

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE AN GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING FOR GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY, ON MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2008.

ILATHAR:

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Mayor Peter Feeney

BAILL:

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Canney, J. Conneely, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. O Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, M. Finnerty, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes, C Keaveney, S Kyne, M. Maher, T Mannion, J McDonagh, T McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, Comh O Tuairisg, T. Reilly, M Regan, S Walsh, T Walsh, T Welby, B. Willers.

OIFIGIGH:

Ms. Martina Maloney, County Manager, Messrs F. Dawson, F. Gilmore, J.Cullen, K. Kelly, J. Morgan, Directors Of Services; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Ms. Breda Mc Dermott, County Secretary; Messrs G Scully, Senior Executive Officer, Mark O Donnell, Administrative Officer, Mr. M McGovern, Management Accountant, Messrs L Gavin, M Lavelle, Senior Engineers; Mr. P O Neachtain, Irish Officer, Ms Frances Mitchell, A/Senior Staff Officer, Ms. Mary Duane, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosaig an cruinniú leis an paidir.

BUDGET 2008

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The County Manager referred to the draft budget for the year 2009 which had been circulated previously to each member of the Council. She 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 2008 and proposals for 2009.

She said 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 meeting held on November 28th and again on December 4th. She added that the Corporate Policy Group had been mindful of the need to adopt the draft budget with our without amendment and to

determine the annual rate of valuation to be levied while at the same time deciding on the competing requests for funding.

During 2008, Galway County Council had experienced a substantial change in the economic context in which they were operating, which has implications for the Council's Budget for 2009. In previous years, budgets have been expansionary, in line with growth in demand for quality services.

The 2008 adopted Budget made provision for gross revenue expenditure of €160m. In line with the changed economic climate and resource availability the Draft Budget for 2009 envisages expenditure of €156m, a reduction of 2.5%. This figure is contingent on the level of allocation received from other organisations e.g. Department of Transport, NRA, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Although reduced, it represents a very significant injection of resources into service provision in the County.

She also mentioned in view of the reduced resources available, some reprioritisation of works will be required, with deferral of some very valuable programmes. The Budget reflects a change from expansion of service to maintenance of priority services.

Key influences in the preparation of the Draft Budget.

(1) Local Government Fund

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have advised Galway County Council that the provisional allocation for the year 2009 is €38,114,833. The Department has indicated that this allocation will be revisited and adjusted, as appropriate, to take account of income from the newly introduced Non-Principal Private Residence Levy.

The figure of €38,114,833 represents a decrease of 6.2% on our 2008 allocation, representing a reduction in resources available to this Council of €2.5M

(2) Reduction in Operating Costs: Pay, Consultancy, Advertising.

As previously notified to Council, Galway County Council has been instructed to put mechanisms in place to reduce operating costs for 2009 as follows:-

Pay Cost:	3% Reduction
Consultancy/Adverting/PR:	50% Reduction

Work is being advanced throughout the organisation to identify areas which will yield the required savings. The 3% payroll reduction requires Galway County Council to make a saving in payroll expenditure in 2009 in the order of €1.8M

(3) Pay Costs

Notwithstanding the 3% reduction on pay costs required, pay costs have increased arising from implementation of national wage agreements. These costs include:-

- 2.5% increase from 1st September 2008
- 3.5% increase from 1st September 2009
- Increases in line with incremental scales

(4) Newly Commissioned Facilities and Standards

Galway County Council is engaged in the delivery of a major capital investment programme, particularly in the water services area.

While we would welcome a more timely investment in capital infrastructure to address the significant deficit in the County at present, the investment programme results in significant operating cost increases and cost of servicing of borrowing to fund the non-domestic portion of the investment.

In addition, new quality standards and environmental requirements are adding significantly to our cost base. In 2008, the Council has put significant resources into the Water Services Programme, both capital and revenue. This is essential if the Council is to fulfil its legal obligations in the area of compliance.

The Draft Budget includes provision of €24,293,133 for the Water Services Division. This represents an increase of 14% on the provision for 2008. The outturn for 2008 is likely to exceed Budget by 9%.

During 2008, additional resources were applied to the implementation of the Water Services Investment Programme, improvement of the operation and maintenance function and the identification of a programme of remedial measures to address the immediate deficiencies and address compliance issues.

The increase in costs can be accounted for by a number of elements.

- (i) Requirement for improved operation, maintenance and management.
- (ii) Electrical cost increases (17% in 2008)
- (iii) More complex treatment processes
- (iv) Sludge Disposal costs
- (v) New plants coming on stream
- (vi) DBO plants.

For example the costs associated with running the Headford Sewerage Scheme under the DBO contract is approximately €250,000 per annum.

Other DBO contracts coming on-stream for 2009 including Dunmore, Kilkerrin, Leenane and Cleggan. Claddaghduff will cost in the region of €200,000 in a full year.

In accordance with the National Water Pricing Policy, the costs incurred in the provision of water services are intended to be met through charging the non-domestic consumer the economic cost of production for the proportion attributable to this sector, with the balance in respect of the domestic sector being recouped through the Local Government Fund. The implementation of this approach indicates that Galway County Councils' current charge for water and wastewater is significantly lower than the actual costs incurred.

In addition, in a year when water services costs have increased by 9%, the Local Government Fund has reduced by 6.2%. There is therefore a significant shortfall in funding for the increasing cost of water services, which is unsustainable in the context of legal compliance requirements.

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The Draft Budget includes an income provision of €750,000 as an estimated contribution from the Department of the Environment to meet the increasing costs associated with the cost of supplying water services to the domestic sector.

The issue of under recovery from the non-domestic sector must also be addressed, in line with the National Water Pricing Policy.

Trends in cost of operation and maintenance of water services

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Estimated 2008
O&M	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Water	4835	5454	5400	7642	8157
Waste Water	1556	1869	2280	2992	3322
Total	6391	7323	7680	10634	11479

With the implementation

tion of the new costing system, including the apportionment of divisional overheads and central management charges, it is necessary to restate the 2008 water and waste water budgeted figures for comparison purposes with the equivalent figures as set out hereunder.

	2008 (as restated)	2009
O&M	€'000	€'000
Water	11,445	13,968
Waste Water	4,225	4,656
Total	15,670	18,624

Trends in Charging

Charge per M ₃	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Water	0.66	0.73	0.73	0.80	0.89	1.09
Waste Water	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.50	0.61	1.07
Consolidated	0.73	0.80	0.80	1.30	1.50	2.16

The full implementation of the National Water Pricing Policy would require a charging level as follows:-

- Water €1.49
- Waste Water €1.58

In the context of the current economic climate, I would propose to move towards full cost recovery in compliance with national requirements, on a phased basis and propose that the water charge increases for 2009 reflect the increase in water supply costs for the year i.e. an increase of 22%

Based on a survey of water service charges, it would appear that the 89 cent charged by Galway County Council for 2008 for water is one of the lowest of the County Councils in the country and significantly less than the charge of 1.34 in the most expensive County. While I appreciate that this is an additional burden on the non-domestic sector it reflects only a portion on our actual costs, which are likely to increase further in the coming years as compliance costs increase and new

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infrastructure is put in place. Our current charge for waste water service does not reflect the actual costs and must also increase significantly to €1.07 Per M3, which is still significantly less than the economic cost.

Commercial Rates

In view of the difficult trading conditions for many businesses at present, and the requirement to significantly increase the charges associated with water services in line with National Water Pricing Policy and having discussed this matter with the CPG, I propose to increase the rate multiplier for 2009 by just 2%. This is significantly less than the rate of inflation. I would also remind Members that the commercial rate in County Galway is significantly less than comparator Counties e.g. Mayo, Donegal, Kerry.

Cost Reduction

In order to deliver a balanced Draft Budget for the consideration of Council, it has been necessary to reprioritise work and identify efficiency improvements. The following tables set out the expenditure and income breakdown proposed for 2009, taking account of the requirements for revised presentation associated with the implementation of the new costing system.

<u>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME GROUP</u>			
	Budget 2008	Estimated Outturn 2008	Draft Budget 2009
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	12,137,961	12,135,885	12,014,184
Road Transportation & Safety	56,435,871	55,544,000	52,673,737
Water Services	21,318,484	23,247,000	24,293,133
Development Management	12,730,388	11,546,500	11,202,058
Environmental Services	19,019,785	19,127,000	18,994,206
Recreation & Amenity	8,618,938	8,650,500	8,053,179
Agriculture, Education Health & Welfare	22,513,315	21,108,000	20,593,350
Miscellaneous Services	7,644,000	7,928,772	8,159,316
Total	160,418,742	159,287,657	155,983,162

In the Draft Budget, the estimated Revenue Income anticipated is as follows: -

<u>Estimated Revenue Income</u>	2008		2009	
	€	%	€	%
Local Government Fund	40,815,200	25%	38,114,833	24%
State Grants & Subsidies	67,800,418	42%	64,886,798	42%
Non-Domestic Water Charges	5,220,659	3%	5,344,910	3%
Local Determined Income	26,880,311	17%	30,041,232	19%

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Other Income	19,702,153	12%	17,595,389	11%
	160,418,741		155,983,162	

Expenditure Adjustments

I attach hereunder a table setting out the principal variances between the Budget for 2008 and 2009.

Service	Service Description	2009	2008	Change
		€	€	€
A01	Maintenance/Improvement of LA Housing Units	3,716,573	4,254,968	(538,395)
B03	Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	16,377,174	14,387,324	1,989,850
B04	Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	26,087,871	31,739,090	(5,651,219)
C01	Water Supply	13,968,121	11,445,413	2,522,708
C02	Waste Water Treatment	4,656,472	4,225,453	431,019
C06	Support to Water Capital Programme	1,201,431	979,444	221,987
D01	Forward Planning	1,167,993	1,272,554	(104,561)
D06	Community & Enterprise Function	1,025,525	1,273,675	(248,150)
D09	Economic Development and Promotion	1,541,930	2,454,843	(912,913)
E02	Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	966,550	1,059,851	(93,301)
E05	Litter Management	1,260,727	1,331,977	(71,250)
F02	Operation of Library and Archival Service	4,798,744	4,954,848	(156,104)
F05	Operation of Arts Programme	446,958	678,538	(231,580)
G02	Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours	1,264,456	2,189,429	(924,973)
G03	Coastal Protection	11,666	340,211	(328,545)
	Subtotal of above	78,492,191	82,587,618	(4,095,427)
	Total Expenditure	155,983,162	160,418,742	(4,435,580)

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As you will note from the table, the budgetary strategy involves the prioritisation of water services to meet rising operation and maintenance costs.

This is essential to ensure improvements in water quality, environmental protection and compliance with the law. (It is important to note that in Services B03, B04, D09 and G02 the reduction in expenditure reflects the both the discontinuance of specific central funding e.g. Clár and a reduction in matching funds and that there is a corresponding reduction on the income side.)

Many of the costs incurred by the Council are non-discretionary costs in that they must be spent on particular services, for example, Higher Education Grants, loan charges, statutory demands, pensions etc. The scope for reduction in costs and expenditure is therefore limited to discretionary items.

As already referred to, a reduction of €1.8M in payroll costs is proposed in line with the Central Government requirement. This will be achieved through various mechanisms, such as, reduction in overtime, non-recruitment of staff, non-replacement of temporary vacancies, review of contract positions etc. Service delivery, in the context of reduced numbers, will require flexible approaches and prioritisation of work.

The recently recruited Energy Officer has identified a number of areas where there is potential to reduce costs and these will be progressed during 2009.

The draft budget anticipates a significant reduction in travel costs for employees.

The provision in the draft budget for staff training for 2009 has been severely curtailed to meet existing commitments and prioritising those arising under the Health and Safety Legislation.

There has been a reduction in activity in the development management area which is reflected in proposed cost reductions and a reduction in provision for forward planning.

Galway County Council has a strong tradition of supporting the various voluntary and community activities throughout the County across the range of services e.g. Golden Mile and other heritage activities, festivals and arts activities, economic and tourism activities. Galway County Council will continue to support Community activity through the work of the staff of the Community, Enterprise and Economic Development section and Heritage section.

Work will continue in areas such as the RAPID programme, Sports Partnership, tourism promotion, bio-diversity initiatives etc. The approach to resourcing these programmes in 2009 will focus on the use of staff expertise to support communities and to use available funding to leverage financial support from other partner organisations e.g. Local and rural development companies, the Arts Council, the Heritage Council and Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Draft Budget includes provision for commitments issued to groups in 2008, which will be met in 2009.

However, in the preparation of the Draft Budget, I have been forced to suspend a number of grant schemes which the Council operates in the economic, community, arts and heritage areas for 2009 and calls for new grant assistance cannot be accommodated within available resources. This is regrettable and I would hope that when resources permit, these funding streams, which have been so valuable to the many communities will be restored.

The Draft Budget does not provide for any new public lights in 2009. Unfortunately it is not feasible to make such provision from the available resources and add to our cost base for future years in the running costs of public lighting.

A significant reduction of €1m in the allocation to county roads from the Councils' own resources is also necessary and will impact on the level of activity in 2009. As in other years, a full picture will emerge following the notification of grants from the Department of Transport and the NRA to allow compilation of the Roads Works programme for 2009.

In recent years significant resources have been assigned to the Library Service, with an expansion in service availability and hours of operation. It is a valued service in communities throughout the City and County. A large proportion of the cost of the library service is in payroll and establishment areas. In order to achieve savings in 2009 it has been necessary to substantially reduce the library book fund.

Some reductions have also been necessary in areas such as ICT, housing maintenance and piers and harbours.

Other Income

The draft budget includes provision for the implementation of a new nominal charge on civic amenity facilities.

An increase in income from housing rents is also anticipated.

The preparation of the draft Annual Budget for 2009 has been difficult, in the context of increasing costs, responsibilities and services standards, with a reduced resource available. I believe that the proposed Draft Budget will allow Galway County Council to deliver the optimum provision of core services in 2009, within available resources. The proposed gross expenditure of €156m together with the capital programme spend estimated at €300m, represents a very considerable investment of public monies in the development of the county and delivery of services throughout the County.

If resources were available, there are many other valuable areas of activity we would wish to engage in. However, we must now adapt to the challenge of delivering with less resources. We will continue to advance the capital infrastructure programmes, particularly in roads and water services, which will contribute to improving the competitiveness of County Galway.

The County Manager thanked the elected members and staff of the Council for their co-operation and support during 2008. She expressed her appreciation to the Mayor, Cllr. Peter Feeney and former Mayor Cllr. Sean Canney for their commitment to the special responsibilities of the office of Mayor and their courtesy and co-operation in doing the business of the Council. She also acknowledged the assistance of the Corporate Policy Group in the discussions on the draft budget.

She also expressed her thanks to the Council's Directors of Service and their staff for their rigorous examination of budget items for 2009 to identify areas for efficiency improvement and cost saving. She thanked the Head of Finance, Mr. Ger Mullarkey and the staff in the Finance Unit for their work in preparing the Draft Budget.

She concluded her report by noting that 2009 will undoubtedly be a challenging one for Galway County Council but that she was confident that with support of the Members, Management team, and colleagues that we would provide valuable services in 2009 to meet the needs of the citizens and adapt flexibly to the changes required, and recommended to the Council the adoption of the Draft Budget as presented.

Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, then outlined the format of the budget to the members detailing the new Costing Structure and the new Statutory Tables from A to F replacing the old Statutory Tables A, B & C. Mr Mullarkey also gave examples of the new structure to highlight the differences between the old and the new system. He went through the key differences between the 2008 and 2009 budget as detailed on pages 5 and 6 of the Draft Budget.

There were concerns expressed, questions asked and clarifications sought by the Members as follows:

Local Government is under funded by Central Government and despite 10 years of unprecedented wealth, a lot of cutbacks are proposed

It appears that the swimming pool for Loughrea is now unlikely to receive funding. The Non Private Residence Levy was raised and it was queried how will it be facilitated.

It would appear that the estimated 3% payroll reductions for 2009 will reduce the level of quality and efficiency in the delivery of services.

