



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,
COUNCIL MINUTES**

GC/1/56

27 MAY 2013 TO 24 MARCH 2014



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

27th May 2013 - 24th March 2014

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th MARCH, 2014 @ 11.00 A.M.

MAYOR LIAM

CARROLL

2013 / 2014

Galway County Council Archives

Thosaigh an t-athair leis an paidir.

DECLARATIONS OF SYMPATHY

1751

Resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- * Mr & Mrs James O'Connell & Family, Ballymaguire, Ardara, Co. Galway.
- * The Helebert Family, Cloughballymore, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
- * Mrs Maureen Hynes, Claran, Ower, Headford, Co. Galway.
- * Mrs Brenda Duggan, Cornacarton, Bearnadeerg, Twam, Co. Galway.
- * Mrs Elizabeth Cahill, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- * Mr Brendan Dolan, C/o Portlincula Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- * Mrs & James Adams, Monreagh, Tubber, Co. Clare.

Minutes of March Monthly Meeting held on 24th March 2014

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th MARCH, 2014 @ 11.00 A.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, 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, Directors of Services L. Gavin & M. Raftery, A/Directors of Services; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, M. Doddy, Conservation Officer, M. Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer, P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1711

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mr & Mrs James Coen & Family, Ballymaguire, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
- The Helebert Family, Cloughballymore, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
- Mrs Maureen Hynes, Claran, Ower, Headford, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Breda Duggan, Cornacarton, Bearnadearg, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Cahill, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Brendan Dolan, C/o Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Tony & Carmel Adams, Monreagh, Tubber, Co. Clare.

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- Mr. Martin Rock, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway.

The Mayor was joined in congratulating Portumna on capturing the All Ireland Senior Club Hurling Title on Monday, 17th March 2014.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1712

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14th February, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. McHugh advised the Meeting that in relation to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the proposed additions to the RPS, that he had received a number of representations from private citizens who received letters by registered post, following the Council Meeting of the 14th February. He said that these letters have caused concern to these persons and he asked that the Council make contact with these people to alleviate their concerns. He asked for clarification on the replacement of cast iron gutters. He said that he hoped that grant aid would be available to owners of protected structures to assist them in carrying out works.

Cllr. O'Tuairisg referred to the legalistic language used in the letter but said he was aware that under the Planning Acts that the notification had to issue using that language. He said that clarification is warranted and asked how it might affect planning permissions already obtained on buildings and asked that it not affect buildings until they are formally added to the Record of Protected Structures.

Cllr. G. Finnerty asked the position with regard to maintenance and upgrading of proposed protected structures.

Cllr. Cunniffe expressed his concern about the Notices issued to persons in relation to the Proposed Additions to the Protected Structures and said that some photos were 2/3 years old and asked what these Notices meant going forward and if it affected internal works.

Cllr. Welby said that he was aware of some properties that may be in joint ownership but where disputes have now arisen between the owners and asked if the Council notified the registered owners of the properties/structures.

Cllr. Broderick queried the procedure to formalise the Record of Protected Structures and the Section of the Planning Act that referred to this procedure and the number of recommendations that was considered under this Section of the Act in the previous years and the length of time it takes administratively to process a request under this Section of the Act.

Comh. O'Cuaig advised the meeting that 3 or 4 post primary schools had received notifications, one school being situated on the Aran Islands. He said that this matter was

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raised at a recent GRETB Meeting and said that it would cause problems for these Schools and their executive to be included on the Record of Protected Structures.

In response to the queries on the RPS, Mr. Kelly said that he appreciated the issues raised and he had advised at the Area Committee Meetings prior to the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan, that this would be an area that may cause concern. He explained that each known owner was written to, which included a Section 12 Notice and a bilingual information guide. He said that the Guide entitled 'A Guide to the Protection of Architectural Heritage' was an easy to read, simple format, plain English guide which set out the various issues and how to go about obtaining the necessary information. He explained that a Section 8 Notice was also issued which was to address the issue of ownership and the recipient if not the owner of the structure could reply advising the Council of the owner if known by them. He said that the letter and notification was then re-issued to the identified owner.

Mr. Kelly said that as outlined to the Members at previous meetings, there are over 800 structures currently on the RPS. He advised that the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht carried out a survey in 2011 and 1,400 structures were recommended for protection. He advised that the recommendations were examined by the Architectural Conservation Officer and 870 were put forward for inclusion and it was decided that these would be proposed as part of the Review of the County Development Plan. He said that the Council did not accept all of the Minister's proposals as there would have been changes in the intervening years.

He explained that since the publication of the Draft Plan, the Forward Planning Section had received a lot of correspondence both in letter format and via telephone queries and these are being answered and Ms. M. Doddy, Architectural Conservation Officer, had visited a number of properties. He said that the Forward Planning Department would continue to work hard to deal with any queries and concerns and provide the information required. He confirmed that priority was being given to any queries in order to give the owner the opportunity to consider the issue fully before they made a response.

He clarified that it was open to each person to make a response and that a report would be prepared by the Architectural Conservation Officer and this would be brought to the Elected Members. He said that the Report would outline the views of both the owners and the Conservation Officer.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Kelly said that it was a Reserved function of the Elected Members having regard to the information and advice which would be given to them, as to whether the structure should be included in the RPS or not.

In respect of funding, Mr. Kelly said that there was limited funding last year under the Structures at Risk Fund. He advised that in 2014, Galway County Council received €127,000 in funding under the new Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme and the Council is currently awaiting confirmation from the Department on the successful applications for 2014.

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In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Kelly explained that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was compiled out by the Department during the period 2008- 2011 and the Council accepted that changes would have occurred since to some of the structures in that some thatch houses could have deteriorated significantly with the bad weather conditions etc during that time. He explained that recommendations were examined by the Architectural Conservation Officer and the number was reduced to 870, due to some structures having deteriorated to such an extent that they no longer could be afforded protection or in some cases significant works had been carried out to the structure altering its architectural attributes and were no longer of significant architectural importance. He said that structures of higher regional importance were chosen for inclusion.

Mr. Kelly advised that Section 57 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 refers to works affecting character of protected structures or proposed protected structures and approximately 10-15 applications are dealt with on a yearly basis. He said that there is a three month statutory timeframe provided for the planning authority to issue a declaration under in this Section of the Act. If there is a significant increase in the number of applications under this Section of the Act, then a review of resources will be examined to ensure that the applications are dealt with within the required statutory timeframe.

In reply to Cllr. McHugh, Ms. Doddy, advised that if the cast iron gutters are repairable, the most sustainable option would be to repair them, however, if they are very badly damaged beyond repair, she said that new gutters, aluminium or similar to the original cast iron gutters is permissible, if the cost of replacement with new cast iron is prohibitive.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed "that private residences and structures that have been proposed to be included in the Records of Protected Structures, on the completion of the Draft Document, if those structures are listed as protected, that grant aid be made available for the purpose of repairs and maintenance in the amount of 80% of calculated cost"

It was clarified that the motion envisaged that the necessary funding would be made available by the Heritage Council / Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1713

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 24th February, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the reply received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding his Notice of Motion in relation to the fallen animal scheme and expressed his disappointment with the reply to same. He requested that his disappointment with the response be noted and be conveyed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and An Taoiseach.

Replying to queries in relation to funding for Storm Damage, Mr. Gavin stated that to date €9 Million had been set aside for work due to storm damage under various headings. He stated that a comprehensive list was being put together for the different Government Departments and that €2.7 Million had been allocated for roads. He stated that a full list of

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roads will be submitted to the Department. He also stated that the Council were seeking clarification to works on private property but that this information was not to hand yet. An Comh. O'Curraoin referred to the need for funding to be made available to address damage on private lands adjacent to the coast to facilitate necessary repairs to boundaries and walls in order to allow for the productive the use of the relevant lands. Cllr. Broderick referred to problems being experienced by people in obtaining insurance for their property in areas that had been flooded previously, as insurance companies were not adequately recognising the work being undertaken. Mr. Gavin in the course of his reply to Cllr. Broderick undertook to review the position including the current legislative provisions relating to same and revert directly.

In reply to An Comh O'Tuairisg, Mr. Gavin confirmed that all necessary statutory requirements relating to the coastal protection works would be required to be observed where the scope of the works extended beyond repair of previous infrastructure. An Comh O'Cuaig said that the Interim Report had been sent to the Department on the 10th January, 2014 – 3 months ago, he asked when will a full account of what has been done, what will be done and where, will be known. He also enquired if the works on slipways and Piers will be put out to Tender. Mr. Gavin confirmed that discussions with relevant Departments were ongoing on the detail of the various allocations and that it was intended that a full programme would be finalised to allow for the procurement process to be advanced within two months.

Cllr. M. Finnerty stated the Town Engineer in Ballinasloe issued a letter to householders in Ballinasloe confirming the nature and extent of flood remedial works undertaken and that same was taken into consideration by most insurance companies in offer insurance cover. In reply to a request from Cllr. Broderick for an update on the NRA's position in relation to the provision of cameras on exits from the M6, Mr. Gavin undertook to raise the matter with the NRA and revert.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1714

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 16th December 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Noone

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 15th October 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Tuairisg seconded by An Comh O'Laoi,

Arising from the minutes and in reply to An Comh. O'Cuaig and An Comh. O'Tuairisg, the Manager confirmed that to date a submission was not lodged with the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for the provision of a fire station in South Conamara as it was necessary to ensure that a comprehensive proposal was developed for submission. She acknowledged the funding of €30,000 provided in Budget 2014 to facilitate same and indicated that it was intended to brief the Conamara Electoral Area Committee at their next meeting on the approach and progress to date.

Mr. Gavin in reply to An Comh O'Laoi and Cllr. Feeney confirmed that to date it was not possible to reach agreement on the emerging preferred route for the R336 and that it was

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intended to revisit same with the Conamara Electoral Area Committee with a view to reaching agreement to allow the project to be advanced to the next stage.

The Report of the Conamara Area Committee Meeting held on 13th January 2014 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Curraoin, seconded by An Comh O'Tuairisg.

The Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of An Comh O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

In reply to questions from An Comh O'Cuaig and a contribution from Cllr. McClearn in relation to advancing the development of the centre at Pearse's Cottage and the need to meet a timeline of 2016, the County Manager confirmed that ongoing engagement was taking place with stakeholders. She confirmed that as the site was located adjacent to an SAC scoping was currently being undertaken with a view to determining the appropriate planning process by means of a Part 8 or the lodging of an application with an EIS to An Bord Pleanala. The County Manager assured the Members that there was no suggestion or indication of any intent by any party to delay the project but that it was necessary to comply with the relevant statutory process.

The Report of the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Comh. O'Cuaig, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

Mr. Cullen in reply to various queries raised confirmed that the contracts for Kinvara Sewerage Scheme were being finalised for submission to Irish Water and that the recommendation in relation to both Baile Chláir (Claregalway) and Milltown were with Irish Water for decision. He also confirmed that the information previously submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Kilrickle has been passed to Irish Water.

He advised of a commitment for a domestic allowance for each household noting that the detail of same was a matter for the Department and the Regulator.

He stated that the issue of fluoridation of the water supply was the subject of detailed consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee and that the recommendation arising from same would be brought to Council in due course arising from the consideration of the relevant minutes. Mr. Cullen also referenced recent detailed correspondence on the matter from the Department of Health, issued in response to a resolution of Council.

In reply to Cllr. M. Connolly and Cllr. Broderick, he confirmed that the approach to locating masts on water services infrastructure was now a matter for determination by Irish Water confirming that while same was not prohibited under the County Development Plan, all appropriate guidelines and requirements would have to be met to allow for consideration of any such proposal by Irish Water.

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It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed:

“That this Council is calling on the Minister for the Environment and Irish Water to give clarity to customers on a water allowance for all dwellings. We are asking that a decision be made by the Energy regulator on this important matter without further delay”

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993 1715

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

College Green Housing Estate, Dunmore Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

House Nos. 50-68 (Inclusive)

1. Road pavement and footpath from its junction with the R923 at Point A through to Point E for a total length of 202 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point A (E1445,198 N252,713) Point E (E144,313 N252,554).

House Nos. 1-10 (Inclusive)

2. Road pavement and footpath from Point B to Point F for a total length of 121 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs Co-ordinates: Point B (E1445,211 N252,704) Point F (E144,278 N252,788). House Nos. 11-30 (Inclusive): Road pavement and footpath from Point C to Point G for a total length of 158 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point C (E1445,250 N252,675) Point G (E144,270 N252,671). House Nos. 31-49 (Inclusive): Road pavement and footpath from Point D to Point H for a total length of 132 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point D (E1445,294 N252,609) Point H (E144,323 N252,600).

House Nos. 11-30 (Inclusive)

3. Road pavement and footpath from Point C to Point G for a total length of 158 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point C (E1445,250 N252,675) Point G (E144,270 N252,671).

House Nos. 31-49 (Inclusive)

4. Road pavement and footpath from Point D to Point H for a total length of 132 metres. Road Width 6 metres between kerbs. Co-ordinates: Point D (E1445,294 N252,609) Point H (E144,323 N252,600).

Electoral Area: Tuam

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TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.094 HECTARES AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR CO. GALWAY 1716

Statutory Notice dated 26th February, 2014 and Report dated the 26th February, 2014 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to lease 0.094 Hectares at Magheramore, Killimor to Killimor GAA Club in accordance with the terms as detailed in the Statutory Notice

The County Manager in reply to Cllr. Broderick advised that the timeframe for concluding the transfer was subject to various factors. She advised that if issues had arisen in relation to delays in finalised a particular transfer the matter could be investigated if the relevant details were made available.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – N17 MILLTOWN TRAFFIC CALMING 1717

Report dated March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canney, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe the proposed works on the N17 Milltown Traffic Calming as set out in the report, was approved.

Mr. Gavin in reply to queries raised confirmed that consultation had taken place with local residents and businesses in relation to the proposed works and that appropriate consultation would continue throughout the duration of the works. He confirmed that the scheme included for advance signage and he undertook to circulate further detailed drawings of the scheme.

TO CONSIDER AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2013 1718

Audit Committee Report 2013 was circulated to each Member.

Mr Raftery advised of an amendment to Item F on Page 4 of the Report being the removal of the reference to the abolition of Roinn na Gaeltachta.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Broderick and agreed to note the report as amended.

ADOPTION OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS 2014 1719

Report dated the 18th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed to adopt the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2014 as presented.

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Mr. Gavin in reply to queries raised confirmed that a traffic count was undertaken in Ballygar and that it was agreed to change the speed limit on the eastern approach and to provide advance signage. He confirmed that following same a further traffic count would be undertaken with a view to reverting to the NRA to reconsider further amendments to the speed limits if deemed necessary.

Mr. Gavin confirmed that the revised speed limits would be implemented from Thursday, 8th May 2014. In relation to the default speed limit of 80km/hr on local roads, Mr. Gavin confirmed that guidance was awaited in relation to same in the context of the implementation to the revised signage proposals as recently announced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

LOCAL ELECTIONS – ISSUE OF POLLING CARDS 1720

Report dated the 18th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Feeney and agreed to authorise the issuing of Polling Cards to all L electors on the Register.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES. 1721

Report was circulated to each Member

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government Bill 2013 – 17th – 18th January – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Authorities & Waste Management – 24th – 25th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150

Cllr.'s Michael Connolly, Jarlath McDonagh

ACCC Annual Conference – Councillors & change ... new challenges for Irish local government – 6th – 7th March – Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan – Fee: €130

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Mary Hoade, Peter Feeney, Bridie Willers

Superior Training – Media Skills for Councillors – 11th – 12th March – Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal – Fee: €120

Cllr.'s Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

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Ace Training – European Governance & Local Authorities – 14th – 16th March – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Seán Canney, Thomas Welby

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Maher, attendance at the Conferences as circulated, was authorized by the Council.

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED 1722

Reports were already circulated to each member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, it was agreed to note the summary of proceedings at Conferences, as circulated.

Ace Training – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013 – 10th – 12th January – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government Bill 2013 – 17th – 18th January – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

Celtic Conferences – Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication – 17th – 19th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Authorities & Waste Management – 24th – 25th January – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Celtic Conferences – Doing more with less – Managing Time & Productivity – 24th – 26th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Monaghan County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2014 – 31st January – 1st February – Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

Cllr.'s Jarlath McDonagh, Tom McHugh

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Celtic Conferences – Changes in Construction Tendering for Local Authorities – 31st January – 2nd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods – 7th – 9th February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Superior Training – Seanad Reform & the Councillor – 20th – 22nd February – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Cllr. Tom McHugh

Clare Tourist Council – 25th Annual Tourism Conference – ‘Folklore – Heritage – Tourism’ – 21st – 22nd February – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Cllr. Mary Hoade

ACCC Annual Conference – Councillors & change ... new challenges for Irish local government – 6th – 7th March – Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME 2014 – PROPOSED LIST OF

APPROVALS

1723

Report dated 19th March 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed to approve the allocation of financial assistance under the Community Support Scheme 2014 in accordance with the recommendations as detailed.

Cllr. Feeney expressed disappointment that funding was not being provided in 2014 to facilitate and support the maintenance of green space in Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry and was joined in same by Cllr. T. Walsh.

Mr. Kelly in reply to queries raised confirmed that the proposals in relation to sport would be presented at the April Meeting. He stated that the emphasis in 2014, as detailed at the information sessions, was to support additional work and improvements.

He confirmed that the basis for the shorter timeframes in 2014 was at the request of the Members and was intended to allow for the timely redistribution of funding not drawn down with the relevant period. He stated that projects that did not benefit from the current

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funding, as referenced by the Members, could be considered further in the event that funding became available for redistribution later in the year.

TO FIX DATE/TIME AND VENUE FOR APRIL MEETING OF COUNCIL 1724

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded Cllr. Hoade and agreed that the April Monthly Meeting be held on Monday, 28th April 2014 in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore commencing at 11.00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 1725

Mr. Kelly referred to previous reports and consideration of the Local Community Development Committee by the Corporate Policy Group and the Council and referenced the membership of the Galway County LCDC as circulated at the meeting.

Mr. Kelly addressed a range of queries raised by the Members in relation to the sectors represented, the process for the selection of the two elected representatives, the number of representatives from the local and community development sector, the status of Elected Members serving on the committee as representatives of the community sector, the remit of the committee and the mechanism for input by the Elected Members.

The County Manager in reply to contributions from Cllrs. Broderick, M. Connolly & D. Connolly relating to the HSE confirmed that the selection of nominees for the state agencies, local and community development and social, economic and community interests was a matter for the relevant nominating body and was not an issue for the local authority. She referenced the need to have nominees at an appropriate level in order allow for relevant decision makers to influence the plan and to support implementation of the plan within their relevant organisations and sector.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Maher to appoint the nominees, as detailed in the report as circulated at the meeting, to the Local Community Development Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly for the report to be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration.

Following further discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly to allow their amendment, proposing the report be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration, to be withdrawn.

The motion as proposed by Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. Maher to appoint the nominees, as detailed in the report as circulated at the meeting, to the Local Community Development Committee was agreed.

A request from Cllr. Broderick to note his disappointment was also agreed.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014 / PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST – UPDATE 1726

Report dated the 24th March, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

The Manager referred to previous discussions regarding the reform of Local Government and updated the Members on developments with reference to three specific areas:-

- 1 Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices (LEO)
- 2 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- 3 Re-organisation of Local Government Structures at Sub-County level.

The Manager detailed the items requiring consideration including items for consideration at the first meetings of the Municipal Districts to include agreeing location, time and frequency of ordinary meetings and agreeing standing orders and advised of suggestions relating to same arising from discussions with the Corporate Policy Group.

The Manager further advised of a review of the Council's standing orders together with the preparation of draft standing orders for the Municipal Districts and invited the members to submit any suggestions relating to same to Mr. Michael Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the need to reflect the status of Ballinasloe as the county town in the proposed structures and that meetings of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe should be held in the Civic Offices in Ballinasloe.

The Manager in reply to Cllr. Roche, confirmed that the revised electoral areas would be reflected in revised boundaries for the operational areas of the Council and that Monivea would transfer from the remit of the Ballinasloe office to the Tuam office.

Cllr. Cunniffe suggested that it would be necessary for the Municipal Districts to meet on a monthly basis in order to retain momentum.

The County Manager undertook to revert to Cllr. Feeney in relation to the role, if any, for the Elected Members on the Approvals and Evaluations Committee of the Local Enterprise Office.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1727

The Manager informed the meeting that her term as Galway County Manager was due to end in July 2014 and that following 37 years service in local government it was not her intention to seek to extend same or serve a further term.

The Mayor on his own behalf and on behalf of the Members, acknowledged the Manager's tremendous record of public service and of her dedication and commitment to the county. He indicated that the Members will have an opportunity at a later date to appropriately acknowledge the contribution of the Manager.

The following items of correspondence which were circulated at the meeting were noted:

- Correspondence received on 25th February 2014 from Edenderry Town Council with a copy of Motion from Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell calling on the Government to

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overturn the decision to impose a Student Service Charge on apprentices while undergoing the education module of their apprenticeship training in Institutes of Technologies.

- Correspondence dated 3rd March 2014 from Clones Town Council adopting a Motion, calling on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to abolish the extra charge people are forced to pay, as a result of taxing their car for a three-month period as opposed to a twelve-month period.
- Correspondence dated 7th February 2014 from Limerick County Council adopting the resolution calling on the Government to immediately take steps to legislate against all types of top-ups and bonuses where tax payers' money is involved.
- Correspondence dated 13th March 2014 from North Tipperary County Council passing a motion calling on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation to introduce legislation on low cost selling as soon as possible to protect small retailers.
- Correspondence dated 18th March 2014 from Limerick City & County Council adopting the resolution to call on the Government to introduce the necessary legislation that will ensure the retention of the post office network throughout Ireland.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding a motion adopted in relation to a review being carried out on the Moycullen Bogs NHA.
- Correspondence dated 10th February from The Office of Public Works acknowledging Galway County Councils letter to Minister of State, Brian Hayes TD regarding storm damage to small holdings along the shoreline.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging receipt of Galway County Councils letter in connection with funding for storm damage to small holdings along coast lines.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding storm damage to small holdings along the shoreline.
- Correspondence dated 4th February from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding a motion adopted in relation to the cost issues concerning dead animal collection and rendering.
- Correspondence dated 12th March from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter regarding Fallen Animal Collection.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1728

In reply to a query raised by Cllr. Canney in relation to a date for signing the contract for the M18/17 Gort-Tuam Scheme, the Mayor stated it was his understanding that a provisional date of Wednesday, 26th March 2014 was being considered but that the date was subject to change.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the proposed bypass for Baile Chláir (Claregalway) expressing disappointment that the scheme was not progressing and that the full allocation of funding

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previously allocated to the project were not drawn down to allow same to be advanced. He questioned the value obtained from the expenditure incurred to date and referenced the ongoing need for the scheme, suggesting that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport visit Baile Chláir to view the impact of traffic and congestion on the village. Cllr. Canney also referenced the ongoing need for the project and the value of the expenditure incurred to date.

The County Manager in reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty agreed that concessions on pay parking would be applied on Saturday 19th April 2014.

Mr. Kelly in reply to Cllr. Cunniffe and Cllr. M. Connolly confirmed that the position in relation to the status of the Garraun Estate, Tuam was being clarified from the planning perspective and in terms of the status of the roads.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gavin agreed to consider a review of the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan at the next meeting of the Oranmore Electoral Area Committee.

Mr. Kelly in reply to Cllr. Cunniffe confirmed that the issue of the exclusion of hub towns from availing of funding under the Rural Development Programme had been flagged with the Department.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cunniffe, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed, "that in relation to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 which is currently being prepared that the potential applicants within the Town of Tuam are not precluded from applying for this funding by virtue of the fact that Tuam has been designated as a Hub Town under the National Spatial Strategy. The NSS has the fundamental weakness of lacking any legislative basis and is only a framework document that has been largely ignored by policy makers. The government has accepted that this strategy needs extensive revision which may take some considerable period of time.

The proposer is fully supportive of Strategic Spatial Planning to create the conditions for sustainable development and spatially targeted measures supported by appropriate and robust governance systems, but until these are in place and properly funded, I believe Tuam is being seriously disadvantaged in its exclusion from €15 Million of locally available funding that could provide invaluable to community, environmental and business endeavours.'

Cllr. Cunniffe in reply to a request from Cllr. T. Walsh to use his influence to resolve the issue leading to the closure of parking facilities in Tuam town centre, advised that he had no wish to see the closure of the car park but that the requirements of planning and statutory obligations must be met by all and that he had worked for over two years to bring about a satisfactory resolution of the matter. Cllr. Canney withdrew from the Chamber for the duration of the discussion on the matter.

Cllr Feeney was joined in acknowledging that Cllrs. T. Walsh, J. McDonagh and T. Mannion were attending their last council meeting to be held in Áras an Chontae due to their decision not to stand in the local elections. They were acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to their local communities.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1729

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss the South Galway Flood study report with the OPW and establish progress to date on its recommendations particularly those relating to the swallow holes at Blackrock in the Peterswell area, extending towards Kinvara.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1730

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will re-examine the issue of traffic movement and pedestrian safety at Bolands Lane in Gort. This issue can be examined as a single measure within the context of the existing Gort Traffic Management Plan.”

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

1731

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have not yet received any funding from the NRA for the provision of warning signs at Ballygunneen, Kilchreest on the N66. However, Galway County Council will bring this location to the attention of the NRA and seek funding for safety works.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1732

The following reply was given:-

“The recycling centre in Clifden is operated by Barna Waste, which will remain the case until September 2015. Barna Waste will be advised of the request for extension of opening hours.”

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

1733

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have made a submission to the Department of the Environment seeking funding for the preparation of a Coastal Protection Plan. Initial indications are that funding will be made available for the preparation of this Coastal Protection Plan. Galway

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County Council will commence the process of agreeing details with the Department and preparing tenders for the preparation of the Coastal Protection Plan."

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. E. MANNION 1734

The following reply was given:-

"The Council has submitted an Asset Needs Brief in accordance with Irish Water Procedures in order to get a wastewater treatment solution for Roundstone included in any early funding programmes initiated by Irish Water. At the moment the Council is awaiting feedback from Irish Water in relation to the proposals to provide an Integrated Constructed Wetland for the treatment of Wastewater in Roundstone."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1735

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council are allocated defined grants on an annual basis from the D.T.T.A.S. and the NRA to maintain our roads network. Galway County Council will continue to seek additional from the Department of Transport and the NRA to ensure roads are maintained and safe. Galway County Council have targeted maintenance issues in an effort to secure further funding from the NRA."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23– CLLR. J. CUDDY 1736

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will consider this request in the context of the requirements of the new Municipal Districts and how funding is allocated from the various Departments."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24– CLLR. J. CUDDY 1737

The following reply was given:-

"The design and development of the Báile Chláir relief road was ongoing up to 2013. To date the works undertaken on the road include a feasibility study, a constraints report, public consultation, a route selection report and a Natura Impact Statement. In addition tenders were sought for a ground investigation contract. Finalisation of Design, EIS and CPO is dependent on Department of Transport and NRA funding. To date €173,100 has been spent on this project."

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NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25– CLLR. J. MCCLEARN **1738**

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are organising the repair of this bridge.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1739**

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have to date undertaken a number of non coastal flood protection measures in South Galway in co-operation with the OPW. These works have proved successful and of benefit during the recent flooding in South Galway. Other works to alleviate flooding in South Galway are being agreed with the OPW. In addition Galway County Council will continue to work with the OPW in identifying schemes which will assist as further flood alleviation measures.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1740**

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. P. HYNES **1741**

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have to date undertaken some traffic calming measures throughout the town of Loughrea. In addition, Galway County Council have applied to the Department of Transport for funding under the Active Travel Programme to undertake further calming measures in Loughrea. Galway County Council will examine the requirement for traffic calming measures on the Old Galway road in Loughrea and should funding be made available will consider what measures are required along the Old Galway road in Loughrea.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. P. HYNES **1742**

The following reply was given:-

“This road has not been included within the 2014 road works program. It will be examined and repaired if required within the existing scarce local road maintenance funding. It can be considered when the roads 2015 roads program is being prepared.”

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. P. HYNES

1743

The following reply was given:-

"This road has not been included within the 2014 road works program. It will be examined and repaired if required within the existing scarce local road maintenance funding. It can be considered when the 2015 roads program is being prepared."

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Signed + Approved

Sean Carroll

28th April 2014
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 2014 @ 2.00 pm

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby & B. Willers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1686

Oifigigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Deputy County Manager; Mr. K. Kelly, Director of Service; E. Molloy, A/Director of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1685

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Joe Maloney, brother of the County Manager, Ms. M. Moloney, who passed away recently. The Mayor was joined by the Members in expressing their sympathy to the County Manager and her family on their sad loss.

The Mayor was also joined by the Members in extending sympathy to Mr. Paddy Prendergast, an employee of the Council in the Orán Mór Area, on the untimely death of his beloved wife Mary.

The Deputy County Manager on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council, extended sympathy to the County Manager and her family on the death of their brother Joe, and to Mr. Paddy Prendergast and his family on the death of his wife Mary.

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A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Ms. Fiona Duggan, Drumbane, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Mrs Mary Nalty, Ballinastack, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Tom & Tina Burns, Ballinastack, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Sean & Ann Hennelly, Killafinn, Gort, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Trish Corbett, C/o Cornamona P.O., Cornamona, Co. Galway.
- Mr & Mrs Peadar Ó Griallais, Aille, Indreabhán, Co. Na Gaillimhe.

The Mayor adjourned the Meeting for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor was joined by the Members in congratulating Ms. Úna Molloy of Galway Bay FM on her recent engagement.

Cllr. Cuddy extended his congratulations to Claregalway Day Care Centre on being shortlisted for a national award.

Cllr. Fahy extended his best wishes to the Ardrahan Senior Camogie Team in the All Ireland Camogie Final to be played the following Sunday at Croke Park.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1686

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 27th January, 2014 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the Council follow up with the Department of Agriculture & Food regarding his Notice of Motion regarding the fallen animal scheme.

Mr. Cullen in reply to a query from Comh. Ó Cuaig advised that the tender for the Costello Regional Water Supply Design/Build/Operate Scheme has been advertised with a closing date of the end of March. He confirmed that the tender assessment will be carried out by the Council with a recommendation issuing to Irish Water for approval. He stated that he anticipated that the necessary approval to allow the scheme to proceed would be forthcoming without any delay.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Cullen said that Oughterard Sewerage Scheme has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála. He stated that additional detailed information was sought and that same was currently being compiled following the approval for same by Irish Water. In regard to Clifden Sewerage Scheme, Mr. Cullen confirmed that work was underway and that the tender recommendation for the next phase was with Irish Water for approval.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to the Item on the Minutes regarding Storm Weather Events and he made the following proposal "that Galway County Council has expressed huge frustration over the delay by the different Government Departments in providing funding for remedial works for storm and tidal damage caused over the past months and requests that the

Minutes of February Monthly Meeting held on 24th February 2014

relevant Department provide funding to Galway County Council as a matter of urgency". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, and agreed.

Cllr. Welby said that there is huge frustration as a result of the storm damage which has occurred and he said there needs to be a co-ordinated response in this regard and suggested that the resources of TUS and CES be availed of to allow for works to be progressed.

In reply to a request from Cllr. E. Mannion for clarification in relation to the reference to traffic management in Cleggan Village proceeding in advance of the development of the car park, as detailed on page 5 of the minutes, Mr. Molloy said that it would be challenging to implement a Traffic Management Plan for Cleggan village until such time as the planned car park is put in place and accordingly it was not now intended to proceed with the measures as previously suggested until such time as the car park was developed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1687

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 18th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 8th November, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

The Report of the Planning & Economic Development SPC Meeting held on 2nd December, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

The Report of the Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2013 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

Cllr. D. Connolly referenced the consideration of the Manager's Report on the Pre-Draft submissions received on the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 and arising from same welcomed the focus in the Draft Plan on Town Centres.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Kelly said that the Running Track at Ballinasloe can open after hours on condition that an established group takes responsibility for operating and managing the facility after hours, he also confirmed that consideration was being given to an approach that would secure an outcome to allow general access to the facility when not in use by a club.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – N63 ANNAGH HILL PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE LA07-13 – 1688

Report already circulated to each Member.

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On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, the proposed construction of the pedestrian footbridge at Annagh Hill, Kilmoylan, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report and subject to the recommendations contained therein, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.504 HECTARES AT CARRA, KILRICKLE, CO. GALWAY 1689

Statutory Notice and Report dated 28th January, 2014 were already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, the disposal of 0.504 hectares at Carra, Kilrickle, Co. Galway, was agreed in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated 28th January 2014.

TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – N17 CARROWNURLAUR TO BALLINDINE ROAD SCHEME 1690

Report dated 18th February, 2014, including Draft Section 85 Agreement with Mayo County Council was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the Members agreed that the Council enter into an Agreement with Mayo County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 – N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine Road Scheme as detailed in the Section 85 Agreement as circulated.

TO CONSIDER THE COUNTY GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013 1691

Report dated January 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. Roche, outgoing Chairman of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee (JPC), presented the Annual Report 2013 to the Members and summarized the Report as follows:

- The JPC aims to develop greater consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and the elected local representatives. The JPC also facilitates the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in this regard.
- The JPC held its Annual Public Meeting in Gort on 11th February, 2013 as outlined in the Report
- The JPC held a Community Alert Awareness Week, in Áras an Chontae which was launched on 14th October by the Mayor of the County of Galway, Cllr. Liam Carroll.
- There are three JPC sub-committees, namely CCTV, Community Watch and Litter Awareness, and these sub-committees continue to make progress as detailed in Item 1 of the Report.

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- The Control of Horses was an issue which received much attention during the year particularly the risk to road users caused by wandering horses. A Protocol was drawn up between An Garda Síochána and Galway County Council which enables the Gardaí to directly contact an appointed contractor used by the local authority, to collect wandering or stray horses on public roads. The Protocol is aimed at providing a swift means to ensure safety on our roads for all road users by the removal of wandering horses.
- The Annual Report also details all of the Meetings of the JPC and Sub-Committees which took place during 2013.

Cllr. Roche expressed his thanks to An Garda Síochána for their very valued contributions and to each Member of the JPC and Sub-Committees for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC. He also thanked the Council staff for the administration of the Committee and Sub-Committees, especially M.J. Walsh, K. Coyne and J. Brann. He also thanked the media and press for highlighting the public issues raised at JPC Meetings.

Cllr. Roche congratulated the new Chairperson of the JPC, Cllr. Noone and he wished him well in his role as Chairman.

Cllr. D. Connolly thanked Cllr. Roche for the Report and said that he hopes the introduction of CCTV cameras at strategic locations will deter people from dumping their rubbish illegally and he said that the Gardaí can play a positive role in this regard by investigating illegal dumping at night time when the Council's Community Wardens are off duty. He requested that this item be included on an agenda for a meeting of the JPC to allow for engagement with An Garda Síochána on the proposal.

Cllr. Cuddy also thanked Cllr. Roche for the Report and he welcomed the incoming Chairman, Cllr. Noone. He said that there is a problem as regards littering on roadsides and referenced the need to address the ongoing issue of burning of copper etc on the Headford Road, noting that same was occurring when Community Wardens were off duty. He referenced the need for a greater responsibility to be placed on metal companies and requested that action be taken to address the issue on the Headford Road as a priority.

Cllr. Cunniffe said that he hopes the Council will ensure that those who are identified on CCTV cameras dumping rubbish illegally are brought to court and fined appropriately.

The Mayor said that during his tenure as Mayor of the County of Galway he has travelled the length and breadth of the County and he is appalled at the level of littering on roadsides and in our towns and villages. He said that it is the responsibility of every citizen not to cause littering and not to dump rubbish illegally and to consider the impact of litter and dumping on the environment and the image it presents of the County including the impact on tourism and investment.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe, it was agreed that the Annual Report of the County Galway Joint Policing Committee be noted

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (SECTION 142) REGULATIONS 2010 – AS CIRCULATED. 1692

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

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, attendance at the Conferences as circulated, was authorized by the Council.

Councillors Conferences – Canvassing Tips 2014 – 3rd – 5th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands

Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr.'s Tim Broderick, Thomas Welby

Councillors Conferences – Political Reform 2014 – 10th – 12th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands

Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Eileen Mannion

Councillors Conferences – Credit Unions & the Rules Governing them – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands

Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22 – Fee: €95

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Ace Training – Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods – 7th – 9th February – Celtic Ross Hotel,

Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – Sport & Community Planning – 7th – 9th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford,

Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Michael Maher, Kevin Ryan

Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibility of Local Authorities WEEE – 14th –

16th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Superior Training – Seanad Reform & the Councillor – 20th – 22nd February – Millrace Hotel,

Bunclody, Co. Wexford – Fee: €120

Cllr.'s Tom McHugh, Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

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Clare Tourist Council – 25th Annual Tourism Conference – ‘Folklore – Heritage – Tourism’ – 21st – 22nd February – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare – Fee: €195

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 21st – 23rd February – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Managing Diversity in the Community – 28th February – 2nd March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Charities, Regulation & Legislation – 7th – 9th March – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

BG Seminarz – Pylons & Wind Farms, What’s the Law? – 7th – 9th March – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €140

Cllr. Seán Canney

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 - AS CIRCULATED. 1693

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, it was agreed to note the summary of proceedings at Conferences, as circulated.

Esperanza Enterprises – Improving Road Safety – Traffic Management – 20th – 21st December 2013 – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Celtic Conferences – Public Presentation & PR Management – 3rd – 5th January 2014 – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Fahy

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**Councillors Conferences – Canvassing Tips 2014 – 3rd – 5th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands
Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22**

Cllr.'s Tim Broderick, Thomas Welby

**Councillors Conferences – Political Reform 2014 – 10th – 12th January – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands
Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22**

Cllr. Mary Hoade

**Ace Training – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013 – 10th – 12th January – Four
Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

**Celtic Conferences – Employment Law – Mediation v Litigation – 10th – 12th January – Celtic Ross
Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes

**Councillors Conferences – Credit Unions & the Rules Governing them – Bewleys Hotel, Newlands
Cross, Naas Rd., Dublin 22**

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

**Celtic Conferences – Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication –
17th – 19th January – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**

Cllr. Michael Fahy

**Ace Training – Rural Housing - Planning & Development Design Guidelines – 17th – 19th January –
Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**

Cllr. Pat Hynes

**Celtic Conferences – Doing more with less – Managing Time & Productivity – 24th – 26th January –
Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**

Cllr. Michael Fahy

**Ace Training – Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities – 24th – 26th January – Four
Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**

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Cllr.'s Pat Hynes, Tomás Mannion

Monaghan County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2014 – 31st January – 1st February – Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Ace Training – Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland – 31st January – 2nd February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Ace Training – Waste Management Legislation – Responsibility of Local Authorities WEEE – 14th – 16th February – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Superior Training – Seanad Reform & the Councillor – 20th – 22nd February – Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ROADS PROGRAMME 2014.

1694

Report entitled Clár Bóithre 2014/Roads Programme 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Molloy presented the Draft Roads Programme 2014 to the Members.

Comh. Ó Laoi referenced the extent of environmental designations in Conamara and the impact of same on the region, socially, culturally and linguistically. He said that the State has let Conamara down, as development cannot take place because of the designations and there is no scientific evidence as to why 8,000 acres of land in Conamara were designated. He made the following proposal "that no further designations of infrastructure or areas be carried out in Conamara". This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the extension in the timelines for the maintenance cycle due to the continued reduction in funding and suggested that based on his experience and knowledge of the maintenance cycle for local roads, that in many instances the timelines far exceeded the timelines referenced. He stated that there was an urgent need for additional investment in the road network.

Cllr. McDonagh expressed his disappointment at the allocation for the Óran Mór Electoral Area, noting that the model for the allocation of funding, based solely on the length of road network within each Electoral Area, placed the Orammore Electoral Area at a significant

disadvantage as it failed to give any consideration to traffic volumes and the impact of same on the maintenance and improvement requirements of the network. He stated that the road network in the Oranmore Electoral Area included many of the main commuter routes to the City including the N84, N18, N17, R339 and R446 and due to the traffic volumes availing of same the maintenance requirements exceeded that of other routes and required that appropriate consideration be given to traffic volumes in the allocation of available funding. He requested that appropriate consideration be given to a revised model to address the significant under investment in the Oranmore Electoral Area in future years.

Cllr. Cuddy also expressed his disappointment with the allocation of funding for the County and Oranmore Electoral Area noting that it was totally inadequate to allow for urgent and necessary maintenance and improvement works to be undertaken. He noted that every Electoral Area was entitled to an appropriate and sufficient level of funding but that it was necessary to take traffic volumes into consideration in determining the allocation of funding. He noted that the current model was based on length of road and proceed to outlined a detailed analysis of the Draft Roads Programme noting the percentage allocation for the Oranmore Electoral Area under the various programmes. He stated that he was not in a position to support the Draft Programme as presented due to the inadequate level of funding. He also expressed disappointment with the continued delay on the part of the National Roads Authority in considering proposals for the amendment of speed limit by-laws, stating that it appeared to him that the NRA were answerable to anyone.

Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the need to provide an appropriate means of funding for non-public roads noting that in the absence of the Local Improvement Scheme no funding was currently available for such roads.

Cllr. Hoade expressed concern in relation to the reduction in funding for discretionary maintenance and the absence of an allocation for the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme, noting the valuable work undertaken under the scheme in partnership with local communities over many years, and referred to the need to restore the scheme. Cllr. Hoade also referenced the benefit of the Local Improvement Scheme, while welcoming the approach to providing additional and specific funding for local tertiary roads and highlighting the need to continue this specific funding for a number of years.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to Local Improvement Schemes and made the following proposal "This County Council proposes that a separate and specific funding be allocated by the Department of Transport for Local Improvement Schemes. This money is urgently required to upgrade local private roads where people who also pay property tax and would also be prepared to pay a percentage of the cost". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fahy, and agreed.

Comh. O'Curraoin referenced the extent of the reduction in funding for Regional and Local Roads over the period 2007 – 2014 and noted the value of the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme in allowing work to be undertaken in partnership with the community and landowners. He referred to the restrictions imposed on undertaking necessary road improvements and identifying route options for the R336 and alignment of the N59 due to environmental designations arising from EU Directives,

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highlighting what he termed the negative influence of Europe and the need for common sense to apply to allow necessary maintenance and improvements to be undertaken.

Cllr. Cunniffe welcomed the allocation of funding to allow for the implementation of the Tuam Traffic Management Plan. In reply to Cllr. Cunniffe, Mr. Molloy said that there is no funding available for new public lighting provision in 2014.

Cllr. T. Mannion welcomed the allocation of funding to address the longstanding need for maintenance to the bridge in Ballyforan and highlighted the need for the length of road to remain as an important consideration in determining the allocation of funding in the context of the predominantly rural nature of the County and the need for equity in the allocation of available funding.

Cllr. Fahy welcomed the inclusion of funding for works at Ardrahan, Peterswell and Monksfield and the allocation of funding for improvement works at Cregaclare Crossroads. He referred to the need for public lighting to be provided at the N18 junction at Labane and the importance of the LIS & CIS to allow for works to be undertaken at local level.

Cllr. Feeney complimented the Roads Section stating that the roads in County Galway are in a reasonable state, taking into account reduced funding in recent years. He agreed that there is a stark difference between the allocation for improvement works in the Óran Mór Electoral Area and the other areas and he said there should be some weighting towards areas of greater traffic and this should be looked at if funding increases. He also noted the approach to NOM funding in 2014 and referenced the need to restore the level of funding based on the increased membership of the Council in 2015, in order to allow meaningful works to be undertaken.

In reply to Cllr. Roche, Mr. Molloy said that the Council has received no indication that the Community Involvement Scheme will be revisited in 2014 by the Department. He said that the EU Co-Financed Scheme is no longer in place and said that in relation to the Low-Cost Accident Scheme, the Council submitted all schemes which had been proposed to the Department for approval.

Mr. Molloy replied that the system of distributing funds on the basis of length of road for the Regional and Local roads network has been in place for some time and has served the County well. He agreed with the Óran Mór Members' views that traffic is heavier in the Óran Mór Electoral Area due to its proximity to Galway City and he said that the system of distributing funds to the Electoral Areas in the future could be looked at in this context.

Cllr. McClearn and Cllr. Welby were joined by other Members in expressing concern and dissatisfaction with the approach of the NRA in undertaking bridge rehabilitation works and road improvements during 2013 in terms of timelines, delays and duration of work. Mr. Molloy replied that the Council has expressed dissatisfaction to the NRA regarding the disruption caused to traffic because of the delays associated with some work and intervened directly with the NRA to ensure that certain works proposed were rescheduled to minimize disruption during certain periods including works proposed to be undertaken on the N18 during Race Week.

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Cllr. Roche made the following proposal which he asked be sent to Minister Leo Varadkar "I propose that the Department re-instate the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme which was abandoned or altered in 2012. This Scheme brought positive and meaningful improvements for rural villages in conjunction with local members of the community". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion, and agreed.

Cllr. E. Mannion asked if a pedestrian crossing could be included in the proposed works on the N59 at Letterfrack, and Mr. Molloy said that the Council can try to get some discretion in this regard but it is unlikely that a pedestrian crossing will be provided.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Molloy confirmed that a security bond is held in respect of contracts for works which impact on roads either in the form of a Condition of Contract for major works or a deposit held in the processing of Road Opening Licences for minor works.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Molloy confirmed that all of the Members have contributed to the fund for school flashing lights. He also replied to Cllr. Broderick's suggestion that CCTV cameras should be provided at every exit off motorways as a crime prevention measure, stating that this would be a matter for the NRA and undertook to raise the matter with the NRA.

The Draft Roads Programme was proposed by Cllr. McClearn and seconded by Cllr. Maher. It was agreed to note Cllr. Cuddy's objection to the Draft Programme as presented.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND SCHEMES **1695**

Report dated 24th February 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Molloy presented the Update on the Programme of Flood Mitigation Works and Schemes to the Members.

The Report dealt with proposals at the following locations:

- Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme
- Clare River Flood Relief Scheme
- Kiltiernan/Ballinderreen Scheme
- OPW Non-Coastal Minor Works Flood Relief Schemes by Electoral Area.

Cllr. Willers welcomed the Report but she said that her experience over the previous two weeks was devastating due to flooding near to her house which necessitated her to move out of her home for the second time in a 5 year period. She acknowledged that the staff of the Gort Area Office had done all in their power to keep the road open. She said that since 1990 South Galway has been threatened by flooding from rising water in Turloughs which overflow onto adjacent roads and into nearby farmlands, sheds and homes. She said that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have continually put obstacles in the way of

schemes which Galway County Council and the OPW have tried to bring about in order to alleviate flooding in the region, for example the Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme. She said that local Dáil Deputies have tried to highlight the problems being caused by the NPWS with Government Ministers but the Government has ignored the issue. She said the ongoing hardship caused by flooding to homeowners and farmers in South Galway is intolerable and the problem needs to be solved. She referenced the constitutional right of the citizens of South Galway to remain in their homes and farm their lands without the constant threat of flooding, noting that the NPWS were acting to deny them this right and that the term 'cost benefit analysis' was being used as an excuse to explain why they have been abandoned. Cllr. Willers concluded her contribution to wide applause.

Cllr. G. Finnerty made the following proposal "Galway County Council request the OPW, in co-operation with the local community, to investigate the possibility of doing a flood relief measure from Cahermore Turlough to Dungaigue. This is the nearest point of access to the sea from South Galway, less than 2 miles. If a scheme on flood relief can work from Cahermore, it can become a template for future flood relief in South Galway". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Willers, and agreed.

A discussion took place with contributions from the Members in relation to the approach to flooding, the impact of environmental designations, the benefit of works completed to date, the need to advance further schemes without delay, the criteria applied in determining cost benefit, together with queries and reference to specific schemes and works including flooding in areas in North Galway and the Clare River Scheme.

Mr. Molloy replied to points raised by the Members as follows:

- He sympathised with Cllr. Willers on the distress caused to her and her family by the need to leave her home and he said he understands her frustrations as regards the flooding in her locality and in the Ardahan and Gort areas. He agreed with Cllr. Willers that the staff in the Gort office have been working very hard since Christmas to alleviate the hardship on the people of the area.
- He said that the Members raised a large number of issues which the Council does not have the capacity or the power to remedy, as the solution is multifaceted. He said that the situation is as outlined in the Update on the Programme of Flood Mitigation Works and Schemes as presented to the Members
- He said that the Council has a very good working relationship with the OPW and are in constant contact with them in order to alleviate the flooding issues in County Galway.
- He said that the Council will bring the issues raised by the Members at today's Meeting back to the OPW in order to get clarity but he said that the Members can contact the OPW directly also in order to clarify any issues with them as well as contacting the Council.

Cllr. Feeney made the following proposal "that this County Council calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to interpret the relevant European Directives in line with other E.U. states which would allow the repeated flooding in South Galway to be relieved in

order that daily life and business can continue in the affected areas". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McClearn, and agreed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1696

On the proposal of the Cllr. Maher seconded by Comh. O'Curraoin, it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the Meeting to continue after 6pm.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMISSION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS (CEDRA)

1697

The Mayor introduced Professor Cathal O'Donoghue, Head of Rural Economy & Development at Teagasc to the Members stating that the Professor would make a presentation to the Members regarding the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

Prof. O'Donoghue addressed the Members and made the Presentation. He said that the Minister for Environment, Communities and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, launched CEDRA in October 2012. The aim of the Commission is to carry out an extensive public consultation on the future economic potential of rural Ireland and how best to channel funding and resources between 2013 and 2025. It will thus aim to generate a jobs strategy for rural Ireland.

Having regard to the commitments on development contained in the Programme for Government, in particular the aim for the rural economy is:

- To encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development
- To be recognised as a modern, fair, socially inclusive and equal society supported by a productive and prosperous economy
- To facilitate where possible export led growth

He said the strategy of the Commission will:

- outline the key actions needed to ensure that rural areas, to the maximum extent will, contribute to and benefit from economic recovery
- identify ways in which rural areas can contribute to and benefit from national economic development strategies
- inform prioritisation made by Government and other stakeholders in implementing future actions

He concluded his Presentation by stating that the Commission's view is that Local Authorities have a very important role in the new structures for local economic development. He said that the Commission will publish its final document shortly.

A discussion then took place and Prof. O'Donoghue replied to issues raised by the Members as follows:

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- The message from CEDRA is that Development Plans into the future must focus on the provision of resources and infrastructure in areas where there is the most need and which face the greatest challenges.
- All Towns are not included in CEDRA's Report but Teagasc is working with farmers in order to improve on-farm and off-farm initiatives.
- In relation to the big increase in unemployment and emigration in Gort, he said that the town was over reliant on a transient population and Gort needs services to be focused on the town in order to reach its potential
- He agreed that the question of Commercial Rates is very topical
- He said that he would be happy to come back to the Members when the final Report of CEDRA is completed.

Cllr. G. Finnerty made the following proposal regarding rural post offices "I am calling on this Government to put an Action Plan in place confirming new business to our post office network all of which are on an existing computerized network. Secondly give An Post as a primary payment option on Department of Social Welfare payments and pensions – not letters to customers requesting bank details as first payment option. Finally take note of the Grant Thornton Report which clearly proves the Government could save up to €76.8m if motor tax, banking and hospital charges were payable through the post office". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hoade, and agreed.

The Mayor thanked Prof. O'Donoghue for his presentation. He referred to Oranmore and said that the reason Oranmore has not suffered from increased unemployment and emigration is that it has a strong Community Development Association who acted as a watch dog as regards the Oranmore Development Plan. The village and surrounds has a lot of high-class houses which attract high-earners to live in the area together with great facilities, a good road network and choice of schools and the proximity to Rinville Park and the Motorway, all contribute to an increase in population of Oranmore.

The Deputy County Manager also thanked Prof. O'Donoghue stating that the Report from CEDRA is very timely as Local Government Reform puts Local Authorities at the forefront for achieving a joined-up approach to economic development in local areas. He said that the information provided in the Report will be very helpful to the Council and will feed into our policies going forward.

Prof. O'Donoghue replied that he would be more than happy to work with the Council into the future in order to promote and enhance economic development, encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT

1698

Managers Report dated 24th February, 2014 was circulated to each Member.

The Deputy County Manager presented the Report to the Members and the Members noted the Report.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1699

The following items of correspondence which were circulated at the meeting:

- Correspondence dated 14th February 2014 from Donegal County Council adopting the resolution that "In light of the recent revelations regarding Irish Water, calling on the Government and the Minister for the Environment to disband Irish Water and revert back to the Status Quo of the service being delivered by Local Authorities."

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1700

The Mayor proposed that representatives from Comhairle na nÓg be invited to attend a Meeting of the Council in order to make a presentation to the Members on their organization. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Feeney and agreed.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to his earlier comments regarding illegal burning on the Headford Road and stated that he had been notified that since the commencement of today's Monthly Meeting, uncontrolled burning had been taking place again on the Headford Road. He emphasized that this problem requires urgent attention.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1701

The following reply was given:-

"There are no funds available to extend the footpath or widen this road at this location on the Tynagh Road, Portumna."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1702

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have already sought substantial funding in regards to the costs incurred in raising roads in this area and will be submitting a further submission based on the impact of the flooding on the residents and infrastructure of this area."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1703

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will assess the flooding issue at this location and provide potential solutions with a view to liaising with local landowners in an effort to address this flooding."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1704

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have for some time been trying to resolve this issue locally with the assistance of landowners and homeowners. However, to date Galway County Council have been unable to agree access and will now examine alternative ways of delivering on the completion of this drainage issue.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1705

The following reply was given:-

“The council had previously submitted a brief for the appointment of Consultants for a sewerage scheme in Clarinbridge to the Department of the Environment. No approval was received. Clarinbridge was also included in the overall proposals submitted to the Department of the Environment for the development of wastewater facilities to cater for the Eastern environs of Galway City. The council has not received any approval to advance on this scheme and it will now be a matter for consideration by Irish Water.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 19 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1706

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council have consulted the NRA previously on the resurfacing and improvements at this junction. To date no funding has been provided for the development of lighting at this junction. Galway County Council will again consult the NRA on this issue. However, limitations on funding will determine the level of works undertaken.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1707

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council will discuss the issues raised with the OPW. The OPW will advise if this scheme is suitable for consideration under the non coastal minor works flood schemes. Should this scheme be considered suitable for funding and implementation, Galway County Council will proceed to make an application to the OPW for funding.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1708

The following reply was given:-

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"Galway County Council will discuss this proposal with the NRA. However, funding for this proposal will have to be secured through the NRA. Any such funding will not be available during 2014 and will have to be considered in future years."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1709

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council consider this proposal worthwhile and will investigate the ways in which this proposal can be progressed. Galway County Council will have to discuss this proposal with both the NRA and the NPWS in light of previous discussions on the realignment of the main bridge. Should we be able to progress this with the relevant stakeholders, Galway County Council will then have to consider how funding can be acquired to provide the necessary infrastructure."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1710

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine this junction and the movement identified by Cllr. Welby. Galway County Council will discuss this issue with the NRA and explore the options for the putting in place of measures to improve the junction."

Criochnaigh and Cruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Signed + Approved

Adam Carroll

24th MARCH 2014

Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY, 2014 @ 11.00 am

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. S. Canney, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. Ó Laoi, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh & T. Welby.

Oifigigh:

M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. K. Kelly & J. Cullen Directors of Services; M. Raftery, A/Director of Service; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner, S. Kennedy, Senior Executive Planner, P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; M. Donohue, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

On the commencement of the meeting, it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed to adjourn the meeting to 11.30 am to allow for the attendance of the Members nominated to the Regional Health Forum.

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – 2021 AS PER SECTION 11(5)(A) AND (B) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) –
Report already circulated. **1684**

The Mayor advised that this Meeting was an important meeting for the Elected Members to determine where we are in the County and agree an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development for the functional area of the County of Galway.

Mr. Kelly said that this was an important Reserved function and acknowledged that the Members had already received and read the Draft Plan and said while the Draft Plan had a different look in terms of structure and text, it was by and large a continuation of the Policies and Objectives and balanced approach used in the existing Development Plan.

Mr. Kelly gave an overview of the timeline of the Plan process as follows: the Draft Plan to be prepared for public display within 2 weeks and the Draft Plan will be on public display for 10 weeks,

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following which the Manager's Report on the Draft Submissions must be circulated within 12 weeks to the Members for their consideration and further discussion.

Mr. Kelly invited Ms. McConnell to give an overview on the Draft Plan and Ms. Kennedy to provide a high level summary of each Chapter of the Draft Plan.

Ms. McConnell provided an introduction on the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 which outlined that the strategic direction of the Draft Plan was similar to the current Plan with an aim to protect the unique character and high quality environment of Galway with recognition of the Galway Gateway being an economic driver for the County. She said that the Plan would seek to foster strong and sustainable communities in our towns, villages and rural areas.

In respect of the Core Strategy, she said that the population targets were revised in line with National and Regional population figures and recognised Tuam as the Hub for Galway and Ballinasloe to be recognised as a commercial centre for the East of the County with the promotion of balanced development between urban and rural areas.

She said that the Draft Plan was supportive of enterprise and employment creation and would seek to build on the potential of our natural and clean environment by supporting tourism, recreation, walking and cycling routes and outdoor pursuit facilities. She advised that the Draft Plan would seek to address the needs of groups such as the aged, travelling community, people with disabilities and the Rural Housing Policy provisions would seek to continue an approach which limits development in areas of pressure, permits development generally in areas of decline and which seeks to facilitate genuine rural housing need in all areas.

In respect of Heritage and Culture, she said that the Draft Plan supports the development of Teach an Phiarsigh at Rosmuc as a major attraction and the Record of Protected Structures is extended to take account of the National Inventory and seeks to promote and preserve the Irish language and the Gaeltacht traditions.

Ms. McConnell said the Plan recognises the importance of infrastructure, and supports the provision of roads, water, wastewater, telecommunications and energy transmission infrastructure, including the Galway City Outer By-Pass as a priority project and a specific objective to complete the Galway Greenway and the Plan also addresses the issues of Environmental Protection, Flood Risk and Climate Change.

Ms. McConnell advised the Meeting of Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 which states that if a Member has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in any aspect before the meeting, he or she shall take no part in the discussion or consideration of the matter and shall refrain from voting and it would be normal for them to leave the meeting for that item.

Ms. McConnell further advised that under Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the Members should only consider 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 of any Minister of the Government.

Ms. Kennedy advised the Meeting that the Draft Plan was prepared in accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and this Draft was circulated to each Member in January to allow the Members to consider the Draft Plan so as to ensure that each Member is happy with the content of the Draft Plan before it goes on public display. She said that a small number of minor

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changes made to the Draft Plan since its circulation to the Members, was today circulated to the Members for their consideration.

Ms. Kennedy proceeded to provide a summary of the main points of each Chapter –

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapter 2 - Spatial Strategy, Core and Settlement Strategy

Chapter 3 - Urban and Rural Housing

Chapter 4 - Economic, Tourism and Retail Development

Chapter 5 - Roads and Transportation

Chapter 6 - Water, Wastewater, Waste Management and Extractive Industry

Chapter 7 - Energy/Renewable Energies & Communications Technology

Chapter 8 - Climate Change and Flooding

Chapter 9 - Heritage, Landscape and Environmental Management

Chapter 10 Cultural, Social and Community Development

Chapter 11 - Agriculture, Fishing, Marine Resources and Forestry

Chapter 12 - Implementation and Monitoring

Chapter 13 - Development Management Standards and Guidelines.

The Mayor complimented the Executive on the Draft Plan. In referencing the reduction in staff resources he sought assurances on the ability of the local authority to implement the Plan within the constraints of available resources. He also referred to the need for the Plan to facilitate for provision of appropriate flood defences and in reference to Page 52 of the Plan noted that with over 100 small villages and settlements were under threat a huge emphasis was needed going forward to lift some threat from these villages and settlements in rural areas.

Comh. O'Tuairisg welcomed the Rights-of-Way objective but asked to what extent they could be established or mapped due to it being a contentious issue often subject to litigation. He said that a Coastal Protection Plan is required. In respect of the R336, he said that some mechanism needs to be put in place to allow planning to proceed. He said that the Islands are unique and a special Island Programme, to include transport, piers, air service, coastal protection, should be put in place as a high percentage of the nations islands population is within our jurisdiction.

Comh. O'Cuiaig asked if Ross an Mhíl Harbour was included in the Draft Plan and explained that there was a Committee in place, reports undertaken and National funding agreed to develop this Harbour. He also said that a rural focus should be considered in the Draft Plan.

Cllr. Hynes complimented the Manager and staff involved in preparation of the Draft Plan and said that many changes had occurred since the Members adopted the current Development Plan. He referred to the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) Housing scheme and asked if changes could be made to same with regard to an approved client who was offered employment to still be eligible for the RAS scheme. He asked for consideration to be given to the improvement of the R446. In respect of flooding, he said that the Aggard stream should be cleaned and widened and the Council should also proceed with the Dunkellin Drainage Scheme. He said that consideration should be given to completing the 10k Loughrea Lakeshore Walk. He referred to the importance of solar energy suggesting that its potential be examined as part of the Plan review. He noted the support for the utilisation of farm agricultural buildings for agri-industry but grant support would be required with a view to creating jobs and employment. He asked if the refurbishment of Loughrea Town Hall could be considered as a multi-cultural centre for Loughrea and County Galway.

Cllr. Cuddy sought clarification on the definition of 'family' and proposed that nephew or niece be included in the definition as a family member which was seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

Cllr. Cuddy said that residential development with access onto a restricted road should be considered if there was no alternative and if sufficient sight lines are available. He expressed his concern that there was no provision for an airstrip of any type within the Draft Plan and said that an airstrip within the County should be included. He asked for clarification on the status of the 2010 Draft Operation Sludge Management Plan and if this was now under the remit of Irish Water.

Cllr. Fahy complimented the Director of Service and his staff on their work. He expressed his concern with regard to the flooding issue and said that the people of South Galway are again faced with an unimaginable situation as half of the Loughrea Electoral Area is currently under water. He said that the staff of the Council have done everything they possibly can to alleviate the situation but the current weather is hindering progress. He asked that it be included in this Draft Plan that the Irish Government and Europe work together to carry out works to release this water to the sea. With regard to Enurement Clauses, he asked if a homeowner could rent their house if they had this clause on their house. In respect of the Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), he noted one house in the Ardrahan area, occupied by the late Dr. Patrick Joyce who died recently, was included as a proposed addition. He asked for clarification if buildings, such as the Ardrahan Garda Station, the Old Castle Wall, Loughnane and Quinn Memorial Hall which were within the Ardrahan area were already on the RPS. He also asked if the Irish flag could be placed within the Council Chamber to commemorate 1916.

Cllr. Noone referred to the level of housing sites in the countryside and said that if the road is resurfaced, the house level is then lower than the road which can lead to flooding. He asked if it could be examined if house levels at construction be raised above road level to alleviate this.

Cllr. McDonagh complimented Mr. Kelly, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. McConnell and staff on the Draft Plan. He referred to Section 6.12 (Table 6.4) and proposed that Lackagh Sewerage Scheme be included as an objective in Draft Plan. This was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Cllr. T. Mannion expressed his concern with Ballinasloe Town losing its Urban Council status following the Local Elections in May and said that people need to be afforded the opportunity to make submissions on the Draft County Development Plan and asked for the timeframe of the review of the County Development Plan. He said that Ballinasloe fared very poorly in the National Spatial Strategy and Decentralisation and said that Ballinasloe Town is very important to East Galway and its hinterland. He asked that reference is made at 2.6.4 that Ballinasloe has a Marina and the town can be accessed by water. He said that consideration needs to be given to the weaker rural areas in the present economic environment and some leeway needs to be given to facilitate the start-up of family run businesses in rural areas as if people are required to set up only in settlement centres, this may lead to the abandonment of the enterprise due to increased financial costs. In respect of tourism, he said that many towns/villages in East Galway do not have coach parking facilities and these should be facilitated in the future. He asked for an update on the Ardaun Corridor and concurred with Cllr. Noone with regard to the building of houses in rural areas and flooding and said direction is needed in this regard. He asked if some reference should be made in the Draft Plan with regard to underground infrastructure for power as it is necessary that our power facilities are upgraded and said that the current power cuts being experienced by many homes is not only due to the wind but also overhead power lines. He also expressed his thanks to the Director of Planning and staff on the production of the Draft Plan.

Comh. O'Curraoin advised the meeting that a majority of the current flooding is manmade, due to non-drainage of land and rivers and streams not being cleaned, in addition to high tides. He said that many rivers and streams are overgrown with vegetation but European rules no longer allow

people to drain their land. He explained that local knowledge is very important when houses are being built in an area so one could advise on the location of culverts and drains on the site. He concurred with Cllr. T. Mannion and said that lay-bys' are required on roadways. He thanked the Manager and her staff for their work on the Draft Plan.

Comh. O'Laoi welcomed the Gaeltacht Policies and Objectives within the Draft Plan. He said that at a recent public meeting on Gaeltacht and Irish Language issues, it was said that the Irish language should be spoken more often in the Council Chamber. He explained that while he speaks as Gaeilge every day, he may have to speak in English in the Chamber in order to explain an issue or express his point of view to other Elected Members at the Council Meeting. He expressed his concern with the recent storm events and flooding and would like them to be considered in the Draft Plan. He complimented the Council workers, Council Engineers and Executive of Galway County Council who promptly visited the affected areas and who advised the Department of Environment (Roads and Marine) and the OPW of the areas and sites affected and damaged by the storms and flooding. He thanked Minister S. Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Minister L. Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, for the allocation of flood relief funds and for the funding secured to undertake works at Ros an Mhíl and the Causeway at Lettermore.

Cllr. Cunniffe welcomed the Rights-Of-Way objective but said that it was a very difficult and convoluted issue which is often only dealt with by the legal route. With regard to the RPS, he said that this was necessary but expressed his disappointment with the protection of heritage within Tuam with Millers Cottage destroyed and other items, all of regional significant which are now gone. He said that there were two competing forces within the County Council, the need for economic development and the need to protect our built heritage. He said that while economic development has to go ahead and everyone wants sustainable planning, Heritage is equally important in order to improve and enhance the enjoyment of an area and encourage people into an area. He suggested that the Heritage Officers should report directly to the Department of Environment as it would have both a National and local viewpoint. With regard to Digesters, he said that there should be a clear Plan put in place outlining where Digesters should be placed. He said that he had undertaken research on this area and Digesters can cause terrible foul smells and should not be sited in an urban area or on the cusp of an urban area. He said that in spite of Tuam being a Hub town, he felt that it was not included as part of a Regional Plan and received limited funding and was unable to apply for Galway Rural Development Funding due to the title of 'Hub town'. He referred to the Tuam to Claremorris railway line and said that it was not a matter of the Railway competing with the Greenway but that it was extremely unlikely that capital investment would be given for the railway based on a recent Government report. He advised the Meeting that whilst the road is currently in poor condition that when the new Motorway is built, this would lessen the priority for the Tuam – Claremorris Railway and hence the railway line should be considered favourably as a Greenway. He said that Greenways are a tourist phenomenon and he proposed that the possibility of using the Railway line as a Recreational Facility like a Greenway not be ruled out of the Draft Plan. This was seconded by Comh. O'Cuaig.

Cllr. Cunniffe in reply to a contribution from Cllr. Feeney noting that Tuam had received over €2 million in funding in recent years to allow valuable and worthwhile projects to be undertaken including improvements in the built environment, facilities and amenities, energy efficiencies and enhanced facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, stated that he was aware of the investment and projects referenced but that opportunities were lost to avail of other funding sources due to the hub status and that while waiting from the big projects the town missed out on a lot of small projects.

Cllr. Canney in referring to the contribution by Cllr. Cunniffe advised the Meeting that Tuam was 'alive and well' and said that funding of €2.8 m was received as it was a Hub town which allowed the

'Walking and Cycling Strategy' to be put in place and that it was important to communicate a positive message about the town while seeking to maximise funding opportunities.

Cllr. Cunniffe at the request of the Mayor agreed to withdraw his comment directed at Cllr. Canney relating to a conflict of interest during the course of their exchange on funding and the approach to development in Tuam.

The Mayor also referenced the investment of over €30 million in delivering the Tuam Main Drainage Scheme and the importance of this scale of investment and the standard of infrastructure available to the town to attract further investment and facilitate development.

Cllr. Feeney advised the Meeting that Cllr. Willers could not attend the Meeting as she had to move out of her house due to flooding and he said that flooding is now a recurring crisis and a comprehensive Plan is needed long-term to mitigate the worst effects of flooding on an ongoing basis. He referred to what was referenced as a 1 in 100 year event in 1987 and in 1990 and a 1 in 500 year event in 2009. He said this is now a regular occurrence and the coastal flooding experienced was also incredible. He said we need to examine our own Local Authority planning of the past and play a responsible role with regard to flooding and a comprehensive Flood Mitigation Plan is need to underpin the County Development Plan. He said that the Flood Plan could examine the micro-management of flood waters as if changes are made to the landscape (by filling up swallow holes etc), then a backlash is received with flooding so we need to put our own safeguards in place. With regard to rural enterprise, he said that we are focused on serving the rural area but we need to support anything that delivers a job. He said that asking people to move into villages and towns is adding another hurdle in their way and all enterprise should be allowed in a rural area. He said support needs to be given to every type of enterprise which is much more sustainable. He said that our Town Centres are dying and this should be the Council's main focus for the next five years and that support is required from the DoEHLG. He said that the West Regional Authority has compiled a Small Towns Strategy and this is welcomed. He expressed his concern with parking charges and said that free parking needs to be examined. He said that paid parking was initially introduced to keep traffic moving but it is now more a revenue raising mechanism. He also said that Rates was an issue and a three tier system should be considered: 1. For big shops/industries, 2. Medium size businesses and 3. Small shops/services who should be charged a low rate as they are trying to provide a service. He suggested that these tiers could be based on either square footage of the business and /or turnover. He suggested that in order to encourage development into Town Centres, that development charges could be waived/lowered and that the Residential Property Tax be varied for people living on the Main Streets as there is very few people living on the Main Streets of our towns anymore. With regard to the finished floor level of houses being raised, he said that our roads are awash with runoff water and he said that consideration should be given at planning permission stage to include that a soak-way be constructed between the set back area from the edge of the road and the road. He complimented the Draft Plan and said that it was a very clear Plan, was very user-friendly and the focus is clear.

