

would require extra culverts, or else it should be left in its current state as it did stop flooding previously.

Cllr Cuddy said he agreed with Cllr. Noone and questioned if the funding required to facilitate delivery of the scheme had been allocated and if so how much. He also asked when work at Greaney Glass on the R339 would start.

Replying to Cllr. McDonagh, Mr. Gilmore said that he had noted his comment in relation to the need for additional works and would consider same. With regard to the raising of the road he pointed out access was the problem, but he said he would raise it with the Office of Public Works. With regard to Cllr. Cuddy's enquiry he said that significant work had been undertaken on the River Clare to date including work at Crusheeny Bridge and on the road crossing in Baile Chlair and that the work now proposed was a major scheme with EIS requirements and required an extensive public consultation process. He said that the funding for the scheme was via the OPW and stated that he did not anticipate a delay in progressing the scheme.

Cllr. Noone referred to problems being experienced by people who could not get insurance, indicating that people had been refused insurance even though there was no evidence that their area had flooded. The Mayor stated that other parts of the County had also been blacklisted for insurance purposes.

In the context of a discussion on the insurance issue, Cllr. M. Finnerty advised that in Ballinasloe a letter provided by the Area Engineer confirming that flood alleviation measures had been undertaken was sufficient to allow insurance companies offer insurance cover and at reduced rates and suggested a similar approach in other areas may also be beneficial.

Arising from comments by Cllr. Maher in relation to the lack of similar progress in advancing major flood relief schemes for the South of the County, it was agreed to include an update on flood mitigations measures and schemes on the clár for the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Noone, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed to approve the scheme as presented.

PROPOSED REVIEW OF ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS **1485**

Report dated the 17th June, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavin presented a list of proposed changes to the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) Bye-Laws currently in force in the county of Galway. He advised that same had been prepared taking into consideration the Department of Transport Guidelines of the Application of Special Speed Limits, discussions at Electoral Area Committee Meetings together with consideration of submissions received from the public and from consultation with An Garda Síochana.

The Members thanked Mr. Gavin and the Engineering Staff for the proposals as presented.

Mr. Gavin, in response to comments from the Members, clarified that the comment 'Not Approved by NRA' contained in the report, was to indicate that the proposal had not been submitted to the NRA for consideration to date and did not mean that the proposal had not been approved by the NRA.

Cllr. McClearn highlighted the need for the proposal from An Garda Síochana for a section of the N65 between Portumna and Woodpark to be reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h to be approved for implementation in the context of the extent of development in the area and the needs of residents.

An Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the R345 Cong and asked that the Speed Limit of 60 km/h be extended beyond the quarry, he also referred to the need to review the default speed limit on the side roads from the R336.

Cllr Broderick referred to the L3416 overbridge of the M6 and the failure of the NRA to address same other than by means of a proposed reduction in the speed limit and contrasting the approach to same with the apparent failure of the NRA to recognize the need for reduced speed limits in the vicinity of schools and questioned their apparent disregard for local knowledge and the expertise and views of An Garda Síochana in these matters.

In reply, Mr. Gavin confirmed that it was necessary to put in place an appropriate speed limit that reflected the design speed of the road, he agreed that a similar speed limit was not applied to the other overbridges on the M6 but indicated that in was in the interests of public safety that the appropriate speed limit be put in place.

Cllr. Fahy expressed his disappointment that the proposals that he had previously submitted and raised repeatedly in relation to Ballinderreen were not included in the report presented. He acknowledged that a traffic island had been provided but indicated that same was not sufficient to address the safety issues present and that An Garda Síochana were in agreement with his proposals for an extension of the speed limits. He also referred to the need to extend the speed limit in Labane and revise the speed limit at the level crossing in Kiltartan.

Cllr. Cuddy outlined the view that the NRA should be removed from the process and while welcoming the proposal in relation to the revised speed limit for the R336 Airport Road questioned the timeframe for the review of speed limits on local roads and in the vicinity of schools.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Gavin confirmed that the proposal in relation to Caherlavine Roundabout was to increase the exiting 50 km/h to 60 km/h from the Lough Rea Hotel to the Loughrea Bypass at Caherlavine Roundabout and to apply a speed limit of 60 km/h on each leg of the roundabout.

Cllr. G. Finnerty expressed disappointment with the limited nature of the review and highlighted the need for a full review of speed limits. He also referred to the need to review the speed limit in the Kiltartan area in the context of the level crossing and school. He also highlighted the need for a review of traffic management in the area in the context of the local diversions availed of when the level crossing barriers were lowered.

Cllr. Ryan expressed disappointment that the proposal relating to reducing the speed limit on the N63 at the Grotto in Moylough was not previously submitted to the NRA for consideration to allow for earlier implementation as same was the subject of extensive discussion by the Tuam Electoral Area Committee.

Cllr. Canney referred to the need for the consent of the NRA to be removed from the process and allow the decision making process to be determined by local knowledge and consultation with An Garda Síochána and the public. He referred to previous proposals for Milltown, indicated that he understood same to have been the subject of consideration previously by the NRA and noted the absence of a proposal relating to Barnaderg.

Cllr. M. Connolly stated that a proposal relating to Barnaderg had been the subject of consideration and approval at a meeting of the Tuam Electoral Area Committee and expressed disappointment that same was not included in the report as presented.

Cllr. Willers sought clarity in relation to the proposal for Kinvara and the status of NRA approval for same and supported the previous contributions in relation to Labane and also the need to review speed limits at Peterswell NS on the N66.

Cllr. Noone welcomed the proposed increase to the speed limit on the R339 Airport Road but expressed concern and opposition to the proposal to apply a speed limit of 80 km/h on the approach to Baile Chláir Village on the N17 from Lough George to Rockwood. He was supported in this view by Cllr. Cuddy. Mr. Gavin in reply indicated that the proposal was in an area that lacked an urban feel and where the existing lower speed limit of 50 km/h was not observed suggesting that it was too low for the area in question and accordingly widely disregarded by motorists. Following further discussion, it was agreed on the suggestion of the Mayor, to defer the proposal for consideration by the Oranmore Electoral Area Committee.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the need to review the position in Milltown and in the vicinity of the national school from a broader safety perspective than just reviewing speed limits but also taking into consideration speed limits as an element of the overall package of measures.

Comh. Ó'Curraoin referred to the need to review the speed limits on local roads, indicating that he was in agreement with signs erected by local community requesting motorists to 'kill your speed and not our kids' he stated that it was not safe to drive on such roads at 80 km/h and therefore it made no sense to have a speed limit of 80 km/h signposted on such roads.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the need to include Killure Junction in the review and proposed a speed limit of 60 km/h at the junction and within 250 meters of the approach to same.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the planned works on the N63 in Moylough at the Grotto and the need to reduce the speed limit to 80 km/h. He also agreed with the previous contributions in relation to Ballygar and Milltown. He requested clarification on the status of the roadwork's speed limit applying at the site of the realignment of the N63 at Abbeyknockmoy.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed

Cllr. T. Walsh was critical of the signposting of the 80 km/hr default speed limit on local roads indicating that signposting of speed limits should be done for the purpose of being helpful he indicating that signposting for 80 km/h on side roads was unhelpful and misleading and accordingly at a minimum should be removed. He expressed support for the contributions in relation to need to take action in relation to the N63 Moylough at the Grotto junction. He also stated that the number of 50 km/h zones should be reduced, suggesting that a speed limit of 60 km/h was more appropriate in many instances. He agreed with the proposal that the local authority should have full authority in determining speed limits based on local knowledge and expertise.

Cllr. E. Mannion referred to the absence of a proposal relating to the speed limit at Ballynahinch Castle and also questioned the status of the review of speed limits at National Schools.

In reply to the comments in relation to the review of speed limits at schools, Mr. Gavin advised that revised speed limits were not appropriate to schools due to the nature of opening times and term times and that it was more appropriate to consider signage and lining. He stated that in relation to Ballynahinch Castle that it was agreed at the Area Committee that the proposal would not be brought forward. He confirmed that the NRA rejected the proposal for a revised speed limit at Ballinderreen and that the provision of advance warnings signs was proposed. In relation to Kiltartan he indicated that it was intended to review issues relating to the by-pass road and the use of same indicating that the issues to be addressed related to design and not speed. Cllr. G. Finnerty commenting on same indicated that it was not feasible to make the by-pass one way.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COMH. Ó CURRAOIN, SECONDED BY CLLR. WELBY AND AGREED TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW THE MEETING CONTINUE BEYOND 6.00

PM. 1486

Mr. Gavin stated that an extension of the speed limit at Milltown was not recommended and proposals for the location were currently under review by the local authority and the school.

Mr. Gilmore advised that a national committee was currently considering the approach to speed limits on local roads and in the vicinity of schools and that the report from same was awaited.

He confirmed that the roadwork's speed limit on the N63 at Abbeyknockmoy no longer applied and that tenders had been invited for works on the N63 at Moylough (Grotto junction) and it was anticipated that works would be completed by end August 2013.

Cllr. Canny complimented the Council, NRA and all involved on the fine work undertaken on the realignment schemes on the N17 and was supported in same by Cllr. McHugh.

The following motions were submitted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty and agreed

"That Speed Limit be extended to the Entrance of the Ballymarkham Road on the N18 in Labane"

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed

"That the Speed Limit at Kiltartan School be a 60km/h Speed Limit on the N18 and the limit extends from L85312 on the south side of School which is the entrance to Coole Park Visitor Centre and end after the Railway Crossing on the Galway side. This must be properly signed as drivers coming from the south would just have come off the Motorway."

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

"That the Speed Limit at Stones Supermarket be moved out to a location beyond the Bend on the R332 Dublin road at Barnaderg South."

It was proposed by Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly and agreed

"That Improved School Signage would be provided on the N66 in the vicinity of Peterswell National School and Kilchreest National School in the interest of public safety. Also Clontuskert National School in the Ballinasloe Electoral Area."

It was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Noone and agreed

"That the Speed Limit on the Claregalway Bus Corridor be 50km/h."

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that

"This Council proposes that an 80km/h speed limit for Milltown should be installed the Tuam side of the N17 at the Junction for Carrowbaun L6458-0 on the Tuam side of Milltown National School."

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed

"That a speed limit now come into force at Killure Junction of 60 km/h for a distance of 250 metres on the three roads concerned. This junction is in the Ballinasloe Electoral Area."

Cllr. McClearn expressed concern in relation to the impact of the recent boundary change. Cllr. Cuddy stated that he wished to propose Motion 14 on the Clár and this was seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed.

"That Galway County Council writes to the Minister for Transport and Tourism asking him to give full powers to County Councils to bring in speed limit reviews in conjunction with the local Gardai and Councillors without having to consult with the NRA. This is after all a reserved function of the Councillors. Such a move would greatly speed up the whole process of speed limit reviews."

Cllr. M. Fahy supported the request for consideration of this approach.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING UNDER THE RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 1487

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed disappointment that Kiltore Castle Road was not included in the programme. A copy of Circular RW9/2013 dated the 12th June, 2013 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was circulated to each Member.

A copy of report dated the 21st June detailing the proposed list of schemes to be funded from the additional roads allocation of €3,400,846 was circulated to each Member at the meeting.

Mr. Gilmore outlined the granting of an additional allocation of €3,400,846 in extra funding for Restoration Improvement Works including some safety schemes. He said that given the timeframe for the submission of a list of schemes and the short window to complete the additional works, a draft programme had been prepared for consideration based on submissions from the area staff, taking into consideration representations lodged by the elected members on an ongoing basis in relation to the need for works to be undertaken on certain roads.

The Members warmly welcomed the additional allocation and expressed their appreciation to the Area Engineers for compiling the draft programme for consideration.

Comh. O'Cuaig acknowledged that the criteria allowed for the inclusion of safety schemes in the programme of works and requested clarification in relation to the proposal for the provision of a footpath in Ros an Mhíl in the context of the proposed allocation of €40,000.

Comh. O'Tuairisg welcomed the allocation of funding for Ros an Mhíl and requested that the local authority provide support in terms of site clearance etc by providing the necessary plant and machinery. He welcomed the positive engagement by the Community Council and also Udaras in their role as sponsors of the community employment scheme that intended to undertake the works.

Cllr. Maher expressed concern in relation to the proposal to allocate a significant portion of the funding for the Loughrea Electoral Area in the amount of €195,000 to a single project at Loro Gate, Athenry, particularly, given the need for a large number of safety schemes to be undertaken in the electoral area, citing as an example a scheme in the Killtulla area.

Cllr. McClearn expressed concern in relation to the impact of the recent boundary changes on the approach to the development of the Roads Programme and suggested that the 2014 Roads Programme be prepared based on the new boundaries rather than wait until mid year to implement the change.

Cllr. Willers acknowledged that while all of the roads they would like to have included were not in the proposals, it was important to welcome the additional funding, and requested that if for any particular reason certain schemes as proposed could not be advanced that consideration be given to a low cost accident scheme at a junction on the N18. Cllr. M. Fahy supported the request for consideration of this approach.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed disappointment that Killure Castle Road was not included in the proposals as presented and requested consideration be given to undertake work on same.

Cllr. E. Mannion also welcomed the allocation and in particular the funding for Ros an Mhíl and queried the status of the development of a car park at Cleggan, noting that planning approval had been granted for same and requested an update on the current status of the proposal and that as an interim measure pending the development of the car park that some measures be introduced to free up the village of Cleggan and reduce the impact of irregular parking patterns.

Comh. Ó Curraoin joined the other Members in welcoming the allocation for Ros an Mhíl and questioned whether same would include the provision of public lighting.

Cllr. Welby in welcoming the allocation for Ros an Mhíl indicated that the allocation of €40,000 through the community employment scheme was a significant allocation and based on his previous experience of undertaking work via a community employment scheme was satisfied that it would allow for the completion of the footpath. He also requested an update on the Lettergesh Road and consideration for the provision of a footbridge in Oughterard in the context of the proposed amalgamation of the local schools and the resulting increase in footfall on the existing bridge to access the school site.

Cllr. Hynes noted the significant allocation of funding for Loro Gate, Athenry and the absence of funding for Dunsandle Cross, where a previous estimate of €20,000 was provided to undertake safety improvements including road markings, he indicated that the location was an accident black spot and requested that a report be prepared on same.

Cllr. Cuddy requested clarification on the works proposed to be undertaken with the benefit of the allocation of €12,000 in Baile Chláir.

Cllr. T. Walsh referred to a recent recommendation arising from a Coroner's Inquest in relation to a section of road in Glenamaddy on the border between Roscommon and Galway. He advised that he had previously submitted same as the subject of a NOM and received a reply indicating that the location would be examined. He indicated that the

location remained of significant concern and requested that the examination be advanced as quickly as possible with a view to undertaking any necessary safety measures at an early date.

Cllr. Canney also welcomed the allocation and the positive benefit to the roads network of undertaking the works as proposed.

In reply to the questions raised by the Members, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the Council would provide assistance to the employment scheme in undertaking the works at Ros an Mhíl in the context of site clearance etc. He confirmed that the employment scheme were willing to undertake the work and while a number of issues remained to be resolved to allow the work to proceed, he was confident they would be resolved in the context of the tremendous community effort to deliver the project. He confirmed that in accordance with the current approach being taken by the local authority that the project did not include the provision of public lighting at this time.

In general he pointed out that there would be considerable pressure to get the schemes to fruition and that with works mainly consisting of overlay and surface dressing time that weather conditions was a factor and that it would be necessary to advance the works as quickly as possible. He indicated that it was not clear what process the safety schemes were to be subject to by the Department in order to receive approval for works to commence.

In relation to the proposal for Loro Gate, Athenry he indicated that the scheme was being recommended for inclusion on the basis that it was unclear what funding would be available to complete same in future years.

He agreed to review the position in relation to works on the Killure Castle Road and in reply to Cllr. T. Walsh undertook to advance the review of the location in Glenamaddy on the Roscommon/Galway Border with a view to bringing forward appropriate proposals for same if same were deemed necessary.

He indicated that consideration could be given to the provision of a footbridge in Oughterard in the context of proposals under the Smarter Travel Programme.

He advised that a small allocation was being made available for the Lettergesh Road as an emergency measure, however, due to the nature and extent of the works proposed, involving the realignment of the a section of the road, it was necessary to advance a Part 8 for same.

He confirmed that it was intended to seek funding in 2014 to advance the provision of a car park at Cleggan and agreed to review the potential for interim measures to address the issues pending the provision of the car park.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh and agreed that the proposals as outlined be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1488

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

- Correspondence from the following:
dated the 27th May, 2013, from Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh
dated the 29th May, 2013, from Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway
dated the 21st May, 2013 from Archbishop Charles J. Brown, Apostolic Nuncio
thanking Galway County Council for the copy of letter inviting His Holiness, Pope Francis to visit County Galway.
- Correspondence dated the 4th June, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Galway County Council in relation to the approach being taken to the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme.
- Correspondence dated the 30th May, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging Galway County Council's correspondence relating to the Local Property Tax.
- Correspondence dated the 22nd May, 2013 from Kerry County Council regarding a debate by Kerry County Council in relation to the amount paid out every year in administering the Coroners function, and looking for other Local Authorities' support in making their views known to the Minister for Justice.
- Correspondence dated the 31st May, 2013 regarding a motion adopted by Skibbereen Town Council in relation to the cessation of the practice of fluoridation of the public water supply.
- Correspondence dated the 31st May, 2013 regarding two resolutions made by Kerry County Council : (a) requesting the Minister for Agriculture to make an application for EU Solidarity Fund to help address the serious fodder crisis Kerry, and (b) requesting the Department of Agriculture to address the current fodder crisis and put in place measures to counteract any future fodder crisis the country may face again.
- Correspondence dated the 29th May, 2013 regarding two resolutions made by Monaghan Town Council: (a) to write to the Minister for Social Protection to rescind her intention to make people of retirement age (65) to sign on at the dole office for one year in order to obtain their State Pension which will be reduced by € 42.30 per week (b) to call on the Minister for Justice to review the criteria involved in assessing applicants wishing to enter the State to live to ensure that they do not have a criminal record in the country of origin or any other country.
- Correspondence dated the 17th June, 2013, from South Tipperary County Council in relation to a resolution adopted calling on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., to prioritise the introduction of postcodes to assist the emergency services reach people in need. Fire, ambulance and Garda personnel are being delayed in reaching the destination of callouts as addresses in some cases are so vague. In certain instances, there are several locations with the same townland address thus causing unnecessary confusion which could be avoided by the introduction of postcodes".
- Correspondence dated 14th June, 2013 from Ennis Town Council regarding a resolution adopted supporting Clare County Council's and other County Council's

prohibition of hydraulic fracking for the extraction of shale gas (otherwise known as unconventional hydrocarbons).

- Correspondence dated 21st June, 2013 from Leitrim County Council regarding a resolution passed that Leitrim County Council call on the Health and Safety Authority to deliver the ASSIST Suicide Prevention Programme as part of the mandatory training programme in the workforce.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1489

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Molloy confirmed that tender was about to issue in order to allow works commence on the School Flashing Lights Programme.

Mr. Molloy, also in reply to Cllr. Hoade, advised that the proposal for traffic calming measures in Milltown, put on hold pending the completion of the water services project, was now the subject of review in the context of the condition of the road surface. He indicated that it was not appropriate to proceed with the scheme based on the current condition of the road surface and in reply to further questions on the matter, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the funding allocated for the traffic calming measures may no longer be available to the local authority.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy, the Mayor advised that funding was not available to facilitate the Mayor or Deputy Mayor travel to South Africa to attend the funeral of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, in the unfortunate event of his untimely passing.

Cllr. Cuddy requested an update in relation to the traffic calming scheme at Knockdoe and in reply Mr. Gavin confirmed that the post construction safety audit was being carried out by the NRA and that it was anticipated that the report would be available in the near future. Mr. Lavelle undertook to revert to Cllr. Cuddy directly in relation to the current status of the proposal to replace water pipes in Oranmore.

In reply to An Comh O'Tuairisg, the County Manager confirmed that the local authority required the sanction of the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for the filing of staff vacancies, including those arising from staff moving to Irish Water. The Manager confirmed that the local authority would be seeking sanction to fill position falling vacant due to staff transferring to Irish Water and would fill such positions subject to sanction and that all other vacancies are subject to consideration as they arise.

In reply to the issue raised by Comh. O'Tuairisg at the outset of the meeting relating to Fluoridation, Mr Lavelle pointed out that the issue was under the remit of the Department of Health and the HSE and the role of the local authority was to undertake the process as directed by the Department of Health & HSE with the costs billed to the HSE. He confirmed that a total of 11 water schemes in Galway are currently fluoridated on the direction of the HSE. He detailed the background to the issue, including recent consideration of same by the Strategic Policy Committee and the role and report of the recent expert group established by the Minister. Mr. Lavelle undertook to circulate a copy of the report.

It was proposed by An Comh O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Canney and agreed – Transport
However, to date this year the Department of Transport have not made funding available
“That Galway County Council ask the Department of Health of what scientific information
is available as to beneficial effects and possible detrimental effects of adding fluoride to
our water systems, and also what research has the Department carried out”.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Kilconnell Water Supply which he said he raised concerns
about some months ago with regard an odour from the water, and asked if an update can
be read ready for the next Meeting. Mr. Lavelle undertook to review and revert directly
to Cllr. D. Connolly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1490

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG 1496

The following reply was given:-

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

“Déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe scrúdú ar a h-aibhneacha, srutháin agus
draentacha i gceantar Chonamara. Cuirfear tuilleadh tuairisc cothabháil san áireamh
i gceist.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1491

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16 – CLLR. J. CUDDY 1492

“Thosaigh oibreáil le bhaint leathnú don reilig reatha ag Reilig Mhaírois, Baile na
Rath. Tá dhá bharr deacrachtaí conartha stop an obair ar feadh píosa
agus thosaigh arís le h-athbheirtear i 2013. Tá an obair ag leanacht ar aghaidh ó shin a chuimsíonn
leathnú dhá chriochnú de réir mar a bhí á h-ádh. Tá an obair ag leanacht ar aghaidh.”

The following reply was given:-

“The majority of dead animals are not on private lands, they are found in drains, bogs and
other public lands. In the event of dead animals found on private lands, it is the owner’s
responsibility to dispose of the animals appropriately.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1493

The following reply was given:-

“Design of this scheme is proceeding with a programme to seek planning in 2014. Further
progress is dependent upon funding.”

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. M. FAHY 1494

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will discuss this proposal with the Department of Transport. However, to date this year the Department of Transport have not made funding available for the provision of carparks in County Galway."

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

1495

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council participated in a meeting of Stakeholders held in Gort last Monday. It was agreed at this meeting that Failte Ireland would prepare a report on works required to upgrade the Thoor Ballylee Tower to a standard that would enable it to be opened to the public."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1496

The following reply was given:-

"Déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe scrúdú ar na h-aibhneacha, srutháin agus draentacha i gceantar Chonamara. Cuirfear tuilte agus cothabháil san áireamh agus déanfar comhairle le Oifig na n-Oibreacha Poiblí faoi airgead a chuir ar fail d'aon obair atá i gceist."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1497

The following reply was given:-

"Thosaigh oibreacha ar fhorbairt leathnú don reilig reatha ag Reilig Mháirois, Baile na hAbhann go déanach i 2012. De bharr deacrachtaí conartha stop an obair ar feadh píosa agus thosaigh arís go luath i 2013. Tá an obair ag leanacht ar aghaidh ó shin a chuimsíonn tógáil méid mór cloch agus a líonadh isteach an tsuímh chun an doimhneacht riachtanach de 8 troigh a fháil. Tá thart ar leath an tsuímh forbartha agus beidh críochnaithe roimh dheireadh na seachtaine seo. Beidh an chuid eile don tsuímh dhá chríochnú de réir mar a bhíonn ábhar líonta leordhothannach ar fáil."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – COMH. Ó TUAIRISG

1498

The following reply was given:-

"Noted."

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

SUBMITTED, APPROVED + SIGNED

[Signature]

22ND JULY 2013

DATE

Minutes Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2013

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON FRIDAY, 14th JUNE, 2013 at 2.00 PM

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Galway

Cllr. T. Welby, Mayor of the County of

Galway

Cllr. L. Carroll, Mayor of the County of

LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, D.

Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. Ó

Cuaig, T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, 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, M.

Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh. S. Ó

Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh T. Walsh & B.

Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager;

Messrs. E. Cummins, F. Gilmore, K.

Kelly, Directors of Service; M. Lavelle,

A/Director of Services, M. Owens,

County Secretary & Meetings

Administrator; P. O'Neachtain, Oifigigh

Gaeilge & G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an Cruinniú leis an Paidir.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR YEAR 2013/2014

1469

Cllr. Welby, outgoing Mayor, was in the Chair.

Cllr. Welby stated that it was a great honour to be Mayor of the County and he thanked all of the Members for the support they gave him during the year. He reflected back on his term of office, outlining some of the many events he had attended as follows:

He said his term began with the Volvo Ocean Race, and as he escorted the Galway Rose through the streets of Galway on the 4th July, he felt at the time that this would be the highlight of his term as Mayor, but later realised that this was only the beginning of a very exciting and rewarding year as Mayor of the County.

Minutes Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2013

He was proud to host a Mayoral Reception for Ireland Reaching Out "Week of Welcomes" on 25th June 2012 and he said that this initiative is close to his heart and he will continue his involvement with this very worthwhile initiative.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the County Secretary for his support, assistance and memorable year. His visit to the Milwaukee Irish Festival in August will remain in his memory as a very important event as it is much more than a music festival, with the Cultural Village and Marketplace, where he experienced a great sense of being Irish, meeting so many people of Irish descent and where all things Irish are celebrated and promoted in order to instil in future generations an appreciation of Irish Heritage. The Mayor proceeded to make a presentation to the Manager as a token of his appreciation.

He said he was very fortunate to have been invited to attend the House of Lords by Baroness McDonagh with representatives from the Galway Associations of London, Coventry and Luton all delighted to be there, along with people from An Cheathrú Rua, Tuam, Ballinasloe who have lived in London for years and were delighted to get the opportunity to visit the House of Lords for the first time.

He recalled his strong association with and support for the Made in Galway initiative recalling his promotional visit to France and acknowledging the role of Mr. Alan Farrell, SEO in promoting the trade and promotional visit.

He referred to the Pride of Place Awards where three Galway locations; Clifden, Inisbofin and Inis Oírr were proud recipients of the awards which were presented at a gala ceremony in Thomand Park Stadium, Limerick, in November 2012. In addition, he said, Inis Oírr has been selected by the Co-Operation Ireland's Pride of Place Judging Committee to represent Ireland at International level in the 2013 'LivCom' Sustainable Living Communities competition and he wished them every success in this nomination.

The County Manager thanked the Mayor on behalf of Management and staff and said he said that one event which he was proud to host was the Reception held by the Council to honour the National Tidy Town award winners. He said he was delighted to honour these communities who deserve great credit for their hard work and dedication to the betterment of their towns and villages.

He said other highlights of his term included the Mayoral Awards, which acknowledged and celebrated the great work that people and communities are involved in around the county. He said he was also delighted to have hosted the Mayoral Ball and he thanked the staff of Corporate Services for their help in organising this event.

Another highlight was the Launch of the Galway Gatherings 2013 which took place in Áras an Chontae on the 27th March 2013 which was jointly led by Galway County and City Councils and where details of over 200 Galway Gatherings were announced spanning a variety of fields including Culture, Sport, Food, Music and Heritage.

He referred to the success of MeetWest, a networking conference to promote and sustain economic development in the County and wider Western Region.

The Mayor referred to his excellent working relationship with the Mayor of the City of Galway, Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, and he said they had both worked together for the betterment of Galway City & County and he said that it is important that the working relationship between the City and County Mayors would continue to be nurtured.

Minutes Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2013

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Peter Roche for his excellent support during the year and for undertaking the responsibilities of Deputy Mayor with such ability and distinction.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the County Secretary for his support, assistance and advice given during his term as Mayor. The Mayor proceeded to make a presentation to the County Secretary as a token of his appreciation.

The Mayor thanked the County Manager for her support during this term stating that she was always available to support, guide and assist him. The Mayor proceeded to make a presentation to the Manager as a token of his appreciation.

The Mayor concluded by expressing his sincere appreciation to the Members, the Manager and Staff, Members of the Press and Media, his wife Bernie and his daughters Louise and Sharon, the staff in his business in Oughterard, his friends and supporters for their support and encouragement during what he described as being a very enjoyable and memorable year.

Cllr. McDonagh lead warm tributes to the Mayor stating that he had represented the Council and the County of Galway with distinction, both nationally and internationally during his term of Office. The Members paid tribute to Cllr. Welby for carrying out all of his duties as Mayor of the County with great commitment, distinction and professionalism. They stated that he was an excellent ambassador for the Council and the County during his term of Office, noting that he was always fair and courteous in conducting the business of Council and was a very democratic Chairperson. The Members also paid tribute to Cllr. Roche in his role as Deputy Mayor during the period.

The County Manager thanked the Mayor on behalf of Management and staff and said it was important to acknowledge the great co-operation and courtesy he displayed as Mayor of the County and complimented him on the excellent manner in which he represented the Council throughout the year. She referred to significant highlights of his year, including the visit to the House of Lords, the Ireland Reaching Out Initiative, the Launch of the Galway Gatherings, his strong interest in the "Made in Galway" Brand, his support for MeetWest, the Mayoral Charity Ball, and the Civic Receptions held at Áras an Chontae during the year. She referred to the leadership he demonstrated in chairing meetings of the Council and she thanked him for the encouragement he showed to staff and the value he obviously placed on them in their diligent day-to-day work. She also thanked him on a personal note for the co-operation she had received from him during his term as Mayor of the County of Galway. The County Manager also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Roche, for his work during the year.

The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for the position of Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn that Cllr. Carroll be elected Mayor.

As there was no other nomination, and as Cllr. Carroll accepted his nomination, he was declared elected Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014 and he was invested with the Chain of Office.

Minutes Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2013

CLLR. CARROLL THEN TOOK THE CHAIR

1470

Cllr. Carroll thanked his proposer and seconder and the Members of the Council who supported his election and his family and friends for their support. He paid tribute to Cllr. Welby for his dedication to his duties over the year and he also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Peter Roche for his work during the year.

He said he was honoured to take up the position and looked forward to representing the county during his term as Mayor of the County. He said it is the people who make the county, including those from the political, business, sporting, voluntary and public service area.

He said that during the coming year he intends to support and encourage the work of so many wonderful volunteers throughout the county who carry out such splendid work, such as Members of Community Development Associations, coaches and mentors in the sporting area, Faróige Groups, the St. Vincent de Paul organisation etc.

He promised to nurture young people as much as possible as they are our greatest asset and he will endeavour to use his experience as Chairperson of the Youthwork Sub-Committee of the County Galway Vocational Education Committee in this regard.

He outlined his intention to invite Co. Galway Comhairle na nÓg to the Council Chamber.

He welcomed members of the Oranmore U10 and U12 Hurling and Camogie clubs who were present in the Chamber to witness his election as Mayor.

He referred to the Job-Bridge Scheme which has been embraced by the Council in order to facilitate unemployed people back into the workforce and he said that he will urge the Council to get the new Labour Activation Programme up and running in order to get some necessary works carried out around the county.

He stated his intention to invite the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Udarás Members to the Chamber during the year to inform the Members of their initiatives and ideas for business promotion.

He said he will be contacting Minister Brian Hayes to express his dissatisfaction with the National Procurement Policy, which he referred to as counter-productive in relation to employment and which is forcing small companies to shed jobs, as it is creating a monopoly for larger companies in the area of supplies.

He said that the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and he welcomed the fact that through strong persuasion, the Annual Conferring of Safety Awards 2013 will take place in Galway in October. He thanked Mr. Padraic Horrigan of NISO for his work in this regard and he welcomed to him to the Meeting.

Minutes Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2013

He referred to the M17/M18 Motorway from Gort to Tuam stating that work is due to commence on this project during his term of Office and he looks forward to this very important work progressing and also work on the N59.

He said that he will promote three Charities during his term as Mayor, i.e. Act for Meningitis, the Galway Hospice and the Brothers of Charity Service.

He noted that Galway County Council's maintenance budget has been cut from €160m in 2008 to €127m in 2013, and he said that although the number of staff has also been reduced, remaining staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that the highest level of service possible is provided to the people of County Galway. He said he will endeavour to support staff in their work and intends to meet all staff in the coming weeks.

He said that during his Term as Mayor of the County of Galway he will endeavour to promote Galway at every opportunity for the betterment of its citizens.

He thanked his wife Allison, his business associates at Anchor Safety, his friends and colleagues and Padraic Horrigan of NISO for their continued support to him in his career.

The Mayor welcomed Deputy Sean Kyne, Deputy Brian Walsh, Senators Michael Mullins and Fidelma Healy Eames and Galway City Councillor, Cllr. Padraic Conneely to the Meeting.

The Members congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his appointment and wished him well during his term of Office. The County Manager on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his election as Mayor of the County of Galway.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR YEAR 2013/2014

1471

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Comh. Ó Laoi, that Cllr. E. Mannion be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2013/2014.

As there was no other nomination, and as Cllr. E. Mannion accepted her nomination, the Mayor declared Cllr. E. Mannion elected as Deputy Mayor of the County of Galway for the year 2013/2014 and she was invested with the Chain of Office.

The Members congratulated Cllr. E. Mannion on her appointment and wished her well during her term of Office. The County Manager on her own behalf, and on behalf of the Management and staff of the Council, also congratulated Cllr. E. Mannion.

SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

1472

Mr. Owens referred to the consideration of a schedule of ordinary meetings for the next twelve months, stating that this was for information purposes and for noting by the Members.

Cllr. McDonagh asked that the Parties consider the times the Council Meetings should commence so that agreement on same could be reached at the June Monthly Meeting.

Cllr. McClearn referred to the Meeting Scheduled for the 26th May, 2014 stating that it will be four days after the Local Elections. The Mayor said that this date can be adjusted if required.

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT OUGHTERARD GOLF CLUB, OUGHTERARD, AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY 27th

May, 2013

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

CATHAQIRLEACH:

Submitted, Approved + SIGNED County of Galway

LATHAIR FREISIN:

Liam Carroll

Bailt:

24th June 2013

Date

Oifigeir:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carron, M. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh. S. O'Cuig, T. O'Connell, Cllrs. J. O'Connell, M. O'Connell, G. Finerty, M. Finerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, Comh. S. O'Laol, Cllrs. M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McDonagh, M. McHugh, M. Noone, K. Ryan, Comh. S. Tuainsg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, & B. Willets

Ms. M. Molony, County Manager; Messrs. K. Kelly, E. O'Connell, J. Cullen, Directors of Service; G. Mullakey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary; Meetings Administrator; A. Farrell, Senior Executive Officer; E. Molloy, L. Gavin, Senior Engineers; Ms. Kennedy, A/Senior Planner, Ms. G. Kavanagh, Assistant Planner; Ms. M. Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer; Ms. Marilyn Gaughran, Arts Officer, R. D'Boyle Staff Officer.

Thosnach an cruinniú leis an paidir:

The Mayor & County Manager welcomed Cllr. Naoisa O Muin, Lord Mayor of Dublin and a native of Galway, together with his parents to the May Meeting of Galway County Council.

In closing the Meeting, the Lord Mayor referred to his strong Galway roots and his links with the County, he referred to his education in An Spidéal and complimented all those associated with the school and the standard of education and formation they provided for young people. He highlighted the number of current office holders with connections to County Galway, including the President and Tanaiste and highlighted the challenges facing local government and wished the Elected Members well in fulfilling their representational role.

The Lord Mayor concluded by inviting the Elected Members to visit the Mansion House on Sunday, 16th June 2013.

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT OUGHTERARD GOLF CLUB, OUGHTERARD, AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY 27th

May, 2013

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. T. Welby, Mayor of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, 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. McDonagh, T. McHugh, M. Noone, P. Roche, K. Ryan, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh T. Walsh, & B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager; Messrs. F. Gilmore, K. Kelly, E. Cummins, J. Cullen, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; A. Farrell, Senior Executive Officer; E. Molloy, L. Gavin, Senior Engineers; Ms. S. Kennedy, A/Senior Planner, Ms. G. Kavanagh, Assistant Planner, Ms. M Donoghue, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. Marilyn Gaughran, Arts Officer, R. O'Boyle Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

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In addressing the Meeting, the Lord Mayor referred to his strong Galway roots and his links with the County, he referred to his education in An Spidéal and complimented all those associated with the school and the standard of education and formation they provided for young people. He highlighted the number of current office holders with connections to County Galway, including the President and Tanaiste and highlighted the challenges facing local government and wished the Elected Members well in fulfilling their representational role.

The Lord Mayor concluded by inviting the Elected Members to visit the Mansion House on Sunday, 16th June 2013.

The Members joined both the Mayor and Manager in extending a warm welcome to the Lord Mayor and his parents, acknowledging his role as an Elected Member of Dublin City Council and Lord Mayor of Dublin together with the contribution of his parents to their local community.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1439

It was proposed by Comh. O'Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of Ms. N. Feeney, Ros an Mhíl and the family of Uinsinn McCann, Aran Islands.

It was proposed by Comh. O'Curraoin, seconded by Comh. O'Laoi and agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Poilin O'Donnell.

Resolutions of sympathy were also extended to the following:

- Mrs. Mary Mitchell, Treanboy, Ballymoe, via Castlerea, Co. Galway
- Tony Ó Cadhain, Dubhachta, Corr na Móna, Co. Na Gaillimhe
- Christy Flaherty, Garryland, Gort, Co. Galway.
- Tom & Bernie Naughton, Bodane, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Siobhán Ní Domhnaill (Coilin), Cnocán Glas, An Spidéal, Co. Na Gaillimhe.
- Catherine Conneely, Cregmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Mrs. Nancy Donoghue, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Joe Stone, The Man in the Moon Pub, Croyden, New Addington, London, UK

An Comh O Cuaig referred to the need to progress the provision of a footpath at Ros an Mhíl and welcomed the commitment given at a recent meeting of the Connemara Electoral Area Committee in relation to progressing the project. He stated that An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD had agreed to meet with the family of the late Ms. Niamh Feeney during a forthcoming visit to Connemara.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Mr. PJ Mara, a former FF Government Press Secretary, on becoming a father.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

1440

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting held 22nd April 2013 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. M. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Fahy referred to the Prohibition Order to prohibit Temporary Dwellings at and in the vicinity of Kinvara Pier under Section 31(1) of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1948 and questioned the current status of the Order. In reply, Mr. Cullen said that a valid appeal was submitted to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government that a copy of same would be made available to the Council and following appropriate consideration the matter would be brought to the Loughrea Electoral Area Committee in due course.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that an update on Irish Water be discussed later and an update be given by the Director of Services.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

1441

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 25th January 2013 was approved on the proposal of Cllr T. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

Arising from the Minutes, An Comh O'Cuaig referred to the second last paragraph on Page 1 of the Minutes referring to recoupment of Expenditure by the Council in the development of Caladh Mor and Cill Ronain Harbours. The Manager stated that the Council are continuing correspondence with the Department and she was more hopeful now that she was last September of securing a resolution on the matter.

An Comh O'Cuiag also enquired in relation to the current position regarding the proposal to develop a Cultural Centre at Pearse's Cottage in Rosmuc. In reply, the Manager said that the Council was supportive of the efforts of Udaras na Gaeltachta as the lead on the project but indicated that it was her understanding that Failte Ireland was not currently in a position to allocate funding to the project.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 25th February 2013 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 16th May 2012 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Willers seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 27th September 2012 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Willers

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 12th December 2012 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Willers.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr Cuddy expressed concern in relation to the delays encountered in undertaking housing inspections. It was agreed to allow consideration of same under Item 10.

The Report of the Corporate Affairs & Cultural SPC Meeting held on 28th January 2013 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Cllr. McHugh.

The Report of the Planning, Economic Development & Community SPC Meeting held on 30th January 2013 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. L. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Fahy

In reply to comments from Comh. O'Laoui in relation to a meeting with the NPWS, the Mayor indicated that it was his understanding that such a meeting was to be arranged by Deputy Kyne and related specifically to the route selection process for the R336 and the impact of environmental designations on the process.

Mr. Kelly in reply to Cllr. Cuddy stated that there was no further update or timeframe for resolution of the issues relating to the site in Oranhill however it was his understanding that the relevant financial institution had engaged with a view to undertaking works on the site and that the procurement process for same was ongoing.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.02207 HECTARES AT 31 THE POTTERY, THE WEIR ROAD, TUAM, CO. GALWAY 1442

Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2013 and Report dated the 15th May, 2013 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe, it was agreed that having complied with the relevant statutory requirements, to dispose of 0.02207 hectares at 31 The Pottery, The Weir Road, Tuam, Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE SURRENDER OF THE LEASE ON ST. COLMAN'S HALL, GORT (FORMERLY GORT HERITAGE CENTRE) CO. GALWAY 1443

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the issues raised by Statutory Bodies, Ministerial Bodies and any Statutory Notice dated 15th May, 2013 and Report dated the 15th May, 2013 were previously circulated in accordance with the relevant statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Willers, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, it was agreed that having complied with the relevant statutory requirements, to surrender the Lease on St. Colman's Hall, Gort (formerly Gort Heritage Centre), Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice.

Cllr. Willers acknowledged the input of Mr. Owens and Ms. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer in advancing the surrender of the lease in order to allow for the development of St. Colman's Hall, Gort for alternative use.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE GORT DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2013-2019 AS PER SECTION 20 (3) (C) AND (D) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) 1444

(report already circulated)

The Mayor invited the presentation of the Manager's Report on the submissions received on the Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2013-2019.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that under Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the Members should in exercising their function consider the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government.

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

Ms. Kavanagh stated that the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2009-2015 was on public display from the 19th February to the 2nd April 2013 and a total of nine Submissions were received, five from the Prescribed Authorities/Environmental Authorities/Statutory Bodies and four from General Public and Other Persons/Bodies.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the preparation of the Draft Plan was accompanied by full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA/ER Report) and an Appropriate Assessment/Natura Impact Report (Stage 2 AA/NIR) to assess the likely significant effects of implementing the Draft Plan on the environment in general and on European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network in particular. She also said that a Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (including a Justification Test for Town Centre lands) for the Gort LAP area was also undertaken in accordance with the Flood Risk Guidelines 2009 which has identified

the flood risk areas and zones within the Plan Area and have also informed the land use zonings of the Draft Plan.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the issues raised by Statutory Bodies, Ministerial Bodies and any other National Authority have been dealt with first in the Manager's Report and the remaining submissions are then dealt with in order in which they were received.

Submission No. 3 is from the Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG):

Ms. Kavanagh said that the Department raised four main issues.

With regard to the Application of the Sequential and Justification Test in the Context of the proposed Town Centre/Commercial Zoning, Ms. Kavanagh said that the Draft Plan has integrated all recommendations arising from the Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), including those relating to the flood zones and measures have been integrated into the Plan that will require compliance with the *Guidelines* at project level, including in relation to site-specific flood risk assessments. She advised that a Justification Test has been prepared for the Town Centre zoning located within Flood Zone A and B and the Justification Test passed all criteria and was used in conjunction with the Stage 2 SFRA to inform proposed land use zonings as part of the Plan preparation process. She advised that the area in question by the DOE is located within lands which have already been developed and the Justification Test will be included within the Appendices of the SEA/Environmental Report. She recommended no change to the Draft Plan.

With regard to the Departments submission regarding greater clarity on the Flood Maps to indicate what are Flood Zones A and B, Ms. Kavanagh said that in order to improve the clarity of the Draft Plan Flood Risk Management maps 3A and 3B, it is recommended that the colours on the Flood Risk Management map 3A/3B are reviewed, the flood zones delineated with red serrated lines and the OSI Flood Plains layer omitted with a view to providing greater clarity to the Flood Zones.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended that:

1. Amend the Flood Risk Management Maps 3A/3B in order to assist in providing greater clarity and delineation to the Flood Zones.
2. Remove the OSI layer on Maps 3A/3B in the Draft Plan in order to improve greater clarity to the flood plain layers.

In respect of the National Routes and Compliance with the provisions of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, Ms. Kavanagh said that the comments from NRA will be duly considered and a detailed response will be provided under the NRA'S Submission No. 1.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2013(DMURS) would be included into Section 3 of the Draft Plan and she recommended that Policies RD1, TI 1 and TI 2 and Objectives RD 2, and TI 14 be amended to include reference to DMURS, 2013.

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

Submission No 1 – National Roads Authority

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the NRA raised five main issues.

Ms. Kavanagh noted the NRA's comments on the Strategic National Road Network and recommended no change to the Draft Plan.

TI 25 – Signage on or Visible from National Roads

In relation to Transportation Infrastructure, Ms. Kavanagh said their comments were noted and the issue of appropriate access would be dealt with at project stage and including any review of the existing speed limits. She recommended that in the interest of clarity Objective TI 15 – Transport Network Improvement shall be updated to include reference to Section 2.7 of the DoECLG 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines' in order to address this issue.

With regard to Residential Development, Ms. Kavanagh noted the NRA's comments. She advised that some of the undeveloped Residential land to the east of the Plan has been zoned as Residential (Phase 2) which is generally not developable during the lifetime of the Plan; however, she said that it was acknowledged that there are parcels of undeveloped Residential (Phase 1) lands located outside the 50kph speed limit. She said that these particular lands are historical residential zoning that has been in place in the Local Area Plan for Gort for a number of years and in addition, she said that the identification of these lands for development is also in accordance with the Preferred Development Strategy of the Plan which supports the consolidation of the town centre, promotes the infill and sequential development of the town and locates new Town Centre (C1) and Residential Phase 1 expansion potential to the east, adjacent to the Gort Railway station and along the N66. She further advised that the Preferred Development Option also recognises the area as a prime development quarter in terms of integrating land use and public transportation and promotes smarter travel opportunities for the town. In response to the comments by the NRA, Ms. Kavanagh said that Objective TI13 of the Draft LAP applies to all zoned land and deals with direct access to the National Road/Motorway Network. She said that the issue of appropriate access for future development proposals will be dealt with at project stage and including any review of the existing speed limits. She recommended no change to the Draft Plan.

In respect of the NRA's comments with regard to Economic Development, Ms. Kavanagh said that the proposed zoned areas are historical zonings that have been in place in the Local Area Plan for Gort for a number of years and are predominantly located within the 50kph speed limits of the town not the 60kph speed limit as stated in the submission. She advised that these industrial zonings to the north of the Plan area accommodate some developed industrial and employment uses and it is proposed that they remain so zoned in order to accommodate the future expansion of these uses in a consolidated location. Ms. Kavanagh referred to Objective TI15 – Transport Network Improvements - of the Plan which requires proposed developments to consider incorporating provisions for busways, footpaths and cycleways where properties bound main arterial routes, new link routes or other routes determined by the NRA, which would further improve access and smarter travel infrastructure in the area, and said Objective TI 17 requires all new commercial,

industrial and retail developments to submit a Road Safety Audit and Traffic Impact Assessment as part of their planning application. She recommended no change to the Draft Plan.

In respect of signage, Ms. Kavanagh noted the NRA's comments in relation to signage on national roads and she recommended the inclusion of the following new Objective into the Draft LAP to read as follows:

TI 25 – Signage on or Visible from National Roads

Avoid the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads outside of the 50-60kmh speed limit area in the interest of traffic safety and visual amenity, in accordance with the *Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012*. The NRA document Policy and Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Road March 2011 shall also be considered in the assessment of relevant developments.

Cllr. G. Finnerty advised that meeting that while some repairs have been carried out on the N66 in Gort, representations have been made to the NRA seeking additional funding and he would hope that the NRA would provide further funding for the repair and maintenance of this road.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendations in the Manager's Report on foot of the above Submission.

Submission No 2 – Office of Public Works (OPW)

Ms. Kavanagh said that this submission referred to the 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines' and welcomes Galway County Council's commitment to adhere to these Guidelines, which place a firm onus on the Authority to follow the hierarchal order to avoid, substitute, justify, mitigate and manage flood risk and they welcomed the Council's production of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Galway, with the SFRA conclusions for Gort included and also notes that all forms of flooding must be addressed and given the karst geology throughout Galway, the presence of turloughs and groundwater flooding may well be important. She advised that the Submission references the CRFAM studies which should be available at end of 2013 and the Submission stated that where there is a suspected flood risk to a proposed development, the Authority should apply the appropriate level of assessment and where appropriate, evidence of application of the Justification Test may be required.

In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that the OPW's comments raised are noted. She advised that future SFRA's and reviews of the Plan will take into account new information when it becomes available. She said that a Stage 2 SFRA had been carried out for the Gort Local Area Plan which identifies the three flood zones as required under the *Flood Risk Management Guidelines* and has also taken on board local knowledge, site walkovers and other flood risk indicators. She advised that in order to communicate the findings of the Stage 2 SFRA, an updated legend for the Stage 2 SFRA Figure 3 will be provided and said that measures arising from the Stage 2 SFRA, including those relating to site specific FRA's have been integrated into the Draft Plan and will contribute towards the implementation of the Guidelines with regard to proposed developments within the LAP area. She further advised

that a Justification Test has been prepared for Town Centre zoning located within Flood Zone A and B and passed all of the criteria under the Guidelines.

On foot of this Submission, Ms. Kavanagh recommended the inclusion of an updated Map Legend in the Gort Stage 2 SFRA document under Figure 3 'Indicative Flood Risk Zone Map' to read "Indicative Flood Risk Zone A (Site visits, local knowledge and groundtruthing of flood indicators, including Western CFRAM Flood Risk Review, aerial photography and PFRA 100) and Indicative Flood Zone B (Site visits, local knowledge and groundtruthing of flood indicators, including aerial photography and PFRA 1000). Ms. Kavanagh also recommended the inclusion of the associated consequential changes to the Legend within the Flood Risk Management Maps 3A/3B in the Draft Plan.

In reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty as to when the CRFRAM maps would be available, Mr. L. Gavin advised that these maps are being prepared by the OPW for the Shannon and the West regions and the Draft Flood Maps are due to be available in February/March 2014 and he is of the opinion that these maps will be based on a 1 in 100 year flood risk. Cllr. G. Finnerty expressed his concern that it is difficult to make decisions with regard to the Local Area Plans in the absence of these maps.

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

3. Flood Risk Management

Ms. Kavanagh said that this Submission notes that the CRFRAM maps should be amended in relation to the Western Catchment local flood risk management plan.

Submission No 9 – Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine

Ms. Kavanagh noted the Departments comments and advised that provision is made in Policy UI 1, Objectives DS 5, UI 1, UI 2 and UI 4 in relation to capacity of the Gort sewerage treatment plant. She said that the EIS associated with individual projects is not under review in this process. Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

In reply to queries raised by Cllrs. Willers, Feeney and Comh. O'Curraoin, Mr. Kelly said that while there is nothing in the Plan referring to the proposed fish farm in Galway Bay, the Manager's Report was required to comment on the Submission made by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine.

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

Submission No 7 – Cian O' Mahony for the Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the EPA raised six issues.

1. Provision of Residential Phase 2 Lands:

Ms. Kavanagh referred to the EPA's comments with regard to the excessive provision of Residential Phase 2 lands (72 ha) and she advised that in order to align with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan, phasing has been applied to residential lands within the Gort LAP, similar to the approach taken in other recently adopted LAPs within the county. She advised that Objective RD1 of the Draft Local Area Plan clearly sets out the phased approach with the area of Residential Phase 1 land reflecting the quantum of land allocated to Gort in the Core Strategy (23.65ha). She said these are the residential lands

targeted for development within the lifetime of this LAP and Residential Phase 2 lands are reserved for longer term growth needs and there is a general presumption against residential development in lands zoned Residential (Phase 2) within the lifetime of this Plan. In addition, she advised that Objectives DS5, UI 2, UI 3 and UI 4 ensure that no development can take place unless it is adequately serviced and said that all draft land use zonings including Residential have been assessed in the context of SEA/AA of the Draft Plan and mitigating objectives have been included within the Draft Plan as appropriate including DS3 and NH1. She recommended no change to the Draft Plan.

2. Water Services Objectives:

In respect of Water Services Objectives, Ms. Kavanagh said the EPA's comments were noted and said that her previous response also applied in relation to development not proceeding in the absence of adequate services. She recommended no change required.

Cllr. G. Finnerty advised the Meeting that the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Gort had been upgraded and there was a good supply of quality water in Gort. He said, however, that in order for proper development to take place in the town, a proper Regional Water Scheme is required for Gort.

3. Flood Risk Management

Ms. Kavanagh said that this Submission notes that critical infrastructure within the Plan are adequately protected from risk of flooding but it suggests that the wording of U12 Flood Risk Management be amended in relation to the *Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study* (CFRAMs) and the term 'coastal/tidal' to be removed from Objective UI 8 as it is not relevant to the Plan area. In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that Objective UI 5 in the Draft LAP makes specific reference to supporting and facilitating the protection of the town's existing wastewater treatment plant which is located within Flood Zone A.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended the amendment of Policy UI 2 Flood Risk Management to delete the text 'take account of' and to include the text "implement the relevant aspects of" and to insert new text to read "the output of which will be a Flood Risk Management Plan for the catchment".

Ms. Kavanagh also recommended the inclusion of additional text to Objective UL 8 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment (Refer to Maps 3A/3B) part d) to include reference to protecting critical infrastructure in general and the removal of the words 'coastal/tidal' from Objective UL 8 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment (Refer to Maps 3A/3B) part a).

4. Natural Heritage and Biodiversity related Policies

Ms. Kavanagh noted the EPA's comments in relation to Natural Heritage and Biodiversity related Policies and said that neither of the Natura sites referred to are located within the Local Area Plan area, and said that the issue is more relevant to the County Development Plan and shall be undertaken in consultation with the National Parks & Wildlife Service. She recommended no change required.

5. Environmental Report

Ms. Kavanagh noted the comments with regard to the Environmental Report and advised that the Report shall be updated as appropriate to reflect the EPA's comments and a new comment column in Table 1 within Appendix C will be included. She said that the Environmental Report includes provision for monitoring on the implementation of the Plan and no change is required.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended the insertion of a new bullet point within Policy NH1 of the Draft Plan to include reference to the updated EPA Report 2012.

6. Other Issues

Ms. Kavanagh said that a number of other issues were raised which included referring to proposed amendments to the Plan being screened for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations and being subject to the same method of assessment applied in the "environmental assessment" of the Draft Plan and the information required in the SEA Statement. She recommended no change to the Draft Plan in respect of these other issues.

The Members agreed to accept the recommendation in the Manager's Report on foot of the above Submission.

Submission No.4 – Grealish Glynn Associates on behalf of Sean Ruane Lands at Rindifin, Gort.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that this Submission requested that the zoning of lands located at Rindifin, Gort and hatched in red on the map included in the submission are rezoned as R-Residential (Phase 1) and the current zoning under the Draft Plan is R- Residential (Phase 2). She said that the submission also stated that the land has benefit of access to the public road, public footpath, public lighting and sewer mains and is also within easy walking distance of the town centre, schools, playground and other amenities.

In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that the Draft Plan provides for the maximum required area of Residential zoned land identified for development within the lifetime of the Plan under the Core Strategy and there is no further requirement for additional Residential (Phase 1) lands at this time.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

Cllr. G. Finnerty advised the Meeting that this was a prime site in Gort but he was aware of the Core Strategy requirements and subject to reservations, he was accepting the recommendation in the Manager's Report. Cllr. Willers concurred with this and accepted the recommendation in the Manager's Report with reservations also.

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

Submission No. 5 – Mark Brindley, on behalf of Lidl (Ireland) GmbH

Ms. Kavanagh advised that this Submission sought the amendment of the ACA boundary as it affects their lands and an existing building to the Crowe Street frontage which is located within the Gort Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). She said that, following consultation with the Architectural Conservation Officer, the response is that Gort historic town centre has the appearance of a planned, well laid out town of the late 18th century and the principal routes through the town, however, may predate the majority of buildings. She advised that Crowe Street forms the approach to the more formal square at the core of the town centre, and as such forms a transition from the more recent developments on the approach roads to Gort and the historic core. She advised that it is considered that the importance of this approach from the north is such that it should be maintained as part of the ACA which protects the character of the historic town core of Gort. Ms. Kavanagh recommended that no alteration is made to the existing boundary of the ACA.

Centre/Commercial (C1)

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the Submission also considered that the Draft Plan objectives concerning ACA's are overly prejudicial in terms of restricting or prohibiting demolition of structures of limited importance and stated that Objective BH 5 is a repetition of BH 4(d), which is more appropriately qualified by the use of the words "that contribute to the special character of the area". In reply, Ms. Kavanagh said, following consultation with the Architectural Conservation Officer, that the use of the words "save in exceptional circumstances" is sufficiently flexible to allow for the consideration of the demolition of buildings of little or no local or special significance, when this would contribute to the overall benefit of the development of the historic town centre. She said that it is noted that a planning application has been recently submitted on this site and it is acknowledged that the objectives of a Local Area Plan are formulated to address issues on a wider scale than individual plots and in this regard, she said that it was strongly recommended that objectives should not be formulated to facilitate individual planning applications. Ms. Kavanagh recommended that Objectives BH 4 and BH 5 of the Draft LAP are retained unaltered.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

In reply to Cllr. Willers, Mr. Kelly explained to the Meeting that the subject site has a building at the front of the site which is included in the Gort ACA and the Submission states that it is too restrictive and that the building cannot be demolished because of being part of this ACA. The Planning Authorities response is that this is not the case and a proposal can be considered on its merit and if no value is put on the building, it can be considered for demolition but that its removal from the ACA is not warranted to achieve same. He said that following consultation with the Architectural Conservation Officer, it is recommended that the issue would be dealt with more appropriately at development project stage and as part of the normal planning process.

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

Submission No. 6 –Gerry, Eilisha, Gearóid and Fergal Lydon

Ms. Kavanagh said that this Submission seeks the rezoning of lands off George Street from Open Space, Recreation & Amenity and Town Centre/Commercial to Town Centre zoning across the entirety of the subject lands and said that the Submission sets out the

justification for the rezoning proposal referring to the Core Strategy, the existing live permission on the site – PP No. 11/239 to 13th April 2016 for a significant mixed residential and commercial development.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the Submission stated that lands were zoned for town centre (mixed development) uses in the Gort LAP 2006-2012 and this takes account of the subject lands prominent and accessible town centre location. Ms. Kavanagh further advised from the Submission that a site-specific flood risk assessment previously carried out for these lands as part of the planning applications has already demonstrated the flood risk to any development on the subject lands can be adequately managed and that the use or development of the lands will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts elsewhere. She said that the Submission also sets out their Justification Test for the proposed Town Centre/Commercial (C1).

In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that this Submission including the Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment has been reviewed by the Consultants who carried out the Stage 2 SFRA for Gort. She advised that the Consultants note that with regard to Section 4.3 of Submission No 6, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is referred to which was submitted with a planning application which detailed a specific development alongside the river. She said that Planning Permission was granted for the proposed development and the findings of the FRA with regard to the specific development appear to have been accepted by the planning process. She advised, however, that the site specific assessment referred to was undertaken in 2006 and therefore predates the **Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009**.

Ms. Kavanagh said that the site specific flood risk assessment does not appear to include mapping of the area affected by this flood level and the assessment does not appear to consider a 1000 year design flood level. Ms. Kavanagh said that the Consultants recommendation is that the assessment referred to in this Submission does not appear to provide evidence and mapping of the Flood Zones that would allow the zones (Flood Zones A/B/C) in the Stage 2 SFRA to be updated in accordance with the **Flood Risk Management Guidelines** and therefore no change should be made to the Stage 2 SFRA.

Ms. Kavanagh clarified that with regard to emerging information, Flood Hazard Mapping is expected to be made available in the latter half of 2013 and Flood Risk Management Plans in 2015 which will inform any future iterations of the LAP and where possible, any decisions in the interim.

Ms. Kavanagh said that Land Use zoning within the Gort LAP boundary has been informed by the Stage 2 SFRA which has been undertaken in compliance with the Flood Risk Guidelines 2009 and which was prepared for the review of the LAP and this Stage 2 SFRA established three flood zones in compliance with the Guidelines. She said that the flood risk zones delineated by the Stage 2 SFRA have been integrated into the land use zoning for the Draft LAP and including the draft zoning objectives in relation to the subject lands.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the Draft Plan has proposed
a) Town Centre/Commercial (C1) zoning for that portion of the undeveloped submission land that is identified within Flood Zone C and

b) Open Space, Recreation and Amenity (OS) zoning for that portion of undeveloped submission land that is identified within Flood Zone A of the Stage 2 SFRA.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that Objective UI 12 – Boundaries of Flood Zones - has been inserted into the Draft Plan in order to address situations where lands transected by the outer boundary of Indicative Flood Zone A or B do not reflect local topographical and/or flood path conditions and this proposed objective allows the Planning Authority to consider the extension of an adjacent land use zone into the Indicative Flood Zone area, where the extended area inside the Indicative Flood Zone does not exceed 50% of the site outside of the indicative flood zone or 1acre/.404Ha, whichever is the lesser. She said that the proposal will also be subject to the submission of a Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment and Justification Test as appropriate and the developer satisfying the Planning Authority and him/herself that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed and will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that the SEA Screening on the Draft Submissions received advice from SEA Consultants who state that the portion of land identified within Flood Zone A should remain Open Space, Recreation and Amenity (OS) and they note that there has been sufficient lands proposed to be zoned as Town Centre/Commercial in the Plan area and there are also existing lands not within Flood Zone A which could be zoned as Town Centre/Commercial adjacent to existing Town Centre/Commercial lands.

Ms. Kavanagh advised that a Site Justification Test was also undertaken by the SEA consultants for Submission No 6 which proposes the rezoning of the Open Space lands in their site to Town Centre/Commercial (C1), the conclusion of which states that the portion of the subject land that is located within Indicative Flood Risk Zone A does not pass the Justification Test as outlined in the *Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009*. She said that Criteria No's 2i), 2ii), 2iv) 2v) and Criteria No 3 fail the Site Justification Test and in order to pass the Justification Test all criteria must pass.

In this regard and in relation to its function of zoning of lands in accordance with the *Flood Risk Guidelines*, Ms. Kavanagh said that the Planning Authority is not satisfied that the Site Justification Test (in relation to the portion of the submission land within Indicative Flood Zone A) has passed all criteria and that flood risk to the proposed development can be adequately managed and the use or development of the lands will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts elsewhere. She advised that the Planning Authority having considered all available data conclude that this portion of the Submission land should not be rezoned from Open Space Recreation and Amenity (OS) zoning to Town Centre/Commercial zoning as this portion of the Submission land has failed the Justification Test, nor is there a need to undertake a new or update the original Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment for these lands.

Ms. Kavanagh said that it should be noted that to rezone as proposed by Draft Submission No 6 would not be in compliance with the provisions of The Planning System and *Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009) or the recommendations of the Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Gort LAP and the Department of the Environment has indicated

clearly that they require Planning Authorities to adhere to the *Flood Risk Management Guidelines* and will monitor the decisions of Local Authorities in this regard.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

Cllr. G. Finnerty advised the Meeting that this was an important site which is bounded by a high stone wall. He said that the landowners can build up until 13th April 2016 on their current planning permission but they now wish to scale back the development on the site. He proposed that these lands remain as zoned in the current Gort Plan as Town Centre and the proposal to be put on public display to give the landowner time to submit a detailed site specific flood risk assessment on the site. He said that any development on this site would also assist health and safety by securing the access to the railway line and also assist in developing a lot of back-land in the town.

Cllr. Feeney supported the proposal if it would provide an opportunity for the landowner to submit a more up-to-date detailed site specific flood risk assessment and where the information from the site specific assessment may amend the boundary line without impacting on the river.

In reply to Cllr. Willers, Mr. Kelly explained that a vast majority of the site has some degree of development and advised that if the Members agree that the subject lands retain the zoning of Town Centre than this would be a Material Alteration to the Plan and it would go out on public display for a four week period and the landowner would need to submit a detailed site specific flood risk assessment during this period. He said that if there was no change to the flood risk area, on consideration of the site specific flood risk assessment, then he would be strongly suggesting to the Members that any flood risk area be zoned Open Space, Recreation and Amenity regardless of the permission on the lands at present.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Finnerty and seconded by Cllr. Maher, it was agreed to zone these lands the subject of Submission numbered 6, as Town Centre/ Commercial.

Submission No. 8a – Grealish Glynn Associates on behalf of Margaret Linanne

Ms. Kavanagh advised that this Submission requests the zoning of lands at Glenbrack, Gort to Industrial uses and a map of the lands was included in the Submission.

In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that the subject lands are located outside of the Local Area Plan and in terms of the provision of additional industrial lands, the Draft Plan currently provides for 27.36ha of undeveloped Industrial lands and 35ha of developed industrial lands. In consideration of this and taking account of the population allocation anticipated for Gort over the lifetime of this Local Area Plan, Ms. Kavanagh said there is no further requirement for additional industrial lands at this time.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

Cllr. Fahy proposed that these lands be zoned Industrial as per the Submission request. Cllr. G. Finnerty advised the Meeting that there is a clear view from this site and while there is no access from this site onto the Motorway there is access onto the Roundabout.

Cllr. Feeney expressed his concern with regard to the flood risk on this site due to Groundwater (PFRA) and referred also to the Departments Circular PL 7/13 which was circulated to the Members with regard to compliance with Departmental Guidelines and other Bodies and said that by zoning these subject lands, it was giving the landowners false hope and additional costs when it was likely that a Ministerial Direction could issue with regard to the zoning of these lands.

Mr. Kelly advised that these subject lands were not zoned in the current Gort LAP and they are outside the LAP boundary on the far side of the Motorway. He advised that there is a flood risk associated with the site due to Goundwater. In addition he said that there is sufficient land zoned Industrial within Gort Town in the Draft LAP and the NRA noted this in their Submission. Mr. Kelly advised that this is not a marginal case and there is the high likelihood of DOE intervention if the land is zoned due to its contravention of NRA policy, its location beside the Motorway and also due to the flood risk and he said that it is likely that the eventual outcome at the end of the LAP process is that these subject lands would not be zoned. Mr. Kelly said his advice to the Members would be to think carefully about a proposal to zone this land.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Kelly said that the NRA and also the DOE, EPA and OPW could make a submission on the Material Alteration if it went on public display and it is highly likely that all would be against this zoning based on the facts of the site.

Cllr. E. Mannion expressed her concern with regard to the zoning and Cllr. T. Walsh concurred with these concerns and said that it would only give the landowners false hope.

Cllr. Fahy advised the meeting that Gort was let down by the NRA as the link road was developed at the southern end of the town and none of the local businesses can benefit from this and it has led to unemployment in the town and surrounding area.

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, it was proposed to not to accept the recommendations in the Manager's Report and to zone the lands the subject of Submission 8a as Industrial.

A vote was taken on the proposal and the result was as follows;

AR SON: Comh. Ó'Curraoin, Cllrs. Fahy, G. Finnerty, Hynes, S. Walsh.

[5]

AGHAIDH: Cllrs. Canney, Carroll, D. Connolly, Comh. Ó'Cuaig, Cllrs. Cuddy, Feeney, Hoade, E. Mannion, McDonagh, McHugh, T. Walsh, Welby, Willers.

[13]

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllrs. Maher, Noone **[2]**

AS LÁTHAIR: **[10]**

The Mayor declared the proposal not carried.

Submission No. 8b – Grealish Glynn Associates on behalf of Margaret Linanne

Ms. Kavanagh advised that this Submission requests the zoning of lands at Crow Street approximately 1.214 ha to Residential Phase 1 lands and the lands are currently zoned Residential Existing and a map of the lands was included in the Submission.

In response, Ms. Kavanagh said that the Draft Plan provides for the maximum required area of Residential Phase 1 land identified for development within the lifetime of the Plan under the Core Strategy and said in this regard, there is no further requirement for additional Residential Phase 1 lands at this time. She advised, however, that the subject lands are currently zoned Residential-Existing and the land use zoning objective for such as zoning is does not preclude the redevelopment of the subject lands in accordance with normal planning practice, proper planning and sustainable development, therefore no change to the zoning in the Draft Plan is recommended.

Ms. Kavanagh recommended no change to the Draft Plan on foot of this Submission.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher and seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, it was agreed to accept the recommendations in the Manager's Report, as amended by the Members and it was agreed to put the Gort Draft Local Area Plan on display with the agreed amendments and Material Alterations.

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

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 1445

Cllr. S. Walsh left the meeting for the duration of the consideration of this item in the context of a potential beneficial interest arising due to his role as Director of Esperanza Enterprises.

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

Esperanza Enterprises – Local Government supporting Volunteerism – 8th – 9th March – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry – Fee: €150

Cllr. Peter Roche

TGR Seminars – Local Property Tax: Logistics, Implications & Consequences for Irish Consumers – 19th – 21st April – Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath – Fee: €145

Cllr. Peter Roche

Dundalk Chamber – Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 – Sustainable Tourism – Practical Ideas for your business – 24th April – Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth – Fee: Free

Cllr.'s Dermot Connolly, Jimmy McClearn, Tiarnan Walsh

Co-operation Ireland – Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland: from Policy to Practice – 2nd May – Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down – Fee: Free

Cllr. Dermot Connolly

Solution Marketing – Local Tourism & the Councillor – 10th – 11th May – Talbot Hotel, Wexford – Fee: €120

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Ace Training – HSE Tobacco Control Policy – 10th – 12th May – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr.'s Kevin Ryan, Michael Maher, Shaun Cunniffe

Celtic Conferences – West Cork Tourism Seminar – 24th – 26th May – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – Fee: €100

Comh. Tomás Ó Curráoin

Ace Training – European Legislation & Local Authorities – 7th – 9th June – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth – Fee: €100

Cllr. Michael Maher

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5)(F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 1446

Cllr. S. Walsh left the meeting for the duration of the consideration of this item in the context of a potential beneficial interest arising due to his role as Director of Esperanza Enterprises.

On the proposal of Cllr McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McHugh, the summary of proceedings at conferences as circulated was noted:

Ace Training – Tax Entitlements Seminar – 29th – 31st March – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Cllr. Michael Fahy

Wexford County Council – LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 – 5th – 6th April – Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Cllr.'s Mary Hoade, Tomás Mannion

Carlow Tourism – 11th National Conference – The Gathering – Diaspora Tourism Matters – 18th – 20th April – Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

Cllr. Tomás Mannion,

Esperanza Enterprises – Water Services Bill 2013 – 19th – 20th April – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Dundalk Chamber – Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 – Sustainable Tourism – Practical Ideas for your business – 24th April – Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Cllr. Tiarnan Walsh

Esperanza Enterprises – Strengthening the Building Control System – 26th – 27th April – Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh

Celtic Conferences – Meeting Management – Principles & Best Practice – 26th – 28th April – Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Cllr.'s Michael Fahy, Pat Hynes

Co-operation Ireland – Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland: from Policy to Practice – 2nd May – Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down

Cllr. Dermot Connolly

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE REGIONAL HOMELESS ACTION PLAN 1447

Report dated the 20th May had already been circulated to each Member;

Mr. Cummins outlined the contents of the report referring in particular to the aims and objectives in regard to the homeless.

In reply to questions from the Elected Members, Mr. Cummins clarified that the Regional Homeless Action Plan provided a framework plan outlining the national and local context for addressing homelessness and provides a mechanism for implementing the National Homelessness Strategy. He advised that the framework was intended to provide strategic direction for the actions to be delivered over the next three years, which will be contained in an implementation blueprint to be finalised by August 2013.

A length discussed ensued with issues relating to the services and supports available to the homeless and the costs associated with same, together with the role of Galway County Council, neighbouring authorities and state agencies in adequately responding to homelessness being raised by the Elected Members.

Mr. Cummins addressed the queries raised indicating that as a Housing Authority the Council has an obligation in regard to homelessness with a role for other agencies in providing ancillary support services and after care. He acknowledged that the existing model, with a cost of €100 million nationally, was not working and that a new approach involving the provision a long term solution to housing need was required. This required the provision of housing but that in the context of no increase in direct housing stock he advised that it would be necessary to provide the long term solution through the RAS, working with the private sector and also the voluntary housing sector.

In response to questions from the Elected Members, Mr. Cummins outlined the process followed in the event that a person presents as homeless to the Housing Unit, he highlighted that the first priority remained the provision of a bed for the night and thereafter meeting their short-term housing need through a co-ordinated response by the various relevant agencies, depending on the particular needs of the individual applicant.

The Elected Members highlighted the need for clarity in relation to the roles and responsibility of the main agencies, the connection between the abuse of alcohol and drugs and homelessness, the need for a clear distinction in service provision to address alcohol and drug abuse and those to address homelessness, the importance of interagency cooperation and the need for a coordinated response to homelessness.

Mr. Cummins welcomed the level of engagement by the Elected Members and stated that the implementation plan was being progressed and would be brought before Council in due course.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed to adopt the Regional Homeless Plan as presented.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012

1448

Report dated 20th May, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Mullarkey addressed the Members and gave an overview of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for the year ended 31st December, 2012. He said he wished to draw attention to Pages 3 and 4 in particular, commenting that 2012 had been a difficult financial year for the Council, not helped by the reduction in the local government fund, providing an outturn for 2012 of a deficit of €493,979 and a cumulative deficit on the General Reserve of €1,896,307 at 31st December, 2012.

Mr. Mullarkey addressed a range of queries raised by the Elected Members relating to liability for the LPT, potential for increases in housing rents due to liability associated with LPT for Council housing stock, liability for NPPR and the impact of the loss of revenue from same to the local authority, the lack of awareness of those living abroad of their potential liability under NPPR and the extent of the arrears now be to discharged, the basis for the reduction in bank investments during 2012, the collection rate for commercial water and rates and the potential for a reduction in development contributions due to transfer of responsibility for capital investment in water and wastewater infrastructure to Irish Water.

The liability for LPT on council housing stock was discussed and various views were expressed in relation to determining liability based on ability to pay and the need to

introduce means testing to determine liability instead of a blank exemption for those living in local authority housing.

Cllr. McDonagh advised that IPB had determined the dividend payment and he was pleased to confirmed that a dividend of €160,000 would be payable to Galway County Council.

Mr. Cullen in reply to Cllr. Ryan clarified tht the bond in relation to the Landfill in Kilconnell was not held by Galway County Council but by the EPA and accordingly the issue was a matter for the EPA.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the Members agreed to adopt the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2012

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the Members agreed to approve the transfers to reserves as detailed in Note 15 of the Accounts.

In reply to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the transfers did not relate to specific projects but were contingency sums citing as an example provision for the capital replacement of equipment for water services.

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr McDonagh, the Members agreed to approve the over/under expenditure by division as noted in Note 17 of the Accounts

TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013 1449

Report dated 20th May, 2013 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Mullarkey in reply to An Comh. O’Cuaig confirmed that discussions were ongoing in relation to the recoupment of expenditure incurred in the development of Cill Ronain and Caladh Mor Harbours.

Mr. Gilmore in reply to Cllr. Cuddy indicated that the delivery of the Roads Programme and in particular the completion of the surface dressing programme was heavily influenced by weather conditions and that the full programme would be delivered and the full allocation and drawdown.

The Financial Report of the Council to the 31st March, 2013 was noted by the Members.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HOUSING SERVICES INCLUDING GRANT SCHEMES AND IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION 1450

Report dated the 22nd March, 2013 was already circulated to the Elected Members.

Mr. Cummins outlined the contents of the report advising that in the context of reduced allocations and the level of demand for financial support and assistance a more targeted approach was necessary. In relation to housing maintenance he stated that it was necessary to reduce the cost base and apply strict enforcement of the tenants maintenance responsibilities as detailed in the tenancy agreement. He also referred to the cost involved in the Control of Horses. He concluded by advising that it would be necessary to provide services on a priority basis and that he would continue to keep the Elected Members

informed on the management of applications and the implementation of a priority based system.

The members complimented the good work being done by the Housing Unit and raised a number of issues relating to the need to address voids, review the maximum rents payable under the differential rent scheme, the delay in allocating vacant properties and the issues associated with same including vandalism and anti-social behavior, the length of time afforded to housing applicants to consider an offer, the costs associated with the control of horses, consideration of the demolition of a number of vacant properties, as a more cost beneficial approach than carrying out maintenance and repairs given the extent of the works required and the difficulties associated with the allocation of certain properties, the need for increased expenditure to reduce the turnaround on voids in the context of the cost associated with rent supplement to meet housing need through the private rented sector.

A diverse range of views were expressed in relation to the impact of the current broader economic and financial position on society and in particular the impact of the reduced level of resources available for services provided by the local authority.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

1451

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

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

1452

A Report dated May, 2013 was already circulated to Members.

Cllr. G. Finnerty referred to the copy of correspondence dated the 8th May, 2013 from the Department of Social Protection, as circulated to each Member, in relation to financial assistance for relocation and was critical of the delays in finalizing the payment of financial assistance. He acknowledged the assistance provided by Mr. Kelly and Ms. Valerie Loughnane in relation to an application for assistance.

Cllr. Willers outlined her frustration at the delays in advancing the Dunkellin Scheme and expressed concern that the process consisted of an exercise of going through the motions with no evidence of progress being made.

Mr. Gilmore stated that progress was being made in advancing the proposal and that discussions were ongoing to improve the cost benefit of the scheme, he indicated that a revised hydraulic analysis of the catchment indicated an improved cost benefit and that they were continuing to work hard to get a workable scheme. He acknowledged the patience of the Elected Members, while outlining that a significant amount of background work was necessary but that all necessary data was now available and he was confident that a workable scheme that met the necessary cost benefit requirements could be developed.

Mr. Gavin addressed a number of queries in relation to the progress of applications and schemes at Bride Street and Moanmore East, Loughrea, River Clare & Cregg, Thoor Ballylee, Renville and Peterswell.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that a reply was awaited from the River Suck Joint Drainage Committee in relation to works to be undertaken on the River Suck.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by An Comh O'Cuaig and agreed "that Galway County Council ask Minister Phil Hogan, T.D. to look at exemption from property tax for people who had their homes flooded in previous flood events and homes now have an extremely low value"

A vote was taken and the result was as follows;

AR SON: Cllrs D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Comh O Cuaig, Cllr Cuddy, Comh. Ó'Curraoin, Cllrs. Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, Hoade, Hynes, Comh. Ó Laoi, Cllr. Noone, Roche, Ryan, Comh Ó Tuairisg, Cllr. S. Walsh, Welby, Willers [18].

AGHAIDH: Cllrs. Carroll, Maher, McDonagh, McHugh, T. Walsh [5].

GAN VOTÁIL: Cllr. Canney [1]

AS LÁTHAIR: [6]

The Mayor declared the Motion carried.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME (CIRCULAR RW 7/2013)

1453

Correspondence received from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport dated 20th May, 2013 was already circulated to Members.

The Members expressed their disappointment with the total amount of €169,588 allocated for schemes in County Galway, referring to the huge benefits that Communities gain from this scheme at a very low cost.

Replying to some queries raised, Mr. Molloy advised that approximately 60 applications were received by the Council, of which 50 were recommended for approval, all 50 of these schemes were submitted to the Department. He stated that in previous years the funding for the CIS was provided from the Improvement & Discretionary Roads Grant allocation but that in the current year a specific grant allocation was being made available.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McHugh and agreed that Galway County Council write to the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport "proposing that the list of schemes submitted by Galway County Council be all included in the List of Regional and Local road Projects to be funded, and all included in the 2013 Community Involvement Scheme Grant. Galway County Council are requesting that funding is provided to carry all the works recommended by the Roads Section of Galway County Council".

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON UNESCO'S CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK.

1454

A Report on this was already circulated to each Member.

Ms. Gaughan gave a very informative presentation on the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network: City of Galway, highlighting the Cultural Work Programme of Galway County Council and the background to the network.

She outlined a proposal for Galway to connect to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network by joining the global creative cities network as City of Film taking in the geographical area of the county. She detailed the support services available in Galway City & County to support the film industry, the economic and benefit of the sector in terms of employment and promotion of the County, citing as an example the impact of the filming of The Guard in Galway and concluded her presentation by outlining the overall vision and benefit of the City of Film designation.

The Members complimented Ms. Gaughan on her presentation and for her work in the promotion of the Arts.

Cllr. Carroll said that the Council should be working more closely with Galway City Council, and referred to the communication received from Gary McMahon of Galway City Council (which had been circulated), and contained a motion which had been passed by Galway City Council on the proposal of Cllr. Hildergarde Naughton, seconded by Cllr. Pdraig Conneely and agreed, and asked that Galway Council pass a similar motion as follows:-

It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed "that Galway County Council joint with Galway City Council in putting together a joint delegation to approach the Public Interest Directors of Allied Irish Banks to explore the possibility of the Lynchs Castle building on Shop Street, Galway, being given back to the people of Galway for the purpose of relating a Regional Municipal Arts Centre."

The Members expressed their support for the submission of a bid involving joint partners and other relevant stakeholders.

Ms. Gaughan welcomed the support offered by the Elected Members and concluded by indicating that the submission of a formal bid would involve the consideration of the allocation of funding in the context of the budgetary process for 2014.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON AMENDED LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ON POLITICAL DONATIONS

1455

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

It was agreed to note the content of the Report as previously circulated.

The MANAGER'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

1456

The Manager updated the Members on the position on the Galway City Outer Bypass indicating that that the restrictions on expenditure on the scheme had been lifted and that ARUPS were appointed to consider environmental constraints and that the procurement process for the appointment of consultants to advance the scheme was being advanced with a timeline of September 2013 for the appointment. She confirmed that a dedicated sub office of the NRDO had been established to advance the scheme.

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

- Correspondence dated the 22nd April, 2013 from North Tipperary County Council regarding rates, particularly in relation to rural public houses.
- Correspondence dated 25th April, 2013, from Joan Burton, T.D., Minister for Social Protection stating that Galway County Council's resolution in relation to the Free Travel scheme is receiving attention.
- Correspondence dated the 3rd May, 2013 from Monaghan Town Council in relation to resolutions adopted as follows: (a) That Monaghan Town Council call on the relevant Departments and agencies to consider how best to regulate the quantity, quality and labelling of packaging materials used on smaller items for sale in Ireland with a view to reducing the amount of packaging used, and (b) that Monaghan Town Council write to the Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter, calling for a maximum 10 year sentence and a minimum of 5 years for any person involved in a fatal motor accident who leaves the scene.

- Correspondence dated 7th May, 2013 from Down District Council regarding a Motion passed that Down District Council ask their Government to allow citizens of the Irish Republic who perceive themselves to be British to be entitled to obtain a British passport.
- Correspondence dated 16th May 2013 from Nenagh Town Council regarding a motion adopted that Nenagh Town Council ask that any State board positions that come up and are advertised through PublicJobs.ie are assessed by an independent panel and the relevant Minister should be bound by the recommendations of the panel.
- Correspondence from Limerick County Council dated the 15th May, 2013 regarding a resolution passed that the Minister for Finance and the Government would be called upon to reimburse the Irish Credit Unions who lost their investments in the purchase of Investment Bonds from Anglo Irish Bank as a result of the recent liquidation of IRBC.
- Correspondence from Offaly County Council dated the 25th May, 2013 regarding a resolution passed that Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Justice and Equality and to the Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan requesting that Garda recruitment be resumed as soon as possible.
- Correspondence from the Department of Social Protection dated the 8th May, 2013 in reply to Galway County Council's resolution in relation to Humanitarian Aid for Flood Victims.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

1457

The Mayor referred to the Lough Derg on the Shannon Realising our Potential conference to be held on Tuesday, 28th May 2013 in the Lakeside Hotel, Ballina, Co. Tipperary, details of which were circulated at the meeting, and encouraged the Elected Members to attend.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to burning that takes place after 5 p.m. and at weekends on the Headford Road and indicated that the response received to his NOM on the matter detailing a proposal to provide CCTV was not sufficient to address the issue and that it was necessary to have staff available to respond to such incidents.

In reply Mr. Cullen advised that covert CCTV had proven most effective in other locations and was a suitable response to address the issue. He outlined that it was necessary for Community Wardens to witness the starting of the fire and it was not sufficient for them merely to observe the unauthorized burning in order to take action.

In reply to concerns expressed by Cllr. Cuddy in relation to the washing of horses in the sea at Clarenbridge, Mr. Cullen advised that he was not aware of a prohibition on same other than in designated bathing areas.

In reply to comments from Cllr. Cuddy & Cllr. McDonagh in relation to the provision of traffic calming measures at Knockdoe by the NRA, Mr. Gilmore indicated that, in accordance with the standard process for such schemes, a post construction safety audit of the scheme would be undertaken by the NRA and issues identified, if any, would be addressed.

In reply to queries raised by a number of Elected Members in relation to the timeframe for the Speed Limit Review, Mr. Gilmore advised that same was being advanced and that he would revert to the Elected Members with an update.

An Comh. O'Tuairisg referred to the matter of fluoridation and asked that arrangements be made for a presentation to Council on the matter outlining the various positions on the matter.

Mr. Cullen advised that further to previous discussion on the matter at a Council Meeting, it was referred for consideration by the Environment SPC and that the minutes of the relevant SPC meeting would be brought before Council in due course. He concluded by advising that the role of the local authority was to implement the relevant requirements as determined at national level.

Cllr. Connolly stated that he had raised the matter also at previous Council meetings and that he continues to have concerns about the possible health effects of fluoridation of public water supplies.

The Mayor thanked the Elected Members, Council Staff and Media for attending the meeting in Oughterard and invited all present join him for a meal to be served in the restaurant.

The following reply was given:-

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 17 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1458

The following reply was given:-

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. J. CUBBY

“Galway County Council has traditionally accepted planning permission bonds from all major lending institutions as an instrument submitted by the developer as a surety that the development is completed in accordance with the conditions of the permission. Where development is not completed as intended, the normal avenue pursued would be Enforcement action. It is only where enforcement fails that recourse to the bond arises and this would be in a limited number of cases it remains to be seen how IRBC Bonds will be treated as a result of the recent liquidation of IRBC.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1459

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 go direct to An Bord Pleanála. A six month timeline is envisaged, so it will be mid-September before a decision is reached. It should be noted that the network element of the scheme is quite small but whatever digging in roads has to be carried out will be restored to acceptable standards.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. G. FINNERTY

1460

The following reply was given:-

“Further road re alignment works will not be done during 2013. Planning permission has not yet been acquired but it is proposed to try and acquire planning permission with CPO by the

end of this year. However there may be a small amount of funds available during 2013 to undertake temporary repairs on the existing surface. Galway County Council will examine this and advise accordingly."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1461

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council will discuss the provision of funding for traffic route lighting for Lackagh village with the NRA. However in recent years funding for route lighting has not been made available due to the scarcity of resources."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH

1462

The following reply was given:-

"The village of Lackagh is not yet included in the Council's assessment of needs as there are several other larger villages in the County that require wastewater treatment and are of higher priority. It will therefore not be possible to make such an application at this time."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1463

The following reply was given:-

"It is intended to install a mobile CCTV unit at an undisclosed location off the Headford Road in the coming weeks."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1464

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council currently have the local community warden visiting Oranmore on a regular basis and issuing tickets to those parked illegally. However the traffic warden cannot be there at all times and we have again written to the local Gardai requesting them to assist with the enforcement of the traffic management in Oranmore."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. CUDDY

1465

The following reply was given:-

"To date 90% of the road markings have been done. The remaining works will be complete in the next number of weeks."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1466

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have sought funding from the Department of Transport for the provision of bus shelters at locations around the county including Ardrahan. However no funding has been made available and we are not in a position at this point in time to fund the provision of this bus shelter."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1467

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have discussed the issue of drainage in this area with the OPW. However this area is tidal and very difficult to work in. To date no funding has been made available from the OPW to Galway County Council to undertake any works in this area."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY

1468

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council are currently working with the OPW and our engineering experts to prepare the EIS and planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. This permission is to enable us to proceed with drainage works on the Dunkellin River and Aggard stream. The environmental issues and cost benefit analysis for the scheme are currently being finalised."

Críochnaigh an Crinniú ansin

Submitted, Approved + Signed

Jian Carroll

24th June 2013

Date

Galway County Council Archives