Concern was expressed at the reduction in the library budget and what impact this is likely to have with regard to the Tuam Library.

The high cost of DBO contracts was noted and it was queried if the Council was getting value for money.

There was concern at the reduction in the budgets allocated to Community & Enterprise grants schemes.

With regard to the table outlined in Appendix B it was asked if the Council had an update on other comparable local authority charges for 2009.

It was agreed that the issues raised to date would be responded to at this stage.

The County Manager noted the comments and agreed that it was a very challenging budget. In relation to the Non Private Residence levy, the best estimate was that there are 14,000 private rented accommodation units in the county which would deliver an income of €2.8M under the new levy, she also clarified that this income goes into the

Central Fund to be distributed and that the provisional allocation from the fund is contingent on these funds being collected. With regard to the reductions in funding for community and enterprise and library services, she noted that the proposed reductions were not an easy decision to make but to maintain funding would require a further increase in rates. In relation to the annual rate on valuation being imposed by other local authorities she stated that this information is not yet available as many other local authorities are also at the draft budget stage.

Mr Cullen stated that the increased costs in relation to the operation and maintenance of water and waste water facilities reflected the increased capital expenditure in recent years in the provision of such infrastructure. In relation to the cost of DBO contracts he stated that the Council were getting value for money but that these costs would increase as the Department policy is to provide funding on the Capital side for DBO works which once completed, the operational costs would have to be provided for in the revenue budget. He noted that it is inevitable that the increased Capital expenditure will result in increased operational costs in the future.

Mr Kelly referred to the significant cut in funding to the Library service but also clarified that it was preferable to reduce the funding for the book fund rather than to reduce opening hours. He also explained that there had been significant increases in the book fund in previous years and that reduction in the 2009 fund would hopefully be short term. He also clarified that Galway Co Co has made a funding application for Tuam library and it is anticipated that this will be successful. In relation to the position re Loughrea swimming pool he noted that the Council were still in discussions with the Department of Arts Sports and Tourism in relation to funding.

The Members raised further issues of concern as follows:

Due to the increase in ESB costs it was suggested that the Council should look to renegotiate tariffs in 2009. The cost of advertising was raised and it was suggested that the Council should look at reducing these costs. In relation to Commercial Rates it was pointed out that small businesses will not survive in the current economic climate if rates are increased and that timing for this increase is wrong. It was understood that rates for 2009 were to be capped at the 2008 level. It was expressed that the proposed reduction in payroll costs of 3% may result in the termination of all temporary contracts which in turn will lead to an increase in the number claiming social welfare. It was pointed out that in other business's many employees were taking pay cuts and it was suggested that all council employees should take one week unpaid leave.

Concern was expressed that the proposed recycling facility in Loughrea may not proceed and that the introduction of a charge to use the civic amenity sites could result in an increase in illegal dumping.

A question arose as to how much was Celtic Anglian being paid by the Council? Clarification was sought in relation to DBO's and if Galway County Council had the responsibility of operating the schemes (now DBO's), what would the costs be to the Council as opposed to the DBO and if there were any other alternatives. A question was also raised as to the number of DBO's currently-- is just one DBO i.e. Headford or are there more in the county? Reference was made to the €200,000 referred to in

the manager's report for the DBO schemes coming on-stream in 2009 and a question was raised if this funding was for each of the schemes or for all of them combined. .

The Members also wished to know if Galway County Council (who administers Motor Tax for both the city and county) recoup the monies for the Motor Tax service from the City Council.?

Disappointment was expressed at the poor provision of public lighting in comparison to other neighbouring councils.

The proposed increase in commercial rates and water charges was considered to be too high by the Members.

A question arose as to the provision of a new fire station site in Athenry.

The benefits being gained from the provision of an enforcement section in the Planning Department was raised? The question recovery of costs for planning enforcement and unfinished housing estates was also raised.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:

The Co Manager stated that the Council have engaged an Energy Officer part of whose brief is to renegotiate tariffs in 2009 and that already potential savings had been identified. She noted that much of the advertising cost was of a statutory nature but that the Council were examining ways to reduce these costs. She noted the comments regarding the reduction in funding for community grants. Regarding the suggestion that staff should take one weeks unpaid leave she outlined the broad range of family friendly policies in place within Galway County Council, and that the draft budget reflected the implementation of these policies. She was not aware, she said, of any announcement proposing the capping of 2009 rates at 2008 levels. She pointed out that the high cost of developing a civic amenity site in Loughrea at the proposed location meant that the project was unfeasible; the proposed charge for the use of the recycling facilities was a nominal charge of €2.

Mr Cullen advised that the budget for 2009 had included an amount of €700K in respect of the services provided by Celtic Anlian.

He indicated that the operating costs of a plant would be similar if run directly by the Council or under a DBO scheme. Galway County Council currently has one water DBO scheme and that as future schemes are completed the number of DBO schemes will rise. He confirmed that the €200,000 provided for in the budget was to cover all of the schemes

In relation to the provision of public lighting the County Manager pointed out that in the current year the Council do not have the resources to provide additional public lighting in 2009. Mr Mullarkey confirmed that the funding for operating the collection of motor tax is included as part of the local government fund and that therefore there is no recoupment from the city.

Mr Gilmore advised that the Chief Fire Officer has been actively involved in looking for a site for a fire station in Athenry. Mr Ridge stated that the Council was obliged to operate an enforcement section in the Planning Department and that activity in this area would be a priority in the future. He advised that the Council does pursue its costs incurred in operating its enforcement and unfinished housing estates sections but that any awards are at the discretion of the courts and that it would not be prudent to budget for any significant income under these headings

The Members raised further issues as follows:

It was suggested that a lower Rateable Valuation be implemented for seasonal businesses. It was pointed out that domestic water was as expensive to produce as commercial water and it was suggested that the funding for domestic water should be clearly identified in the local government fund. The current status of the Councils Sludge Management Plan was queried. Clarification was sought on the recruitment of 177 people in 2008 in view of the economic downturn. It was suggested that green waste be taken in at the Ballinasloe recycling centre.

The Members were concerned at proposed cuts in the allocation for roads as many of the county's roads were in urgent need of reconstruction. The status of the provision of traffic lights in Headford was raised. It was noted that the provision for housing grants (disability) was €950,000 and the issue of matching funds from Central Government was queried. It was suggested that the fee for submissions on planning decisions should be increased. Concern was expressed at the increase in water charges and the fact that the farming community would be hardest hit by this increase. What impact would the proposed reductions have on litter management by the Community Wardens.? An issue was raised regarding traffic management at the Creagh Junction on the N6. Members wished to know if the budget provided for bonuses for senior management? The Members were strongly opposed to increases in Rates and Water Charges.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:

The County Manager said that in the current climate there was no scope for any form of rates relief. She indicated that the Council were also anxious to get clarity on the funding of domestic water.

Mr Cullen confirmed that a Draft Sludge Management Plan would be brought before the SPC early in 2009. The Co Manager stated that the numbers recruited included staff appointed to the major capital schemes currently being undertaken as well as the recruitment for temporary vacancies but that the numbers had declined in the last quarter. Mr Cullen confirmed that the Council were investigating the possibility of taking green waste at the Ballinasloe centre. The Co Manager noted the concerns regarding the proposed reductions but explained that in the current climate the options available were either to reduce expenditure or increase charges. Mr Morgan confirmed that the provision of traffic lights at Headford was currently being tendered for.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, it was agreed to suspend standing orders in order for the meeting to continue after 6.00pm.

The Co Manager indicated that the Council had maintained its provision for housing grants at 2008 levels and Mr Gilmore confirmed that the newer grants attract a maximum of 80% funding from Government as opposed to $\frac{2}{3}$ rds recoupment on Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants. Mr Ridge confirmed that the subject of planning fees was a national issue and the County Council has no discretion in this regard.

The Co Manager acknowledged the concerns raised at the proposed increase in water charges but pointed out that the proposed charge was still below the economic cost as outlined in the budget report. Mr Cullen advised that the proposed reductions in litter management would not impact on the operation of the Community Wardens. Mr Morgan undertook to investigate the situation in relation to the Creagh junction.

The County Manager confirmed that the Budget did not contain any provision for bonus payment to senior management

PROPOSAL TO AMEND DRAFT BUDGET

1972

It was proposed by Cllr M Mullins, seconded by Cllr Jarlath Mc Donagh, to amend the Draft Budget for 2009 as follows:

1. Proposed to transfer €3,000 of each councillors Notice of Motion roads allocation to fund economic and amenity grants.
2. That the proposed annual rate on valuation of €66.92 be decreased to €66.59, i.e. a reduction in income of €110,418.00
3. That the proposed charge per cubic metre for water be reduced from €1.09 to €1.00 ie a reduction in income of €282,082.
4. Overall implication is a reduction in income of €392,500.00

The reduction in income of €392,500.00 to be funded as follows:

- H0303: Reduce provision for irrecoverable rates by €100,000.
- H0402: Reduce provision for Local Elections by €40,000.
- H1001: Reduce provision for Motor Taxation Operation by €100,000.
- H1101: Agency, Recoupable Services reduced by €100,000 - Office Accommodation provision.
- H0904: L A Members Conference Expenses reduced by €52,500.

Cllr Welby proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 30 minutes to consider the above proposal and this was seconded by Cllr Mannion. As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken as follows:

In favour 13 Against 14

The proposal was defeated

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL TO AMEND DRAFT BUDGET

1973

Cllr Seamus Walsh proposed an amendment to Cllr Mullins proposal to amend the Draft Budget and proposed that Councillors N.O.M. funding remain at €21,500.00 (per member) and this was seconded by Cllr Tom Reilly. As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken.

Voting on the amended proposal was as follows:

In favour 13 Against 14

The amendment was declared defeated.

Voting on the original proposal by Cllr Mullins to amend the Draft Budget 2009 was as follows

In favour 14 Against 13

This Motion was declared carried.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2009

1974

It was proposed by Cllr Mullins and seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh.

“That Galway County Council hereby adopt the Draft Budget, as amended, for the financial year ended 31/12/2009” As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken.

Voting: In favour 14 Against 13

The mayor declared the motion carried.

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR 2009

1975

It was proposed by Cllr Mullins and seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh.

“That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget for the Financial Year ending 31/12/2009, the rates as set out in Table A 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 31/12/2009”

As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken.

Voting was as follows:

In favour 14 Against 13

The mayor declared the motion carried and declared that the Rate on Valuation for the various purposes specified in the Budget for the Financial Year ending 31/12/2009 had been determined by the Council.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME OUTTURN FOR 2008 1976

It was proposed by Cllr Mullins and seconded by Cllr Mc Donagh.

“That Galway County Council approves the estimated expenditure and outturn figures for 2008 as set out in the Budget documentation.”

As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken.

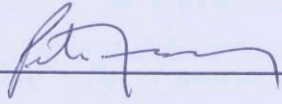
Voting was as follows:

In favour 14 Against 13

The mayor declared the motion carried.

CRIOCHANAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved + Signed



26th January 2009
Date

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON
MONDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 2008**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Feeney

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Baill:-

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Canney, J. Conneely,
D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh.
O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, M.
Finnerty, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes,
C Keaveney, S Kyne, M. Maher, T
Mannion, J McDonagh, T McHugh, M.
Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, Comh O
Tuairisg, M. Regan, T. Reilly, S Walsh, T
Walsh, T Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager,
Messrs. J. Cullen, P. Ridge, K. Kelly,
J.Morgan, F. Gilmore, Directors of
Services, M. Lavelle, M. Dolly, L. Gavin,
Senior Engineers, G. Mullarkey, Head of
Finance, B. Mc Dermott, County
Secretary. A.Comer, Senior Executive
Officer, M. O'Donnell, Admin. Officer,
Mr. P. O'Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge
and R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1933

Liam Felton, Cloosh, Oughterard, Co. Galway.

John Keane, St. Joseph's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway.

Denis Hackett, Woodpark, Portumna, Co. Galway.

Cllr. Harry Walsh, Kilmaine, Co. Mayo.

Judy Timmins & Family, 1 Fairgreen Heights, Tuam, Co. Galway

Muintir Uí Ghriofu, Caoran Mór, An Cheathrú Rua.

Kathleen Lowry & Family, O'Keefes Terrace, Old Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2008

Ann Hussey & Family, Mc Hale Terrace, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1934

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 24th November, 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, and seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Minutes, the following issues were raised:

In response to Comh. Ó Cuaigs enquiry regarding the delay with the Costelloe Regional Water Supply Scheme, Mr. Cullen replied stating that An Bord Pleanala had approved the Environmental Impact Statement submitted subject to conditions. The Council had sought a review of these conditions and a fee of €100,000 was requested by An Bord Pleanala. He further informed the Members that the Department had been formally written to regarding this fee and asked if it could be included as a legitimate cost of the Scheme.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. Regan in relation to the Turoe Stone, Cllr. D. Connolly confirmed that the Corporate & Cultural SPC had visited the site and indicated their support to retain the stone at its existing location which will be reflected in the respective minutes of the meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1935

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on the 16th October, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, and seconded by Cllr. Regan.

Arising from the Minutes.

Mr. Gilmore, in reply to a query raised by Cllr. Welby, confirmed that a Scheme of Priorities for Housing Grants and Older People Grants is to be considered by the Housing SPC at their meeting next week, before being brought to the full Council.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 28th November, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr D. Connolly, seconded by Mayor Feeney.

Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2008

Cllr. D. Connolly raised the issue of NOM money which he wished to use in the Ballinasloe Town Council Area.

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, it was agreed to allow Cllr. Connolly use his Notice of Motion money in the Ballinasloe Town Council Area.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 4th December, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11
OF ROADS ACT 1993** 1936

A report was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, 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 National Road N6 in the townland of Oatfield and extending south for a distance of 415 metres in the townland of Pollatlugga and finishing at Sheila Treacy's house in the townland of Tooreenard.

Electoral Area: Ballinasloe.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11
OF ROADS ACT 1993** 1937

A report was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, 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 Regional Road R336 in the townland of Culligh Beg and extending south for a distance of 180metres in the townland of Culligh Beg and finishing at M. Keane's house in the townland of Culligh Beg, Oughterard.

Electoral Area: Conamara.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11
OF ROADS ACT 1993** 1938

A report was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, 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 L5324 in the townland of An Chorr and extending north for a distance of 120 metres in the townland of An Chorr and finishing at P.J. Leavy's house in the townland of An Chorr.

Electoral Area: Conamara.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11
OF ROADS ACT 1993** 1939

A report was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, 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 LS5381 in the townland of Leam West and extending north for a distance of 250 metres in the townland of Leam West and finishing at Tommy Little's house in the townland of Leam West.

Electoral Area: Conamara.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – GALWAY DRINKING
WATER REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAMME KILCONNELL WATER
WORKS LA17/08** 1940

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, and agreed, that improvements works be carried out on the existing water treatment plant for the Kilconnell Water Supply Scheme under the Galway Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – GALWAY DRINKING
WATER REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAMME CARRAROE WATER
WORKS LA18/08** 1941

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Comh. O’Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed that the Galway Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme for Carraroe Water Works be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – GALWAY DRINKING WATER REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAMME ROSMUC WATER WORKS LA19/08 1942

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member

It was proposed by Cllr. O’Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed that the Galway Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme for Rosmuc Water Works be approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – GALWAY DRINKING WATER REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAMME PORTUMNA WATER WORKS LA20/08 1943

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan, and agreed that the Galway Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme for Portumna Water Works be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – GALWAY DRINKING WATER REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAMME INISHBOFFIN WATER WORKS LA21/08 1944

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member

It was proposed by Cllr Kyne, seconded by Cllr. Canney, and agreed that the Galway Drinking Water Remedial Action Programme for Inishboffin Water Works be approved.

APPROVAL TO BORROW €1,370,000 FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY PLC TO FUND LAND PURCHASE FOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION 1945

Report dated the 3rd December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2008

In response to queries raised by the Members Mr. Gilmore gave details of the amounts and the areas for funding.

Cllr Regan requested that in future where approval is requested for the borrowing of funding, a detailed report setting out the areas, and amounts of funding for each area, be furnished to the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, approval was given to the borrowing of €1,370,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to fund Land Purchase for Housing Construction.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY 1946

Report dated the 9th December, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney that Cllr. Burke be nominated.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Reilly that Cllr. Joyce be nominated.

A vote taken on these proposals resulted as follows:

For Cllr. Burke

Cllrs W. Burke, S. Canney, M. Carey, P. Feeney, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O Cuaig, M. Finnerty, T. Walsh, B. Willers. (14)

For Cllr. Joyce

Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M. Fahy, M. Hoade, M. Meagher, T. Mannion, M Regan, S. Ó, T. Reilly, (7)

Abstained

D. Connolly (1)

The Mayor declared Cllr. Burke nominated for appointment to the Governing Authority of the National University of Ireland, Galway

TO CONSIDER DRAFT POLICY ON THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS TO FACILITATE MOTOR SPORT EVENTS 1947

Cllr. Canney, Chairperson of the Strategic Policy Group presented the Policy as per report dated the 15th December, 2008.

A discussion took place in relation to litter, damage and repair of roads, bonds and alternative routes

Cllr. Canney thanked the Members who contributed to the policy and also for debating the issues raised.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty it was agreed to adopt the Policy on the Temporary Closing of Public Roads to facilitate Motor Sport Events.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

1948

The Manager referred to the Bord Pleanala decision regarding Galway City Outer By-Pass. She informed the Members that the Council have sought a meeting with the NRA to discuss the progression of the portion of scheme that permission has been granted for, and also the proposal regarding the section not approved.

The Members expressed their concerns regarding the decision of An Bord Pleanala and debated the issue.

The Manager said the Council will not be in a position to answer any questions raised until after the Meeting with the NRA.

In regard to the N18 Oranmore to Gort proposal, Mr. Morgan informed the Members that official notification had been received from the NRA regarding the abandonment of this proposal.

Cllr. Keaveney enquired what the implications for the Tuam By-pass were.

Mr. Morgan said the NRA are looking at options and have not informed the Council in relation to this matter.

Cllr. Cuddy said he again wanted to highlight the deplorable state of the roads in the Lisheenkyne and Castleambert areas as a result of construction work on the M6. Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, and agreed that Galway County Council would forward the following proposal to the NRA:-

“That Galway County demand that the NRA provide a Plan, a Timescale and a Budget for the restoration of the roads in our County that are being damaged severely by the construction of the New M6.

Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2008

That the New M6 not be opened until such time as these roads have been restored to an acceptable level.

Also, that the Director of Services addresses the serious safety issues raised at the Council meeting before a life is lost.”

Following discussions on the Status of the Tuam Inner Relief Road, the following was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney seconded by Cllr. Reilly, it was agreed that Galway County Council write to the Minister for Transport as follow:-

“In view of Tuam’s Status as a Hub Town under the National Spatial Strategy, Galway County Council supports this status and request that the Department of Transport give priority consideration to providing the necessary funding to allow the construction of the Inner Relief Road which is a vital infrastructural component in the development of the Hub Town”

Following discussions on the safety of the N18 National Road from Kilcolgan to Ardrahan, the following was agreed:-

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Regan, it was agreed that Galway County Council contact the NRA and “seek emergency funding to provide Hard Shoulders from Kilcolgan to Ardrahan on the N.18 National Primary Road. This matter is of great urgency for the safety of the people using this busy road.”

MAYORS BUSINESS

1949

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting on the 12th January, 2009 at 3.30 p.m. to discuss the County Manager’s Report on the submissions received on the County Development Plan and the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment.

CONFERENCE

1950

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, it was agreed that the attendance of the following members at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each member:-

“Effective Communication for Councillors – 12th -14th December, 2008, Sligo.

Cllr. S. Canney, M. Maher, W. Burke,

“Homeless in Ireland” – 5th & 6th December, 2008, City West Hotel, Dublin.

Cllr. P. Feeney, S. Kyne,

“Clare Tourism Conference, 27th – 29th November, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

Cllr. J. Joyce, J. Cuddy, M. Maher,

LAMA Annual Winter Seminar – 26th – 27th November, 2008. TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar.

Cllr. J. Cuddy, T. Mc Hugh, M. Maher, Comh. Ni Fhatharta, Cllr. T. Mannion, J. Mc Donagh, M. Mullins, W. Burke, C. Keaveney, S. Canney, B. Willers, M. Finnerty, S. Connaughton, M. Hoade.

Ultimate Communications - All Island Public Consultation Conference, 13th November, 2008, Croke Park.

Cllr. W. Burke

Business Improvement Districts Conference – 7th November 2008, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Cllr. W. Burke, S. Kyne,

Fingal County Council, Green Infrastructure Conference – 4th & 5th November, Malahide Co. Dublin.

Cllr. W. Burke.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1951

The following reply was given:-

“A revised date for the launch of the road safety high visibility vests campaign shall be considered in the context of agreeing the 2009 work programme for the

Road Safety Together Committee with a view to maximising the effectiveness of the campaign.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 1952

The following reply was given:-

“The only funding available in the 2009 budget is for the maintenance of the existing public toilet in Gort.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 1953

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will apply for funding under the National Disability Strategy in 2009 and requests for funding are sought from the Engineering Areas. This location has previously been identified under disability audit as a location for the provision of a pedestrian crossing.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1954

The following reply was given:-

“Tá na doiciméid conartha do Scéim Soláthar Uisce Réigiúnach Chasla curtha chuig an Roinn Comhshaoil. Nuair a fhaightear soiléiriú ar ábhair a bhaineann le planáil ón mBord Pleanála déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe iarratas ar cheadú na ndoiciméid conartha mar a cuireadh chuig an RCORA.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1955

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an mhéid iarthóirí seo leanas ar Liosta Feithimh Tithíochta na Comhairle a léirigh gur i gceantair Chonamara atá a gcéad rogha ar thithíocht, de réir an tábla atá leis seo

<u>Social Housing</u>		<u>Areas of Preference</u>	
Aran	13	Lettermullen	18
Carna	30	Moycullen	113
Carraroe	67	Oughterard	100
Clifden	70	Recess	0
Clonbur	9	Rosmuc	12
Inverin	22	Rossaveal	25

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Leenane	1	Roundstone	12
Letterfrack	51	Spiddal	33
Lettermore	26	Tully	9

Total 611

Rural:

Bealadangan	1	Lettermore	6
Carna	5	Oughterard	1
Claddaghduff	2	Recess	1
Cleggan	1	Renvyle	1
Moycullen	1	Spiddal	1
Letterfrack	1		

Total 21.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1956

The following reply was given:-

“Tá Réamhthuirisc maidir le Scéim Séarachais An Spidéil curtha ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe chuig an Roinn Comhshaoil agus táimid ag fanacht lena gceadú a dhul ar aghaidh le réiteach doiciméid conartha.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY 1957

The following reply was given:-

“The resolution passed at the Council Meeting on 24th November 2008 in this regard has been forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY 1958

The following reply was given:-

“The Council currently has a staff complement of 3 Housing Liaison Officers throughout the County, and there are no proposals within existing staffing limits to provide an additional Housing Liaison Officer for the Ballinasloe Electoral Area.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1959

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will place chevrons on the ends of the parapet walls in question. They will be located on the Lackagh side of the Bridge only as there is no necessity on the Turloughmore approach to the Bridge. These works will be carried out in 2009 subject to available resources.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1960

The following reply was given:-

“That Galway County Council have grass removed on edges of road and sprayed from Lackagh village to Turloughmore community centre.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1961

The following reply was given:-

“The inspection of all signs throughout the County each Monday is not feasible having regard to available resources. However, vulnerable areas will be checked frequently in the course of routine maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. M. MULLINS 1962

The following reply was given:-

“The resolution passed at the Council Meeting on 24th November 2008 in this regard has been forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. M. MULLINS 1963

The following reply was given:-

“The resolution passed at the Council Meeting on 20th October 2008 in this regard has been forwarded to the Taoiseach and the Minister of Finance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. M. MULLINS 1964

The following reply was given:-

“The Council cannot give a definite timescale for payment of grants to approved applicants for Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants. Once works are approved and completed, the Housing Department must confirm that the Contractor is appropriately certified, the Housing Engineer must inspect and approve the works for payment and the grant payment may then be processed subject to sufficient funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1965

The following reply was given:-

“The Housing Unit will assess the requirement for public lighting at this location and following full assessment, will refer the matter to the ESB if applicable.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1966

The following reply was given:-

“The Housing Unit will refer the issue of public lighting in Carraig Alainn to the ESB for repair.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1967

The following reply was given:-

“It is not possible for the Council to install a footpath at this location at the current time as there is insufficient road width. When the adjoining site is being developed the road can be widened and the section of footpath infilled by the developer.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – COMH S. O’TUAIRISG

1968

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl gur déanadh obair athchóirithe ar an mbóthar seo taréis na píopaí uisce á chur isteach. Chabhraigh an Deontas Bóithre do 2008 chun oibreacha uasghrádú a dhéanamh ar go leor píosaí den bóthar seo agus níl aon airgead fágtha i 2008. Níl an bóthar san áireamh sa gClár Oibreacha Athchóirithe Bóithre 2008 – 2010 do 2009. Tá fadhb mór draenáil le socrú ar píosa don bhóthar nach déanadh uasghrádú air.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – COMH S. O’TUAIRISG 1969

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl gur déanadh obair athchóirithe ar an mbóthar seo taréis na píopaí uisce á chur isteach. Tá an bóthar se ar liosta sa gClár Oibreacha Athchóirithe Bóithre 2008-2010 do 2009.”

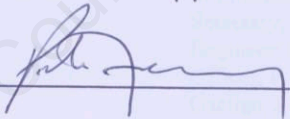
NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – COMH S. O’TUAIRISG 1970

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar machnaigh ar an bóthar seo i gClár na Bóithre 2009 and ndéanfar é a mheas nuair a bhéas eolas againn ar an léibhéal airgeadú do 2009.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

Submitted, Approved + Signed



26th January 2009
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY THE
24th November, 2008.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Feeney

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Canney, J. Conneely,
D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh.
O’Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, M.
Finnerty, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes,
J. Joyce, C Keaveney, S Kyne, M.
Maher, T Mannion, J McDonagh, T
McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni
Fhatharta, Comh O Tuairisg, T. Reilly, S
Walsh, T Walsh, T Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager;
Messrs. J. Cullen, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, J.
Morgan, F. Dawson, F Gilmore
Directors of Service; G, Mullarkey, Head
of Finance, B. McDermott, County
Secretary; P. Canney, Senior Executive
Engineer; Ml. Owens , Senior Executive
Officer, P. O’Neachtain, Oifigeach
Gaeilge; J. Keane, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1893

A Resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mr. Martin J. Keary, Ballybrit, Galway
Mr. Packie Cooke, Cill Chiaráin, Conamara, Co. na Gaillimhe
The Quirke Family, Park View Drive, Tuam, Co. Galway
Mrs. Mary Smyth, Lemonfield, Oughterard, Co. Galway
Mr. Billy Nutley, Liscune, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Mr. Colie Rock & Family, Garryland, Gort, Co. Galway
Mr. Johnny & Annemarie Higgins & Family, Ruanmore, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
The Glynn Family, Glynn’s Bar, Dunmore, Co. Galway
Mr. P.J. Hill, Oakmill Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

The Mayor, Members & County Manager extended sympathy to Mr. Gerard Mullarkey on the death of his father.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1894

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 20th October 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins and seconded by Cllr. Burke.

Arising from the minutes, the following issues were raised:

Cllr. D. Connolly proposed "that Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture and Food to reverse the Budget decisions which will have a hugely detrimental effect on agriculture in County Galway, namely the Installation Aid for young farmers, the Early Retirement Scheme, Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme, Disadvantaged Areas, Fallen Animal Scheme and the 1% Income Levy."

The Members also wished to record their support of the correspondence issued to the Minister for Agriculture from the Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly following their meeting in Ballaghdeerren on 14th November 2008, in relation to the proposed budgetary cuts in agriculture.

In response to issues raised by the Members regarding metered water charges and leaks Mr. Cullen stated that a leakage policy will be brought before the SPC on Wednesday next on the 3rd December and if approved will be brought to the full Council.

He confirmed that the meters being installed on domestic dwelling connections in GWSS's were for water conservation purposes as there was a high historical loss from group schemes served from the public supply. He confirmed that the Council was not entitled to charge for the domestic use of water.

In response to a query from Comh. O'Tuairisg, Mr. Morgan said that the submissions received in relation to Speed Limit Review had been sent to the NRA and Gardai and it is hoped that the speed limits review would be completed early in the New Year.

Cllr. Burke congratulated all those involved on the successful renovation of Portumna Bridge, however, he was disappointed he said that the Part 8 for Portumna car park was not on the Agenda.

Mr. Morgan in response said that he did not have the up-to-date position but he undertook to check it out.

In response to a query from Cllr. Canney & Comh. O' Cuaig, Mr. Cullen confirmed that the Part 8's for Milltown and Claregalway would be forwarded to the DOEHLG this week for consideration and the Part 8 for an Cheathrú Rua has been referred to the Conamara Electoral Area Committee for discussion.

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
ROADS ACT 1993** **1895**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, 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 L-71051 in the townland of Cartron and extending North West for a distance of 67 metres in the townland of Cartron and finishing at Conneely's house in the townland of Cartron.

Electoral Area: Oranmore

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
ROADS ACT 1993** **1896**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, 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 L-21321 in the townland of Lackagh More and extending North East for a distance of 220 metres in the townland of Lackagh More and finishing at O'Shaughnessy's house in the townland of Lackagh More.

Electoral Area: Oranmore

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
ROADS ACT 1993** **1897**

On the proposal of Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Welby, 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 L5345 in the townland of Doon North and extending West for a distance of 70 metres in the townland of Doon North and finishing at Michael O'Connor's house in the townland of Doon North.

Electoral Area: Conamara

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF
ROADS ACT 1993** **1898**

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Maher, 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 LT85601 in the townland of Keamsella and extending North West for a distance of 65 metres in the townland of

Keamsella West and finishing at Mr. Eoin Carr's house in the townland of Keamsella West

Electoral Area: Loughrea

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 1899

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, 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 LT85294 in the townland of Lissadoill and extending West for a distance of 110 metres in the townland of Lissadoill and finishing at Mr. Enda Mulkerrin's house in the townland of Lissadoill, Peterswell.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 1900

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, 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 L-7119 in the townland of Rathfee and extending South for a distance of 330 metres in the townland of Rathfee and finishing at end house (Hessions) in the townland of Rathfee.

Electoral Area: Oranmore

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE AND EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT AT CASHLA, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY – LA34/07 – 1901

Report dated the 17th October was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, and agreed, that the construction of a single rural house and effluent treatment system be approved at Cashla, Athenry, Co. Galway be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE RURAL HOUSE AND EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT LOWPARK, KILLORAN, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY – LA05/08 – 1902

Report dated the 6th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. D Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, and agreed, that the construction of a single rural house and effluent treatment plant be approved at Lowpark, Killoran, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - THE DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RURAL DWELLING AAND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT CLOONKEEN (DAVIES), NEWBRIDGE, CO. GALWAY – LA28/07 – 1903

Report dated the 6th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. M Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Reilly, and agreed, that the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new rural dwelling and associated site works be approved at Cloonkeen (Davies), Newbridge, Co. Galway

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - THE DEMOLITION OF A SUBSTANDARD DWELLING AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RURAL HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT KILLASOLAN, MOUNTBELLEW, CO GALWAY. 1904

Report dated the 10th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, and agreed, that the demolition of a substandard dwelling and the construction of a new rural house and associated site works be approved at Killasolan, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RURAL DWELLING, SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT KNOCKAUN, KILTORMER, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY – LA04/08 – 1905

Report dated the 6th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. Joyce, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, and agreed, that the construction of a new rural dwelling, sewerage treatment plant and associated site works be approved at Knockaun, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DEMOUNTABLE DWELLING AT MONROE, CLAREGALWAY, CO. GALWAY – LA11/08 – 1906

Report dated the 6th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, and agreed, that the construction of a new demountable dwelling be approved at **Monroe**, Claregalway, Co. Galway

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 –CONSTRUCTION OF A RESERVOIR IN THE TOWNLAND OF DOONAREE, CAPPATAGGLE, CO. GALWAY, IN ORDER TO UPGRADE THE WATER STORAGE FACILITIES OF THE CAPPATAGGLE DISTRICT COMMUNITY GWS CO-OP SOCIETY LTD. – 1907

Report dated the 14th November was already circulated to each member

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, and agreed that the construction of a reservoir be approved in the townland of Doonaree, Cappataggle, Co. Galway, in order to upgrade the water storage facilities of the Cappataggle District Community GWS Co-Op Society Ltd.

TO APPROVE REALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY BASED AMENITY/ECONOMIC SCHEME 2008 1908

Report dated the 24th November was already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Mullins, the reallocation of the Community based Amenity/Economic Grants Scheme 2008 was approved.

In response to questions raised by the Members regarding the provision of bus shelters Mr. Dawson confirmed that a proposal to adopt an interagency partnership approach to the provision of bus shelters in rural villages had been discussed by the County Development Board and the prospect of shelters being provided through a joint venture between the Council, Rural Development companies and interested local communities would be progressed, as soon as the new companies become operational. He said that in relation to a bus shelter for Claregalway that the primary objective of the proposal is to provide shelters in rural communities rather than at locations on National Primary routes where the commercial prospects of their provision by licensed bus operations was more likely.

Mr. Dawson further confirmed that to his knowledge the town of Tuam was excluded from the new Rural Development Programme. Gateways and Hubs were excluded in order to avoid having the programme subjected to an OECD measure of rurality which may have resulted in many other areas being excluded. Mr. Dawson agreed to request Galway Rural Development to provide a map of the specific area of exclusion which in his view would be the area of Tuam Town Council.

REPORT ON BROADBAND PROVISION IN COUNTY GALWAY 1909

Report dated the 18th November was already circulated to each member

A discussion took place in the context of the Report circulated. The Members expressed dissatisfaction at the level of broadband provision throughout the County.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joyce, seconded by Cllr. Conneely and agreed "that Galway County Council vigorously pursue the development of broadband services throughout the County and that this matter be taken up by the County Development Board and adopted as a priority in the forthcoming Strategy Review."

REPORT ON THE 2008 ALL-IRELAND PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

1910

Report was already circulated to each member.

The Mayor congratulated all the groups involved in the competition particularly Milltown, Portumna and Inis Mor who had won awards.

Cllr. Joyce said that the constant littering at recycling centres was resulting in the Tidy Towns Committees having to clean up their areas and he asked if the Council could introduce CCTV to these areas.

Mr. Cullen said that there were fixed cameras at some locations which had resulted in a number of successful prosecutions. He also said that it is proposed to introduce a mobile CCTV system on a pilot basis to target litter black spots.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, and agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Meeting to proceed after 6p.m.

APPROVAL TO BORROW €25 MILLION FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY PLC FOR THE PROVISION OF MORTGAGES UNDER THE HOME CHOICE LOAN SCHEME

1911

Report was already circulated to each member

On the proposal of Cllr. Joyce seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, approval was given to the borrowing of €25million from the Housing Finance Agency PLC for the provision of mortgages under the Home Choice Loan Scheme.

In response to queries raised by the Members Mr. Gilmore confirmed that: you can apply for an Affordable House or Home Choice Loan but not both; the Home Choice Loan applies to self builds as well as the purchase of new houses.

Cllr. Keaveney asked what additional resources would be provided to the Housing Section to deal with the new scheme.

The County Manager said that the Council had sought additional resources for the administration of the scheme from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

**DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE WESTERN RIVER
BASIN DISTRICT** – 1912

Report dated the 24th November was already circulated to each member.

Mr. P. Canney, Senior Executive Engineer made a presentation to the Members following which a number of issues were raised:

- The timeframe involved for the plan i.e. time of local elections and the changing of democratic representation.
- Funding availability

Mr. P. Canney in response said that the structured nature of the approach for the necessary environmental infrastructure now being taken ensures that all aspects of water quality are brought together. While the issue of finance is an issue, progress must still be made he said. It is a challenging plan given the change in public representation during 2009 he stated.

Mr. Cullen said that it will be a requirement of all plans e.g. County Development Plan to be compatible with the River Basin District Plan. He said it will have implications for agriculture, rural housing and the local authorities themselves.

MANAGERS BUSINESS 1913

There was no Managers business.

MAYORS BUSINESS 1914

Cllr. Canney said he wished to acknowledge the success of the Corofin Senior Football team on winning the Connacht Club Championship.

Cllr Keaveney enquired as to the updated position regarding the Tuam By-pass given that the N18 Oranmore to Gort dual carriage way has now been shelved.

Mr. Morgan said that the Council had not received any official confirmation that the Tuam By-pass had been shelved and the 2009 Roads Programme notification is awaited.

Cllr. D Connolly said that he wished to acknowledge Mr. Morgan's presentation at a recent meeting with the NRA in relation to the M6.

Cllr Cuddy asked if there was any commitment by the contractors on the new M6 to repair the damage caused to the existing N6 road network.

Mr. Morgan said that if there were any further breaches that he should be notified and he will pass on the details to the NRA.

Mr. Cullen in response to a query from Cllr Reilly confirmed that the contracts for the € 23m Tuam Main Drainage scheme would be signed early in the New Year .

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1915

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar scrúdú ar na droichid i gCeantar na Oileán go luath i 2009. Bíonn soitheach mara ag dteastáil chun é seo a dhéanamh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1916

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an phróiseas dlíthiúil do fháil an tsuímh ó Údarás na Gaeltachta ar siúl agus tá an Chomhairle ag críochnú aighneacht do mhaoiniú don Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil faoi láthair.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA 1917

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil aon airgead ann faoi láthair chun bóthar Leitir Móir i dtreo Leitir Caladh a dheisiú. Déanfar oibreacha cothabháil ar an mbóthar, mar is gá, de réir airgeadú a bhéas ar fáil.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1918

The following reply was given:-

“The Council will advise Eircom of the potential hazard presented by the Eircom pole located on the roadside in Lackaghbeg.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1919

The following reply was given:-

“The Council is currently actively seeking a funding stream to facilitate the widening of the road and the provision of footpaths from Renville Golf Club to the Sailing Club.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1920

The following reply was given:-

“The signage at this location will be inspected and replaced if necessary.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1921

The following reply was given:-

“A study of the flooding in the Derrydonnell and Claregalway areas is being undertaken by the Office of Public Works and the Council await developments in this regard.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1922

The following reply was given:-

“This proposal will be considered together with all other such proposals in the context of allocating roads funding received by the Council under the recently adopted Development Contribution Scheme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1923

The following reply was given:-

“The Council sought to purchase lands at this location on a number of occasions with a view to improving sightlines at the junction, however to date agreement has not been reached with the relevant landowners. Improvements in lineage and signage have been undertaken on the Corrandulla Road.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1924

The following reply was given:-

“Funding available for access works under the Councils Disability Action Plan is restricted to Council owned and /or occupied buildings which have been access audited. As the Church of Ireland building is not in the ownership of the Council, we can not allocate funding from this source. Funding to mark the 200 year anniversary may be available under the Councils Amenity Grants Scheme administered by the Community & Enterprise Unit subject to submission of a funding application in line with the guidelines for the Scheme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1925

The following reply was given:-

“Routine maintenance will be carried out as necessary within the limits of available funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1926

The following reply was given:-

“This proposal will be examined and a report shall be issued in the near future.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. M. MAHER 1927

The following reply was given:-

“There is currently no funding available to undertake works at this location. This project was not included in the proposals as approved by Council and submitted to the Department of Transport for the 2009 Specific Improvement Grant Scheme. Accordingly, in the absence of funding it is not possible to give a timeframe for the completion of the works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – CLLR. M. MAHER 1928

The following reply was given:-

“The necessary works will be completed in the current year if the area work programme allows, alternatively the works will be completed under the 2009 Roads Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – CLLR. M. MAHER 1929

The following reply was given:-

“The feasibility of providing a right turning lane at this location will be examined.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – CLLR. P. HYNES 1930

The following reply was given:-

“Woodford Sewerage Scheme is included in the Water Services Assessment of Needs undertaken in 2009. The proposal is to upgrade the Sewerage treatment Plant and the network. This scheme will be considered and brought forward for consideration when the Water Services Investment Programme is being reviewed with the DOEHLG during 2009.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 38 – CLLR. P. HYNES 1931

The following reply was given:-

“In the event that remedial works are deemed necessary for this section of road, such works will be undertaken, subject to the necessary funding being made available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 39 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1932

The following reply was given:-

“The Council has been in contact with the Builder of the above estate, who has arranged for an electrician to repair the two lights on the main road which had not been working.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

Submitted, Approved + Signed



15th December 2008

Date

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 20th OCTOBER, 2008.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Feeney

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Canney, J. Conneely, S Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. O’Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, M. Finnerty, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes, J. Joyce, C Keaveney, S Kyne, M. Maher, T Mannion, J McDonagh, T McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, Comh O Tuairisg, Cllrs. T. Reilly, S Walsh, T Walsh, T Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, F. Dawson, J. Morgan, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Dolly, M. Lavelle, M. Timmins, Senior Engineers; B. McDermott, County Secretary; A. Comer, C. Wallace, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; P. O’Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1864

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

Mr. Vincent Maher, Kilculla, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
Mr. Pat Lane & Family, Annagh, Kilbennon, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Mary Forde & Family, Ballyboy, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
Sean & Anne Smyth, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Angela Connolly, Liskevin, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
Ms. Elizabeth Kitt & Family, Weir Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

Mr. Vincent Monaghan, Millstream Park, Tuam, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

1865

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 22nd September, 2008.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22nd September, 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from the Minutes, the following issues were raised:

Cllr. Burke referred to minute number 1830 and requested an update in this regard. He also asked for an update regarding the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme which had been transferred over to the Local Authority from the Health Services Executive (HSE) since 1st August, 2008.

Cllr. Mannion stated that the Members had recently met with the Minister of State for Housing, Deputy Finneran who had informed them that the matching funding required from the Council in respect of the housing grants schemes had been reduced to 20% under the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. Cllr. Mannion wished to know the following:

- How many dual applications were on hands i.e. how many of the Council's applicants overlapped with applications received from the HSE.
- What finance had the Housing Section received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DOEHLG) since the previous Monthly Meeting.
- If the DOEHLG made funds available for all eligible housing grant applicants, would the Council be in a position to provide matching funding.
- What are the benefits of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Mr. Timmins, in response stated that none of the grant applicants had been written to as of yet, but that 600 applicants for the Essential Repairs Grant were being visited at present in order to determine the level of funding required in this regard. €300,000 additional funding has been made available by the DOEHLG and the Council has the required matching funds.

He stated that the HSE had ceased accepting applications for Housing Aid for the Elderly since 1st August, 2008 and that the scheme had been transferred over to Galway County Council which has placed an additional burden on the funding available. The number of dual applications needs to be determined he said and this work is currently underway.

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The County Manager referred to the Financial Statement of the Council at the 30th September 2008, which indicated that the Council had allowed for a Council contribution of €575,000 towards Essential Repairs Grants (ERGs) and Disabled Persons Grants (DPGs) and the 2009 figure will be considered in the preparation of the Budget for 2009.

In relation to the RAS, she stated that the purpose of this scheme is to provide security of tenure for those in private rented accommodation with funding provided by the Government.

Cllr. Joyce stated that only one Housing SPC Meeting had been held to date in 2008 and Mr. Timmins in response stated that a Housing SPC meeting will be held shortly.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked if the new Home Choice Loan Scheme will include those on the Affordable Housing list.

Mr. Timmins, in response stated that the new Home Choice Loan Scheme is not available to those on the Affordable Housing list as it is geared towards those with a slightly higher income.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Carey, the County Manager confirmed that the levy on non-principal residences will be collected by the Council, but that the receipts will be transferred to Central Government for distribution.

Cllr. Fahy proposed that the charges for Gort Parking Meters be deferred to 1st January, 2009 as no additional carpark has been provided for the town of Gort. However, Cllr. Willers stated that it would be more appropriate to discuss this matter at the next Loughrea Electoral Area Committee Meeting, and this was agreed.

Cllr. Reilly referred to the Item on Page 6 of the Minutes of 22nd September, 2008 dealing with Speed Limit Review and stated that at that Meeting he had made a proposal which was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed, "to have the speed limit extended to Flaherty's house, Forty Acres, Tuam", however, this was omitted from the Minutes. It was agreed that this amendment be made to the Minutes of 22nd September, 2008.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to a resolution passed at the September Meeting of the Council which proposed sending a deputation to meet the Minister of Transport and the National Roads Authority (NRA) to resolve issues that are causing continuous concern on the Ballinasloe to Galway section of the N6 Project.

Ms. McDermott indicated that the Department of Transport had replied to correspondence in this regard pointing out, that, as the N6 Project was under the

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

remit of the NRA it would be more appropriate to meet with the NRA. She confirmed that the NRA had agreed to meet with a deputation in this regard on 5th November 2008. It was agreed that the following Members would meet with the NRA : Mayor Feeney Cllr. Joyce, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Maher and they would be accompanied by Mr Morgan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1866

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 28th January, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Carey

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 18th February, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Carey.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 11th March, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 19th March, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 28th April, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 17th July, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Carey.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 19th September, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Willers.

It was agreed that consideration of the Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 2008, be deferred.

The Report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 24th June 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

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The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on 24th June 2008, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, and seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to water charges and the difficulties they posed not just for the farming community but also for sporting and voluntary organisations. He also asked if the charges were being paid or generally withheld. Mr. Cullen advised that when this matter first came up for discussion before the council he had been requested to raise it with the DOEHLG and it was confirmed that no exception could be made in this regard. He also said that while there were considerable arrears, many farmers were paying the charges. He said the collection of the water charges had improved and it would not be fair on those that had paid if the Council did not follow up on those who had not paid. If necessary this would include disconnection, he said.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that in a number of cases, there were leaks which could not be identified and asked could a portion of the charges be waived in these cases.

Mr. Cullen replied that the Council is currently developing a policy to deal with genuine cases where leaks cannot be detected, and he stated that this policy would be completed within weeks.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that the attendance of the Members at Conferences be approved, and this was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, and agreed.

Cllr. Connaughton stated that she did not attend the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 14th October, 2008, as she was notified on time of same.

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

1867

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Connaughton, and agreed, that the Council approve the declaration of the following roads to be public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

LT 72122 From T junction with N63 in the townlands of Moylough More, Via Meadow Court Housing Estate, running northwards, eastwards, southwards and westwards for a distance of 371 metres.

LT 72123 T junction with LT 72122 in Moylough More via Meadow Court Housing Estate, running eastwards for a distance of 67 metres.

Electoral Area: Tuam

remit of the NRA it would be more appropriate to meet with the NRA. She confirmed that the NRA had agreed to meet with a deputation in this regard on 5th November 2008. It was agreed that the following Members would meet with the NRA : Mayor Feeney Cllr. Joyce, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Maher and they would be accompanied by Mr Morgan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

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The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 19th March, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 28th April, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 17th July, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Carey.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 19th September, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Willers.

It was agreed that consideration of the Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 2008, be deferred.

The Report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 24th June 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

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The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 28th April, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 17th July, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Carey.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 19th September, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Willers.

It was agreed that consideration of the Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 2008, be deferred.

The Report of the Planning & Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on 24th June 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on 24th June 2008, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, and seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to water charges and the difficulties they posed not just for the farming community but also for sporting and voluntary organisations. He also asked if the charges were being paid or generally withheld. Mr. Cullen advised that when this matter first came up for discussion before the council he had been requested to raise it with the DOEHLG and it was confirmed that no exception could be made in this regard. He also said that while there were considerable arrears, many farmers were paying the charges. He said the collection of the water charges had improved and it would not be fair on those that had paid if the Council did not follow up on those who had not paid. If necessary this would include disconnection, he said.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that in a number of cases, there were leaks which could not be identified and asked could a portion of the charges be waived in these cases.

Mr. Cullen replied that the Council is currently developing a policy to deal with genuine cases where leaks cannot be detected, and he stated that this policy would be completed within weeks.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that the attendance of the Members at Conferences be approved, and this was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, and agreed.

Cllr. Connaughton stated that she did not attend the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 14th October, 2008, as she was notified on time of same.

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

1867

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Connaughton, and agreed, that the Council approve the declaration of the following roads to be public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

LT 72122 From T junction with N63 in the townlands of Moylough More, Via Meadow Court Housing Estate, running northwards, eastwards, southwards and westwards for a distance of 371 metres.

LT 72123 T junction with LT 72122 in Moylough More via Meadow Court Housing Estate, running eastwards for a distance of 67 metres.

Electoral Area: Tuam

It was proposed by Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Burke, and agreed, that the Council approve 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 L85483 in the townland of Killeen and extending North as appropriate for a distance of 145 metres in the townland of Killeen and finishing at P.J. Mc Allen's house in the townland of Killeen

Electoral Area: Loughrea.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – TUAM INNER RELIEF ROADS

1868

Report dated 5th September, 2008 was already circulated to Each Member

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, and agreed, that the proposed Tuam Inner Relief Roads, be approved, with the following amendment:

“Remove proposed roundabout on Cloonthue Road and move it in a southerly direction as per revised Drawing No. H2”.

Cllr. Canney stated the he hoped that work would commence on the Inner Relief Roads shortly as this was very important for the town.

Mr. Ridge said that the importance of the roads could not be overstated and that funding must be provided for same. He said that the Council proposed to introduce a Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme to help fund the road, as 100% funding would not be provided by Central Government. He stated that the Members should seriously consider this proposal and if they were in favour, the Planning Department would draft up the scheme and bring it before the Tuam Area Committee for consideration.

Cllr. Keaveney proposed that the Draft Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme be prepared and this was seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

However, Cllr. Canney stated that when he supported the Development Contribution Scheme at the September Monthly Meeting, he was of the opinion that the Tuam Inner Relief Roads would benefit from the scheme and he stated the he could not support any further development levies for Tuam.

Mr. Ridge stated that as not all of the Members supported the proposal, the Council would not prepare a Draft Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TANK FOR THE STORAGE OF TREATED WATER AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS, AT THE EXISTING ROUNDSTONE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SITE. 1869

Report dated 14th October, 2008 was circulated to Each Member

It was proposed by Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. Kyne, and agreed, that the proposed construction of a new tank for the storage of treated water and associated site works, at the existing Roundstone water treatment plant site, be approved.

Cllr. Kyne asked Mr. Cullen to comment regarding the source of water for the Carna/Kilkieran Water Supply Scheme and Mr. Cullen stated that a report was awaited from the Consultants in this regard.

In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Cullen stated that he was hopeful that DOEHLG approval would be received to proceed with the contract for Tuam Town Water Supply Scheme

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 1870

Mr. Mullarkey presented the Financial Update to 30th September, 2008 to the Members.

He stated that the Council had incurred an overrun of €200,000 in the Revenue Account to the end of September and that by the year's end, this deficit may reach €500,000.

In relation to the Capital Account, he stated that there was almost €10m due to the Council in respect of expenditure on Housing from the DOEHLG and that there is approximately €20m outstanding in respect of Water and Sewerage Schemes. He also stated that the Housing Section and the Water Services Section are endeavouring to recoup the monies owing from the Department as it is imperative that all of the outstanding funding is forthcoming by year's end. In response to Cllr Finnerty, Mr. Mullarkey stated that he expected that all outstanding monies would be received.

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

Cllr. Feeney stated that he was alarmed at the increased costs resulting from the cryptosporidium outbreak during 2007 and he asked why the expenditure was not fully recouped from the DOEHLG and if the Council was in dialogue with the Department in this regard.

Mr. Cullen stated that the overexpenditure had been caused mainly because of the need to ensure water quality and he stated that it was likely that these costs would increase due to the water treatment required to provide a safe water supply .

He said the Council was pursuing the DOEHLG very vigorously for recoupment of monies spent in this regard.

In reply to Cllr. Burke's query regarding outstanding development contributions, Mr. Mullarkey stated that debtors are being pursued by the Planning Department.

Cllr. Burke also referred to the requirement that payroll costs must be cut by 3% and he asked if any staff would be laid off as a result. The County Manager in response stated that the 2008 payroll figures were currently being reviewed in order to see potential for savings in 2009. A number of areas are being examined, e.g. number of vacancies and filling of same, overtime, etc. All of this will have implications for service delivery and may result in redeployment of staff, she said.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the interest rate in respect of the Council's overdraft facility is 5.6% and he stated that the Council's overdraft limit is €35m.

In reply to Cllr. Welby's query regarding roadworks grants, Mr. Mullarkey stated that the Council had received €19m from the N.R.A. on 17th October, 2008. However, he stated that the Council is still awaiting monies from Roinn na Gaeltachta.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Meeting to proceed after 6p.m.

Cllr. Welby wished to know what procurement procedure is used by the Council in respect of purchasing and Mr. Mullarkey stated that the L.A. Quote System is used.

Cllr. Welby expressed the view that this might not be a good system to use in the current financial climate with prices fluctuating daily and the Council may be losing out on more competitive prices by relying on an annual pricing system like the L.A. Quote System.

Mr. Mullarkey undertook to examine this matter

**ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC) AND
SELECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS** 1871

Report already circulated to Each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) for the administrative area of the County of Galway was agreed excluding the administrative areas for the Town Councils of Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea.

Ms. McDermott stated that 14 Members of the Council needed to be selected in addition to the Mayor to sit on this Committee. She also stated that at least 2 members must be selected from each of the 5 Electoral Areas and that each political grouping on the County Council must be represented on the JPC.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that Cllr. Kyne be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that Cllr. Carey be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed that Cllr. T. Walsh be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ní Fhatharta and agreed that Cllr. Willers be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Willers and agreed that Cllr. Mullins be appointed

It was proposed by Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Hynes and agreed that Cllr. D. Connolly be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed that Cllr. Keaveney be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed that Cllr. Hynes be appointed.

It was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Reilly and agreed that Cllr. Hoade be appointed.

It was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that Cllr. Regan be appointed.

It was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Reilly and agreed that Cllr. Mannion be appointed.

It was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed.

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It was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that Cllr. Conneely be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed that Cllr. Cuddy be appointed.

As a result, the following Members were selected to sit on the Joint Policing Committee:

The Mayor, Cllr. Feeney, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Carey, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. Willers, Cllr. Mullins, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Regan, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. Conneely, Cllr. Cuddy.

FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING 2008 AND FIX DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING 2008 1872

Cllr. Hoade proposed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on Monday, 15th December, 2008 commencing at 11 a.m. followed by the Budget Meeting and if necessary, a further Budget Meeting be held on Friday 19th December at 11 a.m. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh that due to the current financial position, the Annual Christmas Dinner for the Members be cancelled this year, and this was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney and agreed.

MANAGERS BUSINESS 1873

The County Manager informed the Members that the Local Government Fund Allocation notified to Galway County Council for 2009 is €38.114m, which represents a reduction of 6.2% on the 2008 figure. This reduction in funding will have an impact on the budgetary process which the Council is currently engaged in she stated.

The Circular received in this regard also made reference to the charge to be levied on non-principal residences, however, further discussion on this levy would be premature in the absence of more details she stated.

Cllr. Canney proposed that a letter be sent to the DOEHLG requesting that the monies collected in this regard should be retained by the County Council and this was seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

However, after further discussion, Cllr. Canney stated that this proposal should be deferred pending further assessment of the merits of the proposal and this was agreed.

Cllr. Mullins proposed: "that we write to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Finance requesting that the Government immediately reverse the Budget announcement on the following:

1. The Medical Cards for the over 70's

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

2. The 1% income levy for the low paid
3. The proposed cut back in educational expenditure which will lead to draconian cutbacks”.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed.

Cllr. Mannion stated that Fianna Fáil Cllrs. met with Oireachtas Members at a specially convened Meeting in Ballinasloe the previous day, Sunday 19th October, 2008 and that the above issues were raised and they were informed that there would be changes.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1874

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to his Notice of Motion No. 2072 which is on the Agenda for today's Meeting “that Galway County Council develops a positive and proactive working relationship with the Food Officer who will be newly appointed through Galway Rural Development.” He indicated that the response received was not very positive, however Mr. Kelly in reply indicated that the Council was very positive towards this proposal and in fact a meeting has been arranged for next Friday in this regard.

The County Manager, in response to Cllr. Burke, confirmed that every effort would be made to minimise the length of time that the Portumna Bridge would be closed due to repairs.

In response to Cllr. Cuddy, the County Manager replied that the new traffic lights at Claregalway were being monitored by the Senior Engineer and Director of Services in the Roads Section on an ongoing basis.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1875

The following reply was given:-

“There are no plans to provide a ladies toilet in Gort at present.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14– CLLR. B. WILLERS

1876

The following reply was given:-

“(a) An allocation of €18,000 has been provided for replacement/provision of signs and paths at Kinvara under discretionary funding. The precise location of proposed works has not yet been prioritised

(b) A Traffic Management Plan for Kinvara will be included in the 2009 Roads Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 15 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1877

The following reply was given:-

“Given the current circumstances in relation to budgetary constraints and controls on the appointment of staff I regret that it is not possible to answer with any degree of certainty when or if such a post will be filled.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 16 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1878

The following reply was given:-

“Tá damáiste déanta d’uchtballaí an droichid agus tá cóiriú ag teastáil uatha. Tá sé beartaithe na hoibreacha seo a bheith déanta roimh dheireadh na bliana seo. Tá foireann an oifig ceantair faoi bhrú faoi láthair le clár fíor fhorleathan bóithre a chuir i gcrích.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA

1879

The following reply was given:-

“Déanfar an láthair seo a scrúdú i leith measúnú a dhéanamh ar aon fheabhsúcháin sábháilteachta agus cuirfear soilsíú san áireamh sa mheasúnú seo.”

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

1880

The following reply was given:-

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Reilg Cladhnach An Cheathru Rua | 50 Uaigh Dúbailte |
| 2. | Reilg Cuigeal Leitir Meallain | 0 Uaigh |
| 3. | Reilg Muighros Tulach | 10 Uaigh Dúbailte |
| 4. | Reilg An Chnoic Indreabhan | 51 Uaigh Dúbailte” |

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR D.CONNOLLY 1881

The following reply was given:-

“The Housing Unit deals with all complaints received regarding estate management and anti-social behaviour, in accordance with our policy and procedures as set down in the Scheme of Letting Priorities and Tenancy Agreement”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY 1882

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council has a positive working relationship with all agencies who are involved in areas of mutual interest and will continue to work with all such agencies as theretofore”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY 1883

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council currently employs three part-time Dog Wardens to operate the Dog Control service in the County. Due to budgetary constraints, it is not possible at this time to consider the appointment of a full time Dog Warden for the Ballinasloe area”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. J. JOYCE. 1884

The following reply was given:-

REPORT ON BROADBAND PROVISION IN COUNTY GALWAY.

BROADBAND PROVISION

Galway County Council recognises the crucial role that broadband infrastructure plays in the economic and social development of the County. In support of this, the Council has played a role in both developing infrastructure service provision and increasing awareness amongst the community of the importance of this medium.

Construction of Infrastructure

When Galway County Council has been able to access NDP resources to build broadband infrastructure, as was the case with the Fibre Based MAN's identified above, it has done so. All projects in County Galway were delivered on time and in budget.

Development of Services

Galway Council continuously invests in its own internal Information Systems Networks to allow the organisation to operate with greater efficiency and effectiveness. This has allowed the Council to provide the following services on line;

- Planning Services on line
- Motor Tax on line
- Application forms downloads
- Council interactive website

The Library Network provides free access to the internet at broadband speeds to its members at all branches throughout the County.

The Council continues to explore the potential that Information Systems using broadband speeds offer for the direct provision of Council services and the development of e-technology and services in County Galway. The Council is currently involved in a European Funded research project, PIKE, through which best practice in using wireless technology can be adopted to deliver tourism orientated services in County Galway.

The Council has supported and participated in publicity information campaigns to advise inhabitants of the County of the potential of Broadband. The e-Galway week held in 2006 is one example of this. The County Council regularly deals with queries from the public in regard to accessing broadband services and advises them on the services available to them and where to find out more information.

The Council has provided additional funding to Group Broadband Schemes in County Galway, as community enterprises, to further develop their networks and marketing of same.

The Council has undertaken research projects to assess the level of demand for Broadband in the County and crucially the quality of supply. This research has shown that national assessments of current provision in County Galway are quite optimistic.

Appendix 1

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th October 2008

Groups in County Galway approved under the County and Group Broadband Scheme

Phase 1

Galway	Ahascragh, Taghmaconnell & Clonbrock	Ahascragh Community Development	Ildana Teoranta	Satellite
Galway	Kinvara	Kinvara Network Co-operative	Kinvara Network Co-opertive	FWA
Galway	Mount Bellew	Galway Telework Co-op Society	Ildana Teoranta	Satellite
Galway	Oughterard	Oughterard Local Community Council	Eircom	ADSL

Phase 2

Galway	Aran Islands, Co. Galway	Inis Mor, Inis Meain, Inis Oirr	Titan Consultancy	FWA
Galway	Athenry & Craughwell, Co. Galway	Athenry-Craughwell Broadband Cooperative	Athenry-Craughwell Broadband Cooperative	FWA
Galway	Clarinbridge	Clarinbridge Community Development Association	Irish Broadband	FWA
Galway	Cleggan & Claddaghduff, Co. Galway	Cleggan Community Council	SOS	Wireless /satellite
Galway	Cois Fharráige Gaelteacht, Co. Galway	Udaras na Gaeltachta	COM1	FWA
Galway	Dunmore, Co. Galway	Enterprise Dunmore Society Ltd	Irish Community Broadband	FWA
Galway	Letterfrack, Co. Galway	Connemara West	SOS	FWA
Galway	Moycullen, Co. Galway	Moycullen Community development Association	Cellcom Ireland Ltd.	FWA
Galway	Oranmore, Carnmore (South & South East)	Galway Chamber of Commerce	Irish Broadband	FWA
Galway	Williamstown, Co. Galway	Williamstown Community Group	Digiwest Communications Ltd	FWA

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1885

The following reply was given:-

“There have been 100 planning permissions granted within the boundary of the Claregalway Local Area Plan in the last seven years (i.e. from 01/10/2001 to 10/10/2008).”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1886

The following reply was given:-

“This matter is currently being examined”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1887

The following reply was given:-

“The Area Engineer is of the opinion that the wall is presently unfit for painting, due to unevenness of the surface and remedial works required for some of the surfaces. The Council’s limited budget for works of this nature is fully allocated the current year. Therefore it will not be possible to carry out these works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1888

The following reply was given:-

“A report has been submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in response to the observation made by them to the original Part 8 Application and a reply is presently awaited.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1889

The following reply was given:-

“Consultants have been appointed and are preparing a design review report for the scheme for submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government for approval which is expected to be available to the Council by the end of October. Contract documents are also being prepared by the Consultants.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1890

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have been examining the possibility of purchasing carparking facilities in Gort over a number of years and this is ongoing.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1891

The following reply was given:-

“This work will be undertaken in the coming weeks as part of the signage renewal programme for the area.”

CONFERENCE

1892

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion, it was agreed that the attendance of the following members at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each member:-

“Douglas Hyde Conference 2008”, 17th – 19th October, Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon.

Cllrs. T. Welby, C. Ni Fhatharta,

“Dublin City Council, Climate Change” – 16th October, Croke Park Conference Centre.

Cllrs. M. Mullins, M. Regan, C. Ni Fhatharta, T. Mannion.

“TJK Conferences – Freedom of Information Seminar”, 10th -11th October – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick.

Cllrs. S. Connaughton, C Ni Fhatharta, S. Canney

“The Credit Crunch – Europe’s Role in Changing Economic Circumstances – 9th October, Dublin

Cllr. S. Kyne

“Greystones Town Council – 2008 La Touche, Legacy Seminar”, 3rd – 5th October 2008. Charlesland Golf and County Club Hotel, Greystone, Co. Wicklow.

Cllr. S. Connaughton

“Kerry Life Education Ltd” – Getting a Grip 2008”. 2nd – 3rd October 2008. The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Cllr. S. Kyne, M. Maher, T. Welby, T. Mc Hugh, T. Walsh

“Mid-West Regional Authority – Citizen First” 25-26th September, Ennis Co. Clare.

Cllr. T. Walsh, M. Regan.

“AMAI Annual Conference 2008”, 10th-13th September, Sligo Park Hotel.

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Cllr. W. Burke, T. Welby, J. Mc Donagh, M. Regan, M. Hoade, C Ni. Fhatharta, J. Cuddy, S. Canney

“Parnell Summer School – Educating Ireland” 10th -15th August, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, S. Connaughton, W. Burke, M. Regan, C. Ni Fhatharta, T. Mannion.

“Cumann Merriman Summer School” 17th -23rd August, Ennis Co. Clare”

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, T. Welby, C. Ni Fhatharta, T. Mannion.

“Mac Gill Summer School 2008” 12th -17th July, Glenties, Co. Donegal.

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, W. Burke, S. O’Tuairisg, M. Hoade, M. Regan, T. Mc Hugh, T. Walsh.

“Green Paper for Local Government Reform – Regional Seminar” 7th July – Hilton Hotel, Limerick.

Cllr. M. Mullins, S. O’Tuairisg, T. Welby, S. Canney.

“Local Government Planning Service Seminar” – Skibbereen, 4th -6th July

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, M. Carey.

“Byrne/Perry Summer School” – 27th – 29th June, Christian Brothers School, Gorey

Cllr. J. Mc Donagh, W. Burke, M. Maher, M. Carey, S. O’Tuairisg.

“Carlow Tourism National Conference” 18th – 20th June, Ramada Hotel & Suites, Killerig Golf Resort, Co. Carlow.

Cllr. S. Canney, M. Fahy, M. Hoade, J. Mc Donagh, M. Carey.

“National Conference 2008” – 5th June 2008, Portlaoise

Cllr. S. Kyne.

“Housing in a Changing Climate” – 5th June 2008 Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Co. Meath.

Cllr. J Mc Donagh.

“Southern & Eastern Assembly – 9th Annual Regional Assembly – 16th May Marriott Druids Glen Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.

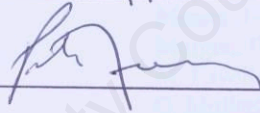
Cllr. M. Mullins.

“The Role of Local Government in Community & Rural Development” 8th-9th May, Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel.

Cllr. J. McDonagh, M. Carey

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Approved + Signed



24th November 2008

Date

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY, 22ND
SEPTEMBER, 2008

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Feeney

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Baill:-

Cllrs. W. Burke, S Canney, J. Conneely, S Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. O'Cuaig, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, M Fahy, M. Finnerty, M Carey, M Hoade, P Hynes, J. Joyce, C Keaveney, S Kyne, M. Maher, T Mannion, J McDonagh, T McHugh, M. Mullins, Comh. C. Ni Fhatharta, Comh O Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Regan, T. Reilly, S Walsh, T Walsh, T Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager,
Messrs. J. Cullen, P. Ridge, K. Kelly, J. Morgan, F. Gilmore, Directors of Services,
M. Lavelle, M. Dolly, Senior Engineers,
G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, B. Mc Dermott, County Secretary. A. Comer, C. Wallace, Senior Executive Officers
Mr. P. O'Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge,
Ms. M. McGrath, Senior Staff Officer and
R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Mayor welcomed everybody back after the Summer Break.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1816

A Resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Ann Kirrane & Family, Bel Air Drive, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Mrs Ann Moggan & Family, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Mr. Joseph Lunn & Family, Dublin Road Estate, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Lucy Mc Cormack & Family, Ballinagrive, Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Máirín Bn. Uí Ghadhra, Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Mr. John Shaughnessy "Castleview House" Mirah, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.

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Ms. Ailish Shaughnessy, Ballyvoneen, Castlefrench, Ballinamorebridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Dennis & Winnie Ward, Gilmartin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Mrs. Anna Mitchell, Loughboun, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1817

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 21st July, 2008 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins and seconded by Cllr Maher

Arising from the Minutes, the following issues were raised:

Comh O'Cuaig referred to the problem of flooding near the residence of the Wallace Family in Spiddal, the possibly of an additional lake source for the Carna/Cill Chiarain Water Supply and the CLAR Funding for Local Improvement Schemes.

Mr. Morgan said that he had received no communication to date from Wallace's Engineer and in relation to CLAR Funding for Local Improvement Schemes he said there was no additional funding available for CLAR Schemes. He said a submission in the amount of €500,000 had been sent to the Department and the Council are awaiting clearance for that. Mr. Cullen said a report is awaited from the Consulting Engineers about the feasibility of the Carna/Cill Chiarain additional water source.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION.

1818

The Report of the Planning and Sustainable Development SPC Meeting held on the 3rd September, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on the 13th May, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

Arising from the Report the following issues were raised:

Cllrs. Finnerty, Mullins and Joyce referred to Page 4 of the Minutes dealing with the introduction of Parking Meters on roads in the Town of Ballinasloe. They said that this proposal should have come before the Area Meeting.

Mr. Kelly referred to the relevant legislation which gave the power to the Town Council in this regard and also referred to a joint meeting of Ballinasloe Area Committee and

Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd September 2008

Ballinasloe Urban District Council in November, 2000 at which time it was agreed that Ballinasloe Urban District Council would assume the traffic management role in the Town which subsequently resulted in the Town Council agreeing and implementing a Traffic Management Plan for the Town.

Cllr. D Connolly referred to his Notice of Motion No. 27 which is on the Agenda for today's Meeting which proposed "that Galway County Council send a deputation to meet the Minister of Transport to resolve issues that are causing continuous concern on the Ballinasloe to Galway section of the N6." All Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the way in which the N6 Company are dealing with the problems arising.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to his Notice of Motion No. 22 which he had on the Agenda for today's Meeting which proposed "that Galway County Council recoup the monies involved from the contractors of the new N6 for damage being done by vehicles involved in construction to roads such as Lisheenkyle and Gauraun". He said he was not happy with the answer received. He referred to the Castleambert and Lisheenkyle roads and said they were breaking up. He asked what the Terms of Contract for Quarries were.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Joyce, and agreed that a deputation meet with the Minister for Transport and also with the NRA, and that these meetings take place separately but on the same day.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 3rd March, 2008 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Tuairisg, and seconded by Cllr. Conneely.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 25th March, 2008 was Considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Tuairisg, and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh.

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

1819

A report was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, 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:-

LT63802 T Junction with N63 in the townland of Killeroran via Sycamore Court Housing Estate running southwards and westwards for a distance of 118 metres.

LT63803 T Junction with LT63802 in Killeroran towaland via Sycamore Court Housing Estate running eastwards and northwards for a distance of 52 metres

Electoral Area: Tuam.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.70 ACRES AT COPPENAGH, KYLEBRACK, LOUGHREA, CO. GALWAY.

1820

Report dated the 1st September, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr Regan, seconded by Cllr. Willers the proposal to dispose of 0.70 acres at Coppnagh, Kylebrack, Loughrea to James Blanchard Project in the amount of €80,000 plus legal fees was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 9.329 HECTARES AT BALRICKARD, HEADFORD, CO. GALWAY

1821

Report dated 9th September, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Carey, the proposal to transfer 0.329 hectares at Balrickard, Headford to John E. Varley, The Square, Headford in exchange for .0055 hectares of land at Balrickard Headford owned by John E. Varley, subject to three conditions was approved..

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2002 – TUAM INNER RELIEF ROADS

1822

Report dated 5th September, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Ridge referred to the Manager's Report which gave an accurate summary of the proposed development and which was accompanied by a summary of the 15 submissions/observations received. He said the Relief Road is vital for the development of Tuam as a Hub and it will ensure that North Galway will be rejuvenated.

The Members while welcoming the Plan for the Tuam Inner Relief Road expressed concerns regarding some of the issues arising and requested an opportunity to examine the submissions.

Mr. Ridge informed the members that every submission and observation had been given full and proper consideration. He advised Councillors to be extremely careful, that if they want to debate one submission they must give equal consideration to the 15 submissions received, or they would be in danger of being challenged under a judicial review. However, following discussions all the individual submission details were circulated to each Member.

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On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Reilly it was agreed to defer a decision on the above until the next Council Meeting on the 20th October, and in the interim to discuss same at a Tuam Area Committee Meeting.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CLAREGALWAY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 1823

Report dated the 9th September, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh the proposal to construct a Waste Water Treatment Plant for Claregalway was approved.

Cllrs. Cuddy and McDonagh welcomed this scheme and said it was vital to the area. In reply to queries raised Mr. Cullen confirmed that Claregalway will be part of Bundle No. 4 with Milltown.

Cllr. Regan enquired about the Craughwell site as there had been some Wildlife issues Mr. Cullen said the Council are still in discussions with the National Parks and Wildlife about issues concerning the Craughwell site.

Cllr O’Cuaig enquired as to the position of the Carraroe Scheme. Mr. Cullen said that it was intended to revert to the Area Committee and advise of the consideration of the issues raised by a local group and then to revert to the group directly. The matter would then be brought before the full council for consideration under part 8.

Cllr. T Walsh asked if everything was going according to plan for the Glenamaddy Scheme. Mr. Cullen replied and said that the Consultants have been appointed and Contract Documents are being drawn up. The Scheme is progressing in accordance with target date.

APPROVAL TO BORROW €28 MILLION FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY PLC TO FUND HOUSING LOANS AND LAND PURCHASE 1824

Report dated the 27th August, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore explained that this funding is required to fund housing loans, land purchase and annuity house purchase. The Members discussed the issues relating to borrowing and also queried if the Council is getting value for money. Mr. Gilmore assured the Members that the price paid for Part 5 Units was much more reasonable in relation to the market prices and represented good value for money

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr.S Walsh, approval was given to the borrowing of €28 Million from the Housing Finance Agency to fund Housing Loans and Land Purchase.

APPROVAL TO INCREASE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION TO €35 MILLION FOR THE PERIOD 01/09/2008 – 30/06/09

1825

Report dated the 15th September, 2008 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr.S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, the members approved overdraft accommodation of €35 Million from 1st September, 2008 to 30th June, 2009, subject to sanction of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Cllrs Mullins proposed that the following resolution be sent to Minister John Gormally at the Department of the Environment.

“That Galway County Council deplore the failure of the Department of the Environment to provide funding as it falls due in respect of Housing and Water Services, which is resulting in our Council having to incur huge overdraft costs. This will ultimately affect our level of service provision”.

TO APPROVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2007

1826

Report dated the 16th September was already circulated to each Member.

The Members complimented the Finance Section on the transparency of the Report circulated. In response to queries raised by the Members, Mr. Mullarkey pointed out that the Statement before the Members was in accordance with the format set down by the Department.

On the proposal of Cllr Keaveney, seconded by An Comh. Ni Fhatharta, the Annual Financial Statement for year ending 31st December, 2007 was noted.

With reference to Page 20 of the Annual Financial Statement it was proposed by Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed to approve the Over and Under Expenditure as detailed in Note No. 17 in the Statement

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

1827

Cllr. Walsh proposed that the Standing Orders be suspended so that the Meeting could continue after 6 p.m. and this was seconded by Cllr. Regan and agreed

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

1828

Report was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Morgan briefed the Member on the proposed Speed Limits and informed them they would be forwarded to the National Roads Authority and the Gardai in the next 10 days.

Members pointed out that the process on the Speed Limits began in 2005 and felt that that this is a very long process and enquired as to when the process would be completed.

Mr. Morgan said the timeframe for the preparation and adoption of Speed Limits is out of the control of the Council. He said the proposed Speed Limits will be forwarded to the NRA and Gardai for their observations, but they normally respond fairly quickly. A Public Notice is then placed in the paper. Submissions received are examined and then the final report comes before the Council for approval. He informed the Members that Speed Limits on National Roads are the function of the NRA which Regional and County Roads are a Reserved Function of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that the Speed Limits Review be forwarded to the National Roads Authority and the Gardai.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY THE MAYOR AND SECONDED BY CLLR. BURKE TO TAKE A PRESENTATION BY MR. JOE WALSH, MANAGING DIRECTOR, GALWAY AIRPORT AND HIS COLLEAGUES MR. MICHAEL COYLE AND MR. DAVID NILAND OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESENTATION BY MR. JOE WALSH, MANAGING DIRECTOR, GALWAY AIRPORT

1829

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Walsh and his colleagues to the Meeting.

Mr. Walsh informed the Members that earlier this year a Technical Committee was set up to look at long term development options available for Galway Airport. He confirmed that the Airport is staying put on the present site at Carrmore and will not be moving to a new Greenfield anywhere else in the County. He then gave a presentation on the current position, and future proposals for the Airport up to the year 2030.

Following a questions and answers session, the Mayor thanked Mr. Walsh and his colleagues for a most interesting and informative presentation on the future proposals for Galway Airport and wished them every success in this regard.

The Manager also complimented Mr. Walsh and said that air transport is a key ingredient to the future development of the City & County. She said the Council contributed to the Airport Board and are well represented through the presence of Cllr. Michael Carey who is a member of the Board. She also said it is the Council's intention to put a Planning framework in place to help them deliver on the vision presented today.

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY, MOBILITY AIDS HOUSING GRANTS AND HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE GRANTS

1830

A report was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore presented the report which outlined the new range of grants which is replacing the old Essential Repairs Grant and the Disabled Persons Grants. The new Grants are known as

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for people with disability
2. Mobility Aids Housing Grants
3. Housing Aid for Older people

He outlined the problems that are being faced with regard to the lack of funding and the administration of these grants/schemes, and he proposed that this matter be brought before the next Housing SPC Meeting to be held in October. If agreement can be reached at SPC then the matter can again be brought before the full Council for their meeting at the end of October.

Members expressed concerns at the way in which the most vulnerable in our society are being treated. They said the cost involved per grant is modest compared to paying for Residential Care, which also meant the applicants could stay at home. Members asked if application forms were still being sent out to people and Mr. Gilmore confirmed that this was the case. It was agreed by the Members to defer any actions proposed today until the matter was further discussed at the SPC Meeting in October.

It was proposed by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed "that Galway County Council, pending Council Meeting on 20th October, 2008, that all applicants for Disabled Persons Grants, Essential Repair Grants, Housing Adaptation Grant for people with Disability, Mobility Aids Housing Grants, and Housing Aid for Older People Grant aid be written to outlining the present situation and detailing the reasons for the delays in inspection and approvals."

SCHEME OF GRANTS FOR SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS.

1831

Report was already circulated to each Member

Cllr. Canney proposed accepting the Report but made specific mention to the R333 road at Claretuam which was not included. Cllr. Mannion said he was not happy satisfied with the proposals as outlined. He referred in particular to the following roads R363, the L3406, L3405 and L2310 and pointed out that money has not been spent on these roads for years with the exception of emergency works.

Cllr. Hoade referred to the Oranmore Electoral Area i.e the Currandrum to Peggy's road and streets in Headford which all needed restoration. Cllr. Connolly said he supported Cllr. O'Tuairisg's comment on the road from Maam to Killery. He said he was unhappy with the state of the roads at Ahascragh//Fohenagh and said he agreed with Cllr.

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Mannion. Cllr Ni Fhatharta said she seconded accepting the report and welcomed it, she said it was a good scheme, but she referred in particular to the Hump Bridge on the Main Road at Clynagh and hoped it would be considered in the future.

Mr. Morgan said he could see the Members points of but that certain guidelines and parameters had been laid down within which the Council have to operate.

It was proposed by Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Willie Burke, and agreed to accept the report as presented

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2008 -2012 AS PER SECTION 48(7) AND (8).

1832

The Mayor invited Mr. Ridge to present the Manager's Report on the submissions /observations received on the Draft Development Contributions Scheme 2008-2012.

The Manager urged the Members, when considering the Draft Development Contributions Scheme to take the long term view as to what is important for County Galway.

She stated that ambitious capital programmes had been presented at Budget time which will need enormous funding

She stated that the economic social and cultural development of County Galway was critical.

She also added that €100M funding was required for the Council's contribution to the Water Services Capital Programme.

She stated that funding was required in order to make progress on the National Routes and also on other projects such as the development of inner relief roads.

She also stated that in relation to Recreation & Amenities, applications from Community groups had significantly exceeded the available resources and added that Recreation and Amenity facilities are a key contributor to the quality of life of the County.

She added that her capacity, as Chief Executive of Galway County Council, to get additional funding would be severely impacted on if there wasn't adequate local funding available and that this would have very undesirable consequences for the county. She added that the Local Authority needs to be ambitious for County Galway and needs to be in a position to compete with other parts of the Country for funding.

Mr. Ridge referred to the documents presented to the Members at the meeting:

- Current Development Contributions Scheme
- Draft Development Contributions Scheme
- Manager's Report on the Submissions/observations received on the Draft Scheme
- Copy of the Submission on the Draft Development Contributions Scheme from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

Mr. Ridge explained to the Members that based on the detailed analysis carried out on the

capital expenditure programme and other expenditure programmes which established the amount of investment that had taken place in the previous five years and the projected investment that will take place in the next seven years, that on average each new house in the county would benefit from over €30,000 worth of infrastructure once it has been completed.

Mr. Ridge also referred to the Minister's submission and outlined the key points made in it. He stated that the analysis carried out clearly shows that the roads and transportation charge is required and that the adoption of this development contribution scheme was critical.

He referred to the Athenry Northern Ring Road, the N18 Dualway and the Tuam Inner Relief Roads and the impact that these projects will have on the future development of the County.

He added that in order to compete with other local authorities for funding from Central Government, it was imperative that Galway County Council have the ability to provide matching funding in order to provide such benefits as roads and transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure and recreational and amenity facilities. He also referred to the list of Recreation and Amenity projects for the County and added that between now and 2013 €2.5M will be spent in each Electoral Area. As National Funding is not provided for Recreational and Amenities facilities, these facilities which improve the quality of life for everyone in the County cannot be provided without Development Contributions.

Mr. Ridge also indicated to the Members the Development Contributions charged by various other local authorities throughout the country.

Mr. Ridge commenced the presentation of the Manager's Report to the Elected Members. He explained that 33 submissions were received during the statutory public display period which was a disappointingly poor response. He added that in the Manager's Report submissions were grouped into different issues, summarized and a formal response from the Manager given on each issue.

Mr Ridge presented to the meeting each of the issues in the Report and gave the response to each one.

He recommended that the Draft Development Contributions as published be adopted by the Members.

Cllr. S. Walsh proposed that the Draft Development Contribution Scheme as amended at the Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting be adopted.

He also proposed the Equestrian Centres should be exempt from Development charges.

Cllr. McHugh stated that he could not support the Draft Development Contribution Scheme as it was impacting on the most vulnerable in society, the youth and added that it was the Government's job to provide financial resources.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that other local authorities have already introduced a Roads and Transportation charge and that Galway County Council was falling behind. He stated however, that he did not agree entirely with the scale of change, he proposed that in Sub area 1, the sewerage charge be increased to €3500 and that the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation charge be reduced by €500.

Cllr T. Walsh stated that he could not support the Draft Scheme as it is only going to affect the young people of the County. He added that the Government should be making the hard decisions.

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Cllr Hoade stated that there would not be any funding available for the various projects proposed for the County unless there is adequate local funding available. She supported the Draft Development Contributions Scheme as amended at the Planning SPC Meeting. Comh O'Tuairisg stated that he supported the Draft Development Contribution Scheme as amended at the Planning SPC meeting but had difficulty with the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation charge of €7.50 per m².

He also referred to the DoEHLG Circular DD/5/2007 and regeneration areas and proposed that there be a separate reduced charge for the Clár areas in Sub area 3. Mr. Ridge stated that all monies from Clár are matched by the Council and suggested that the Development Contributions collected in the Clár areas be ring fenced for these areas and matched by funding from Clár.

Cllr. Kyne stated that if the Council was realistic about the future development of infrastructure in the County, the Draft Scheme as amended by the Planning SPC should be accepted.

Cllr W.Burke stated that he supported the Draft Scheme as amended but added that a mechanism should be in place for drawing the money .He also stated that the requirement to spend 50% of all funds collected in an area in that area must still apply.

Cllr. Welby supported the Draft Scheme as amended by the Planning SPC but added that the development of wind farms should not be hindered by excess development charges as there is a major problem with the generation of electricity in Conamara and it has the potential to generate its own electricity .He did not agree to the increased charge for wind farms as per the SPC Meeting. He also stated that the charge for Telecommunication Masts should be increased.

He also seconded the proposal from Cllr. S. Walsh that Equestrian centres be exempt from Development Charges.

Cllr. M.Connolly supported the €8,000 development charge for wind turbines and stated that the charge for small community based operators should be reduced by 50% and he also proposed that Telecommunications Masts should be increased to €10,000 and an extra fee of €10,000 every 5 years.

Cllr Mannion stated that every opportunity should be taken to obtain charges from the Telecommunications Masts when these applications are up for renewal.

He added that he supported the development charges for Water and Sewerage and for Recreation/ Amenities but had reservations in relation to the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charge. He added that sections of road in the County are being totally neglected, and until there was some balance in the way that roads were funded he could not support the Draft Contribution Scheme.

Cllr McDonagh stated that because the Claregalway By-pass would not happen unless local funding is available he had to support the Draft Development Scheme as amended by the Planning SPC.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr S.Walsh that crèches would be exempt for Development Contributions.

Comh Ní Fhartharta stated that she rarely received complaints in relation to Development Contributions. She also supported the earlier proposals in relation to wind farms and

telecommunication masts. She stated that a substantial reduction in the development charge for wind farms was the way forward for wind farm development.

She also supported the proposal for the exemption of crèches from Development charges. Cllr D. Connolly proposed that community based Recreational Facility/Sports Club should be exempt from development charges.

He also stated that Recycling developments should also be exempt from Development charges so as to encourage recycling.

He referred to the submission from the IFA. Mr Ridge outlined to the meeting the content of the IFA submission.

Cllr Carey stated that he was worried about the effects of this Draft Scheme on young people and first time home buyers in this difficult economic climate where job security was now an issue.

He queried if these charges could be written off against income tax. He stated that some concession needs to be in place for first time buyers before he could support the Scheme and further added that it was difficult to support the introduction of a Roads Footpaths and Transportation Charge when some roads such as the N84 haven't been improved for years.

Cllr Mullins stated that if the Development Contribution Scheme was implemented, the amount of revenue generated was going to be insignificant due to the downturn in economic activity in the country. He added that he agreed with the charges for water, sewerage and Recreation and Amenity but added that the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charges should be kept at a minimum. He agreed with Cllr Carey's suggestion that some assistance should be given to people seeking planning permission for their first house. Cllr Mullins supported the Scheme if some concession was available to first time buyers.

Cllr Conneely stated that roads such as the N63 and other facilities had not improved in communities and the public do not believe that the development charges will bring improvements to their communities.

Cllr Connaughton stated that the overall gain for the County must be looked at, but added that she had difficulty with the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charge and the implications of it for first time house buyers.

Mr Ridge stated that developments exempt from planning fees would also be exempt from development charges. Non profit making sports/recreation development would be exempt from development charges.

He also stated that non profit making recycling facilities would be exempt from development charges.

Cllr M.Connolly proposed that in Sub area 3 that the Roads, Footpaths and Transportation charge would be €5.00 per m² for all houses irrespective of size.

Cllr Cuddy stated that he did not agree with the increase of the development charge of €3.50 per tonne of waste deposited as it would eventually be paid by the householder as additional bin charges.

Cllr Canney expressed concern for young people due to the additional development charges now proposed. He added however, that if the Claregalway Bypass and the Tuam

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Inner Relief Roads were going to be put in jeopardy due to a lack of local funding then the Development Contributions should be adopted.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr W.Burke that Education facilities in Group 3 should be moved to Exempted Developments.

On the proposal of Cllr S.Walsh and seconded by Cllr Cuddy it was agreed to adopt the Draft Development Contribution Scheme with amendments as follows:

Charges for Residential Units in sub-area 1.

Sub Area 1. Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea, Gort and other towns, villages and rural areas within the 15km zone and the urban fringes of Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea and Gort.

	Description	Charge
1a	Sewerage	€3,500
1b	Water only* ^{Note 1}	€3,300
1c	Recreation/Amenities* ^{Note 2}	€3,000
1d	Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charge	€7.50 per m ² for all houses irrespective of size
1e	Recreation/Amenities for the development of estates of five or more houses (Oranmore Area Only)* ^{Note 3}	€100,000 per 0.404 hectares (1 acre) of development site

Charges for Residential Units in sub-area 2.

Sub Area 2. Within the boundaries of all other towns, villages and settlement centres

	Description	Charge
2a	Sewerage	€3,500
2b	Water only* ^{Note 1}	€2,200
2c	Recreation/Amenities* ^{Note 2}	€1,800
2d	Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charge	€7.50 per m ² for all houses irrespective of size

Charges for Residential Units in sub-area 3.

Sub Area 3. All other areas

	Description	Charge
3a	Sewerage	€3,500

3b	Water only* ^{Note 1}	€1,150
3c	Recreation/Amenities* ^{Note 2}	€650
3d	Roads, Footpaths and Transportation Charge	€5.00 per m ² for all houses irrespective of size

Note 1: Private houses connected to private GWSS off public supplies will be charged at 50% of the water rate.

Note 2: Private houses of less than 125 m² floor area will benefit from a reduction of €200 in the recreation and amenity charge in each of the three areas.

Note 3: The Recreation/Amenities for the development of estates of five or more houses of €100,000 per .404 hA applies only to those developments contained fully or partly within the Development Plan boundaries of Oranmore.

Part 2 Industrial Commercial and other development

Developments contained in the following table will be subject to a development contribution based on floor area at the rate specified in the table. The rate will vary for each of three sub areas identified in the earlier portion of the scheme namely:

Sub Area 1 Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea, Gort and other towns, villages and rural areas within the 15km zone and the urban fringes of Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea and Gort.

Sub Area 2 within the boundaries of all other towns, villages and settlement centres.

Sub Area 3 all other areas.

Industrial/Commercial and Other Development		Charge per m ²		
		Sub Area 1	Sub Area 2	Sub Area 3
Group 1	Abattoir, Concrete Asphalt Plant, Industry General, Waste Transfer Station, Cash and Carry Wholesale Outlet, Dancehall/Discotheque, Hospital, Retirement Home, Residential Institution, Hotel/Motel, Offices over 1,000 m ² , Petrol Station/Service Garage, Public House/Restaurant, Shops – Major Sales Outlet ,Betting Offices	€70	€60	€45
Group 2	Household Fuel Depot, Industry-light, Industry-special, Science & Technology Based Enterprise, Scrap Yard,	€55	€47	€38

	Warehousing-Retail			
Group 3	Warehousing, Offices less than 1,000 m2, Local Neighbourhood Shop, Doctor, Dentist, Veterinary Surgery, Funeral Home, Private Crèche, Boarding Kennels, Enterprise Centre, Guest House/ B and B, Garden Centre, Heavy Vehicle Park/Transport Depot, Home Based Economic Activities, Motor Sales Outlet, Recreational Buildings Commercial, Recreational Facility/Sports Club, Rural Industry	€50	€42	€33

All development not listed in the above table will be considered to be included in Group 2 above and will be subject to charges set down above namely, €55 per metre square in Sub area 1, €47 per metre sq. in Sub Area 2, €38 per metre square in Sub Area 3. This provision does not include the following industry, which will be charged under the Special Contribution Provision contained in Section 48(ii)(c)

Car parking

A contribution of €2,000 per space underprovided by the development shall be charged.

Special Development Contributions

A special development contribution may be imposed under Section 48 of the Act, where the council in the provision of a specific public infrastructure or facility incurs exceptional costs not covered by the general contribution scheme. Only developments that will benefit from the public infrastructure or facility in question will be liable to pay the special development contribution. Conditions imposing special contributions may be appealed to An Bord Pleanala.

Waste landfill, Quarries and gravel pits

Special contributions for waste/land fill Quarries and gravel pits to be based on the following criteria:

- (i) The scale of the proposed development i.e. in the case of landfills the volume of material that it is proposed to deposit at the site or in the case of Quarries and Gravel Pits: the volume of material it is proposed to supply from and deliver to the site
- (ii) The condition of the road serving the development.
- (iii) The length of the road or roads from the development to the nearest Class 1 local roads which is in good condition.
- (iv) The cost of bringing the road or roads up to a standard necessary to facilitate the development and not cause an adverse impact on other road users.
- (v) The cost of traffic control measures.

- (vi) Buildings provided as part of a Waste Landfill/ Quarries and gravel pits development will be subject to the provisions of the general contribution scheme for applicable development.
- (vii) Waste landfills will also be subject to a €3.5 per tonne of waste deposited development contribution.

Wind Farms

A charge of €8,000 per turbine shall apply.

A charge of €4,000 per turbine shall apply to community based/local wind farms

Wind turbines up to 0.5 megawatts are exempt of development contributions.

Telecommunication Masts

A charge of €10,000 shall apply for the first permission issued and an extra fee of €10,000 every 5 years.

Golf Courses and other Leisure facilities, which incorporate premises

Special contributions for these types of developments shall be based on the following criteria:

- (i) the demand that the development will place on water services
- (ii) the traffic likely to be generated by the development
- (iii) the condition of the road serving the development
- (iv) the length of road or roads from the development to the nearest Class 1 local road which is in good condition
- (v) The cost of bringing the road or roads up to a standard necessary to facilitate the development and not cause any adverse impact on other road users
- (vi) The cost of traffic control measures
- (vii) Buildings provided as part of a golf course or other leisure facilities development will be subject to the provisions of the general contribution scheme for applicable development

Exemptions

The Development Contributions Scheme shall exempt development from contributions where that development is classed as exempted from planning fees under Section 157: Part 12 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Social and Voluntary Housing are included in the exempted classification.

Where a planning application consists of or comprises of development which, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, is development proposed to be carried out by or on behalf of voluntary organisations, and which in the opinion of the Planning Authority

- (a) is designed or intended to be used for social, recreational, educational or religious purposes by the inhabitants of a locality, or by people of a particular group or religious denomination, and is not to be used mainly for profit or gain,
- (b) it is designed or intended to be used as a workshop, training facility, hostel or other accommodation for persons with disabilities and is not to be used mainly for profit or gain, or
- (c) is ancillary to development referred to in paragraph (a) or (b)

- (d) Public/Community Crèches
- (e) Community based Recreational Facility/Sports Club
- (f) Rural/Cottage Industry-Indigenous home produced food

A development contribution shall not be payable by such development.

- (i) Where a planning application consists of or comprises the provision of houses, or development ancillary to such provision, which is proposed to be carried out by or on behalf of a body approved for the propose of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 (No. 18 of 1992) and is not to be used mainly for profit or gain, a development contribution shall not be payable in respect of any such development.

Agricultural development shall be exempt from development contributions.

For the purpose of this provision agriculture shall be defined to include horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock (including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or furs, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land), the training of horses and the rearing of bloodstock, Equestrian farming, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds.

Agricultural structures listed in the Part 3, exempted development rural classes 6,7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of The Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 will be regarded as exempted from development contributions under this scheme.

Aquaculture shall be regarded as exempted from development contributions under this scheme.

Record of Protected Structures

All buildings and premises included in the record of protected structures shall be exempt from the development contribution.

Inflation

The rates will be adjusted with effect from the 1st April each year based on changes to the Wholesale Price Index for Building & Construction published by the Central Statistics Office, commencing on the 1st April 2008.

Period of contribution Scheme and Review

The Council from time to time having regard to circumstances prevailing at that time may review this scheme. The cut-off year for the scheme (unless a new scheme is made before them) is March 2012.

Distribution of development contributions

A minimum of 50% of the contributions collected in each electoral area will be spent in that area, measured over the period of the development contribution scheme.

Monies collected for industrial and commercial activity shall be distributed over Roads Sub-Area 1 €30, Sub-Area 2 €25 and Sub-Area 3 €20, Water 25% of the balance, Waste Water 40% of the balance, and Recreational\Amenity 35%.

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

*AR SON: Cllr Burke, Cllr Canney, Cllr. Carey, Cllr Connaughton, Cllr. Conneely Cllr D Connolly, Cllr.M. Connolly, Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Feeney, Cllr. Finnerty, Cllr Hoade, Cllr Hynes, Cllr. Kyne, Cllr Maher, Cllr. McDonagh, Cllr.Mullins, Comh. Ni Fhatharta Comh O'Tuairisg, Cllr Reilly Cllr S. Walsh Cllr Welby, Cllr. Willers (22)
IN AGHAIDH Cllr Mannion Cllr McHugh, (2)
Gan Votáil: (0)*

The Mayor declared Cllr S.Walsh's proposal carried.

TO APPROVE DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT RELATING TO "TAKING IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPMENT".

1833

The Mayor invited Mr. Ridge to present the Draft Taking in charge of Developments Document. Mr. Ridge explained that the document was prepared through the Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

He stated that the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government set up a Review group in relation to Taking in Charge of Developments; as it had concerns in relation to Management Companies amongst other concerns. The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government issued a Circular in relation to Taking in Charge of developments. Mr Ridge added that the Draft Document being presented to the meeting takes on board the Department's requirements and was effectively amending the Taking in Charge of Estates Document adopted in November 2005.

Mr Ridge explained that there were two types of estates for the purpose of Taking in Charge, (1) Historical Estates, which are over 7 years. This period was selected because generally Planning Enforcement legislation may only be enforced for a period of 7 years after the expiry of Planning Permission.

In the cases where planning enforcement cannot be used, the estates can be taken in charge over time but will not have funds expended on them beforehand. Instead any problems will be addressed over time as resources become available.

(2) Current estates, housing estates which are less than 7 years, the Council will take a stricter approach; it will ensure all works are completed before taking in charge.

Mr Ridge explained that this document sets out the protocol the Council has in place for the taking in charge of developments.

Cllr W.Burke welcomed the document and the improvements to it but added that it was the implementation of the policy that was important. He proposed the taking in charge of 3 estates in each of the 5 electoral areas per year He stated that there were huge problems with unfinished housing estates in the County and added that this proactive approach was welcomed.

He stated that bonds should be index linked.

He proposed that the Taking in Charge of Developments policy be adopted.

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Cllr Canney stated that a copy of the Taking in Charge Document should be issued to each applicant/agent/development along with the planning permission. He welcomed the inspections of sites during development but questioned if we had the resources.

He also queried what safeguards were in place for residents when Development Companies and Management Companies go out of business.

Mr Ridge stated that he hoped that the targets for the County would be more ambitious and urged people to apply to have their estates taken in charge.

He also agreed with Cllr Canney's suggestion to inform applicants of the Council policy on the taking in charge of housing estates at preplanning stage or when obtaining planning permission. Mr Ridge also informed the Members that the Taking in Charge of Developments would be discussed at the Planning Seminar for agents on Wednesday 24/09/2008 where emphasises would put on the construction inspections of developments in association with Building Control policies.

Cllr Cuddy queried if residents of housing estates required a signed plebiscite when applying to have their estates taken in charge.

Mr Ridge that the signed plebiscite was a requirement.

Both Cllr Cuddy and Cllr McDonagh referred to a housing estate in Lackagh where the taking in charge has become very complex and legalistic.

Mr Ridge stated that the completion of housing estates, depending on whether estates were "historic" or "current" estates could be carried out by 1) pursuing under planning legislation, 2) using the facility to draw down the bond or 3) draw down on the professional indemnity insurance of the person who certified the completion of the estate or a combination of these.

Mr Ridge added that there was a lot of work involved in drawing down a bond where proof and legal agreement is required but, that over time this process would become much more efficient.

Cllr Mannion asked how many housing estates were taken charge to date.

Mr Ridge stated that 20 estates were taken in Charge by the Council.

Cllr McHugh referred to estates that are serviced by Waste Water Treatment Systems and stated that it would be an onerous task to maintain these Systems.

Mr Ridge referred to page 2 of the document which outlined the facilities that the Local Authority will take control of through the taking in charge of estates and this included Wastewater Treatment plants and associated buffer zones.

Cllr Reilly asked that the local authority move quickly in taking estates in charge once the residents have made the application so that the best value is obtained from the bond.

Mr Ridge stated that the Local Authority cannot get involved while the Planning permission is still current as the Developer can claim that they have not finished works on the site.

When the Planning Permission has expired the Local Authority can then pursue it under planning enforcement, or by drawing down the Bond or both.

The Local Authority can also seek recourse from the professional indemnity insurance of the person who certified the completion of the estate.

On the proposal of Comh. o'Tuairisg and seconded by Cllr Mullins it was agreed to adopt the Taking in Charge of Developments Policy Document.

Mr Ridge acknowledged the work of the Planning SPC on the original Taking in Charge Document and on the newly adopted document.

Cllr Cuddy asked if there would be any budgetary implications in relation to the Taking in Charge document. Mr Ridge stated that there would be.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

1834

The Manager said she wished to thank the Members and said she appreciated their support in bringing forward the Galway City Outer By Pass report which is now An Bord Pleanala.

She informed the Members that a letter had been received from Central Government advising of the requirement to cut Payroll costs by 3% next year and the impact of this on the Budget for 2009

MAYORS BUSINESS

1835

The Mayor thanked the Members who attended the meeting with the Minister last week. He also informed the Members that the Special Olympics were celebrating their 30th Birthday and that this should be marked in some way. He proposed that the Council host a Reception to mark the occasion; this was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by An Comh. Ni Fhatharta and agreed that the October Monthly Meeting be held on the 20th October, 2008.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1836

The following reply was given:-

“The Council has no proposals to appoint a Water Conservation Officer.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20– CLLR. B. WILLERS

1837

The following reply was given:-

“Road Signage on Local Roads will be upgraded on a continuous basis as resources permit. A budget of €200,000 has been provided from the Council’s own resources for the provision and renewal of signage on local roads in 2008.

The Regional Roads Signposting Programme which is currently underway with funding provided by the Department of Transport will be completed by the end of December 2008.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1838

The following reply was given:-

“Following extensive efforts the Town Hall in Loughrea was tendered for sale in 2005 with the requirement that 10% would be retained for community use. Notwithstanding the receipt of attractive offers, agreement on this approach was not reached and the sale did not proceed. Unfortunately the Tax Incentives which pertained then have now expired and the period of the Planning Permission which exists on the building continues to diminish. Given the costs involved in refurbishing the building the only realistic way forward is the sale of the property with a requirement to make an agreed portion available for community uses. However full agreement on the approach must be achieved before any steps would be taken in this regard.”

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

1839

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go dtosnóidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag ullmhú Plean Trácht don Cheathrú Rua go luath.”

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

1840

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go mbeidh an Sceidéal Teorainn Luais i bhfeidhm faoi dheire 2008, sé sin, má bhíonn aontas le gach páirtí atá á chomhairliú.”

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

1841

The following reply was given:-

“Tá soláthar stáisiún dóiteán chun freastal ar cheantar Iarthair na Gaillimhe, Deisceart Chonamara san áireamh, ina chuspóir ag an gComhairle le fada anois. Tá sé ag cruthú deacair suímh oiriúnacha a aithint ach coinneofar leis na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl i gceantar na Ceathrú Rua. Tá sé tábhachtach a rá arís go bhfuil an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil chun treoirínte a fhoilsiú go gairid ar Clúdach Riosca Tine agus

Éigeandála agus caithfear iad seo a leanacht chun an mhéid agus láthair stáisiúin nua don Chathair agus don Chontae ina iomláine.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY

1842

The following reply was given:-

“This matter will involve a joint approach between the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Galway County Council are actively involved in addressing ragworth on National Roads with funding being provided from the National Roads Authority through a special maintenance allocation. The matter will be discussed with officials from the Department of Transport with a view to securing an allocation to allow for the extension of the programme to Regional and Local Roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY

1843

The following reply was given:-

“The Area office are in discussion with the road design section to establish a proposal to improve the safety issues associated with this bridge. A costing will be prepared for the works involved and an application for funding will be sought.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. D. CONNOLLY

1844

The following reply was given:-

“These issues have been raised with the C.E.O. of the National Roads Authority at a recent meeting and it is hoped that this will bring about an improvement in the situation.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1845

The following reply was given:-

“The funding approved for school flashing lights in the 2008 Roads Programme has been allocated as follows:

School Flashing Lights Clydagh NS 2008	€5,250.00
School Flashing Lights Claran Boys NS 2008	€5,250.00
School Flashing Lights Annaghdown NS 2008	€5,250.00

Éigeandála agus caithfear iad seo a leanacht chun an mhéid agus láthair stáisiúin nua don Chathair agus don Chontae ina iomláine.”

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School Flashing Lights Lisheenkyle NS 2008 €5,250.00

As the school in question is located at the end of a cul de sac road there are no plans at present for school flashing lights at this location having regard to other priority needs in the County.

This matter will be kept under review.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1846

The following reply was given:-

“In order to progress the taking in charge of this estate a CCTV survey and report of the drainage network in the estate will be required to establish what works, if any, are required to bring the estate up to a satisfactory standard. The procurement of the necessary funds to carry out this survey is currently being pursued within current budgetary constraints.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 1847

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council Housing Unit will carry out all necessary works to ensure a proper tarred surface in front of Demountable Dwelling at Monard, Turloughmore (Details attached).”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1848

The following reply was given:-

“This matter is being considered subject to appropriate funding being made available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1849

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are currently in discussions with the National Roads Authority in relation to this matter.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1850

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The following reply was given:-

“A preliminary report for this project has been sent to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and approval is presently awaited.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1851

The following reply was given:-

“The number and grades of outdoor staff is currently being reviewed having regard to available funding and additional seasonal staff have and will continue to be employed if and when required within the context of available resources.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1852

The following reply was given:-

“Verge trimming will be carried out on a priority basis as resources permit. The funding available for verge trimming in the current year is insufficient to allow for verge trimming to be carried out on all roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – CLLR. M. MAHER

1853

The following reply was given:-

“It is anticipated that the speed limit review for Towns and Villages will be completed and implemented by the end of December 2008, subject to a timely response to the Council’s proposals from An Garda Síochána and from the National Roads Authority in relation to proposals concerning National Roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – CLLR. M. MAHER

1854

The following reply was given:-

“No funding for the Monivea Road Railway Bridge is at present available, however, a 3rd Party Developer as part of a planning application has indicated a willingness to provide a footpath from the Athenry approach.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 38 – CLLR. M. MAHER

1855

The following reply was given:-

“Following receipt of observations from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as a result of the commencement of the Part 8 planning process, the Council sought additional information from its consultants to address the issues raised.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 39 – CLLR. M. REGAN

1856

The following reply was given:-

“The revenue generated from Pay Parking in Loughrea since its introduction in December 2004 is as follows:

2004	€26,542.00
2005	€433,446.73
2006	€420,114.60
2007	€283,763.30
2008	€240,375.90 (Income to date in 2008)
	€1,404,242.53

The revenue generated from pay parking is allocated in the Annual Budget. The revenue is allocated to cover the operational cost associated with implementing pay parking and for the repayments on the loan used to finance the costs associated with the introduction of pay parking and the acquisition and development of car parks. The revenue is also used to facilitate the ongoing preparation and implementation of traffic management plans.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 40 – CLLR. M. REGAN

1857

The following reply was given:-

“The upgrading of Main Street resulted in the loss of 8 parking spaces. This included 5 spaces for the bus stop.

It is not possible to restrict HGV's entering the town centre as a weight restriction would also have to restrict the necessary HGV deliveries to the various business outlets. Such restrictions would not be practicable.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 41 – CLLR. M. REGAN

1858

The following reply was given:-

“The Local Area Office is waiting for the unseasonably high water level to drop so that grouting of concrete slabs can take place and removal of topsoil can also go ahead.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 42 – CLLR. P. HYNES 1859

The following reply was given:-

“It is not anticipated that we would introduce parking permits for other than residents due to the number of groups who feel that they should have a dispensation and each in their own right having a good cause.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 43 – CLLR. P. HYNES 1860

The following reply was given:-

“The road in question is not included in the roads programme for 2008. It will be considered for inclusion in the drafting of the next roads programme. Until then it will receive routine maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 44 – CLLR. P. HYNES 1861

The following reply was given:-

“This road is not included in the 2008 Roads Programme for improvement works. It will be considered for inclusion in the 2009 Roads Programme and in the interim routine maintenance will be carried out as necessary.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 45 – COMH. S. O’TUAIRISG 1862

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanfar scrúdú ar na fograí in aice na scoile ach tá soilse péacach ag an scoil cheana agus tá an scoil sa Teorainn Luas de 50kph. Déanfar mion oibreacha ar an cosán coisithe ach níl aon phlean ann an cosán coisithe a leathnú.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 46 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1863

The following reply was given:-

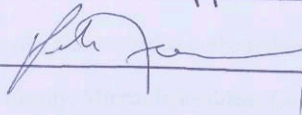
“There are a number of reasons why this is not possible under the Planning and Development Act 2000.

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1. There is no mechanism available in the Planning Legislation to make any Variations to a Local Area Plan once it is adopted. Legislation only provides for variations to Development Plans which are a distinctly different legal document for the purposes of the Planning and Development Act.
For this reason, the Planning Authority cannot make an interim change to a plan, other than re-commencing the entire Local Area Plan making process.
2. Section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (amended) allows a Planning Authority to enter into a legal agreement with any person with a legal interest in land in the functional area of the Authority, for the purpose of restricting or regulating the development or use of the land, either permanently or during such period as may be specified by the agreement. Any such agreement may contain such incidental and consequential provisions (including provisions of a financial nature) as appear to the Planning Authority to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the agreement.
3. The principle of accepting any property or other consideration in return for zoning lands is something which should be avoided by a Planning Authority, particularly when there are other mechanisms whereby a Local Authority may acquire lands which it deems necessary for public projects - Compulsory Acquisition is one such mechanism. In the instance proposed by this notice of motion, the lands are not being acquired for purposes necessary for the Local Authority to carry out a scheme or works but so that same can be used for the National School. This would seem to be outside the remit of any of the purposes for which powers of compulsory acquisition can be used.
4. The lands in question are currently zoned for Community Facility purposes. I note that a very small proportion of lands are zoned for this purpose – probably less than 8 acres undeveloped. In a town with potential for substantial growth facilitated by the proposed town bypass and the proposed new waste water treatment plant, well located lands for this purpose should be protected rather than being forced out onto edge of town locations where they are difficult to access other than by car. The expansion of the national school is only one such use – a community facility such as a sports complex or community centre should be provided for through appropriate zoning.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Approved + Signed



20th October 2008.

DATE