

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Held at THE ORANMORE LODGE HOTEL, ORANMORE

Monday, 20th MAY 2024 at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Cathaoirleach Carroll
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P.J. Murphy, Dr. E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar líne:

Oifigh: Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Ms. E. Keaveney, Administrative Officer, Ms. C. Walsh, Staff Officer, Ms. H. Riordan, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

4340

Members raised the following points and queries:

- An update on webcasting via Teams was sought.
- There is a shortfall of €4 million to achieve what is required under the roads programme.
- It was enquired when the Elected Members will be informed of the successful applicants for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).
- A request that the notification on the CIS scheme would include the relevant townland and address of the application.
- If CIS applications made in 2024 unsuccessful due to funding will be considered in 2025.
- Additional funding is needed for the CIS scheme.
- The response to Notice of Motion 10 was welcomed.
- If the Health Service Executive (HSE) have agreed to sell the properties in Gort, that was raised at the April meeting.
- The response to NOM 17 from the April meeting regarding unfunded balances, was very broad. It was asked what the core unfunded balances that were spent without initially identifying a job code.
- Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances (IPB) handling of claims was questioned.
- A policy for vehicles damaged by potholes was called for.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:

- The Council is examining the use of Teams for sharing the meetings online in advance of the finalisation of the Digital Strategy.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- The CIS is a 2 year scheme. Where an application is not considered in the current scheme, a new application may be made under the 2026 scheme.

- It would be more appropriate to discuss the scheme at Municipal District (MD) level.
- He will ensure a list of successful CIS applications is provided to the Elected Members.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. O'Connor:

- Finance are working with the roads and housing directorates to clear the majority of unfunded balances.
- Unfunded balances will need to be funded through the revenue account.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- The historical figure of money spent without being allocated to a job code was requested.
- If the requirement to re-apply under the CIS is a statutory requirement.
- How a decision is made to determine if the Council are negligent where vehicles are damaged on roads. If there consultation between IPB and the Council.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- It is necessary to reapply under the CIS as circumstances change.
- If a person is not satisfied with the decision of IPB there are provisions for the matter to proceed to court.

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

- A request for additional roads funding has been made to the department and the indication is that it has been positively received. Members will be notified as soon as a response is received from the Department.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the amended minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 22nd April 2024 were **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4341

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 15th April 2024 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC Meeting held on 15th December 2023 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC Meeting held on 26th February 2024 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Roche **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Curraoin the minutes of the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC Meeting held on 28th February 2024 were **NOTED**.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- An urgent request was made regarding the dangerous junction on the N84 at Corrandulla. The road services 2 MDs Tuam and Athenry / Oranmore.
- The dangerous junction at Grange on the N84 was also highlighted.
- A traffic audit was called for on the N84 at the Cloghanower and Grange junctions. Right hand turn ghost lanes are needed. If the road is not realigned, then works must be carried out to make the junctions safe.
- There is a land bank on the left of the N84 that could be used to create a filter lane.
- When will the speed limit review come before the Elected Members.
- A Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) office is needed in Galway.

- Speed limits need to be enforced.
- A clinic similar to the one created for liaison with Uisce Éireann is required for TII to discuss issues and make representations to be made to.
- The N59 between Roscahill and Oughterard and at Magherabeg need addressing.
- Clarification was sought on the role of Elected Members and speed limit reviews.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- Upgrades have been carried out on the N84 including road signs and double yellow lines. He will discuss the issues with the TII.
- The speed limit national review is on the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) agenda.
- Guidelines have been received, all 80km/h roads will reduce to 60km/h, except where the road meets certain criteria; 5.5m in width, centre road marking and at least 3km in length. Only a small number of roads will meet this criteria.
- A workshop will take place next week including all the relevant parties including Local Authorities and Gardaí, to discuss the change in speed limits.
- The procedure to change speed limits lie in the Road Traffic Act which does not have a provision to amend limits. Discussions on draft bye laws between Elected Members and the Executive should be carried out at the early stage.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 37E (4)(5)(6) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) ON THE STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION ABP REFERENCE 315469 SUBMITTED TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA BY LAURCLAVAGH LIMITED TO DEVELOP 8 WIND TURBINES AND SPECIFIED ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWNLANDS OF LAURCLAVAGH, CAHERMORRIS, CLUIDREVAGH, KILCURRIV EIGHTER, BUNNAHEVELLY

**MORE, POLLACOSSAUN OUGHTER, KILCURRIVARD AND BALLYNACREG
NORTH.** **4342**

The report on the Strategic Infrastructure Development application ABP Reference 315469 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan introduced the item. He referred to the report that was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting and the presentation that was given to the Members of the MD. He informed the Members that they may make submissions to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and that it was open to them to add an addendum to the report. Elected Members have until 11am Tuesday 21st May to make their submissions.

Ms. Loughnane gave a presentation on the item. An application was made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for 8 wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 185 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 163 metres and hub height of 103.5 metres and associated foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas. She detailed the works associated with the construction of the wind turbines and the site location. The concerns, community gain and environmental considerations were outlined. The closing date for submissions to ABP was 10th May 2024. The Chief Executive's Report will be completed setting out the view of the planning authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the authority. The completed report will then be submitted to the Members of Galway County Council to seek their views on the proposed development. The Members may, by resolution, decide to attach recommendations to this report. The final report is required to be with An Bord Pleanála on 23rd May 2023.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- The joint submission from all Elected Members stating that they are not in favour of the proposed development was acknowledged.
- At 5,000 pages, 4 weeks was not long enough to go through the report fully.
- The local community groups work was commended.

- It was questioned how the development could go ahead without a grid connection.
- The road to the proposed windfarm was only a small country road.
- The area is not suitable for a windfarm.
- Concern was voiced at the potential risk to potable water in north Galway.
- The negative visual and heritage impact on Knockma was highlighted.
- There was concern on the impact the proposed development has had on the local community.
- The effect of blasting needs to be addressed.
- The exit onto a national primary road raised concern.
- Safety concerns were raised with Heavy Goods Vehicles on the now downgraded N17. The Council are in receipt of less maintenance funding.
- It was asked who will fund the fixing of the road.
- The government windfarm guidelines need to be updated as they are severely outdated.
- The area was outlined as unsuitable for this type of development in the County Development Plan (CDP).
- Off shore windfarms should be utilised rather than terrestrial windfarms.
- The Chief Executive was asked to follow up on reports of payments being made in relation to the planning application and to include it in the report to An Bord Pleanála.
- Some landowners that have signed up are trying to break the contract.
- There is no animosity within the community.
- Payments are standard practice where rights of way or land lease/purchase is involved.

Cllr. Killilea read the following from the Corofin Belclare Wind Action Group regarding the proposed wind farm at Laurclavagh.

'The committee on behalf of the residents of the communities of Belclare, Corofin, Clough, Caherlea, Cummer, Cluide, Cahermorris, Glenrevagh and the New Line living in the vicinity of the proposed development site of an industrial wind farm power plant at Laurclavagh wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Councillors for both their personal and collective support of the community in

making both personal and collective representations against the proposed development to An Bord Pleanála.

The proposed wind farm has caused significant anxiety and distress to the local community which is evidenced by the strong opposition and high number of submissions against the proposal to An Bord Pleanála.

The Community have been heartened by the support and solidarity shown by individual Councillors who took the time to connect with the Community Wind Action Group and who we know met with many local residents to hear their concerns. ár mbuíochas o chroí.'

Mr. Hanrahan reminded the Elected Members to make their submission by 11am the following day. Submissions have been received from the roads department. He thanked the Elected Members from the Tuam MD and acknowledged the amount of work undertaken by planners Ms. O'Doherty and Ms. Loughnane.

The Chief Executive stated that ABP are the competent authority for decision-making on the application. The Board will take local, regional and national planning policy into account in making their decision. We must comply with the policies and objectives of the current Galway County Development Plan. The Government Windfarm guidelines for windfarm development need to be updated as quickly as possible. He thanked all involved for the work in compiling the report. Regarding payments, he said that if any impropriety is brought to his attention then he will hand it to the appropriate authority, the Gardaí.

**ITEM NO. 4 TO FIX A DATE AND TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
PLENARY COUNCIL.**

4343

Following a discussion, it was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of Plenary Council on Friday 21st June in Áras an Chontae at 9 a.m.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT MINOR AMENDMENTS (TO CLARIFY THE TENANT IN SITU SCHEME ETC.) TO THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2009 AND THE SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION REGULATIONS 2011 (S.I. NO. 198 OF 2011) AS AMENDED.

4344

Proposed amendments to clarify the Tenant in Situ Scheme in the Housing Allocation Scheme 2024 were published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh Farag **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty it was **AGREED** to adopt the amendments to the Galway County Council Housing Allocation Scheme in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (miscellaneous provisions) Act 2009 and the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (s.i. no. 198 of 2011) as amended.

Ms. Kilcoyne introduced the proposed changes to the Tenant in Situ Scheme, explaining that they were required due to a technical issue arising from a legal perspective. The amendments, if approved will allow the completion of the acquisition of houses that are currently at sale agreed stage under tenant in situ scheme, to enable the Clients concerned in becoming social housing tenants. It will also facilitate the purchase of future homes under this initiative.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- It was asked if the residence of a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) recipient from Galway City, living in County Galway, only on the Galway City Housing Waiting List, could be sold.
- It was queried why 'HAP' had been removed from point 2.1.
- It was asked if the properties were required to meet a minimum standard.
- Would the Council purchase the house if it was not up to standard.
- If a property could be purchased where a Notice to Quit exists.

- If a house passes a HAP inspection, it was queried why another inspection required to purchase the same property.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Kilcoyne:

- The City HAP tenant living in County Galway would fall under the Trans Boundary Scheme. The house may be sold.
- Regarding 2.1, she clarified that it related only to the allocation of a Council owned property.
- The property must meet the needs of the client without major adjustments being required.
- The Council would not purchase a house that was not up to standard.
- The Department require an up-to-date structural survey to be carried out before a house is purchased.

**ITEM NO. 6 REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION OF BODIES
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 141 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001
(AS AMENDED BY SECTION 53 OF THE 2014 ACT).** **4345**

Report dated 16th May 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty it was **AGREED** to approve reports on the activities and operation of the following bodies in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 Act (as amended by section 53 of the 2014 act) for the period June 2023 to May 2024 inclusive:

- (a) Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
- (b) Northern & Western Regional Assembly
- (c) Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.
- (d) Association of Irish Local Government
- (e) Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly it was **AGREED** to approve reports on the activities and operation of the following bodies in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 Act (as amended by section 53 of the 2014 act) for the period June 2023 to May 2024 inclusive:

- (f) Loughrea Heritage Committee
- (g) Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee
- (h) Western Inter-County Rail Committee
- (i) Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board
- (j) Regional Health Forum Representation, West

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Mac An Iomaire **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to approve reports on the activities and operation of the following bodies in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 Act (as amended by section 53 of the 2014 act) for the period June 2023 to May 2024 inclusive:

- (k) Galway Rural Development Company
- (l) Forum Conamara Ltd.
- (m) Comhar na nOileán Teoranta
- (n) Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway
- (o) Údarás na Gaeltachta

Cllr. Maher thanked the Members of the Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board for their invaluable work.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAY 2024 IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT
2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4346

Report dated 13th May 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Management Report – May 2024, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Were Gort or Loughrea considered under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF).
- If it could be considered to reduce the speed limit outside every rural school to 30km/p under the Speed Limit Review.
- A motion was submitted in 2019 to lower speed limits to 30km/p, it was asked why this has not been actioned on.
- Pedestrian crossings and School Wardens are required at schools.
- The Loughrea Municipal District (MD) are willing to take part in a trial for reducing speed limits outside schools.
- Newbridge, Ballaghlea and Ballygar National Schools require pedestrian crossings, walk overs or tunnel. They currently must cross a main road to access playing facilities.
- When will speed limit review be completed.
- Extra enforcement staff were welcomed.
- The benefit of the Action Tuam for Businesses was highlighted. The next event will be held on 22nd of May.
- €250,000 of funding received by Maree Community Centre was welcomed. Gratitude was expressed to the local community for their work on the application.
- If the Tuam Town Hall project will receive a top up in funding.
- The Shambles project in Tuam requires funding of €3m.
- The Director was thanked for addressing the flooding problems in the infant section of Tuam graveyard.
- The waiting time for housing tenants to have maintenance issued addressed was raised.
- Additional funding was received for housing maintenance. Will more staff be employed to provide a maintenance team for each MD.
- The Local Improvement Scheme LIS is re-opening on 31st May. Are applications being added to the list.
- If the priority on the LIS scheme is to clear the older applications first and then prioritise the new applications.

- Thanks was expressed to the Community Wardens for their work and involvement in spring cleans.
- Recognition was given to the Town Centre First funding received for Headford.
- The outdoor staff of the Council were complimented.
- The planning permission rate of 81% by Galway County Council over the last 5 years is a testament to the planning section.
- Ballinasloe were not listed as being in receipt of funding from the Community Recognition Fund.
- A feasibility study is required for the provision of outdoor accessible swimming in the River Suck.
- If buoys could be provided in non-Council owned swimming areas.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- The focus of the LIS will be on local roads. The Road Traffic Bill is currently going through the Dáil. There will be a significant signage programme to be deployed as part of the speed limit review. The limit on national roads will go from 100kmp to 80kmp early next year.
- We expect guidance from the Department next year on the speed limits in urban areas, town centres and schools.
- It is important that the new limits are applied in a consistent manner.
- A lot of progress has been achieved in recent years; villages that never had a speed limit now do.
- The LIS allocation of €1.8m was received in the last two weeks, €250,000 has been ringfenced for the Islands.
- We are currently working through the current list.
- A notice will be placed in the newspapers advertising that the scheme will be opening on 31st May and closing on 9th August.
- Applicants will only need to re-apply if they did not meet the requirements of the previous scheme. The changes in the herd number requirement, may now make certain applicants eligible.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Kilcoyne:

- For the Members to inform her of any specific maintenance issues that they have.
- There are certain maintenance matters that are the responsibility of the tenant.
- She acknowledged that the lack of staff in the maintenance section is an issue.
- She will revert to the Members regarding the establishing of 5 MD maintenance teams.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Mr. Hanrahan:

- Gort is not eligible for the URDF scheme as it does not meet the criteria of having a population more than 10,000 or sustain 2,500 jobs in the town.
- The Part 8 is ready for "The Shambles" project in Tuam.
- The Community Recognition funding for Ballinasloe is being discussed with the Department.
- Funding of almost €50,000 is being sought under the Outdoor Recreation Fund for Ballinasloe. He will discuss with the new Director.
- The matter of the water safety buoys will be referred to the Water Safety Officer.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Speed ramps are more efficient than speed limit signs in reducing speed.
- It was asked which works will be carried out under LIS this year and what the criteria for the current scheme is.
- Will the speed limit review at schools apply to both urban and rural schools.
- Would a property on an LIS road qualify for the Croí Cónaithe grant.
- A request was made that the criteria for eligibility for the LIS scheme be circulated to Members. To include the consequences of it on the Taking in Charge of a road.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn:

- Eligibility for LIS previously required there be two landowners with herd numbers, this has been reduced to one landowner.
- Engineers will access the most appropriate method for reducing speed.
- The speed limit review outside schools will include rural schools.
- A lot of schools will have a reduction in speed limits this year.
- A property on an LIS road would qualify for the Croí Cónaithe grant.

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

- A new system for tracking decisions at Strategic Policy Committees and Plenary meetings has been implemented. This will track what is agreed and to be implemented also and ensure that the Members receive responses.

ITEM NO. 8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

4347

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

- Letter dated 03.03.23 to Assistant Secretary General, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution – Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Email dated 09.05.24 from Customer Service, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to Ms. Helen Riordan, Galway County Council. Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 03.03.23 to Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution – Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
- Email dated 09.05.24 to Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Acknowledgement.

- Letter to Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution – Inclusion of autism on the HMD Form 1.
- Email dated 10.05.24 to Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution – Inclusion of autism on the HMD Form.
- Letter dated 02.02.24 to Ms. Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth with special responsibility for Disability. Resolution - Disability space funding for GAA Clubs.
- Email dated 10.05.24 to Ms. Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth with special responsibility for Disability. Resolution - Disability space funding for GAA Clubs.
- Letter to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport. Resolution – Additional roads funding.
- Email to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport. Resolution – Additional Roads Funding.
- Letter dated 15.04.24 to Mr. Darragh O’Brien, T.D., Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Resolution – Septic tank grant.
- Email dated 29.04.24 from Ms. Niamh Redmond, Private Secretary, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Resolution – Septic Tank Grant. Acknowledgement.
- Email dated 30.04.24 from Ms. Niamh Redmond, Private Secretary, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Acknowledgement
- Letter dated 15.04.24 to Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission. Resolution – IFA ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign.
- Letter dated 29.03.24 from Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. Resolution -Support for the IFA ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign.
- Letter dated 15.04.24 to Mr. Paul Kelly, Chief Executive, Fáilte Ireland. Resolution – Regional Festivals Funding.

- Email dated 30.04.24 from Ms. Ciara Sugrue, Head of Festivals & Events, Fáilte Ireland. Resolution – Regional Festival Funding. Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 18.04.24 from Ms. Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator, Louth County Council. Resolution – Good Friday Agreement.
- Letter dated 08.05.24 to Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Department of Foreign Affairs. Resolution – Israeli Ambassador for Ireland.
- E-mail dated 09.05.24 from Office of the Tánaiste. Resolution – Israeli Ambassador to Ireland. Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 08.05.24 to Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Resolution – Croí Cónaithe Scheme.
- Email dated 09.05.24 from Ms. Niamh Redmond, Private Secretary, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Acknowledgement.
- E-mail dated 07.05.24 from Stakeholder Engagement Office HSE. National Ambulance Service Recruitment Campaign.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash dated April 2024.

ITEM 9. QUESTION

4348

Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Question prior to the meeting:

'To ask the Chief Executive to set out in tabular format what FLAG grants have been applied for the following piers over the years and how much has been approved and allocated to same. Has there been any recent FLAG application applied for these three piers.

Tarrarea Pier

Kinvara Pier

Rinville Pier

What other Piers in County Galway have been successful and how much has been granted?'

The following reply issued:

The Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) is a community-led initiative aimed at supporting the sustainable development of fisheries and coastal areas. FLAGs are composed of local stakeholders, including fishermen, local authorities, environmental organisations, and representatives from the tourism and aquaculture sectors.

FLAGs operate within the framework of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and are supported by national and regional authorities.

I don't have the information you seek in relation to applications and grants under the FLAGs scheme for Tarrarea Pier, Kinvara Pier or Rinville Pier nor for any other piers in County Galway as the body responsible for the administration of these Grants to local communities is An Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

Cllr. Donohue accepted the response and stated that she endeavour to source the information elsewhere.

ITEM 10. NOTICE OF MOTION

4349

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

'I propose that when Galway County Council are disposing of residential properties that it is a condition of the sale that the purchaser proves a housing need and is a first time buyer of a home to ensure that we try to meet the current demand for houses.'

The following reply issued:

Galway County Council will afford priority to a first time buyer or on the basis of the Fresh Start principle when disposing of residential properties, where it is possible to do so. Thereafter, priority will be afforded to a prospective purchaser with a proven housing need, where possible. Where no first time/Fresh Start principle buyer or purchaser with a proven housing need submits a reasonable offer, it will be open to

Galway County Council to recommend disposal of the property to an alternative purchaser.

ITEM 11. NOTICE OF MOTION

4350

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

'That Galway County Council engage in town twinning between each town in Galway and a town in Palestine to support the rebuilding of the country and create cultural links.'

The following reply issued:

Please be advised that twinning requests are generally led out on by the local community rather than direct twinning by Galway County Council.

Any such proposals in the first instance can be channelled through the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

ITEM 12. NOTICE OF MOTION

4351

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

'I propose that Galway Co Co put in place a facility to fund affordable housing schemes in Galway Co Co area. I understand that Fingal Co Co, Cork Co Co and many other local authorities have separate funding facilities for standalone affordable and cost rental schemes. In some cases, the elected members have approved up to €50m loan facility to get projects off the ground. As we know this money is then recouped from the dept as developments are completed on a phased basis. We need to be as ambitious in delivering affordable schemes as we are at delivering public housing schemes.'

The following reply issued:

It is intended to bring a proposal to Plenary Council for the approval of a loan to fund direct build affordable housing by Galway County Council. It is currently anticipated that the initial requirement for funding will relate to the provision of direct build affordable housing in Baile Chláir (Claregalway). The timing of the loan approval by Plenary and subsequently by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the drawdown of the initial tranche of the loan will be influenced by the timeframe for the mixed tenure housing scheme to progress to construction. At present a decision by An Bord Pleanála on the proposed scheme is awaited. The Part 10 planning application for the scheme was submitted by Galway County Council in August 2023. Thereafter, subsequent tranches will be drawdown as required to fund further direct build affordable housing schemes as they progress to construction. The loan will be funded through the sale of the affordable homes.

Cllr. Killilea spoke on his motion, highlighting that other Local Authorities have successfully availed of loan facilities to provide schemes. He suggested that the Council reach out to these Authorities for information on how they were delivered. There is a lack of affordable housing due to high building costs. There has not been a new private housing estate in Tuam since 2006, he called for the Council to be enthusiastic on the affordable housing scheme.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- The Department need to review the criteria of the scheme, it needs to be more flexible.
- Ratio of refusals in the social housing development in Ballinasloe was raised as a concern.
- The Affordable Housing document is out of sync with reality. The densities issue needs to be addressed.

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

- At present, the only areas that the Council can obtain the required 15% below the average marketplace cost is in the Galway Metropolitan areas of Bearna, Claregalway and Oranmore.
- The qualifying thresholds need to be changed by the Department to allow larger incentives.
- We need more of our towns to qualify for the affordable scheme.
- An Affordable Housing Scheme is required specifically for the West of Ireland to satisfy the profit margins, densities and site costs.
- Part V of 20%, 10% affordable and 10% social are yielding small numbers especially when the housing schemes being granted permission are relatively small in size.
- There is a live conversation between the Council with the City Council and the Department to expand options for residents of Galway.

ITEM 13. NOTICE OF MOTION

4352

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

'I propose that Galway Co Co make an application for Ballygaddy Park, Tuam under the Community Recognition fund. In 2023 I funded the design of a refurbished park and it needs to be developed under some funding stream.'

The following reply issued:

Galway County Council will undertake a comprehensive consultation and engagement process to identify suitable projects under the Community Recognition Fund 2024, which will be of benefit to the entire community in the future. Expressions of Interest for community-led projects are currently being invited, and this will be followed by detailed consultations with Municipal Districts to identify any local authority-led projects, in addition to further consultations with the LCDC and Community Response Forum. It is envisaged that this consultation

process in relation to Tuam will take place across June/July with proposals being submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development in Application Window 2 which covers August-September 2024.

Cllr. Killilea withdrew the motion as an application for funding has been made.

ITEM 14. NOTICE OF MOTION

4353

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

'That Galway County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan and to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland about the large volume of renewable energy that is being dumped in Ireland and the need for an immediate government plan to use the surplus renewable energy to help tackle fuel poverty. There is an opportunity to use some of this surplus renewable energy to help families in fuel poverty with projects such as with the charity EnergyCloud who are working with local authorities and housing associations across Ireland.'

Cllr. Thomas expanded on his motion. The energy cloud distributes the excess energy produced during night. The Council property will have a simple switch installed, creating a wireless connection to immersion. If there is a surplus of energy overnight, it will switch over to heat the immersion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.15 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

4354

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the Members **AGREED**:

'I propose that Galway County Council write to the Department to increase the funding to Galway County Council for Community Involvement Schemes.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche the Members **AGREED:**

'That Galway County Council writes to TII as a matter of urgency to fund safety works at the following junctions on the N84 at Balrobuck, Grange and Cloughanover.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Curraoin the Members **AGREED:**

'I propose that Galway County Council write to the OPW requesting a meeting with themselves, Galway County Council, Community representatives of Ins Mór and elected representatives.

The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss how we could all work together to enhance the experience of visitors and locals at OPW sites through infrastructural improvements by collaborating together.'

It was asked if under the Croí Cónaithe grant, an old house without percolation or septic tank would be eligible for this scheme.

Mr. Hanrahan responded that a septic tank and planning permission is necessary.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all of the Elected Members and directorate for the help, courtesy and support that he received during his term as Cathaoirleach and confirmed that he is not seeking re-election in the upcoming Local Elections. During his term as Cathaoirleach he attended 1,100 events and travelled 36,000km. He gave special mention to those that attended and helped organise the very successful Cathaoirleach Ball and Awards. He wished everyone the best going forward. He paid tribute to Cllr. Parsons in her role as Leas Cathaoirleach on her willingness and excellence in deputising for him.

Elected Members joined in thanks and best wishes to the Cathaoirleach and the other Elected Members that are not seeking re-election. The Cathaoirleach was described as hardworking, energetic and fair. The number of engagements that he carried out as Cathaoirleach was widely commended. The Leas Cathaoirleach was also acknowledged for her work over the last 12 months. They were all thanked for their support, hard work and expertise that will be a great loss to the Council.

Cllr. Byrne said that it was an honour and privilege to be a Member of Galway County Council and to lead the rainbow alliance which worked well during the last term. There is a lot of respect within the Council, he has made many friends and wishes everyone luck in the future. The Chief Executive has a strong team. The Council needs more funding. He concluded that he enjoyed every moment as an Elected Member and that it had been a pleasure working with everyone.

Cllr. Cuddy recalled his early days when he was first elected to Galway County Council. He has enjoyed every day of it including while he deputised as Mayor. He served on three different Strategic Policy Committees and as chair of the Joint Policing Committee for the previous 5 years. He spoke on areas that he felt the Council need to address; the manner in which An Bord Pleanála operates, National Planning Framework, funding for road maintenance, Galway Ring Road, Galway Airport site.

Cllr. Broderick thanked the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for their service over the last year. He gave special mention to Cllr. Welby for his guidance, help, friendship and advice over the years. He stated that there needs to be more access for Members to the Law Agents and the Council need to work with rate payers. He was delighted to serve for 15 years and wished the Members good luck going forward. He thanked Members and staff for all their help and co-operation over the years. He hopes to see the development of the Eco Park in Kilconnell. He asked that North East Galway not be forgotten.

The Chief Executive offered his sincere thanks to the Cathaoirleach and elected members and wished them the best of luck in the future and looked forward to meeting them in different fora in the future. He thanked his Management Team,

Senior Team and Council Staff and looked forward to working with the new Council to achieve ambitious work programme.

ITEM NO.23 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

4355

A resolution of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Gort / Monivea U14 Rugby girls team on their achievements this season.
- Gort / Monivea U16 Rugby girls team on winning the BOI Youth Plate and the Connacht Division 2 League.
- Athenry U16 boys football team on winning the Championship Cup final.
- Athenry U12 girls football team on winning Division 3.
- Athenry U16 girls soccer team on winning the SFAI Subway National Cup Final.
- U14 Athenry rounders team on winning the Connacht Cup.
- Mícheál Breathnach U15 football team on winning the All-Ireland Féile Division 1 final.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mr. Frank Glynn & Family, Milltown, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Laurence Shiel, Clonmoylan, Ballyshrute, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Mr. Ivan Connaughton, Main Street, Athleague, Co. Roscommon.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:



Date:



