

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at Loughrea Regional Office, 11th October 2018 @ 11 a.m.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. J. Byrne

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr J. Cullen, D.O.S. Roads & Transportation;
Mr D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer;
Ms M. Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer;
Mr D. Flood, Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Mulryan, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer
Mr. B. Sheehy, A/Executive Engineer;
Ms J. Brann, Senior Executive Officer;
Mr E. Mulvey, Tenancy Enforcement Officer;
Mr. P Carroll, Meetings Administrator;
Ms. P McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Finnerty and McClearn who were unable to attend.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th September 2018 **LMD 18048**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th September 2018 were proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Fahy and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the minutes, Mr Carroll stated for Cllr Maher that no response from Failte Ireland had been received to date regarding a Tourist Information Point at the Plaza but he would follow up with a phone call again.

Flooding

LMD 18049

Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – LiDAR laser flight surveys of the study area to be completed by November, threshold surveys in Clonteen, Caherwoneen and Ardrahan areas to be completed following receipt of LiDAR outputs. TCD will be carrying out tracers of underground conduits in the study area over the next month or so. NUIG have commenced works on the baseline salinity model for Kinvarra. Within the next month, it is proposed that an update meeting will be held between the project team and the main local stakeholders – Councillors, SGFRC, Cuan Beo, IFA in the Fire Station in Gort.

Dunkellin – All instream works have been substantially completed for this year. Permanent re-instatement and fencing of private lands will be commencing over the next month on the scheme. Environmental, engineering, archaeological and architectural reports are due in the near future to progress works on the Dunkellin bridge. Once these reports have been received, it is intended to have a progress meeting with locals to bring them up to date on the bridge and the project in general.

Kiltiernan/Ballinderreen – works commenced on site two weeks ago. Approximately 1/5 km of this year's 4 km of works have already been completed. It is hoped to have all works from Brandy Bay up to and including the culvert on the N67 completed by Christmas.

Minor Works Programme – JBA consultants have still to submit the NIS that is required for Roo. If this is made available soon and is positive in its findings, works could still be undertaken this year. Mr Gallagher will provide an update on the entire Minor Works Programmes at next month's meeting.

3 Year Multi Annual RI Programme 2019 – 2021

LMD 18050

Mr Mitchell presented the meeting with the 3 Year Multi Annual RI Programme for 2019 – 2021. Following consultation with the members and Roads & Transportation staff, the programme was based on a budget of €3.37m on the existing municipal district for 2019. The area will be expanded in 2020/2021. Mr Mulryan stated that the allocation received from the Department had certain requirements and based on a scoring mechanism by the Department, the roads listed on the Schedule were deemed to be fairly balanced. In response to Cllr Fahy, Mr Mulryan stated that the allocation was for resurfacing of road network only and not road widening. Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr Canning that exact locations of proposed work on each road were not identified on the map but would be provided at a later date. Responding to Cllr Byrne's query regarding estimate for R353, Mr Mulryan stated that current tendered rates were used to cost the jobs. Mr Mitchell stated that the cost of work is escalating every year and less funding allocated from the Department. He will forward maps to the members from the Athenry and Ballinasloe MD's showing the road network which will be included in the Loughrea MD from 2020. The 3 Year Multi Annual RI Programme 2019 – 2021 was proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Donnellan and agreed.

**Report on the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway
Bye-Laws 2018**

LMD 18051

Ms Ni Chionna presented the meeting with the proposed amendments after review of public consultations submissions, consultation with TII and consultation with An Garda Síochána. The changes are required due to road safety concerns, improved signage, road marking, public lighting and traffic calming. All members agreed that reducing speed limits in certain areas is essential. It was proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Fahy and agreed to keep the speed limit at 80 kmh on the R458, Gort to Kiltiernan. Responding to Cllr Byrne's request to change the 80 km sign to a local rural speed limit sign, Mr Burke confirmed that this sign is only used on local tertiary roads and local secondary roads. Ms Ni Chionna confirmed that the Bye-Laws would be brought before the Plenary Meeting on 22nd October 2018.

Housing Issues

LMD 18052

Mr Mulvey outlined for the members the current position with regard to enforcing Tenancy Agreements, Breach of Tenancy, Waste Management and various issues involved in Local Authority Housing. He also confirmed that a new 3-year agreement had been put in place with a contractor to cut grass in all housing estates in Loughrea, starting in March 2019. Cllr Canning suggested that evidence of waste collection should be part of the Tenancy Agreement in order to avoid further issues regarding the upkeep of the tenant's house. Cllr Maher expressed his concern regarding the number of times grass was cut in Loughrea this year. He also requested an update on the situation regarding Gort Bride and the issue of caravans parked outside tenant's houses. Cllr Donnellan also expressed his concerns with regard to caravans and the enforcement of Tenancy Agreements. Mr Mulvey stated that there was a plan in place to resolve the issues in Gort Bride. Cllr Hynes remarked that anti-social behaviour levels were very high in Council Estates due to breach of tenancy. Cllr Byrne requested a better system of communication between the Housing Unit and Members.

Ms. Brann agreed to distribute updated contact details for Housing unit staff to the members. She also outlined the capital programme for 2018 – 2021. GCC hope to provide 926 new homes across the County. She also outlined for the members the numbers for the Loughrea MD in 2018 – 1 single rural dwelling being built, 16 voids turned over, 6 units under Part 5 Acquisition giving a total of 23 for 2018. It is proposed for 2019 to construct 10 units in Kinvarra, 10 in Ardrahan and 5 in Loughrea giving a total of 25. The Housing Department are actively pursuing acquiring additional land in Gort to provide a proper housing scheme. There are 370 tenancies in the LMD at present. In response to Cllr Hynes, Ms Brann stated that the Housing unit are actively engaged with AHB's regarding land bank and partnering with Tua, Steer, Clud and Respond. There are 3 different capital housing schemes across the county at present. In response to Cllr Maher, Ms Brann stated that the development of the old Gaelscoil site would be a long-term project. Regarding the lighting at Lios na nDanar and fencing at Dun an Oir, Ms Brann will revert back to Cllr Maher directly. In response to Cllr Donnellan's queries, Ms Brann confirmed that the proposed location of the 5 new houses in 2019 was Barrack Street. She also stated that more advertising of the Repair/Leasing scheme was required and a Vacant Homes Officer had recently been recruited which would identify potential properties. Cllr Fahy stated that at least 100 social

houses were needed in Gort. Cllr Byrne proposed that the Housing Unit update the members 3 times a year going forward.

Directors Business

LMD 18053

Mr Cullen confirmed that the LMD Budget Meeting would take place on Thursday 25th October 2018 at 2.30 pm in County Hall.

Mr Mulryan confirmed that funding of €100,000 was received for Woodford Town & Village renewal scheme.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 18054

Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr Donnellan that the utility company that have left two potholes on the R351 at Fitzys Corner would be requested to repair same. He also confirmed that the issue outside the Gael Scoil would be attended to by the Contractor next week.

Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr Maher that no update was received to date regarding the wheelchair access at the Long Point Swimming Area. He would also have the issue of a warning sign at Kings Entry investigated.

Mr. Cullen confirmed for Cllr Byrne that Water Services would be asked to attend the November or December meeting to give an update on rural water.

It was agreed that the monthly meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 11 am.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN