

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 8th June 2017 @ 11.00 am.**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach:

Cllr. Ivan Canning

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services.
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, Executive Engineer;
Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr's McClearn and Maher, who were unable to attend the meeting.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea
held on 11th June 2017**

LMD17036

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 11th May 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. Finnerty stated that his comments on the encampment in Gort were not noted in the Minutes and it was agreed to amend the minutes in this regard.

Flooding Update

LMD 17037

Mr. Gallagher informed the Members that he has completed the initial meetings with the SGFRC and over the next few months will be returning to site to take specific levels and to

confirm the information gathered to date. He has also met with IFA representatives, where they discussed the effect flooding has had on communities in South Galway and the benefits of a scheme to locals. A preliminary meeting has also taken place with the NPWS, where they outlined their priorities with regards to turlough levels and possible solutions. The contracts department of the OPW have been forwarding additional information and amendments that are to be included in the contract brief for the project. The amendments have been undertaken and documents returned to the OPW. Approval to proceed to tender is still with the OPW contracts department.

Galway County Invasive Species Strategy

LMD 17038

This item was deferred.

Review of Speed Limits 2017

LMD 17039

Ms. Ní Chionna explained that the Department of Transport issued new Guidelines on the Making and Managing Speed Limits in March 2015. As a result there has been a nationwide review of speed limits. The TII have carried out a review of national roads in accordance with the new guidelines. Maps were circulated showing the proposed changes to the N67 the N65. The most significant change is that the speed limit should reduce to 80 kph on national roads where the carriageway is less than 6.5 m wide. Other factors such as amount of sinuosity ('bendiness') and the collision rate for that stretch of road would be taken into account in the decision. Certain stretches of the N65 and the N67 would be reduced to 80 kph under these new guidelines. The N66 is to be changed to regional road status (R380) after the motorway opens, and its maximum legal speed will be 80 kph. Councillors requested speed responder signs that give instantaneous feedback on speed to drivers. Some school flashing lights are still on in July /August. Cllr Finnerty stated that Kilbeacanty school does not have a speed limit, it is in an 80 kph zone, and should get a speed limit that extends as far as the crossroad. Cllr Canning said that every school should get a speed limit. Cllr. Byrne asked that the 60 kph speed limit on the N67 at Ballinderreen be extended past the Moy Road. He is opposed to moving the 60 kph any closer on the Galway side of Ballinderreen. Cllr. Fahy referred to a previous petition to move the 50 kph on the Kilcolgan side. Cllr Canning is opposed to the relocation of the 60 kph on the N65 in Portumna on the Killimor road. The people need a 50 kph. Cllr. Finnerty stated that proper signage is required. Mr. Mitchell stated that around Heronsbrooke the speed limit needs to be reduced to 80 kph as there have been accidents at this location. Cllr. Byrne stated that the drawings to be issued for public consultation should reflect the Councillors' wishes. Ms Ni Chionna will bring the councillors' comments on the N67 and the N65 back to TII. and stated that she will bring proposals for local and regional roads to the members for next month's meeting.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 17040

Cllr. Finnerty stated that the encampment was still at Ballyhue and Shanaglish and asked what guarantee could be given that they don't move back on the roundabout. Mr. Mulryan

replied that he is working with Housing Section, TII and the Gardai to have the encampment moved and to ensure that no open spaces are left enabling access. Cllr. Finnerty stated that the encampment is on a right of way and that the law is not strict enough to deal with this issue. Mr. Mulryan that both he and Gardai were informed that a housing need had been submitted by the occupants to Housing Section. Regarding the meeting with Coillte on road conditions Mr Mitchel confirmed for Cllr. Finnerty that a meeting had not yet taken place but that it was intended to do a drive around local roads to assess the condition of these roads. Mr. Mulryan confirmed for Cllr. Byrne that he would check whether previous plans had been submitted for works at Kilmeen Cross. Replying to Cllr. Byrne's proposal that Boland's Lane be made a one way street, Mr. Mitchell stated that a public process would have to be gone through first. Cllr. Byrne stated that he would like to see the proposal in the traffic management Plan for Gort for a pedestrian crossing at Church Street advanced. Cllr. Donnellan stated that there was a need for a review of the traffic management plan for Loughrea. Referring to dog fouling he stated that there is a need for more enforcement action. Mr. Mulryan replied that the review of the Loughrea traffic management plan was dependent on additional financial and staffing resources. Cllr. Canning stated that following repairs to the footpath at Classics Corner there was no ramp allowing wheelchair access and that if required he would allocate notice of motions money to provide a ramp. Mr. Mulryan agreed to revert with a costing of the works required. Cllr. Byrne referred to a major incident on the N67 where a vehicle had left the road and where there were 8 incidents within the last 2 years. Mr. Mulryan replied that there may be need for some remedial works here and that Galway County Council will liaise with TII. Ms. Ni Chionna confirmed for Cllr. Canning that the Portumna Marina Bye Laws had been sent back to the Law Agent for revision. Cllr. Canning stated that the awarding of a Blue Flag at Portumna Bathing Area was a great achievement and he wished to acknowledge the role of Cllr. McClearn in gaining Blue Flag status.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Thursday 13th July 2017 at 11 am.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 7

LMD 17041

The following reply was given:

This proposal was examined, the location inspected, and found to have merit with regard to safety, accessibility and traffic management.

Unfortunately, this would require a substantial change to the Gort Traffic Management plan which is not due for review this year, or soon after.