

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Monday, 23rd May 2022 at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Peter Keaveney
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T. Broderick, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donuhue, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh: Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms L. Keady, Administrative Officer, Ms. U. Ní Eidhín, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Ms. E. Hoffman, Clerical Officer, Mr. P. Scannell, Clerical Officer,

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all Members back to the Council Chamber for the first Plenary Council meeting held in the chamber since the start of the Covid 19 Pandemic in February 2020.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

3967

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25th April 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. O 'Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25th April 2022 were **AGREED**.

In response to a query regarding provision of additional staff resources to deal with the Ukrainian crisis the Chief Executive advised that Galway's County Councils response had been managed from within the existing compliment of staff. He noted the Department had confirmed they will provide some assistance to local authorities to deal with the response.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS **3968**

(a) Minutes of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC held on 8th December 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dolan **SECONDED** by Cllr. O 'Curraoin the minutes of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC held on 8th December 2021 were **AGREED**.

In response to a query regarding Inis Oirr byelaws Mr. Pender advised they would go to Connemara MD in June. He confirmed speed limits would be reviewed in 2022.

In response to a query regarding e-charging points in the county Ms. Ruane confirmed she had received guidance from the Department and LGMA and that a cross directorate team had been established in the Council and was reviewing the documentation presently.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1)(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

3969

The Annual Report 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the Annual Report 2021 in accordance with section 221(1)(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.4 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON COMHAR NA NOILEÁN C.R.T.

3970

Report dated 12th May 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to appoint Comh. Mac an Iomaire to the board of Comhar na nOileán CTR.

ITEM NO.5 TO FIX A DATE & TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PLENARY COUNCIL.

3971

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to convene the Annual Meeting of Plenary Council on Friday 17th June at 3:00pm.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT UNDER SECTION 15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AUDIT COMMITTEE) REGULATIONS 2014.

3972

The Audit Committee Annual Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the Audit Committee 2021 Annual Report under section 15 Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 was **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

3973

Report dated 12th May 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. O 'Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Welby to attend AILG '*Annual Training Conference 2022*' at Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on the 23rd to 24th March 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Welby to attend LAMA '*Spring Training Seminar 2022*' at Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny on the 11th to 12th April 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Comh. O' Curraoin it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. McClearn and Ó Curráoin to attend AILG '*Climate Action – The Role of Local Government*' at on the The Hillgrove Hotel, Co. Monaghan on the 14th May 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Comh. O' Curraoin it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Hoade to attend AILG *Climate Action – The Role of Local Government* at Treacy's West Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on the 12th May 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

3974

Report dated 12th May 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Maher to attend Celtic Conferences, '*Tourism and Digital Marketing*' at The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on the 4th to 6th March 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Comh O 'Curraoin it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. M. Connolly, Welby, Dr. Francis Parsons to attend The Suck Valley Way, '*Rural Regeneration Post Pandemic -The Challenges and Opportunities to Unlocking our Potential*' at the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on 27th to 28th April 2022. (Retrospective Approval)

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAY 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

3975

Report dated 20th May 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. O Cualáin the Management Report – May 2022 in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. McHugh, Ó Cualáin, Mannion, King, Mac an Iomaire, Reddington, Ó Curraoin, McKinstry, Kinane, Carroll, Geraghty, Cuddy, Charity, Hoade, Broderick, Welby, Canning, Cronnelly, Sheridan and Donohue

- Clarification required in the case of a default on the loan where the local authority provides an affordable house to a purchaser securing a mortgage through a commercial lender. Is there a conflict of interest in this case?
- The level of funding Galway County Council received for piers and harbours is disappointing - €356,000 compared to €14m for Donegal.
- Is it possible to do an audit of slipways at our piers and harbours? Often unclear who owns them or who is responsible for them.
- In the County Development Plan it was agreed to draw up a register of rights of ways to piers and harbours in line with a national policy. Is there funding to follow up on that?
- Is there a commencement date for works on Black Weir Pier, Maree?
- To what extent will the increase in costs of road making materials affect the work planned for roads this year? Have we contacted the department for an increase in allocations to cover the increase in costs?
- We are the lowest funded local authority in Ireland. It is a problem for central government to deal with. People are paying LPT for services that they will never get.
- When was the CLÁR scheme last reviewed? It is a concern that one municipal district had no applications while another made up half of applications.
- Clarification on why 11 applicants withdrew from Street Enhancement Scheme 2021.

- If a homeless person refuses an offer of a house in a particular area are they still considered homeless.? While the homeless list exists how can the Council refuse properties for the Repair and Lease scheme in any area.
- There appears to be big backlog in approving and signing off of housing grants
- A roof replacement grant is only €8,000. The price of work has increased drastically in the past 6 months. The grant isn't enough. Can it be increased?
- Clarification required on responsibility of the homeowners and of the Housing Department in relation to maintenance issues that arise in council houses.
- Clarification sought on the Summer Ready Plan on the exact location of toilets. We should also consider installing wheelchair accessible toilets.
- Regarding the recruitment of lifeguards are there issues with the level of pay in Galway County Council? Why isn't there a senior lifeguard?
- Under the LIS there is over €7m worth of roads waiting to be developed. It is not acceptable that people are paying up to €4,000 in development contributions for roads that are not fit for purpose.
- Do HAP tenancies qualify for the Repair and Lease scheme?
- We need to encourage all areas in the county to engage in the Tourism Strategy not just those in on the Wild Atlantic way or Hidden Heartlands.
- Clarification on the type of oil pollution the Draft Oil Pollution Plan relates to.
- What is the €100,000 allocated for in Portumna?
- Important to ensure the advert on public consultation regarding LPT is in clear language to encourage more public participation.
- Acknowledge the work of the Arts Officer and the Assistant Arts Officer bringing "Fidget Feet" to Athenry. We need to promote more of this kind of spectacle.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane

- The Oil Pollution Plan is a coastal oil pollution plan referring to the environmental impact of an oil spill.
- A comprehensive review of water safety is currently under way. The appointment of a full-time Water Safety Officer has already been approved.
- There is no national pay scale recommendation in relation to pay for the lifeguards.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan

- Under the Affordable Housing Scheme if the loanee has a loan with a financial institution then they have a right to the property in the case of a default. The local authority must sign off on it.
- There is a new part to the Affordable Housing Scheme which allows the local authority to retain 20% ownership of a house to reduce costs for the purchaser. It will be launched in next few months.
- The CLÁR programme runs in the areas of the county with the biggest amount of depopulation from 1940 -1950 onwards. It is reviewed every 10 years and examines depopulation from the last census. It is based on depopulation.
- There are a number of reasons the SES did not progress in some cases. Some applicants withdrew because they could not complete the work themselves or they could not get people to do work.
- Regarding the Repair and Lease scheme the council take on a property for 10 years, a tenant is assigned to the property and the owner gets a grant up to €60,000 to repair the house before occupation. The tenant is a council tenant. A person availing of HAP is not a council tenant. They negotiate directly with the landowner in private market. They remain on housing list.
- Depending on their circumstances of a person in homelessness we don't make an offer if they need to refuse it because of particular services they may require eg a child attending a special school or TUSLA involvement etc.
- Staff are getting through all housing loans and grant applications. The biggest cause of delay is due to insufficient information being provided by the applicants. For the payment of grants we are often awaiting paperwork from the successful applicants.
- Grant funding is limited but applications are accepted and prioritised.
- The Tenancy Handbook was approved by SPC last July and circulated to members in September.
- It is important that all areas are involved in the Tourism Strategy. All areas will be included to give a flavour of different offerings available around the county.
- The project in Portumna involves upgrading the Portumna Forest Park Walk. The town and village money is the Council's contribution to improving the

streetscape and signage linking the town to the park. The project is a joint venture involving Waterways Ireland and Coillte.

- Applications for the Repair & Lease Scheme have been turned down sometimes because the number of existing properties we have in an area, or because we are planning to build in the area means they are not required. Sometimes the amount of work required on a Repair and Lease house means it is better to leave it if we have our own build programme in the area.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender

- Public ownership is a requirement for the piers and harbours funding. No money will be spent unless piers and harbours are in public ownership.
- A provisional audit of the piers and harbours infrastructure was carried out. The list is broken into short term, medium term and long term schemes. The piers and harbours that received the recent funding came from that list. There may be second round of funding later in the year.
- In terms of LIS it is hoped a second round of funding will be allocated later in the summer. Acknowledge that with current level of funding it will take 4-5 years to get to bottom of LIS list.
- Clear notification will be given to Members at Municipal District prior to commencement of works on all piers and harbours.
- The increase in costs of roads making material due to inflation appear very high at 35%. The increases have been trending in this direction in the past two years. These increases were anticipated and taken into account. It does not mean a reduction in work by 35%.
- It would be a worthwhile exercise to carry out an audit of access to all beaches. Once such a list is created, we need to find funding to carry out works.

