

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON
TUESDAY, 18th JANUARY, 2011**

I LATHAIR

Bail:

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. J. Costelloe, E.E., Gort Engineering 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 9th NOVEMBER, 2011**

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 9th November, were confirmed.

Matters Arising

Loughrea Swimming Pool

Mr. Cullen advised that a letter would issue to the Promoter via Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Corporate Services setting out a Final Date by which the Promoter would inform Galway County Council of his intentions with regard to the Project. This correspondence would also insist that the site be reinstated immediately to its original condition.

Kilrickle Group Water Scheme

Mr. Cullen advised that a response would issue by Mid March to the Department of Heritage and Local Government addressing the issues raised on previous correspondence. Mr. Cullen advised that the response would most likely involve connecting Kilrickle Group Water Scheme to the Loughrea RWSS. This would involve an additional upgrade to the Treatment Plant and choosing a route to Kilrickle. Once this response issues, Mr. Cullen advised that it would then be necessary for the Water Services Department to liaise

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closely with the Group Water Scheme regarding their responsibilities i.e. collection of Local Contribution.

Gort Flooding Report

Mr. Lavelle advised that the Kiltiernan and Ballindereen Reports are available for inspection. The Dunkellin Report to be published by the 7th Feb ; The Kiltartan Report not yet completed. The short-listing for preparation of the EIS is to commence shortly. Mr. Lavelle advised that an update would be given at the next Council Meeting.

Pedestrian Crossing – Athenry

Mr. Finn advised that this Design would be finalised within two weeks at which stage it will be available for inspection.

Flooding at Barrack Street

Mr. Raftery advised that the flooding at this location is not a direct result of works carried out by Ward & Burke Construction. He advised that that they had done the snagging as requested by Galway County Council. The flooding at this location is possibly caused by Surface Water issues. Mr. Raftery to investigate.

2. ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

Following on from the severe weather event in December and January, it was agreed by all that the road have suffered severe damage. Mr. Finn advised that priority was being given firstly to the National Roads, then Regional Roads and then Local Roads. With regard Local Roads, Mr. Finn advised that no allocation had been set aside for this repair work, however, it was expected that one would be forthcoming. With regard National Roads, Mr. Lavelle advised that the NRA had advised that making National Roads safe was to be a priority in 2011. A total of 32 National Roads Projects had been approved informally by the NRA, with the N65 ; N66 and N18 included.

Portumna Engineering Area – Mr. Mitchell advised that all crews were out repairing damage to roads. *The following noted as needing emergency repair - N65 ; Killimor/Ballyduggan Roads.*

Gort Engineering Area – Mr. Costello advised that all crews were out repairing damage to roads and that a Patching was currently working on the N18 between Gort and Kilcolgan. *The following noted as needing emergency repair - The N66 ; Peterswell near school ; Ardrahan ; Moy Road, Killina ; Coxtown Road ; Cemetery near Labane ; Mahonys Hill ; Gardenblake Road.*

Loughrea/Athenry Engineering Area – Mr. Raftery advised that all crews were out repairing damage to roads. *The following noted as needing emergency repair - N65 Ballyduggan ; Castleboy ; Caherlinney Road ; Isserkelly Road ; Kilchreest School to Quarry ; Seefin Road ; Roo ; Srah ; Carrowthomas ; Cahertrim ; Kilnadeema ; Grallagh Boreen ; Trasternagh ; Roxboro ; Ballymanagh to Craughwell ; Killeenagh Road to Kilcolgan.*

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

All Councillors acknowledged the work carried out by the Council staff over the Christmas Period. Mr. Cullen also complimented the efforts of the Administration, Technical, Outdoor Staff and Councillors.

Deputation

Cllr. Maher to bring Deputation to next Meeting. They will discuss their proposal for setting up Water Sports Business on lake.

N18 - Second Access to Gort

Cllr. Hynes raised the possibility of securing Second Access to Gort Town. Mr. Lavelle advised that this would not go ahead. Cllr. Finnerty suggested additional Signage to the Crusheen Exit. This would then act as a second entrance to Gort, along with signposting the Tourism Aspects of this exit – Burren Trail/Kinvara etc.

Verge Trimming

Mr. Lavelle proposed that Verge Trimming be put out to Contract on a countywide basis, which would provide for Verge Trimming at every Junction for 50 metres each side of same. This would give better Value for Money on Verge Trimming Countywide as hourly rates currently used by Area Offices was not economic or efficient. Cllr. McClearn disagreed with this proposal and argued that this was reducing the discretion and autonomy of the local Area Offices.

Ennis Bridge, Athenry

Cllr. Feeney raised the issue of lighting at Ennis Bridge.

Ballyboggan Bridge

Parapets at Ballyboggan Bridge missing. Mr. Raftery to investigate.

Coorheen Cross

It was noted that this was a Collection Point for Refuse Collectors, however unofficial dumping was currently taking place here. Mr. Raftery to investigate.

Flooding at Athenry

It was noted that the River had been realigned, while works were carried out on M6 and Athenry Link Road. This may be contributing to flooding upstream due to the realignment of the street and the loss of floodplain. Mr. Lavelle to liaise with OPW regarding same.

IDA Development

Mr. Lavelle advised that 295 Acres was zoned for this IDA Business Development Park. He advised that 2 out of 7 Sections of the Ring Road were now completed.

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Gort Traffic Management Plan

It was agreed that the Gort Traffic Management Plan would be reviewed with regard to Bolands Lane, Gort. It was discussed with the members to make the lane one-way or make fully pedestrianised. The members commented that parking was the main problem and that business such as the Michael Kennedy Pottery would suffer under a pedestrianised street system. Emergency Services also need to be considered.

Train Service to Ennis/Limerick

The members discussed the Western Rail Service and that the link to Tuam was vital. It was agreed that while uptake of this service appeared limited, that it would be necessary to give time for the new Service to operate and settle in.

Community Involvement Schemes

Cllr. Fahy proposed, seconded by Cllr. McClearn that the Closing Date for inclusion in the Scheme be extended from 24th Jan to the 1st Feb. Mr. Finn to discuss with Mr. Gilmore, Director of Roads and Transportation.

Chrochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin