

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### **Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Centre Point on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

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

**Baill:** Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)  
Cllr. Frank Kearney  
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue.  
Cllr. Tom Welby  
Mr. Gus McCarthy

#### **Oifigigh:**

Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co-Coordinator.  
Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner.  
Mairead O Malley, ASO, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit.

#### **Apologies:**

Mr. Gus McCarthy

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#### **Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Frank Kearney and seconded by Cllr. Donohue after a slight amendment by Cllr. Welby.

Update on Work Programme for Forward Planning - 2017

V. Loughnane outlined the programme of works scheduled for 2017 -2018. In early 2017 a variation to the County Development Plan and to the Barna Plan will be made facilitate the progress through Planning of the new Galway City Ring road. A review of policy with regard to Group Waste Water Treatment Plants is also planned as Irish Water are not taking responsibility for them and the County Council are not in a position to take them in charge. A review of the Local Area Plans for Athenry, Loughrea, Oranmore and Tuam will take place.

Cllr. Donoghue thanked V. Loughnane for the update and queried was there sufficient staffing in place to proceed with all these works. V Loughnane informed him that two members of staff had moved to other Local Authorities but they were replaced now. S. Kennedy was now in charge of Development Management and V. Loughnane was in charge of Forward Planning and Enforcement. Taking in Charge and Unfinished Estates had moved to the Roads Directorate. We now have five planners and they will be assigned to the different areas in the near future. Currently there is a long waiting list for pre planning meetings but the Council are working on reducing the wait for meetings.

Cllr. Donoghue said he was very disappointed with people not turning up for pre planning Meetings as they were valuable time slots.

Cllr. Kearney queried if the Council could charge for these meetings but V. Loughnane informed him that we were obliged under legislation to provide these meetings,

Cllr. Welby stated that in Mayo County Council pre planning meetings were held every Wednesday morning and it was on a first come first served basis. Cllr. Welby stated the pre planning reports were very helpful.

### **Feedback from Planning Agents Seminar:**

V. Loughnane informed the meeting that 80 people attended the meeting and various presentations were made on the day. Regarding Planning Applications it is hoped to have a checklist up on the website in the next week to allow agents and clients ensure that all the necessary information is accompanied with the application. E. Keavney is going to send out feedback sheets on the seminar in the near future. If there is a need for a similar seminar in relation to Settlement Centres Galway County Council will be happy to do so, if not all the information will be put on the web site.

Cllr. Welby stated he was very disappointed that Councillors were not invited to the seminar and Cllr, Kearney, Cllr Donoghue and Cllr. Cuddy agreed with him.

V. Loughnane apologised for this and stated she would put the Councillors on the mailing list for the presentation information.

### **Update on REDZ.**

K. Coyne informed the meeting of the REDZ 2017 Programme. In 2016 six applications were supported from this funding to the tune of €207,500. Recently Galway County Council was approved €100,000 under REDZ phase II. The Local Authority had submitted two proposals but only one was successful for the defined REDZ zones under this phase.

The successful proposal was to develop a Capacity Building programme with five REDZ zones (Glenamaddy, Carraroe, Galway Rural, Oranmore and Gort) in County Galway specifically this will involve implementing a call for five of the REDZ zones to apply for supports to develop a zone team and zone action plan with the key objective of accessing resources from relevant National Schemes such as Town and Village renewal, LEADER, to name but two. It is for this latter proposal that the €100,000 has been approved to.

The projects will be put out to tender and consultants will be appointed.

Cllr. Welby queries what was the local contribution was to these schemes. V. Loughanane informed him that it was 5% cash equivalent and 10% benefit in kind.

Cllr. Kearney highlighted the importance of broadband in areas e.g. Glenamaddy to provide good service delivery in areas.

C. Coyne informed the meeting that there was a recent call to identify broadband points to be identified. The Community & Enterprise Unite are working on this project.

### **Update on Town & Village Renewal.**

C. Coyne. Stated that the town and village renewal scheme was launched in early autumn 2016 as a recommendation from the CEDRA report. Each Local Authority was invited to submit a number of proposal within two population ranges based on the CSO stats from 2011. The central aim o 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.

From a County Galway perspective 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 are as follows:

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

**Gort** – Streetscape, landscaping, plaques on heritage buildings, enhancement, town park improvements to the tune of €50,000.

**Portumna** – Upgrade Portumna Forest Park amenity to the tune of €25,000.

**Ballinasloe** – Footpath construction to station road to provide for disability access to the tune of €63,000.

**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.

**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.

Cllr. Welby stated that Oughterard has benefited significantly from this funding and it had contributed to the development of the area.

### **Community allotments - (as requested by Cllr M. Kinane)**

This issue had been raised by Cllr. Kinane. C. Mc Connell had written back to her requesting further information. It was decided to defer this matter to the next meeting.

**AOB.**

Cllr. Kearney questioned a person's link to an area in relation to planning applications. If a person did not go to school in an area but had inherited land from a relative and wished to build on it.

V. Loughnane stated it was difficult to legislate for individual cases and in similar cases An Board Pleanala has refused applications

Cllr. Kearney queried if the National Secondary Roads will be downgraded when the New M17 is completed and if there will be new planning guidelines in these areas.

V. Loughnane stated when the new M6 road opened the old N6 was downgraded and the sight distance was lowered for planning.

It was agreed to consult with Catherine Mc Connell regarding a date for the next meeting.

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