

Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held on 16th December 2013

a wide variety of responsibilities some of which were statutory- these included not only the planning function but community and enterprise, economic development, social inclusion, heritage and conservation, registration of quarries, unfinished housing estates, the taking in charge function, review of the county development plan, strategic environmental assessments and the publication of local area plans for all towns in excess of 1,500 population. He confirmed that the staff levels in the planning department had reduced by 50% during the past few years and that each specific item on the budget was subject to specific analysis.

Cllr. McClearn stated that a budget of €122 million represented a lot of economic activity for the county. He advised that while there was no increase in the commercial rate there was a requirement for more flexibility in the rating system which required legislation by the government. He stated that the technical group did not agree with the proposals submitted by the Head of Finance in regard to the required adjustments to fund the €202,000 deficit. He advised that the election of 9 extra councillors in 2014 would involve additional expenditure of €97,650 by the Council.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND DRAFT BUDGET **1652**

It was proposed by Cllr. Noone, seconded by Cllr. Hoade to amend the draft budget for 2014 as follows:

1. To reduce the provision for local representation/civic leadership in Service H0904 Expenses LA Members by €2,350 and increase the provision for Community Sport and Recreational Development in Service F0401 Community Grants.
2. If he is returned following the 2014 Local Elections to further reduce the provision for local representation/civic leadership in service H0904 Expenses LA Members by a further €1,808 and increase the provision for Community Sport and Recreational Development in Service F0401 Community Grants.

The total impact of same will be to transfer €4,158 from the Councillor's Conference allocation, in two tranches, to the provision of Community Grants in order to facilitate the Council providing a grant to Claregalway burial ground and the Abbey Restoration Committee, subject to the normal requirements pertaining to community grants.

The motion was agreed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS **1653**

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, it was agreed to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the Meeting to continue after 6pm.

It was proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr McDonagh and agreed to amend the draft budget for 2014 as follows:

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A reduction in income in C0101 of 113,734
 That in relation to notice of motion allocations that on 01 January a sum of €1,500 per councillor be allocated to the schools flashing light s programme, that 50% of the balance i.e. €8,500 is to be allocated before the end of June 2014 and the balance to be divided equally amongst the incoming 39 councillors. 12,806

A reduction in expenditure in C0299 of 14,354
 That in relation to conference allocations of €4,700 per Councillor that 50% is to be spent before the 30th June with the balance to be divided equally amongst the incoming 39 councillors. 17,018

An increase in expenditure in C0401 of 10,743
 That in order to achieve a balanced budget that the following adjustments be made:

A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service A0101	50,000
A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service A0902	25,000
A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service D0101	25,000
A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service G0101	25,000
A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service E1101	30,000
A reduction in expenditure in Sub Service E1301	12,419
An increase in income in Sub Service H1101	35,479
An increase in income in Sub Service E1101	6,705
An increase in expenditure in Sub Service E1101	30,000
An increase in expenditure in Sub Service F0401	10,000

An adjustment of 500 to the net effective valuation, relating to the valuation of water services infrastructure, to deliver an additional income of €33,295 with €30,000 of the additional income to be allocated to facilitate the Council in advancing the selection of a suitable site or a suitable existing building to accommodate a retained fire station in An Cheathrú Rua/Casla area and with the balance of €3,295 to be allocated to Galway Mountain Rescue together with a further €6,705 to be generated from greater efficiencies in the operation of the Fire Service.

This is a total net adjustment of €202,898.

Arising from discussions with Irish Water the following necessary amendments to draft budget proposals were also agreed:

A reduction in expenditure in C0101 of	124,695
A reduction in income in C0101 of	124,695
An increase in expenditure in C0601of	124,695
An increase in income in C0601 of	124,695
A reduction in expenditure in C0199 of	113,734
A reduction in expenditure in C0299 of	5,000
A reduction in expenditure in C0301 of	28,531

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A reduction in income in C0101 of	113,734
A reduction in income in C0201 of	5,000
A reduction in income in C0301 of	28,531
A reduction in expenditure in C0199 of	12,806
A reduction in expenditure in C0299 of	14,954
A reduction in income in C0101 of	12,806
A reduction in income in C0299 of	14,954
An increase in expenditure in E0701 of	17,018
An increase in expenditure in G0401 of	10,742

ADOPTION OF BUDGET 2014 **1654**

It was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed that Galway County Council adopt the draft budget as amended for the financial year 2014.

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE OF VALUATION OF 2014 **1655**

It was proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr Maher and agreed
"That Galway County Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget adopted, of the rate on valuation to be levied for the financial year ending 31st of December 2014".

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME OUTTURN FOR 2014 **1656**

It was proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr McDonagh and agreed
"To pass a resolution to approve the estimated outturns for 2013.

REPORT ON THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME **1657**

It was unanimously agreed to note the Report on the Three Year Capital Programme.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014 **1658**

It was unanimously agreed to note the Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

The elected members of the Conamara Area expressed their appreciation for the support of their colleagues in regard to the provision of €30,000 for a feasibility study for a Fire Station in South Conamara.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his appreciation to the Members for the allocation of funding to support Galway Mountain Rescue.

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The County Manager, in response to concerns expressed by Cllr. M. Connolly in relation to any proposals for the reconfiguration of the Fire Service, confirmed that the adoption of the Fire Service Plan and any amendment thereof was a reserved function.

It was proposed by Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh and agreed to recommend consideration of an earlier closing date for applications for community grants, to allow for a later allocation of any initial grant funding not drawn down.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Co Manager and the staff for the preparation of the 2014 Budget and wished the elected members and staff a Happy Christmas and a bright New Year.

The County Manager thanked the Mayor and the Elected Members for adopting the Budget for 2014. She noted that this was the last budget adopted by the current Council and advised that a lot of progress was achieved through the cooperation of the elected members and staff.

The Mayor, the Manager and the elected members congratulated Eugene Cummins, DOS on his appointment as County Manager in Monaghan and paid tribute to him in regard to his role with Galway County Council. Mr. Cummins acknowledged the contributions of the Mayor, Manager and Members and thanked them for their valuable support during his time with Galway County Council.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin

Submitted, Signed + Approved

Liam Carroll

27th January 2014

Date

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER, 2013 & 2.00 PM

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, E. Cummins Directors of Service; L. Gavin, A/Director of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer; P. Ó Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1633

The Mayor proposed that the Meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Therese Hoade mother of Cllr. Mary Hoade who passed away recently. The Mayor and Members expressed their condolences to Mary and the Hoade family, noting that Mrs. Hoade's passing was a great loss to her daughter Mary and all of her family.

The Manager offered her condolences to Cllr. Hoade and her family on the death of their beloved mother, on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council. She said that Mrs. Hoade had been a great support to Mary in her political and family life.

Cllr. Hoade thanked the Members and Officials for their kind words of sympathy and for their support at this sad time.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Linda Catchpole, Carnmore, Oranmore
- Pat McCartan, Carnmore, Oranmore.
- The Curtin Family, Newtownlynch, Kinvara.

- Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Mitchell, Liscune, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe.
- Mrs. Madden, Kylemore, Conamara.
- Chris O'Connor, Rockfield, Moyard.
- Tony Joyce, Cregg, Lettermullen.
- Ann Flaherty, Trá Bháin, Leitir Móir.
- Colm Beatty, Lettermore.
- Pdraigh Folan (Tom) Leic, Leitir Móir.
- Manus Ó Conghaile, Aille, Indreabhán.

The Meeting was adjourned and was reconvened after 10 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Therese Hoade.

The Mayor was joined by the Members in extended congratulations to Muintir Oileán Inis Oirr on winning the LivCom International Award for Liveable Communities and a further award for its best practice in promoting and sustaining healthy lifestyles at the award ceremony which took place in Xiamen, PR China in 2013.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg said that it was a terrific achievement for Oileán Inis Oirr to win such awards taking into account that the Island is a community of under 300 people and he said that it shows how proactive Island communities can be and he extended his congratulations to all involved. He said that the issue of air transport to the Islands is a worry and he asked all of the Members to support the continuation of air transport to the Islands.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1634

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 25th November, 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor, on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn.

Arising from the Minutes, Comh. Ó Laoi referred to the Report of the Galway City & Western Environs Fire Review Group & Options Appraisal of the future provision of Fire Services for the Western Environs which was presented to the Members by Mr. Cummins at the November Monthly Meeting. Cllr. Ó Laoi proposed "that €30,000 be set aside in the Budget to facilitate the Council in advancing the selection of a suitable site or a suitable existing building to accommodate a retained fire station in An Cheathrú Rua/Casla area." This proposal was seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion, and agreed.

Arising from a discussion on the motion, Cllr. T. Broderick expressed concern at the approach of seeking to determine funding priorities and the allocation of funding in the absence of notification of the Local Government Fund allocation and certainty in relation to available funding for 2014 and indicated that he was not in agreement with the motion.

The County Manager in reply to comments and questions on the matter confirmed that the draft Budget, as circulated to the Members, did not provide for any addition to the existing fire service for South Conamara and accordingly it would be necessary to consider the motion at the Budget Meeting in the context of budget proposals and available resources.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Cunniffe referred to the Report on the Taking in Charge of Housing Estates. He said that Residents Associations feel very disheartened that their estates are not taken in charge and many feel that the Council should give more resources to taking in charge of housing estates. He also proposed that as an interim measure that the public lighting in such housing estates be taken in charge by the Council pending the completion of the process for taking in charge the full estate.

Mr. Kelly said that it is recognized in the Report circulated at the November Monthly Meeting that it will take time to complete the work which is outstanding in unfinished housing estates. He said it remains the responsibility of the developers to complete the works and the Council could not expect the taxpayer to foot the bill for same. He said that he does not believe that current legislation would allow the Council to take on board Cllr. Cunniffe's proposal. He said that the Council is making a lot of progress with developers and he feels that the approach being taken by the Council is the correct one.

Cllr. Cunniffe said that the taking in charge of parts of estates can be done as it has happened previously. He said that it will take too long to get all estates to a stage where they can be taken in charge and he said that the Council should put more staffing resources in place to deal with this issue.

Cllr. Roche supported Cllr. Cunniffe on the issue of public lighting in housing estates and he said that it is unfair that residents of housing estates are liable for public lighting charges.

Cllr. McClearn said that it must be recognized that the Council made great progress during 2013 as regards the taking in charge of housing estates. He also outlined that a small number of estates existed with no public lighting due to the absence of a condition of planning requiring the provision of same and that this was a matter that would require attention by the Council at some stage.

Mr. Kelly stated that adequate staffing resources are in place to deal with unfinished estates and he feels that there will be a positive outcome in this regard.

Cllr. Hynes asked that where residents of housing estates request the Council to take the estate in charge and where there is no bond in place, the matter should be addressed at Planning SPC Meetings or by the Corporate Policy Group.

The Conamara Area Members raised the issue of Seanapheisteen Bridge and expressed their concern regarding the impact of the weight restrictions on the bridge of 1 ½ tonne and the hardship to local residents arising from same.

Mr. Gavin replied that the Council intends to replace the bridge and this will entail going through the formal planning process which will take at least three months to complete. However, he said that the weight restriction will be examined and if it can be increased, taking into account safety, this will be considered.

In reply to Comh. Ó Cuaig, Mr. Gavin said that the Council would have no problem in releasing the Engineers Report regarding the bridge.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy who referred to his Notice of Motion regarding a bridge requiring repair at Peterswell requesting that the Council secure emergency funding from the OPW to carry out necessary repairs to the bridge, Mr. Gavin said that it would be necessary to establish the status of the bridge and would revert to Cllr. Fahy on the matter.

Cllr. G. Finnerty referred to Notice of Motion No. 30 on the Minutes and proposed "that Galway County Council invite the various interest groups who represent rural areas and in particular deal with rural decline i.e. CEDRA etc. to give a presentation on their works and findings, and solutions if any, to rural decline and particular reference would be made to a Small Towns Study carried out by the Western Regional Authority in 2011". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Fahy, and agreed.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Cllr. Gavin said that no formal notification has been received by the Council regarding the proposed new approach to changing the speed limits on local roads and this is awaited.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to his Notice of Motion on the Minutes regarding Galway Mountain Rescue Service and said that it is vital that the Council make provision in the Budget 2014 towards providing some funding to this important service.

The Manager replied that the draft budget provided for funding for community grants as per previous years and it was a matter for the Members to decide on a different approach to the allocation of same, if they so wished, in determining the Budget for 2014.

Cllr. D. Connolly proposed that "a Vote of Sympathy be extended to the Ambassador to South Africa on the passing of Nelson Mandela, an iconic world figure, on behalf of Galway County Council". This proposal was seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, and agreed.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked if there was any progress regarding the problems of debris causing blockages in the River Suck and Mr. Gavin replied that the Council has forwarded a report in this regard to the River Suck Joint Drainage Committee as it is their responsibility to deal with any issues on the River Suck. He said he is aware that some works have been carried out to alleviate blockages on the river and the Council will revert to the Committee to determine what further works are proposed.

In reply to Cllr. T. Broderick, the Manager said the Council has not yet received details of the Local Government Fund allocation but it is expected shortly.

She also confirmed that some progress has been made regarding the deficit in funding from the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht towards the capital balance arising from the development of Inis Mór and Inis Meain Piers projects by the Council on behalf of the Council, advising that the Department has agreed to provide an initial contribution towards the deficit by the end of the year.

Mr. Gavin in reply to Cllr. Broderick confirmed that traffic/speed counters would be put in place during the week on the N63 in Ballygar.

Cllr. Canney proposed that in the absence of the Local Government Fund allocation details and until such time as the funding for the Inis Mór and Inis Meain Piers is received, the Budget Meeting be deferred.

The Manager replied that it is her view that the Budget Meeting should go ahead as arranged on the 16th December, 2013 and if clarification is not received from the Department by then, the Members can defer the Meeting for 21 days.

Cllr. Canney referred to the Item in the Minutes regarding the Presentation from West-on-Track on their submission to the Committee on Petitions. He made the following proposal "that Galway County Council propose that the Minister for Transport make a submission to the EU for TEN-T CORE funding to support the concept of the Western Arc to include the West/North West Region in Ireland's CORE Network". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, and agreed.

Cllr. Welby made the following proposal "that Galway County Council call on An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D., to create a Ministry of State for the position of Rural Affairs to deal specifically with Rural Regeneration". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Broderick, and agreed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1635

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that he wished to make a correction to an Item in the Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd October 2013. The Mayor stated that any correction to the Report would have to be agreed by the Tuam Area Committee and brought back to the full Council for consideration. It was therefore agreed to defer consideration and adoption of the Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 2nd October, 2013.

Comh. Ó Cuaig stated that he wished to make a correction to an Item in the Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural SPC Meeting held on 23rd September 2013. The Mayor stated that any correction to the Report would have to be agreed by the Corporate Affairs & Cultural SPC and brought back to the full Council for consideration. It was therefore agreed to defer consideration and adoption of the Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural SPC Meeting held on 23rd September 2013.

The Report of the Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 26th June, 2013 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Comh. Ó Curraoin, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe.

The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on 11th September, 2013 was approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy seconded by Cllr. Willers.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0011 HECTARES AT ST. BRIDGET'S ROAD, PORTUMNA, CO. GALWAY

1636

Statutory Notice dated the 14th November 2013 was already circulated to each Member in accordance with statutory timeframe and Report dated 22nd November, 2013 was also circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. M. Finnerty, the disposal of 0.0011 hectares of land at St. Bridget's Road, Portumna, to E.S.B., Networks in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice dated 14th November 2013 was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.012 HECTARES AT TOWNPARKS, TUAM, CO. GALWAY

1637

Statutory Notice dated 25th November was already circulated to each Member in accordance with statutory timeframe and Report dated 25nd November, 2013 was also circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe, the disposal of 0.012 hectares of land at Townparks, Tuam, to the Office of Public Works, in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice dated 25th November 2013 was agreed.

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

1638

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

Report was already circulated to each Member.

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

BG Seminarz – Rural Crime Prevention & Detection – 2nd – 4th August 2013 – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €150

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

BG Seminarz – European Convention on Human Rights – 16th – 18th August 2013 – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Irish Centre for European Law – Implementation & Enforcement of EU Environmental Legislation – 8th November 2013 – Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2 – Fee: €240

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Loughrea Memorial Group – Aspect's of Galway's Military History & Private John Oliver's Remembrance Weekend – 8th – 10th November 2013 – Loughrea, Co. Galway – Fee: €100

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi, Cllr.'s Michael Maher, Jimmy McClearn, Mary Hoade, Bridie Willers, Liam Carroll, Thomas Welby, Kevin Ryan, Peter Roche, Tim Broderick, Eileen Mannion, Dermot Connolly

Teagasc – Future Weather / Future Farming – 5th December 2013 – Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin – Fee: €0

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

Kadenza Consultancies – Changing trends & approaches to drug & alcohol abuse – 6th – 8th December 2013 – Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary – Fee: €145

Cllr. Michael Connolly

Ace Training – Local Authority Employment Law, Practice & Procedure – 6th – 8th December 2013 – Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Eileen Mannion, Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2014 – 13th – 15th December 2013 – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Celtic Conferences – Microsoft Excel Training for Councillors – 20th – 22nd December 2013 –

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Peter Roche

Celtic Conferences – Public Presentation & PR Management – 3rd – 5th January 2014 –

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Ace Training – 2014 European Elections Information Seminar – 3rd – 5th January 2014 –

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

Cllr. Michael Maher

Ace Training – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013 – 10th – 12th January –

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

Cllr.'s Jimmy McClearn, Tom McHugh

BG Seminarz – Financing Local Government, the critical issues – 10th – 12th January –

Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal – Fee: €150

Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Employment Law – Mediation v Litigation – 10th – 12th January –

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes, Kevin Ryan

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 **1639**

Report was already circulated to each Member.

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

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference 2013 – Putting the People First – 12th – 14th September –

Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Cllr. Michael Connolly

**BG Seminarz – How the Elected Member can help Combat Crime – 27th – 29th September –
Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry**

Cllr. Michael Connolly

**Clare County Council – LAMA Autumn Seminar 2013 – 11th – 12th October – Falls Hotel,
Ennistymon, Co. Clare**

Cllr. Tom McHugh

**Respond – The Best Way Forward – Inclusive Communities for Older People – 23rd October
– Convention Centre, Dublin**

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

**Teagasc – National Agrienvironmental Conference 2013 – 7th November – Tullamore Court
Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

**Loughrea Memorial Group – Aspect's of Galway's Military History & Private John Oliver's
Remembrance Weekend – 8th – 10th November – Loughrea, Co. Galway**

Cllr.'s Thomas Welby, Mary Hoade

**Ace Training – A Practical Guide to Budget 2014 – 8th – 10th November – Four Seasons
Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth**

Cllr. Tom McHugh

**Green Foundation Ireland – Corporate Taxation – ensuring a fair system for all – 13th
November – European Parliament Offices – Molesworth St., Dublin 2**

Comh. Seán Ó Tuairisg

- National Oversight and Audit Commission
- Local Community and Development Committees
- Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development

Celtic Conferences – Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation – 22nd – 24th November – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

Councillors Conferences – Budget 2014 for Canvassing – 22nd – 24th November – Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Kadenza Consultancies – Changing trends & approaches to drug & alcohol abuse – 6th – 8th December – Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Cllr. Michael Connolly

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 2013

1640

Mr. Cummins made a presentation to the Members on the Local Government Bill 2013.

He gave an overview of the Bill as follows:

- The Local Government Bill 2013 gives legislative effect to proposals set out in Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government (published October 2012) which outlines an overall vision for local government as the primary vehicle for governance and public service at local level.
- The Action Programme sets out Government policy for a range of reforms to the local government system including structures, functions, funding, operational arrangements and governance designed to strengthen local government.
- The Bill, which contains 65 sections in 10 Parts, together with 5 Schedules, sets out the necessary provisions to give effect to these measures and related matters.
- The two overarching objectives of the Bill are to provide for the significant reorganisation of local government structures and the strengthening of governance and accountability in local government, with particular emphasis on rebalancing powers appropriately between the executive and the elected council.

He listed the key aspects of the Bill as follows:

- Amalgamation of some County/City Authorities
- Abolition of Town Councils
- Establishment of Municipal Districts
- Reduction in Elected Member numbers
- Chief Executive Officer instead of County or City Manager
- National Oversight and Audit Commission
- Local Community and Development Committees
- Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development

- Re-configuration of Corporate Policy Groups
- Regional Assemblies/Regional Policy
- Performance and Evaluation Obligations
- Dublin Mayor
- Citizen Participation

He summarized the functions of Municipal Districts as follows:

- Lowest tier of Local Government reflects 21st century functionality/urban identity.
- Brings Ireland in line with other OECD Countries.
- Functions to be delivered at municipal level are detailed in the proposed legislation and the Members will be enabled at County level to determine further devolution of functions to the Municipal District level, in effect reversing the existing trend of migrating services up to the County level.
- Local regulatory functions will also be the responsibility of the Municipal Districts

He gave examples of Reserved Functions of Municipal Districts as follows:

- Local Enterprise Offices
- SPC on Economic Development
- Integration of spatial planning and economic development
- Co-ordination with State development agencies
- Regional Economic Overview
- Local platform for all local economic development actions by the State
- Continuation of support for micro-enterprise development
- Local vehicle for implementation of the Jobs Action Programme

He said there will be a different role for the Members in relation to Economic Development in that they will have the responsibility of bringing National and Regional Policy together at Local level, through the Municipal Districts, towards creating employment and in order to capture, create and support economic development, tourism initiatives etc.

He listed elements in the Bill geared towards Economic Development as follows:

- Setting up of Local Enterprise Offices
- SPC on Economic Development
- Integration of spatial planning and economic development
- Co-ordination with State development agencies
- Regional Economic Overview
- Local platform for all local economic development actions by the State
- Continuation of support for micro-enterprise development
- Local vehicle for implementation of the Jobs Action Programme

He said that Local Authorities will retain the following Reserved Functions:

- Adopting Draft Budget
- Determining Annual Rate on Valuation

- Functions of Municipal Districts that it has been agreed will be carried out by the Local Authority
- Delegation of additional functions to Municipal Districts
- Approving Corporate Plan
- Disposal of Land
- Order declaring any area or place as a Landscape Conversation Area
- Boundary Alteration
- Adoption of Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws
- Making of Development Plan
- Making a Development Contribution Scheme

He concluded by stating that the Executive of the Local Authority will continue to have an oversight role in Local Government.

A discussion took place and the Members made the following observations regarding the Local Government Bill 2013:

- The introduction of the new Local Government Bill represents a major change in Local Government in particular the establishment of Municipal Districts which will bring Local Government closer to local people
- Meetings of the Local Authority will change as they will have less statutory business to consider
- The proposals for changes to the Regional Authorities and Regional Assemblies
- It will be up to the Members to make the new departure in relation to Local Government work well

The Mayor said that there are very exciting and challenging times ahead for Local Government and he referred to the fact that he will be the last Mayor of the County of Galway as this title will revert to Cathaoirleach under the proposed legislation.

The Members raised further issues regarding the implications of the Local Government Bill, and the Manager replied as follows:

- She agreed with the views expressed by some Members that there is fantastic potential for Local Government as a result of changed legislation but she said that it is important that Local Government makes the most of opportunities presented in order to maximise economic development and job creation for local communities.
- It will be a matter for the new County Council to decide on the arrangements regarding Meetings of the Council
- In relation to the assets of the Town Councils, she said that these will be transferred to the County Council when the Town Councils are abolished

- She said that the matter of raising and allocation of finance locally will not be without difficulty as regards matching resources with demand in the various functions and areas.
- In relation to organisations such as the National Roads Authority, she said there is no change evident in the Local Government Bill.

Mr. Kelly replied to queries raised regarding the role envisaged for the Council in the areas of community, enterprise and economic development advising of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) being incorporated into local authorities and the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) with Galway County Council as one of the frontrunner local authorities for same.

Mr. Kelly advised that an LCDC will be established with a membership envisaged of 15 comprised of the County Manager and representatives from the Elected Members, Members of Local Action Groups, Community & Voluntary Fora and State Agencies with a focus on community development while it was envisaged that a Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee will be established to focus on economic development.

He advised that the work programme will include advancing a local community and economic plan that will provide a framework for the operation of the Local Community Development Programme by the Local Action Groups. He confirmed that the Municipal Districts and Council will have a full role in considering the plan with a requirement for the plan to be aligned to the County Development Plan.

He confirmed that it was envisaged that the significant progress would be made early in the New Year in establishing the LCDC with the first task being to map and consider the various initiatives and services already in place in order to establish the current baseline to assist in setting priorities for the future.

Mr. Kelly in reply to questions from the Members confirmed that the LCDC would be formed prior to the local elections as a frontrunner and that it was envisaged that formal responsibilities would be attributed to the LCDC from July 2014. He confirmed that formal decisions in relation to the alignment process were yet to be finalised in the context of the legislation progressing through the Oireachtas but that it was clear that the LCDC would have a role in policy with the delivery mechanism requiring further clarity.

In reply to a request from Cllr. Maher it was agreed to circulate maps detailing the revised electoral areas to apply for the local elections in May 2014.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SMARTER TRAVEL/ACTIVE TRAVEL TOWN SCHEMES

1641

Report entitled *Smarter Travel Initiatives* was circulated to Each Member and presented by Mr. Gavin.

He outlined the smarter travel initiatives and schemes which were completed in 2013 including works on the bog road adjacent to the Gaelscoil in Oranmore and works in Loughrea on footpaths and pedestrian crossings and the introduction of one way streets.

He said that Walking and Cycling Strategies were prepared for individual towns including Ballinasloe, Tuam, Athenry, Gort and Clifden. These plans and strategies form the basis for future funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport when they come to consider funding applications under Active Travel Towns Schemes. These strategies are currently being considered by the Area Committees and the strategies will be available for public consultation for 4 weeks.

For the period 2014 to 2016 the Department has requested applications for funding under two headings related to Smarter Travel initiatives:

- 1 National Cycle Network Projects
- 2 Active Travel Towns Projects

Galway County Council has submitted two projects for funding under the National Cycle Network Initiative including Galway to Moycullen along the old Clifden/Galway rail line and the second project is Clifden to Letterfrack with further phases required from Letterfrack to Leenane. These two initiatives along the national cycle network Galway to Leenane will link in with the planning currently underway on the section of cycle network from Clifden to Oughterard. It is expected that the Department will advise if the Council's application for funding for the two schemes are successful early in 2014. Funding extends from 2014 to 2016 with each scheme costed at approximately €2.5 million.

For the Active Travel Towns, initiative Galway County Council has submitted three schemes to the Department for funding including the towns of Athenry, Gort and Loughrea. The schemes include for the provision of footpaths, cycle lanes, road crossings and speed reduction measures. Again it is expected we will be advise by January 2014 if funding is being made available for any of these schemes. The cost associated with each application is approximately €900,000.

Seperately, funding has been provided by the ERDF through the BMW Regional Authority for works in Tuam, identified in the Tuam Active Travel Plan. The works include pedestrian crossings within the town, footpath and cycle lanes along the Dunmore road and Bobby Burke road along with traffic calming measures and improved pedestrian facilities within the town. These works are likely to start before Christmas and continue into spring of 2014.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Gavin for the presentation. A discussion took place and Mr. Gavin replied to issues raised by the Members as follows:

- Bearna and Oranmore are included in the Galway City and Environs Walking & Cycling Strategy and funding for these will be sourced through a different mechanism
- Two options are being considered in relation to the Bridge at Oughterard, in conjunction with the National Roads Authority

- Letterfrack is on the National Cycle Network and the possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing is being examined
- The Council will liaise with Iarnród Eireann regarding works to the Monivea Road, Athenry.
- The National Cycle Networks Working Group are investigating possibilities for a Cycle Network from Dublin to Ballinasloe onto Clifden. The NRA are working on this project with the National Cycle Network Working Group
- Galway County Council are dealing with the Galway to Clifden Cycle Network which will extend through Clifden, Leanaun through to Westport
- In relation to South Galway, the possible national route will be from Clarinbridge through Ballinderreen and onto County Clare.
- The aim is to link all towns into the National Cycle Network but this will be developed over time while the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway is the starting project.
- The proposals for Loughrea included for the continued development of the Lake Trail.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1642

The Manager referred to the matter of the joint purchase of the Galway Airport facility by Galway County Council and Galway City Council and stated that the purchase of the property is progressing through the normal legal process at present and contrary to newspaper headlines, no undue delays are being encountered in this legal transfer.

Mr. Owens informed the Members that the Council's bid to host the 2014 National Famine Commemoration in Portumna was not successful.

Mr. Gavin advised the Members that the Part VIII Planning Process will commence in the coming week in relation to the Tullycross/Lettergesh Road where a coastal landslide occurred recently.

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

- Correspondence dated 25th October 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to the closure of Community Welfare Offices in Ballinasloe, Connemara and other areas.
- Correspondence dated 29th October 2013 from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in relation to the Free Travel Scheme.
- Correspondence dated 31st October 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to horses.
- Correspondence dated 18th November 2013 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the closure of the community welfare clinics in Ballinasloe, Conamara and other areas and a contact details for the Clinics in the Galway area.

- Correspondence dated 3rd December 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning acknowledging Galway County Councils letter in relation to observations on planning applications.
- Correspondence dated 13th November 2013 from Clare County Council regarding a resolution passed to extend the derogation period to allow adequate time to resolve the height restriction of 4.65 metres for vehicles using the country's road network.
- Correspondence dated 19th November 2013 from Macroom Town Council regarding a motion passed that in light of recommendations published on Wednesday October 30th 2013 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, part of the Council of Europe which states that Ireland needs greater Constitutional Protect for Local Government and it is failing to protect Local Democracy and the continued centralization of power and decision making at National Level, instead of greater devolution to local communities" That the draft Local Government Reform bill issued on the 17th October 2013 should now be referred to the Constitutional Convention so that a discussion can take place on the issues raised by the Council of Europe which runs entirely contrary to the key principals of the European Charter for Local Self Government which was ratified by Ireland on the 14th May 2002.
- Correspondence dated 27th November 2013 from Offaly County Council regarding a resolution that the Minister for Health lifts the ban on nurse recruitment.
- Correspondence dated 21st November 2013 from Waterford City Council regarding a motion passed to have a total review of legislation in the area of Anti-Social Behaviour with the objective to strengthening the powers of the Gardaí and Local Authorities to tackle this issue in an effective manner.
- Correspondence dated 2nd December 2013 from Donegal County Council regarding a resolution to support a proposal that Motor Tax should be left with Local Authorities who have excellent records as far as this work is concerned.
- Correspondence dated 2nd December 2013 from Donegal County Council regarding a resolution adopted to acknowledge the vital work of the Credit Union movement within the county and understands that a credit union's main strength is that it is local. Further Donegal County Council supports the Irish League of Credit Unions in their fight against the overzealous regulatory regime and moved towards consolidation begin imposed on them by the Government and the Central Bank.
- Correspondence dated 18th December 2013 from Leitrim County Council regarding a resolution passed calling on Minister Phil Hogan to withdraw their proposal to introduce a levy on all vacant commercial premises.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1643

Cllr. Roche proposed "that Galway County Council write to the Minister with responsibility for Mental Health, Minister Kathleen Lynch, to urgently review and reverse the decision to close the 22 bed acute services unit in St. Bridgid's Hospital, Ballinasloe. The eminent closure of same is causing widespread distress and anxiety in the wider community. The recent tragic loss of life of two young people in East Galway has again highlighted the urgent need for action in this regard.". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Feeney, and agreed.

Cllr. Ryan supported Cllr. Roche's proposal and said that moving beds from Ballinasloe Hospital to Roscommon Hospital is a ridiculous decision. Cllr. Ryan proposed "that an

independent review committee be assembled to review what was a flawed process initially. I call on the relevant Minister, Kathleen Lynch, to immediately implement this request." This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Broderick, and agreed.

Cllr. Broderick proposed "that a vote of no confidence be carried from Galway County Council in the PCCC Management HSE, which has responsibility for mental health services in Galway/Roscommon." This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

In relation to Cllr. Broderick's proposal, Cllr. E. Mannion said that she understood the difficulties being encountered by people in east Galway as regards mental health services but she said that west Galway has a very positive mental health service and accordingly was not in a position to agree with the motion as currently worded.

The Mayor called for a vote on the proposal.

The result of the vote was as follows:

AR SON: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffee, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. P. Feeney, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, M. Maher, P. Roche, K. Ryan, T. Welby [13]

AGHAIDH: Cllrs. L. Carroll, E. Mannion [2]

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr. B. Willers [1]

As a result of the vote, the Mayor declared the proposal carried.

Cllr. Cuddy proposed "that Galway County Council pass a motion strongly objecting to the proposal in the new Inland Fisheries Legislation to bring in a Compulsory Angler Registration Charge to be made on every angler in Ireland as part of the new Inland Fisheries Legislation and that the decision made on the motion be immediately sent to the Minister in charge of bringing forward this legislation". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1644

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

Cllr. D. Connolly made the following proposal "I call on Galway County Council to call on the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee to give consideration to the number of locations such as Liskelly/Killinahown and Killreekil where local communities that do not have access to proper water supply. We are also requesting that the Department of the Environment and Local Government to provide funding to supply water to those locations as a matter of urgency". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, and agreed.

Cllr. Cunniffe said that he wanted it to be noted that the junction at the bottom of Shop Street/Tullinadaly Road, Tuam is very dangerous as the footpaths are too narrow on one side, with no footpaths at all on the other side. He also said that the signage at this location is very poor turning onto the relief road and traffic calming measures are required.

Mr. Gavin replied that the Council is investigating options to alleviate this problem as part of the Improvement Works to be carried out in Tuam Town.

The Mayor proposed that a Civic Reception be held to honour the Claregalway Ladies Intermediate Football Team who won the All-Ireland recently. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, and agreed.

The Mayor also proposed that a Civic Reception be held to honour the Tidy Towns Committees and Pride of Place Committees. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, and agreed.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 10 – CLLR. J. CUDDY **1645**

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 11 – CLLR. J. CUDDY **1646**

The following reply was given:-

“Galway County Council are awaiting the proposals emanating from the recent DTTAS report group in regards to speed limits.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 12 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1647**

The following reply was given:-

“The schemes for Low Cost Accident remedy have been submitted to the National Roads Authority for 2014. As yet no allocation or indication of the schemes to be funded for 2014 has been notified. The Cregclare scheme will be included in our listing of future schemes to be considered and discussed with the NRA.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 – CLLR. M. FAHY **1648**

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have submitted a scheme to the NRA for funding. The scheme provided for a safe crossing at the Post Office in Gort. Our allocation and schemes for 2014 has not yet been agreed and we will continue to discuss the delivery of this scheme with the National Roads Authority."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1649

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council are working on the design of this alignment. To date we have proposed ecological reports and are liaising with An Bord Pleanála. We await their reply before we can progress this scheme further."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1650

The following reply was given:-

"The works to be carried out are to replace the raised percolation area and installation of manholes on the pipeline to the treatment plant. Works will commence on January 6th, 2014 and will take 2-3 weeks to complete."

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Signed + Approved

Diam Carroll

27th January 2014

date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 2013 @ 2.00 pm

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, 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 & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, J. Cullen, E. Cummins, Directors of Service; M.J. Walsh Acting County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, L. Gavin, S.E., P. ÓNeachtain, Oifigigh Gaeilge, R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Also in attendance

West on Track Committee Members:

Paddy McGuinness, Gerry McGarry, Colm O'Rahilly, Martin Cunniffe

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Mayor welcomed all to the Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1588

The Members agreed that a Vote of Sympathy be sent to the Mrs. Kitty Cunningham and Family on the death of her late husband Michael Cunningham, former Member of Galway County Council. Mr. Cunningham had been a Member of Galway County Council for 13 years. Tributes were paid to Mr. Cunningham on the good work carried out by him on behalf of the people of South Galway.

It was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 5 Minutes as a mark of Respect.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the family of the late Niall Donoghue who had passed away so tragically at such a young age. Tributes were paid to Niall who was an up and coming Hurler for the County.

The Manager, on her own behalf, and on behalf of the Staff said she wished to be associated with the Votes of Sympathy to the Cunningham and Donoghue Families.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the Walsh Family on the sudden death of their Son in Saudi Arabia last week.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed with the Cronin Family Cappataggle on the sudden death of their son, Sean, in a car accident last week.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Mrs. Michael Conlon, An Leac Liath, Bearna
- Francie Donohue, Killafin, Gort
- Kitty Cunningham, Galway Road, Gort
- John Joe Quinn, Tyrone, Kilcolgan
- Bean Tom Bheartla Ó Flaithearta, An Lochán Beag, Indreabhán
- Padraig Ó Conghaile, Gairfinne, Rosmuc
- Padraig McDonagh, Maumeen, Lettermore
- Michael Kelly, c/o Aggie's Bar, Main Street, Loughrea
- Cathal Gibbons, Station Road, Derrymullen, Ballinasloe
- Nora Ann Nolan, Aille, Barna

The Mayor adjourned the Meeting for 5 Minutes.

On resumption An Comh Ó Cuaig said he wished to propose that a Vote of Congratulations be sent to Mr. Martin J. Walsh on becoming Mayor of Boston. He said that Martin was a Conamara man and his parents who are native Irish speakers had come from the Camas/Rosmuc area and wished to pay tribute to him on such a great achievement.

It was proposed by an Comh Ó Cuaig, seconded by An Comh Ó Laoi and agreed that "In the event of an invitation coming from Martin J. Walsh's Office in Boston that a representation should be sent to Boston for his inauguration as Mayor of that City".

It was proposed by an Comh Ó Laoi, seconded by An Comh Ó Tuairisg and agreed "that Galway County Council invite the Mayor of Boston, Mr. Martin Walsh into Galway County Council to address the Council in the Chamber when he visits Conamara in April/May, 2014 and make a presentation to him.

An Comh Ó Laoi said he wished to thank An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny and the Government for the allocation of €2 Million for the building of a new Interpretative Centre at Teach an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc. An Comh. Ó Cuaig also welcomed the funding and enquired as to who in the Council would be dealing with this project and would a Sub Committee be set up.

Replying, the Manager said she welcomed the news and said this project has been included in the 1916 Commemoration Project scheduled for 2016. She said there were a number of Partners involved Office of Public Works, Udaras na Gaeltachta and Roinn the Gaeltachta. She thanked all for their input. The Manager said that a meeting of the four Partners should be held to discuss how this project should be progressed.

The Mayor said he wished to congratulate the Community & Enterprise Unit of Galway County Council who received an award for Partnership in Business at the 10th Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2013 for "Made in Galway" Brands, representing 260 Companies who were small producers. He said he also wished to congratulate, Leenane, Parkmore Residents, Tuam and Oranmore in the Pride of Place competition, and was delighted that Oranmore had been nominated to represent Galway at the 2014 Pride of Place International Competition. He said it was a great achievement. He also informed the Meeting that he was going to China on Tuesday, 26th November, 2013 for the LiveCom Awards with a delegation from Inis Oirr who were representing County Galway and Ireland in the competition and hoped that they would bring back the Trophy.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Willers and agreed, that the participants in the "Pride of Place" competition held recently in Derry be invited in for a Civic Reception.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 1589

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 21st October, 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

Arising from the Minutes.

An Comh Ó Tuairisg referred to page 32 – Fire Service for Conamara.

He said that a Meeting of over 200 people was held in Carraroe recently regarding this and there was a lot of anger displayed there. He said that Deputy Kyne had also attended. He presented statistics to show that areas of similar population such as Donegal and Leitrim were better resourced with 16 and 5 fire stations respectively. He also referred to the length of time it took to attend fires in Spiddal and Oughterard compared to other areas in County Galway. All members of the Conamara Electoral area were unhappy with the situation and An Comh. Ó Cuaig said he wanted a copy of letter sent to the Department. Cllr. Mannion asked what the capital cost of providing a Station would be and also the operating costs, she asked that this would be available for the next meeting. An Comh Ó Curraoin said it was frustrating that some areas were 50 miles away and that a Fire Services was a necessity not a luxury. Cllr. S. Walsh stated that the Conamara Electoral Area Members had been accused of being inactive in working towards the provision of a Fire Service in Conamara. An Comh Ó Laoi said it was important that this proposal be put to the Minister as the issue of a Fire Service for Conamara has been going on for over 20 years.

It was proposed by An Comh Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed, "that Galway County Council seeks funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government to provide funding for a Fire Station in South Conamara."

In reply Mr. Cummins stated that the Galway Fire Service is one of the best fire services in the Country and that with the Members support the necessary budget to fund the service has been maintained over the years. He also referred to his presentation on this issue at the last meeting that clearly outlined the facts and the constraints within which the service has to be provided. He also said that ignoring the presentation was not an option and again reminded the Members that the design of the fire service is now based on the management of risk within available resources and is no longer based on geography and population. He stated that if any proposal or request for funding to the Department did not take on board the issue of the management of risk within available resources, then the case being made would be flawed.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 16th Sept. 2013 was Cllr. Mannion asked why was it flawed, and what would it cost, she stated that the people of South Conamara want a Fire Station in their community. In reply Mr. Cummins said that the report of the working group was not flawed in any respect and that the point he was making was that the Risk within the County had to be prioritised and managed within existing resources. He went on to say that there was no magical formula available other than the allocation of resources to the areas of highest risk. The Mayor read the Proposal to be sent to the Minister and asked the Members to await his response. An Comh. Ó Cuaig stated that the people in South Conamara have the same risk. Cllr. S. Walsh referred to the SPC meeting two months ago where this report was discussed, and he stated that the reality was keeping the Fire Budget of County Galway within its parameters, but this should not be done at the expense of the people in South Conamara. He said the report did not consider the callout time. Cllr. McHugh said that this matter should be dealt with by the Conamara Elected Members.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to Paragraph 4 on Page 3 of the Minutes regarding his concerns on blockages caused in the River Suck channel due to fallen branches and the failure to undertake appropriate channel maintenance and this was still outstanding. He asked that the Flood Committee take this on board as a matter of priority. Replying Mr. Gilmore said that the River Suck Drainage Committee was funded by Galway and Roscommon County Councils and there were no further funds for maintenance on the River. He said that the Council will write to the Committee to consider this for next year's programme.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to Paragraph 2 on Page 3 of the Minutes regarding the distribution of the property tax, and referred to a Notice of Motion he had submitted regarding the provision of financial assistance in the Budget of €10,000 at least to cover Insurance Cover for the Galway Mountain Rescue Unit (GMRU) as the Department of the Environment had ceased funding them. He pointed out that the Group is a voluntary group who carry out tremendous and very worthwhile work, this was supported by Cllr. S. Walsh and Cllr. E. Mannion who said that the Mountain Rescue were providing a vital service for Tourists and locals and it needed to be supported.

Replying the Manager said she was not familiar on how the GMRU was funded. She stated that the Council operates Schemes subject to adoption of the Budget and funding for 2014. Cllr. Cuddy reiterated that the LPT Tax should be used for local projects. The Manager advised that the GMRU should apply for a grant under the Community Grants Scheme.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Walsh said that no detailed response had been received from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's Motion to support those who cut turf for domestic use.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION 1590

The Report of Ballinasloe Area Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 16th September, 2013 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

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

1591

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

Road commencing at junction with Local Road L31042 in the townland of Moyveela and extending south for a distance of 206 metres in the townland of Moyveela and finishing at Higgins', grid reference 144701, 225614 in the townland of Moyveela.

Electoral Area: Oranmore

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

1592

Details as follows:-

The following Councillors proposed and seconded the Declaration of the following sections of the Birches and Birch Close Estates, Tuam to be public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Birches & Birch Close Estates, Tuam, Co. Galway

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam.

1. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road N17 (Galway Road, Tuam) and extending south east for a distance of 185m, to the end of the cul-de-sac adjacent to unit 9.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam.

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

2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 148m (serves units 1-16).

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Canney, the Council approved the declaration of the following section of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam

3. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 88m and thereafter west for a distance of 34m to the end of the cul-de-sac in front of unit 28b (serves units 38-28b).

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the Council approved the declaration of the following sections of road at Birches & Birch Close Estate, Tuam

4. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending south west for a distance of 83m and thereafter east for a distance of 41m (serves units 9-17)
5. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 3 above and extending east for a distance of 20m to the junction of 4. above (serves units 23-26)
6. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above and extending north for a distance of 11m and thereafter east for a distance of 81m (serves units 42-8a)
7. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 6. above and extending west for a distance of 16m (serves units 39-41)

Electoral Area: Tuam

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

1593

Details as follows:-

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

Caoin Dara Housing Estate, Crosheen, Ballinderreen, Co. Galway.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at its junction with the L-8562 in the townland of Crosheen and extending in an Easterly direction for a distance of 297.0 meters in the in the townland of Crosheen and ending in the townland of Crosheen.

Electoral Area: Loughrea

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

1594

Details as follows:-

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

Shramore Housing Estate, Tuam, Co. Galway.

1. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public road N17 (Galway Road, Tuam) and extending north for a distance of 187m, along the gables of units 12 and 17 and thereafter north east for a distance of 57m.
2. Road pavement and footpath, commencing at junction with 1. above in front of unit 15 and extending south for a distance of 30m through the underpass and thereafter north east for a distance of 49m.

Electoral Area: Tuam

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.107 HECTARES AT MAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY 1595

Statutory Notice dated 3rd October, 2013 and Report dated the 3rd October, 2013 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to dispose of 0.107 Hectares at Magheramore, Killimor Co. Galway to Killimor GAA Club.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – EXTENSION TO CORTOON BURIAL GROUND 1596

Report was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh seconded by Cllr. Hoade, it was agreed to approve the Extension of Cortoon Burial Ground.

TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH GALWAY CITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – GALWAY CITY OUTER BYPASS 1597

Copy of the Agreement was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gilmore outlined the purpose of the Agreement and explained that it had been agreed with Galway City Council that Galway County Council would be the lead authority in the administrative areas of this project. This would include the Re-examining of the Scheme from East to West i.e. R336 Bearna to An Spidéal Road to Glenascaul, and the preparation

of Compulsory Purchase Orders, statutory notices etc., to progress the scheme. He said that the Council will work very closely with the National Parks & Wildlife and An Bord Pleanála. Following the clarification of some points raised in regard to Habitats etc., by the Members, it was unanimously agreed to sign up to the Agreement.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE AN OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014 1598

Report in relation to Overdraft Accommodation for 12 months 01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014 was previously circulated.

Mr. Mullarkey informed the Members that the Council's approval is requested to the overdraft accommodation for the 12 months 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

He said that while it is expected that the actual level of overdraft required to be utilized will on average be within the €21 Million, it is necessary to have the Council and Ministerial approval to cover the peak requirement.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh seconded by Cllr. Feeney, it was agreed that the Overdraft Accommodation for the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 of €21 Million, be approved.

TO FIX DATE AND TIME FOR COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING 1599

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting be held on Monday, 16th December, 2013 at 2pm in Áras an Chontae

TO FIX DATE AND TIME FOR DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING 1600

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that the December Ordinary Meeting be held on Thursday, 12th December, 2013 at 2 p.m. in Áras an Chontae

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)).

1601

Cllr. S. Walsh left the Meeting for the duration of the consideration of this item.

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

**Esperanza Enterprises – Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013 –
20th – 21st September – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €120**

Cllr. Peter Feeney

**Esperanza Enterprises – Local Governments & Planning & Development Act 2013 – 1st – 2nd
November – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo – Fee: €150**

Cllr. Peter Roche

**Ace Training – A Practical Guide to Budget 2014 – 8th – 10th November – Four Seasons
Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100**

Cllr.'s Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

**Celtic Conferences – Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation – 22nd –
24th November – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100**

Cllr.'s Tomás Mannion, Tom McHugh, Tiarnan Walsh

**Councillors Conferences – Budget 2014 for Canvassing – 22nd – 24th November – Louis
Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22 – Fee: €95**

Cllr. Thomas Welby

**TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001. 1602**

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Walsh, it was agreed that the summary of proceedings of Conferences attended, be noted.

**TJK Conferences – Disputes between Neighbours & the Law – 25th – 27th January – Patrick
Punch Hotel, Limerick**

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

**iQuest Ltd. – 5th National Renewable Energy Summit 2013 – 14th March – Croke Park
Conference Centre, Dublin**

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Association of County & City Councils – Annual Conference 2013 – 7th – 8th March – Tower Hotel, Waterford

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Ace Training – Starting & Growing a Chamber of Commerce in your Community – 12th – 14th April – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Ace Training – HSE Tobacco Control Policy – 10th – 12th May – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Celtic Conferences – European Movement Ireland – 28th – 30th June – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Benefits of Jobs Creation & Tax Entitlements – 16th – 18th August – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – Dignity at Work – A guide to bullying and harassment in the workplace – 6th – 8th September – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Ace Training – New Tendering Requirements for Local Authorities – 4th – 6th October – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

Clare County Council – LAMA Autumn Seminar 2013 – 11th – 12th October – Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Comh. Seosamh Ó Laoi

Ace Training – Sport & Community Planning – 11th – 13th October – Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Cllr. Tomás Mannion

Superior Training – Local Government & Enterprise Development – 18th – 19th October – Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Celtic Conferences – Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing – 25th – 27th October – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Shaun Cunniffe, Tomás Mannion, Thomas Welby

BG Seminarz – Council Budgets – Preparation, Adoption & Amendments – 1st – 3rd November – Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. Thomas Welby

Ace Training – A Practical Guide to Budget 2014 – 8th – 10th November – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON IRISH WATER

1603

Mr. Cullen gave a Powerpoint Presentation on the Transition Update on Irish Water which included the following:-

- Update on Irish Water Programme to date
 - Irish Water Regional Offices
 - Domestic Metering Programme
- Non Domestic Billing and Collection
- Capital Programme
- Budget 2014
- Long term and Annual Services Plans
- Preparing to operate the New Regime
 - The 10 Capability Areas
 - Local Authority Training Timeline

Following an invitations issued to Irish Water asking that a representative meet with the Members of Galway County Council, the County Manager read the contents of a letter which had been received from Mr. John Tierney, Managing Director, Irish Water dated the 22nd November, 2013 outlining Irish Water's engagement with Local Elected Representatives.

The Members thanked Mr. Cullen for his report which was discussed and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed that the following Motion received from Wexford County Council be supported:-

"That Wexford County Council endorses the principle of the right to water and sanitation as a fundamental core value within Irish society and this should be reflected as a central pillar in national water policy. As citizens of the EU we believe in the right of all inhabitants to enjoy this right and that we oppose any attempt to include water in legislation aimed at market liberalization. This Council supports the call for the full national political commitment to ensuring that water and sanitation are publicly owned, democratically run and that all in the sector are fully accountable."

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE WEST-ON-TRACK COMMITTEE ON THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS. **1604**

The Mayor welcomed four Members from the West on Track Committee, Mr. Paddy McGuinness, Mr. Gerry McGarry, Mr. Colm O Rahilly, and Mr. Martin Cunniffe .

Mr. Cunniffe gave a very informative Powerpoint presentation on the workings of the Committee. He outlined the contents of a motion detailing a transport route linking Cork to Belfast via Limerick, Galway, Sligo, Donegal and Derry.

A discussion took place on the significant work done by the Group in the compilation of this initiative which highlighted the exclusion of the West of the Country from the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Core Project and that this region was not included for the funding, and it was felt that the IDA and the Government worked towards delivering on the East Coast only. It was stated that as the West does not have the necessary infrastructure, it cannot be marketed in the same way as the East, therefore jobs were not coming to the West. Western Arc had tied this area together and it was agreed that it should be supported, and that other County Councils should be asked to support it also. The West has been excluded for years.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed "that Galway County Council propose that the Minister for Transport make a submission to the E.U. for TEN-T Core Funding to support the concept of the Western Arc, as requested by the Commission of Petitions of the European Parliament. This motion should be circulated to all local authorities served by the Western Arc."

It was also suggested that the petition be taken to Europe and national politicians and not just local authorities in our Area.

The County Manager thanked the Team for their presentation. She stated that the TEN-T is certainly a very significant project and said that the Council has raised it with the NRA with regard to the Galway City Outer Bypass. She stated that advance preparation work could also be done when the Galway County Development Plan, and the National Spatial Strategy is being reviewed, as it is important that this type of input is made during the consultation process and that a counter balance to the East Coast is achieved.

FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013 1605

Report dated 18th November, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

The Members agreed to note the Financial Report of the Council for the period ending 30th September, 2013.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS 2013 1606

Report on the Proposed Speed Limit Review 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin gave an overview of the proposed speed limits and informed members that if they were agreed today, he would review the Bye Laws for their inclusion and bring them back in February for final approval.

Various queries were raised and Mr. Gavin dealt with all. In relation to a query by Cllr. Broderick in regarding the N63 at Ballygar, he agreed that a traffic speed count and measurements could be done by Galway County Council and this may provide important data to justify a case for a change to the proposal at this location.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRAMME OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES 1607

A Report dated 19th November 2013 on the matter was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin went through the Report and the Members praised the amount of positive practical work that had been carried out by Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works, and in particular to Mr. Richard Dooley, under this Scheme, and enquired as to the amount of money that was spent to date. In reply Mr. Gavin said that 120 schemes were submitted, we were successful in 85 and 75 have been completed at a cost of over €2 Million.

For the Kiltiernan/Ballindereen the Cost Benefit Analysis was too low and was not approved by the OPW. Galway County Council were re-examining this scheme with a view to reassessing the works required and attempting to improve the Cost to Benefit whilst at the same time ensuring an effective scheme was put in place. This revised scheme will be submitted to the OPW in early 2014.

With regard to the Dunkellin Area Mr. Gilmore stated that he had gone through the details of the scheme at Electoral Area Meetings. He stated that there were a lot of difficult issues with regard to environmental concerns. He thanked the OPW, Richard Dooley, Shane Faherty and Sean Langan who had done the legwork on this. He said the Scheme is going forward for Planning. Cllr. Feeney referred back to 2009 and the need for this scheme which has got huge support, but he said there had to be some element of rowing back, and he said today is very important and huge credit should go to the Roads Department and the OPW and said it would not have happened without their determination. He said it was good value for money.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES 1608

Report dated 21st November, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Kelly gave a general overview of the Report and outlined some of the works that had been undertaken. The Members thanked Mr. Kelly for his presentation and this was followed by some queries particularly in relation to people living in unfinished housing estates.

Cllr. Hynes enquired about people living in housing estates in Loughrea where no bonds are in place and where no conditions were put in place when planning was given, through no fault of their own, and finance cannot be raised to bring them up to standard. He referred to the paragraph on Clearance Strategy and asked if it was possible to draw down funding from that particular scheme to finish these estates. Cllr. Broderick asked if Irish Water could make the cost of Taking In Charge prohibitive. Replying to Cllr. Hynes query, Mr. Kelly said that the instances of bonds not being in place were the exception. However in a small number of instances this may be the case for various reasons including the estate being deemed satisfactory at a point in time resulting in the bond being refunded. He said that these cases would be examined to see what happened but that the funding referred to in the Clearance Strategy section did not cover these. He confirmed that in a situation where a developer is already connected to the Public Service it was not expected that there would be issues with Irish Water although there may be revisions to procedures.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 1609

A Report dated the 25th November, 2013 relating to the Purchase of Former Airport Site at Carnmore was circulated to each Member.

The Manager outlined the contents of the Report to the Members. The Members congratulated and commended the Manager on purchasing the site and keeping it in public ownership. They said it was great value for money and said it was a huge step for economic development within the County, and understood that the matter could not be discussed publically until the process had been achieved. The following queries were raised by the Members.

- That Galway County Council should be the lead on this project as the site is in the County area
- Joint Committee of the County & City should be reactivated and used to discuss the issue relating to this project.
- It was suggested that a Feasibility Study be prepared in relation to the airport Site, and also be applied to the Land Bank of Galway County Council.
- That it be examined to work closely with the 3rd Level Institutions within the County
- Clarity on the continued use of the Airport by the Flying Club
 - Ongoing Activities
 - Maintenance/Insurance Costs
 - Are rates due to Galway County Council on the Airport?
 - Two big hangers – cost of Security
 - Consider as site for new Fire Service as it is adjacent to the Motorway.
 - Support staff at Airport

The County Manager thanked the Members for their support. She referred to the time and energy that had been invested in the Airport, but said that it was not a viable endeavour. She said that times had changed, the Airport had been used a lot for Trips to Dublin in the past, but now with the significant road network people were not supporting it. She stated that the reason the Council did not go alone and purchase the site was that the City and County are shareholders and cannot be viewed separately, the broader picture needs to be looked at in terms of economic development. She said she took on board the issues that were raised e.g. interaction with Third Level Institutions, etc., and said that an Economic Development Plan for Galway would be prepared through the Strategic Policy Committee of the Council for adoption by the Council.

She pointed out that it was not just about enterprise, but that schemes like the Connemara Greenway, the Wild Atlantic Way, and the development of Walking & Cycling Groups were also very important and should be included in the long term development for the County and that benefits from those areas should be maximized in a context of balanced development.

Replying to the statement that the Council should lead, she informed the Members that Galway County Council were the lead in preparing the conveyancing and finalizing the Contract etc. and said it was a 50/50 arrangement. She confirmed that Rates have accrued, and that this was part of the negotiations. She also said that one of the costs would be security, but again this was a joint arrangement. She said that current users of the Airport would be looked at, but that the current owners are responsible at the moment. In

concluding she stated that she hoped that economic development would come from this joint venture.

The County Manager informed the Members that Mr. Frank Gilmore, Director of Services for the Roads, Transportation, Marine & General Services Unit would be retiring in December and that this was his last Council Meeting. She said that she would be sorry to Frank go. She complimented Frank on his calm demeanour and on the efficient way he dealt with the Flooding issues. She acknowledged his time as Tuam Town Manager and his work on the Galway Transportation Study which, she said, was a major undertaking at the time. She also thanked him for his dedication to the advancement of the Galway City Outer By-pass.

The Members paid tributes to Frank stating that he was a Gentleman, he showed compassion, was always very fair and took peoples point of view on board. They wished him every good health and happiness on the next stage of his life, and said that he would be a huge loss to Galway County Council.

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

- Correspondence from Cavan County Council regarding a resolution passed after discussion to support local businesses in their towns and villages.
- Correspondence dated the 8th November from South Tipperary County Council stating that that Council recognises that the trafficking exploitation and abuse of women and girls is taking place throughout the country as a direct result of prostitution. The Council believes human rights abuses can be ended by targeting the demand for prostitution by introducing laws which make it an offence to pay for sex and is seeking such laws. We note the success of similar laws in other European countries. The Council will convey its views to the Minister for Justice.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS.

1610

An Comh ÓTuaisg enquired from Mr. Gilmore if a Temporary Bridge could be erected at Seanafeistin Bridge as this work is critical. He said if an accident happens here, the road is closed until the next day.

In reply, Mr. Gilmore said that temporary measures would not be feasible and said that discussions are taking place with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as this is an SAC area. He said that appropriate assessment is being prepared and further discussions will take place before any work can proceed. He said it is not anticipated that any work will be carried out until the middle of next year.

NOTICES OF MOTION

1616

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. B. WILLERS

1611

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will investigate the condition of the road surface at Ballycuddy on the N66. Galway County Council would appreciate any information of evidence of accidents at this location as it would assist in putting together a case for discussion with the NRA."

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

1612

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine the position of the schools at Kilchreest and Peterswell and consider the most appropriate options, if any, in conjunction with the NRA for highlighting the schools location."

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

1613

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will request the NRA to examine the Labane junction on the N18 with a view to having a safety audit done."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25 – CLLR. E. MANNION

1614

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have to date acquired the land and prepared the documents for the development of a car park in Cleggan. Galway County Council will examine the options of how funding can be acquired for the provision of car parking facilities in Cleggan."

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

1615

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine the area and discuss this proposal with the NRA as this is a national route. Approval and funding for this proposal will be required from the NRA before any works can be considered at this location."

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

1616

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will examine the options of providing funding for the road to Bunowen Pier in the context of existing schemes for pier development and maintenance works."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY **1617**

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will discuss with the NRA, the option of providing signage for Kilbeacanty at Fahys Cross, Rakerin, Gort along the N66."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY **1618**

The following reply was given:-

"The alteration or change of traffic flows should be considered in the context of the current Gort traffic management plan. Galway County Council in consultation with the applicant will consider the request and will examine the option of a proposed measure as a change mechanism if required."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY **1619**

The following reply was given:-

"Noted."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 31 – CLLR. J. CUDDY **1620**

The following reply was given:-

"While Galway Mountain Rescue were awarded a grant of €1,000 under the Community Support Scheme 2013, it is not possible to commit to providing a similar level of funding in future years under the scheme. However, it will be open to Galway Mountain Rescue to apply to avail of funding under the scheme in future years, subject to funding being made available in the annual budgetary process, to allow for the continuation of the Community Support Scheme."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 – CLLR. J. CUDDY **1621**

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council already provide limited funding for grass and verge trimming during any given year. This funding is already provided through County Road allocations. Due to the limitations on this funding and the ever competing demands the funding for verge trimming is limited and to increase this item of funding would have an adverse impact on other county road maintenance requirements."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 33 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1622

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will prepare a list of low cost accidents and discuss these with the Local Councillors at Area Committee Meetings."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 34 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1623

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will first establish the location, responsibility and ownership of this bridge before proceeding to undertake any investigations or works on this bridge."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 35 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1624

The following reply was given:-

"The funding for footpaths will have to be considered in the context of our budget provisions. Funding of footpaths from alternative sources would have to be the subject of discussions before any footpath works could be considered."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 36 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1625

The following reply was given:-

"It is not possible at this time to forecast the timelines requested. The current position with the scheme is that the application for planning permission was lodged with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on the 14th March 2013. The six week display period finished on 30th April 2013. Submissions on the planning application went direct to An Bord Pleanála.

The scheme has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and tender documents are currently being finalised. Once finalised, which is currently expected to be early in the new year, a submission will be made to Irish Water for approval to proceed to the procurement stage."

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 37 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 1626

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you the statutory notice was published in the Connacht Tribune on the 8th November 2013, regarding the proposal to take Barrack Square in Charge. Following the statutory period for objections or representations the matter will be placed on the Council Meeting Agenda for consideration by the Elected Members."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 38 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 1627

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that Galway County Council is currently reviewing the file with a view to drawing down the Bond in this case to complete the estate."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 39 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 1628

The following reply was given:-

"I wish to inform you that this estate is not fully complete and thus is not ready for Taking in Charge. This estate was constructed in two phases. The section constructed under planning permission granted to Tom Lavelle has one outstanding issue i.e. repair of a boundary wall. A snag list of works issued to John Flaherty who constructed the other section on the 30th October 2012, has not been carried out. The outstanding works include signage, surface water and foul sewer network drawings required, repairs to water meter boxes. More detailed information is available from the Building Control Section of the Planning Unit."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 40 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG 1629

The following reply was given:-

"Is mian liom a chur in iúl go ndéanainn Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe monatóireacht ar líonra na mbóithre chun sábháilteacht gach duine a úsáideann na bóithre a chinntiú agus déantar oibreacha de réir mar a theastaíonn agus de réir acmhainn. Tharla traigéide ag an suíomh seo le déanaí agus tá an Comhairle Chontae ag fanacht ar sonraí an timpiste. Níl aon acmhainn ag an Comhairle Chontae chun soilse poiblí a chur isteach."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 41 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG 1630

The following reply was given:-

"Is leor gur rud fíor neamhdhrealraitheach é go mbeidh maoiniú caipitil ar fáil don scéim seo go luath sa toadhcháí."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 42 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

1631

The following reply was given:-

"Tá an moladh ionad athchúrsála a thógáil i gCasla curtha siar de bharr srianta buiséid agus níl aon soláthar déanta dó i mbuiséad 2013. Níl sé indéanta cinneadh a dhéanamh an dtiocfaidh an togra ar aghaidh nó go n-aontaítear Buiséad 2014."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 43 – CLLR. T. WELBY

1632

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council are currently involved in preparing the contract documents and examining the logistics of undertaking works on this bridge with a view to commencing works as soon as possible."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN.

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Stam Carroll

12th December 2013

Date

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2013
AT 2.00 PM**

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, 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 & B. Willers.

Oifigigh: Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, J. Cullen, K. Kelly, E. Cummins Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; E. Molloy, Senior Engineer; M. Raftery, Chief Fire Officer; S. Kennedy, A/Senior Planner; M. Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY 1556

The Mayor proposed a Vote of Sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Joan Broderick, mother of Cllr. Tim Broderick and was joined by the Members in paying tribute to Mrs. Broderick stating that Mrs. Broderick was held in very high esteem by all who knew her and especially by the people of Kilconnell and the Ballinasloe area.

The Manager offered her condolences to Cllr. Broderick and his family on the death of his mother, on behalf of Management and Staff of the Council. She said she had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Broderick and she was impressed by her warm personality, her interest in people and her love of traditional music.

Cllr. Broderick thanked the Members and Officials for their kind words of sympathy and support, for sending Mass Cards and all those who attended his mother's funeral.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Mary Rabbitte & Family, Ballynakilla, Abbeyknockmoy
- Hubert Hussey, Parkroe, Glenamaddy
- John Mee & Family, Moylough, Ballinasloe
- Margaret Monaghan & Extended Family, Cooloo Mountain, Moylough, Ballinasloe
- Elizabeth Coyle and Family, Moylough, Ballinasloe
- Babs McGinn, Tullycross, Renvyle
- Coilin McDonagh (Michael), Drom, Lettermore
- Nellie McDonagh, Tir an Fhia, Lettermore
- Peter McDonagh, Gentian Hill, Knocknacarra, Galway

Comh. Ó Curraoin extended a vote of congratulations on the Clare Senior Hurling Team on winning the All Ireland recently.

Cllr. Willers extended a vote of congratulations on the Ardrahan Senior Camogie Team on winning the County Final the previous day.

Cllr. Canney extended a vote of congratulations to the Corofin Senior Football Team who won the County Final and wished them luck in their next match against Castlebar Mitchells, Mayo County Champions.

The Mayor extended congratulations on the Oranmore Maree Junior Team on winning the County Junior Championship.

Cllr. McClearn extended a vote of congratulations on the Portumna Intermediate Camogie Team on winning the County Final.

Cllr. Ryan extended congratulations on the Mountbellew Moylough Minor Football Team who beat Claregalway in the North Board Minor A League Final the previous day.

Cllr. Fahy extended congratulations to Mr. Eugene Cummins, DOS, on his successful application for the post of Monaghan County Manager.

The Meeting was adjourned by the Mayor as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Joan Broderick and was reconvened after 10 minutes.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1557

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 23rd September, 2013 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. McClearn referred to the Famine Bid which had been endorsed by the Members at the Meeting of 23rd September, 2013 and which included a proposal that a State Ceremony be held at the Portumna Workhouse. He asked why it had subsequently been decided to include a proposal to hold the State Ceremony at Portumna Castle.

Mr. Owens replied that the Famine Bid which was presented to the Council at the September Meeting consisted of a 10-day programme of events, with a large number of events programmed for Portumna Workhouse, including the formal State Ceremony. He confirmed that following a review of the logistics of hosting the State Ceremony event at the Workhouse, it was decided that in order to strengthen the Bid, a second option should be included as a venue for the State Ceremony and that option was to host the Ceremony at Portumna Castle. He said that in the event that the bid was successful the events programmed for the Workhouse would continue to be hosted at the Workhouse Centre and that it would remain the preferred to host the formal State Ceremony provided the logistics associated with the venue could be addressed to the satisfaction of the OPW. He advised that the decision to provide the option of the Workhouse or Castle for the State Ceremony was to strengthen the Bid and submit the strongest possible proposal for the 2014 National Famine Commemoration to be held in County Galway and Portumna.

In reply to a point raised by Cllr. Cuddy regarding the property tax, the Manager said that proceeds from the property tax will become part of the Council's budgetary process which will be agreed by the Members at the Budget Meeting of the Council each year. Therefore it will be the Members who will determine how the property tax is spent. Cllr. Cuddy also referred to the fact that €3.5 billion in revenue was raised on an annual basis in various form of motor vehicle related taxation, yet only approximately a third of this revenue was available for investment in the road network.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Owens said that no detailed response had been received from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's Motion to support those who cut turf for domestic use.

Cllr. D. Connolly also re-iterated his concerns regarding blockages caused in the River Suck channel due to fallen branches and the failure to undertake appropriate channel maintenance. In reply, Mr. Gilmore undertook to follow up on the matter with the River Suck Joint Drainage Committee.

Cllr. Canney expressed concern for the businesses that are being taken to court for non-payment of commercial rates. He said that Government must do something to help ratepayers who cannot afford to pay rates and to help local Councils who are suffering as a result of reduced funds in this regard.

In reply to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Mullarkey said that the Roads Safety Authority is commencing a publicity campaign this coming week to inform the public of the transfer of the driver licencing function from County Councils to the National Driver Licencing Service (NDLS) from Tuesday 29th October 2013. He said that there will be a full-time NDLS Centre located at Ballybrit Business Park and a part-time facility will be provided at Clifden. The centre at Ballybrit will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 2pm on Saturdays and will remain open through lunchtime. People will be required to present themselves at the centres bringing with them additional documentation to confirm identity such as proof of address, passport and old driving licence or permit. The process also involves a face-to-face meeting as well as having a digital photograph and signature captured.