

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday 22nd February 2021 at 11:00am via Microsoft Teams

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. James Charity
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigh: Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services, Ms E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr M. Owens, County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Ms. C. Delaney, Administrative Officer Ms. I. Martyn, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. U. Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B. Ryan, A/Staff Officer and Ms. S. Elwood, A/Assistant Staff Officer, Mr. C. Averill, IS Project Leader & Mr. M. Martyn, Head of IT

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Cathaoirleach took a roll call of all members present.

The Cathaoirleach extended condolences on behalf of all the Members to Cllr. Collins following the recent passing of his sister Dolores Duffy RIP. As a mark of respect, the meeting was adjourned for two minutes.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS: 3736

- (a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25th January 2021 & Adjourned Meeting held on 1st February 2021.

Cllr. Kinane asked for an amendment to the minutes to reflect the fact that she sought clarification on the motion regarding speed limits.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25th January 2021 & the Adjourned Meeting held on 1st February 2021 as amended were **AGREED**.

Matters arising:

The publication of the South Galway (Gort Lowlands) Flood Relief Scheme Feasibility Report was welcomed by Cllrs. Byrne and Kinane. They acknowledged the work of many people in this over the past 30 years and thanked all those associated with it.

Mr. Farrell in response to a query by Cllr. Donohue advised that contact had been made with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth regarding a request for copies of the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes to be made available to all libraries. He advised the report will be made available to the survivors in the first instance and the national library network will be used. He noted that the report was over 3,000 pages and advised he didn't expect to have this available in each of the libraries. He informed Members that a shorter document of 300 pages was also available and confirmed a request for copies of this document had been made. He noted they will be available in the main offices for inspection. He advised requests for specific areas will be accommodated if possible.

Cllr. McClearn sought clarification on Mr. Cullen's response that the terms of reference for the feasibility study on the Quiet Man Greenway did not contravene the County Development Plan. Cllr McClearn queried if legal advice was sought before this response was given and was the response an opinion or a legal opinion.

In response Mr. Cullen stated that there was nothing in the feasibility study for the Quiet Man Greenway that could be construed as being contrary to the provision of the County Development Plan. That could only arise as a consideration where planning approval and consent was needed. He confirmed the Council are free to explore any proposals but noted the execution of any proposals would be subject to the County Development Plan and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other planning guidelines. He confirmed he did not obtain legal advice on the matter as it was not necessary.

Regarding the feasibility study on the Quiet Man Greenway Cllr. Broderick informed members that a deputation from the North Western and Regional Authority met with Mr. Eamonn Ryan, T.D. Minister for Transport who reiterated his commitment to Western Rail Corridor. He noted the Minister confirmed there will be an all Island Rail Review which will include the Western Rail Corridor. He stressed that this review has been agreed by Cabinet and all parties nationally have supported it. He raised concerns that if the Western Rail Corridor is selected in the feasibility study for the Quiet Man Greenway, an expectation for a project that cannot happen is being created.

Cllr. Killilea said he was disheartened to hear the professionalism of Ernst & Young and the decisions of the Director of Services being questioned. He noted that Members were not at the point of making any decisions yet and we need to have all facts on the table.

The Chief Executive responding to a query from Cllr. Dr. Parsons regarding the nationally set 3% target for employment of people with disabilities, confirmed that Galway County Council are currently meeting this target.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. 3737

(a) Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 8th January 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 8th January 2021 were **NOTED**.

(b) Minutes of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC held on Tuesday 7th July 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin the minutes of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.3 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GALWAY AND ROSCOMMON EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD (GRETB).

3738

Report dated 16th February 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Referring to the report circulated, the County Secretary highlighted the correspondence received from the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) which sets out the gender breakdown of local authority members per Education and Training Board. He advised Members that Galway County Council had six local authority members sitting on the Board of GRETB of which as far as practicable three of these members must be either male/female.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Cronnelly as a member of the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB).

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) COUNTY GALWAY BYE-LAWS, NO. 1 – 2020 (HOUSING ESTATES SLOW ZONES) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 2004.

3739

Report dated 10th February 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly it was **AGREED** to adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws, No. 1 2020 (Housing Estates Slow Zones) in accordance with section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004.

In response to a query by Comh. Ó Cualáin, Mr. Cullen clarified it is not automatic that all housing estates default to slow zones or the 30km speed limit. He advised both private and council estates must be examined for suitability but noted that most small housing estates are suitable. He advised Members he will come back to council in due course with further proposals.

ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2021, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). 3740

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. C. Keaveney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Service Delivery Plan 2021, in accordance with section 134(A) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Matters Arising

The following points were raised by Cllrs. Hoade, Killilea, M. Connolly Herterich Quinn, Ó Cualáin, Thomas, Sheridan, Broderick, McKinstry, Murphy, Ó Curraoín, Geraghty, Mac an Iomaire, Reddington, Curley, McClearn, Collins, Cuddy, Carroll, Cronnelly, Mannion, Dr. Parsons:

- Acknowledged the work in the preparing the Service Delivery Plan and the amount of work carried out by the local authority.
- Queried the financial viability of small Group Water Schemes as Galway County Council does not have the resources to support these smaller schemes.
- Stressed that some small Group Water Schemes are run very efficiently and doing an excellent job in delivering good quality water.
- Update sought on the Athenry Northern Ring Road.

- Highlighted the need for development and works to be carried out on the R336.
- Welcomed the plans on pier and harbours and sought information on the plans for Inis Meáin Pier and Ros an Mhíl Harbour.
- It was stressed that the Service Delivery Plan should set realistic targets in terms of social housing with an emphasis on creating sustainable communities.
- Queried how the delivery of Service Delivery Plan could be achieved in some villages in east Galway where there is no wastewater treatment infrastructure.
- Disappointment was expressed following confirmation by Irish Water at a recent meeting of the North Western Regional Authority that they do not have funding for wastewater infrastructure in these villages.
- Regarding Active Travel queried what plans for Active Travel are being put in place.
- In areas where the lack of wastewater treatment facilities has prevented private house building, the same rules should apply to social housing developments.
- The importance of long-term planning was highlighted. It was suggested that a 40-50-year County Development Plan with a review every 5 years.
- All small villages should have services in place before development takes place.
- The Council needs to focus on the basic infrastructure every village needs such as water, wastewater treatment facilities and they should be prioritised over issues such as greenways.
- Water supply issues in Tír an Fhia and Leitir Mealláin were raised.
- Issue regarding septic tanks inspections was raised.
- Queried the number of staff Galway County Council are hiring under the Active Travel Scheme.
- Lack of wastewater treatment facilities in villages will have serious implications for the County Development Plan. A solution must be found between officials Members and the Department. Engagement between Members and Officials is required to tease out so that a meaningful proposal can be brought forward.
- Suggested a scoping exercise was required to ensure we have a plan in place when County Development Plan comes up for renewal.
- Concerns raised about Approved Housing Bodies buying houses and housing people from outside the local areas, depriving locals the opportunity to live in their own area.

- Noting the estimated population increase of 5,500 for Oranmore set out in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) concerns were raised regarding future development for the area considering the Mutton Island wastewater treatment facility is already at capacity.
- Highlighted that a lack of adequate provision to treat stormwater put additional pressure on the wastewater treatment system.
- Highlighted the need to plan ahead for the summer with the expected increase in visitors to Connemara particularly in terms of overcrowded beaches, illegal parking and wild camping.

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

- He advised Members that the rural water program is very important in the west of Ireland and noted that the overall quality of water in Galway is good but not up to the standard of public water schemes. He noted that the quality of the water had improved significantly over the years due to the investment by the Department but there are some group water schemes where quality issues remain. He advised Members that Galway County Council are working with group water scheme trustees to agree improvement programs that can be implemented with funding from the Department.
- Regarding the viability of small schemes, he noted that the bigger schemes by virtue of scale tend to be more viable as there are fixed costs associated with group water schemes irrespective of size. He advised Galway County Council operates a subsidy scheme on behalf of the Department of Environment. The subsidy is set at an amount per residential unit, therefore in smaller group water schemes individuals pay a higher contribution themselves.
- In relation to the Athenry Northern Ring Road he advised Members that the target is to get to procurement stage by the end of this year. It is a continuation of work already started. He noted the Council are currently carrying out topographical investigations and in discussion with landowners regarding land acquisition.
- He advised that maintenance works will be carried out on the R336. He confirmed he has written to the Department to get approval for improvement works.

- He expects Inis Meáin pier will go to tender towards the end of this year. He acknowledged the importance of Ros an Mhíl as a deep-water port and noted it will be referenced the County Development Plan.
- He advised Members that the lack of wastewater treatment infrastructure in villages and settlements throughout the county is something that cannot be resolved in terms of the Service Delivery Plan. It will be discussed and dealt with in terms of the County Development Plan.
- Regarding water services issues in Tír an Fhia, he confirmed Galway County Council are working with Irish Water to resolve the issue.
- He noted Irish Water are examining the issue of surface water and foul water separation.
- Regarding recent announcement of additional jobs under the Active Travel scheme he advised that it is the subject of discussion with the Department at the moment and we will be notified in due course.
- The issues regarding beaches, illegal parking and wild camping will be investigated to examine what can be done and he will revert to Members in due course.

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

- He advised Members that we have a housing list in all areas of the County that has to be serviced.
- He noted that in certain areas there is a huge requirement for social housing and in other areas the requirement is for affordable homes.
- In terms of social housing demand, he noted that no one size fits all in Galway. He said a mix of solutions across the County was required noting there are larger towns that require social housing estates, while one off houses are required in other areas.
- He noted the Rebuilding Neighbourhoods Report shows the commitment that local authorities have to meet, in developing social housing by 2021 and reflects the fact that social houses have to be built.
- He reassured Members that where estates are going to be built, they will fit in well with the fabric and design of towns.

- He assured Members that social housing developments have to comply with whatever restrictions are there in terms of development. He noted that if there are issues regarding facilities in towns then all development is going to be stifled. If a town can't facilitate social housing in terms of facilities available, then it can't facilitate private housing
- He advised that building estates is a means of encouraging people to buy their own homes eventually through the tenant purchase scheme. He noted the scheme is currently significantly oversubscribed.
- He said he plans to hold a workshop with Members to present the interactive map showing the level of demand for social housing in the county.
- He assured Members that people are not moved around the County according to where we have social housing.
- He stressed the objective of the Service Delivery Plan in terms of housing is to plan and create sustainable communities.

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

- Noting the deficiency of wastewater infrastructure in many of the areas around the county she said had an impact on development, householders and the environment. She advised Members that the Forward Planning is working on the Settlement Strategy with the aim of facilitating a level of development that will not damage the environment in the context of the Water Framework Directive.
- Regarding septic tank inspections, she advised Members that inspections are carried out on an annual basis under the national inspections plan determined by the EPA. The plan focuses on priority areas such as areas under the River Basin Management Plan.
- She noted the grants were available and were linked to household income

The Cathaoirleach referenced Project 2040 in terms of future proofing development plans for the county. He noted that the plan should have been led by local authorities to take into account the views from local communities.

He said the Service Delivery Plan is only as strong as the ability of the local authority to deliver it and reminded Members of the chronic underfunding of Galway County Council.

He noted that the position of the Chief Executive has remained an acting position and while it hasn't diminished his work in any way, it requires a more stable input from the Department in terms of the direction we are heading.

He referred to a recent discussion in Seanad Éireann regarding the local government arrangements for Galway City and County. He noted that Galway County Council have been left in limbo about the future of the local arrangements.

In terms of staffing levels, he noted Galway County Council has a serious problem with approximately 120 staff down. He stressed it was not a criticism of management or staff but a criticism of the lack of funding from the Department.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED** to extend an invitation for the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government to attend a virtual meeting of Galway County Council in order to clarify and discuss the approach to local government arrangements in Galway.

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

- He reassured the Members that the Director of Services and the Chief Executive and others have used every opportunity to highlight the importance of adequate water and wastewater facilities across our towns and villages in order to ensure balanced sustainable development of the county and the country as a whole.
- In the short-term we will have to examine what we can do in areas where we haven't got a municipal treatment facility. It will require a decision by government and funding from Government to achieve that. It is quite clear funding isn't available to Irish Water for what we need as a county.
- As a local authority we set out in our core strategy where development will occur and the scale of it. This allows other departments such as Department of Education to see where population increase will take place. On the western seaboard the problem is that there isn't development in our towns and villages. Galway county bucks the trend of population decline because of the influence of

Galway City. In terms of the upcoming County Development Plan we need to consider zoning land for community, education and other purposes. He noted that while the zoning of land for facilities is fraught with difficulties it is an opportunity to address the issue of putting facilities in place prior to development.

- He noted his understanding regarding Mutton Island is that there is still capacity at the moment but added there is no time to be lost in developing the East Galway Main Drainage Scheme.
- He clarified that the estimated 5,500 population increase referenced for Oranmore relates to the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) area as a whole, and not just Oranmore village itself.

Mr. Farrell noted the purpose of the Service Delivery Plan is to set out activities for the year based on the objectives of the Corporate Plan. He noted there is a lot of positive work taking place and acknowledged a lot of work has gone into preparing the Service Delivery Plan.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER THE COUNTY GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020. 3741

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to note the County Galway Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2020.

Cllr. Cuddy advised Members that the annual public meeting of the Joint Policing Committee was not held due to Covid 19 restrictions.

In response to a query by Cllr. Donohue regarding the use of CCTV and illegal dumping the Cathaoirleach advised there is a Bill currently going through the Houses of the Oireachtas that when passed will enable the use of CCTV for illegal dumping.

The following points were raised by Cllrs. D Connolly, Curley, Dr. Parsons, Canning, P. Keaveney, Mannion, Kinane, Mac an Iomaire, Ó Cualáin, Ó Curraoín, Geraghty, Maher and McClearn:

- Illegal dumping has become a chronic problem.
- Community organisation together with Community Warden and Environment are doing their best to remedy the situation but resources are limited.
- Queried if we have started door to door investigations whether people have signed up for waste collection.
- Queried the financial cost of dealing with illegal dumping. There is a business case for antidumping initiatives. It appears we spend as much cleaning up as would provide a free bin service etc.
- Publication of enforcement prosecutions would be welcomed as a deterrent.
- Queried possibility of hiring more outdoor staff.
- School visits by wardens was suggested as a way of educating the public. The process takes time, but the approach has been effective in other campaigns.
- Wardens should work flexitime as the majority of illegal dumping does not take place during the day. Suggested further powers should be given to wardens.
- The issue was highlighted that property owners are responsible under law for removing rubbish illegally dumped on their property.
- Bulky Goods Initiative should be rolled out again this year.
- Acknowledged community efforts to tackle the litter problems. Rubbish collection initiatives in Clarinbridge and Kilcolgan were referenced.
- More bottle banks are required to deal with increased volume of disposals.
- The lack of refuse collection service serving some roads needs to be addressed urgently to ensure the service required is provided for everyone.
- Plastic bags and bottles cause huge problem when disposed of incorrectly.
- Local people are usually not responsible for dumping in rural areas. It is carried out by people travelling at nighttime to dump rubbish in their areas.
- The Council need to send a strong message to the public that we will not stand for dumping

- A refund scheme needs to be examined for cans and bottles to incentivise people to dispose of them correctly.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn noted she has been in contact with the Environment Department regarding a project to raise awareness re dog fouling. Further information will be provided in due course.

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

- Regarding use of CCTV and GDPR she noted the legislation on CCTV going through the Houses of Oireachtas is a significant development which will assist efforts to combat illegal dumping.
- Following increased grant funding two waste enforcement officers are being recruited.
- The rollout of the Waste Presentation and Segregation Byelaws is also critical. In particular the "Section 34c Register" which will allow the council meet with all waste collectors in the county and request details of customers signed up for waste collection services. The information can be mapped on GIS allowing us target individuals where no we have no information.
- The council achieved 100% success in terms of application for funding under the Anti -Dumping initiative scheme.
- It is proposed to provide the bulky goods initiative again this year.
- Regarding bottle banks the Council work in collaboration with local Community groups and pay maintenance grants to monitor and tidy up.
- There can be difficulties for waste collection truck to access and turn on certain roads leaving people without the required services.
- Regarding the responsibility for removing rubbish illegal dumped on a property, in the first instance the council try to investigate where the rubbish came from. If this cannot be established the current legislation makes the property owner responsible for removing the rubbish.

Cllr. Maher advised Members that the legislation on CCTV together with Waste Presentation and Segregation Byelaws will strengthen our hand in tackling illegal dumping. He advised Members of a new initiative being run by Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board to design a special waste bags for cars. If successful it will be shared with all Education and Training Boards nationwide.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE THE REALLOCATION OF 2020 CONFERENCE AND TRAINING FUNDING. 3742

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley it was **AGREED** to approve the reallocation of 2020 Conference and Training Funding as detailed in the report.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). 3743

Report dated 18th February was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dolan it was **AGREED** to note the Management Report – February 2021 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

Matters Arising:

The following points were raised by Cllrs. Dolan, Ó Cualáin and McHugh:

- It would be helpful to keep Members informed by providing metrics regarding the acquisition and development of social housing in the monthly Management Report.
- Acknowledged Ms. Fiona Holland, A/Senior Executive for her work putting together the list of Harbours and Coastal infrastructure developments which formed the basis of applications for grant funding.

- Queried if the number of planning applications applied for, granted and refused could be provided in the Management Report to provide Members a picture of the scale of development across the county.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the current format and approach to the Management Report was agreed with Corporate Policy Group in 2014. He said the additional information requested could be provided.

ITEM NO.9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

3744

The following items of correspondence which were published on the Extranet prior to the meeting were noted:

- Letter dated 26.1.21 sent from County Secretary to each Local Authority - Resolution; Agri Kids Be Safe Farm Initiative.
- Letter dated 27.1.21 from County Secretary to Mr. Marty Walsh, Mayor of Boston – Resolution; Congratulation on appointment to President Biden's Administration
- Email dated 27.1.21 from Mr. Stephen Donnelly, TD. Minister for Health – Acknowledge correspondence: Use of Private Hospitals for NSS
- Letter dated 28.1.21 from County Secretary to An Taoiseach Micheál Martin – Resolution; Mother and Baby Homes.
- Email dated 28.1.21 from Mr. Peter Burke TD Minister of State, Department of Housing and Local Government and Heritage -acknowledge correspondence; Review of solar planning exemptions.
- Letter dated 28.1.21 from County Secretary to Ms. Anne Rabbitte TD Minister of State for Disabilities – Resolution; Personal Assistance Service
- Email dated 1.2.21 from Mr. Peter Burke TD Minister of State, Department of Housing and Local Government and Heritage -Response to correspondence; Review of solar planning exemptions.
- Letter dated 2.2.21 from County Secretary to Mr. Michael Moynihan TD, Chair of Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters – Resolution; Personal Assistance Service
- Letter dated 2.2.21 from County Secretary to An Taoiseach Micheál Martin – Resolution; Funeral attendance under Covid restrictions
- Letter dated 2.2.21 from County Secretary to Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD Minister for Health – Resolution; Funeral attendance under Covid restrictions

- Email undated from Ms. Helen McEntee, TD. Minister of Justice – Response to correspondence; Tackling Domestic Abuse
- Letter dated 2.2.21 from Limerick County Council - Resolution; role of Councils in Mother and Baby Homes & establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted.
- Letter dated 2.2.21 from Limerick County Council - Resolution; suspend statutory timeframe for the preparation of Draft Limerick Development Plan
- Email dated 3.2.21 from Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD Minister for Health - Acknowledge correspondence: Funeral attendance under Covid restrictions
- Email dated 3.2.21 from Mr. Roderic O'Gorman TD Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth – Acknowledge correspondence
- Letter dated 3.2.21 from Clare County Council - Resolution; Recognition of Service of Frontline Staff during Covid 19 Pandemic.
- Letter dated 3.2.21 from Clare County Council - Resolution; Planning & Development of Residential Property.
- Letter dated 3.2.21 from Clare County Council - Resolution; Role of Active and Sustainable Travel Officer.
- Letter from Dublin City Council dated 4.2.21 sent to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Maternity Leave for Councillors
- Letter from Dublin City Council dated 4.2.21 sent to Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth - Maternity Leave for Councillors
- Letter undated from Loraine Nash, Secretary Galway Greyhound Owners and Breeders' Association – Greyhound Racing
- Letter dated 9.2.21 from Clare County Council - Resolution; unauthorised occupation of Public Lands
- Letter dated 9.2.21 from Clare County Council - Resolution; National Planning Framework
- Letter dated 10.2.21 from Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach – Acknowledge correspondence
- Letter dated 11.2.21 from County Secretary to Ernst & Young – Resolution invite to address Members on WRC Review Report

- Letter dated 11.2.21 from County Secretary to Deirdre Hanlon, Assistant Secretary, Department of Transport – Resolution invite to address Members on WRC Review Report
- Letter dated 15.2.21 from Garret Doocey, Principal Officer, Department of Transport - Response to Correspondence; Western Rail Corridor Report.

Matters Arising:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to invite the CEO of Irish Rail to address Members at the next Plenary Meeting on the Ernst & Young, Western Rail Corridor: Financial and Economic Appraisal report.

ITEM NO.10 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3745

The following Motions were submitted:

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

"That People that illegally dump have no right to protection as in GDPR and that the use of CCTV be expedited by Galway County Council."

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

"that a letter be sent to the Department of Rural and Community affairs seeking for "the application for the installation of a Broadband Connection Point for Clarinbridge Care Centre" be assessed as a matter of urgency"

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick the Members **AGREED**:

"that we invite Irish Water to our next Plenary meeting to outline to members exactly their plan for the next 5 years in:

- (a) *Developing Sewerage Schemes in our villages*
- (b) *Their input into our Service Delivery Plan*
- (c) *Their input into our County Development Plan."*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick the Members **AGREED**:

"That Galway County Council hold a special meeting to discuss how we provide Wastewater Treatment Systems for villages and settlements that do not presently have such a facility."

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

"That Galway County Council calls on the government:

- to allow a full, open and democratic debate including pre-legislative scrutiny by all relevant Joint Oireachtas Committees ahead of any Dáil vote on ratification of CETA / ICS, and,*
- to ask the Joint Oireachtas Committees on Climate Action (JOCCA) and on Justice to prioritise this scrutiny, and,*
- to ask the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage to scrutinise the potential impacts of CETA / ICS on Local Government services and service contracts (and whether such services should be added to the Exclusions List as protected services like Legal Services have already been), and,*
- to allow a Free Vote of Conscience (Removal of Whip) on any ratification of CETA/ICS because of the serious moral impact and the provision (sunset clause) that it will be binding on our children and all Irish citizens even for 20 years after any withdrawal from the CETA/ICS agreement."*

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM NO.11 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3746

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

"The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is supposed to be delivering on the government's commitment to ensure every citizen has access to the internet via high-speed broadband.

I am asking Galway County Council to write to NBI to organise another meeting with NBI officials at a plenary meeting (through zoom or teams if needs be) so they can outline when areas are going to be surveyed and ultimately a service delivered to the rest of North Galway".

A brief discussion took place highlighting broadband as a basic utility required by all, particularly in light of Covid restrictions and requirements for people working from home. Cllr. Geraghty also referenced the deficiencies in the mobile phone network in terms of the coverage available in some areas of the county and suggested a similar presentation on this issue would also be beneficial.

ITEM NO.12 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3747

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

"That Galway County Council send in a submission to the Commission of the Defence Forces. It is important that we are seen to support our defence forces both on land and sea. Renmore is ideally suitable for the provision of services by the Defence forces. They can be called on at any time as a back up to the Gardai and our public services. With the possible expansion of the Dock deep water facilities it would be very suitable for the naval services to operate from. The existing Army Headquarters could act as a very effective base to deliver services when required. The pay structure of the army personnel should be reviewed in the context of the Commission so that our soldiers are properly paid for the very dangerous work they carry out for this country both at home and with the United Nations".

In response to a query from Cllr Broderick the Chief Executive agreed to circulate to Members, figures on the total amounts paid under the Restart Grant and Restart Plus Grant and the amount paid out to rateable customers who have judgements registered against them. Cllr. Broderick agreed to submit the request in writing. Cllr. Broderick noted an anomaly in the payments to business owners. He noted those who had sought a write down their rates bills when they were not using the full premises, were paid grants at the write down level while business who had not engaged with the local authority received the full amount.

In response to a query from Cllr. Thomas regarding the towns and villages to be included in the County Development Plan, Ms. Ruane advised that it was still at a very early stage in the process. She advised the draft will be prepared by the end of March, going on public display in May allowing plenty of time for discussion.

Cllr. Geraghty advised Members they should familiarise themselves with the Planet Earth Summit and Ireland's participation in it and the implications this will have for the west of Ireland.

The Chief Executive in response to a query from Cllr. Sheridan confirmed that there are 20 towns fully serviced and they will be taken into account when formulating the Settlement Strategy for the County Development Plan.

In response to a query from Comh. Ó Curraoin regarding restriction on commercial turf cutting Cllr. McKinstry advised harvesting your own turf is not banned and noted that there is currently a consultation ongoing considering the definition of commercial harvesting.

In response to a query from Cllr. Curley regarding extending the winter maintenance programme Mr. Cullen advised the programme is set in relation to the resources available and the amount of gritting that can be achieved. He advised the main concern is to keep the main arteries of transport open.

In response to a query from Cllr. Byrne regarding the inclusion in the Roads Programme 2021 of funding for remedial works to footpaths, Mr. Cullen noted that there is not a programme for such work and advised that the funding allocation used for footpaths will be taken out of discretionary roads grants or the Council discretionary funds.

A brief discussion took place regarding solid fuel use.

In response to a query by Cllr. Roche regarding the provision of equipment for a community spring clean, Ms. Ruane advised that in the context of current level 5 restrictions she would not be encouraging groups coming together, breaching public health advice.

ITEM NO.13 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

3748

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the Members **AGREED**: to extend a resolution of sympathy to the following:

- Martina Moloney former County Manager/Chief Executive Galway County Council
- Tom & Nancy Clegg, Deerpark, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Tom Reilly, 20 Trinity Court, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Shaun Cunniffe, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Anne Burke & Family, Kilnadeemna, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed & Approved:

Cathaoirleach:

James Charity

Signed:
