

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON MONDAY**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

**I LATHAIR**

**Baill:**

Cllr. B. Willers, Chairperson  
Cllr. M. Fahy  
Cllr. P. Feeney  
Cllr. G. Finnerty  
Cllr. P. Hynes  
Cllr. M. Maher  
Cllr. J. McClearn

**Oifigigh**

Mr. U. Finn, S. E. E., Loughrea & Ballinasloe Electoral Area  
Mr. C. Mitchell, E. E., Portumna Engineering Area  
Mr. P. Carroll, A. O. Environment  
Ms. M. Gilchrist, S. O.

**Apologies:**

Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services,  
Mr. John Costello, E. E., Gort Engineering Area

**Presentation: THE BURREN COMMUNITY CHARTER**

Ms. Zena Hctor outlined the background to the Charter and stated the purpose of the presentation is to raise awareness and develop a co-ordinated approach for the management of the Burren Region in North Clare and South Galway. Awareness has been raised through school projects, farmers markets and agricultural shows. 32 Community Groups are making submissions by 23<sup>rd</sup> September and those will be examined by the Management and Advisory Groups and will be on Public Display at the end of October. Meetings will take place at three locations including Gort, following which a Draft Charter will evolve and issue to the Irish Heritage Council for agreement. She said funding will be available and County Development Plans will take cognisance of the Charter.

Cllr. Maher cited the Charter as a very good initiative and suggested the County Development Board as a forum for involvement. He said we need a structure that will fit into National Level and Legislation.

Cllr. Feeney spoke of the uniqueness of the Burren and felt Kinvara should be marketed as its Gateway. He expressed concern that the Charter may have adverse affects on the farming community.

Cllr. Fahy stated that road conditions should be a priority to enhance tourism and Cllr. Willers thanked Ms. Hctor for her enlightening presentation.

## **Deputation: Residents of the Quay – Kinvara**

The Deputation consisting of Ms. Mary Walsh, Ms. Tara Nestor and Ms. Claire Mara outlined the reason for their attendance i.e. (i) to seek the Members support for the Draft Legislation and (ii) to present an information pack on the day-to-day problems experienced by residents on the Quay.

Cllr. Fahy proposed a vote of sympathy to Ms. Walsh on the death of her mother Mrs. Swanick. Cllr. McClearn expressed concern about enforcement of the Bye Laws and considered the authenticity of some of the vehicles pictured may be questionable under the Toad Traffic Acts. Cllr. Finnerty welcomed the Bye Laws but also voiced concern on enforcement. Cllr. Willers complemented the Deputation on their research and informed them that in accordance with standard procedure the matter will be discussed during the course of the meeting.

### **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Maher the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were confirmed.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### Ballinderreen to Kinvara Road

In reply to Cllrs. Finnerty and Feeney Mr. Finn informed the meeting that Road Design are looking after this project and it has gone out to tender.

##### Works at Roo Craughwell

Cllr. Feeney referred to recent works carried out by Iarnród Éireann at Roo and stated he was prevented from allocating monies for works there in the past as it would expose the parapet of the bridge. Cllr. Finnerty agreed that proposals made by Members that are turned down initially may be reversed at a later date and felt the matter needs to be highlighted. Mr. Finn stated that he is unaware of the history in this case but he can have it checked out.

### **2. ROADS: SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANTS SCHEME 2012**

Mr. Finn informed the meeting that submissions were received totalling €4.35 under this Scheme. The total funding received for 2011 was €1.148M and Electoral Area Committees are required to prioritise Schemes in advance of the full Meeting of the Council. He said this particular Grant allows for Land Acquisition and Re-alignment works which are not allowed under the Restoration Improvement Grants Scheme.

The Schemes listed for Specific Improvements Grant for the Loughrea Electoral Area are:

- R351 Loughrea/Woodford Road at Ballinagar
- R360 Church Street Gort
- R347 Athenry Town to Cemetery Cross

Cllr. Fahy and Cllr. Maher noted that the Tuam Electoral Area had submissions of €1.35M as opposed to €800,000 for Loughrea. Cllr. Feeney stated that he was opposed to further funding of Ballinagar and favoured the R347 which he said is completely broken up, has no lighting and is subject to flooding. Cllr. McClearn stated the Council has fenced off lands at Ballinagar that has not yet been paid for. He said the public are very frustrated and find it difficult to contact Road Design. Mr. Finn

stated that all landowners received notification. Some have settled and others are going through the Arbitration Process. He said Ballinagar is a major project of re-alignment and if a section is started it must be completed. Mr. Mitchell stated that ground-works will cost in the region of €500,000. Mr. Finn stated that an application was made to the N.R.A. to move the funding allocated to Ballinagar in the current year to Cloncoe. If however, this application is declined there are still worthwhile works that can be achieved at Ballinagar. He said there is a possibility works on the R347 may be progressed in the current year anyway.

Cllr. Willers asked that a Financial Report on the Ballinagar Project be made available to the Committee and Cllr. Fahy asked that it be available for the next Meeting.

In reply to Cllr. Maher, Mr. Finn stated that €260,000 for Loughrea - Athenry Road is not in his brief and he will clarify same with Sean Breathnach in Road Design.

Cllr. Finnerty said the Road from Super-Value to the Square in Gort is in serious need of repair. Mr. Finn stated that this road could be considered under the Restoration Improvement Grant Scheme also.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. McClearn it was agreed to submit Schemes in the following order for Loughrea Electoral area:

1. R347 Athenry Town to Cemetery Cross
2. R351 Loughrea – Woodford at Ballinagar (allocation for Land Acquisition and Remedial Works)
3. R360 Church Street, Gort

#### **4. A. O. B.**

##### Road at Sonnagh

Cllr. Hynes raised the condition of the road at Sonnagh and said drainage works are required at Mary Kelly's house. Mr. Finn stated that he travelled the road from the junction off the Kilchreest road and that repairs had been carried out in the previous week, however it is noted that there is a stretch of 2 to 3 kilometers in bad repair and requiring a full overlay.

##### N65 at Killimor

Cllr. McClearn referred to a stretch on the N65 from the Bridge into Killimor which is in poor condition. He said Contractors completed works from the Bridge outwards last week and feels the Council is complicating simple procedures with fixed priced contracts.

##### Craughwell to Ardahan Road at Vinegar Bridge

Cllr. Fahy asked if works at the above location scheduled for completion in June will now progress in October as advised by Frank Gilmore D.O.S. Mr. Finn stated that he will examine the matter.

##### Re-Organisation of Roads/Water Services

Cllr. Feeney stated that since the revised operations came into force responsibility for repairs to roads in the Athenry area now lies with the Overseer based in Loughrea. He said that according to the latest Census the population of Athenry is now on a par with Loughrea and what he sees as a diminished service is not good enough. Mr. Finn stated that the Rosco Patcher is engaged to fill potholes and there is no reason why the Athenry area would be left out. He will check out the matter.

### Signage

In reply to Cllr. Finnerty's query regarding Stable Owners wishing to erect a sign, Mr. Finn stated that they can seek permission from the local authority in this regard. He also agreed to check out the position regarding erection of a sign for Killeeneen.

Cllr. Fahy asked if bollards and signs left at Cregclare Cross Roads could be removed.

### **Criochnaigh an Crinniú ansin**