

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON
TUESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2010**

LLATHAIR

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, D.O.S., Environment & Water Services Unit
Mr. M. Lavelle, S.E., Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. U. Finn, S.E.E. Ballinasloe & Loughrea Electoral Area
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area
Mr. C. Mitchell, E.E., Portumna Engineering Area
Ms. A. Monaghan, S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD
ON 7th SEPTEMBER, 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 7th September, 2010 were confirmed.

Matters Arising

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen advised that a letter had issued to the Promoter asking for clarification as to their proposals for this project and advised that a reply was expected shortly. Mr. Cullen advised that Planning Permission had now expired. Cllr Maher asked as to whether another Company could be asked to take over the offer which had issued to the Promoter. Mr Cullen advised that this would not be possible as the rules of Public Tendering would apply.

Smarter Travel Bid Update

Mr. Lavelle advised that no announcement had been made.

Peterswell National School

Cllr. Fahy asked that a request be made through the Joint Policing Committee to maintain a presence at Peterswell National School to monitor speed limits.

2. Kinvara

Illegal Overnight Parking of Caravans

Mr. Lavelle advised that Michael Owens, Roads and Transportation section had issued a Notice of Public Prohibition Order relating to the Kinvara and Portumna Area. A note regarding same is to issue to all Councillors in the Loughrea Electoral Area.

Update of Footpaths near Arvough Estate

Mr. Lavelle advised that works would be done before end of year. Cllr Feeney recommended prohibiting traffic parking at Junction to alleviate situation. It was agreed to complete works and provide double yellow lines at the area.

3. Gort Inse Guaire

Cllr. Fahy presented and read a from letter from Minister Pat Carey, Department of Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs with regard to his request to change the Irish Name of Gort to Gort Inse Guaire. This correspondence advised making an official case to the Irish Place Names Commission and to follow their processes with regard to changing of names. Cllr. McClearn recommended that Research and a Report be carried out by a local historian and to make this submission to the Place Names Submission. Mr. Lavelle advised that a report is currently being prepared on Irish Place Names in County Galway and is expected to be published in November at which stage the submission would be presented to the Commission for their appraisal and approval.

4. Proposal to reinstate Road Sign “No. HGV’s” at the junction of Kilchreest – Woodville Public Road

Mr. Finn advised that the provision of these signs at various locations are not being enforced by An Garda Siochana as they do not have access to a Weighbridge. Mr. Finn advised that he would look at the issue of re-instating the sign as the presence of same, while not enforceable, would possibly act as a deterrent to HGV Drivers.

5. Any Other Business

Gort Water Supply

Mr. Cullen advised that the new Treatment Plant at Gort was due to be commissioned after HSE Testing. It was agreed that once the main road in Gort had been resurfaced, that an Official Opening would take place.

Kilrickle Group Water Scheme

Mr. Cullen presented a copy of the correspondence that issued to Senator Ciaran Cannon from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government re Kilrickle Group

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Water Scheme. The Correspondence raised a number of Items to be addressed by Galway County Council which would involve the use of scarce resources in the Water Services Department in dealing with same, with no guarantees of an approval following various investigations. It was agreed that the correspondence would be presented to the next Council Meeting for discussion.

Verge Trimming

Mr. Cullen stated that because of lack of funding, the level of Verge Trimming in 2010 had been reduced with the exception of main Junctions.

Maloneys Bend in Ardrahan

Mr. Finn advised that he would assess the plans for this job and would forward same to Lucy Curtis, Road Safety Officer with the NRA for her assessment.

Access Road at Newfort

Mr. Lavelle advised that this road would open within a fortnight.

Athenry IDA Link Road & Traffic Lights at Dunkellin St, Loughrea

It was agreed that an Official Opening of Athenry Link Road would take place on Tuesday, 16th Nov at 11a.m and would be followed by the Official Opening of Traffic Lights at Dunkellin Street, Loughra at 12.15p.m.

Pedestrian Crossing in Athenry

Mr. Lavelle advised that a Design for this Pedestrian Crossing would be prepared by the Roads and Transportation Section Engineering Staff.

Pay and Display

Cllr Fahy queried as to whether monies for Pay and Display could be used to fund Road Works in the Council. Mr. Cullen advised that these monies are ring fenced specifically to pay for the purchase and maintenance of Car Parks in the County. The issue of tickets in certain machines getting stuck with rain was also raised. Mr. Lavelle to look into same.

Potholes

All Councillors raised issues of concern regarding Potholes in the Loughrea Electoral Area ; N66 ; Isserkelly Road ; Crowe Street ; Westbridge ; Castleboy ; Club house at Castledaly ; Path outside temperance hall. Mr. Lavelle advised that funding for repair of potholes was scarce. With regard to Surface Dressing of Roads, the roads for repair were prioritised through Scrim Analysis – which measures skid resistance.

Flooding at Garda Station, Barrack Street

Mr. Finn advised that Ward and Burke Contractors were to come back and to complete same.

Footpaths

Mr. Raftery advised that footpath works were underway..

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Gort Road, Loughrea

To be completed by end November.

Traffic Lights, Loughrea

It was agreed that the Traffic Lights were a welcome addition to the Town, especially with regard to pedestrian safety. However, issues were raised with regard to timing of same and Right of Way of drivers. Mr. Finn advised that Rules of Road to be followed when using Junction and for drivers to proceed with caution.

Gort Flood Report

Mr. Lavelle advised that the report is to be evaluated within Fortnight.

Roads Programme Funding

Cllr. McClearn queried as to whether all funding for 2010 would be spent. Mr. Lavelle stated that while it was envisaged that all monies would be spent, it was generally difficult to manage budgets effectively with allocations not being made known until early March and for all Projects to be completed by end Nov.

Chrochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin