if a school is within a village that speed limits for the village should be done at the same time. Cllr. Connaughton said that school flashing lights should be erected on the Ballinasloe Road at Mountbellew. In reply to Comh. O Cuaig, Mr. Morgan said that the survey on schools will be presented at the February meeting. Mr. Morgan said that the estimated cost of providing new speed limit signs at schools would be €4,000 per signs. Cllr. T. Walsh referred to the cost of providing lights and asked again that the ESB be invited to a meeting of the Council in relation to this and also the service is being provided by them. This was seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Roll-out of Broadband in the Ballinasloe Town area and asked if there was any possibility of using the Eircom system. Mr. Dawson said that the Broadband System is separate and that specific ducting must be laid for same.

#### **Official Opening of Council Housing Estates**

It was proposed by Cllr. Joyce, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed that Mr. Noel Aherne T.D., Minister of State, DoEHLG (with special responsibility for Housing and Urban Renewal), would be invited to officially open housing schemes at Eyrecourt, Tynagh and Tuam.

#### **Proposal on Revised Gas Connection Policy.**

The Manager referred to the proposed changes to the policy for connection to the gas supply network with represented an improvement over previous methods and recommended that Galway County Council support the proposed changes.

The changes in particular which are proposed for the methodology in determining the economic evaluation of new town distribution networks will be beneficial for those towns in the county seeking connection to the national grid.

The proposal is open for consultation at the moment and a decision will issue from the CER in a few months time.

#### **Draft Development Management Guidelines.**

The Mayor invited Ms. McConnell to give her presentation on the Draft Development Management Guidelines.



Following Ms. McConnells summary of the Draft Development Management Guidelines, it was proposed by Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Ni Fhatharta to defer discussion of the guidelines to a special meeting to allow an opportunity to study the document and formulate a submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

A special meeting for 30<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30 pm was arranged.

**CONFERENCES**

735

On the proposal of Cllr. Mc Donagh, 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:-

**“Cumann Merriman” Westport Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo.  
27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2005**

Cllrs. J. McDonagh, T. Walsh, P. Feeney, T. Welby, M. Regan

**“The Local Government Planning Service”, The Clonea Strand Hotel,  
Clonea, Co. Waterford.  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2006**

Cllrs. C. Cannon, T. Welby, J. Cuddy.

**“AMAI Spring Seminar 2006” Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny  
10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February 2006.**

Cllrs. B. Willers, S. Connaughton, C. Keaveney, W. Burke, C. Ni Fhatharta, T. Mannion, M. Regan.

**“Celtic Tourism Conference” Marriott Druids Glen Hotel & Country Club,  
Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.  
15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

Cllrs. M. Mullins, S. Connaughton

**“Colmcille Winter School” The Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny.”  
24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

Cllr. M. Regan

**“The Cllr & the Community Leadership – Training Seminar” – Raheen  
House, Raheen Rd., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2006.**

Cllr. J. McDonagh.

**“Assoc of County & City Councils” – Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth.  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006.**

Cllrs. J. Mc Donagh, M. Mullins, W. Burke, M. Regan.

**“Safe Driving Conference” Grand Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare.  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006.**

Cllrs. J. Tierney.

**“The Westport Experience 2006” – Knockranny House Hotel, Westport.  
18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2006.**

Cllr. F. Healy Eames.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 - CLLR. J. JOYCE**

**736**

*The following reply was given: -*

“Council Meetings are held in Áras an Chontae in accordance with the Standing Orders unless the Council decide by resolution to hold it at another venue.

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. J. JOYCE**

**737**

*The following reply was given: -*

“The authority to classify a road as a Regional Road to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, by virtue of the provisions of the Roads Act 1993. The existing regional road network needs to be upgraded to reasonable standards before the regional road network is extended. The regional road R352 from Banagher to Eyrecourt is included for upgrading this year in our Roadworks Programme. A large portion of the L4305 is constructed on peat foundations which increases cost of road pavement construction by circa 50%.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15- CLLR. J. MCDONAGH**

**738**

*The following reply was given: -*

“For the year 2005 Galway County Council paid Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. €2,140,509.47 for insurance cover.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16- CLLR. J. MCDONAGH**

**739**

*The following reply was given: -*

“Galway County Council will examine the situation at the Mullacutera bend and forward a report to you in the near future. The protruding stones on the Loughgeorge to Corrandulla road are the base of a field stone wall on a narrow section of the road. Galway County Council has met with the landowner at the location and it is planned that the wall will be removed in the near future. A new fence will be set back from the road both to the satisfaction of Galway County Council and the landowner in question.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17- CLLR. M. FAHY**

**740**

*The following reply was given: -*

“I wish to inform you that this matter will be investigated and a report will issue to you shortly.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. J. CUDDY**

**741**

*The following reply was given: -*

“Approval and funding from the National Roads Authority is required for these works and the Council will take the matter up with them.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 - CLLR. J. CUDDY**

**742**

*The following reply was given: -*

“There are presently four ‘Junction Head’ advance warning signs at the location in question (two side roads). The existing signs are 600mm X 600mm. Three of the four signs are to be replaced with 900mm X 900mm signs and an identical sign will replace the fourth sign. These signs are now on order and will be installed in the near future.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. J. CUDDY**

743

*The following reply was given: -*

Claregalway National School is within the speed limits in Claregalway and the running carriageway of the N18 is clearly defined by lineage at the location. There is sufficient space within the road-side boundaries to provide car parking facilities to national standards. The provision of a pick-up and drop off area at the school is the responsibility of the school authorities. Galway County Council will assist the school authorities where possible, but cannot assume the responsibility of providing these facilities.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. M. FAHY**

744

*The following reply was given: -*

The estimated cost of the works necessary to provide a footpath at this location is €40,000 and the provision of ducting for future service installation would involve additional expenditure. In view of the limited resources available to the Council for such works priority must be given to towns and villages where traffic volumes and pedestrian usage create the greatest need.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – COM. C. NI FHATHARTA**

745

*The following reply was given: -*

Is mian liom a chur an iúl duit go bhfuil bosca buí curtha ag an mbealach isteach chuig Scoil Náisiúnta na bhForbacha.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA**

746

*The following reply was given: -*

“Cuirfear an Réamhthuirisc do Charna chuig an RCO&RA i lár Mí Feabhra. Tá an Comhairle ag fanacht ar an Réamhthuirisc do Chill Chiaráin ar cheart go mbeadh sé faighte faoi dheireadh mhí Eanáir. Cuirfear é seo chuig an RCO & RA a luaithe agus is féidir ina dhiaidh sin. Le stádas reatha an dá Scéim seo mar atá cur síos déanta orthu thuas, ní bheadh sé indéanta na scéimeanna seo a thosú go dtí 2007.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA**

747

The following reply was given: -

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go gcostóidh sé timpeall is €50,000 chun cosán coisithe agus ballaí a thógail ar bother Doire Fhearta, An Cheathrú Rua. Bheadh tuilleadh costaisí ann chun dúchtú agus soilse a chur ar fail."

CATHAIRLEAG

**CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN**

LLATHAIR FREISIN:

Ball:

Cllr. S. Canney, S. Cosman, J. Connolly, J. Fahy, P. J. Kelly, J. McElroy, Comh. C. Ni Fhuadha, S. O Tuama, Cllr. M. Regan, T. Welby, B. Welby

*Submitted, Approved & Signed*

27.02.06  
*Date*

Diúltigh:

Mr. P. O'Riaghair, County Manager, Messrs. J. Conboy, J. Morgan, P. Gilmore, P. Ridge, J. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mulvaney, Head of Finance; Albert Comer, Senior Executive Officer, V Loughnane, Senior Executive Engineer, G Scully, Senior Executive Officer T. Murphy, County Secretary; J. Drann, Senior Executive Officer, M. McGovern, Management Accountant, P. McMahon, County Librarian, M.O'Donnell, Senior Staff Officer, J. Keane, Staff Officer, P. Delaney, Clerical Officer.

Thosaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir:

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

693

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mr. Kevin & Mrs Nancy Brennan, Craughwell, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Richard Cunningham, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Matt Loughnane, Dunsandie, Kitulla, Atherry, Co. Galway.

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Mayor P Hynes

**ILATHAIR FREISIN:**

**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, Messrs. J. Cullen, J. Morgan, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Albert Comer, Senior Executive Officer, V Loughnane, Senior Executive Engineer, G Scully, Senior Executive Officer T. Murphy, County Secretary; J. Brann, Senior Executive Officer, M. McGovern, Management Accountant, P McMahon, County Librarian, M.O Donnell, Senior Staff Officer, J. Keane, Staff Officer, P. Delaney, Clerical Officer.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

693

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Mr. Richard Cunningham, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mr. Matt Loughnane, Dunsandle, Kiltulla, Athenry, Co. Galway.

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting 19/12/05

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Ms. Geraldine Caulfield & The Caulfield Family, Farnane, Peterswell, Co. Galway.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 694

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr McDonagh.

Cllr Fahy asked whether funding could be got from the Heritage Council in relation to improvement works at the Liam Mellows memorial at Killeen, Craughwell. The County Manager undertook to investigate this and have a report on the matter before the January Monthly meeting.

Cllr T. Walsh said that Ballymoe still had no street lighting and that it was the third year of darkness for the village since he first highlighted the matter.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that the ESB had marked the locations for the ducting and that the Council would immediately start work on providing the lighting.

Comh O Cuaig referred to the length of time it is taking the Council to reply to Department queries. He asked when the Costello RWSS was likely to commence and if Mr. Cullen was aware of the EPA report in relation to the presence of e-coli in the water supply in Carraroe and had he investigated the concerns of the European Parliament regarding the same Scheme.

Mr. Cullen replied that the Council was aware of the EPA report and of the EU concerns. He told Comh O'Cuaig that the EIS should be submitted to An Bord Pleanala by August 2006.

Comh O Cuaig asked was there any possibility of part of the scheme being done pending the EIS report.

Mr. Cullen said that he would ask the Consultants to examine if it would be possible to separate the pipework element of the project from the treatment element.

Comh Ni Fhatharta asked could the Council do a once off collection of used electrical goods in the Connemara area. She had received a reply to a Notice of Motion stating that these goods should be brought to Clifden which is over 50 miles away. She asked could this decision be looked at again until there is a recycling facility available in the South Connemara Area.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

695

The report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Willers.

The report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers.

The report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr McHugh and seconded by Cllr Reilly.

The report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr Hoade.

The report of the Cultural & Corporate Affairs SPC Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta.

The report of the City & County Liaison Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr Feeney.

Cllr D. Connolly asked could the Environment SPC investigate alternative recycling centres as the facility in Tuam was now closed. He stated that the public should have facilities available.

Mr. Kelly stated that an arrangement had been reached that the Ballinasloe Recycling facility would re-open in 2006 and that there would be a recycling facility but it would not take domestic refuse. He stated that people will have to arrange their own collection system for domestic waste.

**TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE AMENDMENTS AND MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT ATHENRY LOCAL AREA PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 9 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002.**

696



The Mayor invited Mr Gavin to present the Manager's Report to the Members. Mr Gavin introduced Ms Helen O'Keeffe from CAAS Consultancy and she proceeded to present the report.

She stated that a total of 4 submissions were received on the amendments and material alterations to the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan and she began with Submission 1

**Submission 1: Kevin Rodgers, Senior Executive Officer, the Western Regional Fisheries Board, Earls Island, Galway**

**Recommendation:**

The Manager recommends the amendment of the Draft LAP as detailed in the displayed material amendments:

- The insertion of a policy to state that the design of the sewerage system will be undertaken in consultation with statutory agencies in regard to any impact arising upon receiving waters [Section 3.3.5].
- The insertion of a policy statement to Section 3.3.1 stating that the Council will endeavour to ensure that sediment releases to the river during excavation, construction and operational phases will not occur.
- The addition of an aim to 'protect all surface waters, their water quality and ecology' to Section 3.3.1;
- The addition of a policy to protecting and enhancing the water quality and ecology of all watercourses, and their function as ecological corridors [Section 3.3.1]; and
- The addition of specific objective to identify and rectify any point sources of pollution entering the Gruaigeabbey, Clarin and Lavally rivers [Section 3.3.1].

No further change to these proposed material amendments is recommended.

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

**Submission 2: Francis Hanley, Kingsland, Athenry, Co. Galway**

**Map Reference: MA6**

**Recommendation:**

Proposed material amendment MA6 should be rejected and the subject lands rezoned for agricultural rather than residential use.

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Fahy, it was agreed to retain the residential zoning on the lands the subject of MA6 as it appeared in the Amended Draft Local Area Plan for Athenry.*

**Submission 3:** Brian Kenny, Spatial Policy unit, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

**Map References:** MA1, MA2; MA3; MA5; MA6; MA7; MA8; MA9; MA10; MA11; MA12; MA14; MA15; MA16; MA17; MA18; MA19; MA20; MA21.

**Recommendation:**

The rejection of the amendments to the land use zoning map *Map2*: MA1, MA2; MA3; MA5; MA6; MA7; MA8; MA9; MA10; MA11; MA12; MA14; MA15; MA16; MA17; MA18; MA19; MA20; MA21.

It was agreed by the members to consider MA18 AND MA 19 separately.

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to retain the zonings on the lands the subject of MA1, MA2; MA3; MA5; MA6; MA7; MA8; MA9; MA10; MA11; MA12; MA14; MA15; MA16; MA17;; MA20; MA21 as they appeared in the Amended Draft Local Area Plan for Athenry.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of MA18 at Ballydavid South residential and the lands at Cullairbawn transitional agricultural as indicated on a map at the meeting.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of MA19 part agricultural and part residential as indicated on a map at the meeting.*

Omission of the proposed Material Amendment to Para. 3.3.11 stating that developers will be required to provide a minimum of 25% open space, 15% of which must be bought out by the developer, or enter into a separate financial agreement, and that funds acquired through this mechanism for the Council to provide these facilities.

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report and to omit the proposed material amendment to paragraph 3.3.11 as outlined above.*

Amendment of the text of Para. 3.3.4, P-TL23 to read:

*"To fund the provision of the two outer roads shown on Map 2, by the imposition of a special development contribution of €30 per square meter of new development."*

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to accept he recommendation in the Manager's Report to amend the text in paragraph 3.3.4,p-TL23 as outlined above.*

Further amendment of Section 2.2, 3<sup>rd</sup> para (page 8) to read “The medieval town contains a number of structures of archaeological or architectural heritage merit...” – i.e. with the insertion of the word ‘heritage’, is recommended.

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager’s Report to amend the text in Section 2.2.3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph (page 8) as outlined above.*

**Internal Galway County Council Submissions – The Housing Unit**

Map Reference: MA13

**Recommendation:**

MA13 should be rejected and the proposed mixture of land uses – including residential use, reinstated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to zone the lands the subject of MA 13 part solely industrial uses and part primarily residential uses, as it appeared in the Draft Local area plan for Athenry.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Cannon it was agreed to adopt the Athenry Local Area Plan as amended.*

Cllr Feeney thanked Ms O’ Keeffee for her work in compiling the Athenry Local Area Plan.

Mr. Ridge thanked the elected members for their work in making the Athenry Local Area Plan.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL RE-ALIGNMENT OF N17 AT CLOONMOYLE, LENAMORE, CASTLETOWN, MASSMORE, LISSAVALLY (VESEY) FOR A DISTANCE OF 2287.343m AND INCORPORATING A NEW CULVERT AT CHAINAGE 1515m AND REALIGNMENT OF L2221-0 FOR A DISTANCE OF 568.206m AT LISSAVALLEY (VESEY) –** 697

On the proposal of Cllr McHugh and seconded by Cllr Hoade the report on the Vertical & Horizontal realignment of the N17 at Cloonmoyle, Lenamore, Castletown, Massmore, Lisavalley (Vesey) was approved.

**TO APPROVE SCHEME OF ALLOCATION PRIORITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** 698

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh the Scheme of Allocation Priorities for Affordable Housing was approved.

**TO ADOPT A LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2006-2010.**

Report dated the 13/12/05 was circulated to each member.

The members welcomed the Library Development Programme 2006-2010 and thanked Mr. Mc Mahon and his staff for their efforts in developing the library service. Mr. Kelly also thanked Mr. Mc Mahon and his staff for their hard work and their ingenuity in working with communities.

In reply to Cllr. Willers, Mr. McMahon said the Library Development programme included a proposal to renovate the 2 galleries to enhance the library service in the Gort Branch.

In reply to Comh O' Cuaig Mr. Mc Mahon said that it is proposed to work with NUIG towards the provision of branch library in Carna on the former Convent of Mercy site.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Kelly said that he hoped for positive developments in relation to Ballinasloe Branch Library in 2006.

Comh Ni. Fhatharta welcomed the proposal to buy the Carraroe Library premises. She also asked that the development of Inis Mean and Carna Branch Libraries be expedited.

Cllr O Reilly said that it was good news that Dunmore and Mountbellew were included in the works for next year.

Cllr Kyne asked that in relation to the provision of a library in Moycullen the local Community and Udaras na Gaeltachta be consulted.

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr Connaughton the Library Development Programme 2006-2010 was adopted.

**GALWAY MAIN DRAINAGE STAGE 3 – Update Presentation** 700

Mr. Fogarty of Tobins, Consulting Engineers made a presentation on the present position in relation to Galway Main Drainage – Stage 3. He outlined the background to the project and set it in a planning context and in the context of the Water Services Investment Programme. He referred to the Scheme elements including a) Mutton Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, b) Sewer Network and c) New Galway East Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The County Manager thanked Mr. Fogarty for his presentation. He said that it was important that these strategic projects are progressed by the County Council in conjunction with the City Council.

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting 19/12/05

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Cllr D Connolly asked that the Transport 21 Commuter rail link be continued to Woodlawn and Ballinasloe. He also said that any experience that could be drawn from past projects such as Mutton Island should now be used on this project

Cllr Kyne asked when the existing residences in Barna village would be connected up to Mutton Island.

Cllr Feeney said that the list of projects for 2006 in the Budget had now been put back by the Department to 2007, and that this plan could be used to further long finger the projects. He said that the Council could not rely on private sewerage schemes for ever.

Cllr Mannion said that the major expenditure being proposed on the Galway East Waste Water Treatment plant should not be to the detriment of other towns and villages around the County. He said that the Council were not planning for development but merely responding to things as they arise.

Cllr Healy Eames asked where the likely site for the treatment plant was and what the timeframe was for it.

Cllr Cuddy stated that he hoped the Treatment Plant would not affect the oyster beds in the Clarinbridge area.

Cllr Burke stated that even though it was called Galway East Wastewater Treatment Plant it did not affect East Galway and wondered how areas such as Portumna and Ballinasloe were going to be networked to it. He asked that the Manager present a position paper on the Ardaun corridor and how it will network with the rest of the County.

Cllr M Connolly stated that the development was for around the City and that it was needed but that it should not hinder proposals for the rest of the County.

In response to comments made by members about the time of the evening when the presentation on Galway Main Drainage was made, the County Manager said that doing the presentation so late was not desirable and said that he intended to discuss the conduct of meetings early in the New Year with the Corporate Policy Group and the Party Whips.

Mr. Ridge stated that this major Investment Project would not absorb all funding available. He said that the Council would need to look at the capacity of the larger towns to absorb future development. He said that it is important for major investors to see that Galway has the foresight to have plans in place for investment. He said today's presentation is a progress report.

Mr. Cullen said that there was no reason to believe that this project will displace other schemes and that the proposals being worked on should benefit all areas of the County.

Mr. Fogarty stated that the Galway Main Drainage proposal was a major infrastructural project which was badly needed. He stated that Barna has a link to the Galway City network at present. He said that currently they were working on a preliminary report this would then be advanced to Planning stage and that it would be 2009 before the plant would be in place. The proposed site would likely be between Oranmore and Athenry. He said that there was no costing done yet as it was at an early stage and that these would be done at the progress report stage.

Mr. Ridge said that the elected members need to make decisions to ensure that the whole County will develop and not all happen at once. He said that the potential development was limitless.

In reply to Cllr. Burke Mr. Ridge said that the majority of the work involved in the review of the County Development Plan would be undertaken in-house.

Mr. Ridge said the next step in the process was the completion of the various reports, Volumes A to E and that when this had happened there would be greater detail for further consideration by the elected members.

**TO NOTE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

701

- (a) Programme of Works
- (b) Schedule of Meetings

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr Hoade the Programme of Works and schedule of meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees was approved.

**APPROVAL TO BORROW €10million FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY PLC TO FUND HOUSING LOANS.**

702

Report dated the 6/12/05 was circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr Hoade approval to borrow €10 million from the Housing Finance Agency to fund Housing Loans was given.

**TO APPROVE OVERDRAFT ACCOMODATION FOR 6 MONTHS 01/01/06 – 30/6/06.**

703

Report dated the 8/12/05 was circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr Hoade overdraft accommodation for 6 months 01/01/06 to 30/6/06 was approved.

**MANAGER'S BUSINESS**

704

The County Manager wished the Mayor, elected members and staff a Happy Christmas.

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

705

The Mayor wished the Elected Members, the County Manager and staff a Happy Christmas.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 - CLLR. B. WILLERS**

706

*The following reply was given: -*

"The estimated amount of development charges collected in the Loughrea Electoral Area to the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005 amounts to €2,480,000 as outlined in the Budget 2006 booklet. Under the terms of the Development Contributions Scheme a minimum of 50% of these funds will be spent in the Loughrea Electoral Area. The proposed distribution of contributions collected in the Loughrea Electoral Area in 2006 are set out in the Budget 2006 Booklet."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. B. WILLERS**

707

*The following reply was given: -*

"The Loughrea Regional Signposting contract is at an advanced stage and all signs and poles will be delivered before Christmas '05 in accordance with the contractors information. The erection of same will be in early 2006."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15- CLLR. B. WILLERS**

708

*The following reply was given: -*

"The Draft Gort Traffic Management Plan is currently on public display. Submissions on same can be made to Galway County Council on or before 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2006. The issue raised in connection with road junction at Ballyhugh,

Gort and St. Colman's National School will be dealt with as a submission for consideration with all other submissions where are received in connection with this plan."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16- CLLR. C. KEAVENEY 709**

*The following reply was given: -*

"Galway County Council received DoEHLG approval from M&E Portion of this scheme (Tuam RWSS – Extension to Headford). Approval for the Civil element is due in the New Year. The scheme is an 18 month to 2 year contract. Kilbannon Group Water Supply Scheme will be able to connect within this timeframe."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17- CLLR. C. KEAVENEY 710**

*The following reply was given: -*

"I am to advise that the Planning Department will forward a copy of the EIA relating to the Landfill being developed by Greenstar."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 711**

*The following reply was given: -*

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil an bothar atá luaite agat ar Clár na mBóithre 2006."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 - CLLR. C. NI FHATHARTA 712**

*The following reply was given: -*

"Measadh an féidearthacht uisce a sholáthar ó Scéim Soláthar Uisce Tuaithe An Spidéil roimhe seo agus cuireadh as an áireamh mar rogha é de bharr na teorainneacha atá leagtha síos san Ordú Tógála (Abstraction) as Loch Both Loiscithe. Tá an planda a oibriú ag uastheorainn an Ordú faoi láthair."

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20– CLLR. C. NI FHATHARTA 713**

*The following reply was given: -*



“Tharraing an conraitheoir a bhí molta don scéim seo amach as an bpróiseas ag fágáil Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe gan aon rogha ach athfhógairt a dhéanamh. Fógrófar Soláthar Uisce Chamais do thairiscintí go gairid. Tógfaidh an phróisis seo cúpla seachtain lena chuir i gcrích. Ina dhiaidh sin molfar conraitheoir eile don chonradh.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH** 714

*The following reply was given: -*

“Galway County Council is presently examining several projects in close proximity to the Claregalway National School, including the N17 and N18 junction, a footpath to the community hall and a footpath on the opposite (western) side of the N18 carriageway. The Council has conveyed its concern to the school principal about the lack of set down or car parking facilities on the school premises.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH** 715

*The following reply was given: -*

“The estimated cost of the works required is €25,000. The project will be considered for inclusion in the 2006 Roadworks Programme having regard to available funding and to the various other projects requiring funding.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH** 716

*The following reply was given: -*

“I wish to inform you that when the school flashing light submission for 2006 is requested from the Oranmore Electoral Office, all submissions on file and all school locations without flashing lights will be viewed, assessed and prioritized. To-date, no other representations for school flashing lights have been received in the Oranmore office and no other school has been identified as a priority above Bawnmore National School.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 717

*The following reply was given: -*

“The Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000 specifically prohibit cutting of hedges and the clearing of vegetation during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August each year

unless such cutting or clearing has to be done in a particular instance, for reasons of public health or safety by the State or by a statutory body. E.U. Laws such as the Habitats Directive etc., which must be complied with by the State also have a direct relevance to the protection of hedgerows and wildlife habitats.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 718

*The following reply was given: -*

“The Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme is provided for by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government as part of the Roads Restoration Programme. Grant assistance under the scheme is provided only for road improvement works and the proposal submitted by the Clarenbridge Community Development association would not qualify for funding under the scheme.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 719

*The following reply was given: -*

“The Kinvara Sewerage Scheme is included in the WSIP 2004-2006. The Preliminary Report in relation to this scheme has gone to the DoEHLG. Galway County Council will have to wait for DoEHLG approval of the PR before Contract Documents can be prepared.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 720

*The following reply was given: -*

“I wish to inform you that no decision has been reached regarding this piece of land pending finalization of the design of the Moycullen Inner Relief Road.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 721

*The following reply was given: -*

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council will request funding from the National Roads Authority for the section of roadway from the end of the present Galway-Moycullen realigned section to Moycullen village, inclusive of Clydagh Bridge.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 722

*The following reply was given: -*

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting 19/12/05**

Budget Meeting 19/12/2005

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

“

AREA	SOCIAL HOUSING (1 <sup>st</sup> PREFERENCE)	AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Moycullen	22	35
Barna	0	33
Spiddal	20	18
Roscahill	0	0
Oughterard	82	24

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Mayor P. Hynes

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. S. CONNAUGHTON 723**

*The following reply was given: -*

“The ESB have indicated that they will mark the location of existing underground services on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. For safety reasons the Council cannot commence works until after the services are marked out. Work to install ducting will commence immediately after the Christmas break.”

**OSFICIGH:**

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager

**CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved & Signed

23.01.06

*P. Hynes*  
Date

Thomagh an cúlra leis an paidir.

**BUIDE**

690

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.