

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
Loughrea Regional Office, on 12th January 2017 @ 11.00 am.**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Baill:

Cllr's M. Fahy, S Donnellan, G Finnerty, M Maher, I. Canning, P Hynes.

Oifigigh:

Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services;
Mr D Mitchell, S.E. Roads & Transportation;
Ms M. Ni Chionna, S.E. Roads & Transportation;
Mr B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr F. McGillicuddy, A/Executive Engineer;
Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator;
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Byrne who was unable to attend.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea
held on 15th December 2016**

LMD17001

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Municipal District held on 15th December 2016 were proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr's Maher, Fahy and McClearn's queries regarding the bridge at Kilchreest, Mr Mitchell stated that he did not have a response from the T.I.I. to date. No update has been received from the TII regarding the junction at Kilmeen.

Fáilte Ireland

Michael Fitzsimons, Fáilte Ireland presented the meeting with an overview of the Wild Atlantic Way and the development of loops, in particular the Burren Drive which is proposed to cover 140 kms including areas such as Ardrahan, Kilchreest, Gort, Corofin and Ballyvaughan. It may be 2 years before the project is fully brought to fruition. It is envisaged that the Burren Drive will have similar signage to the Wild Atlantic Way.

Cllr. Maher stated that the WAW was the only way of getting tourism back into Loughrea, that Loughrea is a historical town with hotels, restaurants, B&B's and requested that Fáilte Ireland revisit the loops again to include Loughrea Town. Cllr. Donnellan agreed stating that all necessary infrastructure is in place and the Loughrea Chamber of Commerce would welcome the loop to Loughrea Town. Cllr. Finnerty stated that a lot of the towns on the WAW route are not reaping the benefits and that signage was the key for any loop area. Cllr. Mc Clearn stated that the Lakelands and Waterways seem to have taken a step back and that the area around East Galway and Lough Derg was nor being marketed as a destination

In response Mr Fitzsimmons stated that the route was not yet finalised and consultation/workshops with the public has yet to take place. He also stated that Fáilte Ireland are working closely with GCC with regard to a tourism strategy for the County.

Flooding Update

LMD17002

Ms Ni Chionna confirmed for the members that a meeting was held with the South Galway Flood Relief Group on Wednesday 11th January 2017 to gather local information. Mr Gallagher and Mr Fahy have been assessing flood areas over the past week. It was agreed to update both SGFRG and the IFA after municipal meetings. Cllr. McClearn requested that GCC pursue the issue of the flood gate at Portumna (identified under the CFRAM Study) to alleviate concerns for Emerald Star Line and prevent further flooding of their business.

Portumna Marina

LMD17003

Ms Ni Chionna presented the members with a working draft of Motor Caravan Parking Bye-Laws for Portumna Marina. Cllr. McClearn proposed a walk of the Marina Carpark to assess the various issues and also requested Ms Ni Chionna to liaise with Tipperary County Council to ascertain the details of the system in use at the caravan parking facility at Terryglass.

Directors Business

LMD17004

Mr Mitchell requested members to forward submissions for the Road Works Programme before the end of January 2017.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD17005

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr. Finnerty that he will have the repair of the road surface under railway bridges investigated. Mr McGillicuddy confirmed that proceedings have been issued to the illegal occupants at the Salt Barn in Gort.

In response to Cllr's Canning and Fahy's concerns regarding outdoor staff replacement, Mr Mitchell stated that he expected to have all retired staff replaced and the current temporary outdoor staff made permanent.

Cllr. Maher expressed his concerns regarding the lack of signage in estates not taken in charge in Gort. Mr Mitchell stated that this issue would be dealt with as most of the estates were in the process of being taken in charge.

In response to Cllr. Canning's query regarding the different type of material used in footpaths, Mr Mitchell confirmed that it was a funding issue and GCC try to maximise funds provided for footpaths.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea Municipal District would take place on the 9th February 2017.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN