

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### **Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in G01 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

#### ***I LATHAIR***

**Baill:** Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue.  
Cllr. Tom Welby  
Cllr. Frank Kearney.  
Cllr. Dermot Connolly  
Cllr. Billy Connelly

#### **Oifigigh:**

Catherine Mc Connell A/ Director of Services.  
Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner.  
Mairead O Malley, ASO, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit.

#### **Apologies:**

Mr. Gus McCarthy

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Frank Kearney and seconded by Cllr. Billy Donohue.

#### **Update on County Development Plan Variation.**

V. Loughnane outlined to the meeting that a report on the variation was circulated to the members and it would be on the Agenda on the 24<sup>th</sup> April for the full Council Meeting. 9 submissions were received and comments were available. NPWS has the most significant submission and a meeting was held with them to get clarity and to address the issue.

Cllr. Welby queried if the matter was passed before the full Council could NPWS appeal it to an Bord Pleanala. V Loughnane informed that they could not. C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that a lot of legal advice was received to ensure that the variation is solid. She was confident it was not going to trigger a 6/4 Habitates Directive.

### **Update on forthcoming Local Area Plans.**

V. Loughnane stated that following on from the variation in the County Development Plan, two plans Barna and the Gaeltacht plan would be updated as part of a 2<sup>nd</sup> variation to the County Development Plan. It is hoped to have a Draft Plan on display in July 2017 as we have to bring all our plans into line with the variation to support the project. Anytime our County Development plan will be updated the Area Plans will be automatically updated. Claregalway will be included as it is part of the Gaeltacht Area variation to the County Development Plan along with Carraroe and Spiddal settlements.

V. Loughnane stated it was the intention to look at the other area plans e.g. Kinvara and see if they should be renewed. Statutory towns have to have a plan. Moycullen is a stand alone plan and when it expires, see how we can insert it into the County Development Plan. Big towns will always have a Local Area Plan.

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that we will have to look at statutory town Local Area Plans due for renewal. It is hoped to have Tuam on public display in January 2018, Clifden on display in April 2018, Oranmore and Athenry will be deferred.

C. Mc Connell pointed out that the County Development Plan will be revised again commencing in 2019. This would take considerable time and resources.

Cllr. Cuddy asked if a material alternation could be made to a local Area Plan. V. Loughnane stated that if it was necessary and beneficial it will be done.

### **National Planning Framework.**

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that a submission was made to the Department last Friday in relation to the new National Planning Framework. Planning staff had spoken to the IDA and Udaras and took on board their comments and made the submission. Views on Rural Housing were made and a section in our submission highlighted this area. There are Key Sections in the Plan.

**Tourism/Cultural:** Promote Galway West and East as tourist destinations. Improve and promote cycle routes through the region.

**Education:** Support access to education for all sectors in Galway. Facilitate improved skills to meet Galway's economic needs, including improved access to reskilling and retraining to meet industry.

**Marine:** Promote development of marine based industries, supported by redevelopment of Galway harbour as well as expansion and progression of Ros an Mhil for both tourism and industry.

**Infrastructure:** Implement the measures of the GTS and support the N 6 GCRR. Ensure ongoing investment in the Motorway and Road network (N59). Support the progression and development of the East Galway Drainage Scheme.

**Environment:** Ensure appropriate investment in water infrastructure to cater for growth and climate change. Protect local natural resources promoting sustainable forms of development.

**Industry & Employment:** Support existing and future development of key industries, Medical Devices, ICT, Food, Agriculture, Craft/Artisan industry, Marine Industry and Multimedia. Ensure supply of land, in-frastructure and connectivity to promote and support industry and employment.

**Housing:** Work collaboratively with house builders/developers to ensure delivery of the appropriate type and tenure of housing to meet the needs to the local population.

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that the Draft National Planning Framework would be open for consultation in June/July and it is intended to implement same up by the end of the year.

V. Loughnane stated that it is hoped to have all the key items included in the plan and a full presentation to the full Council will be made after the Draft National Planning Framework goes on public consultation.

### **Update on REDZ Scheme and Town and Village Renewal Scheme.**

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that the first REDZ scheme was launched in in 2016. The aim is to get a maximum return and both Local Authority Engineers and Community Organisation were advised of the scheme.

The 2017 REDZ Project has just been launched and the timeframe for applications is very short. C. Mc Connell stated she would contact the Department to extend the time frame. Projects will be put forward and it is hoped that funding will be secured.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Town & Village renewal scheme was launched in early autumn 2016 and the aim of the scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity.

Eight applications were supported (two in the greater than 5,000 population range and six projects in areas with a population of less than 5,000). The projects selected were:

**Loughrea**-Development of Town Plan and streetscape proposals to the tune of €25,000.

**Gort**-Streetscape landscaping, plaques on heritage buildings, enhancement, and town park improvements to the tune of €50,000. This project will be finished later this year.

**Portuman** – Upgrade Portuman Forest Park amenity to the tune of €25,000. This project will be finished later this year.

**Ballinasloe** – Footpath construction to station road to provide for disability access to the tune of €63,000. 50% of this project is complete.

**Oughterard** – Surface running and walking area to the tune of €20,000.

**Rosmuc** – Footpath linking carpark at GAA to Teach na Phiarsaigh to the tune of €42,000. This project is now completed.

**Athenry** – Replace sections of footpath within the town centre with conservation paving sets and kerbing to the tune of €70,000.

**Tuam** – Restoration of Mill Wheel and landscaping of area to the tune of €85,000. This project is currently in progress.

Several of these projects are overseen by Area Staff and the Council is are confident that all the money will be spent.

## **AOB**

Cllr. Connolly queried how the meeting with the Agents went last year. C. Mc Connell informed him it was well attended with a number of speakers giving informative information. The Agents should now be equipped to submit all the required documents with a planning application. A fact sheet is to be put up on the website with all the details necessary for a planning application.

Cllr. Welby asked for clarity on the new pre planning process. C. Mc Connell explained that the planners would now be checking first to see if a pre planning meeting was necessary as the matter may just require a phone call. The new system should reduce the waiting time for a meeting and may allow further meetings.

Cllr. Connelly asked about funding for derelict buildings be highlighted that a lot of these building could be enhanced by painting etc. C. Mc Connell stated she was aware of the situation but the local authority could put a levy of 3% on a derelict site but has no funding to provide paint for derelict buildings.

The chairperson thanked the Members for their contribution and closed the meeting.

**The next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June @ 10.00 a.m.**