

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING BETWEEN LOUGHREA AREA  
COMMITTEE AND LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS  
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON  
TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008**

**ILATHAIR**

**Baill:**

**Loughrea Area Committee**

Cllr. P. Feeney, Chairman  
Cllr. W. Burke  
Cllr. B. Willers  
Cllr. P. Hynes  
Cllr. M. Fahy  
Cllr. M. Regan  
Cllr. M. Maher

**Loughrea Town Council**

Cllr. M. Gunter-Nix  
Cllr. S. Tully

**Tour of Ireland**

Mr. Jason Callaly, Coordinator of Tour of Ireland  
Mr. David McQuaid, Finish Co-Coordinator  
Mr. Alan Rushton, Race Event Director, Tour of Ireland

**Oifigigh:**

Mr. M. Sheil, A/S.E.E., Loughrea Electoral Area  
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area  
Ms. I. Deeley, Town Clerk, Loughrea Town Council  
Ms. A. Power, S.S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

**TOUR OF IRELAND INTERNATIONAL CYCLE RACE – 27/31<sup>ST</sup>  
AUGUST 2008**

Cllr. Maher thanked the Members for their attendance at the Joint Meeting and introduced Mr. J. Callaly, D. McQuaid and Mr. A. Rushton, organisers of the Tour of Ireland Cycle Race to the Meeting.

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Mr. Rushton stated they were currently planning the 2008 edition of the new Tour of Ireland which was being held in association with Failte Ireland. He said that the race would feature many of the top professional teams in the world and would be full televised in Ireland, Britain, Continental Europe and the U.S.A. He said that they were considering a Stage Finish at Loughrea on the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008, subject to approvals. He said that they had reviewed a possible route and had some suggestions to make which would present the race, Loughrea and the County very well on television. He explained that this was the second year of the new Tour of Ireland which is part-funded by Failte Ireland to showcase Ireland to an international television audience in key tourism markets. He said that the date they proposed to have the stage finish in Loughrea was Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. A DVD presentation was then made to the Meeting.

It was explained that the Cycle Race was a five day race and some of the top professionals in the world were taking part in it. Each day would have a start and finish town and it was being proposed that Loughrea would be the finish town on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008. He said that there were a list of deliverables that they needed to get from the Finish Town as follows:

1. Suitable finish location and finish approach – approx. 800 control barriers would be in place. There are 600 people travelling with the race and a lot of official vehicles and would be looking for parking for all of those vehicles which may mean suspending local parking in the area.
2. Road cleansings/repair (pre and post event)
3. Road closures
4. Strawbales (where applicable)
5. Parking Restrictions (where applicable)
6. Parking requirements
  - (a) Promotional Vehicles (10 vehicles)
  - (b) Media (10 vehicles)
  - (c) Motorcycles (18 vehicles)
  - (d) Garda (14 vehicles)
  - (e) Forward Race Vehicles (10 vehicles)
  - (f) Following Race Vehicles (25 vehicles)
  - (g) Team support vehicles (30 vehicles)
  - (h) Other support vehicles (10 vehicles)
  - (i) TV production vehicles
7. Water Supply (gantry)
8. Power Supply
9. Catering for guests (max 100 persons – Tea/Coffee/Wines/Soft Drinks/Canapes syle food service – they would supply unit for catering)
10. Floral decorations (planters/troughs)
11. Emergency service notifications (fire, hospitals, etc.)
12. Local businesses and parish notifications
13. Local policing
14. Provision of toilets – approx. 4 cubicles (competitors/staff/guests)

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15. Pre-race arrival entertainment – If race was finishing at 3.00 p.m., there would be a lot of activity taking place in the finishing area from 1.00 p.m. onwards. Local entertainment/participation from 1.00 p.m. onwards.
16. Attendance of Civic Dignitary
17. Supply of stewards (20 persons)
18. Overnight parking provisions for contractors
19. Permission to erect advance safety/advisory signage
20. Permission to erect facilities (gantry, crowd control barriers, Public Address, hospitality unit, double decker unit for commissaries, results, TV and race commentator, anti doping unit, finish podium)
21. Media Centre (to accommodate 30 people) with refreshments.

Mr. Rushton explained that the town would be featured editorially and a Press Campaign would be organised. Also a local launch would take place in the town for the Council, Sponsors and local radio and newspapers. That would be launched in early June with the route map. He stated that there would be a lot of helicopter coverage, cameras on motor-bikes etc. He advised that they also put up advisory notices along the route to make people aware of the race. The proposed stage for Loughrea is Stage 2 and the start stage takes place in Thurles. The race would then go northwards. He stated that the deadline for a decision on the finish stage was required within two weeks.

Cllr. Maher thanked them for making the presentation. He said that it was a great opportunity to show-case the town and to high-light how well the town looks following the works on Main Street and would provide great P.R. for the town.

Cllr. Gunter-Nix queried if a local Committee had been set up in other towns? Mr. Rushton stated that in Clonakilty last year it had been very well organised. They ran a number of competitions including a window display competition and it had worked out very well. He asked if a 1/1250 O.S. Map could be made available to them of the area so that they could do an accurate drawing of where the cycle route may go.

Cllr. Regan thanked the Members for their presentation and for considering Loughrea as a finishing point. He asked that they would consider the finish to include 2/3 laps of the town. Mr. Rushton explained that the Regulations had been tightened and it was difficult to do on television and they would have to apply for special permission for that. He stated that they may have a giant screen and they would add a lot to the event. He stated that they would need an indication from the Council if they were in favour before they could take it to the next stage.

On the proposal of Cllr. Regan, seconded by Cllr. Gunter-Nix, the Members agreed to the proposal that Loughrea town be a finish stage as part of the Tour of Ireland Cycle Race 2008 on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Chríochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin**