

Minutes of Meeting held on 28th November 2011

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Cullen stated that upgrade works will commence early in 2012.

PROHIBITION ON TEMPORARY DWELLINGS AT KINVARA PIER

846

Report dated 14th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Following a brief discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, it was agreed that this item be deferred to a future Meeting of the Council.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011

847

Mr. Mullarkey presented the Financial Report for the period ending 30th September 2011 to the Members giving a summary of the income and expenditure account at division level together with a comparison of both expenditure and income at sub-service level and also a summary of activity on the Capital account for the same period. He stated that the overall position to the end of September 2011 is a small deficit of €9,000.

In reply to Cllr. Roche, Mr. Mullarkey acknowledged that burial ground grants have been reduced but he stated that it is unlikely that these grants will be increased in the near future as it is expected that the Local Government Fund may be reduced by 10% in 2012.

Cllr. Roche stated that he hoped that it would be possible to use Notice of Motion monies to carry out such works in the absence of an increase in the level of grants.

Cllr. Carroll complimented the Head of Finance on the management of the Council's finances and the financial position of the Council as of September 2011. In reply to queries from Cllr. M. Connolly & Cllr. Carroll in relation to varying approaches to road maintenance and an apparent underspend of roads funding, Mr. Gilmore stated that the financial report reflected the position as of the 30th September 2011 and whilst this may note an underspend in certain categories of road grants, he was confident that all available grant funding would be drawn down by year end.

In reply to a query from Cllr. D. Connolly regarding Student Grants, Mr. Cummins confirmed that all completed applications for Student Grants received by the initial closing date of the 31st August have been processed and where appropriate grants paid. He confirmed that the Council exercised discretion to accept late applications and that currently both late and incomplete applications were being processed. He confirmed the budget provision contained in Budget

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2011 and referenced in the Financial Report was an estimate and that the actual expenditure incurred by the Council in the payment of student grants was the recouped from the Department of Education by the Council.

In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the cost of treating water and waste water was outlined in Division C of the Financial Report.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy & Comh. O'Curraoin regarding the reduction in staff numbers and the employment of temporary staff, the Manager stated that due to the embargo on recruitment in the public service, there has been a reduction of approximately 300 in the number of staff employed by Galway County Council across all service areas since 2008. The Manager confirmed that it was anticipated that additional staff may opt to retire prior to the end of February 2012. The Manager confirmed that the Council is open to facilitating appropriate jobs initiatives and stated that the issues of staffing, work programmes and financial resources are all interlinked and accordingly will be the subject of further discussion at the December Budget Meeting.

Cllr. McHugh suggested that it may be appropriate to review the format of the financial reports presented on a quarterly basis.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012 848

On the proposal of Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, it was agreed that the Overdraft Accommodation level of €33.4 for the period 01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012 be approved.

FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING 849

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting be held on Tuesday 20th December 2011 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae.

FIX DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING 850

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh, it was agreed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on Monday 19th December 2011 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae.

EIRGRID PRESENTATION 851

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Deborah Meghan, Regional Manager, Transmission Projects West, Mr. Alan McHugh, Senior Project Manager, Grid West Electricity, Mr. Graham Parker, Senior Engineer & Ms. Valerie Hedin, Communications Specialist on behalf of EirGrid to give a presentation on the Grid West Electricity Transmission Scheme.

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The Manager stated that it is important that County Galway makes use of the competitive advantage we have in relation to wind energy and highlighted the importance of robust infrastructure to support same.

Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid is a state-owned company and is the independent electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Ireland and the market operator of the wholesale electricity trading system.

EirGrid's role is to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system. It is responsible for the Grid infrastructure required to support the development of Ireland's economy, as well as connecting the Irish Grid to the European Grid.

Ms. Meghan highlighted that:

- EirGrid plays a key role in the operation of the single electricity market which services the island of Ireland.
- EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland.
- It manages the day-to-day operations of the market by operating a national control system to balance demand for electricity and the amount generated so that there is enough electricity available
- It analyses the long term needs of the power system in the context of evolving markets with significant levels of variable renewable generation.
- It sets out programmes of work to manage the changing needs of the market and ensures that the views of industry and other stakeholders are represented through each step of these work programmes.
- EirGrid is one of the key partners in attracting Foreign Direct Investment into Ireland by ensuring that there is an adequate power supply which provides value for money.

She stated that EirGrid developed GRID25 in 2008 to study power supply and demand up to 2025. Grid25 provides a scale to the necessary infrastructure required on a national and regional level. As a matter of priority, EirGrid progress network development to meet anticipated needs in line with the GRID25 Strategy.

Ms. Meghan confirmed that EirGrid has begun to undertake detailed studies to more clearly specify reinforcement project requirements. These studies will assess environmental impact, technical issues and route identification for the many necessary schemes. Once the information already contained in the Strategy, such as the needs of a region, is collated with the information from the studies, plans for specific projects are drawn up and implemented in consultation with the public and all key stakeholders, and subject to regulatory oversight by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

Generation from renewable energy sources is a key plank in the Strategy to reduce carbon emissions and to maintain a sustainable energy supply. The Government has set a target of meeting at least 33% of electricity demand from renewable generation by 2020. It also intends setting further targets jointly with the relevant

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Northern Ireland authorities. It is recognised that wind energy will play a pivotal contribution to meeting that goal.

Many of the locations suitable for renewable energy generation schemes are in areas where there have been little or no generation developments heretofore. The aggregate of renewable generation capacity in some areas is equivalent to large conventional generation stations and in many cases the network is not capable of carrying the power from these generation sources. Ms. Meghan highlighted that significant reinforcement of the Grid will therefore be required to cater for the new power flows from renewable generation as it will not be possible to utilise Ireland's natural resources of renewable energy without the essential upgrades outlined in GRID25.

GRID25 provides for a range of conventional generation scenarios locating close to: principal sea ports; existing station sites; strong transmission nodes. Building further power lines will present its own challenges. In many cases, the new capacity provided by these lines will need to be in place before some of the existing lines can be upgraded. EirGrid has a statutory obligation to balance the provision of reliable transmission services with the costs to the final customer and with the impact of transmission infrastructure on the environment.

Ms. Meghan said that a lot of work needs to be done to facilitate renewable energy coming on track and a lot of upgrade work has to be done to the existing network. She said that EirGrid needs to investigate options to deal with renewable energy and the Grid West Electricity Transmission Scheme will carry out a study of the west of Ireland with a view to identifying a preferred route for the development of the infrastructure required to transport energy produced to other parts of the country. Eirgrid are looking at Casla, Athenry and Flagford, Co. Roscommon at the moment. A lead Consultant will be appointed shortly to oversee the project. Phase 1 of the project will be to identify need and gather information and this will commence in January 2012. The firm will be consulting with major stakeholders including Galway County Council and there will also be a big emphasis on public consultation, as EirGrid wants the public to engage with them as it is important that everybody understands that it is essential for the future of energy provision that infrastructure is developed and enhanced. The value of this project is estimated at €240m. Phase 2 will be the Planning & Design Phase and will take three to four years and Galway County Council will play a major part in this phase of the project. The ESB will take over at construction stage which will commence in approximately three to four years time.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Ó Cuaig regarding the upgrading of the line to Screeb, Conamara, Ms. Meghan stated that whilst this project was under the remit of the ESB it was her understanding that construction was due to start shortly.

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Cllr. Ó Cuaig also asked, if windfarms are developed along the west coast of Ireland, how would the necessary infrastructure to bring the power they generate to the rest of the country be developed, given the restrictions presented by the extent of environmental designations. Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid is particularly conscious of the challenges presented by environmental designations for the development of infrastructure and in particular large scale infrastructure envisaged under GRID 25 and significant emphasis would be placed on the challenges presented by same in the planning and design phase of any project.

She said that the first phase of this project will be to gather information regarding the location of woods, houses etc. and they will talk to local authorities, environmental interest groups, chambers of commerce etc. in an attempt to put potential route options on paper, but environmental constraints will be a big deciding factor. She said that public consultation will also play a major role in any decision making process.

Cllr. T. Mannion welcomed the presentation made by EirGrid, stating that consultation will be important especially where people are fearful of power lines being placed too near to their houses.

In reply to Cllr. McHugh, Ms. Meghan stated that it is not envisaged that there will be a reduction in electricity prices to the consumer as a result of increased energy production and possible exporting of energy from Ireland. However, she said that enhancement of the Grid will create a platform for economic growth, create direct and indirect employment, enable regional development and facilitate Irish renewable generation. In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, she confirmed that the scale of the investment required in the context of the overall capital investment and budget would not lead directly to an increase in electricity prices.

Cllr. Feeney highlighted the importance of recognizing the potential of wind energy as a natural resource and queried the factors and criteria used to decide the most favourable route including the approach to built up areas and the distance from houses.

Ms. Meghan replied that power lines will be located as far away from houses as possible and whilst there was no minimum distance requirement it would generally be at least 40m to 50m away from houses.

In reply to Cllr. Ó Laoi, Ms. Meghan stated that EirGrid has no plans currently to develop additional infrastructure to facilitate the future potential presented by harnessing offshore wave energy.

In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, Ms. Meghan confirmed that the ESB will finance the project and will own the infrastructure when completed.

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In reply to Cllr. Ó Curraoin who expressed a view in relation to undergrounding powerlines Ms. Meghan stated that whilst EirGrid gives consideration to this option, the costs associated with same are substantial and accordingly they must be mindful of the impact of same in terms of the end cost to the consumer together with other limitations.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Ms. Meghan stated that consideration would be given to an appropriate capacity to allow connections but that same would be limited and that a requirement for significant additional capacity may require the development of additional infrastructure.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2007/2015

852

Report entitled "Disability Strategy Works 2005 – 2010" was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. D. Connolly stated that it is evident that the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government does not propose to provide any funding in the future for works under the Disability Action Plan and therefore he stated that the Council will have to take cognizance of this in drawing up the Budget for 2012.

He proposed that "Galway County Council calls on Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan TD not to implement any measures in the forthcoming budget that will impact on vulnerable people in education who have special needs and require assistance from Special Needs Assistants, Resource Teachers, O/T equipment etc." This proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Canney and agreed.

Cllr. Hoade stated that a lot of works had been carried out under the Council's Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2015 especially in areas with a population of over 500 people and this is to be commended.

ORANMORE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

853

Report already circulated.

Cllr. Carroll & Cllr. Cuddy welcomed the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan stating that serious traffic gridlock exists in the middle of the village.

In reply to Cllr. Carroll, Mr. Gavin stated that it is intended that works will be completed by Christmas, weather permitting and he confirmed that a Community Warden will be present to implement the measures introduced.

In reply to queries regarding the Traffic Management Plans for other towns in the county, Mr. Gavin stated that Plans for Headford, Portumna, Tuam, Loughrea and Gort will be reviewed in 2012.

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In reply to a request from Cllr. Cunniffe to advance the review of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan in the context of the completion of Tuam Main Drainage Scheme, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the review of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan would be progressed with a timeline of Spring 2012. In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that in the interim, the impact of the opening of a section of the Tuam Inner Relief Road would be given specific consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, it was agreed that the Standing Order 5 be suspended in order to allow the Meeting continue past 6 p.m.

WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2011/2012

854

Report dated October 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore presented the Winter Service Plan 2011/2012 to the Members, stating that the aim of the plan is to set out how the winter service for ice and snow conditions will be provided for in county Galway. He said that the plan does not deal with other extreme winter weather events such as flooding and high winds. He said that the Council's policy is to provide an effective and efficient winter maintenance service within the resources available in order to - allow the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians, minimise delays due to winter weather and ensure operations are undertaken safely.

In reply to queries from the Members regarding the necessity to salt local and roads, Mr. Gilmore stated that Priority One routes which are listed on page 15 of the Report are guaranteed to be salted as these are the roads that are necessary to gain access to hospitals, airports, bus depots, fire stations, train stations and major industries. He said that the Council endeavours to salt other roads, but it is impossible to salt every route as this would necessitate that the Council allocating the entire maintenance budget for winter maintenance purpose.

Comh. Ó Cuaig referred to the importance of continuing to recognize the importance of the designation of roads in Conamara as strategic roads in the context of the Winter Service Plan and in particular the road from Casla to Recess. Mr. Gilmore advised that the designation of the road as a strategic road was in the context of a specific funding stream and was not related to the Winter Service Plan.

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Mannion and agreed that the road from Casla to Recess will be regarded as a strategic road under the Winter Service Plan.

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Cllr. T. Mannion expressed his disappointment that there had been no consultation through the Area Committees in the preparation of the Winter Service Plan and wished to record that he was not in a position to accept the Plan as presented. He highlighted the importance of recognising the impact on the M6 on changing travel patterns in the County and the need to prioritise access routes to the M6, together with the need to recognize the importance of maintaining access to Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee considered the Winter Service Plan and that the need to maintain access to Portiuncula Hospital was taken into consideration in the preparation of the Plan.

Cllr. Broderick also referred to the need to recognize the importance of maintaining access to Portiuncula Hospital by means of a designated priority route and also the need to ensure access to the landfill in Kilconnell was maintained based on the designated route.

Cllr. Feeney referred to the importance of treating the link roads serving the M6 for a certain distance, in order to allow motorists an opportunity to adjust their driving behaviour on exiting the Motorway.

Cllr. Hoade requested that consideration be given to including the Claregalway/Corrandulla Road, Cllr. Canney referred to Regional Roads including the R333 whilst Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the R355 & R358 and Cllr. M. Connolly also referred to the strategic importance of Regional Roads including the Moylough, Clonbern & Dunmore Roads.

Cllr. E. Mannion highlighted the importance of ensuring that effective communication remained a priority in the context of the delivery of the winter service plan, whilst Comh Ó Laoi referred to the use of private contractors in the gritting of roads and the liability issues associated with same.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the Winter Service Plan as presented reflected the need to prioritise access to strategic sites including hospitals and that the HSE, Bus Eireann and private bus operators had been consulted in the preparation of the Plan. He also confirmed that www.galway.ie would be availed of as a means of providing information to the public on the winter service plan together with related information. He confirmed that the Winter Service Plan would in the main be delivered by direct labour but that if necessary and available additional private contractors may also be availed of to support service delivery.

FIRE SERVICES REVIEW – UPDATE

855

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Report already circulated

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

SMARTER TRAVEL – UPDATE

856

Report already circulated

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

FLOODING UPDATE

857

Report dated 21/11/11 was made available to the Members

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer this item until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

CONFERENCES

858

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, the attendance at Conferences as listed was agreed.

LAMA Autumn Seminar 2011 – The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery – 23rd – 24th September – Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

Comh, T Ó Curráoin, Cllrs. J Mc Donagh, P Roche, K Ryan, T McHugh, M. Connolly, M. Hoade

Esperanza Enterprises – European Waste Water Laws – Irish Government's decision to Licence Septic Tanks – 30th September – 2nd October – Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

Cllrs. P Roche, Comh. T Ó Curráoin, S Ó Tuairisg

Greystones Town Council – 23rd Annual La Touche Legacy Seminar – 30th September – 2nd October – Charlesland Golf & Country Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. K Ryan

TJK Conferences – Local Government & Planning Seminar for Councillors – 8th – 9th October – Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick

Cllr. J Mc Donagh, P Roche, K Ryan

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TASC – Autumn Conference 2011 – From Debt to Recovery – 14th – 15th October – Croke Park, Dublin

Cllr. P Hynes, S Ó Tuairisg

Esperanza Enterprises – Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 – 14th – 16th October – Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. J McDonagh, P Roche, K Ryan, M Hoade, Comh. T Ó Curráoin

Celtic Conferences – Optimising Taxation Allowances & Benefits – 21st – 23rd October – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. K Ryan

Irish Planning Institute – Autumn Conference 2011 – 21st October – The Gibson Hotel, The Point Village, Dublin 1

Cllr. T Walsh, T McHugh

Department of Social Inclusion – Social Inclusion Forum 2011 – 9th November 2011 – F2 Centre, 3 Reuben Plaza, Rialto, Dublin 8

Comh. S Ó Tuairisg

Alcohol Action Ireland – Alcohol: Where's the Harm? Conference – 15th November 2011 – Royal College of Physicians, Dublin 2

Comh. S Ó Tuairisg

Cllr. S. Walsh was not present for the consideration of this Item.

MAYORS BUSINESS

859

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to correspondence recently received from Paul Mullen, Shop Stewart TEEU for Airtricity Utility Solutions Employees who currently work for Airtricity Utility Solutions in maintaining the public lighting in the Connaught Region to include Mayo, Galway County, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. Cllr. D. Connolly outlined the contents of the correspondence to the Meeting advising of the concerns of the employees for their continued employment due to Electric Skyline being selected as the preferred bidder for the maintenance of public lighting arising from recent procurement process.

He outlined that whilst the employees understood that in accordance with the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertaking) Regulations, 2003 ("TUPE") they had a right to transfer across to the new

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contractor, however, Electric Skyline have informed their union (TEEU) by letter that they have no obligation to honour such legislation and it was not their intention to employ the Airtricity employees.

He referred to the scale of the contract and advised that the 1st December 2011 was the proposed contract start date.

In reply, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the provision of a maintenance service for public lighting was the subject of a procurement process on a regional basis, with Electric Skyline emerging as the preferred bidder. Mr. Molloy stated that the Council previously raised the concerns as expressed by Cllr. D. Connolly with Electric Skyline and have been assured by Electric Skyline that they are in full compliance with all necessary and relevant regulatory requirements. Mr. Molloy further stated that it was the Council's understanding that the provisions of the the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertaking) Regulations, 2003 did not apply in this particular instance.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, it was confirmed that the closusre of the Athlone Bypass was a matter for Roscommon County Council.

MANAGERS BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE **860**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to defer consideration of the above Items until the December Monthly Meeting of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. E. MANNION **861**

The following reply was given:-

“This will require an amendment in the Clifden Traffic Management Plan and will be considered when the plan is being reviewed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. E. MANNION **862**

The following reply was given:-

“This proposal will be assessed in regard to the criteria for traffic volumes for pedestrian crossings. There is a pedestrian crossing already provided in the centre of the village.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. E. MANNION **863**

The following reply was given:-

“Conamara North Area will inspect this road and depending on the severity of the condition of the road may make a submission for emergency funding or for a coastal protection grant.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 864

The following reply was given:-

“The priority list of roads for winter gritting is limited to the capacity to grit on a first run basis and this route has not been included. It is however intended to treat this road as required in the winter conditions. In short it will be gritted on the second run if required.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 865

The following reply was given:-

“The responsibility to cut back vegetation at the side of the road rests with the landowner. Galway County Council will inspect this site and take remedial measures necessary, within the restrictions of the budget.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 866

The following reply was given:-

“Remedial works at Corrandulla Cross will be completed by Christmas 2011.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 867

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have repeatedly sought through discussions with the various agencies and departmental inspectors to increase the level of allocation for road projects within the County and have sought greater discretion in the use of allocated road improvement type funding to use this funding for maintenance. As a result Galway County Council were given discretion to use 20% of the road restoration funding for localised repair which has been of considerable benefit on local road maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 868

The following reply was given:-

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NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

873

“The level of funding available to Galway County Council for local road maintenance is severely limited and it is not possible to carry out repairs without prioritisation based on funding. Galway County Council must operate within the limits of available funding and as such cannot be held responsible for delay/lack of repairs to roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

869

The following reply was given:-

“The funding level for maintenance of roads is extremely low and Galway County Council is not in a position to employ additional staff for this purpose. Staff are being redeployed from area to area to allow for staff shortfalls in particular circumstances.”

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. M. FAHY

870

The following reply was given:-

“This is a private group water scheme supplying water to its members from a private source. The Council will be investigating the connection of the scheme to the Craughwell public supply and its subsequent taking in charge.

In the interim the group scheme is still responsible for the scheme under the Water Services Act and should comply with the direction issued by the Council in relation to the water quality.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. M. FAHY

871

The following reply was given:-

“There are no plans to carry out alignment improvements to this road. If on inspection, the surface requires attention, maintenance and repair works will be carried out within the constraints of the budget and a submission for future pavement funding considered.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. M. FAHY

872

The following reply was given:-

“It is planned to continue towards Ardrahan in 2012 with macadam overlay and surface dressing, if funding levels are maintained.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

873

The following reply was given:-

“There has been considerable discussion with the developer in relation to this estate including as recently as the past two weeks. While the majority of issues have been addressed the main issue currently receiving attention is the requirement to have a Discharge Licence for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and to ensure that the Management Company is fully responsible for the management and maintenance of the Treatment Plant into the future. The Council will continue to liaise with the developer with a view to finalising all issues at the earliest possible time.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

874

The following reply was given:-

“School flashing lights have been deemed as the most appropriate method of making motorists aware of approaching schools. Operational lights are in place at Corrandrum School. Any additional measures can only be considered on a County wide basis.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

875

The following reply was given:-

“It is estimated that the annual cost of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant at Luimnagh including maintenance of a number of reservoirs and part of the trunk main distribution network associated with the plant will be in the region of €2.4m in 2012 based on best estimates to hand. The plant at Luimnagh produces water for an area stretching from Kilconly in the north to Kilcolgan in the south of the county and includes the towns of Tuam, Athenry, Oranmore, Clarinbridge along with part of Galway City and South County Mayo. There are separate costs associated with the network and reservoirs serving these areas also which are not included in the above.

As regards the cost of wastewater treatment in the county, the estimated operational cost in 2012 based on best estimates to hand will be in the order of €4.2m.

In relation to both of the figures given above it is important to understand that they represent only the direct costs associated with operation and maintenance . There are a range of costs such as management and overheads , costs associated with metering and debt collection, and the loan charges relating to repayments on capital borrowing for infrastructure improvements, It is not possible to assign these costs to individual schemes. Rather, in accordance with national policy they are aggregated for the county as a whole.”

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG 876

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil an bóthar nó an droichead i gcúram Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Bheadh orainn an bóthar a thógáil inár gcúram agus bheadh oibreacha athchóirithe ag teastáil uaidh an droichead in éineacht le Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo mar tá an droichead ar teorainn an chontae. Tá teangabháil déanta le Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo atá i bhfabhar an moladh.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG 877

The following reply was given:-

“Is mian liom a chur in iúl nach bhfuil an droichead seo ar líosta na droichead do oibreacha sainiúil. Mar sin, ní bheidh sé ar liosta tosaíocht. Cuirfear san áireamh é ach braitheann sé ar airgeadú.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG 878

The following reply was given:-

“Tá go leor le déanamh ag an gComhairle ó thaobh uasghrádú píoblínte sa chontae agus tá teoireann ar na maoin atá ar fail. Ní fhéadfaigh a chinntiú faoi láthair cathain a mbeidh an chomhairle in ann na hoibreacha seo a chur i gcrích.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

SUBMITTED, APPROVED + SIGNED

Michael Maher

19th December 2011

Date

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY:

Mrs. Gabrielle Barrett & Family, 13 Beach Avenue, Roscommon, Galway

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON MONDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2011

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Maher

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Bail:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffiee, Comh S O'Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, E Mannion, T. Mc Hugh, J McDonagh, J. Mc Clearn, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, 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, E. Cummins, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Messrs. A. Farrell, A. Comer, Senior Executive Officers Messrs. E. Molloy, L. Gavin, Senior Engineers, Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, P. O' Neachtain, and Ms. R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY:-

819

Mrs. Gabrielle Barrett & Family, 13 Beach Avenue, Renmore, Galway

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Mr. Keith Finnegan & Family, c/o Galway Bay FM Radio, Sandy Road, Galway
Mr. John Mannion & Family, Lydican, Oranmore, Co. Galway
Mr. Lar O'Reilly, St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Cllr. McDonagh proposed a vote of Sympathy to the family of the late Brian Callagy, former Senior Planner with Galway County Council stating that he had been an outstanding official of the Council.

Cllr. M. Finnerty proposed a vote of sympathy with the families of the late Tony Dolan and Ger Reilly former staff of Ballinasloe Town Council.

The Manager on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff extended sympathy with the families of the bereaved on their sad loss.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by the Mayor and agreed that the Mayor of the County of Galway convey a letter of appreciation and best wishes to President Mary McAleese to mark the end of her term in office and to acknowledge the support provided to communities across the County during her term in office and in particular the solidarity shown with local communities impacted by the severe flooding in late 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin and agreed to host a Civic Reception to mark the achievement of the Galway U21 All-Ireland Football Team.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING 820

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 26th September 2011 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Arising from the Minutes and in reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Owens confirmed that correspondence had issued to the Department of Social Protection in relation to both the terms of the relocation scheme and the provision of insurances for properties impacted by the severe flooding in late 2009 and that a reply was awaited.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 821

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 17th June, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 13th September, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

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The Report of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 23rd March, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20th May, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 22nd February, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. O'Curraoin, seconded by An Comh O'Tuairisg.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 17th June, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. O'Curraoin, seconded by An Comh O'Tuairisg..

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on the 27th June, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of An Comh. S. O'Laoi, seconded by An Comh. O'Tuairisg.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 822

A report was already circulated to each Member.

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

Road commencing with County Road L-64381-0 in the townland of Cloonlara North and extending north west for a distance of 620 metres in the townland of Cloonlara North and finishing at the last dwelling house (J. Timothy) in the townland of Cloonlara North.

Electoral Area: Tuam

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 823

A report was already circulated to each Member.

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

Road commencing at junction with Regional Road R364 in the townland of Stonetown and extending east for a distance of 308 metres in the townland of

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

Stonetown and bounding the townland of Swiftsacre and finishing at the last dwelling house (P.J. Maloney) in the townland of Stonetown.

Electoral Area: Tuam

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1.052 HECTARES/ 2.6 ACRES OF LAND AT BOHOONA, SPIDDAL, CO. GALWAY 824

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Walsh, seconded by An Comh. O'Tuairisg the disposal 1.052 Hectares/2.6 Acres of land at Bohoona, Spiddal, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 5.99 HECTARES/ 14.80 ACRES OF LAND AT BULLSEYE, WOODFORD, CO. GALWAY 825

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 5.99 Hectares/14.80 Acres of Land at Bullseye, Woodford, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.485 HECTARES/ 1.198 ACRES OF LAND AT COURTNEY'S LANE, GORT, CO. GALWAY 826

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 0.485 Hectares/1.198 Acres of Land at Courtney's Lane, Gort, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.972 HECTARES/ 2.403 ACRES OF LAND AT LAVALLY, GORT, CO. GALWAY 827

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 0.972 Hectares /2.403 Acres of Land at Lavally, Gort, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.806 HECTARES/ 1.991 ACRES OF LAND AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY 828

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the disposal of 0.4806 Hectares/1.991 Acres of Land at Maheramore, Killimor, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1.651 HECTARES/ 4.08 ACRES OF LAND AT ROOGHAUN, ARDRAHAN, CO. GALWAY 829

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, the disposal of 1.651 Hectares/4.08 Acres of Land at Rooghaun, Ardrahan, Co. Galway was approved. Cllr. McHugh requested that his objection to the disposal be noted.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.2428 HECTARES/ 0.6 ACRES OF LAND AT RUSHEENAMANAGH, CARNA, CO. GALWAY 830

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Following a discussion after which no agreement could be met. It was proposed by An Comh. O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Ó Curraoin that the Disposal shall not to be carried out. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

For

Cllrs. Canney, D. Connolly O'Cuaig, O'Curraoin, Hynes, E. Mannion, McHugh, O'Tuairisg, & S. Walsh, (9)

Against

Cllrs. Broderick, Carroll, M. Connolly, Cunniffe, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, Hoade, O'Laoui, Maher, McClearn, McDonagh, Noone, Roche, Ryan, T. Walsh, T. Welby & Willers. (19)

The Mayor declared the motion defeated and accordingly that the disposal shall be carried out in accordance with the terms as specified in the notice.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.607 HECTARES/ 1.5 ACRES OF LAND AT WILLIAMSTOWN, CO. GALWAY 831

Report dated 12th October, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Following a discussion after which no agreement could be met. It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney that the Disposal shall not to be carried out. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

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For

Cllrs. Canney, D. Connolly, O'Cuaig, O'Curraoin & McHugh. (5)

Against

Cllrs. Broderick, Carroll, M. Connolly, Cunniffe, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty M. Finnerty, O'Laoui, Maher, E. Mannion, McClearn, McDonagh, Noone, Roche, Ryan, O'Tuairisg, S. Walsh, T. Walsh, Welby & Willers (22)

Abstain

Cllr. Hynes. (1)

The Mayor declared the motion defeated and accordingly that the disposal shall be carried out in accordance with the terms as specified in the notice.

ADOPTION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS, 2011 (M18 & R446 BALLINASLOE TO GALWAY), (M18 & N18 ENNIS TO GALWAY), (N59 AN BAILE NUA, MAIGH CUILINN) 832

Report dated 18th October, 2011 was circulated to each Member

Mr. Gavin outlined the contents of the report and recommended the adoption of the Bye-Laws.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed that under the Speed Limit Review that the 80km speed limited be extended on the R446 in a North/East direction past the junction L7430-0 by a distance of 400 metres.

In reply to Cllr. M. Finnerty, Mr. Gavin advised that in the absence of traffic counts it was not possible to state with certainty that significant volumes of traffic continued to use the R446 (old N6) in order to avoid the payment of the toll on the M6.

Following a discussion on the Bye-Laws, it was proposed by Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. P. Feeney and agreed to adopt and seal the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-laws, 2011 (M18 and R446 Ballinasloe to Galway), (M18 & N18 Ennis to Galway), N59 and Baile Nua, Maigh Cuilinn).

CILL RÓNÁIN HARBOUR AND CILL ÉINNE HARBOUR BYE-LAWS 833

Report dated 20th October 2011 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, that the Cill Rónáin Harbour & Cill Éinne Harbour Bye-Laws be rejected.

An Comh. O'Tuairisg acknowledged the significant investment in the development of Cill Rónáin and the need for the harbor to be regulated however he indicated that the charges as proposed in the draft bye-laws would increase the cost of living on the Island by 20%. He

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

indicated that same would be contrary to government policy to maintain sustainable communities on our Islands.

An Comh O'Cuaig welcomed the Islanders to the Council Meeting and stated that it was the only island in Ireland where such charges would be imposed and stated that if the charges as proposed in the draft bye-laws were adopted they would serve as a template to be implemented in other locations both in Galway and other counties and accordingly supported Cllr. S. Walsh's proposal to reject the draft bye-laws.

An Comh O'Curraoin also agreed and said that islanders were being penalized for living on the Islands, that it should be promoted as a way of life and accordingly he also opposed the charges. Cllr. Hynes said that he also supported the Islanders position and requested that the officials go back to the drawing board and review the bye-laws.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the investment in the development of the harbor, the need to regulate the use of same and the costs associated with such regulation and the ongoing maintenance costs. It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Broderick that the revenue to be generated by the charges would instead be provided for from the Roads Budget for the Conamara Electoral Area. Cllr. S. Walsh indicated that he would support the provision of funding required for the operation and maintenance of the harbor being provided from the roads budget for the Conamara Electoral Area instead of the charges as proposed in the draft Bye-Laws.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Comh. O'Laoi that the necessary funding be provided from the roads budget for the County.

Mr. Gilmore advised that whilst it was not possible to provide an exact figure for the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the harbour that the additional costs would be significant and in the region of €120,000 and accordingly the provision of such funding from the roads budget for the Conamara Electoral Area or the roads budget for the County would have a significant adverse impact on road maintenance and the employment of staff.

In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion and Cllr. S. Walsh, Mr. Molloy advised that it was always intended that there would be harbour charges to cover the costs associated with the operation, maintenance and regulation of the harbour on the completion of the project. Mr. Molloy confirmed that whilst it may be possible to achieve additional savings on the operation and maintenance of the harbour that the costs associated with same would remain significant. Mr. Molloy highlighted the importance of the bye-laws to allow the Council fulfill its statutory responsibilities as a Harbour Authority and that the majority of the charges were intended to allow the Council to regulate the use of the harbour and prevent a small minority of users abusing the facility.

Cllr. McClearn stated that the draft bye-laws had been the subject of significant consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee and cautioned against an element of mis information and highlighted the importance of clarifying exactly what was being proposed.

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Cllr. Welby highlighted the need to support island communities and proposed that to facilitate the implementation of government policy in this regard that a reduced rate of VAT should apply on the island and that a central fund should be provided by the exchequer to support island communities. He referred to the lobbying being undertaken by the islanders on the issue and noted with regret that a small minority had opted to circulate abusive text messages as part of this campaign.

Cllr. Hoade highlighted her concerns in relation to the impact of the proposal to fund the costs from the roads budget particularly given the reduced funding available and the significant demands that exist. In reply to a query raised by Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the officials had engaged in an extensive consultation process in relation to the draft bye-laws including public meetings on the island.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

834

On the proposal of An Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh it was agreed that Standing Order 5 be suspended to allow the Meeting to proceed after 6 p.m.

An Comh O'Cuig referred to the importance of the Island from a tourism point of view and stated that the number of tourists is dropping, and that if charges are implemented as proposed the number would drop further. He stated that the Council should be able carry the costs associated with the maintenance and regulation of the harbour.

In reply to Cllr. McDonagh, Mr. Gilmore stated that in the absence of the income from the charges as proposed, it would be necessary to meet the costs arising from the revenue budget and same would impact on the Roads Programme.

In reply to Cllr. T. Mannion, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the allocation of resources from the Local Government Fund does not specifically make an allowance for additional funding for coastal counties. Cllr. T. Mannion stated that the issue of funding to support island communities was a national issue as well as a local issue. Cllr. Canney stated that he was in agreement with Cllr. T. Mannion and that the provision of appropriate funding should be addressed by central government.

In reply to Cllr. M. Finnerty, Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the Regulation and Penalties as contained in the draft bye-laws are necessary in order to provide for effective regulation of the harbour.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh and agreed to withdraw his motion and it was proposed by Cllr E. Mannion and agreed to withdraw her motion at this point.

It was proposed by An Comh Ó Curraoin and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh to defer consideration of the item and to hold a Special Meeting of Council to consider the matter in a weeks time. A vote taken on the proposal resulted as follows:

For

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

Cllrs. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, O'Cuaig, O'Curraoin, G. Finnerty, Hoade, Hynes, T. Mannion, Noone, O'Tuairisg, & S. Walsh (12)

Against

Cllrs. Broderick, Carroll, Cunniffe, Feeney, M. Finnerty, O'Laoi, Maher, E. Mannion, McClearn, McDonagh, McHugh, Roche, Ryan, T. Walsh, Welby & Willers (16)

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Feeney that the Council adopt and seal the Bye-Laws as presented, subject to the following amendments:

Second Schedule: Harbour Charges

Second Schedule Part 1:

Removal of Charge 5 – Cargo:

Use of the Harbour in connection with loading and discharging Cargo €0.50 tonne.

Removal of Charge 6 – Landing of Fish

Use of the Harbour in connection with discharging of fish €0.50 tonne.

Amendment of Charge 12 – Passenger Rates

Use of Harbour by Passenger Vessels. This charge will be payable monthly. €0.80 per passenger, per entry.

The charge will be reduced to €5.00 per Passenger, per annum in respect of multiple journey tickets (5 return journeys or more). To avail of this reduction the Vessel Operator must provide satisfactory evidence to the Harbour Master of such multiple journey ticket sales on a monthly basis.

In the absence of accurate Passenger numbers the permitted Vessel Passenger Certificate will be charged per arrival.

A vote taken on the proposal resulted as follows:

For

Cllrs. Broderick, Carroll, Cunniffe, Feeney, M. Finnerty, O'Laoi, Maher, E. Mannion, McClearn, McDonagh, McHugh, Roche, Ryan, T. Walsh, Welby & Willers (16)

Against

Cllrs. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, O'Cuaig, O'Curraoin, G. Finnerty, Hoade, Hynes, T. Mannion, Noone, O'Tuairisg, & S. Walsh (12)

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 24th October 2011

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. J. McClearn and agreed to defer the remaining items on the Clár to the November Monthly Meeting of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

835

The following reply was given:-

“These works will be carried out in early 2012.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

836

The following reply was given:-

“These works will be carried out in early 2012.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

837

The following reply was given:-

“The relevant documentation to proceed with taking this road in charge is currently being completed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. M. FAHY

838

The following reply was given:-

“The Roads and Transportation Section of Galway County Council has submitted proposals to the NRA under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Works Scheme to reduce traffic speeds through the village of Ballinderreen. These proposals have been submitted as part of the overall submission for funding under this scheme in 2012. Approval for the schemes which are to proceed in 2012 will be notified to the Council in early 2012.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. M. FAHY

839

The following reply was given:-

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"There is currently ongoing work on the extension to this burial ground. However the construction of the car park and the proposed new entrance must initially go through the planning process which will take a number of months."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. M. FAHY

840

The following reply was given:-

"Underground ducting was installed here recently prior to the recent road pavement which was done at this location, to facilitate the provision of traffic lights. However, there are no plans in the near future to install traffic lights at the Loughrea Road Junction at George's Street, Gort."

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

submitted, Approved + Signed

Michael Maher

28th November 2011

Date

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

The Kenny Family, Oughterard, Co. Galway
The Family of the late Artur Kozłowski

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

782

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 26TH
SEPTEMBER 2011

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Maher

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, Comh S O'Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, E Mannion, T. Mannion, T. Mc Hugh, J McDonagh, J. Mc Clearn, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, E. Cummins, J. Cullen, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, L. Gavin, Senior Engineers; C. McConnell, Senior Planner; A. Comer, Senior Executive Officer; M. Shiel, Senior Executive Engineer; B. Barrett, A/Senior Executive Officer; M. McGrath, Senior Staff Officer; P. O'Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Mayor was joined by the Members and County Manager in congratulating Cllr. D. Connolly on his recent wedding.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Comh. Ó'Curraoin and agreed to host a Civic Reception to mark the success of both the Galway Minor & U21 2011 All Ireland Hurling Teams.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

781

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

The Kenny Family, Oughterard, Co. Galway
The Family of the late Artur Kozlowski

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

782

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 21st July 2011 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. K. Ryan.

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 2nd September 2011 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. M. Finnerty & Cllr. Cuddy wished to record the efficient manner in which the Special Meeting was conducted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

783

The Report of the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 7th July 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 16th June 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 16th June 2011 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

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

784

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

Road commencing at junction with County Road L-5324-47 in the townland of Na Cnocáin Bhána (Knockaunbaun) and extending west for a distance of 1200 metres in the townland of Na Cnocáin Bhána (Knockaunbaun) and finishing at Padhraic Keane's house in the townland of Na Cnocáin Bhána (Knockaunbaun).

Electoral Area: Conamara

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

Road commencing at its junction with the L8265 in the townland of Cuscarrick and extending in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 96 meters in the townland of Cuscarrick and ending in the townland of Cuscarrick.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GALWAY – OUTLINE PERMISSION FOR A NEW 2 STOREY SCHOOL OF 16 CLASSROOMS, A GENERAL PURPOSES ROOM AND OTHER ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION, PLUS A SPECIAL NEEDS UNIT CONSISTING OF A 2 CLASS BASE AND CENTRAL ACTIVITIES SPACE AND OTHER ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AND EXTERNAL SITE WORKS INCLUDING ON-SITE CAR PARKING, ACCESS ROADS, DROP DOWN AREAS, BALLCOURTS AND SITE BOUNDARY TREATMENTS AND A NEW APPROACH ROAD TO SITE (GROSS FLOOR SPACE 2871SQM) IN THE TOWNLAND OF ORANMORE 785

Report dated 15th September, 2011 as previously circulated to each Member was presented by Mr. Kelly.

APPLICANT:

Minister of Education and Skills

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

Outline permission is sought for the Construction of a new two storey school of 16 classrooms, a general purposes room and other ancillary accommodation, plus a special needs unit consisting of a 2 class base and central activities and other ancillary accommodation and external site works including on site carparking access roads and site boundary treatments and new approach road to site in the townland of Oranmore.

LOCATION:

The site of the proposal is located in the townland of Oranmore. Access to the site is by means of an existing access road and a further proposal (which forms part of this application) to construct the remaining part of an access road.

ZONING:

The current zoning on the site as per the Oranmore Local Area Plan is Recreational and Amenity. Educational Facilities are not normally permitted on lands zoned under this category. However, the site on which the proposal in this instance is located would form part of the natural extension/consolidation of the educational facilities that already exist in the village of Oranmore. On that basis the Planning Authority consider that it would be appropriate to permit the development with relevant conditions attached.

PLANNING HISTORY:

08-2739 for development which consists of 5 no. 4-bedroom detached houses with internal courtyard; 9 no. 4-bedroom detached houses; 24 no. 3-bedroom semi-detached houses, 18 no. 3-bedroom terraced houses; 5 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 2 no. 3-bedroom duplex apartments, together with an area designated for a future school site with appropriate drop-off and car parking zoning and a soccer pitch. First phase of a coastal walk is proposed to link Bluebell Wood along the fore shore within the ownership of the applicant. Included in the development are all associated site works and services, which include access via the existing

two-way highway joining Main Street, modified to provide adequate maneuverability (Gross floor area 7595.3sqm).

The current proposed site forms part of this site. The above application was refused permission by on Bord Pleanala on the 27th July 2009. The Inspectors Report from the Bord did not consider the principle of a school at this location to be of concern.

ASSESSMENT

The site is located in the townland of Oranmore. The proposal is for outline permission for a school with all associated services. The proposal is to be connected to the public sewer which has adequate capacity at present. The application is supported by the following documentation:

A Hydrological and Flood Risk Assessment

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement

A Cultural Heritage Assessment

A letter of support from the Principal of the Gaelscoil de hide has been received outlining the history of the school to date, the enrolment statistics and the need for this new facility.

On assessment of the proposal and the associated documents and drawings the Planning Authority consider that the application is acceptable with appropriate conditions attached.

SUBMISSIONS

There have been no submissions on the file.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant outline permission for the construction of a new two storey school of 16 classrooms, a general purposes room and other ancillary accommodation, plus a special needs unit consisting of a 2 class base and central activities and other ancillary accommodation and external site works including on site carparking access roads and site boundary treatments and new approach road to site in the townland of Oranmore.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION:

A decision to grant outline permission cannot be made unless a resolution is passed by the members requiring that such a decision be made in accordance with Section 34(6)(a) of the 2000 Planning Act as amended by section 23(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant outline permission was given on the 17th August and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections not later than four weeks after that date.

If a resolution is passed requiring that a decision to grant outline permission be made, such a decision will issue with suitable conditions, otherwise a decision to refuse permission must issue.

The Members welcomed this proposal stating that the provision of a permanent Gaelscoil in Oranmore will be a great advantage to the area. They complimented the teachers and parents of the current temporary Gaelscoil at Oranmore in their endeavours to provide a permanent premises for the Gaelscoil and they stated that this would be an example of good investment in education.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that having considered the planning application made by the Minister for Education & Skills for outline permission for a new 2 storey school of 16 classrooms, a general purposes room and other ancillary accommodation, plus a special needs unit consisting of a 2 class base and central activities space and other ancillary accommodation and external site works including on-site car parking, access roads, drop down areas, ballcourts and site boundary treatments and a new approach road to site (gross floor space 2871sqm) in the townland of Oranmore and having considered the Report dated the 15th September 2011, Galway County Council in accordance with Section 34(6)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended by Section 23(a) of the Planning & Development Act, 2010, hereby require that a decision to grant outline permission be made in the case of this application.

Cllr. McDonagh seconded this proposal. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

AR SON: Cllrs T. Broderick, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, S. Ó Cuaig, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, T Ó Curraoin, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, S. O’Laoi, M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan, S. Ó Tuairisg, S. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers (25)

IN ADHAIDH: (0)

GAN VOTÁIL: (0)

The Mayor declared the proposal for a Material Contravention of the County Development Plan to grant outline permission for a new 2 storey school of 16 classrooms, a general purposes room and other ancillary accommodation, plus a Special Needs Unit consisting of a 2 class base and central activities space and other ancillary accommodation and external site works including on-site car parking, access roads, drop down areas, ballcourts and site boundary treatments and a new approach road to site (gross floor space 2871sqm) in the Townland of Oranmore carried.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER’S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO VARIATION NO 2 OF THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015 (WIND ENERGY STRATEGY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000-2010

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 26th September 2011

The Mayor invited Ms. McConnell to present the Manager's report prepared on the MA 17 submissions that were received on the proposed Material Alterations to Variation No 2 of the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 (Wind Energy Strategy).

Ms. McConnell outlined that there were eight Material Alterations made to the Draft Wind Energy strategy as originally proposed that were contrary to the recommendations of the Manager. As a result of the determination, additional SEA and HDA Assessments were required to inform the Council of the environmental implications of the proposed alterations in particular the amendments to the proposed designation of lands at a number of locations.

Ms. McConnell stated that the Material Alterations and the additional SEA and HDA reports went on public display from 12th August to the 9th September and a total of 21 submissions were received during this period.

Submission No 1

Ms. McConnell commenced with Submission No 1 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government by outlining a summary of the main issues raised, the Manager's response and recommendation. She stated that it was outlined in their submission that the Council was the competent authority for the Habitats Directive and was responsible for determining that the Material Alterations were in compliance with the Habitats Directive. Ms. McConnell added that the proposed Material Alteration No 7 for the area of land in the Slieve Aughty SPA/SAC from Not normally permissible to Open for consideration did not comply with the recommendations and findings of the 2nd HDA addendum report and as such should not be made.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report that Material Alteration No. 7 should not be adopted and the designation of the subject lands should revert to 'Not normally permissible area.

Cllr. Feeney stated that the Council were left with no choice regarding this designation and also enquired as to how existing wind farm developments can hope to expand in this area. Mr. Kelly stated that the Wind Energy Strategy does provide the option to consider wind farm developments where project level HDA and EIA can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Planning authority that environmental and other impacts can be successfully avoided, minimised and /or mitigated.

Cllr. Feeney also stated that all areas where planning applications for wind farm development had been granted by Galway County Council should be included in the Strategic Area designation in the Wind Energy Strategy. In response to Cllr. Feeney Mr. Kelly stated that there were some proposed modifications which were designed to clarify the Council's intentions and the inclusion of areas as Strategic would not of itself secure their development.

Submission No 2

Ms. McConnell outlined the main issues in Submission No 2 from Geoffrey HT FitzJohn. She stated that the main issues raised referred to MA 17 and MA A, where it stated that the subject lands of MA 17 should be downgraded to Not normally permissible and that the change of areas on the subject lands of MA A to Not normally permissible was welcome.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on 26th September 2011

Ms McConnell stated that it was recommended that the land which was proposed in MA 17 as 'Open for Consideration' should revert to 'Not normally permissible'

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion and seconded By Cllr. Welby it was agreed not to accept the recommendation in the Manger's report and that the lands the subject of Material Alteration No 17 will remain as 'Open to Consideration Area'

Submission No 3

Ms McConnell outlined the comments from Inland Fisheries Ireland. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submissions No 4 & No 5

Ms. McConnell stated that Submissions No. 4 from An Taisce and No. 5 from Mairead Uí Dhomhnaill referred to lands which were not the subject of a Material Alteration as to their designations. It was agreed to accept the recommendations in the Manager's report

Submission No 6

Ms. McConnell outlined a summary of the main issues in Submission No 6 from Mary Bergin and the Manager's response and recommendation. She stated that the submission referred to lands at Shannagurraun and Truskaunnagappul and it was suggested that this area should be "Not normally permissible" as proposed in the Draft WES.

Ms. McConnell stated that having regard to the fact that the site had been through specific project assessment and that the conclusions of the HDA addendum report were that the amendment was not likely to result in significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites provided once the mitigating and precautionary measures are complied with, it was recommended that the proposed Material Alteration be accepted.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report that the proposed Material Alteration No 18 be accepted, that the subject lands will change from Not Normally Permissible area designation to Open for Consideration area designation.

Submission No 7

Ms. McConnell stated that Submission No 7 from Martha Byrne had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No 6 regarding MA No. 18

Submission No 8

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report in regarding Submission No 8 form the EPA.

Submission No 9

Ms McConnell stated that the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources had no comments to make at this time without prejudice to any comments/observations from

the Inland Fisheries Ireland. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report.

Submission No 10

Ms McConnell stated that the Dublin Airport Authority had no comments to make at this time. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 11

Ms. McConnell stated that Submission No 11 from Ailbhe Du Vé had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No 6 regarding MA No. 18

Submission No 12

Ms McConnell outlined a summary of the main issues in Submission No. 12 from Terry Gallagher which referred to MA A, where it stated that the change of areas on the subject lands of MA A to Not normally permissible was welcome. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report. It was clarified for the meeting that the areas the subject of MA A remain designated as Not normally permissible areas.

Submission No 13

Ms. McConnell stated that Submission No 13 from Daerbhaill Standún & Charlie Troy had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No 6 regarding MA No. 18

Submission No 14

Ms McConnell stated that the Dept. of Education had no further comments to make at this time. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 15

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 16

Ms. McConnell stated that Submission No 16 from Eamon O'Coisdealbha had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No 6 regarding MA No. 18

Submission No 17

Ms McConnell outlined a summary of the main issues in Submission No.17 from Seosaimh & Máire O'Giobúin which referred to additional wording to WE2 which would state that if an application for a Windfarm was refused by An Bord Pleanála that the area should be redesignated as Not normally permissible. Ms McConnell stated that it would not be appropriate to accept this proposal as the Bord may refuse an application for various reasons, many of which could be overcome. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 18

Ms. McConnell stated that Submission No. 18 from the Irish Wind Energy Association had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No. 1 regarding Material Alteration No 7. Cllr. Willers stated that it was regrettable that this was the decision in relation to MA7 but stated that the Wind Energy Strategy cannot misguide developers. She further added that this decision was anti development. Cllr. G.Finnerty also stated that a precedent had already been set in the Slieve Aughty area for wind farm developments

In response to Cllr. Finnerty's query Ms. McConnell stated that the Environmental designations had limited the areas described as Strategic or Acceptable in principle but that development was not precluded in the other areas once a project can deal satisfactorily with the environmental issues. It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 19

Ms McConnell outlined a summary of the issues raised in Submission No 19 from McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan many of which did not relate to the proposed Material Alterations. In response to issues raised, Ms McConnell stated that the WES had not been prepared on the basis that it was only in the Strategic and Acceptable in Principle areas that would accommodate the Wind Energy developments. She added that the WES clearly allows developments to be considered in any of the designations and the WES includes a table with indicative and perhaps conservative outputs which compares to a Gate 3 requirement of 350mw. She further added that the WES had endeavoured to take account of the likelihood of connecting to the grid when designation areas.

Ms McConnell also added that further clarification would be inserted into Objectives WE1, WE2, WE3, WE4, WE5, and to include Policy WE7, Implementation of Wind Energy Strategy.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that as a result of the Environmental constraints there were very few areas left in the County designated as suitable for Wind Energy development. Cllr O'Laioi stated that something had to be done in relation to the Environmental designations and he suggested that a delegation be brought to the Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr Jimmy Deenihan or Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan. Comh. O'Curraoin and Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the wind farm development areas in Mayo and Kerry.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Wind Energy Strategy should not be seen as a constraint and that it is the intent of Galway County Council to maximise all the areas. He added that that the limitations, objectives and overall application of the Wind Energy Strategy can be reviewed if required and can be reviewed during the review process of the County Development Plan 2009-2015.

He added that the Wind Energy Strategy allows for greater certainty on the basis of the robust methodology applied and that the success rate of development going forward should be much higher.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report

Submission No 20

Ms McConnell stated that Submission No 20 from Michael Cadden had already been dealt with and agreed as per Submission No 6 regarding MA No. 18

Submission No 21

It was agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's report in relation to Submission No. 21 from Dr S. O'Muirí.

On the proposal of Cllr Finnerty and seconded by Cllr Fahy it was agreed to accept the proposed Material Alterations to the Wind Energy Strategy subject to the changes agreed to at the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly and agreed that the Council send the following Resolution to the Minister for Energy, Deputy Pat Rabbitte "that new flexibility and more open guidelines be given to wind energy strategy to all Local Authorities so that development of wind farms be allowed more promptly to give employment in rural areas and also help the national economy".

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – CÉ CUL AN CHLAI, COOLACLOY, KINGSTOWN, CLIFDEN, CO. GALWAY

787

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion, it was agreed that the proposed development at Cul an Chlai, Coolacloy, Kingstown, Clifden, as set out in the report, be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – LA 02/11. DEVELOPMENT OF SITE AT DEMENSE, TUAM, FOR THE PROVISION OF A COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANT AT TUAM LEISURE CENTRE

788

Report dated 15th September, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, it was agreed that the proposed development of site at Demense, Tuam, for the provision of a combined heat and power plant at Tuam Leisure Centre, be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – N17 AT CLOONMOYLE, LENAMORE, CASTLETOWN, MASSMORE, CARROWBAUN AND LISSAVELLY (VESEY)

789

Report dated 15th September, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore, in reply to concerns expressed in relation to the impact of the scheme on landowners, confirmed that discussions were ongoing in relation to accommodation works, that were not the subject of the Part 8 and he was confident that a successful outcome could be achieved. Mr. Gilmore advised that it was necessary for the Part 8 to proceed in order to retain funding for the project.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, it was agreed that the proposed development on the N17 at Cloonmoyle, Lenamore, Castletown, Massmore, Carrowbaun and Lissavelly (Vesey), be approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - CONSTRUCT A COUNTY COUNCIL DEPOT, MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN, CO. GALWAY 790

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, it was agreed that the proposed construction of a County Council Depot, at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway, be approved

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - CLOONKEENKERRILL BURIAL GROUND, CLONKEENKERRILL, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY 791

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that the proposed extension to Cloonkeenkerrill Burial Ground, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, be approved

CILL RÓNÁIN HARBOUR AND CILL ÉINNE HARBOUR BYE-LAWS 792

Report dated 12th September, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Comh. Ó Cuaig, seconded by Comh. Ó Laoi, it was agreed to defer this item for consideration at the October Monthly Meeting of Council.

CILL RÓNÁIN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 793

Report was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Molloy presented the Report to the Members stating that traffic management is an executive function of the Council and therefore the Members were not being asked to approve this item but to note same.

In reply to queries by the Members regarding progress on traffic management plans for other towns in the county, Mr. Gilmore stated that work on the traffic management plans in respect of Oranmore, Headford, Loughrea, Gort and Portumna is starting this year and traffic management in respect of Tuam town will be revisited to coincide with the completion of the Tuam Main Drainage Scheme.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2007/2015

794

Report was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. D. Connolly stated he asked that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion due to the recent indication from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government regarding the National Disability Strategy, indicating that funding for works under the Disability Action Plan which was prepared by the Council will not be forthcoming. He asked the Members at the June Monthly Meeting of the Council to contact Oireachtas Members in an effort to revert this decision and he now asked if they had received any response to their requests.

Cllr. Willers welcomed the allocation of funding to provide for improvements in accessibility in the vicinity of Gort Post Office, whilst Cllr. M. Connolly acknowledged the proactive approach taken by area staff in ensuring that works undertaken under the various work programmes are designed in accordance with access for all principles. Cllr. O'Tuairis referred to copy correspondence dated the 29th August 2011 from Bus Eireann, as circulated at the Meeting in reply to a resolution of the July Monthly Meeting, and highlighted the importance of raising awareness among bus users that Bus Eireann coaches are fitted with a ferry lift which enables the coach to be lowered to accommodate passengers.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen confirmed that the ability to undertake accessibility improvements at graveyards would be influenced by the status of the graveyard and the funding required and available to undertake such works. Mr. Cullen agreed to review the matter in relation to specific graveyards as necessary and revert.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed to place the Item on the Agenda for the October Monthly Meeting of Council in order to allow the Members an opportunity to raise the issue of future funding for the implementation of the Disability Action Plan with the their relevant Oireachtas Members.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE 2011

795

Report was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Mullarkey presented the Financial Report for the period ending 30th June 2011 to the Members. He stated that the report gives a summary of the income and expenditure account at division level together with a comparison of both expenditure and income at sub-service

level and also a summary of activity on the Capital account for the same period. He stated that the finances of the Council for the period are broadly within budget.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Broderick regarding the budget for Fire Prevention and Education, Mr. Cummins stated that most of this budget will be spent on training new recruits to the Fire Service due to the high level of retirements in 2011 and he said that this budget will be reduced accordingly in 2012.

The County Manager stated that fire service training is integral to this high-risk service and along with rigorous training of new recruits, there is a set criteria in respect of fire service training which must be met each month.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Hoade regarding the impact of the recruitment embargo on the Fire Service, the County Manager stated that the Council applied to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government for an exemption to the embargo in respect of emergency services and this application had been granted to allow the Council employ the recruits in 2011.

Mr. Cullen in reply to Cllr. Hoade confirmed that there was currently 2 Dog Wardens employed by the Council, with further support provided by the Community Warden Service and that whilst the Council was in a position to accommodate horses on a short term basis in pounds within the County, for animal welfare reasons, those required to be held for a longer period were held in appropriate facilities outside the County.

In reply to Cllr. Canney, Mr. Cummins confirmed that it was intended to bring forward a report to the October Monthly Meeting of Council on the Land Aggregation Scheme. He further confirmed that the Part 8 for the new Fire Station in Tuam had been approved and the progression of same was based on the availability of capital funding from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government.

In reply to Cllr. Cunniffe, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the provision for uncollectable rates remained under review by the Council.

CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT – PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT 796

Report from the Office of Public Works (OPW) entitled "Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management Programme Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Stage – Public Consultation" was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin presented the OPW Report to the Members stating that the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is designed to assess and map the country's river systems to identify areas at risk of significant flooding.

He said that the country has been divided into six river basin districts and separate studies are being commissioned to carry out a detailed mapping of Ireland's rivers. The Programme will meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) and the 2004

Flood Policy Review Report. He said that the studies will focus on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas subject to significant development pressure both now and in the future.

He stated that there are three main stages in the Programme, as follows:

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)– The purpose of this assessment is to identify areas at risk of significant flooding. Mr. Gavin stated that Consultants have been appointed to carry out the Risk Assessments in respect of the Shannon River Basin District and the West River Basin District and the draft PFRA for each will be made available for public consultation shortly and will provide maps showing areas deemed to be at risk of flooding. The primary purpose of the public consultation on the PFRA is to facilitate the inclusion of locally derived knowledge and information to better inform this preliminary assessment of flood risk.

Flood Hazard Mapping – To be carried out in 2013.

Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans – To be in place by 2015

FLOODING UPDATE

797

Report dated 26th September, 2011 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin presented the Flooding Update dated 26th September, 2011 to the Members.

The Members welcomed the ongoing works being carried out throughout the county.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Willers, Mr. Gavin stated that funding is in place to carry out the works outlined in the report in respect of Kiltartan/Coole and it is hoped that funding will be provided in the next tranche of approvals in order to carry out the works outlined at Coole/Kinvara and Kiltartan & Coole.

Cllr. Willers referred to correspondence dated the 29th August 2011 from the Department of Social Protection and in particular the reference to the discussions that took place with representatives of the insurance industry regarding giving households access to appropriate house insurance at a reasonable cost and requested that additional information on the discussions and the outcome of same be sought from the Department.

In reply to a query from Cllr. McHugh, Mr. Gavin stated that an application for funding in respect of flood relief works at Keelogue and Flaskagh has been made and he is hopeful that funding will be made available in the next tranche of approvals from the OPW.

In reply to comments regarding drainage districts, Mr. Gavin stated that any queries regarding drainage districts in the charge of Galway County Council should be made to the Council and not to the OPW.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Cuddy regarding the intake channel at Terryland, Mr. Gavin stated that the channel has been cleaned of silt and overgrowth.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Roche regarding house which were cut off for a month in the previous two years during flooding at Feigh East, Mr. Gavin stated that he will examine same.

GALWAY AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY INITIATIVE AND SIGNING OF THE DUBLIN DECLARATION

798

Report dated 15th September, 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Patricia Goan, Age Friendly County Programme Manager, Galway and the West to the Meeting.

Ms. Goan informed the Members that Galway County Council was being invited to endorse the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. She said that the aim of the Declaration is to solicit support for a range of age-friendly actions that are broadly based on the following: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information and Community and Health Services. She said that Galway has been invited to sign in recognition of the work that the Council has undertaken to make the county more age-friendly and that by endorsing this Declaration, the Council will send a very strong message to other cities and communities at home and abroad about the importance of making our communities more age-friendly. She said that the Mayor of County Galway, along with Mayors from cities and communities across the world, had been invited to attend a special Signing Ceremony being hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin later in the month.

The County Manager thanked Ms. Goan for the presentation stating that the Council will continue to prioritise services to ensure they meet the needs of the aged and she said that it is important to plan for the future so that economic opportunities in the areas of tourism and business can be promoted.

The Members also thanked Ms. Goan for the presentation and on the proposal of Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, it was agreed that the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities be signed by the Council.

NOMINATION OF 2 MEMBERS TO FORUM CONAMARA

799

It was noted by the Members that 2 Members were to be nominated to Forum Conamara and not 3 as stated on the Agenda.

First Vacancy:

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, and seconded by Cllr. Ryan that Cllr. Welby be appointed. It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Canney that Comh Ó Curraoin be appointed.

A vote taken on these proposals resulted as follows:

For Cllr. Welby:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, L. Carroll, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, P. Feeney, M. Finnerty, S. O’Laoi, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan & T. Welby (14)

For Comh O’Curraoin

Cllrs. S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, T Ó’Curraoin, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, T. Mannion, S. Ó’Tuairisg (8)

The Mayor then declared Cllr. Welby appointed.

Second Vacancy:

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy that Comh. Ó Laoi be appointed. As there was no further proposal in respect of the second vacancy, the Mayor declared Comh. Ó Laoi appointed.

As a result of the foregoing, the following are the two Members appointed to Form Conamara

- (1) Cllr. Welby
- (2) Comh. Ó Laoi.

CONFERENCES

800

• **MacGill Summer School – Transforming Ireland 2011-2016: The First Hundred Days, The Next Five Years – 24th – 29th July – Glenties, Co. Donegal**

1. Jimmy McClearn
2. Tom McHugh
3. Tiarnan Walsh
4. Michael Connolly
5. Tim Broderick
6. Tomás Ó Curráoin
7. Thomas Welby

• **William Carleton Summer School – 1st – 4th August – Corick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone**

1. Michael Connolly

• **2011 Parnell Summer School – Equality Then & Now – 14th – 19th August – Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow**

1. Jimmy McClearn
 2. Tiarnan Walsh
 3. Michael Connolly
 4. Tomás Mannion
- **Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government promoting Renewable Energy – The Advantages of Solar Power – 19th – 21st August – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry**
 1. Michael Connolly
 - **Celtic Conferences – Enhancing Promotional Media & Microsoft Office Workshop – 2nd – 4th September – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**
 1. Pat Hynes
 - **A.M.A.I. 98th Annual Conference – 8th – 10th September – Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath**
 1. Mary Hoade
 2. Tomás Ó Curráoin
 3. Michael Maher
 4. Tom McHugh
 5. Jimmy McClearn
 6. Tomás Mannion
 7. Pat Hynes

Cllr. Seamus Walsh was not present for the consideration of this Item

MANAGERS BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

801

Radon Awareness and Testing in County Galway

Memo dated 26th September, 2011 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Shiel informed the Members that the Housing Section would shortly be rolling out a programme of testing of Radon Gas Concentration levels in the Council's housing stock. He said that it is intended that all of the Council's housing stock will be tested and remediation of house found to contain radon levels in excess of the reference level will be carried out with priority being given to house with levels above 800 Bq/m³. He said that tenants will be

notified of the proposed testing regime and the results for their house. He also stated that the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland will commence a public awareness campaign in conjunction with the Galway County Council and Galway City Council shortly.

The Members welcomed the fact that radon testing of the Council's housing stock is to be carried out and they asked when remediation would be carried out.

Mr. Cummins replied that the Council is committed to fully rolling out the proposals to test and remedy, where necessary, all of the Council's housing stock. He said that the Council has a panel of contractors in place to carry out the necessary work.

In reply to a query regarding radon testing of private houses, Mr. Cummins stated that the purpose of bringing this item before the Members is to look for the assistance of the Members regarding the public awareness campaign being carried out by the Radiological Protection Institute in conjunction with Galway County and City Councils as outlined in the Memo of 26th September, 2011.

Septic Tanks

Mr. Cullen informed the Members that the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, Deputy Phil Hogan, sent out a press release on 14th September, 2011 regarding septic tank registration and inspections. The press release outlined the registration and inspection regime for septic tanks that will be introduced to address a ruling issued by the European Court of Justice in October, 2009 against Ireland. If not complied with, Ireland will be subject to significant fines. The key features of the proposed system are:

- All householders with septic tanks and other on-site systems will be required to register details of their system with the local authority and a national register will be compiled and held by the EPA
- Householders will be required to pay a modest registration fee – a fee not exceeding €50 is envisaged.
- Following initial registration, it is not envisaged that householders will be required to register again for a period of 5 years.
- The revenue generated will support the delivery of a national inspection plan which will be developed by the EPA and managed by the local authorities
- While inspections will be concentrated on areas with higher risk to the environment or public health, they will also be carried out in lower risk areas but at a lower rate
- Inspections may give rise to householders being advised to improve the maintenance of their systems, or in more serious situations, may require the upgrading or remediation of the treatment system.

A discussion took place and the following proposal was made by Cllr. D. Connolly: "We propose that Minister Phil Hogan, T.D., ensure that the legislation required to comply with

the 1975 E.U. Directive be framed to ensure that financial burden on ordinary people is kept to an absolute minimum. This can be done by ensuring (1) local authority staff have the key role in advising an assessment roles which will avoid the need for a new duplicative quango (2) the process be carried out in a risk assessed basis and that elements in the Cavan County Council Waste Water Treatment Bye-Laws 2004 as well as the procedures that operate in the 6 Counties, Wales & Scotland be considered (3) septic tanks that would be identified as needing retrofitting must be supported by grant aid scheme, which will be on an income based criteria". This proposal was seconded Comh. Ó Cuaig and agreed.

MeetWest Business Networking 2011

Mr. Barrett circulated a Brochure promoting the MeetWest Business Networking 2001 event to be held from the 21st – 22nd November, 2011 in the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway, to the Members.

He stated that the objective of the event is to bring together 400 companies based in Galway City and County, Roscommon and Mayo, to facilitate the development of greater business between these companies and further business opportunities for them either locally, regionally or internationally.

CORRESPONDENCE

802

Mr. Owens referred to the following correspondence as circulated at the Meeting:

Correspondence dated the 23rd August 2011 from Ms. Aisling Glynn, Private Secretary, Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning, acknowledging the Council's resolution regarding planning permission.

Correspondence dated the 24th August 2011 from Ms. Aisling Glynn, Private Secretary, Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning, in reply to the Council's resolution to provide mortgage finance under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Correspondence dated the 29th August 2011 from Mr. B. Connolly, Regional Manager (West) Bus Eireann, in reply to the Council's resolution for Bus Eireann to make its buses accessible to disabled people.

Correspondence dated the 5th September 2011 from Ms. Aisling Glynn, Private Secretary, Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning, acknowledging the Council's letter in connection a dividend to the State from wind energy development.

Mr. Owens referred to a recent communication from Eirgrid offering to present to the Members on their work programme and it was proposed by Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed to invite Eirgrid to a future Council Meeting to present on the Grid West Electricity Transmission Scheme and Grid 25 projects.

MAYORS BUSINESS

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, it was agreed that Standing Order 5 of the Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Standard Orders be amended to reflect the hour of Meetings of the Council shall be 3.00 pm as of the October Monthly of Council.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the current position in MFG as raised by Cllr. Welby to the October Monthly Meeting of Council.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. E. MANNION

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23– CLLR. B. WILLERS 803

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 804

The following reply was given:-

“A report is currently being finalised in relation to the operation of the Heritage Centre and in particular the expenditure of previous capital funding provided by Failte Ireland for the development of the centre. Once finalised the report will be submitted to Failte Ireland for consideration and based on the outcome of same it is intended to proceed with the proposed closure of the centre and the transfer thereafter of the building to the Church Authorities.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 805

The following reply was given:-

“No response has been received to date. We will contact Bus Éireann again regarding the matter.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. E. MANNION 806

The following reply was given:-

“It is not proposed to extend the Priority One Network for the Winter Service Plan. However, resources are being made available to carry out local road gritting which will be targeted at roads such as these Regional Roads.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. E. MANNION 807

The following reply was given:-

“The position in relation to the above projects is the same. None of the aforementioned projects are on the current Water Services Investment Programme and are therefore not being pursued at present. While preliminary reports have been previously prepared for the projects and they remain on the Council’s assessment of needs, they will only be progressed when included in a future Water Services Investment Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. E. MANNION

808

The following reply was given:-

“The position in relation to the above projects is the same. None of the aforementioned projects are on the current Water Services Investment Programme and are therefore not being pursued at present. While preliminary reports have been previously prepared for the projects and they remain on the Council’s assessment of needs, they will only be progressed when included in a future Water Services Investment Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

809

The following reply was given:-

“The sign will be replaced in the coming weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

810

The following reply was given:-

“It is intended to carry out this work later this year. Staff are currently concentrating on the completion of the Road Works Programme.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

811

The following reply was given:-

“The proposal has been referred to the Council’s Heritage Officer for her consideration.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

812

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council is awaiting the issue of Regulations by the Minister on the monitoring and inspection of Septic Tanks. The Council is not aware of what costs for inspection are proposed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

813

The following reply was given:-

“Submissions have been requested in regard to the review of the speed limits. On receipt of these submissions a report will be prepared and presented to the Council for consideration. It is hoped to present this report by year end.”

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

814

The following reply was given:-

“These works will be carried out by year end, when the staff resources become available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 35 – CLLR. M. FAHY

815

The following reply was given:-

“The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government is presently reviewing a design review report they requested be prepared by Galway County Council. The Design Review Report was submitted to the DOE on 2nd July 2010 and Galway County Council is awaiting approval to same before proceeding to preparation of Contract Documents.

In the meantime Galway County Council is advancing the Foreshore Licence process for both the Site Investigation and the Outfall Pipe in order to complete the Planning Process for the Sewerage Scheme.

The Foreshore Consent for the Site Investigation is being dealt with under Section 228 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. A notice was published on 18th August 2011. It is hoped to have this matter finalised in November 2011.

The Foreshore Licence application for the Outfall Pipe was submitted to the DOE Foreshore Unit on 8th December, 2010. This matter is currently being processed and finalised.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 36 – CLLR. M. FAHY

816

The following reply was given:-

“This funding was allocated towards footpaths and lighting on that road and remains unspent as the overall estimate for the work description exceeded the available funding. However, there are partial and similar works to be carried in this area and adjacent Square over the coming months and this funding may be allocated as a contribution towards same.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 37 – CLLR. S. CANNEY

817

The following reply was given:-

“The Tuam Local Area Plan has been completed and covers the period 2011 to 2017. It is not proposed to review the plan during this period. The Palace Grounds area is already zoned amenity under the current plan and Galway County Council is the relevant authority to deal with any decision relating to this.”

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHIE

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

818

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an Comhairle Chontae ag seiceáil faoi láthair an bhfuil an bóthar seo ag an caighdeán ceart chun í a thógail faoina gcúram. Má theastaíonn obair deisiúcháin uaidh, déanfaidh an Innealtóir Áitiúil teangmháil leat faoi.”

Baili:-

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Michael Maher

24th October 2011
Date

1. PRESENTATION OF APPLICANTS FOR NOMINATION AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The Mayor referred to the July Monthly Meeting of Council at which it was agreed to afford applicants, who had corresponded with Galway County Council in relation to their nomination as Presidential Candidate, the opportunity to address a Special Meeting of Council on Friday, 2nd September 2011.

The Mayor welcomed the applicants who had accepted the Council's invitation to address the Special Meeting of Council as follows:

- Ms. Mary Davis
- Mr. Sean Gallagher
- Dr. Pat Jones
- Mr. Richard McSwaneey
- Mr. Dermot Malquore
- Mr. Gary Stuyllie

The Mayor stated that each applicant would address the meeting in alphabetical order by surname, for a maximum of 10 minutes, and after the sixth speaker, he would open for questions from the Members with the Members being afforded the opportunity to address questions to either all or specific applicants.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2011

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Maher

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Baill:-

Cllrs. S. Canney, L. Carroll, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, E Mannion, T. Mannion, T. Mc Hugh, J McDonagh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager,
Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary and Ms. R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

1. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANTS FOR NOMINATION AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE 779

The Mayor referred to the July Monthly Meeting of Council at which it was agreed to afford applicants, who had corresponded with Galway County Council in relation to their nomination as a Presidential Candidate, the opportunity to address a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Friday, 2nd September 2011.

The Mayor welcomed the applicants who had accepted the Council's invitation to address the Special Meeting of Council as follows:

- Ms. Mary Davis
- Mr. Sean Gallagher
- Dr. Pat Jones
- Mr. Richard McSweeney
- Mr. Dermot Mulqueen
- Mr. Gary Smylie

The Mayor stated that each applicant would address the meeting in alphabetical order by surname, for a maximum of 10 minutes, and after the sixth speaker, he would open for questions from the Members with the Members being afforded the opportunity to address questions to either all or specific applicants.

Address

Mary Davis Campaign Office, Fitzwilliam Hall, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2

Ms. Davis, Mr. Gallagher, Dr. Jones, Mr. McSweeney, Mr. Mulqueen and Mr. Smylie then addressed the Council in turn and outlined their reasons for seeking the nomination and their vision for the office should they be successful.

The Mayor then invited questions from the Members, and the questions as raised by the Members were responded to by each of the relevant applicants.

The vote taken resulted as follows:

2. **TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION FOR THE NOMINATION BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE PERSON NAMED UNDER TO BE A CANDIDATE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT 1993:** 780

SURNAME OF CANDIDATE: **DAVIS**
OTHER NAMES : **MARY**
ADDRESS: **MARY DAVIS CAMPAIGN OFFICE,
FITZWILLIAM HALL,
FITZWILLIAM PLACE, DUBLIN 2**
OCCUPATION (IF ANY): **PRESIDENT AND MANAGING
DIRECTOR - SPECIAL
OLYMPICS EUROPE/EURASIA**

Mr. Owens referred to Report dated the 2nd September 2011 already circulated and previous correspondence of the 17th August in relation to this item. Mr. Owens confirmed that the Presidential Election Order having been made by the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government on Tuesday, 30th August 2011 and that the Council having complied in full with the requirements of Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act, 1993, may by resolution resolve to nominate one named person to be a candidate at a presidential election, having given 3 clear days notice of the intention to propose the named person to every member of the Council.

Mr. Owens confirmed that the 3 clear days notice having been given and the Council having received written confirmation from Ms. Davis, consenting to her proposed nominated by Galway County Council, for her to be a candidate at the Presidential Election to the Office of President, in accordance with the Presidential Elections Act 1993, confirming that Ms. Davis was eligible for election to the Office of President and that in particular, in accordance with Article 12.4 of Bunreacht na hÉireann 1937 / Constitution of Ireland, Ms. Davis was a citizen of Ireland and had reached her thirty-fifth year of age, the Council may proceed to consider the resolution on the Clár.

The Mayor called a vote on Cllr. Cuddy's proposal, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion that having complied with the terms of Section 16 of the Presidential Election Act 1993 and being satisfied that the Applicant for nomination as Presidential Candidate ("the Applicant") is eligible for election to the office of President and having received the Applicant's consent to the nomination, Galway County Council hereby resolve to nominate:

Surname of Candidate	Davis
Other Names	Mary
Address	Mary Davis Campaign Office, Fitzwilliam Hall, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2

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Occupation (if any) President and Managing Director – Special Olympics Europe / Eurasia

to be a candidate at the Presidential Election in accordance with Section 16 of the said Act, that the Nomination Paper be completed and and that the seal of the Council be affixed thereto

The vote taken resulted as follows:

For

Cllrs. S. Canney, L. Carroll, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, S. Ó Laoi, T. Mannion, M. Noone, S. O' Tuairisg, S. Walsh, T. Welby (14)

Against

(0)

Abstained

Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, M. Maher, J. McDonagh, K. Ryan, B. Willers (6)

The Mayor declared the resolution carried.

The Mayor and Members congratulated Ms. Davis who in turn expressed her deep appreciation for the support of the Council.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

Michael Maher

26th September 2011

DATE

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON THURSDAY, 21ST JULY, 2011

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Maher

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Baill:-

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, Comh S O'Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, T. Mc Hugh, J. McDonagh, J. Mc Clearn, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, 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, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary, Messrs. A. Farrell, A. Comer, Senior Executive Officers, Mr. L. Gavin, Senior Engineer, Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner, Mr. T. McInerney, Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Valuations Office

Mr. Patrick Conroy, Managing Valuer, Valuations Office

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY:-

753

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

Mr. Tommy Higgins, Castlehackett, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway

The Mayor, Members and County Manager extended sympathy to Cllr. P. Roche, on the death of his father, Bernie.

The Mayor extended sympathy to the family of Anne Mc Cormack who died tragically in a fire at her home.

The Mayor proposed and it was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING

754

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 17th June, 2011 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, and seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 27th June, 2011 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, and seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION.

755

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 24th May, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Planning, Economic Development & Community SPC Meeting held on the 5th April, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Planning, Economic Development & Community SPC Meeting held on the 10th June, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 6th May, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on the 23rd March, 2011 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Tuairis, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Arising from Minutes, An Comh. O'Cuaig referred to the Rosmuc Water Supply Scheme and requested an update, in reply Mr. Cullen confirmed that progress was being made and that he would revert to Comh. O'Cuaig with a progress report.

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

756

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

Arvough Housing Estate, Kinvara

- A. Road pavement and footpath commencing at N67 and extending southwards for 120m (serves units No. 1-4, 11-15 but excludes carpark)
- B. Road pavement and footpath commencing at end of A above and extending eastwards and westwards, a total distance of 90 metres (serves units No. 5-10)

Electoral Area: Loughrea

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 757

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

Bluebell Woods Estate, Oranmore

- 1. Road pavement and footpath, adjacent to public road LP4101, for 52m (serves units No. 1- No. 4)
- 2. Main link road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road LP4101 and extending north west for 530m (serving a block of small local shops & offices, housing units, even No's. 6-14, 150-158, 198-206, odd No's 67-79 & 147-171), also a branch road heading northwards for a distance of 95m serves units, even No's 208-218.
- 3. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with No. 2 above, and extending southwards and looping back & ending at junction with No. 2 above, a distance of 150m (serves units, odd No's 5-11, 53-65, also a branch road off this loop, and extending in a south east direction for a distance of 78m (serves units, odd No's 13-31 & 37-51)
- 4. Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction with No.2 above, and extending north eastwards for 106m (serves units, even No's 16-28 & 134-148).
- 5. Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction with No.2 above, and extending north eastwards & north westwards round a wooded area for a total distance of 270m (serves units, even No's 160-196).
- 6. Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction with No.2 above, and extending southwards turning into a loop road with 2 No. small branch roads, heading south eastwards a total distance of 360m. (serves units, odd No's 81-145).

Electoral Area: Oranmore

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – REJUVENATION OF THE SHAMBLES AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ROUTE ONTO CHURCH LANE, TUAM, CO. GALWAY 758

A Report dated 19th July 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Rejuvenation of the Shambles and Construction of a Pedestrian Access Route onto Church Lane, Tuam, Co. Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – ADDERGOOLE BRIDGE ON THE N84 759

A Report dated 15th July 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

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On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Noone, the rehabilitation works on Addergoole Bridge on the N84 was approved.

In reply to concerns raised by Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Gilmore said that there would be a Traffic Management Plan in place, and that in so far as possible, works would be carried out outside of peak traffic times.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - N17 CARROWNURLAUR BENDS ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 760

A Report dated 11th July 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney seconded by Cllr. McHugh, works on the N17 Carrownurlaur Bends Road Improvement Scheme, Co. Galway was approved.

Cllr. McHugh stated that whilst he welcomed the scheme he requested that the alignment be incorporated into the route of the proposed N/M17 Scheme in order to avoid duplication and minimise the land take required from the landowners impacted by both schemes. Cllr. Canney also referred to this and asked if both roads could be collated with the NRA to realign part of the N/M17 Scheme.

In reply Mr. Gilmore committed to review the design of the N/M17 Scheme to examine if the potential existed to incorporate the route into the scheme. In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Gilmore undertook to revert to the Tuam Electoral Area Committee on the matter.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – REHABILITATION AND WIDENING WORKS ON 8 BRIDGES ON N59 BETWEEN CLIFDEN AND OUGHTERARD 761

A Report dated July 2011 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. O'Tuairisg, the Rehabilitation and widening works on 8 Bridges on N59 between Clifden and Oughterard Co. Galway was approved.

It was agreed to take Item No. 13 at this Stage.

PRESENTATION BY VALUATION OFFICE 762

The Mayor introduced Mr. Patrick Conroy, Managing Valuer with the Valuations Office, and thanked the Valuations Office for accepting the invitation of the Council to present to the Elected Members on the valuation process.

Mr. Conroy's presentation covered the following:-

- The Rateable Valuation System.
- Programmes – Revision and Revaluations and the difference of same.
- Net Effective Valuation – Whole Country

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- Revision
- How Valuations are Decided
- Existing Valuation List
- Valuation Methodology
- Profits method of accounts
- Relevant Properties
- What is a Valuation, Why a Revaluation and Revaluation Programme
- Outlined the Outcome in South Dublin.
- Outlined the Way the Valuations Office do Business

The Mayor thanked Mr. Conroy for his very informative presentation and invited questions from Members. In this regard questions were raised by the Members on the following issues.

- Rateable Valuations on existing premises, refurbished premises and newly built premises and the apparent discrepancies associated with valuing same.
- The appeals process and in particular the role of agents in the process.
- The basis for valuation for businesses operating on a seasonable basis.
- The need to amend the process to incorporate a mechanism to allow consideration of the ability to pay in determining the valuation.
- The availability of exemptions for properties used/owned for community use.
- Exemptions for the offices of Oireachtas Members.

Mr. Conroy replied stated that Local Authorities inform the Valuations Office of developments based on the planning process and confirmed that the issue of seasonal business is a factor taken into consideration in determining the appropriate valuation.

Following a lengthy discussion on the issues raised, the Manager acknowledged Mr. Conroy's presence and referred to the ongoing excellent working relationship between the Council and the Valuations Office. She said that systems were in place whereby the Council were working with customers to facilitate the payment of commercial rates payments and emphasized the importance of commercial rates as a vital form of income for Local Government.

It was proposed to Cllr. T. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Noone and agreed to take item No. 12 at this point.

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM REPRESENTATION 763

Report dated 14th July 2011 had already been circulated to each member.

It was proposed to Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Noone and agreed to appoint Cllr. T. Mannion to fill the casual vacancy on the membership of the Regional Health Forum arising from the resignation of Cllr. Noone.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 OF THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 - 2015 (INTRODUCTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY) IN

ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 13 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED 764

The Mayor invited Mr. Kelly to present the Manager's report prepared on the submissions received on the proposed Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan 2009-2015

Mr. Kelly explained that the Managers reports on the submissions received on Variations Nos. 1 and 2 of the County Development Plan had been submitted to the Members of this Authority for their consideration. Before the consideration of the reports, Mr. Kelly outlined the relevant section of the Local Government Act 2001 re 'Disclosure of Interest' and stated that those who may have a personal or pecuniary interest in a particular issue should declare same and leave the meeting for that issue. He also stated that when performing their duties the Elected Members shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any Local Authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or Minister. He added also that the County Development Plan and any Variation to the plan must also be consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines in force for its area.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 1 from Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

He stated that it was recommended that a new Table B 'Indicative Infrastructure Capacity for Core Strategy Settlements' be inserted in Section 2 of the Core Strategy to provide greater clarity on the availability of existing and planned water and waste water infrastructure in response to the issue in the Department's submission outlining that the allocation of population and housing units in the settlement hierarchy should be also consistent with the availability of hard and soft infrastructure. He added that it was also recommended to insert the following text into the plan within Section 2.4 as follows:

'The SEA Environmental report identifies the water and wastewater capacity and shortfalls in the various schemes within the County and this is highlighted in Table B. The Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 aims to remedy capacity issues in the areas with a shortfall, with indicative timeframes for various projects set out. Settlements with planned infrastructural upgrades/schemes are also included in Table B.'

Mr Kelly added that the Department's submission also referred to ensuring consistency with the Core Strategy when dealing with the objectives and policies regarding the housing units and zoned land in the local area plans. The issue of the settlement strategy relating to and supporting the attainment of transport aims and objectives as set out in various Government policies was also highlighted by the Department. It was recommended that the following text be inserted into Section 2.4 of the Plan:

'The Strategy follows a structured yet flexible approach to development, and focuses on building strong urban centres and generating critical mass in the Galway Gateway, the Tuam Hub and a restricted number of towns. Economic, technical, social and environmental considerations have been explored with particular regard to the capacity of the settlements to contribute to the objectives of the Core Strategy and which are consistent with the Spatial

Planning Strategy, having regard to opportunities for public or sustainable travel and the availability of existing and planned critical water and wastewater infrastructure.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 2 from The West Regional Authority, the Manager's Response and recommendations. He explained that the submission was presented in two parts; Part 1 included recommendations made as per Section 27(C) of the Planning and Development Act 200-2010. Part 2 included additional proposals which seek to enhance the Core Strategy.

He referred to the issue raised regarding clear distinctions/clarifications being put in place with regard to the definitions of the Galway Metropolitan Area in the plan, and he stated that it was recommended that all references to the Galway Metropolitan Area would refer to this defined area only.

In response to the issue on the role of Ardaun/Garraun in the submission, Mr Kelly stated the allocation of population to Ardaun was made with regard to the likely settlements patterns over the lifetime of the current plan and the infrastructural capacities and restraints based on the Water Services Programme,

He also referred to the issue raised in Part 1 of the submission regarding water and water infrastructure capacity and reference to this in the Core Strategy and added that this issue was dealt with under Submission No 1.

In response to an issues relating to the Core Strategy Table and the absence of 'Housing unit yield on other lands' Mr Kelly stated that Local Area Plans which will be reviewed subsequent to the adoption of the proposed variations will not have 'other lands' zoning which facilitate residential use as the predominant land use.

In relation to the issue on the Housing Strategy in Part 2 of the Regional Authority's Submission, Mr Kelly stated that Galway County Council would carry out a review of the Housing strategy in due course and not later than the review of the next County Development Plan.

Mr Kelly also stated that some additional text was recommended to enhance various sections of the Core Strategy but would not change the overall structure of the Variation. Mr. Kelly also stated that the Core Strategy has been subjected to and informed by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and by the Habitat Directive Assessment (HDA) and that environmental considerations have been integrated into the Strategy and that mitigation measures outlined in these reports have been incorporated into the Strategy.

In response to a query from Cllr Carroll regarding the feasibility of Ardaun/Garraun developing during the lifetime of this plan, Mr Kelly stated that an additional population allocation of just 100 had been given to Ardaun for the lifetime of the current plan as substantial development will not take place in the Ardaun area prior to the expiry of the current County Development Plan.

Comh o'Tuairisg referred to issues regarding Rural Development and the Settlement Strategy and enquired if all recent policies and guidelines had been taken into account. Mr Kelly explained that there had not been any changes to policies regarding rural housing or

settlement patterns and no significant difference in the approach of the existing strategy. He clarified that the Core Strategy does not seek to change the balance between urban and rural areas or reduces the capacity of the County to develop its rural areas.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issue raised in Submission No 3 from The Health & Safety Authority, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issue raised in Submission No 4 from the National Roads Authority, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 5 from the Development Applications Unit, the Manager's Response and recommendations. The issues raised related to Nature Conservation, Archaeological Heritage and Architectural Heritage. Mr Kelly stated that the proposed Variation to the County Development Plan had been subject to the Habitats Directive Assessment screening and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 6 from the Dept of Education and Skills, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 7 from the Development Planning Partnership LLP, the Manager's Response and recommendations. Mr Kelly stated that the issues raised regarding Ardaun, the Core Strategy Table and the Gateway have already been dealt with under Submissions 1 and 2.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report.

Mr Kelly explained that the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources had no comments to make at this time in relation to proposed Variation No 1.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 9 from the Engineer's Ireland West, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 10 from Galway City Council, the Manager's Response and recommendations. Mr Kelly stated that the submission included references to the Ardaun lands and the population targets allocated to

the Gateway. He also stated that the submission outlined that the terminology uses in the Variation should be consistent with agreed definitions, specifically the Gateway and Galway Metropolitan Area. He explained that these issues were already dealt with in Submissions 1 and 2.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

Mr. Kelly outlined a summary of the main issues raised in Submission No 11 from Clare County Council, the Manager's Response and recommendations.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report

On the proposal of Cllr Feeney and seconded by The Mayor it was agreed to adopt Variation No1 (to include Core Strategy) to the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 in accordance with the recommendations in the Manager's Report

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Welby and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Meeting to continue after 6.00 pm

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON PROPOSED VARIATION NO 2 OF THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015 (TO INCLUDE A WIND ENERGY STRATEGY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 13 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED

766

The Mayor invited Mr. Kelly to present the Manager's Report prepared on the submissions received on proposed Variation No 2 (to include a Wind Energy Strategy)

Comh. O'Laoi, prior to declaring a beneficial interest in the item and absenting himself from the meeting for the duration of the item made the following observations in relation to the Wind Energy Strategy. He referred to the availability of energy and the issues with developing Wind Farms in environmentally sensitive areas. He stated that oil and coal were Ireland's main sources of energy but that Ireland had substantial renewable energy resources by way of wind which, if supported and developed could lead Ireland into a position of being able to export energy in 10 to 15 years. Cllr. O'Laoi also referred to the restrictions associated with the Natural Heritage Areas of the County and added that he was of the opinion that all types of existing developments and ways of life such as fishing would be protected in these areas and added that the interpretation of the restrictions may be too stringent.

He added that the SAC areas should be opened up to allow for development as vast areas of Cneamara are currently under SAC. He stated that wind energy development should not be hindered. Comh. O'Laoi then left the meeting.

Mr. Kevin Kelly stated that the reasons for pursuing a Wind Energy Strategy for County Galway were set out in Government Policy on Wind Energy Development. He explained that

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the National and EU targets for the percentage of electricity to be generated from renewable resources were 18% by 2010 and 40% by 2020.

He added that there was a need and general support for the Wind Energy Strategy but added that there were also some concerns in relation to it. While some felt that the WES had gone too far in relation to Environmental issues others felt that the WES didn't go far enough.

He explained that the challenge for Galway County Council was to balance the need to comply with the renewable energy targets while protecting the environmental landscape and designations and other considerations.

Mr. Kelly added that the WES should not be viewed as restrictive with many pointing to the 2% of the County Area designated as Strategic areas and Acceptable in principle areas for wind farm development. He clarified that 20% is designated as 'Accepted in principal Areas' (AP) or 'Open to Consideration Areas' (OC).

He outlined that 32% of the County is described as 'Low Wind Speed Areas', which are areas with wind speeds that would generally not provide viable locations for commercial wind developments but these areas can be developed if commercially viable. He added that 48 % of the area was designated as 'not normally permissible areas' (NP) which were areas not suitable for wind farm development due to their overall sensitivity. Wind farm developments in these areas will be discouraged, unless project level HDA and EIA can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that environmental and other impacts can be successfully avoided, minimized and mitigated.

Mr. Kelly added that the WES must have due regard for the Environment and this was stated clearly throughout the strategy. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental report and the Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) Natura Impact Report (NIR) were both undertaken and informed the WES.

He stated that the WES was not restrictive but provided realistic guidance for wind farm developers and added that the targets and deliverability of the WES were realistic.

So far there were 234 wind turbines permitted by Galway County Council but only 4 wind farms operating in County Galway containing a total of 87 turbines. Mr. Kelly added also that it was intended that the WES will be aligned with the time frame of the County Development Plan and reviewed in tandem with same in the future.

Cllr. Fahy outlined his support for the Wind Energy Strategy and as Chairperson of the Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee outlined the views of the Committee.

Mr. Kelly invited Ms McConnell to present the Manager's report to the meeting. Ms McConnell stated that 27 submissions were received on the Wind Energy Strategy and as required under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the issues raised by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government have been dealt with separately and this is followed by the submission from the West Regional Authority which must also be specifically addressed in the Manager's report according to the 2010 Act .

Submission No 25

Ms McConnell commenced with submission No 25 from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by outlining a summary of the main issues raised, and the