

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 22nd June 2015

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, ON MONDAY 22ND JUNE, 2015 AT 11.00 AM

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. P. Roche
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim); Mr.P. Gavican, Director of Services; Ms. C. McConnell, Ms. M. Ní Chionna, Acting Directors of Service; Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary & Meetings Administrator; Mr. M. Timmins, Senior Engineer; An tUas. P. O'Neachtain Oifigeach Gaeilge; Ms. R. O'Boyle & Ms. G. Healy, Staff Officers.

Thosnagh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

2087

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Walsh, and agreed, that the Meeting conclude at 3.30 p.m.

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The Cathaoirleach said that he wished before the Meeting began to extend his support and condolences on behalf of the Council and the County to the families and friends of the victims of the disaster which occurred in Berkley, California the previous week. He then proposed a minutes silence as a mark of respect to the deceased and the minutes silence was then observed.

Cllr. J. Byrne stated that Thoor Ballylee in Gort had reopened on the 13th June, 2015 and he wished to express his sincere gratitude on behalf of Thoor Ballylee Ltd. to Galway County Council and particularly the staff of the Council who had provided great assistance over the previous year in order to ensure that the facility reopened. He said that the reopening of this tourist venue is an example of the power of local communities and he said it is intended to develop a Yeats Exhibition Space in the coming years and ensure that this facility is a cultural destination for people as part of the Wild Atlantic Way.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

2088

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mr. John & Peggy Rabbitte, Castletaylor, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
- Ms. Mary Moore, Dungory East, Kinvara, Co. Galway
- Ms. Nora Ann Connors, Ardnagrove, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Tom Hughes, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Ms. Josephine Fahy, Ballinvoher, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Ms. Mary Kelly, Clonkeen, Killoran, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Ms. Christina Treacy, Laraghmore, Ballygluinan, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Mr. Padraic Ridge, Tir an Fhia, Lettermore, Co. Galway
- Ms. Rena Grealish, Carnmore Cross, Oranmore, Co. Galway
- Bean Pháráic Ó Ceannabháin (Tom Phatch), Loch Con Aortha, Cill Chiaráin, Conamara, Co. na Gaillimhe

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

2089

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27th May, 2015 were approved by the Council and signed by the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Maher.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

2090

The Report of the Planning & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 30th March 2015 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

The Report of the Housing, Culture & Recreation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 1st April 2015 was approved by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Healy.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.85 HECTARES OF LAND AT NO. 10 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

2091

Statutory Notice and Report dated 5th June, 2015 were already circulated to each Member in accordance with the statutory timeframe.

A discussion took place regarding the sale of No. 10 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry and the Members raised the following points:

Cllr. Charity said that it appeared to him that this is a substantial property being sold for the sum of €150,000. He feared that the Council was allowing developers and speculators to come in and buy property in this way.

Mr. Gavican addressed queries raised by Cllrs. Charity and Fahy in relation to the sale of the affordable housing units, the conditions associated with the sale, the approach of the local authority to purchasing housing units and the treatment of the proceedings from the sale of affordable housing units.

Cllr. Canney said that when this estate was built under the Affordable Housing Scheme, there was an understanding that natural gas would be available after 2011 but this still has not been provided.

Mr. Gavican replied that he was not aware of this understanding but he would review the matter and revert to the Member.

Cllr. M. Connolly said that it is prudent for the Council to sell these vacant houses, which were built under the Affordable Housing Scheme, at a time where there is a huge demand in the county for houses.

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Cllr. D. Connolly wished to put on record that he was not in favour of the Council selling houses.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kearney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the disposal of 0.85 hectares of land at No. 10 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, as outlined in the Report, was agreed.

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) **2092**

Report dated 16th June 2015 available to the Members on the Extranet

Cllr. Walsh declared an interest in this Item and left the Meeting for the duration of the consideration of the Item by the Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Welby, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Celtic Conferences - Local Economic & Community Plans, to be held at the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 10th - 11th July 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. N. Byrne

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Esperanza Enterprises Conference - Planning & Building Regulations - to be held at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway on 28th July 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. N. Byrne

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the Co-Operation Ireland Conference - The Housing Debate: What role for Local Government in Rebuilding our Communities - to be held at the Maynooth University Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare on 20th August 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. M. Fahy

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) **2093**

Report dated 16th June 2015 available to the Members on the Extranet

It was proposed by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. F. Kearney, and agreed, that the attendance of the Members named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled Local Authority Finance

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(Module 2) to be held at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, on 25th June 2015, be authorized:

Cllrs. M. Hoade, J. Cuddy, T. Healy and N. Byrne.

It was proposed by Cllr. Welby, seconded by Comh. Ó Cualáin, and agreed, that the attendance of the Member named hereunder at the AILG Training entitled Road, Transport & Urban Traffic Planning to be held at the alternative location i.e. Cork, at a venue to be decided, on 10th October 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. N. Byrne

It was proposed by Cllr. Donnellan, seconded by Cllr. Hoade, 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 - to be held at the alternative location i.e. the Red Cow Hotel, Dublin, on 14th November 2015, be authorized:

Cllr. N. Byrne

TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) 2094

Report dated 15th June, 2015 available to the Members on the Extranet .

On the proposal of Cllr. Kearney, seconded by Cllr. T. McHugh, 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. N. Thomas.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEES FROM THE COUNTY GALWAY PPN TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. 2095

Report dated 16th June, 2015 available to the Members on the Extranet

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, the appointment of the following nominees from the County Galway Public Participation Network (PPN) to the Local Community Development Committee, was approved:

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Non Statutory Interests		
Name	Name	
<i>Environmental</i>	Margaret Sheehan	Elected from the PPN Environmental College. Member of the Headford
<i>Community & Voluntary</i>	Dan Dowling	Elected from the PPN Community & Voluntary College. Active in several local community & voluntary organisations. Currently a Director of Ballinasloe Training for Employment, Galway Rural Development Company Ltd and Ballinasloe Area Community Development.
	Sean Ó'Coistealbha	Elected from the PPN Community & Voluntary College. CEO of Muintearas and involved in community development in Galway. Former Chairperson of Comhlacht Forbartha an Spideal and a Director of Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe.
<i>Social Inclusion</i>	Martin Ward	Elected from the PPN Social Inclusion College. Current Manager with Western Traveller and Intercultural Development. Active in several social inclusion organisations with a special interest in Travellers and Children's issues as well as local community development.
	Kathleen Aspel Mortimer	Elected from the PPN Social Inclusion College. Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and is involved in Social Inclusion in both a professional and voluntary capacity.

TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2015 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **2096**

Report dated 16th June available to the Members on the Extranet

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Kearney it was agreed to note the Management Report for June 2015.

FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2015. **2097**

Report dated 16th June available to the Members on the Extranet

The Financial Report on the Accounts of Galway County Council for the period ending 31st March, 2015 was noted by the Members on the proposal of Cllr. T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE **2098**

Ms. McConnell referred to the Report dated 16th June, 2015 regarding the Appointment of Nominees from the County Galway Public Participation Network (PPN) to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). She stated that the Health Services Executive (HSE) is one of the bodies represented on the LCDC and she said that due to work commitments, the HSE representative on the LCDC had not been available to attend Meetings of the LCDC and therefore a replacement representative has been nominated. On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg, the appointment of Mr. Michael Keating to replace Ms. Catherine Cunningham on the Local Community Development Committee, was approved.

In reply to queries from Cllrs. Welby and M. Connolly regarding the role of the Members in nominations to the LCDC, Ms. McConnell said that nominees to the LCDC must be ratified by the full Council and if the Members are not in agreement with any nomination, the nomination would have to revert to the LCDC.

The following items of correspondence which were made available via the extranet were noted:

- Correspondence from Fingal County Council dated 3rd June 2015 adopting a motion “Go dtacaíonn an Comhairle seo le deireadh a bheith curtha leis an maolú ar stádas na Gaeilge san Eoraip agus go scríobhfaidh an Comhairle chuig an Rialtas ag éileamh orthu scríobh chuig Comhairle na nAirí chun iarraidh orthu ligint don mhaolú ar stádas na Gaeilge san AE dul in Éag ag deireadh 2016.

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That this Council supports the ending of the derogation on the status of the Irish language in the European Union and that this Council will write to the Government and call on them to write to the Council of Ministers requesting that the derogation on the status of Irish in the EU be allowed lapse at the end of 2016.”

- Correspondence from Ballina Municipal District dated 3rd June 2015 adopting a motion “That we, as Public Representatives, support the freedom of the press and also the freedom of Members of the Oireachtas to go about their business without fear of legal threat or any other threat; that this motion is forwarded to all Councils for their support”.
- Correspondence dated 10th June 2015 from Cork City Council to inform all Local Authorities of the decisions of An Chomhairle arising from communication the DOECLG to the Chief Executive that all Local Authorities suspend the opening of any Social Housing Schemes without first checking the availability of the Minister to attend.
 1. That the opening of the Social Housing Project at Phase II Glen Housing Development will proceed Friday 12th June 2016. Comhairleoir K. McCarthy requested that his objection to this matter be noted.
 2. That the Minister would be written to advising him of the decision to proceed on Friday 12th June 2016, and also inviting him to visit the City Hall to meet with the Elected Members in the near future.
 3. That correspondence issues to all other Local Authorities advising them of the decision of An Comhairle.
- Correspondence from South Dublin County Council dated 12th June 2015 adopting a motion “That this Council will write to the Minister of Environment Alan Kelly stating that a BIN waiver should be introduced for people with health issues. Over 20,000 people in Ireland suffer from bowel disease and are fitted with a stoma. These people have to use their bin to dispose of this colostomy bag through no fault of their own, and with pay by weight being introduced this will be a big cost to them. There is also many other conditions that people have medical waste that has to be put in the bin.”
- Correspondence dated 16th June from the Office of Public Works in response to Galway County Council’s request to the Irish Government to seek an EU derogation on the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) so that the technical solutions to the flooding in South Galway be implemented.

CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

2099

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to Notice of Motion No. 15 on the clár where he proposed “that Galway County Council requests the Minister for Heritage and the Gaeltacht to ensure the air service to the Aran Islands be maintained at the present level going forward”.

He said that he wished the Council to issue a strong message to the Government that the present level of air service to the Aran Islands must be maintained. He said that the service is integral for the islanders and effects every aspect of their lives from businesses to schools to medical services. He said the islands population is dropping and if the air service were to be

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reduced it would have drastic implications. He said the contract for the service is now up for renewal and there are fears that a cut from the Government to the air service subvention would result in the service being reduced.

Cllrs. Maher, Kearney, M. Connolly, Hoade, Walsh, Mannion together with Comh, Ó Cualáin and Ó Curraoin all expressed their support to Comh. Ó Tuairisg's proposal stating that the islanders safety and well being must be prioritized at all times.

Cllr. Welby also supported the Motion stating that the Government must make a decision to ringfence this service and Cllr. Healy agreed stating that the islands are a cultural asset which need to be protected.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg's proposal was seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed.

Cllr. T. McHugh raised the issue of the Development Contribution Scheme. He stated that in light of the scarcity of housing in the County, new houses need to be built but housing development is not proving viable at present. He said the Council could help by reducing the Development Contributions as part of Planning Permissions.

A discussion then took place regarding the Development Contribution Scheme and many of the Members expressed the view that development contributions are extremely high and are causing hardship to people trying to build houses and also rents are increasing due to the shortage of houses, and for this reason the Development Contribution Scheme needs to be reviewed. The view was also expressed that rural decline needs to be arrested and developments charges in rural areas should be lower than those in more populated areas where services are better.

Cllr. Charity made the following proposal "that Galway County Council undertake a review of the Development Contribution Scheme before December 31st 2015 under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and terms of the Scheme adopted on 17/12/2010". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe, and agreed.

The Chief Executive replied to the Members stating that it was already agreed that the Development Contribution Scheme would be reviewed this year. He said this process has commenced and the Planning SPC has discussed the Scheme and the matter will come before the Plenary Council in the coming months for discussion. He said that in 2010 the charges for commercial properties were reduced by 30% and for residential properties by 10%. He said that the Council no longer levies the charge for water and waste water and therefore the amount of development charges which are decided on by the Council have been reduced by two thirds. He reminded the Members that the proceeds from development contributions scheme provide the Council with much needed funds including matching funding for grants provided by the Government, and are essential for funding investment in infrastructure. He also said that the Council cannot address the housing shortage by leaving itself short of money for the development of other infrastructure.

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In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly regarding the planning application received from Apple Inc. regarding their proposed development at Derrydonnell, Athenry, the Chief Executive said that the Council is considering the application at present and has sought further information from the applicant. He said that this is not unusual and Apple and its Consultants would be very familiar with the open and transparent planning system operating in this country.

In reply to Cllrs. Cunniffe and Canney regarding the question of funding for Municipal Districts, the Chief Executive said that the time for discussing the budget for 2016 is fast approaching. He said that following the establishment of the Municipal Districts in 2014, some local authorities took the approach of allocating discretionary funding to each Municipal District but Galway County Council took the approach of a countywide budget. He said that the Council intends that this approach will be the same for the 2016 budget and he said that any change to this approach would warrant serious consideration and should be conducted through the Corporate Policy Group. He advised that legislation regarding Municipal Districts suggests that any issue of countywide impact should be decided by the full Council and not the individual Municipal Districts.

Cllr. Fahy informed the Members that six caravans have been parked at the side of a public road in Gort for some months and that they were causing a hindrance to people in the locality. He asked that the Executive intervene with a view to moving these caravans. He said there are no toilet facilities nearby and the situation is very unhygienic. He also expressed the view that campervans are unhygienic and he felt that the Council should curtail the parking of campervans in public areas.

Cllr. J. Byrne said it was not correct to compare people living in caravans to tourists visiting in camper vans. He said the vast majority of people in camper vans are law abiding citizens and he did not want the message to go out that the Council does not welcome tourists visiting Galway in camper vans as they are a vital part of the county's tourism trade.

Comh. Ó Cualáin said that the issue of caravans parking illegally on public roads in Conamara is causing a similar problem and he said that this needs to be addressed. However, he said he would not compare these illegally parked caravans with campervans.

Cllr. Welby expressed the view that campsites are not being supported by the State and he said the Government is developing areas along the Wild Atlantic Way where campervans can pull in overnight, yet there are no facilities provided.

Cllr. Healy suggested that the issue of motor tourism should be referred to the Roads and Transportation SPC for discussion with a view to developing a policy in this regard.

In reply to Cllrs. Killilea, Cunniffe and Joyce, Mr. Gavican stated that the new operator of the Tuam Leisure Centre and also the Ballinasloe Centre is aware of the needs of the community and the opening hours are scheduled according to the requirements of the Council. He confirmed that repairs to the hoist at Tuam Swimming Pool have been completed and the hoist is now fully functional.

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Cllr. Rabbitte asked that the Council consider the possibility of providing an extended lifeguard service next year and Mr. Gavican replied that this will be examined.

In reply to Cllr. J. Byrne, Mr. Gavican said that the Housing and Roads Sections of the Council work together in relation to the maintenance needs of the Council's Housing Estates as regards footpaths and other works and he said there is a planned housing maintenance programme in place.

Cllr. Kearney proposed a vote of congratulations to Ms. Olivia Lane of Laraghmore, Turloughmore who the World Single Lifts Power-lifting Championship in Shropshire this month and also set world records in Bench Pressing, Deadlifting and Squatting at the Championships.

Comh. Ó Curraoin proposed a vote of congratulations on the Cois Fharráige Girls Camogie Team on their victory at the National Féile Competitions recently

Cllr. Mannion proposed a vote of congratulations to Letterfrack National School on winning the title of SAP First Lego League Champions 2015 and went on to represent Ireland at the International Lego Competitions abroad. She proposed that they be invited in to the Council for a Civic Reception during the coming months. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Maher, and agreed.

Cllr. Kearney proposed a vote of congratulations on the Annaghdown U14 Hurling Team who won the National Féile Division 6 Competition the previous weekend.

Cllr. Maher proposed a vote of congratulations on the Kilconeiran U14 Hurling Team who won the Division 3 All Ireland Féile Competition.

Cllr. Welby referred to his Notice of Motion No. 17 on the Agenda "that the Seanad electoral (Panel Members) Act 1947 be amended to provide for the nomination of Seanad Candidates on the same date as the nomination of candidates to the Dáil and that candidates who wish to run for either the Dáil or the Seanad declare those intentions on the same date. Nominations for the internal sub-panels for the next Seanad will be made by the current Oireachtas Members".

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

A discussion took place regarding this proposal and the Members put forward their views as follows:

Cllrs. M. Connolly, Killilea, McClearn, Kearney, Fahy and Finnerty expressed the view that although the Seanad needs to be reformed, this proposal is too narrow a concept and would not bring about a constructive change.

Cllr. N. Byrne said that Government has set up a working group to examine reform of the Seanad but she was not in favour of Cllr. Welby's proposal.

Cllrs. Broderick, D. Connolly, Cuddy, Healy, K. McHugh, Charity and Canney expressed the view that many of the Seanad Members have no mandate from the people and that the Seanad is

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undemocratic. For that reason they felt that by approving Cllr. Welby's proposal, Galway Co. Council would let the Government know that the Council wants to see a reform of the Seanad.

As the proposal was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote and the result of the vote was as follows:

For:	Cllrs. Broderick, Canney, Charity, D. Connolly, Cronnelly, Comh. Ó Cualáin, Cllrs. Cuddy, Cunniffe, Healy, K. McHugh, Hynes & Welby.	12
Against:	Cllrs. Burke, J. Byrne, N. Byrne, M. Connolly, Donnellan, Donohue, Fahy, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, Kearney, Killilea, Maher, McClearn, Mannion, Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. Thomas, Roche & Rabbitte.	18
Abstain:	Comh. Ó Curraoin	1

As a result of the vote, the Cathaoirleach declared the Motion defeated

Comh. Ó Cualáin referred to his Notice of Motion No. 16 on the Agenda "that Galway County Council requests the Government to object to the publication of the Cap Payments Beneficiaries by Member States for 2014". He said he did not agree that the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has published full details of E.U. payments to individual farmers in respect of 2014 on its website.

This proposal was seconded by Comh Ó Curraoin.

A discussion took place regarding the Motion and the Members put forward their views as follows:

Comh. Ó Curraoin, Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. M. Connolly, Cunniffe, Fahy and K. McHugh felt that the publishing of details of payments to individual farmers on the DOA Website is causing a security risk to farmers and this is very worrying, especially to those living in isolated areas and they fully supported Comh. Ó Cualáin's proposal.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the sizeable payments being received by certain farmers and he felt that there should be a cap on the amount an individual can receive so that a more equitable situation would exist.

Cllr. J. Byrne supported the proposal but he suggested that it should be amended to state 2015 as the 2014 details have already been posted on the DOA Website.

Comh. Ó Cualáin agreed with Cllr. J. Byrne and he stated that he wished to amend the proposal to the following "that Galway County Council requests the Government to object to the publication of the Cap Payments Beneficiaries by Member States from 2015 onwards"

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The proposed motion as proposed by Comh. Ó Cualáin, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin was agreed subject to the amendment as proposed by Cllr. J. Byrne.

Mr. Owens advised the Members that a Briefing for the Members of the City and County Councils regarding Galway's bid for European Capital of Culture 2020 would take place in the Merrick Hotel, Eyre Square, Galway on 8th July, 2015 commencing at 10 a.m.

Cllr. Killilea referred to his Notice of Motion No. 12 on the Agenda "that Galway County Council carry out a costing on implementing a 2 hour free parking for Tuam and Athenry between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Monday to Friday in order to support businesses in our town centres". He said that town centres are experiencing a continuous decline and his proposal would give a boost to towns. He also felt that the Council would also benefit from increased footfall to businesses which would in turn give businesses increased income so as to be in a position to pay their rates.

He said he would like to amend his proposal to replace the words "for Tuam and Athenry" with the word "countywide".

Cllr. G. Finnerty seconded this proposal.

The Chief Executive replied that this matter had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Plenary Council and it had been agreed that the Roads SPC would examine this matter and bring forward their findings to full Council.

Cllr. G. Finnerty said that it was agreed at the November 2014 Meeting of Plenary Council that the appropriate forum for this matter to be discussed was the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and he said at that Meeting that he wanted it to be considered by the SPC early in 2015.

Cllr. Canney agreed that the proposal should be countywide but it warrants careful consideration and he said that the Roads SPC was the correct forum for this discussion.

Cllr. Cunniffe said he felt disempowered as regards the Municipal District Council and that this matter should be discussed at Municipal District level and not by the SPC so that decisions would be made as close to the local area as possible.

Cllr. Cronnelly supported the proposal for a floating two hours free parking in order to increase footfall to town centres.

Cllr. Donohue felt that a special dispensation for parking should be put in place in towns for the duration of works such as sewerage upgrades so that businesses would not lose out on trade while such works are taking place.

Cllr. Fahy suggested that free parking should be made available in town centres every Monday because this is a very quiet day for business.

Cllr. Broderick said that the Council should liaise with residents' associations, the GAA and other clubs in order to work with communities and businesses regarding parking in town centres.

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The Chief Executive said that he appreciated that the Members wish to do something positive to increase footfall for businesses in town centres, however he said that any reduction in income must be reflected in the Budgets and any proposal must be workable from an operational perspective and must not tie up resources.

He referred to the initiative of the Council to provide free parking from 11am in the lead up to Christmas 2014 and he said that feedback from businesses raised some concerns in relation to the appropriate turnover of parking spaces during the period. He also said that Retail Excellence Ireland carried out surveys recently and the findings were that access to parking is more important to shoppers than the cost.

Cllr. Killilea thanked the Chief Executive for his guidance but he said that a timeline needs to be put in place for the SPC and he said that he would agree to wait for the SPC to come back with their findings at the September Meeting of the Plenary Council.

This was agreed by the Members.

Cllrs. M. Connolly and P. Roche said that this issue will be focused on by the Roads & Transportation SPC and the SPC is committed to dealing with it as soon as possible.

Cllr. Charity referred to his Notice of Motion No. 14 on the Agenda "that in an effort to improve the transparency of Council Meetings and the accountability of Elected Members to voters, Galway County Council introduces live online streaming of all Council Meetings in future". He stated that in his opinion this would focus the minds of the Members on how the Meetings are conducted.

Mr. Owens informed the Members that the technology installed in the reconfigured Council Chamber was enabled to facilitate online streaming. In order to proceed, additional equipment needs to be installed such as cameras and audio equipment with an estimated cost of €10,000. He said that in addition consideration was required of the requirements to comply with the requirements relating to Data Protection.

Cllr. Healy stated that he was in favour of online streaming of Council Meetings but he acknowledged the challenge involved regarding compliance with Data Protection legislation. He indicated that based on the estimate of €10,000 the cost was prohibitive and suggested that a procurement process may achieve a lower cost that would allow consideration of the proposal.

Mr. Owens advised that the decision in relation to the streaming of meetings of Council was ultimately a matter for determination by the Members and in the event that they wished to pursue further consideration of the proposal and it was deemed helpful to have the benefit of pricing from a procurement process, then such a process could be undertaken to facilitate and further inform the Members in their consideration of the matter.

Cllr. Hoade said that in her view, the Council Meetings are adequately represented in the public domain through the print media and on Galway Bay FM and Radio na Gaeltachta and she

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thanked the representatives from the media who are present at each Council Meeting for their accurate and comprehensive coverage of the business of the Council.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Owens said that there is no money provided in this year's budget for live streaming of Council Meetings and there would be no external source of funding available for this purpose. He said that if live streaming of the Meetings was to be put in place it would be necessary to provide additional funding for this purpose.

Cllr. Roche made the following proposal "that this Council request Minister Simon Harris to amend flood risk mapping to reflect mitigation works carried out by the O.P.W. and Galway Co. Council. This is of critical importance when it comes to Local Area Plans - Town Development Plans. Current situation does not take into account these works thus rendering properties and land valueless/frozen.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Byrne, and agreed.

In reply to concerns raised by Cllrs. Cunniffe, K. McHugh and Kearney regarding the Railway Bridge at Ballyglunin and the question that it might not be reinstated following the upgrade of the N63 to connect Abbeyknockmoy to the new M17 Motorway, Mr. Timmins said no further information has come to hand in this regard at present.

Cllrs. Killilea and the Cathaoirleach expressed the view that this matter should be dealt with at Municipal District level.

Cllr. J. Byrne referred to the flooding problem at Kiltiernan in the winter and he said that the NRA should make funding available for flood relief at this location. He also said that a very cost effective means of alleviating flooding is to release blocked swallow holes and this should be examined.

Mr. Timmins replied that the Consultants on the Gort to Tuam Motorway Scheme are very familiar with the flooding problem at Kiltiernan National School and the matter was discussed but no funding has been promised to alleviate flooding at this location.

Cllr. J. Byrne expressed concern that no funding has been allocated and he said there is no guarantee that the new motorway will not aggravate the flooding problem at the school.

Cllr. Fahy agreed with Cllr. Byrne stating that the NRA and the OPW must come up with a solution to ensure that the new motorway does not result in flooding at the school.

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In reply to Cllr. G. Finnerty, Mr. Timmins said that discussions are taking place with the NRA regarding surplus land on the Gort to Crusheen Motorway and it is hoped that a decision will be made in this regard shortly.

Cllr. D. Connolly said that there are pieces of land along the M6 Motorway which are surplus to requirements and becoming a health and safety issue and he stated he would like to get some information on the matter at the July Plenary Meeting.

Mr. Timmins replied that a land disposal strategy is in place and surplus land will be advertised for sale in the coming weeks.

Cllr. M. Connolly agreed with Cllr. D. Connolly and he commended the Engineers in the Ballinasloe Area for their work in dealing with matters in this regard.

Cllr. Cuddy said that he is disappointed at the lack of progress on reducing the 80km speed limit on county roads. He also referred to the speed limit of 50km per hour on the Tuam Road near Roadstone and said that no response has been received from the City Council regarding increasing this speed limit and he would like more information on this.

Mr. Timmins said that as the location referred to by Cllr. Cuddy on the Tuam Road is within the City boundary, he was not in a position to deal with this query.

The Cathaoirleach said that Mr. Liam Gavin would be asked to deal with Cllr. Cuddy's queries regarding speed limits at the next Meeting of the Council.

In reply to Cllr. Thomas, Mr. Timmins said that the Council is continuously engaging with the contractor on the N59 roadworks scheme in order to minimize disruption for commuters. He said that the bridge section will take approximately two months to complete and when this work is completed, disruption will be reduced.

Cllr. Thomas suggested that a solution to the disruption at present would be to move the concrete barriers on the section where the wall is complete so as to give relief for cars to pass.

Mr. Timmins welcomed this suggestion from Cllr. Thomas and in reply to Cllrs. Rabbitte who raised a query regarding the N65, Cllr. K. McHugh who raised a query regarding the N17 and Cllr. Donohue who raised a query regarding tolling at Cappataggle, he said that the NRA will be asked for information in this regard.

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Cllr. Healy referred to his Notice of Motion No. 18 on the Agenda “that Galway County Council indicates its support for Comhairle na nÓg’s “*Lets Go Mental*” regional events for teenagers to promote positive mental health and that Galway County Council will engage in helping people promote this event”. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, and agreed.

Cllr. Charity referred to his proposal that the Council introduce live online streaming of all Council Meetings in future and said that if all of the Members were not in favour of his proposal, it should be voted on.

The Cathaoirleach said that it had been agreed by the Members to suspend Standing Orders in order that the Meeting conclude at 3.30 p.m. and therefore this Notice of Motion could be brought up as an item for discussion at the July Monthly Meeting of Plenary Council.

Cllr. Charity said that the matter was fresh in the minds of the Members at present and if it was deferred to the July Meeting, this would cause a repetition of today’s discussion.

Cllr. Kearney said that as it had been agreed that the meeting conclude at 3.30 p.m., some Members had left the Meeting at that stage.

The Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands on whether the matter should proceed to a vote and the result was as follows:

For: 9

Against: 11

As a result, the Cathaoirleach gave an undertaking that this matter would be dealt with as the first item on the Clár under Cathaoirleach’s Business for the July Meeting.

As it had reached 3.30 pm the Cathaoirleach in accordance with the decision of Council brought the meeting to a close indicating that outstanding motions would be dealt with at the next Council Meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 12 – CLLR. D. KILLILEA

2100

The following reply was given:-

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“Galway County Council through the Roads, Transportation and General Services, Strategic Policy Committee are currently undertaking a review of parking arrangements within the County. The issue of current paid parking arrangements will be considered as part of this review. The matter has already been discussed by the SPC and any recommendations will be brought before Council in due course.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 – CLLR. D. KILLILEA

2101

The following reply was given:-

“The Council is aware of one complaint in this regard and will consider the matter further in consultation with other Local Authorities and appropriate bodies.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 14 – CLLR. J. CHARITY

2102

The following reply was given:-

“The information and audio visual systems now available in the extended Council Chamber can facilitate the broadcast of Council Meetings. In order to introduce same, the installation of additional equipment to enable the broadcast of meeting is required with an estimated cost of €10,000. In addition, it will be necessary to consider a mechanism to ensure compliance with data protection issues associated with the broadcast of meetings, with the potential for additional costs.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 15 – COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

2103

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 16– COMH. S. Ó CUALÁÍN

2104

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

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NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 17 – CLLR. T. WELBY

2105

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 18 – CLLR. T. HEALY

2106

The following reply was given:-

“Noted.”

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.