

**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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 @ 11.00 am.**

**I LATHAIR:**

<b>Cathaoirleach:</b>	<b>Cllr. Ivan Canning</b>
<b>Baill:</b>	Cllr's M. Fahy, J. Byrne, M Maher, J McClearn, P Hynes, S Donnellan
<b>Oifigigh:</b>	Mr J Cullen, Director of Services; Ms M Ni Chionna, S.E. Roads & Transportation; Mr E Mulryan, 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. Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner; Ms H. Fox, Assistant Planner; Mr J. Russell, Executive Planner; Ms. Sinead Monahan, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Finnerty who was unable to attend the meeting.

**Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Loughrea  
held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 LMD 17042**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea M.D. held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Donnellan and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**Confirmation of Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017** **LMD 17043**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Donnellan, seconded by Cllr Fahy and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in reply to Cllr McClearn's query regarding Kilmeen Cross, Mr Mulryan confirmed that no formal confirmation had been received from the T.I.I. regarding the road overlay but ground investigation design works were in progress. Regarding the lighting at this junction, the T.I.I. are currently reviewing accident data for same and Cllrs sought an update on this issue from the T.I.I.

In reply to Cllr. Byrnes query regarding signage provided on the N67 between Kinvarra and Ballinderreen, Mr Mulryan stated that he would pass on his query to the Donegal National Road Design Office who manage national route signage on behalf of the T.I.I.

**Flooding Update**

**LMD 17044**

Ms. Ni Chionna updated the Members on the Gort Lowlands scheme. The draft briefs for the Engineering and Ecology Reports have been submitted to the OPW for review and sign-off and it is expected that they will be very soon going to tender. She gave a commitment that an updated list of the Flood Mitigation Minor Works projects would be circulated at the next MD meeting. She confirmed that the Roo, Kinvara Minor Works project will not need a foreshore licence.

Regarding the Ballinderreen / Kiltiernan scheme, she stated that it is our objective to undertake the necessary maintenance and remediation works so that Kiltiernan School will be protected from flooding. She has requested a hydrology analysis of the effect if any on the SAC objectives of lowering one pipe inlet by 3 feet. On receipt of that report and the Ecology report, the scheme details will be finalised and documents will be uploaded for tendering.

**Deferral of Notice under Section 20 3(a) (i) and (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended in respect of the Loughrea Local Area Plan, for a period of not exceeding five years (i.e.) 5 years from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017** **LMD 17045**

Ms. Loughnane addressed the issue of deferral of notice of the Loughrea Local Area Plan under the relevant legislation. She confirmed that there were R1 zoned lands for residential a total of 32.83 hectares available and in relation to R2 zoned lands she confirmed there were 59.93 hectares available for residential for the next 5 years. She stated that the deferral of the Loughrea Local Area Plan will in no way stifle the development in Loughrea and she confirmed there was 16 hectares available for the development of Business and Enterprise. The forward planning team are currently waiting on census figures and draft national planning framework information to incorporate into Local Area Plans. She advised that the Loughrea Local Area Plan would be up for review in September 2018 and confirmed the forward planning team are reviewing the number of projects that are required to be scheduled for

review Loughrea, Athenry and Oranmore after the statutory Local Area Plans, will be the review of Tuam and Clifden. Cllr. Maher asked if the Loughrea Area Plan covered the area's included in the Municipal District outside Loughrea. Ms. Loughnane confirmed the Loughrea Area plan covers Loughrea Local Area Plans only. Cllr Byrne confirmed he had no issue with the strategy proposed. He raised his concern in relation to Loughrea town centre where a lot of business were closing and stated there was a need to come up with a strategy to ensure existing business developed and encouraged new development coming on stream. He stated that development should be aimed at town centres rather than allow retail development to be built on the outskirts of the town which would lead to vacant properties and possibly the closure of core business in the town centre. Cllr. J McClearn asked if we could review the plan if the deferral of the plan had been proposed and if there could be the possibility of material contravention which would provide for a clear identity of the lifetime of the extended plan. He expressed his concern as regards town centres been effected as retail developments move out and while there has been enhancement work carried out in Loughrea, there is still numerous vacant premises. The challenge is getting businesses back into the town centre. Cllr. Hynes asked if it is possible for existing lands that are zoned for industrial/commercial and lands to be zoned for residential use. He asked for clarity if it is proposed to de-zone some of those lands, this issue had been raised by property owners. He also asked if existing zoning would be maintained. Cllr Fahy highlighted his concern over the threat of businesses in Loughrea town as development move out of the town which he confirmed would be detrimental to towns like Loughrea, Gort etc and that core businesses of each town need to be encouraged to stay. Cllr Donnellan raised the issue of the lack of commercial space. He confirmed a local community group wished to extend community facilities but lands were zoned agricultural. He asked if it was possible that an application be made in this area by community groups to extend community facilities on these zoned lands. He also raised concerns in relation to ongoing issues within Loughrea town, he stated the people of Loughrea want the town centre to be a great one in which to work, live and play. He proposed a reduction in commercial rates starting with new businesses in previously vacant properties. He also raised concern over the need to develop and occupy top floor of buildings, as it's clearly visible when going through Loughrea town it's mainly ground floor and first floors that are occupied and it's an area that needs to be addressed and focused on. Ms. Loughnane addressed Cllr M Maher query regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the lands zoned. She confirmed all phases will be reviewed and will also determine how long sites have been zoned in the past. She confirmed that the Forward Planning team will review zoned Phase 2 residential. Regarding the issue of leap frogging from Phase 1 and Phase 2 she confirmed that a gap between lands may suffer. She confirmed there is adequate land zoned for residential. Referring to Cllr Byrne's issue regarding businesses leaving town centres, she agreed that it was extremely important to enhance the town and ensure core businesses remain in the town. She confirmed the need for a consolidated approach and the need to focus on making plans more prescribed and more focus on plans to enhance the town centre and suggested consultation during pre-draft consultation and during draft period. She confirmed to Cllr. McClearn that material contraventions relate to planning applications. She confirmed the forward planning team would review the issue regarding ground floor and first floor properties and vacancy on second floor and agreed there was a need to focus on proper usage. She stated that objectives and policies will be reviewed in the next plan to encourage life back into the town. Responding to Cllr Fahys concern regarding apartments like Grenfell in England she stated there is an obligation on developers to comply with building regulations and comply with fire cert policy.

**Review of Speed Limits – Local and Regional Roads**

**LMD 17046**

Ms Ni Chionna presented maps to the Member of proposals that were being considered for amending special speed limits on local and regional roads, taking into account the Guidelines on the Making and Managing of Speed Limits issued in 2015. She had reviewed previous submission on speed limits at Lavally Gort, Gorteeny, Derrybrien, Mullagh and Gortanumera. She propose that a periodic speed limit of 50 kph should be provided for Gortanumera national school. Cllr Canning proposed that the speed limit should be extended to the church and be a full 50 kph limit. Cllr Byrne stated that a full safety assessment was required for every school in the county, and that they all should thermoplastic strips on the road surface along with a periodic speed limit. However it was noted that speed limit enforcement was not applied in many rural roads. The proposals will be going to the Garda Commissioner for comment and thereafter will be advertised for public comment. This will be an opportunity for Councillors to make further comments on the proposals.

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 17047**

**Kiltullagh Wastewater Treatment Plant Deputation**

A deputation was received from Kiltullagh and Mr Matt Loughnane outlined the groups concerns regarding the non existence of a sewage treatment facility in Kiltullagh village. Mr John Diskin listed the number of residents and local business in the area and the importance of a treatment facility for sustainability of the village and further development in the area.

All Members welcomed the deputation. Mr Cullen confirmed that Irish Water have no plans in the next 5 years for sewage treatment facilities in the smaller villages around the County and at present are concentrating on upgrading existing facilities. It was proposed by Cllr. Donnellan and seconded by Cllr. Canning that representations be made to Irish Water on behalf of the Kiltullagh Deputation.

**Ballinderreen IFA (Kiltiernan Drainage)**

Mr Francis Horan outlined his concerns for future flooding in the Ballinderreen area and requested that as part of the solution to the problem that the pipes under the N67 be widened to take the volume of water. Also the deepening and widening of the channel at Brandy Harbour would alleviate further problems. Mr Michael J. Murphy addressed the flooding at Kiltiernan upstream from Ballinderreen. He requested that the new exit pipe be lowered by at least 3 ft. to prevent flooding at Kiltiernan school. Mr Mattie Hanlon also outlined the anxiety of the people from Ballinderreen and Kiltiernan regarding the fear of flooding in the area. All Members welcomed the deputation and Ms Ni Chionna stated that a scheme to prevent future flooding was in place. A Hydrologist was currently working

on drawings with dropped levels etc and it was hoped to commence work in September 2017. Mr Mulryan replied to Cllr. Maher's queries as follows:-

- 1) He will meet with the Resident on the Lake Road regarding signage for wheelchair use.
- 2) The permanent re-instatement of the surface on the Lake Road will be completed by Irish Water which was a 2 year project.
- 3) There is no provision for funding of footpath upgrade.
- 4) Wheelchair access at the Long Point swimming area will be investigated.

Mr Carroll confirmed for Cllr. Byrne that the use of CCTV would be looked at for the bottle banks at Kiniska Road. Cllr. Byrne requested that the Community Warden in Gort monitor the cctv in the area. Cllr. Donnellan requested closer monitoring of the disabled parking bays in Main Street and Main Street Car Park.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 11 a.m.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIÚ ANSIN**

## **Notices of Motion**

### **Notice of Motion No. 8**

**LMD 17048**

The following reply was given:

There is a need for a crash barrier at this location. This is in the process of being costed by a suitable contractor to ascertain the level of funding required and if it can be paid for out of current 2017 budgets

### **Notice of Motion No. 9**

**LMD 17049**

The following reply was given:

The Council will have the concerns regarding this bridge raised with TII

### **Notice of Motion No. 10**

**LMD 17050**

The following reply was given:

Funding has already been sought from TII for the section of the N66 in question & the Council will continue to press the issue with TII

### **Notice of Motion No. 11**

**LMD 17051**

The following reply was given:

The section of L4514 Gort to Tubber Roadway at Ballybaun can be considered for a potential Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme in 2018 by the Loughrea MD, however as funding is extremely limited priority will be given to schemes under this funding stream that have an accident history.

### **Notice of Motion No. 12**

**LMD 17052**

The following reply was given:

While the request for a provision of footway on the N18 between the Village of Ardrahan & Labane a distance of some 1.5Km can be discussed with TII I can confirm that Galway Council Council have no proposal to provide such a facility in the medium to long term.

### **Notice of Motion No. 13**

**LMD 17053**

The following reply was given:

I can confirm that Galway County Council has no funding at its disposal to carry out the requested resurfacing of Ardrahan Carpark presently, the estimated cost of which is €13,700.00, however Councillors wither jointly or individually may wish to consider funding such works from their respective 2017 Notice of Motion Funding.

