

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON FRIDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2001

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Regan

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Deps. U. Burke, P. Connaughton, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. Burke, J. Conneely, M. Connolly, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, P. McHugh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, P. O Foighil, T. Rabbitt, S. Walsh, T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:- Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, J. Morgan, Directors of Services, E. Lusby, Head of Finance, D. Barrett, S.E.O., T. Murphy, S.E.O., C. Wallace, S.E.O., L. Gavin, S.E., L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., P. Carroll, A.O., Ms. P. Fitzpatrick, S.E.E., Ms. S. Kennedy, E.P., Ms. M. Jordan, A.O., Ms. M. Killoran-Coyne, S.S.O., Ms. G. Healy, S.O., Ms. R.O'Boyle, S.O.

Messrs. Dave Fadden, Director of National Monuments & Architectural Protection, Duchas, The Heritage Service.
Alan Craig, Director of National Parks & Wildlife, Duchas, The Heritage Service.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

**REPORT ON JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE
26TH SEPTEMBER, 2001**

1274

The Report of the Joint Committee Meeting of Housing Strategic Policy Committee and Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee held on the 26th September, 2001 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Sen. McDonagh., seconded by Cllr. Gavin.

PROPOSED VARIATION OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ASSOCIATED TOWN PLANS TO INCLUDE A HOUSING STRATEGY 1275

Mr. Gilmore referred to Report dated 19th September, 2001 and said that one observation and one submission was received following the publication of the variation of the Development Plan. He informed the meeting that the only significant alteration recommended was the "Affordable" versus the "Social" requirement for the lands obtained under Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. In the original Strategy it stood at 1 Affordable : 3 Social. In the amendment it was changed to 1 Affordable : 1 Social. He said that this would encourage the supply of affordable houses. Cllr. J. J. Mannion said that the amendment to the Housing Strategy and the variation to the County Development Plan had been agreed at the Joint Committee Meeting of the Housing and Planning & Economic Development SPC's.

It was proposed by Cllr. J.J. Mannion, that Galway County Council having prepared a Draft Variation of the County Development Plan and Associated Town Plans, having sent copies of prescribed documents to the prescribed authorities, having published the required notices, having considered the observations and submissions made to the Draft Variation in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, and having in all other respects complied with the Planning & Development Act 2000, should resolve to amend the County Development Plan and Associated Town Plans to include a Housing Strategy as required by Section 94 of the Planning & Development Act 2000. The Plans consist of the written statements, the relevant maps and the Housing Strategy Document. This was seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh and agreed.

FIX DATE FOR HOLDING OF ESTIMATES MEETING IN RESPECT OF ESTIMATES 2002 1276

The County Manager informed the meeting that the Statutory period within which the Estimates must be adopted is from the 15th October to the 25th November 2001. It was agreed to hold the Estimates Meeting on the 22nd November, 2001.

CLERKS OF WORKS RESTRUCTURING AGREEMENT 1277

The revised remuneration for Clerks of Works/Building Inspectors was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh.

**TO NOTE AUDIT REPORT ON ACCOUNTS OF
LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS**

1278

On the Proposition of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Hynes the Council noted the Auditors Report on accounts of Loughrea Town Commissioners for year ended 31st December, 2000.

PRESENTATION BY DUCHAS, THE HERITAGE SERVICE 1279

Messrs. Dave Fadden and Alan Craig, Duchas, made a presentation to the Council on the services being provided by Duchas. They outlined that Duchas as the Heritage Service, dealt with the natural heritage and the built heritage. They referred to their involvement in the management of National Parks, Gardens, National Monuments, Nature Reserves. Within the built heritage, they deal with archaeology providing a dual advisory role under the Planning Acts and direct regulation under the National Monuments Acts. In relation to architecture, they have mainly an advisory role through the Planning Acts which involves extensive consultation with Planning Authorities and the issue of draft Architectural Conservation Guidelines. In relation to the natural heritage, they deal with Special Areas of Conservation under Irish and E.U. habitat directives.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Messrs. Craig and Fadden for their presentation and the following comments were made and questions raised by members, in relation to the service being provided by Duchas: -

- What is the area of the County covered by Special Areas of Conservation (S.A.C.'s) and Natural Heritage Areas (N.H.A.'s) and how does this compare with the rest of the country.
- The compensation payable by Duchas, specifically in relation to turf cutting, is totally inadequate. Property was being rendered useless as a result of restrictions imposed.
- Farmers children being denied the right to provide homes for themselves on family farms.
- Reduced sheep stock numbers on hills and inadequate compensation being paid. In relation to the Repts the subsidies being paid were more substantial than the compensation being agreed by Duchas with farmers not to use their lands.
- Reference was made in a case where a tree needed to be cut in the interests of safety but was not allowed as it was within an S.A.C.
- The owner of Tullykyne Castle in Moycullen cannot knock a wall which is in a dangerous condition.
- The public see Duchas as being very heavy handed.

- Land being designated as being part of an S.A.C. where no consultation took place with the landowner. Reference was made to a turf-cutting contractor in the Monacibba Bog, Portumna who was instructed to stop work immediately and was threatened with Court procedure if he used the machinery again.
- The need for more and better consultation in all cases was stressed.
- Reference was made to the fact that loose stones on Inish Mor cannot be removed even though the island is littered with them and the locals need them to protect against coastal erosion.
- Reference was made to the fact that Duchas Officials called to homes at 11.00 at night and asked people to sign documents without being given an opportunity to read them.
- The contention by Duchas that development is allowed in certain instances within an S.A.C. is a blatant lie.
- Reference was made to Drumacoo Cemetary and the fact that people from the area had been buried there for centuries. Negotiations took place a number of years ago whereby the Council proposed to acquire adjoining lands in order to extend the cemetary but the proposal is being held up by Duchas.
- Reference was made to a sand and gravel development in the Ballinasloe area which was causing concern locally but little help was obtained from Duchas.
- Reference was made to the fact that Duchas were abandoning Portumna Castle although its development could be of major tourism benefit to the area.

In reply to the points made by the Members, Messrs. Fadden and Craig made the following comments: -

- Approximately 20% of County Galway is designated as S.A.C.'s.
- This figure compares favorably with counties Kerry, Clare, Donegal, Mayo and Wexford and also with a number of European countries such as Spain, Italy and Austria.
- Compensation for loss of turf cutting is in the region of £1,100 to £1,300 per acre which is higher than the market value of the bog.
- In relation to appeals to An Bord Pleanala in relation to planning applications, Duchas have a duty to point out the implications of certain developments. In other cases, An Bord Pleanala have contacted Duchas for their opinion on proposed developments.
- The disagreement in relation to the Monacibba Bog in Portumna had been resolved and the right of Duchas to go to people's houses to point out irregularities was defended.

- In relation to Drumacoo Cemetary, Duchas are willing to enter into negotiations with a view to resolving this matter.
- In relation to Tullykyne Castle, Moycullen part of which is in danger of collapse, Duchas are willing to enter into discussions with the Council in order that works may be carried out.
- £3 Million Pounds has been spent on Portumna Castle up to 2000 and further funding was not available at the moment.
- Duchas have drawn up a Code of Practice in relation to their dealings with the N.R.A. and they are willing to do likewise with the County Council.

The County Manager thanked Messrs. Craig and Fadden for addressing the Council and agreed that a Code of Practice should be drawn up.

MANAGER'S BUSINESS

1280

Capital Allocations 2001

Mr. Murphy informed the Members that the Council had got notification by letter dated 4th October, 2001 from the Department of Environment and Local Government, which had already been circulated to the Members, of the following capital allocations for the year.

Shared Ownership £1,070,000 and Affordable Housing £3,000,000

Pilot Initiatives for the Management of Traveller Accommodation

Mr. Murphy informed the Members that by letter dated 27th September, 2001 which had already been circulated to them, the Council had been notified that it is one of five pilot projects being approved by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, to improve the management of traveller accommodation.

Twinning

Mr. Murphy referred to letter dated 1st October 2001 from the Governor of Nebraska which had already been circulated to Members regarding a proposed twinning arrangement with Boys Town, Nebraska. He said that this matter would be on the agenda for the next Cultural & General SPC Meeting.

Local Elections

Cllr. Burke referred to problems in Tuam town during the local elections in 1999. He said that he had written to Mr. O'Domhnaill, Returning Officer, and had not got a satisfactory response. He asked the County Manager to approach Mr. O Domhnaill in relation to this matter to ensure that the local elections are properly conducted in the future.

Disabled Persons Grants

Cllr. Mullins referred to letter dated 27th September, 2001 which had been circulated to the Members. He proposed that Galway County Council make a submission to DoELG requesting that the level of recoupment in respect of Disabled Persons Grants be increased to 90%, similar to the submission made by Kerry County Council. This was seconded by Deputy U. Burke and agreed.

CONFERENCES

1281

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh, it was agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member: -

La Touche Legacy Seminar

28th/30th September, 2001

Cllr. Michael Regan
Cllr. J.J. Mannion

Blackwater Valley Tourism 3 Day Conference – Mallow – 21/23rd September, 2001

Deputy Paul Connaughton
Cllr. Michael Mullins

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

M. J. Kelly

30/11/01
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, ON WEDNESDAY,
26th SEPTEMBER, 2001**

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M. Regan.

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Baill:

Deps. U. Burke, P. Connaughton, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. Burke, J. Callanan, J. Conneely, M. Connolly, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, N. Grealish, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, J. McClearn, P. McHugh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, C. Ni Fhatharta, P. O'Foighil, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, T. Rabbitt, S. Walsh, T. Walsh.

Oifigigh:

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, County Manager, T. Kavanagh, J. Morgan, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, Directors of Services, E. Lusby, Director of Finance, D. Barrett, T. Murphy, A. Comer, S.E.O., L. Gavin, S.E., L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., Ms. S. Kennedy Ex. Planner., Ms. M. Mannion, Heritage Officer, Mr. C. MacAodh Bhui, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. M. Jordan, A.O., Ms. M. Killoran-Coyne, S.S.O., Ms. G. Healy, S.O., Ms. R. O'Boyle, S.O.

Thosnaigh an cruinniu leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1242

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following:-

Mrs. Patricia Tirney, Gregmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Jimmy Gormley & Family, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway.
The Naughton Family, Sonnagh, Creggs, Via Roscommon, Co. Galway.
Mr. Gearoid O Ceidigh, Salathuna, An Spideal, Co. na Gaillimhe.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the Galway Senior Football Team on their All-Ireland victory. He said the County was very proud of them and wished them well and he paid a special tribute to Declan Meehan, Assistant Planner with the Council for his display. It was agreed that the Team be invited to a reception to be held at Áras an Chontae in their honour. The Cathaoirleach also congratulated all who were involved in arranging the Teams' Homecoming.

MINUTES

1243

The Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of the Council held on the 9th July, 2001 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Cunningham.

The Minutes of the **Special Meeting** of the Council held on the 9th July, 2001 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Dep. Connaughton, seconded by Comh.. O'Neachtain.

The Minutes of the **Monthly Meeting** of the Council held on the 23rd July, 2001 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Comh. Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. J.J. Mannion.

REPORTS

1244

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 25th June, 2001, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Gavin, seconded by Deputy Connaughton.

Cllr. Hynes asked that the position in relation to the letter of authority from the "Client" be clarified. He asked would all elected members of Urban District Councils and Town Commissioners require a letter of authority from their clients. Mr. Kavanagh informed the Meeting that this rule only applied where personal information was involved. The letter would be required by the Council to show that the Member would have the authority of the person to enquire. Following discussion, it was agreed that in the case of elected members the "letter of authority from the client" would not be required. It was proposed by Cllr. Hynes, seconded by Sen. McDonagh and agreed that the protocol in respect of representations from non-Councillors be as follows: -

- (a) To acknowledge such representations.
- (b) To provide any information either already available to the public, or deemed appropriate, on foot of such representations.
- (c) Where such representations are in respect of personal information and accompanied by a letter of authority from the "client" then to provide appropriate information. In respect of elected members of any local authority, the letter of authority from the "client" would not be necessary.

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 17th September, 2001, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ni Fhatharta seconded Cllr. Hoade

Councillor Loughnane referred to the Major Road Works Schemes and the problems between the I.F.A. and the N.R.A. He suggested that monies should be allocated to develop the railway line from Tuam to Gort.

The Report of the Environmental & Conservation Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20th July, 2001, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Comh. Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

The Report of the Cultural & General Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 5th September, 2001, was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Sen. J. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Joyce.

Cllr Joyce asked that £30,000 be made available in next years Estimates towards Heritage Grants and he also suggested that separate funding be made available for traditional Arts.

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on the 23rd July, 2001 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr T. Walsh. seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

Cllr. T. Walsh referred to a letter he had received from the Road Design section in relation to a house in the Williamstown Area which was for sale and was located at a very dangerous corner. He said he had been very disappointed at the response he got and asked that the matter be investigated further. Mr. Morgan informed Cllr. Walsh that since that letter had been sent, further discussions had taken place with the County Manager and it was decided to have a further look at the problem, with a view to buying the house.

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT 1245
PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF TUAM AND ENVIRONS
IN THE TOWNLAND OF BLACKACRE – PERMISSION FOR
CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDING
TO USE AS A HOTEL AND ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS
TO SAME – PLANNING REF NO. 01/728

APPLICANT: Mr. Tom McHugh, Director, F.G.M.O Developments

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposed development is for (i) change of use of existing commercial building to use as a hotel and for alterations and extensions to same, (ii) the construction of a new leisure centre incorporating swimming pool, gymnasium, changing rooms, and

storage areas, (iii) provision of car park spaces, access roads, lowering of front and side boundary walls and erection of signage, lighting and all ancillary services in connection with the above development in the townland of Blackacre.

LOCATION:

The site is located in Blackacre Td, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

CURRENT USE:

Commercial

CURRENT ZONING:

Agricultural

ASSESSMENT: This site was traditionally commercial in use, though situated on the edge of land zoned for residential purposes, much of which has been developed. Though the existing and proposed use of the site in question is commercial, present zoning is for agricultural.

Ideally, many forms of commercial activity should be located closer or within the urban area to preserve the towns viability. However, given the nature of this proposal, i.e. hotel and leisure facility, the present location is not totally inappropriate. Furthermore, adequate carparking is provided which may not be available in the urban situation. It is envisaged that the nature of the proposed development would not injure the amenities of the local residents.

OBJECTIONS:

Objections have been received from one person in relation to noise, lighting, night-time traffic and road safety.

RECOMMENDATION:

Taking into consideration the present use of this site, the nature of the proposed development, and the fact that considerable benefit may accrue from its realisation, a recommendation to materially contravene the plan is recommended.

It is noted that the proposed development may be subject to further amendment and refinement and will be subject to planning conditions.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION: A decision to grant permission cannot be made unless a resolution is passed by the members requiring that such a decision be made in accordance with Section 26(3) of the 1963 Planning Act as substituted by Section 39(d) of the 1976 Planning Act as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act 1991.

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant permission was given on 16th August 2001 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. None were submitted.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is 11th January 2002 (extension of time).

Cllr. Burke proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Mr. Tom McHugh, F.G.M.O. Developments for planning permission to (i) change of use of existing commercial building to use as a hotel and for alterations and extensions to same, (ii) the construction of a new leisure centre incorporating swimming pool, gymnasium, changing rooms, and storage areas, (iii) provision of car park spaces, access roads, lowering of front and side boundary walls and erection of signage, lighting and all ancillary services in the townland of Blackacre, and having considered the Report dated 17th September 2001, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 (3) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963, as amended by Section 39 (d) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991 hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application.

Cllr. T. Walsh seconded this proposal. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

AR SON: *Depts. U. Burke, Connaughton, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. Burke, Callanan, Connolly, Conneely, Cunningham, Fahy, Gavin, Grealish, Hoade, Hynes, Joyce, Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, McClearn, P. McHugh, Mullins, Ni Fhatharta, O'Foighil, O'Neachtain, O'Sullivan, Rabbitt, Regan, S. Walsh, T. Walsh. (27)*

IN AGHAIDH: (0)

GAN VOTÁIL: (0)

The Chairman declared the resolution carried. Cllr. T. McHugh was not present when this matter was being discussed and accordingly did not participate in discussions or voting on this item.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART X OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994

1246

Report dated 19th September, 2001 was circulated to each Member.

(a) Realignment of N67 between Ballinderreen and Kinvara

The works as proposed were approved on the proposal of Cllr Cunningham, seconded by Cllr. Loughnane

Dep. U Burke asked that when road works are taking place in the Kinvara area that stone walls be retained.

(b) Provision of Coach Parking facilities, Galway Road, Clifden.

The works as proposed were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. Gavin.

**TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART X OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT)
REGULATIONS 1994**

1247

Report dated the 17th September, 2001 was circulated to each Member

(a) Construction of house at Shannagurraun, Moycullen, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Comh. O'Neachtain, seconded by Comh Ni Fhatharta.

(b) Construction of house at Derrybeg, Maam Cross, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta.

(c) Construction of house at Mullaghgloss, Renvyle, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Cllr. Conneely, seconded by Cllr. J.J. Mannion.

(d) Construction of house at Kilroe East, Inverin, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Comh. O'Foighil, seconded by Comh. Ni Fhatharta.

(e) Rossroe, Cashel, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Comh. Ni Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Conneely.

(f) Cloonamore, Inishboffin, Co. Galway.

The works as proposed were approved by Cllr. J.J. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Conneely.

RIBBON DEVELOPMENT

1248

Dep. U. Burke stated that the County Development Plan should be varied to eliminate the 1½ mile restriction on development, which he stated was arbitrary. He said the effect of the Councils policy was to depopulate rural areas and that the reason housing is required in rural areas is to sustain schools, post offices, shops etc.

He said that there is a ban on development within 1½ miles of the 40 mile speed limit and therefore, development is being pushed outside the 1½ mile limit where it becomes necessary to use a car. He said this is not sustainable. He also said that rural development is being stifled nationally. People are being asked to move out of rural Ireland and into high rise developments in cities. He stated that he therefore proposed amending the current County Development Plan to eliminate the 1½ mile rule.

In the course of a discussion on the issue, the following points were made by members: -

- Difficulty with interpretation of Ribbon Development Rule. It is not being interpreted as intended by the Councillors.
- Redressing the problem of rural depopulation will not erode the rural nature of the countryside.
- Rural schools are already in decline and Councillors cannot implement a policy which would result in a reduction in the population in rural areas.
- Families who have relied on agriculture for years and now need to sell a site, should be allowed to do so for economic reasons.
- Rural housing should be allowed as the services are there. There are already shops, schools etc in these areas but the population is in decline.
- Any local person should be able to obtain planning permission, whether they are farmers children from the area, or the children of professionals from the area.
- The definition of ribbonisation is being used indiscriminately as a reason for refusal.
- Population is the lifeblood of rural areas. There are schools fighting to hold on to teachers and shops struggling to hold on to customers. If we do not hold on to rural houses, we will lose these other services, and it will be the death knell for rural life.
- Most Councillors and officials present would have come from single rural houses rather than from housing estates. Therefore Councillors would be unhappy imposing restrictions on the young people of Galway which were not imposed on themselves.
- Many of the young people from East Galway have moved to south Roscommon where it is much easier to get planning permission.

Tam Electoral Area Sub-committee

- Development on minor roads for local people should be allowed.
- In depth development along minor roads should be allowed as a common sense approach.
- No inner city type problems on the West Coast of Ireland because of the population decline. High density housing creates social problems. Rural once-off housing represents a better environment for young children.
- There is an imbalance between the number of houses being erected on the east coast, compared to those being constructed on the west coast.

Mr. Ridge stated that this is not a new policy, it is just an interpretation of what is included in the Plan. He also stated that the Council must take national policy into account and in particular the National Spatial Strategy. He stated that any variation of the County Development Plan must state reasons and must take into account, proper planning and sustainable development.

Mr. Ridge said the new Plan will have moved forward within the next 10 weeks, and suggested that the members should wait to see the new draft before making any variation to the old Plan. He advised that the proposed variation should not go ahead.

Dep. Burke did not agree and proposed that the variation proceed and set in motion whatever steps are necessary.

Cllr. P. McHugh seconded this proposal.

Co. Manager stated that the Council is bound by Government Policy on sustainability and proper planning and development. He stated that there is a procedure set out in the planning acts for a variation.

**OUTLINE OF PROCESS FOR REVIEWING
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

1249

Mr. Ridge referred to his report dated 20th September 2001. He said it was proposed to set up five Development Plan Review Sub-committees comprising members from each electoral area and a sixth Sub-committee comprising of members of the Planning and Economic Development SPC. Following discussion, the following meetings of the sub-committees were arranged: -

1. ***Connemara Electoral Area Sub-committee***
 8th October 2001 9.00a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
 7th November 2001 9.00a.m. - 11.00a.m.

2. **Tuam Electoral Area Sub-committee**
 2nd October 2001 9.00a.m. - 11.00a.m.
 6th November 2001 9.00a.m. - 11.00a.m.
3. **Loughrea Electoral Area Sub-committee**
 1st October 2001 11.30a.m. - 1.30p.m.
 6th November 2001 11.30a.m. - 1.30p.m.
4. **Ballinasloe Electoral Area Sub-committee**
 2nd October 2001 4.00p.m. - 6.00p.m.
 7th November 2001 4.00p.m. - 6.00p.m.
5. **Oranmore Electoral Area Sub-committee**
 4th October 2001 4.00p.m. - 6.00p.m.
 6th November 2001 3.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
6. **Planning and Economic Development SPC Sub-committee**
 1st October 2001 3.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
 7th October 2001 3.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.

HERITAGE GRANTS SCHEME 2001

1250

A copy of report dated 20th September, 2001 setting out recommendations for Heritage Grants Scheme 2001 was submitted as follows: -

Organisation	Amt. Recommended
Eyrecourt Development Group	£750
Mna Fiontrach, Aran Islands	£500
Kilkerrin Community Development Group (Local Hist. Project)	£750
Aughrim Community Development	£500
Patch Cillachain Group (Children's Burial Ground), Moylough	£500
Clonberne Community Development	£250
Aras Mhuire, Tuam, Millennium Project for the Aged	£350
Williamstown Heritage Society	£750
Kilconly Development Association Ltd.	£250
Loughrea Environmental Group	£500
Killrerin Community Council	£250
Caltra Community Council	£250
I.F.A. (History Subcommittee), Kilkerrin	£250
Castleblakeney Church Res. Assoc. Ltd.	£500
Boyouagh Cemetery Committee	£250
Turloughmore Heritage Project	£500
Oranmore Old Graveyard Restoration Group	£250
Glinsk Community Development Society	£750
Ultagh Beaga Burial Ground Committee, Maam	£500

Milltown (Co. Galway) Dev. Co. Ltd.	£400
Kiltartan Cemetery Group	£500
Tuam Travellers Ed. & Dev. Assoc. Ltd.	£500
Portumna Castle Crafts & Gardens	£250
Friends of Loughrea Heritage	£400
Annaghdown Heritage Society	£750
Kilskegh Children's Burial Ground	£250
IRD South East Galway – Comm. Res. Scheme	£750
Gortanumera Development Association	£250
St. Brendan's Cathedral Loughrea	£350
Mountbellew District Development Association	£250
Cumann Staire Mhaigh Cuilinn	£250
Portumna & District Development Co. Plc.	£250
Leenane Development Association	£250
The Christian Training Institute	£500
The Lambert Project Society, Athenry	£250
St. Kerrill's Festival Committee	£250
Total	£15,000

On the proposal of Comh. Ni. Fhatharta, seconded by Cllr. Grealish, the Heritage Grants as recommended for 2001 were approved by the Council.

CLASS 3 COUNTY ROADS

1251

Report dated 20th September regarding Additional Grant Allocation for Roads was noted.

CONFERENCES

1252

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Callanan, it was agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member: -

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland Conference 2001 – Killarney – 4th/5th Oct, 01

Cllr. M. Cunningham, Cllr. P. Hynes.

Supporting Community Initiative – Kilkee – 19th/20th October, 2001

Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, Cllr. T. Rabbitt, Cllr. P. O'Foighil, Dep. P. Connaughton

L.A.M.A. Annual Winter Seminar – Monaghan – 9th/10th November, 2001

Cllrs. C. Ni Fhatharta, P. O'Sullivan, M. Hoade, P. McHugh, J. Conneely, S. Walsh, P. Hynes, N. Grealish, M. Mullins, P. O'Foighil, J. Joyce, Sen. J. McDonagh, Dep. P. Connaughton.

N.O.M. NO. 12 – HERITAGE – DEP. U. BURKE

1253

The following reply was given to Dep. Burke: -

"Officials of the Council met the promoters of this Project recently and advised them that the initial steps for consideration of such a proposal was the preparation of a feasibility study. The promoters were also advised as to the likely sources whereby partial grants might be obtained for this exercise."

N.O.M. NO. 13 – PLANNING – DEP. U. BURKE

1254

The following reply was given to Dep. Burke: -

"The identification of suitable sites for windfarms must be done in a comprehensive and structured manner on a countywide bases. This is currently being investigated as part of the landscape assessment being carried out for the review of the County Development Plan. Any proposal to re-zone a specific site must be deemed premature."

N.O.M. NO. 14 – GROUP WATER SCHEME – DEP. P. CONNAUGHTON

1255

The following reply was given to Dep. Connaughton: -

"The Council are in the process of completing the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme, Stage 3. On completion of this project the Council will be in a position to provide additional water to the Corofin Group Water Scheme."

N.O.M. NO. 15 – ROADS – CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM

1256

The following reply was given to Cllr. Cunningham: -

"The continuous white line is necessary in the interests of traffic safety. Under Section 26(4) of S.I. 182 (1997) Road Traffic (Traffic & Parking) Regulations a driver can cross a solid white line to enter/exit premises or lands adjoining the roadway. The householder in question is not affected and will not be affected by the existence of the continuous white line."

N.O.M. NO. 16 – PIERS – CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM

1257

The following reply was given to Cllr. Cunningham: -

"This pier is in the charge of Galway County Council. On receipt of a submission from local pier users Galway County Council will examine same before forwarding it to the Department of the Marine & National Resources for funding."

N.O.M. NO. 17 – ROADS – CLLR. M. CUNNINGHAM

1258

The following reply was given to Cllr. Cunningham: -

"Galway County Council intend erecting warning signs at this location in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 18 – SEWERAGE SCHEME – CLLR. M. FAHY

1259

The following reply was given to Cllr. Fahy: -

"The need for new and appropriate sewerage treatment facilities in Kinvara has been recognised by the County Council and Kinvara is included in the Water Services Assessment of Needs Programme adopted by the County Council. The Council has retained Consulting Engineers to examine this matter and on receipt of their report/recommendation will take the appropriate action."

N.O.M. NO. 19 – LIGHTING – CLLR. M. FAHY

1260

The following reply was given to Cllr. Fahy: -

"There are no funds available for this project in the current year. However, we will seek funding in 2002."

N.O.M. NO. 20 – CEMETERY – CLLR. M. FAHY

1261

The following reply was given to Cllr. Fahy: -

"Duchas has already indicated to Galway County Council that it will not approve the development of the extension to Drumacoo Cemetery due to its proximity to the National Monument. Galway County Council has invited Duchas to address the full Council meeting to discuss this matter and further developments will be dependent on the outcome of these discussions."

N.O.M. NO. 21 – PERMANENCY OF STAFF – CLLR. J. JOYCE

1262

The following reply was given to Cllr. Joyce: -

"The question of permanency of long-term temporary employees is being examined at the moment, and a number of staff are being made permanent in the Engineering areas, within approved staff complement levels."

N.O.M. NO. 22 – ROADS – SEN. J. McDONAGH **1263**

The following reply was given to Sen. McDonagh: -

"The reflective bollards will be erected as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 23 – ROADS – SEN. J. McDONAGH **1264**

The following reply was given to Sen. McDonagh: -

"The gardener based in the Tuam Area will attend to this matter as soon as possible."

N.O.M. NO. 24 – PLANNING – SEN. J. McDONAGH **1265**

The following reply was given to Sen. McDonagh: -

"A new Organisational Structure is in place in the Planning Department and it is hoped that this will mean that all queries will be dealt with more efficiently."

N.O.M. NO. 25 – BRIDGES – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA **1266**

The following reply was given to Comh. Ni Fhatharta: -

"Deanfar meid airithe oibre ar an lintear (culvert) gar do Ti Feeney ag an gCloch Mhoir. Nil aon obair eile beartaithe faoi lathair sa gceantar."

N.O.M. NO. 26 – ROADS – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA **1267**

The following reply was given to Comh. Ni Fhatharta: -

"Deanfar an obair ar an lathair seo roimh dheireadh na bliana, ma bhionn na hacmhainni ar fail."

N.O.M. NO. 27 – BEACHES – COMH. C. NI FHATHARTA **1268**

The following reply was given to Comh. Ni Fhatharta: -

"Ta se beartaithe soilse "infill" a chur ar fail sa gceantar ata gar don leabharlann, roimh dheireadh na bliana. Cuireadh ordu chuig an mBSL faoi"

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNUI ANNIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

M. J. O'Connell

22/10/01

Date

N.O.M. NO. 28 – ROADS – COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN

1269

The following reply was given to Comh. O'Neachtain: -

"Nil aon phleananna ag an gComhairle Chontae d'oibreacha bothair ar an lathair seo. Deanfar meid airithe lineail go luath. Bhi an Chomhairle I dteagmhail le hailtiri na scoile maidir leis na forbairti ata beartaithe ag an scoil."

N.O.M. NO. 29 – ROADS – COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN

1270

The following reply was given to Comh. O'Neachtain: -

"Ta se beartaithe roinnt aiteanna a chur ar fail chun go bhfeadfadh tracht dul thar a cheile ar an lathair seo le linn na hoibreacha bothair a thosoidh I gceann cupla seachtaine a bheith a ndeanamh." (beidh se do ag brath ar chlocha meillte a bheith ar fail ar an oilean).

N.O.M. NO. 30 – ROADS – COMH. S. O'NEACHTAIN

1271

The following reply was given to Comh. O'Neachtain: -

"This work will be carried out within the next two weeks."

N.O.M. NO. 31 – FOOTPATHS – CLLR. M. REGAN

1272

The following reply was given to Cllr. Regan: -

"It is hoped to realign this road in the future following discussions with Duchas – at this stage work on footpaths will be carried out."

N.O.M. NO. 32 – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – CLLR. M. REGAN

1273

The following reply was given to Cllr. Regan: -

"A traffic count will have to be carried out on this section of the N65 to determine if traffic volumes are sufficient to permit the installation of a pedestrian crossing. The Roads Section has been notified to carry out this survey. This work will have to be approved by the National Roads Authority."

