

**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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 @ 11.00 am.**

**I LATHAIR:**

**Cathaoirleach:**

**Cllr. Jimmy McClearn**

**Baill:**

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

**Oifigigh:**

Mr J Cullen, Director of Services;  
Ms M Ni Chionna, S.E. Roads & Transportation;  
Mr E Mulryan, A/S.E.E. Roads & Transportation;  
Mr E Gallagher, A/S.E.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.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea  
held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017** **LMD17013**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 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. Byrne's request for work at Tooreen Junction, Mr Mulryan stated that some work would be carried out by the Gort office within the next month to alleviate the sightline problems at this location in advance of funding being received.

It was proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Donnellan and agreed that Ms Fiona Monaghan, Fáilte Ireland be requested to attend a meeting of the Loughrea Tourism Group on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017, to discuss the Wild Atlantic Way Loop and the inclusion of Kilchreest, Craughwell and Loughrea.

Responding to Cllr. Maher's concerns regarding the flooding of the road at Kilnadeema, Mr Mulryan confirmed that the stone had been removed from the road and made safe. The Council disputes any allegation that the works carried out in 2015 have caused or exacerbated the flooding of private lands at this location. Mr Mulryan also advised Cllr.

Maher that there is no funding available for the provision of public lighting at Mullagh Church. A policy on the allocation of NOM funding for Public Lighting is to be approved by the Council, following which the proposed lighting at Mullagh Church can be considered.

In reply to Cllr. Canning, Ms Ni Chionna stated that it is hoped to have the Marina opened in early April, but that the Bye Laws will not be in place until after the May Council meeting.

### **Waterways Ireland**

**LMD 17014**

Mr Eanna Rowe, Regional Manager, Waterways Ireland and Ms Sharon Lavin, Waterways Ireland made a presentation to the meeting on the Blueways Initiative which is a network of approved and branded multi-activity recreational trails and sites, based on or closely linked with the water, together with providers facilitating access to activities and experiences. Ms Deirdre O'Shea, Clare County Council also addressed the members and outlined the background to the promotion of Lough Derg Blueway. Clare County Council's Rural Development Directorate has partnered with the Lough Derg Marketing Group, Tipperary Co. Co. and Waterways Ireland for this flagship project in order to ensure optimum collaboration and implementation. A Workshop will be held in Portumna in the near future.

All members welcomed the Blueway concept and it was considered that it would be a much needed boost to business in Portumna. Mr Rowe stated that linkages into Loughrea from this Blueway could open out over time.

### **Declaration of a Road to be a public road – Section 11 Roads Act 1993 Riverview Estate, Gort Town, Co. Galway**

**LMD 17015**

The Declaration of a Road to be a public road, details as follows:-

#### **Point A to B on TIC Map**

1. Road commencing at its junction with the R460 in the town of Gort and extending for a distance of 26 m and ending outside houses No 3 & 4 in the Riverview Estate in the town of Gort. Proposed by Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and agreed.

#### **Point C to B on TIC Map**

1. Road commencing at house No 1 in Riverview Estate in the town of Gort and extending for a distance of 19m and ending outside houses No 3 & 4 in Riverview Estate in the town of Gort. Proposed by Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr Byrne and agreed.

#### **Point D to B on TIC Map**

1. Road commencing at house No 5 in Riverview Estate in the town of Gort and extending for a distance of 13m and ending outside houses No 3 & 4 in Riverview Estate in the town of Gort. Proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty and agreed.

**Directors Business**

**LMD 17016**

Mr Cullen confirmed that the application for the Town Hall renovation was unsuccessful. Mr Mulryan confirmed that the tree overhanging the rear of the Town Hall would be inspected at Cllr. Donnellan's request.

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 17017**

**Deputation – Kilmeen Action Group:-**

A Deputation was received by Kilmeen Action Group and Ms Jacqui Flannery outlined the groups concerns regarding lighting, signage and line marking at this junction on the R446. Contributions from the group were also made by Ms Mary Clarke, Mr Paul Clarke, Mr Gavin Treacy and Mr Tony Treacy. They presented the meeting with a comprehensive report outlining a list of priority works required to make the junction safe.

All members agreed with the Deputation's requests and despite numerous submissions to the TII by Galway County Council, funding for this project has not been received to date. Mr Mulryan advised that a cost estimate has been submitted for the provision of a public lighting scheme at Kilmeen for €70,000 with other additional works added to this cost. He advised that the flooding problem would be investigated by Loughrea office and the issue of signage and line marking would be referred to the TII's approved maintenance contractor. He also advised that the Deputation's concerns would be raised at a meeting being held with the TII and Galway County Council on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

In response to Cllrs Finnerty and Byrne, Mr Mulryan stated that the Tubber Road between Gort Mart and the GAA Pitch traffic issues would be investigated by the Council to determine if some small measures funded by Cllr's NOM money could be implemented to improve safety at this location. In response to Cllrs Byrne and Mahers concerns regarding health and safety at the Gort Community School, Mr Mulryan stated that the matter would be investigated and determine the cost of additional signage at this location.

Mr Mulryan advised Cllr Fahy that a further LCSI application would be made later in the year for Pedestrian Lights at Church Street Gort and also the Railway Bridge at Ardrahan. He also stated that the Council would continue to work with the TII regarding the hard shoulder at Kiltiernan.

Mr Cullen advised Cllr Canning that a revision of valuation of an abattoir's rates could be applied for in order to reduce the amount of rates paid for the property concerned.

**Gort Lowlands Flooding Update**

Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

The briefs for Environmental and Engineering Consultants is more complex than the standard briefs that are issued, due to the extent of the works area (500 sq.km) and the requirement to heavily involve other state bodies in the consultants works (GSI). Basic

assumptions used for river flooding have to be reconsidered when dealing with the ground water and turlough networks of the Gort Lowlands

Trinity College Dublin are progressing an updated model that will show flooding events on topographical mapping, having acquired a flyover survey (LiDAR) of the area. GSI (Geological Survey of Ireland) are installing additional monitors in various locations throughout the Lowlands Area.

A meeting was held the previous week with representatives from the South Galway Flood Relief Committee where they raised a number of issues that they would like to have included in the project briefs. Meetings are scheduled for next week with locals from the Cloonteen Area and a representative from the Waters and Communities Office.

Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr Maher that Electric Skyline were required to carry out monthly patrols of all public lights in the town and identify ones out of order as part of their contract with the Council. He also confirmed that he would make a request to review the traffic management plan to improve sight lines at certain locations around the town.

Mr Carroll confirmed for Cllr Maher that he would have the disused walkway at Fahy Gardens inspected with a view to include the area in its programme of CCTV coverage due to the illegal dumping at this location.

Mr Mulryan confirmed for Cllr Donnellan that the Loughrea Anglers queries had been addressed by the Environment Section.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 11 am.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN**