

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY THE  
21ST DECEMBER 2009.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. T. McHugh

**ILATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, P. Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, Comh S O’Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M. Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

**Oifigigh:**

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; B. McDermott, County Secretary; M. Owens, Senior Executive Officer; J. Keane, Staff Officer.

**Thosnagh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

194

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Ms. Sadie Mc Inerney, Church Street, Gort, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Margaret Scully, Dougiska, Galway.
- Mrs Dolly Mac Mahuna, C/o Michael Furey, Mannionard, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
- Ms. Ann Henry, Tullinadaly, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Chrissy Nevin, Killaghmore, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Peg Salmon, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

195

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr McDonagh, and seconded by Cllr. Mullins.

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

196

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Kyne and seconded by Cllr S Walsh.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr Keaveney and seconded by Cllr Roche.

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

197

On the proposal of Cllr. S Walshe and 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 N59 in the townland of Rosscahill and extending west for a distance of 53 metres in the townland of Rosscahill and finishing at proposed school car park in the townland of Rosscahill.

Electoral Area: Conamara

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF AN APARTMENT AT HIGH STREET, DUNMORE, CO. GALWAY**

198

This item was withdrawn.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CLIFDEN DEMESNE, SKY ROAD, CLIFDEN, CO. GALWAY – LA03/09–**

199

Report dated the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 was already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. S Walshe, the Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – Clifden Demesne, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway – LA03/09 was approved.

**FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING 2010**

200

It was agreed that the Budget 2010 meeting would be held on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm.

**PRESENTATION BY GALWAY HARBOUR COMPANY**

201

The Mayor welcomed representatives from the Harbour Company and invited Mr. Brian Sheridan Harbour Master to make a presentation to the members.

Mr. Sheridan informed the members that Galway will become a visionary waterfront city which will be a flagship landmark project for the West of Ireland and will rival any comparable development in the world.

He then made a 3D presentation to the members showing the vision for Galway Harbour under the following headings:

**Cruise animation**

*The animation gave a sense of what life onboard a modern cruise liner is like as the vessel arrives into the new port of Galway.*

**Marina simulation**

*This animation showed the new streetscape adjacent to the moored cruise liner and passenger building.*

**Connectivity**

*The animation showed connectivity from Europe to the East coast and also the transatlantic link by sea. It also showed the road and rail connectivity near Athenry and its proximity to the port of Galway.*

**Rail Animation**

*A rail link taking goods directly to/from ships and bringing passengers directly to the cruise terminal building was shown.*

*The animation also showed how it would look with the train leaving the existing Galway/Dublin line and entering the new port and traveling to the quay.*

**Vision Lands**

*The animation showed the vision lands and CIE lands. Galway showed the world what can be achieved when it played host to the Volvo Ocean Race earlier this year. It can be done again through visionary concepts of how the city and harbour area can evolve.*

A questions and answers session followed. In general the members were in favour of the proposed development but a number expressed reservations on the impact of the proposed development on Ros-a-mhil Port.

Mr. Eamon Bradshaw CEO Galway Harbour Company in response said that the proposed development was an opportunity for the West of Ireland. The development of Galway Harbour would work in tandem with Ros a Mhil Port but each would have

different roles. He is today seeking the support of the Elected Members in principle to the vision for Galway Harbour

The Manager said that the presentation was both interesting and exciting and that it was an important vision for the future. She said that it was important that the County Council work closely with the City Council and the Harbour Company. She said that the development of the Galway Port provides opportunities for employment in Freight and Tourism. She said this development would help to try and achieve what is set out in the National Spatial Strategy.

The Mayor thanked the Harbour Company for their presentation and asked the Members if they supported the project in principle.

Comh O Cuaig proposed that the views for Ros a Mhil Harbour also be presented to the Members before supporting the proposal, this was seconded by Comh O Tuairisg. Cllr McClearn proposed to support the vision for Galway Harbour in principle and this was seconded by Cllr. Canney. The Mayor asked for a show of hands on Cllr McClearns proposal and it was clear from the show of hands that Cllr McClearns proposal was carried. The Mayor informed the Harbour Company that their proposed project was supported in principle by Galway County Council.

**TO NOTE INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR SPC AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR 2010**

202

Report dated the 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 was already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Indicative Programme of Works for SPC and County Development Board for 2010 were noted.

**NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR SMARTER TRAVEL AREAS UPDATE203**

Report dated the 21st December 2009 was circulated to each member.

Mr. Owens referred to previous report circulated at the October Monthly meeting. He said that two bids had been short-listed by the Department of Transport to proceed to Stage 2 of the Competition. The joint bid with Galway City Council relating to the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area and the Council's bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town.

In relation to the Smarter Travel Project Fund Mr. Owens advised that the Council had submitted two applications for funding, one for the development of an Integrated Walking & Cycling Strategy and another for the provision of 15 Bus Shelters to promote the use of public transport. He said the application for funding for the development of An Integrated Walking & Cycling Strategy including pilot projects had been short-listed for funding by the Department of Transport and was confident that final approval for the project to proceed would be forthcoming.

Cllr. M. Hoade

**MANAGERS BUSINESS**

204

The Manager said that the Council had been notified by the Dept of the Environment of its Local Government Fund allocation for 2010 which was €36m. She said that the 2009 Local Government Fund allocation was €38.1m which was further reduced to €36.88m in the mini budget. She said the reduction in the Local Government Fund of 2% was one of the lowest reductions nationwide.

She advised that the Council had met with representatives from the OPW this morning in order to prepare a works programme in relation to the recent flooding.

**MAYORS BUSINESS**

205

The Members enquired as to what arrangements were in place for gritting the roads due to the current severe weather conditions.

Mr Gilmore advised that the Council has a gritting programme in place for all National Routes.

It was agreed that the issue of speed limits will be on the agenda for the January meeting.

**CONFERENCES**

206

On the proposal of Cllr McDonagh and seconded by Cllr Mullins the proposed attendances at conferences was agreed.

**Ashford Building Services – Planning & the European Law – 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September – Days Hotel, Waterford**

Cllr. C. Keaveney, Cllr. J. McClearn, Cllr. T. Walsh

**Teagasc – National Rural Development Conference – Rural Ireland in Uncertain Times – 8<sup>th</sup> October – Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork**

Cllr. T Welby, Comh. T Ó Curráoin, Cllr. S Kyne, Cllr. P Feeney, Comh. S O'Tuairisg, Cllr. M Mullins

**Blackwater Valley Tourism Conference – Marketing your area/project for the future – 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October – Hibernian Hotel & Leisure Centre, Mallow, Co. Cork**

Cllr. M Maher, Cllr. T Broderick

**Douglas Hyde Conference 2009 – Culture & the Economy – 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October – Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon**

Cllr. M Hoade

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009

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**Ashford Building Services – Voluntary Housing & Sheltered Housing for the Elderly – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October – Manor West Hotel Spa & Leisure Club, Killarney Rd., Tralee, Co. Kerry**

Cllr. P Feeney

**Superior Training Services Ltd. – Public Policy Making & the Councillor – 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November – Carlton Atlantic Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo**

Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. T Walsh

**The Ceifin Conference 2009 – Who's in Charge? – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November – The West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare**

Cllr. T Welby

**National Economic & Social Forum – Social Inclusion Forum 2009 – 4<sup>th</sup> November – Croke Park, Dublin**

Cllr. P Hynes

**Royal Irish Academy – 2009 International Affairs Conference – International Politics & the Global Economic Crisis – 5<sup>th</sup> November – Academy House, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2**

Comh. S O'Tuairisg

**Shannon Development National Conference – Dynamic Regions – 6<sup>th</sup> November – Thomond Park, Limerick**

Cllr. T Broderick, Cllr. T Welby

**Ace Training & Management – Time Management, Media & It Skills Conference – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November – Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath**

Cllr. T Welby

**L.A.M.A. Annual Winter Seminar 2009 – Service Provision in Local Government – 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November – Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick**

Cllr. M Connolly, Cllr. S Kyne, Cllr. M Maher, Cllr. M Mullins, Cllr. P. Feeney, Cllr. T Mannion, Comh. T Ó Curráoin, Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. S Walsh, Cllr. T Walsh

**The Equality Authority – Mainstreaming Equality – Promoting Equality & Accommodating Diversity in Further Education, Training & Labour Market Programmes – 10<sup>th</sup> November – Dublin Castle, Dublin 2**

Comh. S O'Tuairisg

**Esperanza Enterprises – Ethics in Public Life, Your Responsibility! – 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November – Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Rd., Sligo**

Cllr. J Cuddy, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. P Connaughton, Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. J Mc Clearn

**Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland – Seventh National Radon Forum – Towards the development of a radon control strategy for Ireland – 19<sup>th</sup> November – Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 6 Kildare St., Dublin 2**

Comh. S O'Tuairisg

**Clare Tourism Conference – Promoting Partnership in Tourism – 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare**

Cllr. M Maher, Cllr. T Mannion, Cllr. S Walsh

**Volunteering Ireland – The Value of Volunteering: It's Economic, Social & Political Impact – 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Morrison Hotel, Dublin**

Comh. S O'Tuairisg

**Constituents on the Net Conference – 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December – Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Clondalkin, Dublin 22**

Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. T Welby, Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. T Broderick, Cllr. J Mc Clearn, Cllr. S Walsh, Comh. S O'Tuairisg, Cllr. J Cuddy

**Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment – Delivering Appropriate Assessment in Ireland: Meeting the Challenges of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – 10<sup>th</sup> December – RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4**

Cllr. T Welby

**Superior Training – Information & Communication Technologies for Councillors – 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford**

Cllr. S Walsh

**Superior Training – The Local Government Budget 2010 – 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December – Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford**

Cllr. S Kyne, Cllr. P Feeney

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 12 – CLLR. E. MANNION**

207

*The following reply was given:-*

“This matter was raised at a recent meeting with Officials from the Office of Public Works. Arising from same a programme of works is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Office of Public Works with a view to obtaining the funding required to undertake such work.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 13 – CLLR. E. MANNION 208**

*The following reply was given:-*

“The current status of this scheme is as follows: The design review report for the Clifden Regional Water Supply Scheme is currently with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). Recent queries by the DoEHLG on the design review report have been answered and approval of this report is awaited. The scope of the Environmental Impact Study has been agreed with the Department and an estimate of the cost of the EIS has been submitted to them for approval. On receipt of same we will proceed to prepare the EIS for submission to the DoEHLG.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 14 – CLLR. E. MANNION 209**

*The following reply was given:-*

“The Council does not propose to install gates at this location or generally provide such gates due to financial constraints. The erection of such gates would not be the norm in either social or private housing departments.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 15 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 210**

*The following reply was given:-*

“The Council have received no application to date in respect of this estate. On receipt of an application from either the developer or the Residents Association the matter will be considered further.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 16 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 211**

*The following reply was given:-*

“There is currently no funding available to facilitate the provision of traffic route lighting at Cregmore Bridge.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 212**

*The following reply was given:-*



“School flashing lights have been provided at Cregmore School, additional road markings and signage will be provided in early 2010.” OPW to discuss the flooding issue throughout the County and this matter was discussed.

Arising from issue a submission is currently being prepared for the OPW with view

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 213

*The following reply was given:-*

“Galway County Council Officials have met with the OPW to discuss the flooding issue throughout the County and this matter was discussed.

The clearing of the drain in question is being examined in consultation with the landowners affected.

We await developments in this regard.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 214

*The following reply was given:-*

“The application submitted by the Council to the Department of Transport for funding under the Smarter Travel Project Fund for the provision of bus shelters at various locations in the County was unsuccessful on this occasion.

Whilst there is merit in providing bus shelters at these locations, in the absence of dedicated funding the Council is not in a position to provide same.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. M. FAHY** 215

*The following reply was given:-*

“With regard to the Kilreekill Group Water Scheme, Galway County Council submitted a proposal to bring water from the Loughrea Public Supply via a new trunk main from Loughrea town to Kilreekill to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) for approval. Queries were subsequently raised by the DoEHLG, Galway County Council’s reply to those queries will be returned to the DoEHLG by mid-January 2010. Galway County Council will then have to wait on the Department’s decision on the project.

Furthermore, in parallel with the above, the GWS itself wishes to get funding to lay their own GWS pipelines, the estimated cost of which is €1,500,000.00. The GWS is dependant on DoEHLG funding and CLAR funding to finance this project, and the viability of this proposal is subject to adequate funding being made available.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. P. ROCHE** 216

*The following reply was given:-*

“Galway County Council officials have met with the OPW to discuss the flooding issue throughout the County and this matter was discussed.

Arising from same a submission is currently being prepared for the OPW with a view to obtaining the necessary funding for the works involved.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. P. ROCHE** 217

*The following reply was given:-*

“The locations will be examined and any additional signage deemed necessary will be provided in early 2010.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. P. ROCHE** 218

*The following reply was given:-*

“It is intended that the dumping at Abbeyknockmoy, Abbert, Cloonina will be cleared by the Council as part of the Spring Clean Up Campaign.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 219

*The following reply was given:-*

“This matter will be raised with the National Roads Authority as proposed.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 220

*The following reply was given:-*

“This matter will be raised with the National Roads Authority as proposed.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. S. KYNE** 221

*The following reply was given:-*

“Galway County Council will consult with the National Roads Authority regarding these proposals.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – COMH S. Ó TUAIRISG** 222

*The following reply was given:-*

“Tá athbhreithniú ar an gclúdach tine i gCathair an Gaillimhe agus i gConamara Theas dhá réiteach faoi láthair ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Táthar ag súil go mbeidh an athbhreithniú críochnaithe faoi mhí Meitheamh 2010 agus pléifidh sé le clúdach tine i gCeantar na Ceathrún Rua.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 - COMH S. Ó TUAIRISG**

223

*The following reply was given:-*

“Tá plé déanta ag an gComhairle leis an úinéir talún áitiúil maidir le talamh breise cóngarach don reilig a cheannacht. Bheadh ceist maidir le bealach isteach ar an suíomh. Leanadh an Chomhairle ag plé na ceiste leis an úinéir talún, ach de bharr deacrachtaí buiséid b'féidir nach bhféadfaí ceannacht na talún a chinntiú ag an bpraghas atá iarrtha ag an úinéir talún.”

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 - COMH S. Ó TUAIRISG**

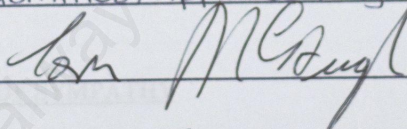
224

*The following reply was given:-*

“Déantar tástáil rialta ar an uisce ag Trá na mBan, An Spidéal i rith an tsamhraidh (Bealtaine go tús Meán Fómhair). I rith 2008, níor shroich 5 shampla as 12 an caighdeán le haghaidh uiscí snámha, ach sa bhliain 2009, shroich chuile shampla (5 cinn) an caighdeán. Is é an caighdeán uiscí snámha seo an caighdeán atá leagtha síos do cheantair snámha sa Phlean Bainistíochta Ceantar Abhantrach Uiscí an Iarthair.”

**CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved + Signed



25th January 2010

DATE

**RECENT SEVERE FLOODING**

The Mayor indicated that this Special Meeting of the Council was called in the aftermath of the recent severe flooding which occurred around the county and he

**CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER, 2009.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. T. McHugh

**ILATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, Comh S O’Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M. Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

**Oifigigh:** Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. J. Cullen, K. Kelly, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, Directors of Service; E. Molloy, M. Dolly, J. Eising, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers; B. McDermott, County Secretary; M. Owens, A. Comer, Senior Executive Officers; A. Farrell, Ballinasloe Town Clerk, C. Wynne, A/Senior Executive Engineer; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

**RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY**

192

A resolution of sympathy was extended to Cllr. Mogie Maher on the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Ann O’Neill,

A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for the deceased.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that the December Monthly Meeting of the Council which was scheduled to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 be rescheduled to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 at 2 p.m. due to the official opening of the M6 on Friday and this was seconded by Comh. O’Curraoin and agreed.

**RECENT SEVERE FLOODING**

193

The Mayor indicated that this Special Meeting of the Council was called in the aftermath of the recent severe flooding which occurred around the county and he

welcomed Mr. Richard Dooley and Mr. John Murphy from the Office of Public Works to the Meeting.

He read out a letter which had been received from President Mary McAleese thanking the staff and Members of the Council and also the communities around the county who did such tremendous work during the flooding crisis in order to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the floods.

He then invited Mr Murphy to make a presentation to the Members.

Mr Murphy commenced his presentation by making the following points:

- Flooding is a natural phenomenon with numerous causes the main one being excessive and persistent rainfall
- Flooding problems cannot be eliminated but can be managed so as to minimize their impacts
- Human activity can cause an increase in the risk of damage from flooding
- Because of the unpredictable nature of rainfall and other climatic factors, it is not possible to foresee when and where flooding may occur in the long term
- There is no statutory duty on any State or other authority to prevent flooding
- It is clear that flooding has been a major concern in this country for at least the past two centuries, as reflected in the various Drainage Acts passed.

The OPW derives its powers from the 1945 and the 1995 Arterial Drainage Acts and is the lead agency going forward in dealing with the Floods Directive. It is responsible for the maintenance of all rivers, embankments and urban flood defences on which it has executed work under the 1945 and 1995 Arterial Drainage Acts. An annual programme of maintenance is drawn up at the beginning of each year based on the condition of the channels and the resources available. In all, the OPW is responsible for approximately 25% of the rivers and streams in the country. Local Authorities are responsible for maintenance of rivers and streams in their Drainage Districts. The main Drainage Districts in Co. Galway are: River Suck, Dunkellin, Lavally and Ahascragh, however, a major difficulty for Local Authorities in fulfilling such obligations is lack of adequate funding. It is worth noting that while 14 different Bodies have functions in respect of the River Shannon, no one body has legislative responsibility.

Along with its primary drainage and flood relief functions, it is an objective of the OPW to make available all reasonable assistance to the recognized emergency response units to minimize the risk from flooding to persons and property.

The recent flooding was the most severe on record experienced in many parts of the country. Co Galway was one of the areas to suffer most. Unprecedented rainfall fell throughout the month of November. 314mm. was recorded for the county in the first 25 days of the month, with 127mm. falling in four days between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Clare River in Claregalway exceeded the 100 year flood.

A Joint Working Committee has been formed between the OPW and Galway County Council to deal with issues arising from this severe flood event.

Nationally €70m has been assigned by the Government towards Flood Relief in 2010.

The Mayor thanked the OPW for their presentation but stated that many people are experiencing extreme hardship due to flooding of their homes, flooding of their land and hazardous driving conditions.

The Members all raised issues of concern to them and the following was the response of the OPW:

- Maintenance of channels is the responsibility of the OPW but the River Suck Drainage District is the responsibility of the River Suck Drainage Committee which is made up of representatives of Roscommon and Galway County Councils and this committee does not have adequate funds available for its maintenance. However, the OPW may be in a position to provide assistance to the Local Authorities in carrying out a drainage scheme on the River Suck.
- Flood Relief Schemes take some considerable time to complete as compliance with EU legislation is necessary. In general, the OPW has good working relationship with the National Parks & Wildlife Service.
- The OPW will be the lead agency from now on in dealing with flooding issues. The River Shannon is not the responsibility of any one body but a study of the Shannon will commence in 2010 and the question of the removal of silt will be examined.
- In relation to the Ardrahan/Peterswell area, a works programme is in place for 2010 on the Dunkellin River in order to clean up the river and to carry out other minor improvement works. The OPW and the IFA are in broad agreement on this matter.
- In relation to the flooding at Lisheenavalla, Coolarne, Ballyglass, etc : the Bridge at Claregalway was unable to take the recent flood waters as it was designed for a 25 year flood and the recent flooding exceeded the 100 year flood.. The OPW is responsible for the Clare River and its tributaries and will be carrying out a study of the river which may result in widening of the river at Claregalway and replacement of the Crusheen Bridge and also may result in the removal of silt if necessary.
- The OPW is legally obliged to keep levels of Lough Corrib regulated for navigation and water abstraction purposes and the OPW does not consider that the opening of the sluice gates at the Salmon Weir had any effect on flooding at Claregalway. Daily records are kept of openings.
- In relation to the possibility that the construction of the new M6 may have blocked underground drains; an underground study would be required in order to determine this.
- The issue regarding the pumping out water from a quarry is a legal matter

- Oranmore/Bushfield will be included in a study to be carried out with Claregalway. In relation to Upper Moneymore, a possible solution may have been identified and the OPW will be required to consult with the National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Council in this regard.
- In relation to the Curragh Line: even though the N84 is constantly sinking the bridge is well above the flood.
- The OPW does make submissions in respect of Local Area Plans
- It may be possible to carry out minor schemes to address some local issues raised (Galway Co Co and OPW)

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Meeting continue after 6 p.m.

A discussion took place on the best way to deal with the issues raised and on whether it should be at national or local level.

The Manager expressed sympathy to those affected by the flooding crisis which had had a devastating effect on some families.

She said that the Council has expended significant resources to date in dealing with the flooding crisis.

The Council has already met with the OPW and a Working Group has been set up comprising of officials from OPW and Galway County Council and which will meet again before Christmas. She said that the Working Group will agree an Action Plan for areas where the flooding problems can be resolved by carrying out local minor works in partnership with the OPW. However, some major works will need to be addressed on a national basis eg River Shannon. The Manager indicated that it was her intention to Chair this group initially.

The Members indicated satisfaction with the arrangement set out by the Manager.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion and agreed that in relation to the serious flooding issue: the Council calls on the Taoiseach to appoint a Senior Cabinet Member to drive a project to ensure that we never have a repeat of the recent devastation. This Minister should have an appropriate budget to fund the preventative measures required.

The Mayor invited Mr. Michael Silke from the IFA to address the meeting.

Mr. Silke referred to the major flooding issue in the County. He complimented the staff of Galway County Council and the local volunteers who worked so hard.

The Mayor thanked the representatives of the OPW for attending the Meeting.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the official opening of the M6 which is scheduled to be held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and he expressed the view that the Elected Members of the Council should not attend the official opening in protest at the fact that some haulage routes have been left in bad repair by the M6 Construction Company.

The Manager stated that she understands the Members concerns, however, significant progress has been made on the arrangement put in place to address the issues raised and this appears to be working. The opening of the M6 is a critical piece of infrastructure for Galway County Council and should be viewed in a positive light.

**Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Tom McKeown

25th January 2010  
DATE

Ms. M. McInerney, County Manager,  
Messrs. J. Callen, P. N. F. Gilmore, Directors  
of Services, Messrs. J. Doherty, M. Doherty, J.  
Egan, Senior Executive Officers, Ms. S. Wynne, Senior  
Executive Officer, G. Mullarkey, Head of  
Finance, M. H. de Dermott, County Secretary,  
Messrs. J. O'Connell, Senior Executive Officers,  
Mr. J. O'Connell, S.E.O., Mr. P. O'Neachtain,  
Mr. J. O'Connell, and Ms. R. O'Boyle, Staff

Criochnaigh an cruinniú leis an gceist  
In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Members agreed to the election of Cllr.  
McKeown as Chairperson.  
Cllr. McKeown then took the Chair.

**RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY**

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A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Mrs. Sheila Callanan, Ballymountain, Inishannon, Co. Cork
- The O'Brien Family, Krockanna, Williamsstown, Co. Galway
- Michael & Kathleen Walsh, Ashford, Cong, Co. Mayo
- Mrs. Sarah Monaghan, Cairn, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Tom & Tina Byrne, Cordara, Hoodford, Co. Galway.

The Members said they wished to express their sympathy with the families of the four young  
girls who were killed so tragically in a car accident on the Milltown Road near Ballindine last