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved & Signed

M. M. Regan
14
22/10/01
Date

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2001

Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. M. Regan

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Deps. U. Burke, P. Connaughton, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. Burke, J. Callanan, J. Conneely, M. Connolly, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, C. Ni Fhatharta, P. O Foighil, S. Gavin, N. Grealish, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, P. McHugh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O Neachtain, P. O'Sullivan, K. Quinn, T. Rabbitt, S. Walsh, T. Walsh

Oifigigh:-

Messrs. D. O'Donoghue, Co. Manager, T. Kavanagh, J. Cullen, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, J. Morgan, Directors of Services, E. Lusby, Director of Finance, D. Barrett, S.E.O., T. Murphy, S.E.O., A. Comer, S.E.O., L. Kavanagh, S.E.E., C. MacAodh Bhuí, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. M. Jordan, A.O., Ms. M. Killoran-Coyne, S.S.O.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

1223

A Resolution of Sympathy was extended to the following: -

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Donnellan, St. Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Monica Holland, Cregmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Eileen Shaughnessy & Family, Moyne, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Michael & Ann Curtin, Kilkerrin Road, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway.
Very Rev. Canon Joe Keogh P.P., "St. Mary's", Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Marian Kearns, Kilamoran, Gort, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Mary Collins, Luimnagh, Corrandulla, Co. Galway.

TRAGEDIES IN NEW YORK

1224

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes in sympathy with the victims of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York.

COUNCIL MEETING

1225

It was agreed to hold the next Monthly Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 26th September, 2001 at 3.30 p.m.

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SCHEDULED TOWN OF TUAM (& ENVIRONS) IN THE TOWNLAND OF BLACKACRE

1226

Planning Ref. 01/728

APPLICANT: Mr. Tom McHugh, Director, F.G.M.O Developments

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The proposed development is for (i) change of use of existing commercial building to use as a hotel and for alterations and extensions to same, (ii) the construction of a new leisure centre incorporating swimming pool, gymnasium, changing rooms, and storage areas, (iii) provision of car park spaces, access roads, lowering of front and side boundary walls and erection of signage, lighting and all ancillary services in connection with the above development in the townland of Blackacre.

LOCATION: The site is located in Blackacre Td, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

CURRENT USE: Commercial

CURRENT ZONING: Agricultural

ASSESSMENT: This site was traditionally commercial in use, though situated on the edge of land zoned for residential purposes, much of which has been developed. Though the existing and proposed use of the site in question is commercial, present zoning is for agricultural.

Ideally, many forms of commercial activity should be located closer or within the urban area to preserve the towns viability. However, given the nature of this proposal, i.e. hotel

and leisure facility, the present location is not totally inappropriate. Furthermore, adequate carparking is provided which may not be available in the urban situation. It is envisaged that the nature of the proposed development would not injure the amenities of the local residents.

OBJECTIONS: No objections to this planning application have been received.

RECOMMENDATION: Taking into consideration the present use of this site, the nature of the proposed development, and the fact that considerable benefit may accrue from its realisation, a recommendation to materially contravene the plan is recommended.

It is noted that the proposed development may be subject to further amendment and refinement and will be subject to planning conditions.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION: A decision to grant permission cannot be made unless a resolution is passed by the members requiring that such a decision be made in accordance with Section 26(3) of the 1963 Planning Act as substituted by Section 39(d) of the 1976 Planning Act as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act 1991.

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant permission was given on 16th August 2001 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. None were submitted.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is 11th January 2002 (extension of time).

Cllr. Burke proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Mr. Tom McHugh, F.G.M.O. Developments for planning permission to (1) change of use of Existing commercial building to use as a hotel and for alterations and extensions to same, (ii) the construction of a new leisure centre incorporating swimming pool, gymnasium, changing rooms, and storage areas, (iii) provision of car park spaces, access roads, lowering of front and side boundary walls and erection of signage, lighting and all ancillary services in the townland of Blackacre, and having considered the Report dated 7th September, on the matter, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 (3) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963, as amended by Section 39 (d) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991 hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application.

Cllr. T. Walsh seconded this proposal. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

AR SON: Dep. U. Burke, Cllrs. J. Burke, Callanan, Conneely, Connolly, Cunningham, Fahy, Grealish, Hoade, Hynes, Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, T. Mannion, Sen. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. McClearn, P. McHugh, Mullins, Ni Fhatharta, O' Foighil, O' Neachtain, Quinn, Rabbitt, Regan, S. Walsh, T. Walsh. (25)

IN AGHAIDH: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The Chairman declared the resolution carried. Cllr. T. McHugh was not present when this matter was being discussed and, accordingly, did not participate in discussions or voting on this item.

MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR OUGHTERARD TOWN - TOWNLAND OF FOUGH WEST

1227

Planning Ref. 00-5375

APPLICANT:

Kevin O'Toole

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The proposed development comprises of the construction of a nursing home and associated services and to demolish part of an existing hostel.

LOCATION:

The site of the proposed development is located within the town boundary of Oughterard Town in an area zoned as agricultural lands.

PLANNING HISTORY:

Prior to this application there were previous applications on site:

99-5317 – The same applicant applied for planning permission to construct nursing home and this application was subsequently withdrawn.

98-4382 – Planning Permission was refused to Mr Jim Glynn for the construction of 6-bed dwellinghouse by Galway County Council but this decision to refuse was subsequently overturned by An Bord Pleanala.

ZONING:

The site is currently zoned as agricultural in the current County Development Plan, Oughterard Town.

ASSESSMENT: Initial problems with the application concerned overlooking windows, the overall height of the proposed development and the situation regarding the public sewer in Oughterard Town. The file was referred to Water Services Section regarding the situation with the sewer which at present is overloaded. The proposal was acceptable because it was felt that the proposed nursing home once it replaced the existing and permitted development on site would not represent an increased load on the existing sewer system. Further information was requested and the applicant replied to the request. The proposed building was reduced in height, but a problem still remained with the overlooking windows. The proposal by the applicant to frost the windows was unacceptable to the Planning Authority. Eventually the applicant submitted letters from adjoining landowners which stated that they had no objections to overlooking windows onto their property. Therefore, it was recommended that the proposal be granted subject to 10 no. conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that planning permission be granted to materially contravene the County Development Plan for the townland of Fough West.

OBJECTIONS: An objection was received from Dúchas expressing concerns regarding the location of the site close to Lough Corrib and adjoining the Owenriff River. Their concerns have been noted and will be dealt with by way of conditions.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATION: A decision to grant permission cannot be made unless a resolution is passed by the members requiring that such a decision be made in accordance with Section 26(3) of the 1963 Planning Act as substituted by Section 39(d) of the 1976 Planning Act as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act 1991.

Public notice of the Council's intention to consider deciding to grant permission was given on 5th July 2001 and the notice invited members of the public to submit representations or objections. None were submitted.

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

The latest date for a decision on this application is 26th October 2001.

Cllr. S. Walsh proposed that having considered the Planning Application made by Kevin O'Toole for planning permission for the construction of a nursing home and associated services and to demolish part of an existing hostel, and having considered the Report dated 7th September, 2001, on the matter, Galway County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 (3) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963, as amended by Section 39 (d) of Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1976, as amended by Section 45 of the Local Government Act, 1991 hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made in the case of this application.

Comh. O'Neachtain seconded this proposal. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:-

(d) On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Quinn the Council agreed to the sale of a house at Charlemont, Co. Galway pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946. Notice dated 23rd August, 2001 already circulated.

AR SON: *Dep. U. Burke, Cllrs. J. Burke, Callanan, Conneely, Connolly, Cunningham, Fahy, Gavin, Grealish, Hoade, Hynes, Loughnane, J.J. Mannion, T. Mannion, Sen. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. McClearn, P. McHugh, T. McHugh, Mullins, Ni Fhatharta, O' Foighil, O' Neachtain, Quinn, Rabbitt, Regan, S. Walsh, T. Walsh. (27)*

IN AGHAIDH: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

REPORT UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1994

1228

Realignment of Parkmore Road LS 7101 south of the Tuam Road to the I.D.A. Roundabout

A copy of Report dated 24th August, 2001 was circulated to each Member. The Members agreed to proceed with said developments, on the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Grealish.

DISPOSAL OF LANDS

1229

(a) On the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh seconded by Comh. Ní Fhatharta, the Council agreed to the sale of land at Liam Mellows Street, Tuam, Co. Galway, pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, and in accordance with Section 88 of the Housing Act 1966. Notice dated 31st August, 2001 already circulated.

(b) On the proposal of Cllr. Rabbitt, seconded by Cllr Grealish the Council agreed to the sale of land at Oranmore, to Oranmore Community Development Association Ltd. pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946. Notice dated 16th August, already circulated.

(c) On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Deputy U. Burke the Council agreed to the sale of land at Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946 and in accordance with Section 88 of the Housing Act 1996. Notice dated 22nd August, 2001 already circulated.

(d) On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Quinn the Council agreed to the sale of a house at Claretuam, Co. Galway pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946 and in accordance with Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966, as substituted by Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992. Notice dated 23rd August 2001 already circulated.

DECLARATION OF ROAD TO BE PUBLIC ROAD –

SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT, 1993

1230

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

Road LT63012 extending for a distance of 300 metres in Townland of Cooloo – Mountbellew.

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

Road commencing at junction with County Road 4214 and extending north westwards for a distance of 546 metres in the Townland of Earlsparck to Seamus Keane's house – Loughrea

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

Road LT13226 for a length of 100m in the townland of Derryoughter extending from its junction with LT13222 in the north west direction – Oughterard.

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

Road commencing at junction with County Road 2124 and extending north for a distance of 300 metres in the Townland of Tonagurraun – Tuam.

PRESENTATION BY DÚCHAS, THE HERITAGE SERVICE

1231

The Cathaoirleach informed the Meeting that this item was being deferred as the officials from Dúchas were not available due to the change in the date of the Meeting from 14th September to 17th September, 2001.

**OUTLINE OF PROCESS FOR REVIEWING
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

1232

Mr. Ridge circulated his report dated 10th September, 2001 and outlined the timescale to review the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Grealish proposed that the Area Committees be involved in the process as they had a critical role to play in relation to local issues. This view was supported by other members and following discussion the County Manager said that a further report would be prepared for the next meeting of the County Council.

**REPORT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
4TH SEPTEMBER, 2001**

1233

The Report of the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 4th September 2001 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Cunningham.

**REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN –
TO CONSIDER REPORT ON PRE-PLAN SUBMISSIONS**

1234

Mr. L. Kavanagh referred to the County Manager's Report dated 7th September, 2001 and the submissions received for the review of the County Development Plan. He said that 169 submissions had been received and that late submissions would be considered. In reply to Cllr. Hoade, he said that all submissions are available for inspection and if a Councillor wishes to have a copy of any particular submission, it would be made available. Following discussion, the following points were made by Members: -

- There is a need for additional energy and windpower, wavepower and bio-energy should be considered.
- The issue of tourism needs to be addressed.
- In relation to Connemara, too many areas of High Scenic Amenity make it impossible to find sites suitable for housing.
- Every effort must be made to ensure that the Gaeltacht is populated by native young people who speak the language.
- The difficulty in reconciling the issue of accommodating returning immigrants and local people with the need to preserve the landscape.

Mr. Ridge thanked all those who made submissions, which he said, would be of enormous help in preparing the Plan.

OUTLINE OF NEW STRUCTURE FOR PLANNING DEPARTMENT 1235

It was agreed that this item be discussed by the full Council in Committee at 3.00 p.m. on 26th September 2001 immediately prior to the monthly meeting.

RIBBON DEVELOPMENT 1236

This item was deferred to the next Meeting.

ALLEVIATION OF FLOODING IN SOUTH GALWAY AREA 1237

The report dated 13th September 2001 on the alleviation of flooding in the South Galway area was noted.

PRESENTATION IN RELATION TO COUNTY GALWAY MARINE TOURISM STUDY (BY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL – FERGUS McILVEEN) 1238

Mr. McIlveen explained that he worked for Tourism Development International who carried out a survey on water-based tourism in Galway. He said that Galway, due to its many strengths, had an established tourist base but needed to develop its water-based tourism. This could be achieved by promoting Galway as a water-activity destination and developing activities on the Corrib and other waterways. He said that there was over-dependence on car based touring and on day trips only to the islands. Mr. McIlveen requested that all submissions/comments in relation to the survey should be forwarded to Mr. Enda Thompson, Chief Technician.

In reply to Cllr. Gavin, Mr. McIlveen said that the study included the whole County and not just Lough Corrib. Cllr. Burke stressed the importance of the River Clare as a water-based tourism area. Cllr. T. Walsh said that the River Suck was a major waterway in North East Galway and had huge tourism potential. Cllrs. Mullins and O'Sullivan also referred to the River Suck and the excellent marina in Ballinasloe. In reply to Cllr J. J. Mannion, Mr. McIlveen explained that he was aware of a submission made by Clifden Chamber of Commerce to the Department of the Marine and would be considering it in a future report.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

1239

I.F.A. Action

The County Manager outlined the effects of the IFA Action on the Progress on National Primary and Secondary Roads Schemes under the Current National Development Plan as follows: -

- Contracts in excess of £8 million have been suspended or delayed indefinitely until such time as access to farmlands can be achieved. These contracts consist of Ground Investigation, Topographical Surveys and Environmental Impact Assessment Surveys for the nine schemes at planning stage in County Galway. He stated that if the IFA situation is not resolved in the near future, the contracts may need to be re-advertised which will incur further substantial administrative costs
- The consultants involved in the various schemes have built up teams of engineers and other specialists who are now in the position where progress on schemes has come to a halt. These teams must now be re-deployed to other works that are not affected by the IFA action. In some cases, this may result in staff being let go by the consultants. The re-assembly of these teams once the IFA situation is resolved will result in additional costs and delays to programmes.
- As some of the Environmental Impact Assessment surveys must be done during the summer months, it is feared that the IFA action could in certain cases result in a delay of up to one year in the development of the schemes

The Cathaoirleach said that the Council should come to an agreement with the farmers whereby they would be allowed to enter lands pending an outcome to the dispute. Comh. O'Neachtain said that the County was in danger of losing valuable investment opportunities. In reply to a query by Cllr. J. Burke, the County Manager explained that the Council had been refused entry on lands by approximately 70% of farmers. Cllr J. Burke suggested that the Cathaoirleach meet with Mr. John Mannion, Chairman Galway I.F.A. to discuss the matter and this was agreed.

Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region

The County Manager informed the Members that the Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region had been made under the Waste Management (Amendment) Act 2001. He explained that the 13th September was the latest date for making the Plan. A copy of the Plan was circulated to each Member. Cllr. Grealish said that he was disappointed that the Plan had been made, after rejection by the Council, and he said that more should be done to encourage recycling in the county. The County Manager said that the Council is actively encouraging recycling, reuse and recovery of waste in the County through the provision of 60 Bring Banks. He said that there has been a good response to the Green Schools Projects and that there is a high level of activity in the County to minimise waste going to landfill. Now that the Waste Management Plan is in place, the Council are in a position to submit plans to the Department of Environment and Local Government for recycling and funding will become available. Cllr. Mullins said that he hoped that there

would be a facility available in the Council whereby Councillors could recycle the volumes of paper they receive each day. He also hoped that more information would be transmitted electronically to Councillors. Comh O'Neachtain said that the cost of waste disposal had increased four fold and he hoped that this would not lead to an increase in illegal dumping. Cllr J. J. Mannion said that he hoped that recycling would be encouraged and felt that incineration was not necessary. Comh. Ní Fhatharta said that everyone has to take responsibility for the waste they generate.

The County Manager said that the Council was holding interviews shortly for Assistant Environmental Awareness Officers who will promote recycling, reuse and recovery of waste. Their functions will include meeting and informing the public and Residents Associations and encouraging them to minimise waste. He explained that Mr. Aengus Breathnach, Executive Engineer, would be dealing with the technical issues on waste. There has been a reduction in waste to Ballinasloe Landfill and further reductions must continue. The "polluter pays principle" must be enforced and collection permits are now required by all refuse collection companies. Fourteen Community Wardens will be employed by the Council and they will assist in the campaign against litter. Composting bins are available from the Council and over 3,000 have been distributed in the County to date.

CATHAOIRLEACHS BUSINESS

1240

All-Ireland Football Final

It was proposed by Comh. O Neachtain, seconded by Comh. Ní Fhatharta and agreed that the Council would contribute £2,000 towards the reception being held for the Galway Footballers on the night of the All-Ireland Final in the Citywest Hotel, Dublin. The Cathaoirleach said that he and the Leas-Cathaoirleach would be representing the Council.

Motor Tax Office, Ballinasloe

Cllr. O'Sullivan welcomed the opening of the new motor tax office in Ballinasloe. The Cathaoirleach informed the Meeting that the office would be officially opened by him on Thursday 20th September, 2001 at 11.00 a.m.

CONFERENCES

1241

On the proposal of Cllr. Loughnane seconded by Cllr. Quinn, it was agreed that the attendance of the following Members be approved at the Conferences set out hereunder, the cost of each Conference having been circulated to each Member.

Blackwater Valley Tourism Conference	Cork	21st /23rd September
Cllrs. P. McHugh, M. Hoade, T. Walsh, T. McHugh		
Inaugural Conference	Ballina, Killaloe	4th & 5th October

Comh. C. Ní Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, Cllrs. J. Callanan, M. Cunningham, M. Hoade, K. Quinn, P. McHugh, J. Conneely, S. Walsh, M. Mullins.

Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Letterkenny

13th/15th September

Senator J. McDonagh, Cllr. T. Mannion.

ILATHAIR PREISEIN:

Depts. D. Burke, P. Conneely, Sen. J. McDonagh, Cllrs. J. Callanan, J. Conneely, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, S. Gavin, N. Graalish, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, J. Joyce, M. Loughran, J.J. Manning, T. Mannion, P. McHugh, T. McHugh, M. Mullins, S. O'Neachtain, P. O'Foghlá, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn, T. Quinn.

Submitted, Approved & Signed

M. M. Ryan

27/10/01
Date

- Mr. G. McCarthy, Planning Consultant, Mr. Peter Walsh, Project Manager, National Roads Authority, Mr. Bob Dunn, Project Manager, Parkmore/Cabro/Punch.
- Mr. Joe Perry, Parkmore/Cabro/Punch.
- Mr. Steve Davies, Project Manager, McCarthy/Hyder/Tobin.
- Mr. Tim Peterson, McCarthy/Hyder/Tobin.
- Mr. P. Miskella, McCarthy/Hyder/Tobin.
- Ms. Sharon Connolly, Ryan Healy/WSP.
- Mr. Paul Ryan, Project Manager, Hakro/Dury.
- Mr. David Canley, Project Manager, Baker/Pena.

Though an amount has been paid... The Council has agreed that there would be no meeting held during the month of August. He expressed sympathy for the families of the victims of the tragedy and said that he hoped that during the course of the inquiry...