

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, on 11th January 2018 @ 11 a.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Ivan Canning

Baill:

Cllr's M. Fahy, J. Byrne, P Hynes, G. Finnerty, J. McClearn

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, D.O.S.
Ms. M Ni Chionna, S.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr. D Mitchell, S.E. Roads & Transportation
Mr E Mulryan, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr E Gallagher, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation
Mr F McGillicuddy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. P Carroll, Meetings Administrator

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr's Donnellan and Maher who were unable to attend.

Sympathy

On behalf of the elected members, the Cathaoirleach extended their sympathies to the family of John Morgan, retired Director of Services, on his recent passing.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held on 14th December 2017 **LMD 18001**

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 14th December 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Hynes and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. Hynes referred to the Dublin Galway Greenway and the importance of such infrastructure for economic development. Cllr. Finnerty expressed agreement and stressed the importance of making sure all stakeholders especially farmers were not adversely effected. Mr Cullen advised that the Greenway proposal was somewhat

stalled and that it would be necessary to have discussions with the Department of Transport to see what was needed to get it restarted.

In response to Members queries Mr Mulryan stated that it is hoped that the approved re-surfacing work for Kilmeen Junction would commence in quarter 3 of 2018.

Flooding Update

LMD 18002

Mr. Gallagher updated the meeting in relation to flooding. He advised that the first meeting of the Steering Group for the South Galway – Gort Lowland Project was scheduled for Friday 19th January. The group will initially be comprised of representatives from Galway County Council, engineering and financial representatives from the OPW and members of the project team from Ryan Hanley's. The Environmental consultant will join the steering group upon appointment. The assessment of the Environmental tenders was postponed until the Engineering contract had been awarded. The Gort Emergency Flood Plan is progressing with the majority of information now gathered and being compiled. The current draft plan will provide improved reaction from the Council even if implemented in its current form. Levels in turloughs are being monitored on an ongoing basis.

On the Dunkellin River/ Aggard Stream protect, Notices of Entry have been served on thirty two land owners for maintenance works on the Aggard stream. These works will commence in 2018 and will continue throughout 2019. The works will involve the removal of vegetation from the stream / banks and the replacement of approximately eighteen field crossings.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 18003

In response to Cllr. Fahy Mr Mulryan stated that he would investigate the road collapse in Peterswell arising from Coillte traffic while he would hope to carry out necessary repairs to the public toilets in Gort which were closed due to vandalism. He confirmed for Cllr. McClearn that no notification had been received from the Department on the 3 year Roads Programme.

Cllr. Canning referred to the illegal parking of caravans, the continuing dog fouling and littering problems, the difficulty in getting prosecutions and stated that Community Wardens should have increased powers in issuing fines and taking prosecutions against offenders. Cllr. Mc Clear agreed stating that there is a need for a society where entitlement brings responsibility but that it is a national issue and not one Galway County Council can resolve. Mr. Cullen stated that there is frustration at executive level on the limitations on what can be achieved, a situation that he would welcome change quickly.

Proposed Motion by Cllr. Byrne – “That Emergency Funding be provided by the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism to address the serious deterioration of local roads in Galway”

LMD 18004

Cllr. Byrne stated that Galway County Council do a good job on local roads with the level of funding that is provided but that funding towards local roads in Galway County is under resourced. There are 33 local roads in his area where emergency funds are needed. He stated that of 1,400 kilometres of roads in the Loughrea Municipal District only 30

kilometres have been repaired. Cllr. Finnerty stated that local roads in south Galway are in desperate condition at present and potholes are appearing on roads where overlays were done in the recent past. He added that link roads have seen the most damage which is mainly caused by hauliers. Mr. Mitchell stated the issue of funding local road repairs had been raised with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and that €600M was required to bring the road network up to a sufficient standard nationwide. On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr McClearn, Members agreed to request that emergency funding be provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to address the serious deterioration of local roads in Galway.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINIU ANSIN