Members queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive

- Regarding wheelchair access to beaches, we need to show leadership in terms of access for people with disabilities. It is important the council builds on what has been done in terms of public access in other parts of society.
- The cost of inflation will have an impact on our finances in the current year. It hasn't really impacted to date as we haven't incurred full expenditure. Galway

County Council should not expect a bail out from the government because every local authority will be in the same place. We will still need to operate within the adopted budget.

- Galway County Council's financial issues are due to a fundamental underfunding of the baseline compared to similar local authorities. The size of the correction needed is much bigger than inflationary costs.
- Every opportunity has been used to brief Ministers. Our case is overwhelming, and the feedback acknowledges we are a case that will have to be dealt with. The current review of LPT and review of the funding mechanism is the most likely opportunity for a correction.
- The Head of Finance will take on board the comments regarding public notice on LPT consultation.

**ITEM NO.10 TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORTS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2022, INCLUDING FOR THE
PERIOD ENDING MARCH 2022.**

3976

Report dated 17th May 2022 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy the Financial Report on the accounts of Galway County Council for the year 2022, including for the period ending March 2022 was **NOTED**.

Mr. McGovern advised the outturn for Q1 showed a loss of €92. This was in line with expectations. He highlighted the two-areas which accounted for a third of expenditure -Housing & Building and Road Transport and Safety. He noted the main variance in relation to Housing and Building was within the area of the maintenance of local authority housing units where the expenditure for voids and energy efficiencies are charged to the revenue account. He advised a percentage of the expenditure would be recouped from the Department. He noted income was broadly as expected at the end of March.

In Roads Transport and Safety he noted the main variance related to Regional and Local roads where works are traditionally completed in Q2 and Q3. He advised the

position was consistent with Q1 in previous years and expected to be back on target by the end of Q3.

The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs McHugh, Sheridan, Cuddy and Charity

- Parking revenue can be increased by improving the convenience of paying for parking. We need to examine other ways of making it more convenient eg an e-parking app which is a cashless parking system used in other local authorities such as Tipperary.
- Do the accounts include the omission of rates income in respect of the Derrybrien windfarm? What is the policy in relation to the site in the year ahead which will still be viable but not in use? Will it be de-rated?
- How much of €26m on the Capital Account is assigned or discretionary.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr Pender:

- Rollout of new pay and display units throughout the county has gone to tender. The package being procured includes coins and 'tap and go' functions. The package has the capacity to add a text function at a later stage if required.

Members queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:

- Any future changes regarding the rates income from the Derrybrien site would not be reflected in the accounts for Q1. We will potentially incur a loss on the rates income from Derrybrien at some stage but the situation regarding de-rating the site will require consideration. The policy is to maximise all legitimate sources of rates income.
- The vast amount of the €26m on the Capital Account is assigned. e.g. Ballinasloe Landfill and major roads works programmes such as the Moycullen Bypass also go through the Capital account. Significant match funding will be needed to support the Urban and Village Renewal Programme and the delivery of recreation and amenity objectives.

ITEM NO.11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 3977

The following items of correspondence which were published on the extranet prior to the meeting were **NOTED**:

- Letter dated 25.01.22 to Minister for Rural and Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Resolution – Epilepsy Ireland.
- Letter dated 05.05.22 from Minister for Rural and Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Response - Epilepsy Ireland.
- Letter dated 06.04.22 to Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue T.D. Resolution - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.
- Email dated 09.05.22 from Alex Costello, Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance. Response - Low-Cost fees for OAP's.
- Letter dated 06.04.22 to Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke T.D. Resolution - Proposed Zoning Changes.
- Letter dated 26.04.22 from Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke T.D. Response - Proposed Zoning Changes.
- Letter dated 27.04.22 to Minister for Rural and Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D. Resolution – Second Allocation under Local Improvement Scheme.
- Email dated 03.05.22 from Damien Griffin, Private Secretary to Heather Humphreys T.D. Acknowledgement - Second Allocation under Local Improvement Scheme.
- Email dated 06.05.22 from Damien Griffin, Private Secretary to Heather Humphreys T.D. Response - Second Allocation under Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter dated 27.04.22 to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications & Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Resolution – The abrupt ban of sale of turf.
- Letter dated 27.04.22 to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications & Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. Resolution – Ban of sale of turf.
- Letter dated 27.04.22 to Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. Resolution – Operation of the Derrybrien Windfarm.
- Letter dated 03.05.22 from Celine McEvoy, Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach. Acknowledgement - Operation of the Derrybrien Windfarm.
- Letter dated 27.04.22 to M. Owens, DOS and J. Brann, Meetings Administrator. Resolution – Hybrid Meetings.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash – April 2022
- Letter dated 26.04.22 from Wexford County Council. Resolution – Procurement process for Supervisory Body of Electrical Contractors.
- Letter dated 26.04.22 from Wexford County Council. Resolution – Financial assistance for removal of asbestos.

ITEM NO.12 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3978

The Cathaoirleach informed Members that the Mayoral Ball in aid of Galway Hospice will be held in the Ard Ri Hotel Tuam on the 11th June.

The following queries and points were raised by Cllr. Collins, Thomas, Hoade, Mannion, Carroll, Charity, McHugh, McKinstry, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Herterich Quinn, Kinane, Geraghty, Connolly, Broderick, Reddington, Murphy and Donohue

- The removal of the Extension of Duration of planning permission on economic grounds is a serious issue for individuals building one off builds in the county. Request clarification on what constitutes substantial works in respect of Extension of Duration of planning permission. Is there a monetary value?
- There is a lot of confusion regarding the grounds for applying for an Extension of Duration. Clear guidelines are needed.
- Many applicants relying on applying for an Extension of Duration may find money spent on their planning applications was wasted. Is there a way of informing applicants of this change in policy?
- The lack of investment in wastewater infrastructure in our county is a major concern. It is disappointing that investment is being directed to larger towns. Without the infrastructure in place, small towns and villages cannot grow or develop. It will affect the County Development Plan objectives in terms of housing delivery.
- Illegal parking is a serious issue. A small minority of people cause huge problems for wheelchair users, parents with buggies and elderly people.
- We need a public campaign to highlight parking regulations. The Council have spent a lot on installing bollards to prevent illegal parking.
- Disabled parking spaces are put in place in particular location to improve accessibility. Illegal parking, illegal use of disks together with a lack of enforcement is a huge problem.
- Gardaí have a role to play. A combined effort by Community Wardens and Gardaí is required to deter people from illegally parking. The issue will be raised at JPC.

- Request an update on the resumption of pre-planning meetings.
- There is an onus on planning agents to provide advice and information to planning applicants. There should be no requirement for every applicant to have a pre-planning meeting.
- Are there plans to update planning agents on changes in the new County Development Plan.
- In many cases a pre planning meeting is requested to answer a simple question.
- Is there a timeframe for a departmental response to notion of motion correspondence?
- Note the announcement of €250,000 funding for New "Breeder's Choice" Series in the Irish Agricultural Show scene. Farmers should be encouraged to attend these types of shows aimed at showcasing the best of beef breeding heifers.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender:

- Illegal parking occurs everywhere. We don't have the resources to cover every street but when Community Wardens come across it, it is acted on very quickly.
- The Gardai also have a role to play in this regard.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens

- There has been a recent change in criteria regarding Extension of Duration on planning permissions. Following the economic downturn an Extension of Duration could be sought if an applicant could show they were not in a position financially to commence works. This ended last year. Currently there are two grounds on which an applicant may apply for an Extension of Duration. The first is an extension for a period of 5 years and requires criteria to be met including substantial works to be completed on site. This is assessed on a case-by-case basis. A site visit is carried out and the extent of works undertaken assessed. It is open to the applicant or agent to submit documents to show the costs involved. On the basis of the site visit and the documentation submitted with the application an informed decision can be made. The second relates to the impact of Covid 19. Provision was made in legislation allowing for an Extension of Duration on planning permission up to 31st December 2023 where the

development was impacted by Covid and meets the related criteria. There is no discretion in relation to that date.

- It is difficult to put an exact financial figure on what constitutes substantial works. Substantial works are relative to the size and scale of the overall development. Expenditure of €30,000 on a one-off rural house may be considered substantial but on a larger development it would not. Each application is decided on a case-to-case basis.
- There is no date for the resumption of pre-planning meetings. Without a full complement of planners in the planning function it will be difficult to resume pre-planning meetings. Interviews were held for planners, but all vacant positions were not filled due to insufficient number of applicants – Galway County Council are competing with other local authorities to attract staff.
- To facilitate online, phone or in person meetings a planner familiar with the site has to advise. The time resource also has to be considered. Currently the planners' priority is in relation to the statutory timeframe of decisions on planning applications.
- Planning Agents will be briefed on the changes in the County Development Plan. Following the period for the possible issue of a recommendation to the Minister by the OPR (4 weeks from the making of the Plan) a suitable date will be scheduled for a briefing for Planning Agents.
- It was noted that June is going to be a demanding month for the Planning Unit with the continued roll out of our next phase for our E-Planning pilot project to include public submissions and Part 8 applications and the transition from the current CDP to the new CDP 2022 – 2028.
- The timeframe for a departmental response to notion of motion correspondence is at the discretion of the relevant Minister.

Members queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive

- Illegal parking, particularly illegal parking in disabled parking spaces is socially unacceptable. Higher fines would be welcome but the local authority has no discretion on fines as they are set at statutory level.

- More Community Wardens are required for enforcement, but we can only employ the number of people we can afford to pay. It comes back to the level of funding available to the local authority.
- A review of disabled parking spaces around the county will be carried out to ensure, that within available resources, they are properly signed and marked out. There is no excuse for people saying they are not aware a space is a disabled parking space.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly the Members **AGREED**:

'That Galway County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D. asking that consideration be given to a feed in tariff for private home-owners that have solar panels fitted to their homes and that the standing charge be waived.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac an Iomaire the Members **AGREED**:

'That's Galway County Council do an audit of slipways in County Galway to ascertain clear ownership of the slipways. There are some slipways which are in extremely dangerous condition and its vital to ascertain who owns these slipways.'

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Mac an Iomaire:

'That roads that are repaired under LIS scheme should be taken in charge by the local Council in County Galway and all over Ireland'

Mr. Pender advised Members that the Department made it clear that the LIS is not to be used as a mechanism for taking roads in charge. It is a condition attached to the drawdown of LIS funds. A declaration is signed to confirm compliance.

The Chief Executive advised Members that to pass a resolution to take all LIS roads in charge may endanger funding for future LIS. He advised Members that the taking charge of a road and LIS are two very different schemes. Taking in Charge is a reserved function and follows a separate procedure unrelated to LIS.

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Murphy:

'That Craughwell be prioritised by the relevant section of this local authority in any application for funding, for the provision of wastewater treatment facilities in unserviced towns and villages. Craughwell is Galway's largest unserviced settlement and is a suitable candidate village for the recently announced €50 million pilot scheme for wastewater services in unserviced villages.'

Cllr. Murphy acknowledged that development was being hampered in other areas of the county due to a lack of wastewater treatment facilities. He stressed that Craughwell should be prioritised as it was Galway's largest unserviced settlement. He said development had already taken place in Craughwell and noted the pollution of the Dunkellin river which needed to be addressed urgently.

Members raised concerns that one settlement center would be prioritised over others. It was stressed the real problem was inadequate funding for the county. It was considered that by asking for funding for one settlement center other area were not as important. The Council should request funding for the whole county.

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the Members **AGREED**:

'that Galway Co. Co. would contact TII to request that they carry out an information campaign nationally to inform drivers that they need to be parked over the sensors at all smart traffic lights in order for the lights to recognise there is a vehicle at the lights.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane the Members **AGREED**:

'That Galway County Council put the relevant sustainable development goal number and description on all our documentation going forward in a concerted effort to raise awareness, to everyone we engage with, of the importance of their implementation to protect, restore and promote the sustainability of our planet.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity the Members **AGREED**:

'That all disabled parking spaces be identified clearly with the striking blue paint throughout the County of Galway as a matter of urgency.'

In response to a query regarding the cost of implementing the resolution the Chief Executive advised that any resolution passed was depended on the resources available.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney the Members **AGREED**:

'That Galway Co. Co. provide a Civic Reception after the June Plenary meeting to honour the fantastic work done on behalf of the whole country in steering us safely through Covid. Our Deputy CMO Dr. Ronan Glynn is a Galway native and would be a worthy recipient of a Civic Reception by the Council.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly the Members **AGREED**:

'That Galway County Council call on the Department of Community and Rural Development to review and extend the eligible Clár scheme areas for County Galway, and particularly the inclusion of areas in the Athenry-Oranmore, Tuam, Loughrea and Connemara Municipal areas that are excluded from the Clár scheme presently.'

ITEM NO.13 NOTICE OF MOTION

3979

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Kinane the Members **AGREED**:

"that Galway County Council writes to our colleagues in all other Local Authorities and informs them of the recent decision by Galway City and County Councils to support and endorse the rollout of the Public Recognition Marker (PRM) for the LGBTQI+ Community.

In doing so, I call upon all local authorities to work with their respective LGBTQI+ Community Leaders in advocating for the same."

ITEM NO.14 NOTICE OF MOTION

3980

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly **SECONDED** by Ó'Curraoin the Members **AGREED**:

"that Galway County Council calls on the Minister of Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD and the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Catherine Martin TD, to find a solution which would allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports and requests the introduction of a pilot scheme for artists with disabilities, to co-exist for the duration of the Basic Income for Artists pilot scheme, which would remove the weekly earnings limit & means test from those in receipt of disability supports."

ITEM NO.15 NOTICE OF MOTION

3981

Cllr. Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

"that in the absence of any recreational amenities in Oranhill Estate, Galway County Council allocate funding sourced from the County Council Development Contribution Scheme to the Oranhill Property Management Company to cover the costs of undertaking the necessary remedial works required, to provide an adequate playing space for the children to use in Oranhill."

I believe this is the minimum first step required in addressing the non-existence of recreational space and amenities in the Oranhill Estate.'

The following reply issued:

"The Council recognises the importance and value of high quality accessible public open space including provision for a mix of uses including provision for outdoor sport, play and relaxation. The importance of providing high quality public open space in proximity to where people live, and work is also recognised and accordingly the benefits of providing recreational amenities for communities including the growth areas of Oranmore and Oranhill is acknowledged.

The allocation of public funds derived from the Development Contribution Scheme must be informed by the policies and priorities of Council as detailed in the County Development Plan and related plans and strategies including the 3 Year Capital Programme. The allocation of public funds must also be on the basis that affords

equal access through an open and transparent process guided by policies and schemes that provide clarity in relation to eligibility and award criteria that supports projects of appropriate priority, universal value, represent value for money and support quality outcomes.”

Following a request by Cllr. Kinane, Mr. Owens agreed to facilitate a meeting with the representative group of Oranhill Estate. Regarding amendments to the Development Contribution Scheme, Mr Owens advised that the Development Contribution Scheme is a reserved function and noted Members can make amendments and include levies for different areas. The scheme will be included as part of the works programme for the second part of the year.

Cllr. Geraghty raised concerns about the supports provided to the Tourism Officer in Galway County compared to Roscommon County Council. In response Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council's Tourism Officer had the same resources available as Roscommon in terms of administrative backup and local development companies supports.

Cllr. McKinstry queried the timeline regarding the introduction of hybrid meetings, In response Mr Owens advised that a contract was now in place and suppliers had advised the technology will be in place in the next month. He noted the Standing Orders had been reviewed and a draft would be presented at the next CPG meeting.

ITEM NO.16 VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

3982

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Patrick Faherty, Doire Locháin Thiar, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Eamon Madden, Rahard, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Bridie Finn, Cullairbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Pat Raftery and Family, Moate, Creggs, Co. Galway
- The Divilly Family, Scregg East, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Luke and Bridget Whyte and Family, Cloonkeen, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Paddy McHugh and Family, Croaghhill, Williamstown, Co. Galway
- Grace Deane, Corralough, Williamstown, Co. Galway

- M.J. O Dea, Cregcarragh, Cregmore, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Sten Pears, Lackaghmore, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Walter King, Rooaunmore, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Patsy Gallagher, Derrybrien, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Teresa Gardiner, Moneen West, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
- Sarah McDonagh Lucey, Kylebroghlan, Moycullen, Co. Galway
- Máirtín & Brenda Úí Chonghaile, Bothúna, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Mary Greaney, Carheens, Headford, Co. Galway
- Gerald, Geraldine, Declan O'Donoghue, Claran, Headford Co. Galway
- Gerard Molloy, Slieverue, Headford, Co Galway
- Neil and Calum Fraser, Carnacrow, Headford, Co. Galway
- Mary Lally, Cregcarragh, Claregalway, Co. Galway

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach: Michael Mohee

Date: 27/6/2022