

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 April 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:	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; Ms C Seale, CWO Mr. P. Carroll, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Cullen, Director of Services, who was unable to attend.

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea held on 9th March 2017 **LMD17018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 9th March 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes Cllr. Maher expressed his anger at the failure of Fáilte Ireland to meet the Loughrea Tourism Group at its meeting on 14th March to discuss the Wild Atlantic Way and the petition signed by 3,00 people to extend the loop by 35km to include Loughrea, Craughwell and Kilchreest. He asked for an update on providing public lighting at Mullagh Church, the position regarding the junction at Kilmeen Cross and the provision of CCTV at Fahy Gardens to prevent illegal dumping. Mr Mulryan stated that a protocol for proposed provision of Cllr's Public lighting had been prepared for consideration by the Council at upcoming meeting of the R&T SPC. Referring to Kilmeen Cross Cllr. McClearn said that he and Cllr. Maher had met the TII following last month's meeting and that the TII had stated that with regard to provision of public lighting they are dependent on Gardai reports on accidents

at the junction and to date accident reports did not warrant public lighting. He recommended that Members should contact Oireachtas members to push for funding towards traffic lighting at the junction. Mr Mulryan said that the TII had not rejected the potential provision of a public lighting scheme at the junction but rather were reviewing available accident data at the junction against the criteria for delivery of such a scheme with view to determining among other matters if there is a pattern of accidents occurring during the hour of darkness. He advised that if the deputation have any additional accident data for the junction they should consider submitting such details to the Council or TII. He advised that the response by TII to requests by the Council for delivery of a potential resurfacing scheme for a section of the N65 on the Loughrea side of the junction are positive however no formal commitment has been given by TII to date to fund such a scheme. He advised that the Council is seeking to include the provision of surface water drainage system on the N65 as part of the proposed resurfacing. Finally he stated that Donegal NRDO had reviewed signage at the junction & hope to be in a position to deliver improvements to same in the coming months.

In response to Cllr. Donnellan he confirmed that he will follow up on the overhanging tree at the Town Hall. Mr Carroll confirmed for Cllr Maher that he will investigate the provision of CCTV at Fahy Garden's to prevent illegal dumping.

Flooding Update

LMD 17019

Mr. Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

The draft text for both the Environmental and Engineering Consultants had been forwarded to the contracts Department of the OPW on Monday 10th April. The OPW will be proofing and updating the documents in preparation for tendering. Feedback from the OPW is expected within a month. Mr. Gallagher met with representatives from the Clarinbridge Oyster Co-Op towards the end of March. The main concerns from the oyster community centred on siltation arising from the cleaning of drains and rivers, the general condition of Galway Bay and the sudden inflow of fresh water to oyster beds during flooding conditions. These issues will be raised with the consultants upon appointment. He will be meeting with individual members of the South Galway Flood Relief Committee over the next month and undertaking site visits to gather as much information as possible in advance of the consultants being appointed.

Community Water Office - Introduction

LMD 17020

Ms. Seale provided an update to the members in relation to the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office. She advised that the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) has been established by Local Authorities to promote public awareness, participation and knowledge sharing in the development of the River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures. Ms. Seale advised that the LAWCO will coordinate the implementation of the Plan and Programme of Measures by Local Authorities, public authorities, sectoral interests and community groups. Ms. Seale advised that the LAWCO is managed jointly by Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils and operates as a shared service on behalf of all 31 Local Authorities. This national office Ms. Seale advised is tasked with

delivering two key objectives in connection with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland: (i) To coordinate the activities of all Local Authorities in areas connected with the WFD and (ii) To promote public participation in the WFD process by engaging the public and communities in the management of their own local water environment. Ms. Seale advised that the LAWCO has a staff complement of 3 Regional Co-ordinators, 3 Specialist Support staff and 12 Community Water Officers operating from different centres across the entire country. Ms. Seale advised the members that she was there to work with local communities and that they should contact her if they ever had any queries.

Portumna Marina – Bye Laws

LMD 17021

Ms. Ni Chionna presented the Draft Bye Laws for Motor Caravan Parking at Portumna Marina. Eight submissions had been received and any concerns expressed had been considered in the drafting of the bye laws. She confirmed for Cllr. McClearn that No. 7 in the Bye Laws prohibited the parking of motor caravans in car parking spaces. Cllr. McClearn stated that Galway County Council had led this proposal and that it was an achievement getting all the different agencies together to complete this project. Cllr. Canning asked that No. 14 be amended to include a prohibition on clothes lines in the Motor Caravan parking area. He added that signage outlining the rules and regulations should be erected on the way into the Marina and that the card machine should be moved back to avoid it being damaged by reversing motor caravans. Mr Mulryan stated that he would monitor the issue with the P&D Machines. He confirmed for Cllr. Canning that he has raised the issue of disposal of waste trays with Waterways Ireland. Ms. Ni Chionna confirmed that while the season start and end dates were April to end October, if there is a demand the budget to keep the Marina facilities open will have to be increased. On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Canning, the draft Portumna Marina Motor Caravan Parking BYE-LAWS 2017 were agreed.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 17022

Deputation – Gort GAA and Gort Livestock Committee

A Deputation was received comprising members of the Ballybaun residents group, the Gort GAA and Gort Mart who expressed their concerns over road safety on the Gort to Tubber Road with Gort GAA pitch and Gort Mart on opposite sides of the roadway, each of which generate both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Cllr. Finnerty while acknowledging work done on signage stated that more needed to be done and that he had submitted a Notice of Motion in this regard. Cllr. Byrne stated that as the area was in the Clár region that funding should be provided to attend to the matters identified in the submission. Cllr. Canning stated that a footpath was critical to pedestrian safety. Cllr. Maher stated that a Low Cost Accident Scheme was required. Responding, Mr. Mulryan stated that there was a limited "pot" in Clár funding but he would look at the costing of the remedial measures proposed.

Cllr. Finnerty asked if there was a haulage route laid out for Coillte traffic as the roads have been left in a bad state. Cllr. Donnellan stated that while putting together a proposal under Town and Village renewal to provide a cycle greenway from Long Point to Earlspeak it was discovered that significant portion of land at Long Point had been transferred to Irish Water. He is seeking that it be transferred back to Council ownership.

On the proposal of Cllr. Canning, seconded by Cllr. Maher, members approved wording for the proposed plaque to be erected at the home of the Clarke Family, Mullagh recognising their inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records as the only family where 6 siblings have reached the age of 100.

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

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No. 7

LMD 17023

The following reply was given:

Galway County Council roads section will arrange to have the Notice of Motion added to the agenda for discussion at the next N17 N18 Gort Tuam project steering committee meeting which are held monthly and are attended by TII and will report back to Cllr Byrne on TII's response.