

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON TUESDAY 25TH JULY, 2006

CATHAOIRLEACH Mayor M. Mullins.

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, P. Feeney, F. H. Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, T. McHugh, 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 F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, P. Ridge, J. Cullen, Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance L. Gavin, M. Lavelle, R. Killeen Senior Engineers
T. Murphy, County Secretary, A. Comer, D. Barrett, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers, Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. Maureen Doddy, Conservation Officer, Ms. M. McGrath, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. B. Donnellan, Staff Officers and Ms. Teresa Donoghue, Asst. Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir

CONSIDERATION OF THE MANAGERS REPORT ON THE DRAFT VARIATIONS TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

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Mayor Mullins invited Mr Ridge to present the Manager’s Report on the written submissions received on the proposed variations to the County Development Plan 2003-2009

Mr Ridge began by outlining the various documents that were to be considered at the meeting He stated that there was the Manager’s Report which was prepared on the 70 written submissions received on the 7 proposed variations to the County Development Plan 2003-2009.

- Variation No. 1 – Inclusion of County Galway Retail Strategy
- Variation No. 2 – Inclusion of “West Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines 2004-2016”
- Variation No. 3 – Inclusion of “Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities”
- Variation No. 4 - Inclusion of “Design guidelines for the single rural house”
- Variation No. 5 – Inclusion of updated county settlement strategy

Variation No. 6 – Inclusion of Strategic Corridor

Variation No. 7 – Inclusion of Statement on Tuam's Hub Status

Mr Ridge explained that included also for consideration were the Strategic Environmental Assessment Reports, a related set of documentation to the variations which assesses the effects of each variation of the County Development Plan on the Environment as per SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

Strategic Environmental Assessment Reports were prepared on proposed variation no. 5 (inclusion of updated county settlement strategy) and proposed variation no 6 (inclusion of strategic corridor). He added that there were also environmental screening reports to be considered for the remaining proposed variations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.

Mr Ridge commenced with the environmental screening document that was prepared on Variation No. 1 – Inclusion of County Galway Retail Strategy.

He outlined, from the document that the type and extent of development that was envisaged to take place in the County during the course of the retail strategy which would allow towns and villages to develop to their full potential and continually improve as retail destinations without compromising the quality of its environment. The County Development Plan reiterates the objectives outlined in the Retail Planning Guidelines (2001) in section 2.12 of the County Development Plan 2003-2009. It achieves this by incorporating clear policies and proposals for retailing into the Development Plan through the incorporation of the retail strategy into the Plan.

He added that it was not anticipated that the proposed variation will have strategic environmental effects. Localised environmental effects or concerns as a result of any proposed developments which are in compliance with the retail strategy and development control standards would be dealt with through assessment of individual planning applications. The SEA screening for the retail strategy covers such a large geographical area that a detailed assessment at this level is not deemed a realistic option. The effects on the environment can be best dealt with through the development control process and assessment of individual planning applications and by those responsible for making individual planning decisions exercising their best professional judgement in consultation with the relevant environmental authorities where appropriate. They would be taking into account considerations such as conformity with the retail strategy and retail planning guidelines, conformity with the relevant development control standards as set out in the County Development Plan, the nature, size and location of the proposed development, the environmental sensitivity of the area in which it is proposed to locate the development and the nature of the potential effects of the development.

Overall the policies set out in the retail strategy would help to promote sustainable development by strengthening villages and towns and regenerating them and sustaining local services and thereby reducing the need to travel. The strategic vision of what existing towns and villages should be like in years to come, when they are inherited by the next generation can contribute to re-shaping towns and villages to make them function in a more sustainable way. Objectives are also in place to undertake a monitoring strategy on adoption of the retail strategy and it being incorporated into the County Development Plan by means of variation. The establishment of the monitoring strategy shall ensure that the County Retail Strategy and its baseline information is kept as up to date as possible to reflect changes that may occur in Galway and in the retail market.

Based on the above it is not recommended to undertake the SEA process for this proposed variation.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ni Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr Mannion it was agreed to accept the recommendation.

In relation to Variation No 2, Inclusion of "West Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines 2004-2016" it was recommended that an SEA was not required. Mr. Ridge outlined the following reasons for this in points 1-8 below.

1. The County Development Plan is based on the principles of sustainable development. It contains a clear positive vision which will enable the County to advance, socially and economically. This will help to attract increased state and private sector investment.
2. Existing local, regional and national policy documents influence the settlement strategy for County Galway contained within the plan which is currently being revised. This will help achieve balanced spatial development which will address the issue of imbalance between and within areas in the distribution of economic and social progress. An example of this would be the ongoing growth of Galway City at the expense of other areas of the County.
3. Policies are in place for the protection, preservation and sustainable use of the built, natural and cultural heritage.
4. It is a policy of the Council to give immediate priority to improvements in the designated settlements within the lifetime of the plan so that they can meet the designated housing targets. It is a policy of the plan to develop a programme for the provision of infrastructure and other services in the said settlement locations and, where desirable, will facilitate this by way of public / private partnership. Building in the countryside is strictly controlled in sensitive landscapes and development pressure areas. Further residential growth is to be encouraged into the settlement centres to provide a range of residential choices for people not connected with family farm activity or who do not have a genuine rural housing need in the County.
5. A Landscape Character Assessment of the County has been carried out. A total of 25 character areas have been identified. Based on this assessment and sensitivity ratings for various areas of the County, various policies are in place to determine development uses and to protect the character of the landscape.
6. The plan aims to promote good design and has prepared design and siting guidelines for rural housing.
7. Connacht Waste Management Plan addresses the issue of waste; also the County Plan has policies in place in relation to providing necessary infrastructure to manage solid waste in an environmentally sustainable manner.
8. County Plan policies support the infrastructure development of energy networks in the County. They promote energy conservation measures and facilitate innovative building design that promotes energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. They facilitate the development of alternative energy sources where such proposals are consistent with landscape preservation, the protection of natural habitats, and comply with County Plan policy.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed to accept the recommendation.

In relation to Variation No 3, Inclusion of "Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities" Mr. Ridge explained that an SEA was not required for the following reasons as outlined in the screening report.

The reasons for deciding that SEA is not required in this instance had been decided on the basis that the variations to the County Development Plan to comply with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities are minor in nature and they should not cause significant environmental effects. The current County Development Plan was seen to be broadly consistent with the guidelines and contains strong policies and objectives in relation to sustainable rural housing which were highlighted throughout the report. The plan attempts through its policies to promote balanced development throughout the county and managing the urban generated pressures of Galway City, while addressing rural generated pressures in rural areas, and the depopulation of the more remote parts of the County.

On the proposal of Cllr Ní Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr Mannion it was agreed to accept the above recommendation.

In relation to Variation No.4, Inclusion of "Design guidelines for the single rural house" Mr Ridge outlined the reasons for deciding that a SEA was not required as follows

The reasons for deciding that SEA was not required in this instance had been decided on the basis that the single rural house design guidelines was a guidance document additional to the development control provisions and policies of the County Development Plan. The effects of adopting the design guidelines by means of variation into the County Development Plan would have positive environmental effects as highlighted throughout the report. The guidelines are seen as additional to the development control policies and standards as set out in the County Development Plan and will neither encourage development nor prohibit it. They provide a strong backup to development control policies as set out in the County Development Plan for all development to be in compliance with the guidelines. This would help ensure that the visual impact of any new house in the countryside would be lessened by good design and siting and that rural amenity would be protected.

The guidelines also constantly re-iterate the principles of sustainable housing through the use of good siting and design to optimise the energy performance of any new house and reduce CO² emissions, through, for example location to maximise solar gain and design to maximise natural light, the use of renewable and local materials and the preservation of natural features such as hedgerows and stonewall boundaries help demonstrate the guidelines to people that rural areas can accommodate many forms of development if the location and design of development is handled with sensitivity. They show that there are identifiable techniques and characteristics that will enable people to design a house that is more energy efficient, and better related to its surroundings.

On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr T.Walsh it was agreed to accept the above recommendation

In relation to Variation No 5, Inclusion of updated county settlement strategy Mr. Ridge explained that a SEA report was prepared which outlined the likely significant effects that this variation would have on the Environment together with the following mitigation measures, Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects of accommodating growth and enhancing positive ones.

Landscapes

- Where housing units are proposed in settlement centres which are situated in sensitive landscapes, the use of brownfield lands where structures have impacted the landscape previously should be maximised.
- The 50% of housing unit allocation for Small Settlements / Rural Areas which is allocated to the Rural Areas should be directed towards the least sensitive landscapes.
- The planning control process should ensure that housing units to be located in sensitive areas are appropriately designed with the appropriate use of local, native vegetation as screening.

Water

- If growth of settlement is pursued alongside inadequate capacities in both private and local authority waste water treatment systems together with inadequate assimilative capacity of receiving waters this will result in significant adverse effects.
- All existing proposals for increasing waste water treatment capacity should be carried out in line with the construction of housing units.
- Where housing units are proposed in settlement centres which have no or insufficient waste water treatment capacity, and for which no increase in capacity is proposed, housing construction should be diverted towards settlement centres with adequate capacity.
- Where one-off housing is pursued an appropriate wastewater treatment system should be correctly installed and maintained and should comply with the relevant EPA wastewater manuals.
- The 50% of housing unit allocation for Small Settlements / Rural Areas which is allocated to the Rural Areas should be directed towards areas in which are not located over vulnerable aquifers.

Biodiversity & Soil

- The sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and of the existing built environment should be maximised before developing greenfield lands.
- The protection of water from waste water contamination will aid the avoidance of damage by development to aquatic ecosystems and it will aid the maintenance of soil quality.
- Designated wildlife sites should be avoided- this is already managed by the planning control process. The planning control process should also manage the siting of the 50% of housing unit allocation for Small Settlements / Rural Areas which is allocated to the Rural Areas, which should be directed towards the least natural and least valuable habitats.

Material Assets and Cultural Heritage

- The 50% of housing unit allocation for Small Settlements / Rural Areas which is allocated to the Rural Areas should be directed towards existing settlement centres so that the unit cost of infrastructure is minimized, making it more economical for infrastructure to be provided as well as sustaining local services
- Protected structures should be avoided- this is already managed by the planning control process.
- The Galway Clustered Housing Design Guidelines (2002), along with the Urban Design Frameworks as provided within the Local Area Plans and Action Area Plans should be followed in order to protect the character of towns and villages.

Traffic and Air

- The 50% of housing unit allocation for Small Settlements / Rural Areas which is allocated to the Rural Areas should be directed towards existing settlement centres which provide employment so that the amount of journeys taken by car and journey times are reduced. This reduces traffic and the associated emissions of greenhouse gases. Also this allocation should be directed towards the GTPS area if possible, in order to make most efficient usage of transport infrastructure.

Mr Ridge explained that the mitigation measures can be incorporated into the County Development Plan or can be a stand alone document. He added that if significant changes are made to the published variations changes may then have to be made to the mitigation measures listed above.

On the proposal of Cllr Ní Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr McHugh it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the SEA report.

In relation to Variation No 6, Inclusion of Strategic Corridor Mr. Ridge explained that a SEA report was prepared which outlined the likely significant effects that this variation would have on the Environment together with the following mitigation measures.

The framework plan prepared for the strategic economic corridor and the final strategic layout including the buffer zone aims to protect significant environmental resources within its core. Any significant planning applications would avoid these areas.

Mitigation measures

- EIS's will be prepared for site specific projects which will address site specific issues.
- Bio-diversity studys should form part of any planning applications within the strategic economic corridor. Opportunities for retention and enhancement of hedgerows, individuals and groups of trees, stonewalls and water features such as ponds / streams / wetlands should be maximised in the layout and development of any sites within the corridor.
- There may be sites, which support populations of bats and where known, these should be mapped and protected. Where new development is proposed the potential for the occurrence of protected species such as bats should be determined.
- Opportunities for habitat creation should be maximised within any development proposed both to compensate for possible overall habitat/biodiversity loss and to increase the biodiversity resources within the site. Such measures could for instance include water features incorporated into drainage systems and promotion of an increased network of wildlife corridors. The compilation of a habitat map for the area of the strategic corridor would be very beneficial.
- Development which involves removal of hedgerows/trees etc. should not be permitted during the nesting season.

On the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and Cllr Feeney it was to accept the recommendation as outlined above.

In relation to Variation No 7 Inclusion of Statement on Tuam's Hub Status Mr. Ridge explained that a screening report was prepared to determine whether this variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. It was decided that a SEA was not required for the following reasons,

1. The L.A.P. contains plans and policies to mitigate any future development or growth in the town over the next 5 years.
2. Adequate water and waste water facilities have been provided in Tuam to cater for future growth.
3. Tuam has an adopted A.C.A. to protect and conserve its core.
4. Traffic management measures have been introduced to ensure more sustainable traffic movement.
5. Future plans for the hub town of Tuam contain proposals for a more sustainable transport system.
6. Design standards in the Tuam L.A.P. require developers to take account of protected structures and important buildings.
7. Future planning applications within and around the town will be considered in the context of good development management and the policies and objectives of the recently adopted Tuam L.A.P.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr Canney it was agreed to accept the recommendation as outlined above.

Mr Ridge commenced the consideration of the Manager's Report on the submissions that were received on the 7 Variations to the County Development Plan, He explained that the Manager's Report was divided into 10 issues and began with Issue 1

Issue 1 – Settlement Strategy

Addressed by:

Submissions 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 58, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68 & 69.

Summary:

Projected Population & Household Growth:

- New projected population figures for the settlement strategy are not considered acceptable, as they are not based on up-to-date statistics (Submission 1).
- Mechanism to be put in place to take account of the preliminary census data 2006 in order to verify assumptions made in the plan and correct it accordingly (Submission 1).
- Unclear where overall figure of 16,200 units to be constructed in the remaining development plan period 2003-2009 came from (Submission 69).

Household Allocation:

- It is unclear how the spatial distribution of the household allocation in the revised settlement strategy was arrived at (Submission 69).
- Up-to-date household allocations are required for each settlement up to 2009 (Figures on permitted housing development for each settlement are required) (Submission 66).
- Infrastructure and facilities provisions should be spelt out in tandem with the housing provision for each town and village (Submission 1).
- The settlement hierarchy and accompanying maps and tables be amended to reflect and support the importance of the hub of Tuam over other settlements in the settlement hierarchy (Submission 69).
- Household allocations to be discussed and agreed with Elected Members (Submission 8).
- Clarification over new note relating to household allocations for the small settlement centres and rural area: **'50% of the household allocation for Small Settlements/Rural Inside & Outside the G.T.P.S should be allocated to development within the settlement centres. The remaining 50% is allocated to the rural areas'** (page 35) (Submissions 2, 4, 24).
- Delete new note relating to household allocations for the small settlement centres and rural area to be deleted: **'50% of the household allocation for Small Settlements/Rural Inside & Outside the G.T.P.S should be allocated to development within the settlement centres. The remaining 50% is allocated to the rural areas'** (page 35) (Submission 8)
- The recommended breakdown of 50% of household allocations for small settlements/rural areas both inside and outside the GTPS, to be allocated to the settlement centres with the 50% to the rural areas is of great concern and the figure of 50% for household allocation to the rural areas within the GTPS area should be reviewed (page 35) (Submission 69).
- More of the household allocation should be diverted to the settlements within the GTPS area reflecting areas under pressure from urban driven housing demand (Submission 69).
- Settlement strategy should differentiate between areas within and outside the GTPS area (Submission 69).
- Remove the household number restrictions for all town & village centres (Submission 21 & 22).
- The large household allocation for Oranmore Electoral District (2,630 units) is contrary to ministerial guidelines, as the area is under strong urban influence (Submission 25).
- Concerns over the household predictions for Claregalway due to lack of infrastructural improvements in the village (Submission 1).

- Increase the household allocation for Claregalway and other towns & villages with respective local area plans to take account of the lands zoned for residential development (Submission 4).
- Proposal to increase the household allocation for Letterfrack (approx. 55 units) (Submission 41).
- Increase the household allocation for Oughterard (150 units) in line with similarly sized settlements (Submission 11).
- Increase the household allocation for Oughterard (150 units) in line with Barna (350 units), Headford (350 units) and Claregalway (350 units) (Submission 24).
- Increase the household provisions for Barna (350 units) to 1000 units in the short term (plan period) and 10,000 units in the long term (Submission 22).
- Increase the household allocation for Portumna (270 units) to 550 units (Submission 12).
- Increase the household allocation for Moylough (approx. 37 units), as cap has already been exceeded (Submission 17).
- Increase the household allocation for Caherlistrane (144 units) by an additional 40 units (Submission 23).
- Concern that the increased household allocations will negate against sustaining rural population and services (Submission 29).
- Concerns over household predictions for Claregalway due to lack of *infrastructural improvements in the village* (Submission 1).
- The household allocation for Mountbellew (70 units) is not sufficient in the context of its 'key town' designation in the Regional Planning Guidelines and should be increased by a minimum of either 180 or 200 units (Submission 50 & 58).
- Increase the household allocation for Kilcolgan settlement centre (130 units) (Submission 63).
- Household allocation to be increased for Milltown settlement centre (approx. 38 units) (Submission 57).
- Small Settlements inside the GTPS have a greater allocation of households than some of the larger villages outside the GTPS, for example Dunmore and Mountbellew (Submissions 50 & 58), which is not considered acceptable.

Settlement Centres:

- Remove the Settlement Centre circles (Submission 66).
- Re-assess generic settlement boundary circle (Submission 54).
- To adopt a more flexible approach to assessing planning applications inside or close to settlement centre boundaries (Submissions 54, 59 & 63).
- All long established villages inside and outside the 15km to be regarded as settlement centres for suitable infill development especially for second family homes (Submissions 10 & 11).
- Settlement Centre boundary to be increased from 500 to 600 metres for Milltown (Submission 57).
- Settlement Centre boundary to be increased from 500 to 850 for Corofin (Submission 61).
- Settlement Centre boundary to be increased from 500 to 750 for Turloughmore (Submission 62).
- Settlement Centre boundary to be increased from 300 to 500 for Kilcolgan (Submission 63).

- Proposal to extend the settlement boundary of Bealadangan to the west (Submission 40).
- Proposal to extend the settlement boundary of Casla to include 6 acres (map included) (Submission 46).
- Extend & enlarge settlement centre boundary of Kilbannon to include the townland of Mullagh (Submission 48).
- Lands in close proximity to Rosscahill settlement centre to be included with revised settlement boundary (Submission 42).
- Proposal to include specific land (map attached) within the Briarhill settlement centre boundary (Submission 51).
- The village of Marree/Garraun is omitted from the settlement tiers even though it is included in the County Development Plan's accompanying maps (Submission 2).
- Upgrade Killimor & Woodford from small settlement to local service centres, as both settlements have the infrastructure to accommodate development (Submission 19).
- Kilconierin to be designated as a settlement centre (Submission 60).
- Connemara's smaller settlements not listed (Submission 13).
- The boundaries of both Ballyglunin and Belclare to be revised to take account of lands suitable for development (Submission 20).
- Larraghmore & Cahergal to be both included as settlement centres (Submission 20).
- Remove Laraghmore from the settlement centre list and require future consultation over any future plans for Laraghmore (Submission 28).
- To include Radford village as a settlement centre (Submission 35).
- To establish whether a settlement centre circle is to be prepared for Briarhill in advance of the variations being adopted (Submission 4).
- The village of Cong to be included in the list of small settlements outside the GTPS (Submission 11).
- Designate both Esker and Ballymana as settlement centres inside the GTPS area (Submission 68).

Action Area Plans:

- **Objective 7** (page 50) – To include an Action Area Plan to be carried out for Claregalway (Submission 1).
- To include an Action Area Plan for Roundstone (Submission 11).
- To carry out an Action Area Plan for Ardaun (Submission 66).

Ardaun:

- Questioned Galway County Council's commitment to Ardaun (Submission 25).

Other Issues:

- "Multiple housing developments be allowed on appropriate lands outside development zones where substantiated housing need for this type of development exists (Submission 16).
- Proposal to permit a cluster of 6 houses on 0.5 acre sites in Trianlair, Maree, Oranmore (Submission 45).

- Lands to be included in Clarinbridge Local Area Plan (Submission 54).
- Lands in close proximity to Ballymacward settlement centre to be considered for development (Submission 55).
- Lands in Turloughmore village but outside the settlement centre circle to be zoned for residential purposes (Submission 56).
- Lands in close proximity to the settlement centre boundary of Cill Chiarain to be considered for development (Submission 59).
- 150 acres of land associated with Esker Monastery owned by the Redemptorist Order southeast of Athenry (north of the N6 proposed route) to be considered for residential development. (Submission 65).

Response:

Population & Household Growth:

- The revisions of population & household growth were developed in conjunction with Jonathan Blackwell & Associates and are based on the most up-to-date available data at national, regional and county level. The overall figure of 16,200 housing units for the development plan period 2003-2009 were based on population growth, higher than expected in-migration, second family /holiday homes, obsolescence, student homes and the redistribution of units from Ardaun.
- The implications of these trends for the current levels of household change were considered when projecting the housing unit allocation to 2009.

Household Allocation:

- The spatial distribution of the household allocations was carried out on the basis of the settlement strategy for the county, the settlement hierarchy and the desire to distribute the population growth fairly throughout the entire county. The household allocations are divided per electoral area and allocations were given to groups of settlements to allow flexibility in the rate of growth of the various settlements. Exact allocations to each settlement would result in too rigid a system and negatively impact in the overall settlement strategy for the county.
- No further increase in household allocation inside the G.T.P.S is considered desirable, as it would defeat the purposes of balancing the settlement strategy.
- An additional increase of household allocations is not envisaged at this stage for any of the settlements, as the overall figures are considered adequate until the end of the plan period.
- Removal of all household caps for each settlement is not considered acceptable. It would result in the gravitation of households towards the G.T.P.S area and the east and west of the county would suffer as a direct consequence. Household allocations will contribute to strengthening small towns and villages and their surrounding hinterlands throughout the county, which can be seen for example in some of the following settlements: Letterfrack, Tullycross, Abbeyknockmoy, Mountbellew, Williamstown, Milltown, Attymon, Caltra, Woodford, Killeenadeema and Gorteeny.

- The provision of infrastructure by the public authority will be done in accordance with the most up-to-date Assessment of Needs Report from Water Services and the Roads Infrastructural Development Programmes of both the N.R.A & Galway Council County. Policies are included in the plan to make use of both public-private partnerships and private sector infrastructural proposals.
- 50% allocation to small settlements inside and outside the G.T.P.S relates only to the small settlements specified in the settlement hierarchy of the plan. Its inclusion in the plan caters for both one-off housing in the rural area and housing developments in the settlement centres over the plan period 2003-2009 in compliance with the settlement strategy.
- Tuam's hub status and its importance in the settlement hierarchy is reflected in Section 2.4 (page 24) of the plan. Galway County Council will take cognisance of any guideline document produced by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Hubs and their development.

Settlement Centres:

- Remove circles and proceed to prepare Action Area Plans for a number of towns and villages. Development proposals for each settlement will be considered on the basis of its connectivity, capacity (cultural, economic and social) and compliance with the settlement strategy, good design and proper planning and sustainable development.
- The settlements of Laraghmore, Newbridge, Newcastle, Maree and Briarhill will be formally included in the settlement hierarchy.

Action Area Plans:

- Action Area Plans to be included in the plan for Spidal & Roundstone. However, it should be noted that a Local Area Plan currently exists for Claregalway.

Ardaun:

- Galway County Council intend to working with the city to prepare a brief to examine options for the development of Ardaun.

Others:

- No individual case for development will be considered under this variation process of the County Development Plan.

Recommendation:

- No change to the revised total projected household growth figure of 16,200 under the settlement strategy over the County Development Plan period 2003-2009.
- No additional increase of household allocations for any specific settlement under the settlement strategy, as the overall figures is considered adequate until the end of the plan period.

- Household allocations will be reviews for the next development plan and will be based on the latest census figures available.
- No change to 50% household allocation to small settlements inside and outside the G.T.P.S.
- Removal of all settlement centre circles and rewrite **Policy 15** to indicated that all future developments will be assessed on the basis of its connectivity, capacity (cultural, economic and social) and compliance with the settlement strategy, good design and proper planning and sustainable development.
- A number of policies will need to be amended to take account of the removal of the settlement centre circles.
- The settlements of Laraghmore, Newbridge, Newcastle, Maree and Briarhill will be included in the settlement hierarchy.
- Include Action Area Plan for Roundstone and Spidal under Gaeltacht Section.
- No inclusion in Objective 7 of the plan for an Action Area Plan for Baile Clár na Gaillimhe.
- The insertion at Section 2.8 of the plan relating to Ardaun will remain.

Cllr Mannion requested figures on the total number of housing unit allocations used up from the adoption date of the County Development Plan 2003-2009 to date and the remaining capacity of housing units to 2009.

He stated that the Members now had an opportunity to get the housing allocation figures right but added that information was required on the total number of housing allocations to date for each area before informed decisions could be made and he proposed to adjourn the meeting until such information was available. Cllr M. Connolly seconded this proposal.

Cllr Regan proposed to proceed with the meeting with the information currently available.

Mr. Ridge stated that decisions could be quite readily made as the figures for each settlement centre are quite generous except for the areas around Galway city and added that there was no reason why the meeting could not proceed. Following a show of hands it was agreed to proceed with the meeting.

Cllr Regan stated that it was a waste of time allocating housing units to the 97 settlement centres without first ensuring that each area has adequate water and waste water facilities. Cllr Canney supported this issue in relation to the lack of infrastructure in the settlements centres.

Cllr Feeney proposed that Killimor, Woodford and Kinvara be allocated higher densities and be changed from settlement centres to Local services centres on the settlement hierarchy.

Cllr Burke stated that the house construction allocation had already reached capacity in Portumna and added that the number should be increased.

Mr. Ridge outlined the following figures which indicate the number of housing unit allocations remaining for the duration of this plan in the various settlement centres as follows,

Clifden 164, Carraroe 79, Barna 162, Spiddle 57, Moycullen 241, Oughterard 59.
Furbo, Knock, na Minna 342, Tully/Ballynahowen 116, Rosssaveal, Rosscahill 200.
Oranmore 186, Headford 116, Claregalway 91,
Tuam 1299, Mountbellew 99, Dunmore 79, Ballygar 93, Glenamaddy 127
Ballinasloe 82, Ahascragh 30, Monivea 165

On the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr Hoade it was agreed to accept the house construction allocation of 2,630 for the Oranmore Electoral area.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Tuairisg and seconded by Cllr O' Welby it was agreed to accept the house construction allocation of 3,350 for the Conamara Electoral Area.

On the proposal of Cllr D.Connolly and seconded by Cllr Mullins it was agreed to accept the house construction allocation of 1,550 for the Ballinasloe Electoral Area.

On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to accept the house construction allocation of 5200 for the Loughrea Electoral Area including an increase to 550 for the town of Portumna and also to move Kinvara, Woodford and Killimor to local service centres on the Settlement hierarchy.

Mr. Ridge explained if the cap for the settlement centre figures is reached prior to May 2009 the material contravention process can be used to overcome this eventuality.

It was agreed that there would be no change to the revised total projected household figure of 16,200 under the settlement strategy over the County Development Plan period 2003-2009.

Cllr. M. Connolly proposed that the housing allocation figures for the Milltown and Ballygluin settlement centres should be increased to 250 each. Cllr Reilly supported this proposal. Mr Ridge explained that these centres have not as yet reach near their capacity in the first 3 years of the plan He added that housing allocations in areas around Galway City may need to be capped due to development pressures but once you begin to move away from the city, settlement centres including Tuam town itself, would find it difficult to reach their housing allocation capacities.

Cllr.M.Connolly stated that due recognition was not given to the importance of the villages of Milltown and Ballygluin especially in light of the Western Rail Corridor and Transport 21.He stated that these areas should be allow to grow.

Cllr. M .Connolly stated that Milltown and Ballygluin must create critical masses for future transport policies as per the Dept of Transport.

Mr. Gallagher stated that the Dept of Transport was satisfied with the current proposals in the County Development Plan.

Cllr McHugh agreed that no development had taken place in Milltown in the last 3 years and he believed that it would not reach a housing capacity of 250.

Mr. Ridge stated that none of the 38 house construction allocations for Milltown had been taken up in the last 3 years.

Ms McConnell stated that 8 houses to the acre would not be allowed in the Milltown settlement centre or in any of the settlement centres. She added that developments must be appropriately designed and scaled for the settlement centres.

Cllr Connaughton requested details on the number of housing units that were granted in Mountbellew since 2003 and added that it would be detrimental for the town if adequate housing units were not allocated for the remainder of the Plan period. She stated that many housing developments in Mountbellew were phased and developers were interested in completing them.

Cllr M.Connolly also supported Cllr Connaughton's issue in relation to Mountbellew. He also added that he did not agree with the removal of the settlement centre circles.

Mr. Ridge stated that he agreed with increasing the housing allocation figures for the 4 local service centres in the Tuam area as these villages were beginning to attract developments.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh and seconded by Cllr T,Walsh it was agreed to accept the house construction allocation of 3,470 for the Tuam Electoral area including the following amendment to increase the total house construction allocation for the 4 local service centres of Mountbellew, Dunmore, Ballygar and Glenamaddy to 520 and to decrease the total of the small settlement/Rurals,inside the GTPS to 480.

It was proposed of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Canney to remove the settlement centre boundaries and to rewrite Policy 15 as follows," In the case of smaller settlements for which no specific plans are available, development shall be considered on the basis of it's connectivity, capacity (cultural, economic and social) and compliance with the settlement strategy, good design, and proper planning and sustainable development.

It was agreed also that a number of policies will need to be amended to take account of the removal of the settlement centre circles.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr Reilly to retain the settlement centre boundaries

Cllr Welby proposed that the Settlement centre boundaries be extended to 500m and any development outside of this be considered on the basis of it's connectivity, capacity and compliance with the settlement strategy, good design, and proper planning and sustainable development.

A vote was taken on Cllr Regan's proposal and the result of the vote was as follows:

AR SON: Cllr. Burke, Cllr Canney, Cllr Cannon Cllr Connaughton, Cllr Conneely, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr Feeney, Cllr Healy-Eames Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr McHugh , Cllr Mullins, Comh Ni Fhartharta, Comh O'Cuaig, Comh O'Tuairisg, Cllr Regan, Cllr S.Walsh, Cllr T. Walsh, Cllr Willers (19))

IN AGHAIDH:, Cllr M. Connolly, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr. Welby (3))

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Kyne, (2))

The Mayor declared Cllr Regan's proposal carried

Mr. Ridge stated that good samples of where connectivity had occurred in settlement centres in the past would be compiled shortly as a guidance document.

Cllr M.Connolly acknowledged that the settlement centre circles were now removed but he wished to present maps to the meeting outlining changes to the settlement centre boundaries for both Brownsgrrove and Ballygluuin. Mr Ridge explained that now that the boundaries were no longer defined that this proposal was not unacceptable but was irrelevant.

Mr. Connolly asked that it be recorded into the minutes.

Cllr Mullins stated that the settlement centre boundaries are now removed and that Cllr, M. Connolly's proposal was more appropriate for a preplanning meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr. Hoade it was agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation in relation to the inclusion of the settlements of Laraghmore, Newbridge, Newcastle and Briarhill in the Settlement hierarchy and to omit Maree from it.

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr Feeney it was agreed to include Raford, and Esker as settlement centres in the Settlement hierarchy.

On the proposal of Cllr Willers and seconded by Cllr Hynes it was agreed to include Castledaly, and Ballymanagh as settlement centres in the Settlement hierarchy.

On the proposal of Cllr S.Walsh and seconded by Cllr Kyne it was agreed to include Tullyokyne as a settlement centre in the in the Settlement hierarchy.

On the proposal of Cllr Mullins it was agreed to include Woodlawn as a settlement centre in the Settlement hierarchy.

On the proposal of Cllr Canney it was agreed that Cahergal be included as a settlement centre in the in the Settlement hierarchy.

Cllr. McHugh proposed that the Brownsgrrove settlement centre would move from its current location nearer to the Cortoon Settlement Centre.

It was agreed that the insertion of Section 2.8 of the plan relating to Ardaun would remain.

Cllr D.Connolly stated that he recognized the importance of Tuam's Hub status but added that many areas in the periphery must also be recognised as areas that need to be upgraded and developed.

Mr. Ridge stated that he agreed with Cllr Connolly's comments and added that this was very much at the heart of the proposed County Spatial Strategy, to treat the County as an entity identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each area and to allow the whole County develop in a balanced manner.

Cllr O'Cuaig also requested a mission statement to highlight the need for balanced development in both the east and west of the County. Mr. Ridge stated that this issue could be catered for in the proposed County Spatial Strategy but that it could not be dealt with at this point as it did not form part of any of the published variations.

Issue 2 – Retail Strategy

Addressed by:

Submissions 2, 25, 50, 66 & 69.

Summary:

- County Retail Strategy is out of date and should not be adopted. At present the retail floorspace thresholds have been exceeded and a more comprehensive analysis of the existing and required retail facilities in the county needs to be undertaken (Submission 2, 25, 50 & 69).
- Retail Strategy is too restrictive (Submission 66).

Response:

- It is accepted that the retail data included in the Retail Strategy should be updated, however, the purpose of adopting the retail strategy at this stage is to

establish the concept of a hierarchy of retail in the county, to establish the principles of sequential development and to allow an promote healthy competition in the retail sector. The joint retail strategy between Galway County Council and Galway City Council will be updated for the new county development plan (2009 – 2015) in conjunction with the city council.

- The retail strategy is not restrictive and is not being used to restrict healthy competition in the retail sector.

Recommendation:

- Adopt the Retail Strategy, as proposed under Variation 1.

Discussion took place in relation to the restrictive retail floor space thresholds for the county in the Draft County Retail Strategy and the need for a more updated retail strategy in line with the new census figures and it was decided not to accept the draft county retail strategy.

On the proposal of Cllr Mullins and seconded by Cllr Healy Eames it was agreed to reject the recommendation in the Manager's Report and not to include the County Retail Strategy as a variation to the County Development Plan 2003-2009.

Issue 3 – Rural Enterprise Centres

Addressed by:

Submissions 8, 22, 30, 42, 43,47, 52 & 53.

Summary:

- The first paragraph of **Section 2.12 Rural Enterprise Centres** (page 50) - To be revised to define rural enterprise as 'business or small scale industrial projects & services that cater for the needs of a predominately rural client base' (Submission 8).
- The last paragraph of **Section 2.12** - To be reworded to accommodate the expansion of established rural based enterprises and also to promote entrepreneurial development within the county (Submission 8).
- Definition of rural enterprise (Section 2.12 page 50) to be altered to (a) reflect many large scale industrial and commercial enterprises, which are effectively and sustainably operating in the rural area and (b) Include technology based enterprises and other campus based industries at rural locations (Submission 43, 52 & 53).
- Rural Based Enterprises Centres to be identified throughout the county, as part of the variation process or at least a mechanism for the identification of these centres to be set out (Submissions 43, 52 & 53).

- To provide industrial and science & technology development on lands available for development in villages, towns and rural areas (Submission 30).
- All cottage type and light to medium industry currently located in rural areas, villages and small towns to be regularised (Submission 30).
- A specific objective to be included in the plan which would acknowledge the potential of the land opposite Galway Airport (existing petrol station and supermarket) in supporting the important regional function the Airport and in addition to facilitate the development of these lands for commercial uses complimentary to the transport node.
- Lands in Carnmore East to be recognised as a suitable location to provide rural enterprise (Submission 43).
- Policy statement in the County Development Plan to support expansion and diversification of large scale industrial uses in rural areas (Submission 43).
- Proposal to designate land beside Galway Truck Centre, Keane's Garden Centre off the N84 (Headford Road) for industrial purposes (Submission 47).
- Lands located approx. 6km north of Gort town centre to be designated as a rural enterprise centre (Submission 52).
- Lands in Burgettstown (map included) to be designated as a Rural Based Enterprise Centre (Submission 53).
- To include an objective to allow commercial/industrial services outside lands zoned for those specific uses (Submission 22).
- Proposal to cease operation of an existing Garden Centre and replace with a retirement village (Submission 64).

Response:

- In general, new and expanding rural-based enterprises will be encouraged to locate in towns, villages and settlement centres throughout the county. However, provisions will be made under **Section 2.12 Rural Enterprise Centres** (page 50) of the plan to consider on a case by case basis new and existing local indigenous enterprises in the rural area under the following specific criteria: (a) Nature of the development, (b) Compatibility with the unserviced rural area, (c) Scale of development, (d) Substantiated need to locate in rural area, (e) Friendly neighbour principle, (f) Social, Economic & Environment Impacts, (g) Traffic Volumes, (h) Road capacity, (i) Re-use of existing buildings, (j) Re-use of brownfield sites.
- No individual case for development will be considered under this variation process of the County Development Plan.

Recommendation:

- Amend Section 2.12 of the plan to take account of new and existing local indigenous enterprises in the rural area and include specific criteria, against which such enterprises will be assessed.
- Criteria to include: (a) Nature of the development, (b) Compatibility with the unserviced rural area, (c) Scale of development, (d) Substantiated need to locate in rural area, (e) Friendly neighbour principle, (f) Social, Economic &

Environment Impacts, (g) Traffic Volumes, (h) Road capacity, (i) Re-use of existing buildings, (j) Re-use of brownfield sites.

On the proposal of Cllr Ní Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr. O'Tuairisg it was agreed to amend the wording in Section 2.12 (now Section 2.18) as shown below and to include the criteria as outlined in part 2 of the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Rural Enterprise can be defined as business or small scale industrial projects and services which are related to normal rural activities and cater for the needs of a predominantly rural client base. Examples would include animal feed depots, trailer making, farm produce processing or packing, organic or artisan food production, etc.

Policy 23 Small scale enterprises, which applicants seek to establish in rural areas in which the applicant is resident which can be accommodated in existing farm buildings or can be established on brownfield sites and which are not suitable or where the applicant can demonstrate, with documentary evidence, would not be viable on industrial or commercially zoned lands in towns and villages will be considered on individual merit. Criteria that will be considered will include:

- (a) scale of development (number of employees, scale of buildings required)
- (b) nature of the development
- (c) "good neighbour" principles (compatibility with agricultural land uses and impact on existing residences)
- (d) impact on road network, road capacity and traffic levels.
- (e) General suitability in the unserved rural area.
- (f) Substantiated need to locate in rural areas
- (g) Consideration of Social, Economic & Environment Impacts
- (h) Re-use of existing buildings
- (i) Re-use of brownfield sites

In general, existing commercial or industrial activities in towns and villages will not be permitted to re-locate to unserved rural areas. Where established, authorised rural based enterprises seek to expand they will be accommodated by the local authority. Galway County Council in co-operation with the City & County Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Udaras na Gaeltachta, Galway Rural Development & other developments agencies, will actively promote entrepreneurial developments within the County as a whole. People setting up small businesses will be accommodated where suitable premises can be located.

On the proposal of Cllr Hoade and seconded by Cllr Cuddy it was agreed to state that "certain resource industries are more suited to rural than urban environments.

These along with their associated service industries should be considered favourably in rural areas".

Cllr. Welby and Cllr. Cannon requested that crèches also be included in the list in section 2.12 (now Section 2.18) which outlines services related to normal rural activities.

Mr. Ridged advised that the provision of crèche facilities was already provided for in different sections of the County Development Plan and advised against including it in Section 2.18 as this section dealt with rural enterprise development.

Issue 4 – Economic Infrastructure

Addressed by:

Submissions 7, 8, 13, 21, 22, 33, & 66.

Summary:

Strategic Corridor:

- To include Galway Airport within the Strategic Economic Corridor (pages 54 & 55) (Submission 33).
- Recreational & Amenity 'to be permissible' in the Strategic Development Corridor instead of 'open to consideration' (Submission 13).

Roads & Transportation:

- Road and Transportation policies (page 58 & 59) - To identify roads to be upgraded to regional status and include an objective to carry out a feasibility study with bus service providers to serve rural communities (Submission 8).
- To improve road & transportation infrastructure to Tuam to enable the town to develop its full potential as a 'Hub' (Submission 66).
- To include a policy in relation to roadside poles and other infrastructure (Submission 32).
- To include an objective for the provision of a Park 'n' Ride at Hunters Caravan Park (City Council) (Submission 22).

Airport:

- To include Galway Airport within the Strategic Economic Corridor (pages 54 & 55) (Submission 33).
- Recognise the role which Galway Airport plays in the local and regional economy (Submissions 7 & 8);
- Protect, enhance and safeguard the existing Galway Airport site including the flight path (Submissions 7 & 8);
- Preserve the future airport site including the future flight paths (Submissions 7 & 8);
- Allow for the expansion of the airport runway at the existing or an alternative future site and to facilitate the future development of the Airport and in addition to facilitate the development of the airport which is an important modal interchange within the region (Submissions 7 & 8).
- To support **Submission 7** from Corrib Airport Ltd and insure that all current and future operations of the airport to be safeguarded and facilitated (Submission 33).

Waste Management:

- **Section 2.3.9 Waste Management** (page 64) - To be rewritten to reflect the recent adoption of the Connacht Waste Management Plan (Submission 8).
- To include an objective for the provision of a municipal effluent treatment system for Barna (Submission 21).
- Include a short term objective to ensure that all buildings within the Barna plan area and Environs are connected to municipal effluent treatment system (Submission 22).
- Galway County Council to seek a population equivalent of 10,000 units from Galway City Council (Mutton Island) to serve Barna and its Environs (Submission 22).
- To include an objective for the provision of a pumping station for Barna (Submission 22).
- To provide public infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships (Submission 66).
- Provision of a pilot resource recovery park in Gort (Submission 8).
- To include an objective for the provision of recycling depots to be provided in all towns & villages in the county (Submission 22).
- To include an objective to ensure that 70% of all landfill bound waste to be recycled (Submission 22).

Information & Communication Technology:

- County Development Plan to include an additional Information and Communication Technology Policy (page 67) - To ensure that any multi-national telecommunication company seeking planning permission should place a public notice in both national and local papers (Submission 8).

Response:

Strategic Corridor:

- Not to expand the strategic corridor to include Galway Airport.
- Include recreational and amenity as being permissible in the Strategic Development Corridor.

Roads and Transportation:

- Galway County Council welcome and support the particular commitment therein to reopening the Western Rail Corridor and to the development of rail services within the county. In this regard, it should be noted that the Council has adopted local area plans for Tuam, Athenry, Gort and Oranmore. Policies and objectives within these plans compliment and support the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor. The Council will continue to monitor closely, progress in the opening of the Western Rail Corridor and the implications for development arising therefrom.'

- The provision of a Park 'n' Ride facility at Hunter's Caravan Park can't be considered by Galway County Council at this stage, as the caravan park is located outside the jurisdiction of Galway County Council. However, on-going discussions of joint transport committee may consider this matter.
- The identification of roads to be upgraded to Regional status is a matter to be discussed at the respective Area Committees and a specific objective will not be included under the variation of the plan.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are preparing guidelines on the development of hubs such as Tuam, which will deal with the issue of infrastructure within the hub.
- In relation to roadside poles, this issue should be considered at the respective Local Area Committees for resolution.

Airport:

- Galway County Council acknowledges the important role Galway Airport plays in the local and regional economy and accordingly an additional paragraph will be added to **Section 2.29 Roads and Transportation** to reflect the airports importance.

Waste Management

- Section 2.39 Waste Management will be amended to reflect the recent adoption of the Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006-2010.
- All submission in relation to recycling facilities for County Galway will be considered under the Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006-2010.
- Policy 64 of the plan includes provisions to provide waste related infrastructure through public private partnerships, non-profit companies, direct provision and any other arrangement.
- All submissions in relation to Barna should be considered under the Barna Local Area Plan, which is currently at pre-draft stage. However, the increase in effluent capacity at Mutton Island to serve Barna should be considered jointly with the City Council under the Galway Main Drainage Program Stage 3.

Information & Communication Technology:

- Telecommunication Masts- Provisions are included in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, in relation to public notices associated with development requiring planning permission.

Recommendation:

- Expand **Section 2.29 (Roads and Transportation)** of the plan to acknowledge the importance of Galway Airport.
- Amend Section 2.39 Waste Management and sub-subsections and policies to reflect the recent adoption of the Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006-2010.

- Include recreational and amenity as being permissible in the Strategic Development Corridor.

Cllr. D.Connelly requested a provision be included in the Plan for the enhancement of civic amenity centres and a facility for dealing with the disposal of farm plastics. Mr. Ridge explained that it was not possible to include it in the Plan at this juncture as it was not part of the published variations. He added that these issues can be introduced at the review stage of the County Development plan.

Cllr. Cannon requested that the wording in Section 39.2 (now Section 3.10.2) of the Varied County Development Plan be amended. Mr. Ridge explained that this was not part of the published variations and could not be amended through this process but that there would be an opportunity to bring this issue forward during the review of the County Development Plan in 2007.

Mr. Ridge explained that not all of the issues raised in the submission made by the Councillors could be included in the County Development as some did not form part of the published variations and therefore could not be considered at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr O’Cuaig it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager’s Report in relation to Issue 4-Economic Infrastructure.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Cuaig and seconded by Cllr O’Tuairisg it was agree to include an objective in relation to facilitating and supporting the new road to Connamara. Facilitate the development of a new strategic route along the Cois Fharriage corridor from Galway to Rossaveal.

Issue 5 – Housing

Submitted by:

Submissions 6, 8, 11, 13, 18, 19, 24, 29, 34 & 35.

Summary:

- Locals to be defined as ‘An applicant who is seeking planning within 8km radius of his/her home having lived there a minimum of 7 years (Submission 8).
- A person with a minimum of 5 years working within the 15km zone with blood relations in the area and social & educational ties to the area should qualify to live in the area (Submission 18).
- Locals within the ‘urban fringes’ to be granted planning permission, subject to normal considerations (Submission 35).
- New policy to be included to allow essential housing needs on family lands to override landscape sensitivity (Submission 34).

- Landscape Sensitivity Rating not to be used to prevent family members securing planning within close proximity to family support (medical condition). (Submission 11).
- Require distinction to be made between areas where there exists a high incidence of holiday homes/2nd family homes and those where there is not (Submission 29)
- To ensure provision will be made for local housing need/full time occupancy on housing developments (Submission 29).
- **Policy 88** (page 74) - '15km zone to be measured by road', to remain in the County Development Plan (Submission 8).
- **Policy 94** (page 75) - Enurement period to be reduced from 10 years to 7 years, as recommended in the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (Submissions 8 & 69).
- Clarity required from the Director of Services regarding the definition of the enurement clause (Submission 8).
- **Policy 87** (page 74) - To accommodate the need of both those who reside in towns and villages satellite towns, where only land available is in the rural area and those who purchase a farm and are actively involved in farming (Submission 24).
- **Policy 12** (Refurbishment of existing derelict structures: page 48) and **Policy 92** (Replacement of an existing dwelling house: page 75) – To be amalgamated and reworded (suggested rewording) to include no housing need or enurement clause (Submission 2, 6 & 24).
- Galway County Council to set up task force to deal with derelict buildings in towns and villages (Submission 19).
- Need to vigorously enforce **policies 10, 11 & 12** (pages 47 & 48) (Submission 19).

Response:

- The definition of local will be amended to take account of the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (Variation 3).
- The 7 year enurement clause period, as set out under the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines are only recommended. Galway County Council do not consider the 10 years enurement clause period within the County Development Plan an issue for genuine locals.
- All planning applications in area where special planning controls exist will be assessed within the housing need categories specified in the current County Development Plan.
- Policy 12 and Policy 92 are not linked and Policy 12 refers to derelict structures and Policy 92 refers to existing structures.

Recommendation:

- Amend local definition to comply with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.
- No change to 10 year enurement clause period.

- Policy 12 to remain unchanged and Policy 92 to be slightly altered to include 'vacated house shall not be used for human habitation'.
- No change to existing policies in relation to area where special planning controls exist in the county.

Mr. Ridge stated that there was a very good planning system in place ; the extension of time procedure was allowing for transparency and gives the applicant a tremendous opportunity to rectify whatever problems arise with their planning application.

He added that the Planning Authority was endeavoring to achieve balanced development throughout the county.

He outlined this by giving the number of planning decisions granted before and after the adoption of the 2003-2009 County Development Plan inside and outside the Galway Transportation and Planning study.

Nos. of Planning permissions granted 00-03	8,600
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 03-06	7,314
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 00-03, inside 15km	1,400
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 03-06, inside 15km	881
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 00-03, inside GTPS	6,100
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 03-06, inside GTPS	4,200
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 00-03, outside GTPS	2,400
Nos. of Planning permissions granted 03-06, outside GTPS	3,100

He added that these statistics show that development has being successfully brought out to the weaker parts of the county and advised the Members that this must be allowed to enhance further.

Mr. Ridge stated that account must be taken of the Ministerial Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing in relation to the development of Rural Housing and added that the County Development Plan restrictions had been more liberal. He also added that the Ministerial Guidelines have stated not to be over prescriptive.

He stated that it was imperative that whatever was decided must be good for the County as a whole.

Cllr Mannion proposed that in relation to Policy 87 (now Policy 90) the following definition of local should be applied, "an applicant who is seeking planning within 8km (5 miles) radius of his/her home having lived there for a minimum of 7 years"

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Healy Eames.

Mr. Ridge stated that this contravenes the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Proper Planning and Sustainable Development. The Guidelines do not prescribe what is meant by "local".

Mr. Ridge explained that each Planning application is examined firstly to ensure it is in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, secondly that it has regard to the various Ministerial guidelines and finally that it complies with the provisions of the County Development Plan. Each application is dealt with on a case by case basis. He added that he accepted that a limited number of planning applications cause difficulty but added that the vast numbers of grants issued each year cannot be ignored.

Mr. Mannion added that if the applicant does not have a house in his/her native area to live in that a son or daughter do they should be accommodated on family lands under this policy.

He explained that the proposed 8km from the family home definition for local would cause more movement towards Galway city from the Ballinasloe area and the east of the county, setting back the work of the National Spatial Strategy policy by 4 years.

Mr. Ridge presented a map to the meeting identifying the pressure areas both inside and outside the GTPS area. He suggested the restrictions outside the GTPS except in classes 3, 4, and 5 would no longer apply. In areas in class 1 and 2 in the east of the County it would not be necessary to substantiate that the applicant is a local.

Cllr Cuddy stated that showing intrinsic links to an area should not be a requirement to getting planning permission if the site in question is on family lands.

Cllr. Cannon stated that in relation to Part (d) of Policy 87 (now 90), relevant documentation from either a registered medical practitioner **or** a disability organisation proving that a person requires to live in a particular environment **or** close to family support, or requires a family member to live in close proximity to that person should be sufficient, both should not be required. He also added that in this instance a family member should also be defined as the brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild of the person with such exceptional health circumstances

Mr. Ridge explained that the wording in the published variation was directly from the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities and advised that it should remain the same. He added that Planning was not about judging a disability or a medical condition.

Mr. Gallagher stated that requesting a letter from both the registered medical practitioner **and** a disability organization is reasonable and achievable and added that if this was the only barrier in question for a grant of planning permission he would be quiet confident that it could be overcome.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Cuddy it was agreed to amend the published 2(d) of Policy 87 (Now Policy 90) by amending it to include the following statement, ".....or requires a family member to live in close proximity to that person .In this instance a family member shall be defined as the brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, nephew, or grandchild of the person with such exceptional health circumstances."

A vote was taken on Cllr O'Cannon's proposal and the result of the vote was as follows:

AR SON: Cllr Canney, Cllr Cannon, Cllr Conneely, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Feeney, Cllr Healy-Eames Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr Mannion, Cllr McHugh Comh Ni Fhartharta, Comh O'Cuaig, Comh O'Tuairisg Cllr Regan, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr S.Walsh, Cllr. Welby, Cllr Willers (19)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr. Burke, Cllr Kyne, (2)

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr Mullins, Cllr T. Walsh (3)

The Mayor declared Cllr Cannon's proposal carried.

It was proposed by Cllr Ni Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr Conneely that the immediate family of returning emigrants should also be accommodated under Policy 87 (now 90) of the published variations.

Cllr Ni Fhartharta added that if the emigrant does not come home to his/her native area to live but that a son or daughter do they should be accommodated on family lands under this policy.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Cuaig and seconded by Cllr O’Tuairisg it was agreed to amend Policy 87 (now Policy 90) as put forward by Mr. Ridge “Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved abroad and who now wish to return and build their first house, in this local area, to retire and reside near other family members” by including the following statement “Special consideration will be given to the immediate family of emigrants returning to this local area”.

A vote was taken on Cllr O’Cuaig’s proposal and the result of the vote was as follows:

AR SON: Cllr Conneely, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr Mannion, Comh Ni Fhartharta, Comh O’Cuaig, Comh O’Tuairisg Cllr Regan, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr S.Walsh, Cllr. Welby, (12)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr. Burke, Cllr Canney, Cllr Connaughton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr Feeney, Cllr Healy-Eames, Cllr McHugh, Cllr T. Walsh, Cllr Willers (9)

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr Cannon, Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Kyne, Cllr Mullins, (4)

The Mayor declared Cllr O’Cuaig’s proposal carried

Mr. Ridge stated that if restrictions exist for locals in a particular area, the same restrictions should also apply to the sons and daughters of returning immigrants.

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr Regan it was agreed that applicants whose family home encroaches within the urban fringes of the towns of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam should also be facilitated within the Urban fringe.

It was agreed to change the existing Policy 87 (now policy 90) incorporating the above proposals as outlined below,

Policy 90: In determining whether an application within the Galway Transportation and Planning Study (GTPS) area is intended to meet a genuine rural generated housing need, the provisions of the “Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (Appendix 6) shall be considered. The following factors will also be considered on the documentary evidence presented on a case by case basis.

- a) Those applicants with links to the area through long standing existing close family ties seeking to develop their first home on existing family farm holdings.

or

- b) Those applicants who have no family lands but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing links and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives (i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area and have existing close family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area). Having established a substantiated rural housing need, such persons making an application on a site within an 8km radius of their original family home will be considered favourably, subject to normal development control criteria and provided the site is not closer to Galway city than the original family home or encroaches within the urban fringe of the towns of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry or Tuam.

or

- c) Those applicants who are functionally dependant on a part time or full time basis on the immediate rural area in which they are seeking to develop. Employment in neighbouring towns or villages will not in itself qualify an applicant as having a rural generated housing need.

or

- d) Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved abroad and who now wish to return and build their first house, in this local area, to reside near other family members. Special consideration will be given to the immediate family of emigrants returning to this local area.

or

- e) Special consideration shall be given to cases of exceptional health circumstances – supported by relevant documentation from a registered medical practitioner and a disability organisation proving that a person requires to live in a particular environment or close to family support, or requires a family member to live in close proximity to that person. In that instance a family member shall be defined as the brother, sister, son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild of the person with such exceptional health circumstances.

or

- f) A Language Enurement will not apply to housing developments of two or more houses in those District Electoral Divisions of the Gaeltacht where less than 20% of the population speak Irish on a daily basis based on the 2002 Census data.

A Language Enurement clause will be applied on a proportion of houses (in housing developments of two or more houses) inside the GTPS boundary subject to the minimum percentage described above. This proportion will be determined by reference to the percentage of persons in the relevant District Electoral Division, using the Irish Language on a daily basis, in accordance with the 2002 Census data.

The position of the Irish Language in the areas outside the GTPS boundary, which is predominantly contained within the Clár area, will be protected by restricting the qualification to buy houses in housing developments of two or more houses to the following categories:

- Local people as defined in the County Development Plan.
- People who are employed, self employed, are creating employment in the area provided that work is expected to be on a long term basis.
- Returning emigrants for the area or people returning to the area from other parts of Ireland.
- The immediate family members of emigrants and migrants.
- Irish speakers.

Policy to be reviewed in the next review of the County Development Plan.

DED Number	DED Name	Percentage Population aged 3+ who speak Irish Daily
DED 022	Bencorr	14.6%
DED 031	Illion	31.7%
DED 033	Knockboy	81.4%
DED 034	Moyrus	9.2%
DED 035	Owengowla	75.2%
DED 037	Roundstone	8.9%
DED 039	Skannive	92.2%
DED 040	Annaghdown	10.8%
DED 042	Ballintemple (pt)	12.4%
DED 044	Bearna (pt)	24.6%
DED 046	Carnmore	16.8%
DED 047	Carrowbrowne(pt)	18.8%
DED 048	Claregalway	12.6%
DED 051	Furbogh	39.3%
DED 053	Inishmore	81.9%
DED 054	Kilcummin	84.4%
DED 055	Killannin	78.4%
DED 056	Lackaghbeg	10.0%
DED 058	Lisheenavalla	9.8%
DED 059	Maigh Cuilinn	21.8%
DED 061	Selerna	82.8%
DED 062	Slieveaneena	33.2%
DED 063	Spiddle	68.0%
DED 065	Tullokyne	20.1%
DED 149	Camus	90.9%
DED 150	Cloonbur	19.7%
DED 151	Cong	40.8%
DED 152	Crumpaun	88.2%
DED 153	Cur	30.4%
DED 154	Gorumna	92.2%
DED 155	Kilcummin	52.6%
DED 156	Letterbrickaun	7.4%
DED 158	Lettermore	88.9%
DED 160	Ross	61.0%
DED 161	Turlough	85.7%

Table 4-1 Percentage of the population aged 3 years and over who speak Irish daily in the Gaeltacht DEDs

Source Census 2002 Data

It should be noted that with reference to (b) above this provision shall include people who are indigenous to the urban fringes of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam. It should also be noted with reference to (b) above that in recognition of the restriction of mountains and sea along the Cois Fharraige coast west of An Spidéal plan boundary, applicants will be permitted to move in an easterly direction towards Galway within 8km of their original family home.

Sites for eligible applicants in categories (a) – (f) above will be required to comply with other detailed planning requirements such as visual amenity, assimilation, siting, house design, site development, traffic safety and public health, etc.

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr Regan it was agreed to accept amended Policy 88 (now Policy 91).

On the proposal of Cllr Kyne and seconded by Cllr M.Connolly it was agreed to amend Policy 92 to the following, " Applicants, who require the demolition or replacement of an existing dwelling house, shall be accommodated without the requirement to establish a Housing Need or proof of residence and will not be subject to an enurement clause. Where existing dwellings are vacated they shall not be used for human habitation.

In relation to the demolition or the replacement of an existing dwelling Cllr. S. Walsh stated that the policy should accommodate the person who wants to build a second home when they have the resources regardless of whether the house that is being vacated is habitable or not and also that a housing need should not be required.

Ms McConnell stated that demolishing a perfectly good house is unsustainable.

Cllr Mullins stated that demolishing perfectly good houses is morally wrong and not sustainable.

Cllr D. Connolly stated that allowing the demolition of perfectly good well insulated houses to facilitate the building of huge urban style houses was not what was being promoted but rather to rebuild a substandard house.

Mr. Ridge stated that the generality and scope of this clause is too broad.

Cllr Burke stated that an enurement clause would determine who is and who is not a genuine applicant and would safeguard Cllr Kyne's proposal and be for the greater good of the entire community.

Cllr M.Connolly stated that an enurement clause should not be attached.

A vote was taken on Cllr Kyne's proposal and the result of the vote was as follows:

AR SON: Cllr. Burke, Cllr Canney, Cllr Connaughton, Cllr Conneely, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr Cuddy, , Cllr Feeney, Cllr Healy-Eames Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr Kyne, Cllr Mannion, Cllr McHugh , Cllr Mullins, Comh Ni Fhartharta, Comh O'Cuaig, Comh O'Tuairisg, Cllr Regan, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr S.Walsh, Cllr T. Walsh Cllr. Welby, , Cllr Willers (23))

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr Cannon , (1))

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr D. Connolly, (1))

The Mayor declared Cllr Kyne's proposal carried

On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr M.Connolly it was agreed to change the enurement clause period from 10 years to 7 years (Policy 93).

On the proposal of Cllr Ní Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr Regan it was agreed that a report be prepared for the September meeting detailing the process by which lifetime enurements can be released.

Cllr. S.Walsh asked if they as the Planning Authority could remove the lifetime enurements when the condition states "as otherwise agreed with the Planning Authority"

Mr. Ridge stated that a condition of planning permission cannot be removed.

Cllr Mannion asked why Policy 83, the definition and text of the enurement clause was proposed to be deleted.

Mr. Ridge explained that the wording is incorrect as it applied to every type of planning permission which was not correct and also that it was not appropriate for it to be included in the County Development Plan now or at any time in the future as the County Development Plan deals with policy. Enurements should not be predetermined.

Cllr Mannion stated that he now had no idea what type of enurement clause would apply to planning permissions within the GTPS area.

Mr. Ridge stated that it should be possible to change the wording of the enurement clause as the need arises and where appropriate.

Cllr Mannion requested that the criteria for housing need should be in writing.

Mr. Ridge stated that the criteria is outlined in both the County Development Plan and the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.

On the proposal of Cllr Cannon and seconded by Cllr McHugh it was agreed to accept the inclusion of the "Design guidelines for the single rural house"

On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr McHugh it was agreed that rural housing allocations would not be capped.

Issue 6 – Agriculture & Mariculture

Addressed by:

Submissions 8, 11 & 13.

Summary:

- **New Agricultural Policy** (pages 91 & 92) - To allow farmers to build large multi-purpose farm buildings in favour of a number of small farm buildings (Submission 8).
- **Policy 168** (page 94) - To acknowledge Rossaveal as a major potential in relation to industrial development and to include an objective to carry out a feasibility study in relation to alternative uses of Rossaveal (Submission 11).
- New policy to support in the objectives and actions of the inter-agency County Committee of Agricultural and Rural Development with due consideration of Policies 156-162 (Submission 13).

Response:

- All agricultural related planning applications will be assessed on their merits in the context of the County Development Plan by the Development Control Unit of the Planning Authority and no policy change is envisaged under the plan.
- Galway County Council recognise the importance of Rossaveal. However, no specific policy/objective change is envisaged under the plan at this stage.

- Galway County Council supports the objectives and actions of the inter-agency County Committee of Agricultural and Rural Development, however, no change is envisaged to the existing agricultural policies in the plan.

Recommendation:

- No change to the plan.

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

Issue 7 – Tourism

Addressed by:

Submissions 8, 13, 24, 39 & 67.

Summary:

- Replace **Policy 193** (page 98) - To allow extra Caravan or Mobile Holiday Parks to locate in popular tourist areas, where existing parks are at full capacity (Submission 8).
- **Policy 194** (page 98) - To state that positive considerations should be given to the improvement and extension of existing tourism facilities (Submission 24).
- To include the following additional objective - " To facilitate the existing integrated tourism and recreational complex of Bearna Golf & Country Club. Provide for the development of hotel, leisure centre, conference centre, golf apartments and houses, apart-hotel and associated residential units' (Submission 67).
- Adjoining landowners to Lough Corrib to be allowed to build a pier for berthing boat(s) (Submission 39).
- Update profile on Tourism to include the County Development Board's Review and profile (Submission 13).
- New policy to support strategic recommendations in Developing Sustainable Tourism in Galway – A Framework for Action 2002-2012 and action plan of the Galway Tourism Forum with due consideration of policies 175-195 (Submission 13).

Response:

- Caravan or Mobile Holiday Parks should be located in or adjoining small towns, villages and settlement centres and should have regard to the existing character of the settlement.

- Policy 193 restricts the provision of any new caravan or camping sites outside the designated settlement centres throughout the county and no change is envisaged to this policy.
- Galway County Council support the strategic recommendations in Developing Sustainable Tourism in Galway from the Galway Tourism Forum, however, no change is envisaged at this stage of the plan. It must be noted that a review of the current County Development Plan will begin in 2007.
- No specific objective will be included in this plan to facilitate a large scale development for Barna Golf & Country Club.

Recommendation:

- No change to the plan.

Mr. Ridge stated that submission in relation to caravan and mobile holiday parks did not relate to any of the published variations and could not be considered at this juncture. He added however that guidance documents in relation to Caravan parks and mobile homes would be prepared at a later stage.

On the proposal of Cllr Kyne and seconded by Cllr McHugh it was agreed to include the following objective (objective 68) in the County Development Plan,

“Facilitate the development of the existing integrated tourism and recreational complex at Bearna Golf and Country Club includes for the development of a hotel, leisure centre, conference centre, golf apartments and houses, apart-hotel and associated residential units.”

Mr. Ridge stated that it was a well put together submission but added that it did not relate to any of the published variations and therefore it was not appropriated to consider it.

Cllr McHugh suggested that it could relate to the variation for the County Settlement Strategy.

Cllr Hynes stated that he supported Cllr Kyne’s proposal.

Mr. Gallagher stated that it must be clear that proposals relate to one of the published variations and advised that Cllr Kyne’s proposal did not clearly relate to any of the published variations.

Cllr Mullins stated that Cllr Kyne’s proposal had been proposed and seconded and agreed to be included in the County Development Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr.Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Canney it was agreed to amend Policy 189 (now 188) to the following,

“The clustering of appropriately scaled holiday home development in or adjoining small towns and villages is preferred and appropriate tourism infrastructure developments (deemed suitable under the provisions of Policy 177 of the County Development Plan) are preferred. The Council also recognises that golf courses and certain other tourism infrastructure facilities listed in Policy 177 cannot be provided as stand alone developments and that ancillary facilities (e.g. club houses, hotel, and residential accommodation/development) are frequently required to ensure long term viability. Where the provision of such facilities meet the other requirements of the County Development Plan as set out and the requirements of proper planning and sustainable development it is the policy of the Council to support the provision of same subject to the submission of the following, (1) Comprehensive justification of need of the facility, (2) Overall master plan of the

facility, and (3) Documentary evidence of compliance with the other requirements of the development Plan here set out."

Mr. Ridge stated that this proposal did not clearly relate to the published variations and could not be considered.

Cllr Canney stated that it related to tourism in the County, and added that golf courses can not survive on their own but could with the addition of holiday homes or retirement homes which in turn could promote tourism. He added that it was providing holiday accommodation in rural areas.

Mr. Ridge explained that permitting housing developments around golf courses in order to make the golf course financially viable was not in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

Cllr Hoade stated that there was a great demand for golf courses in the County.

Mr. Gallagher stated that it was outside the scope of the published variations and it was not possible to consider it under the terms of the published variations.

Mr. Murphy stated that it would be necessary to seek legal advice on the validity of these proposals.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr Kyne it was agreed to amend Policy 200 (now 199) by including the following, "Rural families who require berth facilities adjacent to their own land will be facilitated."

Cllr Conneely supported Cllr. Walsh's proposal.

Mr. Ridge explained again that Policy 200 (now 199) did not relate to any of the published variations and could not be considered.

Mr. Ridge advised the Members that the whole validity of the plan may be challenged.

Mr. Gallagher stated that the Members had been advised before making their decisions that these proposals did not form part of the published variations.

Mr. Conneely stated that this advice was not given at the area committee meetings.

Mr. Ridge explained that he allowed all submissions that were received on the proposed variations to the County Development Plan to be considered at the area meetings; however he added that these meetings were not statutory but that the Full Council meeting was a statutory meeting.

Community Services:

Issue 8 – Social Community and Cultural

Addressed by:

Submissions 4, 8, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 44, 49, & 70.

Summary:

Gaeltacht:

- Galway County Council has done pioneering work in protecting Irish as a community language in the Gaeltacht under the current County Development Plan.

- Engage services of a socio-linguistic expert in relation to the best approach to take to ensure the plan's policies be effective regarding the preservation of the Irish Language in the Gaeltacht (Submission 14).
- Create a task group with representatives from Galway County Council and Udarás na Gaeltachta with the aim of monitoring the Council's strategy and to advise the planning office (Submission 14).
- Sub-condition of the Irish Language condition to state that any publicity regarding a residential unit being sold on the open market must indicate their language restraint (Submissions 14 & 15).
- Main parameters pertaining to the language condition to be mentioned specifically in the condition: the number of houses to come under the language condition, the standard of fluency required of the family (not only the head of the family) and the number of years in which the condition will be in effect.
- Condition of any business enterprise to indicate externally (sign) that services through Irish are available within the respective business (Submission 14 & 15).
- Developers building houses in the Gaeltacht to fill out a form stating that the houses must be sold to (1) people from the locality, (ii) native Irish Speakers, (iii) Irish speaking families wishing to move to a region where Irish is spoken (Submission 14 & 15).
- Planning Officers in the Gaeltacht to have Irish (Submission 14).
- Council to use An Bord Pleanála Irish language condition (Submission 15).
- Implementation of the Irish language condition is a big weakness of the planning system and enforcement on language condition needed (Submission 15).
- Ensure planning is granted to locals, people employed in the Gaeltacht area, returning emigrants and/or people contributing to the economic development of the Gaeltacht area, even if they don't have Irish (Submission 49).
- Supporting framework for teaching Irish (Submission 49).
- Paragraph to be included profiling Barna (Submission 13).
- Omit or greatly reduce the Irish language requirement for residential development in Claregalway (Submission 4).

Community Services:

- To include a policy to ensure that Galway County Council have regard to the disability issues addressed with the National Development Plan, the National Disability Strategy and impending National Social Partnership Agreement in the County Development Plan (Submission 44 & 70).
- Add to **Policy 214** (pg 104) - To include the following: 'Facilitate the provision of primary health care centres in rural population centres' (Submission 8).
- Add to **Policy 215** (pg 104) - To include the following: 'Facilitate planning for the educational needs of the county in conjunction with the Department of Education and Science' (Submission 8).

Recreational Amenity:

- Additional policy for Section 9.14 Recreation Amenity (page 105): 'Redress the imbalance in the provision of sporting and recreational facilities for women' (Submission 8).

- 50% of the Recreational and Amenity development contribution funds to be put towards the construction of well lit footpaths throughout towns and villages in the county (Submission 8).
- To include an objective for the provision of a promenade/pierside walk along the entire foreshore of Barna village (Submissions 21 & 22).
- Short term objective to acquire amenity lands for sporting facilities for the people of Barna (Submission 22).
- To include an objective for the provision of a promenade/pierside walk for Barna village (Submission 22).

Response:

Gaeltacht:

- No change is envisaged to the existing Gaeltacht provision of the plan.
- Issues raised relating to the Gaeltacht at this stage will be considered when the Gaeltacht Plan is being prepared.

Community Services:

- A policy will be included in the plan having regard to the disability issues addressed with the National Development Plan, the National Disability Strategy and impending National Social Partnership Agreement in the County Development Plan.
- The proposed additions to Policies 214 (Health Care Centres) and 215 (School Sites) will be incorporated into the plan.

Recreational Amenity:

- All submissions in relation to Barna should be considered under the Barna Local Area Plan, which is currently at pre-draft stage.

Recommendation:

- No change to Gaeltacht provisions in the plan.
- Policy 214 will be expanded to include the following: 'Facilitate the provision of primary health care centres in rural population centres'
- Policy 215 will be expanded to include the following: 'Facilitate planning for the educational needs of the county in conjunction with the Department of Education and Science.'
- A new policy will be included in the plan under Community Services (page 104) - To ensure Galway County Council have regard to the disability issues addressed in the National Development Plan, the National Disability Strategy and impending National Social Partnership Agreement in the County Development Plan.

Mr. Ridge stated that the Irish language was of intrinsic value to the Gaeltacht, Co. Galway and Ireland and any provision included in the County Development Plan should not be construed

negatively but should be seen as positive. He recommended that the issue of the Irish language could be dealt with under the Gaeltacht Plan but added that the Conamara councillors were not in agreement with this. He added that a number of meetings were held by the Conamara councillors culminating in a meeting held prior to this Council meeting which resulted in agreeing to include the following in the plan under Section 4.9, Policy 90 (part f)

(f) A Language Enurement will not apply to housing developments of two or more houses in those District Electoral Divisions of the Gaeltacht where less than 20% of the population speak Irish on a daily basis based on the 2002 Census data.

A Language Enurement clause will be applied on a proportion of houses (in housing developments of two or more houses) inside the GTPS boundary subject to the minimum percentage described above. This proportion will be determined by reference to the percentage of persons in the relevant District Electoral Division, using the Irish Language on a daily basis, in accordance with the 2002 Census data.

The position of the Irish Language in the areas outside the GTPS boundary, which is predominantly contained within the Clár area, will be protected by restricting the qualification to buy houses in housing developments of two or more houses to the following categories:

- Local people as defined in the County Development Plan.
- People who are employed, self employed, are creating employment in the area provided that work is expected to be on a long term basis.
- Returning emigrants for the area or people returning to the area from other parts of Ireland.
- The immediate family members of emigrants and migrants.
- Irish speakers.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Tuairisg and seconded by Cllr.O'Cuaig it was agreed to include the above in the Section 4.9 of the County Development Plan.

Cllr O'Cuaig stated that the Irish language condition was still in place, but added that it was being changed and implemented differently. It was not a case of free for all, but an attempt to protect the people of the Gaeltacht and to safeguard the Irish language. He added that a good reasonable balance had been reached. He also stated that this can be examined again at the review stage of the County Development Plan.

Mr. Ridge stated that Policies 214 and 215 could not be amended as per the submissions received as these policies did come under the scope of the published variations.

It was agreed that Policy 214 and 215 remain unchanged

Issue 9 – DC Standards

Addressed by:

Submissions 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 19, 24, 29 & 37.

Summary:

- **DC Standard 1 Residential access to National and Other Restricted Roads** (page 106) - To be expanded from son or daughter to sons, daughters, sisters and brothers on family farms/landholdings. Last paragraph which relates to multiple housing needs within a family to be retained in the variation (Submission 8).
- **DC Standard 1** - To be open to all families and not just farm family. (Submission 24 & 38).
- Rewording of **DC Standard 1** from 'sons and daughters to 'son or daughter' on restricted routes is in conflict with the provisions of the 'Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines' (Submission 2).
- Add to **DC Standard 5 Improve Access to all New and Existing Schools** (page 108) - To recognise that existing schools may not have adequate space to provide roundabouts, drop-off/collection points. (Submission 8 & 24).
- To remove restrictions on the Galway-Monivea Restricted Regional Road (R339), which prevents landowners building family dwellings on their landholdings (page 108) (Submission 9).
- **DC Standard 16 Site size for single houses using individual on-site wastewater treatment system** (page 111) - To facilitate applicants on sites which are less than 0.5 acres (Submission 37).
- Family clusters should be allowed to share treatment plants (Submission 37).
- **DC Standard 16** (page 111) - To clarify that house size refers to footprint of house and not floor area. (Submission 24).
- Add to **DC Standard 26 Telecommunication Mast** (page 114) – To include the following: **(a)** 'Not to be situated any closer than 1.5km from schools, educational or childcare facilities', **(b)** 'Not to be situated any closer than 500 metres to existing dwellings and reservoirs' and **(c)** 'A statement of compliance with the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection shall be included in applications' (Submission 8).
- Delete **DC Standard 28 (3) Holiday Villages** (page 115): 'The complex shall be retained in a single company ownership and units shall not be sold off as individual holiday homes' (Submission 8).
- **DC Standard 28 Holiday Villages** (page 114) - To remain unchanged from original County Development Plan (DC Standard 27). (Submission 29).
- To allow 'Holiday Home Complexes' close to existing rural amenities (Submission 11).
- Change paragraphs 4 & 5 of **DC Standard 30** (pages 115 & 116) from 5 metres to 1.2 metres for all development other than rural housing (Submission 19).
- Explanation from the Director of Services over the deletion of the last paragraph of **DC Standard 35: Development Control Standards for Forestry Development** (page 118) (Submission 8).
- Development control standard required for 'granny flats'. (Submission 24).
- A new county wide carparking policy is needed to achieve consistency between all Local Area Plans and other towns & villages, akin to the Section 5.10.3 in the Athenry Local Area Plan (Submissions 2 & 3).

Response:

- Eligibility under **DC Standard 1** will be expanded to 'sons and daughters' on family farm land of their parents, where suitable sites are not available on their parents' farm holding on non-National roads.
- **DC Standard 5** will be expanded to recognise that existing schools may not have adequate space to provide roundabouts, drop-off/collection points.
- **DC Standard 16** relates to the total floor space of the proposed dwelling house on a minimum site size of approx. 0.5 acres. No change to this development control standard is envisaged under the plan at this stage.
- **DC Standard 26** Telecommunication Masts are assessed in the context of the provisions in the County Development Plan, which were derived mainly from ministerial guidelines on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures. No change is envisaged to this development control standard under this plan at this stage. However, if subsequent ministerial guidelines are produced in relation to telecommunication masts during the plan period (2003-2009), the Development Control Unit of the Planning Section of Galway County Council will have regard to these in their assessment of such application.
- No change is envisaged to **DC Standard 28** (Holiday Villages) in the plan.
- No change is envisaged to **DC Standard 30** (Minimum clearance to side boundaries) in the plan, in order to safeguard the residential amenities of adjoining properties.
- The last paragraph of **DC Standard 35** (Forestry Development) was deleted as issues relating to financial contributions are required to be included in the Development Contribution Scheme.
- No additional development control standard will be included in the plan for granny flats and applications for granny flats will be assessed on their merits by the Development Control Unit of the Planning Section of Galway County Council.
- An additional development control standard will be included in the plan for car parking in order to achieve consistency between all local area plans, towns, villages and settlement centres. The wording of the development control standard will be along the lines of the existing car parking standard in the Athenry Local Area Plan.

Recommendation:

- Amend **DC Standard 1** to include sons or daughters only.
- Amend **DC Standard 5** to accommodate existing schools, which may not have adequate space to provide roundabouts, drop-off/collection points.
- No change to **DC Standards 16, 28 and 30**.
- Last paragraph in **DC Standard 35** to remain deleted.
- New carparking development control standard will be included in the plan with wording in line with the existing carparking standard in the Athenry Local Area Plan: *In assessing applications for change of use or for replacement buildings within towns and villages, an allowance will be given for former site use in calculation carparking requirements generated by the new development. In*

relation to infill sites and site adjacent to public transport corridors or civic parking facility, a flexible application of standards will be considered. In addition to car parking, sufficient space will be required within a development site for all service vehicles necessary for the operation of the business or building – including drop-off areas, loading/unloading areas etc. The council will encourage the provision of dual use parking areas where the peak times of users do not coincide. In mixed use developments it may therefore be necessary to meet full parking standards where

- -it can be shown that shared parking is viable'.

In relation to residential access to National and other restricted Mr. Ridge indicated to the Members the restrictions as outlined in the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities. He advise the Members that Galway County Council must adhere to these.

On the proposal of Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr Burke it was agreed to amend DC Standard 1: Residential Access to National and Other Restricted Roads to the following,

"(1) Residential development along national roads and other restricted roads will be restricted outside the defined settlement centres or the town plan boundary to the need of farm families to live on the family holding for the purpose of ensuring continuity of farming on that holding. Eligibility shall only extend to the provision of a house for sons and daughters, on the farm of their parents, where suitable sites are not available on their parents' farm holding on non-National Roads. In the case of multiple housing needs within the family a housing layout which avoids a ribbon formation along the road and which provides for a single access to the national route will be necessary. This may require an upgrading and/or relocation of the existing entrance to serve the combined development.

An enurement condition will be attached to grants of planning permission for the above.

(2) The replacement of an existing substandard farmhouse or dwelling house, which is to be demolished, or where its use as a residence is to be discontinued, an enurement condition will not apply in these cases. Where existing dwellings are vacated they shall not be used for human habitation. "

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Mr. Ridge advised strongly against this proposal stating that it was not in compliance with National Policy outlined by him from the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.

On the proposal of Cllr Ni Fhartharta and seconded by Cllr Canney it was agreed to amend DCStandard 5 to the following,

"Parking Spaces - All new schools are to provide roundabout drop off\collection facilities complete with associated car-parking. All existing schools, which are

being substantially extended and where lands are available, shall provide roundabout drop off/collection facilities complete with associated car-parking”.

On the proposal of Cllr McHugh and seconded by Cllr Regan it was agreed to include the following statement in DC Standard 16 : Site size for single houses using individual on-site waste water treatment systems, “In the case of site sizes less than 2000sq. metres will be considered depending on the history, context, location, and capacity of the site.”

It was agreed to remove the Zoning matrix from the County Development Plan as it is not applicable as there are no land use zoning maps attached to the Plan.

It was agreed to accept recommendation in Manager’s Report and to delete the last paragraph in DCStandard 35: Development Control Standards for Forestry Development.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager’s Report in relation to DCStandard 30: Residential Developments in Settlement Centres, Towns, and Villages.

DCStandard 28: Holiday Villages was amended as per Policy 188.

On the proposal of Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr Mullins it was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager’s Report in relation to DCStandard 7: Parking Bays.

Issue 10 – Miscellaneous

Addressed by:

Submissions 1, 11, 13, 26, 31, 36, 49, 64, 66 & 69.

Summary:

- Review of the landscape sensitivity maps to reflect more the situation on the ground rather than the blanket designation, which exists at present (Submission 11).
- A list of typographical errors and corrections to the draft variation document (Submission 1).
- Design Guidelines are too prescriptive (Submission 66).
- To include specific policies and objectives in the County Development Plan for the provision of retirement homes/villages on brownfield sites in rural areas (Submission 64).
- Sensible interpretation of the sight distance triangle (Submission 49).
- The use of the term ‘service hub’/satellite towns to describe large towns such as Tuam is confusing. The term hub should only be used to describe a settlement as so designated in the National Spatial Strategy (Submission 69).
- Developments that have begun subsequent to having been granted planning permission be facilities in being allowed to renew or upgrade their permission in order to complete the original development (Submission 36).

- All planning decision that are recommended for refusal to be discussed at Area meetings (Submission 31).
- Requires permission for his daughter on a site in Castlevew, Barnaderg (Submission 27).
- Aims 1 to 4 (inclusive) and 7 & 8 (pages 9 & 10) have not been responded to and the consequences are visible (Submission 26).
- Implementation of the County Development Plan not evident (Submission 26).
- Unauthorised developments are being ignored (Submission 26).
- Required better planning services (Submission 26).

Response:

- A review of the landscape sensitivity maps will not be considered under this plan. However, a review of the County Development Plan will begin in 2007 and a review of the landscape sensitivity maps may be undertaken for the new County Development Plan (2009 to 2015).
- The typographical errors and corrections in the draft variation document indicated in **Submission 1** are noted and will be amended accordingly.
- Retirement Homes are to be located in or adjoining town, villages and settlement in order to promote social inclusion.
- Galway County Council considers the Design Guidelines flexible and responsive to the need to provide higher quality design.
- Sight distance triangles for all new access onto national and regional roads are subject to the Vehicular Access To All-Purpose National Roads Standards TD 41/95 requirements (**DC Standard 3**), however, sight distance triangles on local roads are determined on a site-specific basis subject to traffic safety (**DC Standard 4**).
- A change to the use of the terms 'service hub/satellite towns' to describe large towns in the settlement strategy will not be considered under this plan. However, it will be reviewed under the new County Development Plan 2009-2015.
- All planning applications are assessed in the context of the Planning and Development Acts/Regulations, County Development Plan, Ministerial Guidelines and Proper Planning and Sustainable Development.
- All unauthorised development, which are reported to Galway County Council are investigated.
- The adjudication on planning applications is an 'Executive Function' and not a 'Reserved Function'.
- No specific case for planning permission will be considered under the variation process of the plan.
- Galway County Council is always striving toward achieving the 8 Aims sets out in the County Development Plan 2003-2009.

Recommendation:

- No review of landscape sensitivity maps.
- Amend typographical errors in the draft variation document.

- No change to Design Guidelines.
- No change to DC Standards 3 & 4 (Sight Distance Triangles).

It was agreed to accept the recommendations in the Manager's Report in relation to Issue 10 Miscellaneous.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

submitted, Approved & signed.

Michael Mullins
25th September 2006
Date.

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY THE
25th SEPTEMBER, 2006**

CATHAOIRLEACH

Mayor M. Mullins.

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. W. Burke, C. Cannon, S. Connaughton, J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. O’Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, F. H. Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, J McDonagh, Comh.C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O’Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Morgan, Deputy County Manager, Messrs F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, P. Ridge, J. Cullen, Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance L. Gavin, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers R O Boyle, Acting County Secretary, A. Comer, D. Barrett, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers, Ms. B. Donnellan and Mr. J Keane Staff Officers

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

967

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Denis & Martina Goggin, Bohoona, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
Mr. Kieran Lynch, Mayour, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway.
Nelly Mc Donnell & Family, Togher, Tuam, Co. Galway.

It was agreed that item number 30 be dealt with first.

REPORT ON ROAD SAFETY TO INCLUDE PRESENTATION BY GARDA SIOCHANA (TRANSPORT SECTION)

968

Mr. Morgan introduced Superintendent Lee, Sgt Burke and Sgt Madden from the Transport Section of the Garda Siochana. Sgt Burke and Sgt Madden made a presentation on road safety highlighting the following issues:

- The necessity to increase road safety awareness
- The necessity to identify causes of collisions
- The current statistics on death toll and collisions
- The number of provisional licence holders
- Young male drivers and why they are at risk
- The results of not wearing seat belts
- The effect alcohol has on driver capability
- Fatigue and how to deal with it
- The consequences of high risk behaviour

The Mayor thanked the Gardai for their excellent presentation and said that the reduction in road deaths as a result of the random breath testing should be maintained and resources are needed in order to do this.

The Members welcomed the presentation and the following points were made:

- Provisional drivers should do a test before being let drive
- Back log of provisional drivers waiting to do the test is a serious problem
- The Council should provide more funding for hedgecutting/verge trimming
- Signage in County Galway very poor
- Education is very important
- Review of speed limits should be dealt with urgently
- Highly visible Garda presence should be continued and extended
- The Council should negotiate with Eircom regarding the removal of telephone poles on road sides
- Safety audits should be carried out on our roads each year
- Local Authorities should erect signs informing non-nationals which side to drive on and there should be multilingual signs
- Abuse of drugs is a major factor in accidents
- Trucks should be fitted with safety devices to avoid oil spillages
- Garda presentation should be shown in all schools

Superintendent Lee thanked the Members for their comments and confirmed that the presentation would be shown in all secondary schools in the County.

Mr. Morgan thanked Superintendent Lee and the other Gardai for the presentation. He said that in relation to telephone poles there was not a lot the Council could do as it was a matter for Eircom but that the Council is now putting a condition in planning permissions that before any roadworks commence, the pole has to be removed. He said that the

Council will continue to keep working and communicating with the relevant service providers.

In relation to the speed limit and signs review he said that this had been completed in 2004. It had covered the whole County and took two years to complete. He said that the approval of the NRA is quickly forthcoming in this area and do not result in any delays. He said that the 80kph is an indicative speed in that the onus was on people to drive at a safe speed having regard to the road conditions. He said that the Council will look into making the high visibility jackets available elsewhere throughout the County.

In relation to hedge cutting he said the position is that if there are problems with sight distances the Council can cut the hedges. He said that there was €342,000 available in this years Budget for hedge cutting and that the Council had already spent double that amount.

It was proposed by Comh Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr Keaveney, and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting continue after 6.00p.m.

TO APPROVE HERITAGE GRANTS 2006

969

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the Heritage Grants 2006 were approved.

TO APPROVE AMENITY GRANTS 2006 (5th ROUND ALLOCATION)

970

Report dated 19th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, the Amenity Grants 2006 (5th Round Allocation) were approved.

**TO APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME DEVELOPMENT 2006 (5th ROUND
ALLOCATION)**

971

Report dated 19th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, the Community Based Economic Development Financial Assistance Scheme Development 2006 (5th Round Allocation) were approved.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 972

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 24th July 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Mannion.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th July 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. D Connolly and seconded by Cllr Cannon.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 25th July 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr Cannon.

Referring to the discussion on the proposed new road for Conamara on page 23 of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, Comh. O Cuaig said that at an Area Committee Meeting of the Conamara Electoral Area on the 18th of September 2006 the Councillors had agreed on an alternative route for the road to Conamara. That meeting also agreed to approach Minister O Cuiv to provide funding for a study on the revised route.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

973

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on the 11th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. T Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on the 17th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. T Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Connaughton.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 14th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 11th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cannon and seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on the 15th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Feeney and seconded by Cllr. Cannon.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 19th June, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 10th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 26th June, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames.

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

974

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

Description of roads on Inis Oirr

The road to be designated LS 5250 from the eastern perimeter of the Airfield continuing in a westerly direction, via the quay at An Baile Thios finishing where it rejoins the LS 5250 again, for a length of 2403m, all in Inis Oirr townland.

The road to be designated LS5251 from its northern junction with the LS5250 for a length of 480m, to its eastern junction with the LS5250, all in the townland of Inis Oirr.

The road to be designated LS5252 from its northern junction with the LS5251, for a length of 185m, all in the townland of Inis Oirr

On the proposal of Comh O' Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the Council approved the declaration of the following roads to be a public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Description of roads on Inis Meain

The road to be designated LS5260 from Cora Pointe in an east west direction for a length of 2995 metres, in the townlands of Carrowtemple & Carrownlisheen.

The road to be designated LS5261 from An Caladh Mor, for a distance of 2140m, in a north south direction via the townland of Carrowlisheen to its junction with the LS5260 in the townland of Carrowtemple.

The road to be designated LS5262 from its junction with the LS5261, for a distance of 460m, to its junction with the LS5263, all in the townland of Carrownlisheen.

The road to be designated LS 5263 from its junction with the LS5262, for a distance of 1094m, the right angle corner north of the airport, all in the townland of Carrownlisheen.

Electoral Area: Conamara.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

975

On the proposal of Cllr. M Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Road commencing at junction with County Road LT64981 in the townland of Corralea and extending south east as appropriate for a distance of 490 metres in the townland of Corralea and finishing at Paddy Geraghty's house in the townland of Corralea.

Electoral Area: Tuam.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

976

On the proposal of Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. M Connolly, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Housing Estate located in the townland of Mountbellew Demesne. Roadway at Grattan Park 300 meters from the N63 and extending southwards for a distance of 80 meters.

Housing Estate: Grattan Park, Mountbellew.

Electoral Area: Tuam

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 12 HOUSES AT ARD GUAIRE, GORT COUNTY GALWAY ON A SITE MEASURING 0.2535 HECTARES –

977

Report dated 31st August, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposed disposal of 12 houses at Ard Guaire, Gort, County Galway on a site measuring 0.2535 hectares was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 20 HOUSES AT DUN AN OIR, LOUGHREA, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.562 HECTARES. 978

Report dated 31st August, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposed disposal of 20 houses at Dun An Oir, Loughrea, on a site measuring 0.562 hectares was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1 HOUSE AT NO. 57 GARRAI GLAS, ATHENRY, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.01 HECTARES – 979

Report dated 21st August, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, the proposed disposal of 1 house at No. 57 Garrai Glas, Athenry, on a site measuring 0.01 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1 HOUSE AT AN SRUTHAIN, LOUGHREA, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.3 HECTARES – 980

Report dated 15th June, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposed disposal of 1 house at An Sruthain, Loughrea, on a site measuring 0.3 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 11 HOUSES AT CRE NA CILLE, TYNAGH, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.1 HECTARES – 981

Report dated 15th June, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, the proposed disposal of 11 houses at Cre Na Cille, Tynagh, on a site measuring 0.1 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 2 HOUSES AT CUIRT CREGG, CLIFDEN, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.0207 HECTARES – 982

Report dated 11th May, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the proposed disposal of 2 houses at Cuirt Cregg, Clifden, on a site measuring 0.0207 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 2 HOUSES AT CANNONS LANE, CLIFDEN, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.0338 HECTARES – 983

Report dated 21st August, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the proposed disposal of 2 houses at Cannons Lane, Clifden, on a site measuring 0.0338 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 4 HOUSES AT SLIABH CARRON, GORT, ON A SITE MEASURING 0.072 HECTARES – 984

Report dated 13th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposed disposal of 4 houses at Sliabh Carron, Gort, on a site measuring 0.072 hectares was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DIPOSAL OF 3.515 ACRES OR 1.475 HECTARES AT PARKMORE, TUAM TO TRUSTEES OF DYNAMO BLUES AFC – 985

Report dated 13th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, the proposed disposal of 3.515 acres or 1.475 hectares at Parkmore, Tuam to Trustees of Dynamo Blues AFC was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESOURCE CENTRE WITH ASSOCIATED SITE SERVICES AT ST. BRIDGET’S TERRACE, PORTUMNA, CO. GALWAY –

986

Report dated 13th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposed construction of a resource centre with associated site services at St. Bridget’s Terrace, Portumna, Co. Galway was approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SEWER LINE WITHIN LETTERFRACK VILLAGE. –

987

Report dated 13th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. S Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Conneely, the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Works and the construction of a new sewer line within Letterfrack Village was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CLONBUR SEWERAGE SCHEME – UPGRADE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN THE VILLAGE OF CLONBUR. –

988

Report dated 13th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. S Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, the Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plant in the village of Clonbur was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSED ATHENRY NORTHERN RING ROAD –

989

Report dated 20th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, the proposed Athenry Northern Ring Road was approved.

Cllr Feeney said he welcomed the proposal for the new road and that there was a great need for it. He said it will allow for the proper growth of Athenry and that the majority of submissions were positive.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - PROPOSED ORANMORE DUALWAY ON N18. 990

Report dated 19th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. S Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, the proposed Oranmore Dualway on N18 was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSED LUIMNAGH REALIGNMENT ON N84 – 991

Report dated 19th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames, the proposed Luimnagh Realignment on N84 was approved.

Mr. Lavelle confirmed to Cllr. Hoade that consultation with the landowners would take place as soon as possible.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE, SEPTIC TANK AND PURAFLO EFFLUENT SYSTEM AT GALWAY ROAD, MONIVEA – 992

Report dated 7th September, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. D Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, the proposed construction of a single rural house, septic tank and puraflo effluent system at Galway Road, Monivea was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSAL FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING DWELLING HOUSE AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE, SEPTIC TANK AND PERCOLATION AREA AT CONAGHER, MILLTOWN– 993

Report dated 7th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. T Walsh, seconded by Cllr. M Connolly, the proposed demolition of the existing dwelling house and for the construction of a single rural house, septic tank and percolation area at Conagher, Milltown was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE, SEPTIC TANK, PURAFLO SYSTEM AND PERCOLATION AREA AT ANNAGH, BALLYMACWARD –

994

Report dated 7th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, the construction of a single rural house, septic tank, puraflo system and percolation area at Annagh, Ballymacward was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 –RECONSTRUCTION OF BALLYDAVID BRIDGE, N65.

995

Report was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. F H Eames, the reconstruction of Ballydavid Bridge, N65 was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – RECONSTRUCTION OF DERREEN BRIDGE, N63.

996

Report was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Connaughton, the reconstruction of Derreen Bridge, N63 was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – RECONSTRUCTION OF HORSELEAP CROSS BRIDGE, N63.

997

Report was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. M Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, the reconstruction of Horse Leap Cross Bridge, N63 was approved.

Cllr M Connolly welcomed the development and asked when it was likely that the Newtown Bridge would go to Part 8.

Mr. Lavelle said that it would proceed in the next six months.

TO ADOPT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL (INIS MÓR) EXPLOSIVES BYELAWS 2006

998

Report dated 19th July, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O' Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Conneely, the Council adopted the Galway County Council (Inis Mór) Explosives Byelaws 2006.

TO ADOPT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL (INIS OIRR) EXPLOSIVES BYELAWS 2006

999

Report dated 19th July, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O' Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Conneely, the Council adopted the Galway County Council (Inis Oirr) Explosives Byelaws 2006.

AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 BETWEEN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL – REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF PORTUMNA BRIDGE –

1000

Report dated 17th August, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

Mr. Morgan said that what the members were being asked to approve was the Section 85 agreement between Galway County Council and North Tipperary County Council to allow the Part 8 planning process to proceed and that it had no bearing on the physical work.

On the proposal of Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the October meeting.

EU CO-FINANCED SCHEME OF GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON NON-NATIONAL ROADS – PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING IN 2007 1001

Report dated 20th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr Mannion, seconded by Cllr. F H Eames, the EU Co-Financed Scheme of Grants for Improvement Works on Non-National Roads – Proposals for Funding in 2007 was approved.

TO CONSIDER CLIFDEN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 1002

Report dated 20th September, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr Conneely, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, the Clifden Traffic Management Plan was approved.

Cllr Feeney asked would the money that would be raised in Clifden remain in Clifden.

Mr. Morgan said that the money was needed to repay the loan obtained for the provision of the parking meters and car parks and to cover the necessary lining and signing.

Cllr Feeney said that it was untenable that the Council would not spend a certain portion of the Income in the town in which it was raised and use it for town improvements.

Mr. Morgan said that the income raised is relatively small and it will take a number of years to pay back the loans. He said a lot of the money raised is from people from outside of the towns.

MAYORS BUSINESS 1003

Cllr. Reilly said that the taking in charge of Trinity Court Estate in Tuam had been discussed at a Tuam Area Committee Meeting and he wanted to know the present position in relation to the Council enforcing the conditions of the planning permission granted. Cllr. Keaveney called on the Council to take this estate in charge.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Ridge said that a policy document was being prepared in relation to Enurement Clauses and this will be brought before the Area Committees in the first instance.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 38 – CLLR.B. WILLERS

1004

The following reply was given: -

“The Shannon, Lough Derg & Environs & Suck Basin Action Area Plan as an objective of the County Plan was being considered. However, due to the reallocation of limited staff resources to other tasks, the commencement of this Action Area Plan is postponed. No timescale is available at this stage.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 39 - CLLR. B. WILLERS

1005

The following reply was given: -

“Road junctions will be lined/re-lined on a priority basis as resources permit. There is no specific funding allocated in the Road Works Programme for such work. The cost of this work is charged against road resurfacing works and road maintenance as appropriate.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 40 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1006

The following reply was given:-

“The Traffic Management Plan for Gort has been adopted (May 2006). Arrangements are being made for the implementation of the adopted plan and it is hoped to commence works in the near future with the view to having same completed by May 2007.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 41 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1007

The following reply was given:-

“Déanadh scrúdú i rith Aibreán – Iúil 2004 chun foinsí truaillithe eadrannach na n-uiscí snámha a mheas. Léirigh an scrúdú riar teaghlaigh agus áiseanna mar fhoinsí dóchúla na truaillithe. Tá deacracht ag áitreabh tráchtála (Teach Tábhairne Tí Phádraicín) cloí leis na riachtanais cáilíochta atá leagtha amach ina gceadúnas chun eisilteach a dhiúscairt.

Níl aon áiseanna leithris ag Trá na bhForbacha agus mar sin úsáideann an pobal na háiseanna ag Tí Phádraicín. Cuireann sé seo brú breise ar an gcóras cóireála ag an áitreabh seo.

Tá sé de rún ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe 2 Portaloo a insealbhú ag Trá na bhforbacha do Shamhradh 2007.

Tá bróisiúir tairgthe ag an gComhairle ar chothabháil tancanna seipteach a bheidh dhá dháileadh ar theaghlaigh sa gceantar roimh dheireadh na bliana 2006.

Tá athbhreithniú dhá dhéanamh ar cheadúnas Teach Tábhairne Tí Phádraicín agus eiseofar ceadúnas leasaithe in imeacht ama.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 42 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1008

The following reply was given:-

“Tá measúnú dhá dhéanamh ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ar na doiciméid conartha faoi láthair. Is é an data tosnú tógála measta ná deireadh 2007.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 43 – COMH.C. NI FHATHARTA

1009

The following reply was given:-

“Tá a suim léirithe ag pobail éagsúla i gConamara Theas do Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ar mhaith leo páirc spraoi a bheith acu ina gceantar. Tá siad seo dhá scrúdú faoi láthair i gcomhthéacs an Pholasaí Caitheamh Aimsire agus Taitneamhachta – (Páirceanna Spraoi) agus cuirfear a thuilleadh maoiniú ar fáil in imeacht ama.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 44 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1010

The following reply was given:-

“Signage on the approach road to the overhead bridge on the Athenry Road has been reassessed. Although the signage in place at present satisfies existing standards, new signs and replacement signs are now on order to be erected at Derrydonnell Cross.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 45 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1011

The following reply was given:-

“There is no provision for school flashing lights, other than schools in the Clár area, in this year’s Roadworks Programme. This school will be considered for school flashing lights in future programmes in conjunction with proposals for special speed limits for schools in the County.”

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the bridge is being investigated and a report will be made available in due course. The widening of this bridge would be an expensive option which would have to be considered carefully. Additional signage will be considered as a short term solution.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 47 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

The following reply was given:-

“The provision of funds for footpath & road infrastructure to the school is within the power of the Elected Members.

The level of priority is dictated by the Elected Members through their adoption or failure to adopt a development contribution scheme for roads & footpaths.

The programme of works in any given year is a function of the funding available. Funding never matches the number of priority schemes and balances have to be made. Each electoral area has a number of local priorities identified and completed annually.

The NRA have refused to provide funding for footpaths on approaches to towns & villages, as their priority at present is the improvement and maintenance of the pavements on the existing National Route Infrastructure in the Country at large.

The Chief Executive Officer of the NRA, Mr. Barry, informed the Elected Members of Galway County Council at a recent meeting of the pavement priority and further explained that he did not intend to change this priority unless directed by Government. He further stated that such a change would involve the creation of a new priority list for all footpaths across the country and would be at the expense of pavement schemes. He also stated that the footpath priorities in Galway might not feature in the national priority list.

The NRA is the funding authority for all National routes and the refusal by their CEO is final.

Galway County Council has no role in the changing of NRA policies and in the circumstances could suffer a large loss of investment as most of the pavements are completed in the eastern counties and Galway is now getting a share of the pavement investment. The level of investment from the NRA in past four years has doubles each year for pavement schemes. However, a large proportion of the pavements are still sub-standard and require ongoing improvements. Any change in NRA policies could lead to

a reduction in this investment and would seem to indicate the folly of a change in NRA policies for Galway County Council at the present point in time. Other National Roads in other parts of the County are still awaiting improvements. The proposal to change NRA policies could prejudice their chance to get an equitable level of investment in the future.

The provision of funding for footpaths and other road infrastructure in a development contribution scheme is a matter for the Elected Members and could be included as part of the review of the County Development Plan. This is a matter for the Elected Members.

The provision of safe access & egress to the school is a matter for the school authorities and they could consider the provision of an off-road roundabout drop-off facility and carpark. Numerous other schools have developed such schemes to safeguard the schoolchildren. The old road provides an access for children as far as school grounds and the school authorities could quite easily provide a pedestrian footpath on the inside of their boundary.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 48 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1014

The following reply was given:-

“The sum of €4.3m has been collected in the Oranmore Electoral Area to date in 2006, it is not possible to break down the sum involved to indicate the amount which refers to the Claregalway Development Plan Area.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 49 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1015

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have spent the sum of €26,808 to date on the Claregalway Bypass.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 50 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1016

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that no funding was available from O.P.W. in 2006. This fencing was carried out as part of a roadworks project in 2000 and in accordance with the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, maintenance or replacement is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 51 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1017

The following reply was given:-

“This matter is being investigated.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 52 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1018

The following reply was given:-

“The Preliminary Report for the scheme is currently with the Department and queries on the Preliminary Report are currently being dealt with by our consultants. The preliminary programme for the scheme estimates that it will start construction in late 2008.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 53 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1019

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that Messrs. A.Rafty and K. Sheil met with Madeline Forde regarding the installation of a field gate to her lands as part of the outstanding works at this location. M. Forde requested that the gate be erected on the N65 National Road. However, following consultation with the NRA they informed us that planning permission is required. We informed M. Forde of this and stated the gate would have to be erected somewhere on the local road. M.Forde was to reply to us with a location.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 54 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1020

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the L-8258 County Road from Shrah to Cartron Cross via the townlands of Shrah, Moycola, Gortnabarnaboy and Cloghastookeen is included in the 2007 Roads Programme as part of the Restoration Improvement Grant. However, the new water supply pipeline to Craughwell is to be laid on the Old Galway Road and along the Moycola – Seefin Road. This work will impact on the L-8258 in terms of increased traffic because of traffic diversions and HGV's using it to haul materials to and from the site. Therefore the timing for the road improvement works on the L-8258 will depend on the works to be completed for the watermain.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 55 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1021

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the L-82482 from Casey's residence to Finn's residence is included as part of the 2008 Roads Programme under the Restoration Improvement

Grant. However, we will be seeking approval that this road will be brought forward to the 2007 Programme of Works due to the fact that it is in very poor condition.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 56 – CLLR. P. FEENEY

1022

The following reply was given:-

“Work is ongoing on the Environmental Impact Study for the scheme. The Abstraction Order can not proceed until the EIS is complete. However, preparatory work will proceed for the Abstraction Order in the interim. An additional meeting with the landowners is to be organized to address concerns raised at the previous meeting.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

Michael Mullins

23RD October 2006

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY, 23rd
OCTOBER, 2006

CATHAOIRLEACH

Mayor M. Mullins.

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, P. Feeney, F. H. Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, J McDonagh, T. Mc Hugh, 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 F.Gilmore, K. Kelly, P.Ridge, J. Cullen, J. Morgan, F. Dawson Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey Head of Finance, T. Murphy, County Secretary, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers, Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner, A. Comer, D. Barrett, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers, Ms. B. Donnellan, R. O Boyle, Staff Officers and Mr. P. O Neachtain, Irish Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1023

The Mayor and members expressed their sympathy to the wife and family of former Council Member and Tuam Town Commissioner, Mr. Miko Kelly who passed away recently. The Mayor and members spoke of his contribution to the Council, Tuam Town Commissioners and the GAA, and of the loss that he would be to his family.

The Manager, on behalf of the Management and Staff of Galway County Council expressed sympathy to the family of Mr Kelly. He acknowledged the role of Mr. Kelly as a public representative and spoke of his distinguished service to the Council and Town Commissioners.

The Major proposed that the meeting would be adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect and this was agreed.

A Resolution of Sympathy was also extended to the following:-

Mrs. Bernadette O'Beirne, Lowville, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Frank & Kathleen Nolan, Lehenagh, Castleblakeney, Castleblakeney

The Minogue/Higgins Family, Rindifin, Gort, Co. Galway

Cora Spain, Carraroe, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Nancy Mitchell, Cave, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Ann Welby, Roscahill, Co. Galway.

Senator Pat Moylan, Banagher, Co. Offaly.

The Meeting was then adjourned for ten minutes

Cllr. Regan said he wished to congratulate the Tommy Larkins Minor Hurling Team and the Loughrea Senior Hurling Team on winning their respective County Finals. He said Loughrea had not won the title since 1941 and it was a great achievement. Cllrs. D.Connolly and Feeney said they wished to congratulate the Athenry Senior Camogie Team on winning the County Final. Cllr. Mannon congratulated the Corofin Senior Football Team on winning the County Final.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2006

1024

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 25th September, 2006 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr.Regan seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

REPORTS ON COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION.

1025

The Report of the Environment, Water & Emergency Services SPC Meeting held on the 14th June, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Cannon.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 23/10/06

The Report of the Housing SPC held on the 12th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on the 6th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 19th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Healy-Eames, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 26th June, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Conneely, seconded by An Comh. O'Tuairisg.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 3rd July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Conneely.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 7th July, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Conneely

REPORT BY CHAIR OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SPC ON ACTIVITIES OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SPC.

1026

Cllr. Cannon, Chairperson of the Planning & Sustainable Development Strategic Policy Committee presented a report on the activities of the Planning & Sustainable Development Strategic Policy Committee which was circulated to each Member. He said that the SPC had met on six occasions in 2006 and these meetings had been well attended. He thanked his fellow Committee Members and the Director of Services and Staff.

On proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Feeney the report by the Chair of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC on the activities of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC was noted.

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

1027

This Item was deferred to the November Meeting of the Council.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993:

1028

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Road commencing at junction with Local Road LS6423 in the townland of Ballaghdorragha and extending north west for a distance of 1,150 metres in the townlands of Ballaghdorragha, Flaskagh Beg, Kiltевна and finishing at LT64204 in the townland of Flaskagh Beg.

Electoral Area: Tuam.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE PROPOSAL TO DISPOSE OF 0.68ACRES OF LAND IN THE TOWNLAND OF TOOLOOBAUN BEG, KILTULLAGH, ATHENRY TO MR. SEAN (JOHN) GERAGHTY 1029

Report dated the 22nd September, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cannon, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the proposal to dispose of 0.68 acres of land in the townland of Tooloobaun Beg, Kiltullagh, Athenry, to Mr. Sean (John) Geraghty was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 607.2 SQM AT CHURCH STREET GORT - 1030

Report dated the 15th June, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposal to dispose of 607.2 sq M at No. 8 Church Street, Gort to Mr. John and Ms. Concepta Hayes was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 15SQ.M AT ROOGHAUN, ARDRAHAN, CO. GALWAY 1031

Report dated the 13th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the proposal to dispose of 15 sq M at Rooghaun, Ardrahan, Co. Galway to the ESB was approved.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Mc Hugh, and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting continue after 6.00p.m.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – MAIGH CUILLINN INNER RELIEF ROAD.

1032

Mr. Ridge referred to his report dated 15th October 2006, which had been circulated to each member. He said that the proposed Inner Relief Roadway located at Maigh Cuillinn passes through the townlands of Baile Ui Choirc Thoir, Oguil, Coill Bhruachlain, and Gort Ui Lochainn. The proposed Galway approach roadway to Maigh Cuillinn on the N59 passes through the townlands of Claidhdeach, Oguil, and Baile Ui Choirc Thiar and Thoir.

Comh. O’Cuaig proposed as follows “to split the Part 8 proposal to allow the N59 re-alignment works go ahead and to give further time to study proposals on the inner relief road section”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Healy Eames.

A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows.

AR SON: Cllr. Healy Eames, Comh O’Cuaig (2)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr. Burke, Cllr. Canney, Cllr. Cannon, Cllr. Connaughton, Cllr. J. Conneely, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. Cuddy, Cllr. Fahy, Cllr. Feeney, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr. Mc Donagh, Cllr. Mc Hugh, Cllr. Mullins, Comh Ni Fhatharta, Comh, O’Tuairisg, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. T. Welby, Cllr. B Willers. (22)

GAN VOTAIL: Cllr. D. Connolly. (1)

The mayor declared the proposal lost.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kyne and seconded by Cllr. Welby that the Council adopt the Managers Report and recommendation under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in relation to Maigh Cuillinn Inner Relief Road, subject to the following amendments:

1. That pedestrian crossings be provided on the Inner Relief Road, east and west of An Spideal junction within a distance of 250m.
2. That street lighting be provided on the N59 from Clydagh Bridge to the Health Centre in the Village.

A vote was taken on this proposal, which resulted as follows;

AR SON: Cllr. Burke, Cllr. Canney, Cllr. Cannon, Cllr. Connaughton, Cllr. Conneely, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Fahy, Cllr. Feeney, Cllr Hoade, Cllr Keaveney, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr. Mc Donagh, Cllr. Mc Hugh, Cllr. Mullins, Comh, Ni

Fhatharta, Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. Welby, Cllr. Willers (22)

IN AGHAIDH: Comh O'Cuaig (1)

GAN VOTAIL: Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Healy Eames (2)

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – BEARNA INNER RELIEF ROAD 1033

Mr. Ridge referred to his report dated 17th October 2006, which had been circulated to each member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta to accept the Managers Report in relation to the proposed Inner Relief Roadway for Bearna which commences at the Cnocán Carrach roundabout and travels to a new T-Junction at Aille (L53841-0), to a new roundabout at Trosca on the Bearna to Maigh Cuillinn road (L1321) and a T-Junction at Na Forai Maola (L5387-15) and will terminate at a T-Junction at An Leac Liath Td on the R336 (West).

This development is in accordance with the plans submitted for the Part 8 process.

A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows.

AR SON: Cllr. J. Conneely, Cllr. M Connolly, Cllr. Feeney, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr Mullins, Comh Ni Fhatharta, Comh Ó Tuairisg (9)

IN AGHAIGH: Comh O'Cuaig, Cllr. S. Walsh. (2)

GAN VOTAIL: Cllr. Cuddy, Cllr. T. Welby. (2)

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A DWELLING HOUSE AT CASHLA, ATHENRY, COUNTY GALWAY 1034

Report dated the 10th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr Willers, seconded by Cllr. Feeney the proposal to construct a single rural dwelling house at Cashla, Athenry was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A DWELLING HOUSE AT PARKMORE, DOORUS, KINVARA, COUNTY GALWAY. 1035

Report dated the 10th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, the proposal to construct a dwelling house at Parkmore, Doorus, Kinvara, Co. Galway was approved.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEME FOR ORANMORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000. 1036

Mr. Ridge presented the Managers Report on the Development Contributions Scheme for Oranmore. He stated that a total of 600 submissions had been received, 598 from residents in Oranmore expressing full support for the Scheme. He stated that the money collected would be ring-fenced for the Oranmore area. The members would be informed of money received and what Oranmore was getting for that money and added that if the Scheme was adopted it would apply to planning permission granted from 24th October 2006 onwards. He stated that by putting the Scheme in place the Council would be in a stronger position to acquire recreational and amenity lands in Oranmore town.

Cllr. Healy Eames said she supported the Scheme as there was a need for amenity and community land and that the population in Oranmore was growing and this would have social implications for Oranmore. Cllr. McHugh stated that a lot of land was zoned for residential use and that the value of land was increased by this zoning. He stated that it was not unreasonable to go back to landowners to get a levy. He said that the scheme would cause an increase of up to €20,000 to the price of houses and he could not support it. Cllr. McDonagh stated that Oranmore was a fast growing area with inadequate facilities and he appealed to the members to support the proposal as it was a one off opportunity for Oranmore.

Cllr. T. Walsh stated that it would not be possible to contain the scheme within Oranmore and added that it was an unfair burden on new homeowners and for this reason he could not support the Scheme as developers would pass on the levy to the price of the house. Cllr. Feeney stated that if the Scheme had been introduced 20 years ago, towns and villages would now be more attractive and we would have a better county. He added that central government was not providing necessary funding and referring to an increase of €20,000 on each house was scaremongering. Cllr. Cannon supported the proposal and stated that the present situation was not working and that pitches now often have to be located 4, 5 & 6 miles outside of towns. Cllr. Canney stated that it was a fact that if the price of land increased, this would be passed on to the house buyer. He said that most of the people making submissions will benefit from the Scheme but they are not the ones who will have to pay the extra house cost.

Cllr. Kyne stated that the biggest problem was infrastructure and that people will continue to choose to live in close proximity to the city. Cllr. Mannion stated that other communities had similar problems and he had reservations about the Scheme and queried how Part 5 developments would be dealt with and if certain types of housing could be excluded.

Cllr. Willers said that nobody should get residential zoning without zoning for amenity in order to ensure that something is given back to the community.

Cllr. S. Walshe stated that many towns did not have facilities and suggested the use of higher density by allowing one extra house per acre to offset this proposal. Mr. Ridge stated that this proposal could only be done in the context of the local area plan and stated that maximising density should be dealt with on a case by case basis. He stated that 764 units had been approved for Oranmore out of an allocation of 950 for the duration of the Development Plan and added that the implementation of the Development Contribution Scheme was the only tool available to the Council to ensure delivery of recreational and amenity facilities. He stated that Part 5 was a separate process and that Part 5 would be used where needed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr. Hoade, that the Development Contribution Scheme for Oranmore in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development 2000, be adopted.

A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows.

AR SON: Cllr. Burke, Cllr. Cannon Cllr. Connaughton, Cllr. J. Conneely, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Cuddy, Cllr. Fahy, Cllr. Feeney, Cllr. Healy Eames, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Mc Donagh, Cllr. Mullins, Comh Ni Fhatharta, Comh O'Tuairisg, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. T. Welby, Cllr. B Willers (19)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr. Canney, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr. Mc Hugh, Comh O'Cuaig, Cllr. T. Walsh. (5)

GAN VOTAIL: Cllr. M. Connolly (1)

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 BETWEEN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL - FIRE SERVICES COMPUTER AIDED MOBILISATION PROJECT FOR THE WEST REGION (CAMP WEST) 1037

Report dated the 17th October, 2006 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Comh Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that an Agreement in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 between Galway County Council and Mayo County Council be signed to formally arrange the transfer of legal responsibility for reception and handling of emergency calls from Galway County Council to Mayo County Council as the contracting Fire Authority, on behalf of Galway County Council.

AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 BETWEEN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL – REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF PORTUMNA BRIDGE

1038

It was agreed to defer this item.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE INDICATORS 2006

1039

Report dated the 17th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member. Mr. Kelly gave the following brief synopsis of the Report circulated.

He said members will be aware from the report that earlier in 2006 Galway County Council was audited in respect of Service Indicators for 2005. The recent report from the Local Government Management Services Board which outlines the information for 2005, recognises that the systems necessary to collect the data in a uniform and cost effective way continued to be refined.

It suggests that the consistency across Local Authorities while improved has not yet been fully achieved. In this regard the Service Indicators continue to be reviewed and refined and changes made between the 2004 & 2005 figures will be supplemented by further changes which are expected in respect of the 2006 Indicators.

He stated the report to members briefly outlines some of the areas which were subject to change in the indicators between 2004 & 2005. There are a variety of reasons why the performance recorded will change from one year to another or indeed will differ between one Local Authority and another. The Council has reviewed the figures for each area and each department will be putting in place any changes required on foot of the results. In some cases it is necessary to change procedures or the method of handling particular applications in order to bring the figures into line with those recorded for other Local Authorities. All departments of Galway County Council continue to review both the areas which are covered by Service Indicators and indeed those that are not with a view to ensuring that at all times the service delivery standards are the best that can be achieved given the available resources at any point in time.

In reply to Cllr. Cannon, Ms. Mc Connell said that a written report on pre-planning meetings is available at present. In reply to Cllr. Willers Mr. Kelly said that the Council would investigate the situation regarding the provision of a Resource Recovery Park in Gort.

Cllr. Cannon said that the agenda for Council meetings and minutes of same were being sent by email to the members in other counties, and he proposed that this option be also made available to the members of Galway County Council. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed. On the proposal by Cllr. Cuddy seconded by Cllr. Mc Donagh the report on Local Authority Service Indicators 2006 was noted.

TO APPROVE AMENITY GRANTS 2006 (6TH ROUND ALLOCATION) 1040

Report dated the 17th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Healy-Eames the Amenity Grants 2006 (6th Round Allocation) were approved as follows:

**AMENITY GRANT SCHEME 2006
6th ROUND ALLOCATION**

Ref No	Group	Proposal	Amount Recommended
A06/08	Coiste Phairc an Chathánaigh An Cheathru Rua	Contribution towards the cost of Constructing an additional training / playing pitch at Phairc an Chathanaigh <i>Note: Planning Ref 04/5310</i>	€ 5,000
A06/33	Clontuskert Heritage & Development Group	Phase 2 following an extensive audit of the parish on history and local heritage this group will now display all material collected, edit the information and finally publish findings in book form. <i>Note: County Council logo to appear on the publication with 3 copies of the publication to be forwarded to the County Library Service</i>	€ 1,500
A06/37	Clonfert Research Project	To record and map the headstones in Clonfert for the purposes of genealogical use Involving recording preparing a plan and photographing headstones <i>Note: Prior to commencement agreement to be sought from Conservation and Heritage Officer.</i>	€1,000
A06/81	Coiste Séipeál Eochla Cill Rónóin, Inis Mór	Bealach isteach go dtí Foirgneamh Poiblí	€2,000

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 23/10/06

A06/63	Poolboy Cemetery Monivea Voluntary Committee	Repair the boundary stone walls. Up grade boundary path ways for the safer access. To supply & fit high quality park style wooden bench seating by coillte. <i>Note: Approval of works to be sought from Area Engineer prior to commencement.</i>	€1,500
A06/45	Ballygar & Districts (Ballygar – Newbridge – Toghergar) Co. Ltd	Purchase of gym equipment in the new community centre such as Gym Mats, Balance Benches and Badminton posts & nets.	€1,500
A06/60	Kiltulla / Killimordaly Foroige Club	Landscaping of the community centre grounds and rebuilding of the stone wall at the entrance <i>Note: Proposed rebuilding works to the walls to be agreed with the Heritage Officer. Landscaping design to be agreed with Mary Flynn Forward Planning Unit.</i>	€750
A06/29	Comhairle Mhuintir an Chaisil Teoranta	Phase 2 Development of Picnic area, additional pier-side area to be developed to facilitate community gatherings in line with pier development. <i>Note: Subject to proper planning regulation. Proposed works to be agreed with Kevin Finn and Forward Planning prior to commencement.</i>	€2,000

Total Allocation €15,250

TO APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME GRANTS 2006 (6TH ROUND ALLOCATION)

1041

Report dated the 17th October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Healy-Eames the Community Based Economic Development Financial Assistance Scheme Grants 2006 (6th Round Allocation) were approved as follows:

Community Based Economic
Development Grant Scheme 2006

Ref No	Group	Proposal	Area	Amount Recommended
E06/08	Amaca	Identify and create the effectiveness of family support Programmes	Tuam	€1,500
E06/14	Imeachtaí Gaelsaoire Tel	Sceim an Bhaile Beo a fhorbairt I gcomhar leis na Comhairlí Contae a bhfuil Gaeltacht faoi na gcúram, trí chomórtas a reachtáil idir coistí pobail, comhlachtaí pobalbhunaithe agus comharchumainn sa Ghaeltacht, chun infrastructure na turasóireachta chultúrtha a bhuanú	Connemara	€9,000
E06/33	SEG Community & Environment Services Ltd	Technical assistance towards development of block A at the workhouse Portumna	Loughrea	€3,500
E06/49	Carrantryla 50 th / Dunmore Musical Soc	Community Exercise of involvement in preparation and plan to perform the show West Side Story	Tuam	€750
E06/54	Clonfert Select Vestry	Proposed works to upgrade heating system and sanitary facilities	Ballinasloe	€1,500
E06/51	Kilimor District Development	Technical Assistance in order to progress works undertaken in the Village Renewal Programme	Loughrea	€1,000
E06/72	ARC Clifden Ltd	Preparation of 5 year Business Plan for development of an Arts Centre in the Clifden Town Hall	Connemara	€7,000
N/A	Connemara Pony Breeders Show	Further funding towards the Agri Show events	Connemara	€750

Recommended Allocation – October 2006

€25,000

TO ARRANGE VENUE FOR NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING. 1042

The Mayor informed the Members that an Invitation had been extended by the Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Institute to hold a Meeting of the Council at their new Offices at Rinville in Oranmore. The Mayor sought approval to hold the November Meeting there.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed to hold the November Meeting of Galway County Council in the Marine Institute Offices, Rinville, Oranmore on the 27th November, 2006.

TO ARRANGE DATE FOR BUDGET 2007 MEETING 1043

The Mayor sought approval to hold the Budget 2007 Meeting on the 18th December, 2006 at 2.30 p.m. prior to the Monthly Meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed that the Budget Meeting be held at 2.30 p.m on the 18th December, 2006.

MANAGERS BUSINESS 1044

Mr. Cullen suggested that Mr. Dick Roche Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government be invited to officially open the Water Schemes that form DBO Bundle No. 1 which is part of the Rural Water Programme and this was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Mannion.

Mr. Morgan said that the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government had now agreed to fund the construction of the new R336 from Barna to Rossaveal. Discussions are taking place with the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to the inclusion of the section to Screebe via Casla.

Mr. Morgan reminded the members that their Notice of Motion allocations had to be in by the end of the following week. Cllr. M. Connolly said that work was not done in some instances even though money had been allocated. Mr. Morgan said that once money had been allocated work would be carried out.

Comh Ni Fhatharta said that money had been allocated for the provision of lights but the lights had still not been installed by the ESB. Cllr. Mannion said that funding should be provided to remove poles on roadsides where they were causing a traffic hazard. It was agreed to invite a representative from the ESB to attend a Council meeting to discuss these issues.

MAYORS BUSINESS

1045

Referring to a motion which had been passed by Longford County Council it was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta and agreed "that Galway County Council requests the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to permit each Local Authority to waive, or zero rate, Community and Owner Operated Childcare Facilities".

Referring to a motion which had been passed by Ballinasloe Town Council it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed "that this Council write to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government requesting that he introduce legislation or issue a ministerial directive compelling developers of housing development on commencement of works to fully and satisfactorily complete all aspects of the development as per the planning permission issued within a specified time period to be determined by the Local Authority involved and that developers on completion of such works be compelled to immediately apply to the Local Authority for the taking in charge of such developments. This motion also to be forwarded to all Local Authorities in the Country for their consideration and to be the six Oireachtas members representing the constituency of East Galway".

CONFERENCES

1046

On the proposal of Cllr. J. 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:-

"Corepoint/Coast Net Conference – (EU Green Paper on future European Maritime Policy) – The Marine Institute, Galway, 8th November 2006.

Cllr. F. Healy Eames

"Association of Irish Festival Events (AOIFE) – The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, 9th-11th November 2006.

Cllr. M. Mullins.

"National Tourism Conference" – The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare. 24th -25th November 2006.

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, Cllr. T. Reilly, Cllr. M. Hoade, Cllr. J. Cuddy, Cllr. T. Welby, Cllr. C. Cannon.

"Confederation of European Councillors" Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. 8th December 2006.

Cllr. B. Willers, Cllr. T. Reilly, Cllr. Willie Burke.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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

1047

The following reply was given: -

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go mbeadh sé an-chostasach an cosán seo, fad 1400 méadar, a chur isteach agus go mbeadh talamh le fáil. Tá roinnt caolas de bhárr go bhfuil tithe gar to imeall an bhóthar. Chosnóidh an cosán timpeall €300,000 agus níl sé molta de bhárr an brú ar airgeadú i gCeantair Toghachán Chonamara chun obair feabhsúchán bóithre a dhéanamh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 - COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1048

The following reply was given: -

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfaidh an Comhairle Contae scrúdú ar na comharthaí/marcanna bóithre in aice na scoile agus más gá, déanfar athchóiriú chun sábháilteacht bóithre agus coisithe sa cheantar a fheabhsú.”

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

1049

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bóithre poiblí iad na bóithre áise agus mar sin, ní féidir leis an gComhairle Chontae obair cothabhála a dhéanamh orthu. Más obair ar bóithre poiblí atá igceist, má ainmníonn tú suíomhanna áirid, déanfar gach iarracht an tobair a dhéanamh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. J. JOYCE

1050

The following reply was given:-

“The use of Rural Social Schemes for this type of work has major Insurance and Health & Safety implications as well as Union implications which will have to be addressed before undertaking such work. These issues have recently been discussed with Galway Rural Development.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. JOYCE

1051

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council could give consideration to developing a network of small depots to facilitate collection and onward recycling/disposal of bulky goods. This will be looked at in the context of developing annual collection services for such items.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. J. JOYCE

1052

The following reply was given:-

“The Sludge Management Plan for County Galway is expected to be finalised within the next two months, and upon completion, will be brought before the relevant SPC’s and immediately thereafter before the full Council.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1053

The following reply was given:-

“The Oranmore Area Office will view the site in question and forward the report on same to you as soon as possible.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1054

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that it is not a function of Galway County Council to erect such signs. The school authorities may apply to the Council’s Planning Department for a licence to erect a finger post sign and if such a licence is granted they should consult with the Area Engineer prior to the erection of the sign.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1055

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the Oranmore Area Office will prepare a report (and estimate if required) for the section of road in question. The report will be forwarded directly to you.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1056

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that hedge cutting is being carried out in the Gort Engineering Area by 2 no. tractor units financed from maintenance budgets. Roads are being selected on a priority basis taking into account road status, traffic volumes, available widths and visibility etc."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1057**

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine the possibility of providing new toilets at The Square, Gort."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1058**

The following reply was given:-

"The bridge in question is not on a public road and the Council is not responsible for repair or maintenance of the structure."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – CLLR. P. HYNES **1059**

The following reply was given:-

"These proposals are included in the Gort Traffic Management Plan which has already been considered by the Council. It is expected that this Plan will be implemented in 2007."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – CLLR. S. KYNE **1060**

The following reply was given:-

"Subject to the availability of funding the section of watermain at Gortacleva (within the County Boundary) will be included for upgrading works in the 2007 programme."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – CLLR. S. KYNE **1061**

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that negotiations are currently underway with landowners in order to acquire the land necessary to improve the visibility at the Cnoc na Greinne Junction."

Subject to the land being acquired, it is hoped to include this project in the 2007 Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 38 – CLLR. S. KYNE

1062

The following reply was given:-

“The making of a traffic management plan for Moycullen at present would be premature pending the provision of the inner relief road and the Rhatigan development car park. The present AADT for the Knockferry Road is approximately 5750 vehicles per day and the provision of a pedestrian crossing will be examined independently of an overall traffic management plan for the village.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 39 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1063

The following reply was given:-

“Níl buiséad ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe do thograí don chineál seo. D’fhéadfadh an Coiste iarratas a chuir isteach ar dheontas oidhreachta i 2007.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 40 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1064

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go mbeadh sé an-costasach cosán coisithe fad 850 méadar, a chur isteach, mar bheadh talamh le fáil agus ballaí le déanamh. Cosnóidh sé timpeall €300,000 agus níl sé molta mar gur ceantair tuathúil atá i gceist agus tá brú ar airgeadú do Cheantair Toghachán Chonamara chun oibreacha feabhsúchán a dhéanamh ar an bonneagar bóithre.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 41 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1065

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar staidéar ar seo agus beidh tuairisc ar fáil go luath.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 42 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1066

The following reply was given:-

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 23/10/06

"Galway County Council have committed €320,000 to Playgrounds in 2006 with further monies to be allocated to Gort and Claregalway once their proposals have been sufficiently developed to a stage whereby full costs etc. are known.

The Council have allocated monies to New Inn (Ballinasloe Electoral Area), Clifden (Connemara Electoral Area) and Glenamaddy (Tuam Electoral Area) and these groups have commenced with the development of their respective playgrounds. The Council have also committed to giving allocations to Gort (Loughrea Electoral Area) and Claregalway (Oranmore Electoral Area) but these groups are still working through their proposals. In addition, the Council is carrying out complete improvement works to Rinville Playground (Oranmore Electoral Area) which is being fully funded, and have also given an allocation of funding to Inishere.

It is intended that a further Playground in each Electoral Area will be confirmed over the next few weeks.

Playgrounds in Williamstown, Ballymoe and Cleggan have also been developed by their respective communities for which Galway County Council have provided Insurance. Moylough and Inishboffin Playgrounds have been in operation for some time and both are also covered under the Council's insurance."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

Michael Yullien's

27th November 2006
Date.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF FINANCE MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT THE MARINE INSTITUTE, ORANMORE, CO.
GALWAY, ON MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2006.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Mullins

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Bail: 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, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, T. Mc.Hugh, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O’Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, J. Morgan, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; T. Murphy, County Secretary; D. Barrett, Senior Executive Officer; P. Morley, A/Senior Staff Officer; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2006. 1067

Mr. Mullarkey, referred to the Financial Report for period ended 30th September 2006, which had been circulated to each member and outlined the contents of the report. He referred to each programme group and summarised the income and expenditure for the period and stated that overall, the figures were broadly in line with expectations. He said that he would be pleased to provide any additional information that the members required in relation to the report.

Comh O’Cuaig asked why there was a delay in receiving funding from Roinn Na Gaeltachta in respect of roads grants

Mr. Morgan explained that the bulk of strategic road grants were supplied in September 2006 and it was envisaged that it would be spent by the end of the year.

Cllr Joyce asked in relation to Programme Group 3 why only 33% of income had been collected of the €3.4 million which should be collected by end of year. He asked what effect this would have on the following year's budget.

Mr. Cullen explained that the water bills had been sent out late but he confirmed that this would not affect the following year's budget.

Chriochnaigh an Chruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Michael Yullins

18th December 2006
Done.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE MARINE INSTITUTE, ORANMORE, CO. GALWAY ON
MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2006.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. M. Mullins

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, P. Feeney, F. Healy Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, T. Mc.Hugh, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O’Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager; Messrs. P. Ridge, J. Cullen, F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, J. Morgan, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer; T. Murphy, County Secretary; D. Barrett, Senior Executive Officer; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Dr. Heffernan Chief Executive Officer welcomed the Mayor, Members and staff of the Council to the Marine Institute and stated that he hoped that the Institute could work with the County Council in the future in order to promote the county and he extended an invitation to the County Council to use the Marine Institute to showcase the county, whenever the opportunity might arise. The Mayor thanked Dr. Heffernan for his kind invitation and hospitality.

The Mayor stated that the location of the Marine Institute in County Galway was an asset to the county and was an example of well-planned and well-executed decentralization. He wished Dr. Heffernan continued success in the area of marine research, technology, development and innovation.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1068

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Tony Galvin, C/o Tuam Herald, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Gerry & Phil Lane, Oakwood, Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway.
Mr. Brendan Nestor, Browns Grove, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Michael Duane, Clareen, Attymon, Athenry, Co. Galway.
The Clarke Family, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Nancy Mitchell, Cave, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway.
Martha Grenham, Kilclooney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Ann Gordon, Gort Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Mayor Michael Mullins also expressed sympathy to Ms. Avril Horan on the death of her father Mr. Cecil Horan.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

1069

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23rd October, 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Regan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1070

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 5th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 14th November, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Cannon.

Arising from the Report, Cllr. Fahy stated that he had received written confirmation that the upgrading of the Tubber Road, Gort was not included in the Council's E.U. Co-Finance proposals for 2007. Mr. Morgan stated that the Tubber Road, Gort would be included in a supplementary application for E.U. Co-finance Funding for 2007. It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, and seconded by Cllr. Hynes that the Loughrea Area Councillors, NRA, GRACE and Council Officials should meet in relation to this matter. Mr. Morgan undertook to arrange such a meeting.

The Report of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting held on 21st June 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Feeney.

The Report of the Environment, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 20th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18th September, 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

**REPORT BY CHAIR OF CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPC ON
ACTIVITIES OF CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS SPC.** 1071

Report dated 23rd November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member

Cllr. Keaveney, Chairperson of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee, presented a report on the activities of the S.P.C.

Cllr. Canney asked what was the current position regarding the provision of a skatepark at Tuam and Mr. Kelly stated that it was envisaged that tenders would be invited before Christmas in this regard.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.31 HECTARES AT ST.
BRIDGET'S TERRACE, PORTUMNA, CO. GALWAY.** 1072

Report dated 16th November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, the disposal of 10 houses comprising a total area of 0.31 hectares at St. Bridget's Terrace, Portumna, Co. Galway under the Affordable Housing Scheme was approved, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as follows:

Area of Lands: 0.31 hectares

Lands Acquired From: MJK Homes Ltd.

Lands to be transferred: 10 houses to be transferred comprising of a total area of 0.31 hectares.

Location	Name	Price
1 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	JJ Madden	€118,892
2 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Elaine Coughlan	€118,892
3 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	James & Charlotte Haran	€118,892
4 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Laura Sellers & Paul O Reilly	€118,892
5 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Brendan O'Brien & Michaela Cramp	€118,892
6 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Fabian & Aileen	€118,892

	Geraghty	
12 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Ciaran & Breege Madden	€132,867
13 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	MD & Roahana Dinislam	€122,886
14 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Noeleen & Darren Fogarty	€122,886
15 St Bridgets Terrace, Portumna	Stephen & Rosemary Farrell	€130,272

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.210 HECTARES AT DUN AN OIR, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY.

1073

Report dated 31st August, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 10 houses comprising a total area of 0.210 hectares at Dun An Oir, Loughrea, Co. Galway under the Affordable Housing Scheme, was approved, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as follows:

Area of Lands: 0.210 hectares

Lands Acquired From: Profix Ltd. Oughterard, Co. Galway.

Lands to be transferred: 10 houses to be transferred comprising of a total area of 0.210 hectares.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Price</u>
49 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Anthony & Patricia Brookes	€107,000
47 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Patricia Carr	€103,600
46 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Claire McGee	€103,600
48 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Martin & Michelle Harte	€107,000
51 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Patricia Taylor	€103,600
52 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Bridget Duane	€103,600
53 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Paula Maloney	€103,600
54 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Anthony Doorhy	€103,600
55 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Noreen Donoghue	€103,600
50 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Angela Dunne	€103,600

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.140 HECTARES AT DUN AN OIR, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY.

1074

Report dated February, 2006 was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the disposal of 5 houses comprising a total area of 0.140 hectares at Dun An Oir, Loughrea, Co. Galway under the Affordable Housing Scheme was approved, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as follows:

Area of Lands: 0.140 hectares

Lands Acquired From: Craft Ltd. 3 Ard Breeda, Loughrea.

Lands to be transferred: 5 houses to be transferred comprising of a total area of 0.140 hectares.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Price</u>
36 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	David Fallon & Nicola Allen	€108,000
37 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Brendan & Imelda O'Connor	€108,000
39 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Keith Bane & Tanya Duffy	€108,000
41 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Karen Reilly	€108,000
42 Dun An Oir, Loughrea	Mary Rose Glynn	€108,000

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 15 SQ.M AT NA CLOICHE RUA, CARRAROE CO. GALWAY. 1075

Report dated 6th November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh, the disposal of 15 sq.m. at Na Cloiche Rua, Carraroe, Co. Galway, to the E.S.B., was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 15 SQ.M AT FEARN RIACH, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY. 1076

Report dated 23rd October, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 15 sq.m. at Fearn Riach, Loughrea, Co. Galway, to the E.S.B., was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – PROPOSED HOUSING

DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES AT KYLEBROGHLAN, MOYCULLEN 1077

Report dated 10th November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member

Mr. Ridge stated that on foot of the submissions made and concerns raised as part of the public consultation process, it was considered that the proposal to provide a playground and 41 no. dwellinghouses at Kylebroghlan, Moycullen would not be entirely satisfactory and therefore it would be appropriate to re-visit the proposed scheme and he recommended that this Part 8 application be withdrawn. In reply to Cllr. Kyne, Mr. Gilmore said it was hoped to come back to the Council with a revised Part 8 application in three or four months.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by Cllr. Welby, the proposal to construct 41 no. dwellings with associated services at Kylebroghlan, Moycullen, Co. Galway, was withdrawn.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – MOYCULLEN SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE SCHEME 1078

Report dated 22nd November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kyne, seconded by Cllr. Welby, the provision of Moycullen Surface Water Drainage Scheme within the townlands of Killarainy, Ballyquirke West, Kylebroughlan and Gortyloughlin, was approved.

EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT KILBRIDE, GURTYMADDEN, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY. 1079

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Cannon, it was agreed that the public right of way on Local Tertiary Road No. L-4310-02, in the townland of Kilbride, Gurtymadden, Loughrea, Co. Galway, extending westward for a distance of 656.786 metres from its junction with Local Road No. L4310 be extinguished, pursuant to Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

TO APPROVE AMENITY GRANTS 2006 (7TH ROUND ALLOCATION) 1080

Report dated 21st November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, the Amenity Grants 2006 (7th Round Allocation) were approved as follows:

**AMENITY GRANT SCHEME 2006
7th ROUND ALLOCATION (Late Applications)**

Ref No	Group	Proposal	Amount Recommended
A06/85	St Josephs Court Residents Association	Garden Project . Development of Area in grounds for seating area and plant beds on steep hill. <i>Note: Subject to seating agreed with Mary Flynn, Forward planning prior to purchase</i>	€ 700
A06/84	St. Brendans residents Association	Park furniture and planting of trees and shrubs Note: furniture design to be of high quality and agreed with Mary Flynn, Forward planning prior to purchase. Also note type of trees	€ 700
A06/86	Creggs Rural Residents	Upkeep of village green area , planting shrubs and flowers	€700
A06/87	Cloonarkin Drive Residents Assoc.	Maintenance of Green area	€700
A06/88	Monivea Community Council	To purchase and erect cut lime stone town land name signs as direction signs to benefit both local and visiting people. <i>Note: Subject to prior design approval with Mary Flynn, forward planning</i>	€1000
A06/90	Raford Riding Club	To Re-sand the sand area used by the club to make it safer for horses and riders.	€1,000
A06/91	Killiererin Community Council	Upgrade heating system, purchase new computer, furniture	€1,300
A06/92	Annaghdown GAA Club	Provision of new entrance to club grounds	€1,200
A06/93	Kilconieron GAA	Provision of a training area to facilitate all year round training activities	€1,500
A06/94	Dunmore Tidy Towns	Focus on landscaping and fencing	€1,000
A06/59	Moylough Community Council	Provision of Landscaping, tree planting, shrubs in the village around the sportsfield	€1,000
A06/95	Maitias O Gormaille	Funding towards book writing – detailed account of Tuam personalities, traditions and customs	€500

Allocation were approved as follows:

A06/96	Warm Heath Housing (voluntary)	Funding towards provision better living conditions for elderly, day care centre	€3500
A06/97	Glinsk Community Dev. Soc	Towards the continued development of Glinsk Heritage Park	€1,500
A06/98	Portumna Christmas Events Committee	Portumna Christmas Events Committee are once again bringing Christmas Spirit to the Town of Portumna by organising the erection of Christmas Lights, Christmas Trees around the town and Light crossings along the Main Street, Clonfert Avenue and also Patrick Street Note: Must consult with the Chief Fire Officer's Office in relation to the events	€750
A06/99	Hymany/ Curragh Park Residents Assoc	Purchase of playing gear and equipment, purchase of paint and cleaning equipment	€1000
A06/100	Ballinasloe Community Activity Group	Purchase of gardening equipment, purchase of goal posts for summer soccer blitz	€700
A06/101	Portnick Drive Residents Assoc	Repairs & Maintenance of boundary fence and walls, landscaping.	€700
A06/102	Ballinasloe Tidy Towns Committee	Landscaping, replanting , provision of flower beds. Note: subject to consultation with Ballinasloe Town Council	€1000
A06/103	Ard Mhuire/ Garbally Drive Residents Assoc.	Purchase of shrubs, plants and garden equipment	€900
A06/104	Creagh Community Dev Council	Landscaping, purchase of shrubs	€700

Recommended Allocation – November, 2006

Total: €22,050

TO APPROVE COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME GRANTS 2006 (7TH ROUND ALLOCATION).

1081

Report dated 21st November, 2006 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, the Community Based Economic Development Financial Assistance Scheme Grants 2006 (7th Round Allocation) were approved as follows:

Roinn na Gaeltachta each year without a requirement for matching funds far exceeded those where matching funds were necessary.

Cllr. Mannion stated that the allocation of €260,000 in respect of the Village Renewal Programme should not all be spent in the Conamara area but should be broadened out to other Clár areas. In reply, the County Manager stated that matching funds were provided in the Budget to ensure that the Council could attract grants for infrastructural projects in the county and he pointed out that such funds were also provided for projects in Clár areas and part of the matching funds is for Village Renewal projects which are not in the Gaeltacht.

Cllr. Feeney asked what progress had been made by the Council regarding the implementation of the Taking in Charge Policy for Housing Estates which had been adopted by the Council.

Mr. Ridge stated that a report would be prepared and circulated to the Members in January setting out the current position in this regard.

Cllr. Canney asked if the Council had any proposals to provide a bus lane on the N17 approach to Galway stating that the people in the Tuam Electoral Area would totally support such a proposal.

Mr. Morgan stated that only a short stretch of road between Terry Brennan's Pub and the bridge at Claregalway could be considered suitable for a bus lane and this was being examined at present.

Cllr. Canney stated that he had given photographs which showed the poor condition of the roads at Cluide and Aughclogheen, Corrandulla as a result of pipework being carried out there by contractors employed by the Council.

Mr. Cullen stated that the contractor had been instructed by the Council to stop all pipelaying on public roads and to submit proposals for the reinstatement of these roads and also proposals on how the contractor would carry out the remaining pipeworks. He stated that the Council would assess these proposals and, if satisfied that the remediation proposals were in order, then the contractor would be allowed to recommence pipeworks.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the issue of telecommunication masts, stating that there would be increasing demand for masts into the future, particularly by mobile phone providers, and he stated that the Council should include communities in discussions so that a policy be put in place for co-location of masts.

Referring to road safety, Cllr. Joyce stated that it was important that the Council would continue to improve signage at junctions around the county and Mr. Morgan stated that the Council was committed to organising specific teams to deal with signage in each electoral area in the New Year. He stated also that the Council would carry out works at junctions where there was a record of accidents, under the Low Cost Accident Scheme,

with funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in the New Year.

It was proposed by Comh O’Cuaig and agreed that the Council have a full discussion on the working of the Marine Institute at some date in the future.

The Mayor welcomed the recent agreement by Iarnród Éireann for additional stops at Woodlawn and he paid tribute to the Woodlawn Committee for their efforts in this regard. He also thanked his colleagues on the Council for their support.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1085

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that the Loughrea Local Area Office have taken delivery of the signs and propose to erect them together with road making in mid-December 2006.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 - CLLR. B. WILLERS

1086

The following reply was given: -

“I wish to inform you that this location will be examined for suitability for funding under the NRA Low Cost Accident Schemes in 2007.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1087

The following reply was given:-

“It is expected that construction of the Recycling Centre/Animal Welfare Shelter/Roads Depot at Rathruddy, Loughrea will commence in Spring 2007. The construction of the Recycling Centre portion of the development has been prioritised in the contract documents”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1088

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an teach seo curtha sa chlár Tithe tuatha le haghaidh obair deisiúchán. Tá an scéim ceadaithe ag an Roinn Comhshaoil agus beidh muid ag lorg tairiscintí go gairid.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1089

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian lion a chur in iúl nach bhfuil airgead ar fail chun an bother seo a dheisiú ach amháin ón buiséad do cothabháil bóithre. Déanfar oibreacha deisiúcháin de réir arigead a bhéas ar fail go háitiúil do cothabháil bóithre.”

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

1090

The following reply was given:-

“Bheadh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe sásta bosca athchúrsála a chur ar fáil san Tulach, Baile na hAbhann i gcomhairliú leis an gcomhphobal. Ba bhreá leis an Comhairle Chontae cuireadh a thabhairt don chomhphobal teacht chuig an Rannóg Timpeallachta chun teagmháil faoi an suíomh is feiliúnaí”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1091

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the Oranmore Local Area Office will look to replace the existing yield sign with a stop sign in the near future.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1092

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council has received €300,000 funding for Traffic Calming at Leacht Seoirse. To date a survey has been carried out, and we are at present in the process of designing a layout for this section of road. We expect work to commence on this project early in the New Year.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1093

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the provision of bus shelters around the County is not a function of Galway County Council. The Council have liaised with Bus Éireann (recently) in relation to same and have requested them to look favourably at the provision of such shelters as part of their customer charter.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1094

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the local area committee were informed that a design would be prepared for the Tubber Road and that the line would be reserved on the planning maps in order to control future development. The detailed design for such a route will require extensive surveys as existing houses and properties will be affected. The secondary phases of Part 8 Planning Approval and possibly CPO will take upwards of two years. An application for an EU Co-Financed Specific Grant would not be considered by the Department in these circumstances.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1095

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that Galway County Council will request funding for the replacement of the 9 Arch Bridge at Kilchreest as part of our 2007 programme of schemes. The preliminary planning issues of Part 8 Planning Approval and CPO of lands will also be considered when funding is made available and will take upwards of two years to complete. A new bridge will not be at construction stage until 2009 or later depending on funding approval.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1096

The following reply was given:-

“The situation regarding grant funding for Roads from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government for 2005 was as follows:-

Grant allocation by the Department 2005:	€25,640,849
Expenditure on Road Works 2005:	€25,245,447

Balance unexpended at 31/12/05	€395,402
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The grant allocation includes provision for certain projects which would not be completed within the year and the funding carries forward to subsequent years.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1097

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that the road in question is the R351 Regional Road. This is a Non-National Road and as such the National Roads Authority have no responsibility for funding any works on the road

A proposal to seek funding for the improvement of this road under the EU Co-Financed Specific Grants Scheme for 2007 was approved by the Loughrea Area Committee."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1098

The following reply was given:-

"The road in question is a Local Tertiary Road L-82192. The initial section of the road that serves one occupied dwelling is in good condition, the remainder of the road does not service any occupied dwellings and is in need of maintenance work. This road is included on the Roads Programme 2007 – 2008, however it can be considered for a Roadworks Grant under Clár or the Tertiary Roads Grant in future years. In the interim, the Council will continue to carry out routine maintenance as is required."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1099

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that provision was made in the 2006 programme to erect two lights at Barrack Lane, Woodford. The civil works are complete and an order has been placed with the ESB to erect the lights. The ESB have informed us that these works will be undertaken shortly."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1100

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that Galway County Council will be reconstructing this section of road in 2007 as part of the Road Reconstruction Programme. Signage has been erected indicating a bumpy surface ahead and Galway County Council will endeavour to carry out remedial maintenance works in the very near future."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1101

The following reply was given:-

“(a) The Council provide a Local Authority Mortgage to approved Affordable Housing Applicants. The Council allows purchasers to remortgage their property with other lending institutions provided the Claw Back provision is shown as a first charge on the property.

(b) Purchasers are given the option of either a five year fixed mortgage or a variable mortgage.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

1102

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the Tuam Area Office is in discussions with the Resident Engineering Team to establish what works will be carried out on this section of road on the completion of the pipelaying and associated accommodation works being carried out under the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme Extension. In the meantime Galway County Council will arrange for the erection of warning signage to indicate bumpy surface ahead.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1103

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar meastachán ar an obair seo. Níl an obair seo san áireamh I gClár Deisiúcháin Bóithre 2006-2008. Déanfar cothabháil ar an mbóthar laistigh den airgead a bhéas ar fail go háitiúil do cothabháil bóithre.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1104

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil airgead ar fail chun dromchla nua a chur ar an mbóthar seo. Déanfar cothabháil ar an mbóthar de réir airgeadú a bhéas ar fail faoin Clár Cothabháil Bóithre an Chomhairle Contae.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 38 – COMH. S. O TUAIRISG

1105

The following reply was given:-

“Tá gníomh san áireamh I gClár Forbartha na Leabharlainne 2006-2010 breathnú, in éindí le Údarás na Gaeltachta, ar an bhféidearthacht Leabharlann nua a sholáthar (chomh maith le cóiríocht oifige d’Údarás na Gaeltachta) ar shuíomh na Leabharlainne agus Teach na Cúirte sa Spidéal.

Nuair a ardaíodh an cheist maidir le staidéar féidearthachta le giarid ní rabhamar soiléir ar céard é cuspóir an staidéir.

Tá an gníomh thuasluaite curtha san áireamh ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe sa gClár Leabharlainne go dtí 2010. Ní gníomh é atá aon obair dhá dhéanamh againn air faoi láthair ó tharla go bhfuil leabharlann againn sa Spidéal cheanna féin agus tá sé seo dhá fheabhsú de réir a chéile.

Tá ár bhfócas dírithe faoi láthair ar áiseanna nua leabharlainne a sholáthar in áiteacha nach bhfuil a leithid ann faoi láthair ar nós ar an gCreagán agus in Dún Mór agus forbairt áis leabharlainne nua atáthar blianta fada ag fanacht leis I mBeál Atha na Sluaighe. Cuireadh an gníomh seo san áireamh sa gClár Leabharlainne chun a léiriú go mbeidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe toilteanach breathnú, in éindí le páirtithe eile, ar an bhféidearthacht ath-fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar an suíomh ach bheifí ag súil go mbeadh sé se oar bhunús costas neodrach don Rialtas Áitiúil.

I láthair na huaire, níl sé ar chumas Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe maoiniú a thiomnú do sholáthar leabharlann nua sa Spidéal ach beidh muid an sásta measúnú a dhéanamh ar mholtai ó Údarás na Gaeltachta nó páirtithe eile más féidir foinsí eile maoinithe a aithint.

De réir dealraimh breathnaíonn sé go bhfuil ábhair eile le cinntiú freisin:

1) Céard go díreach atá bheartú maidir le aon fhorbairt nua agus cé hiad na páirtnéirí éagsúla? 2) An bhfuil an suíomh in acmhainn dá leithéid agus an bhfuil aon cheisteanna pleanála I gceist? Agus 3) an bhfuil foinse maoinithe aitheanta don mholadh?”

Chriochnaigh an Chruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Approved & Signed

Michael Mullins

18th December 2006

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY, 18th DECEMBER 2006.

ILATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mayor M. Mullins

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, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, T. McHugh, Comh.C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

OIFIGIUGH: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager; Messrs. P. Ridge, J. Cullen, F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, J. Morgan, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. T. Murphy, County Secretary; Mr. D. Barrett, Mr. G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; Ms. M. Connaughton, Mr. A. Breathnach, Senior Executive Engineers; Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant; Mr. M. Matthews, A/Head of IT; Ms. C. Connell, Senior Planner; Mr. M. O'Donnell, Administrative Officer; Ms. N. Heffernan, Senior Staff Officer; Mr. P. O. Neachtain, Irish Officer; Mr. J. Keane, Staff Officer; Ms. J. Gibbons, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

BUDGET 2006

1106

The County Manager referred to the draft Budget for the year 2007 which had been circulated to each member of the Council together with his updated report issued on 13th December 2006. He stated that the general report and the reports of the Directors of Services, gave an overview of the work of the Council, under each programme group for the year 2006 and proposals for 2007.

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 20th November, 11th December and 18th December 2006.

He added that the Corporate Policy Group 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 2007, 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.

The County Manager said that since the publication of the draft Budget the actual allocation of €38,490,666 from the Local Government Fund had been received and that it represented over 25% of the total revenue income available for 2007. He said that the increase / adjustments in the allocation from the Local Government Fund is made up of a general increase of 6.18% on the 2006 final allocation and a sum of €1,012,410 arising from the application of the Needs and Resources model.

He said that the total County Valuation on which rates were to be levied for 2007 amounted to 301,100, an increase of 40,000 on the 2006 figure and that this represented a 68% increase in the commercial base since 2000. This increase is a clear indicator of the economic development and progression in the County. He added that whilst income from County Rates is a vitally important element for the Council, representing 12% of total revenue income, the Council has consistently, over the years, endeavored to maintain rate increases, to the minimum level necessary, to support and maintain services essential for economic progress.

He said that the draft Budget proposed a rate on valuation for 2007 of 63.53, an increase of 4.5% on the 2006 rate but that he would come back to this issue in the context of his updated report. Each 1% increase in the rate multiplier amounts to €183,671. He also referred to appendix 3 showing the relative levels of the 2006 rate for County Galway, compared with other County Councils noting that the rate level in counties of similar topography and area is considerably higher than the Galway rate.

He referred to a summary of other locally-determined income in the draft Budget as set out in page 4 of the report circulated and drew members attention to the basis on which income from water services is estimated in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle. He explained that 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.

For schemes, contracts for which were entered into, since March 2000, the Capital Grant towards construction, paid by the State, covers only the domestic element of these 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. This water metering programme was undertaken in 2006 and will be 95% complete by the end of December.

In order to implement Government policy in this area he said that the 2007 Budget has moved away from a mix of metered and fixed charges towards a volumetric charge based on usage and is designed to recover the full costs of operating our water and waste water facilities.

He indicated a number of particular factors and requirements which impinge on 2007 expenditure including:

- water pricing policy - national government policy has determined, on the one hand, that costs of water be recovered transparently on the basis of actual usage 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. The costs associated with the production of high quality drinking water and the disposal of sewage continues to escalate reflecting the increased Capital spend on the provision of new facilities and is likely to grow further into the future.
- 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 preparing the draft Budget.
- commitments to improving the quality of customer services and communication with the public, in particular the commencement of the projects to provide new regional offices in Loughrea and Tuam, requirements under the Official Languages Act, statutory and non statutory consultation regarding council policies and programmes, and ICT improvements including the new Council website launched in 2006.
- The Council's Social Inclusion Strategy
- as for any other large enterprise, increased overheads such as energy and insurance costs.

He referred to the three year programme for Capital projects, proposed for the three year period 2007-2009. The details are based on current information and

are subject to availability of necessary funding and sanctions as appropriate in each case.

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 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). He added that members will have received a detailed report on receipts and application of income under the scheme in early 2006 and it was his intention to provide a similar report to members in early 2007.

He noted 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 stated that since his report last year, the Indecon report on Local Government Funding had been published and Galway County Council supported the main recommendations contained in that report, especially those aimed at broadening the revenue base of the Council.

He said that it is a challenging reality that, through our continued progress on the delivery of our key infrastructural projects notably in the expansion of our water and waste water facilities, the knock on effect of maintaining these facilities has a significant impact on our revenue budget through increasing operational costs whilst income sources are, for the most part, maximized. Whilst the Capital construction of these projects is part funded by the development contributions raised, he felt that it was important to reiterate the fact that, contrary to any perception that may exist, development contributions can not be used to maintain the operational aspect of these projects.

In bringing a balanced Budget proposal before the Members the Manager said that significant cost reductions had to be made across all programme groups. However, notwithstanding that fact, he believed that the proposed Budget demonstrated the Council's commitment to delivering the best possible range of services across all programme groups. The proposed gross expenditure of €151M represents a 15% increase on 2006 expenditure and together with a proposed 2007 Capital spend of €306M represents a considerable investment of public monies in the development of County Galway, and in meeting the needs of its people.

The County Manager said that actual allocation from the Local Government Fund had resulted in additional funds being made available to the Council and he proceeded to outline his proposals as to how those funds should be allocated.

He said that in light of the increased allocation for 2007 he was proposing that the increase in the multiplier be reduced from the proposed 4.5% increase to a

3% increase resulting in a multiplier of 62.61 which will deliver a total rate income of €18,851,871, a reduction of €277,012 on the draft figure.

In addition and having regard to the concerns raised by Members during the year in the area of local road maintenance, verge trimming and road signage and in light of the allocation from the Needs and Resources model he stated he was proposing that:

A) a specific additional fund of €200,000 be made available for hedge cutting and verge trimming

B) a specific fund of €200,000 be made available to fund road signage works requested by members (note that both these proposals are in addition to the normal works programme carried out under the local road maintenance programme) and

C) an additional €156,000 be made available for general local road maintenance to bring the increase on the 2006 allocation from 7.5% to 10%. This level of increase would also apply to Notice of Motion monies.

He said that Health & Safety of staff, customers and the public has always been of critical concern to the Council, that the legal obligations on the Council in this area have increased significantly due to recent changes in legislation, in particular the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the Safety, Health & Work (Construction) Regulations 2006 and that he was proposing an additional €100,000 be provided to fund necessary training, systems and provisions required under such legislation.

He also proposed that an additional €100,000 be provided towards the funding of schemes co-financed throughout the county (in Clár, Rapid and Gaeltacht areas) in partnership with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

He noted that in the 2006 Budget the Council had commenced a policy of providing for progressing the Council's Regional Office programme and that he was proposing to increase the provision under this heading by €100,000. In addition he proposed that the remaining funds be allocated by increasing the provision for coroners by €50,000 where Council had been advised that a 20% increase was to be applied to their fees and by increasing the provision for IT services by €26,107 towards a specific project to facilitate the provision of on-line payment facilities for customers.

The County Manager thanked the elected members for their support over the last year. In particular he wished to record his appreciation to the Mayor, Cllr. Michael Mullins, and his predecessor, Cllr. Pat Hynes, for their commitment to the special responsibilities of their office and for their courtesy and co-operation in doing the business of the Council. He also acknowledged the assistance of the Corporate Policy Group in deliberating on the draft Budget prior to its presentation to Council.

He also expressed his thanks to the Council's Directors of Services and all Council staff, for their continued support and commitment. He thanked the Head of Finance, Mr. Ger Mullarkey and the Finance staff for their work in

drafting the Budget for 2007, and Páid Uas. Ó Neachtain (Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge) for helping to make the report available tré Gaeilge.

He concluded by recommending to the Council, the adoption of the Draft Budget as updated, and stated that he was glad to have the endorsement of the CPG to his proposal.

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

The Mayor complimented the Manager, Mr. Mullarkey, the Directors of Services and the Corporate Policy Group on their work preparing the draft Budget. He was pleased to recommend the Budget as presented inclusive of the update previously circulated. He welcomed the modest rate increase of 3% and welcomed the additional funding provided for verge trimming, signage and health and safety.

Cllr McDonagh said that whilst it would be preferable to have a zero increase in the rate he acknowledged that the proposed increase of 3% was a reasonable proposal in the current climate. He paid tribute to the work of the County Manager the Council officials and the Corporate Policy Group.

Cllr D. Connolly said that at a previous meeting he had requested that the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government be requested to incur the full cost of the installation of meters in agricultural premises and wondered if any response had been received from the Department.

He also referred to the unsatisfactory situation at the Ballinasloe Recycling Facility since the closing of the Landfill and the fact that plastics were not being accepted.

Mr. Cullen stated that correspondence had been received from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government early in the year regarding water metering on farms which said that they were not exempt from the charges.

Cllr. Joyce said that cuts made in last years Budget should be prioritized in this years allocations. He expressed some reservations at the low rate of increase in the rate, which was lower than that of inflation.

He enquired as to the status of the Sludge Management Plan. He also referred to the 5 Year Roads Plan allocations which do not take account of inflation increases over the period and can result in incomplete road works in some instances.

He also referred to the Kiltormer Sewerage Scheme asking when the consultants were to be appointed as it was agreed that it would be funded in 2006 but no progress had been made to date. Mr Cullen acknowledged that there had been a delay in the appointment of consultants for the Kiltormer

Sewerage Scheme which was as a result of short staffing in the section but that consultants would be appointed as soon as possible.

Mr. Cullen stated that a detailed list of Water Schemes was not provided in the Draft Budget but had been circulated separately under the Water Services Investment Programme. He also confirmed that a Sludge Management Plan would be presented to the Strategic Policy Committee in the first half of 2007.

Mr. Morgan noted that there are insufficient funds available to carry out all road works within the county but that within each electoral area works are prioritized and dealt with on that basis.

Comh. O Cuaig welcomed the publication of the Feasibility Study regarding the provision of a swimming pool in Conamara and he also welcomed the proposals in the Budget for progressing the new road to Conamara.

He said he was disappointed that in spite of the fact that 84 Planning enforcement notices and 381 warning letters had been issued during the year, only 1 injunction had been served.

In reply Mr. Ridge said that he was hoping to have a greater emphasis on enforcement in 2007 and that staff resources were being committed in order to achieve this. He said that the Council's policy in relation to planning enforcement would be discussed at SPC level early in 2007. The Planning Department would nonetheless continue to rely on the general public for information of breaches in this area. He cautioned that those who had seemingly avoided any repercussions for unauthorized developments would run into difficulties when selling on their property.

Cllr. Canney requested that the status of small farming enterprises and in particular equestrian centers be deemed non-commercial and therefore non-rateable.

Mr. Mullarkey stated that the decision to rate a premises as a commercial entity rested with the Valuation Office and not the County Council.

Cllr. Cannon welcomed the increase in funding towards Essential Repair Grant and Disabled Persons Grants and the modest rate increase of 3%.

He welcomed the additional funding for IT and requested that Council further investigate the possibility of forwarding all documentation by e-mail rather than hard copy.

Mr. Kelly said that the option to receive documentation by e-mail would be made available to Councillors in 2007.

Cllr. Willers asked if convents and presbyteries were exempt from water rates. She also queried if there were any immediate plans to extend Áras an Chontae as she felt it was grossly overcrowded.

Mr. Cullen advised that with regard to convents and presbyteries no water metering applied if they were used solely as domestic residences. Mr. Kelly said that prioritization was currently being given to the development of Regional offices, with Loughrea nearing completion and Tuam to start in 2007. As an alternative to relieve overcrowding in Áras an Chontae, the possibility of acquiring extra space elsewhere would be considered.

Cllr. McHugh welcomed the broadening of the rates base through increased valuations in recent years and the modest increase proposed in the rate for 2007. He noted the necessity to carefully manage the Councils expenditure on a day-to-day basis to get maximum value for money.

Comh O Tuairisg referred to the lack of an adequate Fire Service on the Islands in County Galway. He noted that An t-Aire O Cuiv had agreed to fund the provision of a fire tender and a relevant building on each island. He proposed that 8% of the additional allocation be allocated to initiate a fire service for the islanders. He also acknowledged the great voluntary work of the islanders in providing the lifeboat service.

In response, Mr Cullen stated that Council were very aware of the concerns of people on the islands and said that it was intended in the coming year to review the fire safety arrangements for dealing with emergencies for the whole county which would include a focus on island needs.

Cllr. Welby also referred to the provision of a fire service on the islands. He asked if some of the additional €100,000 allocation for Health and Safety in the Manager's updated Report could be allocated towards fire prevention. Mr Cullen assured the Council that there is an ongoing commitment to fire prevention programmes. He noted with specific regard to the islands that plans were in place for the provision of training. This can be done without an amendment to the Budget as the allocation is available under the Fire Services Programme.

Chuir Comh Ní Fhatharta fáilte roimh an plean tithíocht do Ros a Mhíl agus Leitir Mór. Chuir sí fáilte freisin roimh an deontas do na coistí deonach do na reiligí mar go ndéanann said an-obair ar son na h-áite. Dúirt sí go raibh sí díomach mar gheall ar an ardú costas ar uaigh, sé sin 30%. D'iarr sí ar na h-oifigí ath-bhreathnú a dhéanamh ar an costas sin.

Dúirt Mr. Cullen go raibh praghas uaigh ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i bhfad níos saoire ná mar atá sé ag na hÚdaráis Áitiúla eile.

Cllr. Mannion welcomed the additional allocation provided for Verge Trimming and Road Signage as they will contribute towards increased road safety. He emphasized the need for more signs and road markings, in particular the need for improved right turn facilities on the N6. He asked if something could be put in place to determine the best usage of the Clár programme allocation so as to enhance the quality of life for people in these areas.

Mr. Morgan stated that he was in favour of the installation of right hand turning lanes and a programme of proposed works is being carried out in conjunction with the National Roads Authority and the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

The Manager advised the Council that Clár funding is a significant contributor to various projects in County Galway. He confirmed that Mr. Dawson would prepare a report on the range of Clár funding and respective expenditure across the various areas.

Cllr. Feeney welcomed the modest rate increase of 3%. He noted that the Automatic Public Convenience was not yet installed in Loughrea and was urgently required.

On the issue of the Automatic Public Convenience in Loughrea, Mr. Cullen confirmed that it would be installed in the very near future.

With reference to the verge trimming allocation Cllr. Fahy stressed the necessity to commence the work early in the Summer season. He drew attention to the lack of co-ordination of various service providers which necessitated the digging up of the roads in the County on a number of different occasions.

Cllr. S.Walsh seconded Cllr. Canneys proposal to derate small agricultural enterprises. He stated that the €5.8 million allocated for the Oughterard sewerage scheme would not be enough to complete the scheme. He expressed concern at the lack of development in Oughterard and suggested that it needed a kick start through developing the infrastructure in the area. He referred to a commitment by An t-Aire Ó Cuiy to provide funding for a fire tender and a building for the Fire Service on each island and to the upgrade of the road to Ros a Mhíl. He suggested that the Council liaise with Udarás na Gaeltachta, Roinn na Gaeltachta and other relevant bodies in order to achieve same.

Cllr Healy-Eames welcomed the allocation of €5million for the provision of a pedestrian over bridge in Oranmore. She expressed concern with the traffic situation in Claregalway in particular in relation to access to the primary school at the junction and expressed disappointment that no allocation was being provided for improvements at this junction. In relation to water metering she stated that she identified with the difficulties being faced by farmers in the West of Ireland and suggested that a single meter charge be introduced for those farmers with fragmented holdings.

Mr. Cullen noted that there had been considerable debate on the standing charge resulting in proposals to have a staggered charge for those with fragmented holdings, whilst it would not satisfy everybody, was a fair and balanced proposal.

Cllr Reilly asked if there was an allocation being made for emergency situations, with particular reference to the flooding in the Tuam and Headford area. He said that no public convenience had been provided to date in the town

of Tuam. He requested that right hand turning lanes and improved road markings and signage be provided at Caherhugh Junction and the Ballytrasna/Marley Junction.

Mr. Morgan stated that Council staff had been working steadily to resolve the flooding issues experienced in recent weeks, which was due to the recent spate of very wet weather. He also noted that the roads issues raised would be forwarded to the NRA for consideration.

Cllr. Hoade welcomed the increased allocation to the local community groups involved in the maintenance of Burial Grounds. She also noted that the provision of €150,000 for burial grounds had not been increased from the previous year.

Mr Mullarkey said that the provision of €150,000 for burial grounds was an annual contribution towards the funding of capital works, and separate to the increased funding provided for the annual maintenance.

Cllr T. Walsh welcomed the modest increase in rates which would be of particular welcome to the small struggling businesses in the County. He complimented the staff of the Council for their efforts during the recent period of flooding. He also welcomed the recent announcement of the approval of funding for the Glenamaddy Sewerage Scheme.

Mr. Morgan said that he wished to add his own thanks to the road workers in County Galway for their tremendous work during the period of flooding in recent weeks.

Cllr M. Connolly said that the Council, by implementing water charges, was only fulfilling their duty under a European Directive. He said that under that Directive the full operational costs had to be recovered and that by lowering charges in one area i.e. metering would only result in a higher volumetric charge. He proposed that a flooding relief programme be devised on an electoral area basis and forwarded to the Department of the Environment and Local Government for funding purposes.

Mr. Morgan said that arterial flooding relief was a function of the Office of Public Works. He confirmed that the Minister has asked the Council to estimate the costs and amount of damage done by the recent flooding.

Cllr. Cuddy queried how planning permission was granted in areas prone to flooding. He requested that a specific application be made to the National Roads Authority for funding to deal with the traffic situation in Claregalway. He welcomed the efforts of the Valuation Office in County Galway this year and the consequent wider rate base which has assisted in achieving a modest rate increase for 2007.

AMENDMENT TO DRAFT BUDGET

1107

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed to amend the draft Budget in accordance with the County Manager's report of 13th December 2006 including the reduction of the rate increase from 4.5% to 3% and resulting in a Rate on Valuation of 62.61.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2007

1108

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh:

"That Galway County Council hereby adopt the draft Budget as amended for the Financial year ending 31/12/2007."

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

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2007

1109

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Cuddy:

"That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget for the Financial Year ending 31/12/2007, the Rates as set out in Table B and C, as amended, to be the Rates on Valuation to be levied for the several purposes as set out in those Tables for the Financial Year Ending 31/12/2007".

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 31/12/2007 had been determined by the Council.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME OUTTURN FOR 2006

1110

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh seconded by Cllr. McHugh the Council noted and approved the estimated expenditure and outturn figures for 2006 as set out in the Budget documentation.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & signed

Michael Yullin
22nd January 2007
Date

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2006.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mayor M. Mullins.

I LATHAIR 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, P. Feeney, F. Healy Eames, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, T. Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, 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. Gilmore, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; C. Mc Connell, Senior Planner, G. Scully, D. Barrett, Senior Executive Officers, T. Murphy, County Secretary; M. Connaughton, Senior Executive Engineer, M. McGovern, Management Accountant, M.O Donnell, Administrative Officer, N. Heffernan Acting Administrative Officer, J. Keane, Staff Officer, J. Gibbons, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY 1111

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Bridie Leahy, 15 Dublin Road, Renmore, Galway
John & Fidelma Burke and the Burke Family, Tullindaly Rd, Tuam, Co. Galway
Tom Burke, Coolratty, Moyvilla, Co. Galway
Séan Moloney, Newtownmorris, Tuam, Co. Galway

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 18/12/06

Tom, Michael & Annie Molloy, Ballard, Clonbur, Co. Galway
Arthur & Winnie Joyce and the Joyce Family, Mouniteirown, Maam Cross, Co. Galway

The Mayor and Members expressed their sympathy to the wife and family of Cllr. Michael Leahy who died recently and who had been a longtime Member of Galway City Council.

The County Manager on behalf of the management and staff of the Council expressed sympathy to Cllr Leahy's family.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 1112

The minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 27th November, 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Healy Eames.

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 27th November, 2006 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Mannion.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1113

The report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh.Ni Fhatharta and seconded by Comh O'Tuairisg.

The report of the Corporate & Cultural Affairs SPC Meeting held on 13th November 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Cuddy and seconded by Cllr McDonagh.

The report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 16th October 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr T Walsh and seconded by Cllr Cuddy.

The report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 20th November 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr T Walsh and seconded by Cllr Cuddy.

The report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr McHugh and seconded by Cllr Connaughton.

The report of the Environment, Water & Emergency Services SPC Meeting held on 15th November 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Cuddy and seconded by Cllr Willers.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting 18/12/06

The report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 28th June 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta.

The report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 12th July 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers.

The report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 20th September 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by Cllr Willers.

The report of the Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 13th July 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Cuaig and seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta.

The report of the Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 18th October 2006 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Cuaig and seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

1114

On the proposal of Cllr. Connaughton, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Road commencing at junction with County Road LP2301 in the townland of Windfield, and extending east as appropriate for a distance of 200 metres in the townland of Windfield and finishing at William Mannion's house in the townland of Windfield.

Electoral Area: Tuam.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

1115

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Road commencing at junction with the L7159-0 (Farranablake Road) in the townland of Farranablake East and extending northwards for a distance of 380m and finishing in the townland of Farranablake East (Fallon Crescent).

Electoral Area: Loughrea

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
ROADS ACT 1993** 1116

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

Road commencing at extension with County Road LT 85316 in the townland of Coole Demesne and extending south west as appropriate for a distance of 305 metres in the townland of Coole Demesne and finishing at Vivienne Kelly's gate in the townland of Glenbrack.

Electoral Area: Loughrea.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0147HA IN THE
TOWNLAND OF CAHERKELLY, LABANE** 1117

Report dated 29th November, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Willers, disposal of 0.0147ha in the townland of Caherkelly, Labane was approved.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 26 HOUSES AT THE
WEIR ROAD, TUAM –** 1118

Report dated 30th November, 2006 was already circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, the disposal of 26 houses at the Weir Road, Tuam was approved

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – BEARNA SEWERAGE
SCHEME PHASE 1** 1119

Report dated 5th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the Bearna Sewerage Scheme phase 1 was approved.

Cllr Kyne enquired about the PE to be served and what allocation was remaining.

Mr. Cullen stated that the scheme would be connected to the City network and the effluent treated at Mutton Island. There was an agreement whereby the City would treat up to a maximum PE for Bearna and a small proportion of this allocation will still be available after the proposed works have been completed.

Cllr Welby said that there were many houses between there and Bearna church and asked was there any proposal to connect these.

Mr. Cullen replied that there was no proposal to do so.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – DEVELOPMENT OF SLIPWAY AT ARD WEST PIER, CARNA 1120

Report dated 6th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Welby, the development of a slip way at Ard West Pier, Carna was approved.

Comh O'Cuaig wanted to know what was the update on the Pier at Ard East. He stated that planning permission for this development was running out in June 07.

Mr. Morgan said that the matter would be coming before the Council next year under the provisions of Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – DEVELOPMENT OF SLIPWAY AND HARDSTAND AT CILL MHUIRBHIGH PIER, INIS MÓR, ARAINN 1121

Report dated 6th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S Walsh, the development of a slip way and Hard Stand at Cill Mhuirbhig Pier, Inis Mor, Arainn was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - WIDENING OF ACCESS ROAD TO POINTE PIER, AN CHEATHRÚ RUA. 1122

Report dated 6th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Comh O'Tuairisg, the widening of the access road to Pointe Pier, An Cheathru Rua was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – UPGRADE OF THE R340 ROUTE BETWEEN GORTMORE, ROSMUC AND DOIRE IORRAIS BRIDGE 1123

Report dated 12th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Comh O’Cuaig, seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta, the upgrade of the R340 route between Gortmore, Rosmuc and Doire Iorrais Bridge was approved.

Comh O’Cuaig said that there was a dangerous stretch of road to the east of this Bridge and asked could this be included as part of the proposed upgrades.

Mr. Morgan said that it was proposed to improve this section as a separate project.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – ABBEYKNOCKMOY ROAD REALIGNMENT IN THE TOWNLANDS OF POLLAWARLA, BALLYNAKILLA, CULLIAGH NORTH 1124

Report dated 12th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr McHugh, seconded by Cllr M Connolly, the Abbeyknockmoy Road Realignment in the townlands of Pollawarla, Ballynakilla, Culligh North was approved.

TO APPROVE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR 6 MONTHS 01/01/07 – 30/06/07 1125

Report dated 24th November, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr McDonagh, seconded by Cllr S Walsh, the overdraft accommodation for 6 months 01/01/07 – 30/06/07 was approved.

TO APPROVE RAISING OF LOAN TOWARDS PROVISION OF RECYCLING CENTRE AND ANIMAL WELFARE SHELTER AT LOUGHREA. 1126

Report dated 8th December, 2006 was circulated to Each Member

On the proposal of Cllr Willers, seconded by Cllr S Walsh, the raising of loan towards provision of Recycling Centre and animal welfare shelter at Loughrea was approved.

Cllr Willers wanted to know if this proposal would be self financing.

Mr. Cullen stated that it would not be self financing and that there was a provision in the Budget for same. He said that it was proposed that the local area depot would be part of the proposal.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue after 6.00p.m.

DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT – APPLICATIONS FOR CONNECTIONS TO WATER & WASTE WATER FACILITIES 1127

On the proposal of Cllr, Healy Eames and seconded by Cllr McDonagh it was agreed that this item would be deferred until the January monthly meeting.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS. 1128

Cllr Healy Eames said that the High Court had made an order in favour of a developer overturning the Councillors decision to reverse the rezoning on his lands on an indicative flood plain from residential to recreation and amenity.

She said that that the Council had made a decision not to appeal the outcome of the case because of the possible cost and the procedural issues involved. She said that this was not in the interest of the public good and that many more developers will now challenge zonings made in Local Area Plans.

Cllr Healy Eames asked that the Council examine the consequences of building in a flood plain. She asked that the Council would appeal the Court decision and that the likely cost of €300,000 to take a case was only the price of one house and she wanted to know why the Council would not take a case instead of an individual.

Cllr Cuddy said that he had asked the Director of Services for a copy of the judgment but had not received it to date. He asked what would the impact be of the judgment on future local area plans.

The Manager said that he had not received advance notification of this item but that he would provide a report on the matter.

Cllr Healy Eames asked that this item be put on the agenda for the January monthly meeting.

The Manger said that as soon as he was in a position to prepare a written report the members would get it.

Cllr M Connolly said that all the Councillors should get a copy of the judgment and that some thought should be put into spending the resources of the Council on a legal challenge.

The Manager confirmed that all of the Councillors will get a copy of the judgment.

Cllr Feeney said that he had received a response from Eircom to say that it would cost €10,000 to remove two poles from the roadside in Craughwell. He said he objected to the fact that there was a 13.5% charge for VAT included in this figure.

Cllr Joyce suggested that no poles be erected on the public road by Eircom and that the same should apply to the ESB.

The Mayor thanked the County Manager and his staff for the tremendous work they were doing and he paid a special tribute to the emergency staff for their efforts during the recent flooding.

He also thanked the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support and he wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1129

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian lion a chur in iúl go mebeidh gnóthí talon á dhéanamh I rith an sé mhí seo chugainn chun go bhféadfaí bother na Doireadh a leathnú.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1130

The following reply was given:-

“Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag fanacht le foilsiú treoracha ar clúdach Riosca Dóiteáin & Éigeandála ó an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil. Nuair atá said foilsithe, beidh an Comhairle Chontae in ann breathnú ar an gá le haghaidh Staisiúin nua in iarthair na Gaillimhe.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1131

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that this location has been examined and it is hoped to carry out remedial works in early 2007.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1132

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that a map of Grange has been forwarded to you, to enable you to identify the approximate locations at which the passing bays are required. An estimate of the cost of providing the bays will be provided when this information is received.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1133

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the road in question is not included in the three years road programme submitted to the DoEHLG in 2006. Routine maintenance works will be carried out.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1134

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1135

The following reply was given:-

“I wish to inform you that the NRA Roads Programme for 2007 has not been notified to Galway County Council. We have previously made requests for funding for pavement improvements in Gort but have not been successful to date. We would hope that an allocation is made for Gort Main Street as part of the 2007 programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1136

The following reply was given:-

“ Craughwell sewerage scheme is included in the bundle of four schemes i.e. Claregalway, Carraroe, Milltown and Craughwell. We hope to be sending the Contract Documents for the scheme to the Department by end of January and hope to commence construction as soon as possible.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed

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Michael Mullins

22nd January 2007

Date: