

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE ANGLER'S REST HOTEL, HEADFORD, CO. GALWAY, ON MONDAY 27TH APRIL, 2015 AT 2.00 PM

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. M. Hoade
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, J. Byrne, N. Byrne, S. Canney, J. Charity, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, Comh. S. Ó Cualáin, Cllrs. J. Cuddy, S. Cunniffe, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. S. Donnellan, A. Donohue, M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, T. Healy, P. Hynes, D. Joyce, F. Kearney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, A. Rabbitte, P. Roche, N. Thomas, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Welby

Oifigigh:

Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim); Messrs. J. Cullen, L. Gavin, P. Gavican, Directors of Services; Ms. C. McConnell, Acting Director of Service; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; An tUas. P. O'Neachtain Oifigeach Gaeilge; Ms. S. McDonagh, Administrative Assistant Intern; Ms. G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and Executive to Headford, noting it was the first time a meeting of Galway County Council was held in the town. Cllr. T. McHugh on behalf of the Members thanked the Cathaoirleach for hosting the Meeting in the Angler's Rest and also thanked the staff of the hotel for their hospitality.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

2034

Cllr. Cronnelly proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. D. Connolly on the death of his mother Mrs. Madelin Connolly. The Cathaoirleach and Members joined in the expression of sympathy to Cllr. D. Connolly and the Chief Executive conveyed sympathy on behalf of management and staff.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cronnelly, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh and agreed to adjourn the meeting for five minutes as a mark of respect.

The Meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes and then reconvened.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Mrs. Mairín De Búrca, Turlach, Rosmuc, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Paddy Ó Curraoin, Ros A Mhíl Láir, Ros A Mhíl, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Mr. Billy Cosgrove & Family, Windfield, Menlough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- John Muldoon, Cloonkeen, Newbridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Cllr. Dermot Connolly & Family, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Ann Monaghan, Heathlawn, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Mr. Martin Taggart, Aille, Inverin, Co. Galway
- Mr. Martin Daly, Ironpool, Kilconly, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mr. Johnny Donohue, Corker, Kiltartan, Gort, Co. Galway
- Mr. Ken Davis, Clooncon, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Eileen O'Connor, Corbally Morgan, Barna, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Ann Keary & Family, Clorane, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Mrs. Kitty Callinan, Rivervill, Dunsandle, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Mr. Stephen Kilmartin, Killronan, Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Co. Galway
- Mr. Dermot Nee, Letterfrack, Connemara, Co. Galway
- Mr. Declan Tierney, C/o Connacht Tribune, Market Street, Galway.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Bryne and agreed that the Council extend its congratulations to Tom and Eileen Doherty of Ardrahan who were recently presented with Benedictine Medals by the Bishop of Galway, Most Reverend Martin Drennan, to acknowledge their contribution to the parish and community of Ardrahan.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

2035

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, and agreed, that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Meeting continue beyond 5 pm and conclude at 7 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

2036

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 23rd March, 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

2037

The Report of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 13th February, 2015 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1.382 ACRES OF LAND AT TIRBOY, TUAM, CO. GALWAY

2038

Statutory Notice and Report dated 27th March, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, the disposal of 1.382 acres of land at Tirboy, Tuam, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 8 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

2039

Statutory Notice dated 1st April 2015 and Report dated 15th April, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 8 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 11 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

2040

Statutory Notice dated 1st April 2015 and Report dated 15th April, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 11 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 13 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY **2041**

Statutory Notice dated 1st April 2015 and Report dated 15th April, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 13 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 14 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY **2042**

Statutory Notice dated 1st April 2015 and Report dated 15th April, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kinane, seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 14 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 62 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY **2043**

Statutory Notice dated 1st April 2015 and Report dated 15th April, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 62 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

TO CONSIDER THE MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE ATHENRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2012 – 2018 UNDER SECTION 34(6) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 23(A) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2010 for development which will consist of the construction of a single storey, discount foodstore (to include off-licence use) with a gross floor area of 2,047sqm. (net floor area 1,743sqm). The development will also include the construction of a new access road off Church Street, signage, lighting, parking spaces (116 no.) including accessible spaces (6 no.) and bicycle spaces (16 no.). The development includes all landscaping, engineering and site development works on a site of 1.080 ha. An on-site effluent treatment system is proposed with treated effluent discharging

to the public sewer at Church Street, Raheen, Athenry, Co. Galway, Reference Number in Register 15/149.

The proposed development materially contravenes the land use zoning policies and objectives of the Local Area Plan for Athenry 2012-2018.

Land use zoning objective – BE – Business and Enterprise

2044

Report dated 22nd April, 2015 was circulated to each Member.

Ms. McConnell read out the Report to the Members and she stated that in considering the Material Contravention, the Members must only consider the proper planning & sustainable development of the area. She said that the Planning Staff had examined carefully the proposed development and its location and worked closely with the Heritage Officer and the Conservation Officer before making its decision to recommend this Material Contravention of the Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018 to the Members.

Cllr. Feeney said that very few decisions made by the Members of the Council will have as much impact on a town as this decision will have. He said this is a chance for the Members to give Athenry the injection it needs to revitalise its town centre and he said that the proposed development has huge support in Athenry, especially from hard-pressed businesses in the town centre which have been devastated by out-of-town shopping. This development will go some way to allow people to carry out a major grocery shop in the centre of the town and the fact that the Planning Staff are recommending the Material Contravention is an indication that the development is considered to comply with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Cllr. Cronnelly handed a petition, which he said was signed by approximately 2000 people supporting the development, to the Cathaoirleach. He said that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District Members have voted unanimously in favour of their proposal and he asked the Members of the Plenary Council to support it at today's Meeting. He said that the Brady family, who submitted the planning application for the development, have been in business in Athenry since 1926. He said 24 businesses have closed in Athenry in the past 5 years with only 3 new businesses opening in that period.

He referred to the submission which was received opposing the proposed development on the grounds that it is premature pending the upgrade of sewerage infrastructure for Athenry. In this regard, he said that Irish Water has confirmed that Consultants were appointed the previous week for the upgrade of Athenry Sewerage Network and this upgrade will be complete in the next couple of years. He also said that Irish Water has confirmed that there is enough capacity in the present treatment plant to accommodate this development.

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Cllr. Kinane said that it is important that people can live, work and shop locally and she said that it is important that the Members listen to the views of local people who are evidently in favour of the proposed development. She said that it is evident that the Planning Section does not recommend Material Contraventions unless warranted and she thanked them for their foresight regarding this proposed development. She also said that this development would provide a spin-off for other business in the Athenry by bringing shoppers into the town centre.

Cllr. Kearney said that the store would give life to Athenry town centre and he appealed to the Members to support the Material Contravention of the Town Plan.

Cllr. Healy said there are two discount stores located in Clifden town and these have increased footfall in the town and improved Clifden's relationship with Carna, Cashel, Rosmuc and South Conamara and he felt that the proposed development would benefit Athenry in the same way.

Cllr. J. Byrne expressed the view that the extra car spaces proposed as part of the development so near the town centre would be of benefit, as shoppers would have plenty of parking and may then venture into the town centre.

Cllrs. Fahy, Cuddy, Roche and Comh. Ó Curraoin also expressed their support for the proposed development.

Cllr. Cunniffe expressed concern regarding the proposed development of a discount foodstore in the centre of the town and said he would rather to see the town centre enlivened in a different way.

Cllrs. Charity and Canney said that while they would welcome anything which would rejuvenate a town centre, they were concerned that the development of a discount store might cause a risk to employment in other retail premises in the town.

Cllr. Broderick expressed the view that there is not enough business in Athenry to justify the proposed development of a discount foodstore and he said that the Members must ensure that existing businesses in the town are not adversely affected by this type of development. He said that the arrival of large outlets to a town represents a nail in the coffin for smaller businesses.

In reply to Cllr. Charity, Ms. McConnell said that Athenry is significantly underprovided for in terms of retail providers. This means there is a leakage of €7.9m retail spend which is being spent outside of Athenry with people travelling to Oranmore, Galway and other locations

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because of a lack of retail outlets. She said this has been calculated based on population, average spend, retail floor space etc.

Cllr. Canney referred to previous planning applications for development in this site and asked why they did not proceed. Ms. McConnell said that the previous planning applications were in respect of much larger developments, of poorer design than the current proposal, which has been considered will add to the amenity of the town including the opening up a walkway.

In reply to Cllrs. Rabbitte and Welby who referred to the planning application received by the Council from Arrabawn Co-Op for the development of a discount store, Ms. McConnell said this application has not been considered fully by the local authority at this juncture so the outcome of this planning application cannot be pre-empted.

In reply to Cllr. Cunniffe, Ms. McConnell said that the proposed Material Contravention does not refer to zoning, it is in relation to this particular site at Church Street, Athenry. Therefore, the zoning will not be affected by a decision of An Bord Pleanála in relation to this particular proposal, if the decision of the Council were to be appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell said that the Council has considered the National Retail Planning Guidelines in this case. She said that the Planning Department does not bring forward a Material Contravention for consideration by the Members unless the proposal passes rigorous conditions as regards the well being of the relevant area and it has been considered that this proposal is a positive move for Athenry. She also said that by increasing the floorspace of the town, it will strengthen its attractiveness for businesses such as boutiques, shoe shops and other such outlets.

Ms. McConnell, in reply to Cllr. Cuddy, confirmed that the application is in the name of J.J. Brady only. She also replied to Cllr. Cuddy that there are two issues involved i.e. by approving the Material Contravention, the Members are allowing the Planning Department to approve the planning application for the proposed development.

Ms. McConnell said that the Planning Department recommends this Material Contravention in order to allow the grant of planning permission for the construction of a single-storey discount foodstore (including off-licence use) at Church Street, Athenry, based on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and the overall merits of the proposed development. She said competition and a wide choice of convenience stores adds to the attractiveness of a town.

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Cllr. Cunniffe asked what would happen if the planning application by Arrabawn Co-Op was approved.

The Chief Executive said that the Members must deal with the proposal before them today and the possible outcome of a separate planning application is not the issue. He said that the Material Contravention has been the subject of much consideration by the Planning Department in consultation with the Heritage Officer and the Conservation Officer and it has been determined that the proposal has sufficient merits to warrant bringing it before the Members for approval. He said that the proposed discount store is not a large store and cannot be compared with large stores in other towns.

Cllr. Broderick said that he would like if this proposal be deferred pending further discussion with the Executive in light of the planning application from Arrabawn Co-Op.

Ms. McConnell said that there is a Statutory Process in place regarding this Material Contravention and the timelines of the Statutory Process are such that the matter cannot be deferred to the next Monthly Meeting as a decision must be made by the 18th May, 2015.

Cllr. Feeney said that he had not discussed the proposal with Mr. John Joe Brady and he is supporting the planning application purely for the benefit of Athenry based on the recommendation of the Planning Department. He said he did bring the Arrabawn Team into the local authority a number of years previously to discuss a development proposal but this development did not result in a planning application being submitted at that time.

Cllr. McClearn expressed the view that the finding that there is a €7.9m leakage of spend in Athenry due to the absence of an adequate number of retail outlets shows that if planning permission is granted for the development at Church Street, this will not adversely affect other proposed developments.

Cllr. Feeney proposed that the Material Contravention of the Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018 as outlined in the Report dated 22nd April, 2015 be approved. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cronnelly. The Cathaoirleach asked if the Members were in agreement with this proposal. Cllr. Broderick indicated that he was not in agreement and therefore the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

Cllr. M. Finnerty asked how many votes were required in order that the proposal be passed and Mr. Owens replied that 75% of the Members must vote in favour in order for the proposal to be passed i.e. 29 Members.

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The result of the vote was as follows:

FOR	Cllrs. Burke, J. Byrne, Canney, Charity, M. Connolly, Cronnelly, Comh. Ó Cualáin, Cllr. Cuddy, Comh. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. Donnellan, Donohue, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, Joyce, Healy, Hoade, Hynes, Kearney, Keaveney, Kinane, Maher, Mannion, McClearn, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, Roche, Thomas, Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. Walsh and Welby	[31]
AGAINST	Cllrs. Broderick, Cunniffe and M. Finnerty	[3]
ABSTAIN	Cllrs. Killilea and Rabbitte	[2]

Based on the result of the vote, the Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

2045

It was proposed by Cllr. Killilea, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, and agreed, that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow Item 17 be taken next.

TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE A 17.5% EQUITY SHARE IN IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF DONEGAL, GALWAY CITY, LEITRIM, MAYO, ROSCOMMON AND SLIGO.

2046

Report dated 21st April, 2015 was already circulated to each Member.

The Chief Executive outlined the Report dated 21st April 2015 to the Members referring back to the presentation made at the Monthly Meeting of Plenary Council on 21st July, 2014 by representatives from Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK). He said that presentation concluded with the proposal that Galway County Council and the other local authorities in the region would take a proactive role in the strategic development and contribution the airport at Knock can make to the region. The request from Ireland West Airport Knock was that the Council would agree in principle to an investment with six other local authorities to grow business at the airport to a sustainable level over the ten year period to 2023. At the budget meeting held on 21st November 2014, it was agreed that an amount of €50,000 be included in the Economic Development provision to provide support to Ireland West Airport Knock in conjunction with other local authorities in Galway City, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Donegal. It was also agreed that any proposal in this regard would be brought before the Members once all relevant information was available, and therefore the proposal is being brought before the Members at today's Meeting for their consideration.

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The Airport is owned by a Trust but is run by Connaught Airport Development Company (CADCO). The Chief Executive said that the proposal is that 7 local authorities: Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway City and Galway County Councils; would collectively invest €7.3m for 17.5% of equity (preference shares) in CADCO. The proposed funding mechanism is that Mayo County Council would draw down a loan for the full €7.3m and the annual repayments would be met by the 7 local authorities in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by all local authorities.

The Chief Executive said that in order to undertake the required due diligence, the local authorities retained Deloitte Consulting to review the business plan and financial model prepared by Ireland West Airport Knock. The process also included meetings with Management and the conclusion of Deloitte was that the financial model was detailed and robust.

He said in essence the purpose of the proposed investment is to grow passenger numbers to double by 2023, i.e. 1.3m passengers, and in the intervening period to invest €35m in facilities at the airport while reducing the debt from €8.9m to €3m. This investment is subject to receiving grant aid at a rate of 90% from Central Government.

In return for the investment, the local authorities would be entitled to appoint one board members and this position would rotate between the relevant Chief Executives. While no dividend would be paid on the investment before 2023, thereafter an annual coupon rate would be paid or some or all of the preference shares may be redeemed. It is suggested that the proposed investment would be made in three tranches between May 2015 and May 2017. The involvement of the local authorities would also provide opportunities for promotion of tourism and economic development in the West in association with Ireland West Airport Knock.

The required repayments on a €7.3m loan would be met by the constituent local authorities over a 30 year period. In the case of Galway County Council, this would require an annual repayment in the region of €50,000 which amount has been provided for in the Budget 2015 as requested by the Members.

The Chief Executive also referred to the Summary Paper on Ireland West Airport Knock prepared by Deloitte which outlined the Proposed Transaction, the Due Diligence Process, Key Assumptions regarding passenger numbers, capital expenditure projected over the forecasted 10 year period, Projected Cashflows, Potential Risks, Economic Impact on the Region and Conclusion.

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The Summary Paper states that the total economic activity in the BMW region due to the presence of Ireland West Airport Knock is anticipated to be €242.1m in the year 2020 and total employment is anticipated at 1,900 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the BMW region in 2020.

The Chief Executive said that the proposal is based on all of the seven local authorities being involved and if one local authority does not agree with the proposal, it will not go through. Mayo County Council has already approved the proposal, Galway County Council is the second local authority to consider the proposal and it will be considered by the remaining five over the coming weeks. The Chief Executive of Galway County Council will be the first C.E. on the Board and this will rotate between the other six in due course.

The Summary Paper concludes that if the Airport performs in line with projections, with the additional capital being invested, the closing cash balance is expected to amount to €8.4m at the end of Financial Year 2023. The Airport will have undergone a substantial capital expenditure programme, grown its passenger numbers and no longer require core operational grant support after 2018.

Cllr. T. McHugh thanked the Chief Executive for the Report. He said that Ireland West Airport Knock has been performing well in recent years with flights becoming more frequent, passenger numbers increasing, employment increasing and an impressive €14m turnover in 2013. The connectivity it gives to the County Galway helps to grow our economy and is to be welcomed. He expressed the view that the Council should support this proposal as the Airport needs to invest in maintenance and capital works in order to grow its business to a sustainable level over the 10 year period to 2023.

Cllr. G. Finnerty felt that the requested investment of €7.3m by seven local authorities including €50,000 per annum from Galway County Council will benefit hotels and businesses in County Galway and it will also ensure the continued connectivity which the Airport brings to Galway. However, he said this must not set a precedent of the Council providing financial assistance to private business and must be a once-off investment in private industry.

Cllrs. Canney, Healy and M. Connolly felt that because Ireland West Airport Knock is very convenient to Galway and benefits County Galway as regards tourism and business, the proposed investment by Galway County Council in the Airport is warranted. However, they expressed the view that the Government has not supported Ireland West Airport Knock in the same way it supports Shannon, Cork and Dublin Airports and there is a lack of commitment from Central Government to investing in infrastructure in the West of Ireland. Knock Airport is also at a disadvantage as regards infrastructural funding from the E.U. because it cannot avail of

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TEN-T Funding as it is a private airport and they felt that by supporting the proposal, the Council would assist in its success and prosperity. Cllr. Healy asked what bank would the loan be received from.

Cllr. Kinane said that she is totally against Galway County Council allocating funding to service a debt for Ireland West Airport Knock which is located in another County, while this Council cannot support necessary services in County Galway such as cutting grass in graveyards and the upkeep of roads.

Cllr. Fahy said he supported the proposal. He then requested that a message be conveyed from the Council that the name of the airport changed from *Ireland West Airport Knock* to *Monsignor James Horan Ireland West Airport Knock* so that the name of the facility's founder would live on. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed.

Cllr. Charity said that while he recognises the benefits of Knock Airport to Galway, he sees this proposal as a bail-out of private debt in the amount of €7.3m through the use of taxpayers money in return for a minority share in the Airport.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg said he had mixed feelings about the proposal but on balance he felt that the benefits of Ireland West Airport Knock to County Galway warranted funding towards its maintenance and improvement.

Cllr. Mannion said she supports the proposal because Knock is the most convenient airport to Clifden because commuters from the Clifden area do not have to go through Galway City to get to the Airport.

Cllrs. Roche and Cunniffe said they supported the proposal as the Airport is of economic benefit to the west. However, they expressed annoyance that people have to pay for parking on occasions when incoming flights are delayed and asked that the Chief Executive take this up with the Board in due course.

Cllr. Killilea also supported the proposal but he asked where will the €50,000 come from and if the Council will incur interest as a result and if so, will this interest be recouped in due course.

Cllr. Byrne said that he regarded this proposal as an opportunity because the Council's investment will result in a 2.2% equity in the Company and also a place on the Board for our Chief Executive. He said this would mean a vote of confidence in tourism and will result in job

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creation. He expressed the view that it is important that the Council develops strategic alliances with airports in the west.

Cllr. Rabbitte thanked the Chief Executive for the Report. She said that if the Council invests in the Airport, the Board should be asked to market Galway and at least advertise County Galway adequately at the exit.

Cllrs. Hynes, Donohue and Comh. Ó Cualáin said they supported the proposal as it is an important piece of infrastructure which benefits the west and the Wild Atlantic Way.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed the view that the 17.5% shareholding for the seven local authorities is a small return for the investment proposed. However, he said that investment is needed in the Airport and he would welcome if the runway could be extended so that transatlantic flights could be accommodated at the Airport.

Cllr. K. McHugh said she would like to see how the Council's investment has benefited the local region after five years but she said she would support the proposal.

Comh. Ó Curraoin said he supports Ireland West Airport Knock and he said he would like if a Mortuary could be provided at the Airport to accommodate removals from the Airport.

The Cathaoirleach said she supported the request for investment because Ireland West Airport Knock benefits tourism for County Galway. However she agreed with previous speakers that carparking costs need to be looked at. She also said that a bus service from Galway City to Ireland West Airport Knock would be beneficial and should be investigated.

The Chief Executive replied to the queries and issues raised by the Members as follows:

- There are 2 avenues for the Council to receive a return for its investment in Ireland West Airport Knock provided the projections are achieved
 - Cash deposits in 2023 will be used to repay the investment
 - If the investment is left with the Airport after 2023, a dividend will be paid to the Council in following years
- He said that the seven local authorities have been asked to invest in the Airport to ensure its viability with a view to making it self-sustaining into the future
- He emphasised that grants from Central Government will fund €31m of the €39m capital expenditure on the Airport

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- Out of the 17.5% equity share to be purchased by the seven local authorities, Galway County Council's share will be 2.5%.
- In relation to the investment by the Western Development Commission in Ireland West Airport Knock, he said he understands this is a loan arrangement but he is not aware of the particulars of the loan.
- As regards passenger number trends at the Airport, he said that although there was a drop in passenger numbers in 2013, the numbers increased in 2014 and had set a new record.
- He said that the cost of sales has been reducing
- The potential risk of government grants in the accounts is the same as that in the Council's accounts and it is not expected to materialise
- The Airport's subsidiary companies are fully owned by the Airport and therefore the local authority will have a share in these companies
- The proposal is to invest in the Airport and no further automatic liability will result
- The loan will be drawn down by Mayo County Council and the bank they choose will depend on the most favourable interest rate they can get
- It is envisaged that the investment will be made in three tranches over 2 years and if there are any changes in the first two years, this will be looked at in relation to investment of the remaining amount
- He said he understands that the shops at the Airport are franchised
- He noted the Members views regarding the parking charges and he also said he does not expect there will be any difficulty with Ireland West Airport Knock reporting back to the local authorities at agreed intervals

In reply to Cllrs. Walsh and Thomas who expressed reservations regarding the Council allocating €50,000 per annum towards this investment, the Chief Executive said that it is in the interest of the Council to ensure we have a viable and prosperous Airport in the West of Ireland. He said that the envisaged doubling of passengers by 2023 will have a knock-on effect on employment, tourism and local business. He said that the new motorway from Gort to Tuam was taken into consideration and although it increases connectivity to Shannon Airport, it also increases connectivity to Ireland West Airport Knock.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McHugh to approve the purchase of €17.5% equity share in Ireland West Airport Knock in collaboration with the Local Authorities of Donegal, Galway City, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Joyce.

Some Members indicated that they were not in agreement with the proposal and therefore the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

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The result of the Vote was as follows:

FOR	Cllrs. Broderick, Burke, J. Byrne, N. Byrne, Canney, M. Connolly, Cronnelly, Comh. Ó Cualáin, Cllrs. Cuddy, Cunniffe, Comh. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. Donnellan, Donohue, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, Joyce, Healy, Hoade, Kearney, Keaveney, Maher, Mannion, McClearn, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, Rabbitte, Roche, Comh. Ó Tuairisg and Cllr. Welby	[30]
AGAINST	Cllrs. Charity, Kinane, Thomas, Walsh	[4]
ABSTAIN		[0]

Based on the result of the Vote, the Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2047**

Report dated 21st April, 2015 was already circulated to each Member

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cualáin, seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at The Oughterard Courthouse Conservation & Heritage Co. Ltd. - *A Flagship Leader Project How was it Done* - to be held at Oughterard Courthouse, Oughterard, Co. Galway, on 29th May 2015, be authorized:

Comh. Ó Cualáin, Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. Cunniffe, Welby, Maher, Rabbitte, Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Cllr. Broderick.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2048**

Report dated 21st April, 2015 was already circulated to each Member

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *Local Community Development & LCDC's, New Role for Local Authorities* at the assigned location Sligo at a venue to be decided on 16th May 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Hynes, McClearn, Comh. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. Maher and Roche.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *Local Community Development &*

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LCDC's, New Role for Local Authorities at the alternative location Kilkenny at a venue to be decided on 7th May 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Welby and Broderick

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Killilea, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *Local Community Development & LCDC's, New Role for Local Authorities* at the alternative location Portlaoise, Co. Laois, at a venue to be decided on 21st May 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. J. Byrne, Donnellan and Rabbitte.

It was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. G. Finnerty, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *Local Authority Finance (Module 2)* in Roscommon at a venue to be decided on 23rd June 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Donnellan, Maher, Rabbitte and Comh. Ó Curraoin

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cualáin, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *Road, Transport & Urban Traffic Planning* in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, at a venue to be decided on 20th October 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. Donnellan, Rabbitte, Comh. Ó Curraoin and Ó Cualáin

It was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *New Regional Assemblies Structure and their relationship with Local Authorities & Governance (Part 2) Ethics* at the assigned location Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, at a venue to be decided on 5th November 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. Donnellan and Comh. Ó Curraoin

It was proposed by Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled *New Regional Assemblies Structure and their relationship with Local Authorities & Governance (Part 2) Ethics* at the alternative location The Red Cow Hotel, Dublin, on 14th November 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. Rabbitte

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) 2049

Report dated 21st April, 2015 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Ace Management & Training - *E.U. Support Programmes for Irish Regions*, as submitted by Cllr. Hynes.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Feeney, the Members agreed to note the Summaries of Proceedings of the Ace Management & Training - *Domestic Water Charges – Preparation & Practicalities* as submitted by Cllr. T. McHugh and McClearn.

TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE GALWAY COUNTY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 128(B)(1)(I) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) 2050

Report dated 24th April, 2015 was already circulated to each Member.

Ms. McConnell referred to the Report stating that the Local Community Development Committee adopted the Report on 22nd April, 2015.

In reply to Cllr. N. Byrne, Ms. McConnell said that the Report refers to actions carried out in 2014 and actions for 2015 are not included.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Kearney, the Members agreed to adopt the Galway County Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2014.

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2014 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 2051

The Draft Annual Report 2014 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Owens advised that the Draft Annual Report 2014 was circulated for the Members information and to afford them an opportunity to review the Draft Report and revert with comments. He confirmed that the final draft, incorporating the financial report based on the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for 2014, would be presented for approval at the May meeting.

The Members agreed to note the Draft Annual Report 2014.

TO CONSIDER THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2014

2052

The Audit Committee Report 2014 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Gavican in reply to Cllr. Cunniffe confirmed that commercial rates was included in the Internal Audit Work Programme for 2015.

In reply to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Gavican said that the Council has made representations to the Valuation Office to ensure that newly built properties and developments are rated as soon as possible.

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, the Members agreed to note the Audit Committee Report 2014.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – APRIL 2015 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)

2053

Report dated 21st April 2015 was already circulated to each Member.

Comh. Ó Cualáin welcomed the funding of €30,173,232 which has been allocated by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to Galway County Council in respect of housing construction, purchase and leasing schemes up to 2017. He asked if the Council has land available with planning permission for housing construction.

Mr. Gavican replied that the funding which has been allocated to the Council is in respect of targets which have been set for the Council in respect of housing construction, acquisitions, leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. He said no funding has been released by the Department to date but that the local authority is actively looking at sites around the county which could facilitate social housing units and is awaiting the release of funds by the Department.

Cllr. Broderick expressed the view that the allocation of €30m to Galway County Council out of the total amount of €1.2 billion nationally is a very low amount, considering Galway County Council is one of the biggest local authorities with a long waiting list for housing.

Mr. Gavican replied that a housing needs assessment carried out by the Housing Agency in 2013 identified that 90,000 social housing units were required nationwide. Following the survey, funding was allocated on a county by county basis divided on a pro-rata basis having regard to housing need determined by the assessment. He said the mechanism for delivery is not only construction, it is also leasing, renting and housing assistance payments.

Cllr. McClearn said that the issue of housing is not one to be discussed under the Management Report and the Cathaoirleach proposed that it be placed as an item for discussion at the May Meeting of the Plenary Council. This was agreed by the Members.

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On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed to note the Management Report for April 2015.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

2054

Report dated 21st April, 2015 relating to the Galway Local Government Review was already circulated to each Member.

The Chief Executive referred to the discussion which had taken place at the March Meeting of the Plenary Council in relation to the Galway Local Government Review when it was agreed that the Executive would bring together the points raised by the Members for submission to the Galway Local Government Review Commission. He said that the Report dated 21st April, 2015 contains the submission and he asked if the Members were satisfied that the Report accurately reflected their views and contributions.

Cllrs. McClearn, Cuddy and Canney expressed the view that the Report accurately reflected the views of the Members.

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Members approved the Report dated 21st April, 2015 for submission to the Commission.

Mr. Owens then informed the Members that the extension of the Council Chamber project is nearing completion and the Chamber would be available to host the May meeting.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed that the official opening of the Council Chamber take place on Tuesday 26th May, 2015 at 4.00 pm.

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe and agreed that an Interdenominational Blessing of the Chamber take place at the official opening.

Mr. Owens advised that it was intended to hold a familiarization session for the Members regarding the new electronic voting system, audio visual systems and extranet facility to be used at Council Meetings from May 2015 onwards.

In reply to Cllr. Feeney, Mr. Owens said that the electronic voting system will be fully transparent.

In reply to Cllr. McClearn, Mr. Owens said that the Council Meetings are moving towards a paperless system whereby all documentation will be provided to the Members through the Extranet Facility and this is being piloted among a number of the Members at present.

It was then agreed by the Members that the familiarisation session for the Members on the electronic voting system, audio visual system and the extranet facility take place on Tuesday, 26th May at 12 noon in the Council Chamber.

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It was proposed by Cllr. G. Finnerty that the May Monthly Meeting of the Plenary Council take place on Wednesday 27th May, 2015 commencing at 9a.m. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, and agreed.

Mr. Owens briefed the Members regarding the Councils Draft 1916/2016 Centenary Programme referring to *Ireland 2016 – A National Initiative* to develop, coordinate and deliver a programme for the 2016 centenary year.

He said that in keeping with the County of Galway Commemorative Strategy for the Decade of Commemorations 2013 – 2023 and the emphasis afforded to 1916, the Council is currently finalising a draft Centenary Programme for the County of Galway to include its flagships projects.

The format is in line with the National Centenary Programme which was launched over the Easter and is based on five intersecting themes, i.e. Remember; Reconcile; Imagine; Present; Celebrate

The two Key Foundation – Stones are:

- 2016 is for everyone
- 2016 is a historical, commemorative project

The Programme consists of 7 Strands:

- Ceremonial
- Historical Reflection
- The Living Language
- Youth and Imagination
- Cultural Expression
- Community Participation with local authority leadership.
- Global and Diaspora

There are three Elements to the Galway County Centenary Programme:

- Support the National Centenary Programme, particularly the ceremonial strand including the opening of the centre at Pearse's Cottage, Rus Muc.
- Events and initiatives lead by Galway County Council.
- Community Participation supported by Community Grant Scheme to be launched on Wednesday, 6th May 2015 with a closing date of Friday, 26th June 2015, proposals for consideration at July Meeting of Council.

Mr. Owens said that events under Decade of Commemorations will continue to be held during 2015 and will include:

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- Launch of Publication on Cumann na mBan.
- Commemoration of Pádraigh Pearse final visit to Rosmuc and in particular his departure on the 31st July to deliver the oration at the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa.
- Galway's Great Read in November 2015.
- Launch of the Centenary Programme in November 2015.

The Draft 1916/2016 Centenary Programme will include a series of events including:

- An opening ceremonial event,
- Launch of the Decade of Commemorations Website
- Archives Exhibition that will tour the County throughout 2016 and beyond
- A series of ceremonial events during Easter 2016 including ceremonies on Easter Monday.
- An event for relatives of those who took part in the Galway events of 1916.
- Conference on the 29th, 30th April and 1st May to include launch of the Bi-Lingual Publication at a reception at Áras an Chontae on the 29th April and the launch of the 1916 Rising Galway Trail on Sunday, 1st May 2016, to allow for community events at each location.
- Series of public lectures, writing and poetry competitions.
- A series of events based on The Living Language.
- Seminar on the role of women in 1916
- Official 1916/2016 Galway Diaspora Conference.
- Series of ceremonial and cultural events and lectures in key locations including Ballymoe, Ros Muc, Athenry, Oranmore, Clarenbridge, Carnmore Cross, Ardrahan and Limepark in conjunction with a series of countywide events.
- Formal Closing ceremony

Mr. Owens informed the Members that Public Consultations on the Draft Programme of Events will take place as follows:

- Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam for Tuesday 12th May 2015.
- Oughterard Courthouse, Oughterard for Wednesday, 13th May 2015.
- Meadow Court Hotel, Loughrea for Thursday 14th May 2015.

The public consultations will be an opportunity to provide an overview of national programme, consult on the draft programme for County Galway, provide information on the community grant scheme and to afford an opportunity to relatives to register with Galway County Council.

Mr. Owens said that the Council is committed to playing a positive proactive leadership role in developing an appropriate and inclusive Commemorative Programme that will focus on the role the County of Galway and Galway people in the historic events of 1916.

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Cllr. G. Finnerty thanked Mr. Owens for the briefing and asked that Members be kept informed of the details of the Draft 1916/2016 Commemorative Programme.

Mr. Gavin addressed the Members regarding the Meeting which was arranged in Brussels on Monday 13th April, 2015 between E.U. Commission Officials, Mr. Micheal Ó Briain and Ms. Sylvia Aile, and a delegation from Galway City and County Councils, regarding the N6 Galway City Transport Project. He said the meeting was arranged by Ms. Marian Harkin MEP following the passing of a Resolution by Galway County Council at a Special Meeting of the Council held on 2nd March, 2015

He outlined the Meeting as follows:

- The queries and the Notices of Motion submitted from both the County Council and the City Council were outlined. These related principally to the possibility of reverting to the original Galway City Outer By-Pass (GCOB) route and to the possibility of an application being made under article 6.4 of the Habitats Directive.
- Mr. Ó Briain advised that it is the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and not the Commission which interprets EU law. He confirmed that the ECJ case on the original route related only to article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive.
- Mr. Ó Briain explained that the requirements specified in article 6.4 included :
 - identifying priority interests which would override ecological interests and justifying why they should over-ride the ecological interests,
 - the requirement to examine all reasonable alternatives and to demonstrate in a credible way why we would be dismissing any alternatives in favour of an option which damages a protected habitat and
 - if the priority habitat is to be affected, one must apply and implement adequate compensatory measures on a no net loss basis.
- He said it was not for the Commission to comment on the alternatives currently under consideration.
- He explained that it must be demonstrated that the process is rigorous and thorough and he referred to the requirement to get a formal EU Commission opinion in due course on the application of Art 6.4 to particular projects.
- With regard to applying weighting to criteria, he said there was no fixed rule about considering of impact on houses, for example, relative to ecological impact.
- As to whether the original route could be considered under article 6.4, Mr. Ó Briain said that the original route would damage the protected habitats, and that if it was to be considered under a 6.4 process, it would only be on the basis of considering all

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reasonable alternatives first and weighing their relative environmental, social and economic impacts. With regard to how alternative options were considered in previous 6.4 cases, Mr Ó Briain advised that previous cases can be reviewed on the Commission website, and he referred to the guidance documents governing assessment of alternatives. He emphasised the importance of reasonableness, advising that, on the one hand an option which would avoid the protected habitat but which would cost say ten times more, might not be considered reasonable. On the other hand it was not reasonable to say that any impact on houses should override the weighting of environmental impact.

- Mr. Ó Briain advised that alternatives are not limited to roads, but he added that how Galway addresses its transport issues is an issue for Galway and not the Commission. He emphasised the need for rigorous assessment of alternatives, given the high value placed on the priority habitats. He said that defining what is reasonable or feasible, in terms of social or economic impacts, could be quite complex and it was up to the promoters of a project to make the case.
- With regard to engagement with the Commission, he said that there was no need for engagement unless a priority habitat was going to be affected, and if a 6.4 application was to be made, it would be a formal process with submission of a full application by the competent authority, and the Commission would consider it within 3-6 months.
- In response to a query, it was clarified that in undertaking the analysis for the current project that all options were considered, including the original route.
- Mr. Ó Briain emphasised that this was an informal meeting and no project has been submitted to the Commission. He noted the current status of the process in Galway and said that the overriding reasons cited in any IROPI application have to be very compelling.
- Mr. Ó Briain confirmed that alternatives must be examined, particularly if they were less damaging to the environment before reconsidering the original GCOB route.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Gavin for the Report.

The following items of correspondence which were circulated at the meeting were noted:

- Correspondence dated 24th March 2015 from Offaly County Council adopting a resolution “At present Parking Fines issued by the Council’s Traffic Wardens and subsequently not paid and which go to court and upheld the money accruing from those is retained by the state. Offaly County Council calls for a change to allow Councils to benefit from this revenue as all the work and expense is born by the Council.”
- Correspondence dated 8th April 2015 from the Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney adopting a Notice of Motion “That this Council calls on the Minister for

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Transport, Paschal Donohue TD, and our local Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, to ensure that decisions regarding the removal of school bus services are not taken without a four week period of prior consultation with the Local Authority, local schools and Parents Associations. The four week consultation period will enable the Local Authority to undertake necessary road repairs considering we have now received our lowest amount of funding in the last twelve years.”

- Correspondence dated 21st April 2015 from the Ballina Municipal District adopting a Notice of Motion “That Ballina Municipal District calls on the Minister for the Environment to take the necessary steps to restore Town Councils or alternatively to give the new Municipal District Councils the power to strike a rate and spend the money raised in each Municipal District in that district; that this Notice of Motion is circulated to all Councils for their support.”

CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

2055

The Cathaoirleach thanked the hotel for the hospitality they extended to the Members and Staff of the Council at the Meeting.

She reminded the Members that tickets for the County Mayoral Charity Ball, to be held on Sunday 3rd May 2015, would be available for purchase until Wednesday 29th April, 2015.

As it had reached 7.00 pm the Cathaoirleach, in accordance with the agreed motion, that the meeting conclude no later than 7.00 pm, brought the meeting to a close.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 20 – CLLR. A. RABBITTE

2056

The following reply was given:-

“The Council must operate within adopted budgets each year and any requirement for an increase in resources for the provision of public toilets will be considered in the context of the formulation of the 2016 Budget.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 21 – CLLR. J. CHARITY

2057

The following reply was given:-

- (a) “The numbers engaged by Galway County Council on JobBridge for each year 2011 to 2015

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Year	Number of Intern placements
2011	9
2012	53
2013	23
2014	22
2015	1

- (b) The numbers engaged by Galway County Council on Gateway for each year 2011 to 2015

Year	Number of Gateway placements
2011	N/A
2012	N/A
2013	N/A
2014	55
2015	57

- (c) The numbers engaged by Galway County Council on any other job activation scheme for each year 2011 to 2015

Year	Job Activation Measure/Scheme	Number of Placements
2011	FÁS Placements	7
	Community Employment Scheme	85
2012	FÁS Placements	7
	Community Employment Scheme	86
2013	FÁS Placements	8
	Community Employment Scheme	88
2014	FÁS Placements	4
	Community Employment Scheme	89
March 2015	FÁS Placements	0
	Community Employment Scheme	89

- (d) The numbers who are to be engaged for the remainder of 2015 on any job activation scheme

Year	Labour Activation Scheme	Number to be engaged
2015	JobBridge	Dependent on the availability of suitable placements which comply with the Scheme criteria and on the availability of suitable participants.
	Gateway Scheme	57 in place - National Target of 80 participants set by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in respect of Galway County Council

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	FÁS Placements	Demand led by individuals seeking placement
	Community Employment Scheme	89

The moratorium on recruitment in the public service introduced in March 2009 remains in place in the Local Authority sector.

Any job vacancy arising in Galway County Council can only be filled in circumstances where the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government grant sanction, as an exception to the moratorium on recruitment.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 22 – CLLR. J. CHARITY

2058

The following reply was given:-

“The types of activities undertaken through the Gateway and JobBridge Schemes are varied and have been put in place following consultation and agreement between Trade Unions and Management.

Following audit of the JobBridge Scheme in Galway County Council, the Department of Social Protection reported that all the Interns were extremely happy with how their internship was progressing with Galway County Council. All participants indicated that the experience received and exposure to systems, supports and various operating systems was excellent and that the appointed mentors were very supportive and encouraging. The participant feedback indicated appreciation for opportunities to engage in training programmes while on internship and that a wide network of connections were also being formulated during internship.

The general feeling from each Intern was that as a host organisation for the JobBridge Scheme the Council was held in high regard and in a very positive light. A number of Interns withdrew from their Internship placement to take up employment or gained employment following completion of their placement.

The Council acknowledges the contribution JobBridge Scheme participants and Gateway Scheme employees have made and continue to make in undertaking work that is of benefit to service users and the broader community while at the same time availing of training opportunities and gaining practical on-the-job work experience.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 23 – COMH. S. Ó CUALÁIN

2059

The following reply was given:-

“Deferred.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 24 – CLLR. T. WELBY

2060

The following reply was given:-

“Deferred.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.