Cllr. Canney proposed that the Corofin Sewerage Scheme be added to the list of Sewerage Schemes that would be completed within the life of the Plan as An Bord Pleanála have advised that a Waste Water Treatment Plant is required before more development can be put in place. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hoade. He asked that the criteria for Masts and Pylons and their distance from residential development be located at least 250m more than what is presently allowed. He concurred with Cllr. Feeney with regard to soakways and consideration needs to be given to the inclusion of a condition that lay-by's outside houses use a surface that can drain/soak water rather than resist water like tarmac. He was supported in this view by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Cllr. M. Finnerty welcomed the title County Town for Ballinasloe. He expressed his disappointment with the movement of beds from St. Brigid's Hospital to Galway City Hospital and said that it is likely that St. Brigid's Hospital would be closed before the County Development Plan was adopted. He noted that there was a mis-spelling on Page 27 (Section 26.4). He advised the meeting that number of septic tank inspections had taken place around Baile na hAbhainn and all had passed the test.

Cllr. T. Walsh asked if clarification could be given to the people of Glenamaddy to put them at ease with regard to the safety of the drinking water of Glenamaddy. He said that Glenamaddy water had made National headlines with the word 'potential' to contaminate being used and this has caused huge concern to the people of Glenamaddy. He explained that there was no danger to the public water supply and there has been very seldom a boiled water notice in place in Glenamaddy. He also expressed his concern with the decline of small towns and villages.

In reply to Cllr. T. Walsh, Mr. Cullen said that the national coverage seemed to suggest that there was a threat to the water quality in Glenamaddy but he confirmed to the Meeting that there was no threat and that the water was of very high quality and with no non-compliance for a very considerable length of time. He said that the requirement for an upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant was also highlighted and the Council would continue to work with Irish Water to obtain the Upgrade to this Waste Water Treatment Plan that was so urgently required.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for 30 minutes at 1.30 pm and the meeting resumed at 2.00 pm.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the inclusion of the Irish language objectives and said that it was important that Ballinasloe is identified as a County Town as it has great potential to facilitate economic growth. He concurred with Cllr. Cuddy's proposal with regard to the airstrip. He suggested that the undertaking of a feasibility study and said that land outside of the city where land may be cheaper should be considered as a possible site, similar to Barcelona. With regard to Town Centres, he said that the Council had a huge remit to make them attractive again and concurred with Cllr. Feeney that development charges should be reduced. He said that the development of the large out of town Retail Centres had been to the detriment of Town Centres.

Cllr. Hoade sought clarification on the Draft Plan timeframe and asked if the Draft Plan could be on display in the libraries so as it would be accessible to all communities at large. She said she supported the other Members regarding the need for a comprehensive Plan on flooding. In respect of Rural Enterprise, she said that this needs to be examined more closely to promote areas where jobs can be created or where jobs already exist in rural areas and said small towns who are in decline needs to be supported. She expressed her concern with regard to the current Enurement clauses and asked for some flexibility to be considered.

Cllr. McHugh made reference to the Urban and Rural Housing Chapter and said that there would be a housing crisis in the County in a short period of time due to no construction in the past 6 years. He said there were many people currently living in apartments and 3 bedroom houses who would like to upgrade to larger 4 bedroom houses with secure gardens in urban areas. He said there would also be pressure on rural housing and said that the Plan would need to ensure that any housing demand in the coming years can be met.

Cllr. G. Finnerty said that the flooding was a serious issue in Gort and he referred to Section 4.12.4 where Galway County Council is exploring with Fáilte Ireland the re-instatement of Thoor Ballylee and he said that currently Thoor Ballylee is under 8ft of water. He expressed concern with regard to planning permissions granted where houses are now flooded, for example, Ann Flanagan's house in Skehana. He said that Gort is 'dying on its feet' as most of the shops units are vacant in the town.

He referred to Section 4.18 Retail Diversity and expressed the view that there cannot be a second town with a major retailer and other services along with it. He said that if a shop moves to the outskirts of town it should only be that shop and it should not have pop up shops inside it. With regard to Section 4.19 Local Shops & Services, he said that the local shop was almost gone, and that there was no co-ordination with retail signage in the town and this was taking from the heritage of the town. He asked for an update on the Gort Regional Water Scheme which was priced at €35m in 2000. He said while works have been undertaken on Water Treatment Systems, there are a number of GWS's that would like to be taken over. He also said that there was a sewerage problem in Gort and this needs to be examined.

Cllr. E. Mannion asked if a Coastal Study could be included in the Plan due to the recent storm damage. In respect of Tourism Infrastructure and Fáilte Ireland's investment on signage through the Wild Atlantic Way initiative, she said that toilet facilities are required on our beaches and bus shelters are required in the Connemara area. She expressed her concern with the environmental designations' and said that Connemara is now over 80% designated and the precautionary principle is applied to an area within a SAC in terms of planning. She proposed that an Objective be included in the Draft Plan as follows:

"that GCC (Galway County Council) engage with the National Parks and Wildlife to ensure Integrated Management Plans are prepared for all Natura sites to ensure that Plans are fully integrated with all land use and water management plans in the County, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable, and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard for local communities". This proposal was seconded by Comh. S. O'Laoi, and agreed.

Cllr. Welby asked if the Council would be notifying the owners of the Protected Structures that are listed in the Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and when the notification would be issued. He also questioned the large number of bridges in the RPS and asked if this would cause problems for the Council if any upgrading works had to take place on them. In relation to the Leader programme which promotes rural development and which the Council would be taking over going forward, he said that co-ordination would be required where Groups approved for Leader funding are refused planning permission. He acknowledged the objective in relation to the Elderly and said the Plan needs to be elderly focused and buildings need to be more user-friendly and efficient. He asked that consideration be given to the treatment of our Archives in the Plan which are huge assets in relation to information and are part of our heritage. In respect of the R336, he said that there was no buy-in from the community and it was a serious issue for all the Members and this issue needs urgently to be addressed. He said that consideration could be given instead to the upgrade of the An Spidéal to Maigh Cuillinn. He concurred with Comh. O'Cuaig in that Ros an Mhíl Harbour should be considered for development as it has no environmental designations unlike the Galway Harbour. He said that Ros an Mhíl could be a central hub. In relation to EPA testing, he said that Galway County Council should only allow qualified EPA Assessors to do these tests, similar to Galway City, Clare and Mayo County Councils. He said that some reference should be made to Group Sewerage Schemes in the Draft Plan as these would work well for clean water systems. In relation to Rights-of-Ways, he said he hoped that something could be done as this would be beneficial to the Council as a whole. He sought clarification on Objective RHO1 2(b) – Rural Housing Zone 1 - as to whether it referred to the person with a disability or the person and his/her family as in the current Plan. In respect of RHO4 – Rural Housing Zone 4 (Gaeltacht), he sought clarification on the 15 year Language Enurement Clause when other enurement clauses were 7 years and in respect of RHO7 – Renovation of existing derelict dwellings/semi ruinous dwelling, he asked for clarification on the wording 'majority of its original features/walls in place' as to whether this meant 51% or 99% of the walls and said this was restrictive. Cllr. Welby also referred to the payment of Rates within

the County and stated that some businesses are paying substantial rates and receive nothing in return in terms of services such as lighting, water, and sanitary services. He said that rates should be linked to the services received and this topic should be considered at a National level. With regard to the new Building Control Regulations due to take effect from 1st March 2014, he said that there was limited information available on the execution of these Regulations and asked if there was a list of Chartered Architects and Engineers available. He said that while the idea behind these Regulations was good, they could increase building costs by up to €15,000.

Cllr. M. Connolly expressed his trepidation with the new Building Regulations and said that the increased costs of up to 20% extra, as certification will be required at different stages, will be borne by the client. He said that the Minister needs to delay the introduction as there is varying information available. He said that one is subjected to too much rigour already with AA (Appropriate Assessment), EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and now the Building Regulations. He said while the intention is good for better building standards and better quality building, further debate on the matter is required. He referred to the number of Environmental Regulations quoted in the Plan and said that it was near impossible to undertake any works. He referred to DM Standard 41 – Field Patterns, Stone Walls, Trees and Hedgerows and referred to AEOS (Agri-Environment Options Scheme), a new agri-scheme where one farms in an environmentally friendly way and said if a farmer plants trees etc on his farm, this is at variance with the Department of Agriculture's Area Aid finance rules. He explained also that ordinary individuals cannot cut turf yet Bórd na Móna and/or other state agencies can cut trenches on bogs and do what they wish and he asked if this was against environmental directives. He said that his understanding was that land acquired on bogs by CPO for a reason has to be used for that reason or else it should go back to the owner.

Cllr. Cuddy concurred with Cllr. Noone with regard to water flowing into low lying houses. He expressed his concern that the Roads Section no longer open water tables and this is a major cause of the flooding problems and the deterioration of our roads. He said that roads are being resurfaced and raised at such a level that is causing water to flow into the driveways of houses which have been built in accordance with planning. He advised the Meeting that European legislation can stop any flood works being undertaken if the area is within an SAC. He explained that approval was obtained from Minister, B. Howlin, Public Expenditure and Reform, for flood works in Claregalway/Carnmore and he hoped that these works would finally go ahead. He said that Clarenbridge was listed on the Water Services Programme but was dropped off the list for some reason. He said that Play areas were necessary in each Village and Town as residents had paid considerable levies and nothing has been done despite repeated representations being made. He also said that no large estate should be built without age friendly houses and wheelchair accessible being made available and also commercial buildings should be disabled approved.

In reply to the Members, Mr. Kelly said that he would address the issues directly related to the Draft County Development Plan.

With regard to the Infrastructural projects, Mr. Kelly said that these would be dealt with by (a) general objectives supporting a wide range of Infrastructural projects and (b) approved Schemes or those in progress are included in different lists within the Draft Plan. He said that the specific water and sewerage schemes raised by the Members are already covered in the general objectives and there is no requirement to list them individually as this will not move them up the ranking. In addition, he said that the East Galway Water Treatment Plant is mentioned and supported in the Draft Plan.