

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway

Monday 22nd November 2021 at 11:00am

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. Peter Keaveney

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, 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, C. Keaveney, D Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Francis Parsons, 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, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms I. Martyn, Administrative Officer, Ms. U. Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Ms. E. Hoffman, Clerical Officer, Mr P. Scannell, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 18th October 2021

3861

Matters arising

Cllr. Kinane asked for an amendment to the minute under item no. 13. She clarified she was referring to the appointment of female Members to “interview boards” of the GRETB. Cllr. Herterich Quinn sought an amendment under the same item. She clarified was referring to ‘external Councillors appointed to external interview boards of GRETB’. As a point of clarification, Cllr. Maher noted that a person must be a member of the board to be eligible for appointment to an interview board committee.

In response to a query from Cllr. Curley, Ms. Ruane advised an engineer would be appointed in Loughrea area in the next couple of weeks. In response to a query from Cllr O ‘Cualáin, Ms. Ruane confirmed HR were trying to identify internally, a suitable candidate with a proficiency in the Irish language for the engineering post in South Connemara.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the of monthly Plenary Meeting held on 18th October 2021 as amended were **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3862

a) Minutes of Housing SPC held on 2nd June 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the minutes of the Housing SPC held on 2nd June 2021 were **NOTED**.

b) Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 30th June 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty the minutes of the of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 30th June 2021 were **NOTED**.

c) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 30th August 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 30th August 2021 were **NOTED**.

Matters arising.

Cllr. Charity queried the minute regarding the teams call with the Minister on the 13th of April. He said while the Minister was critical of the council for failing to increase LPT he gave no indication that an increase in LPT would be reciprocated in funding by the Department. Cllr. Charity said department officials indicated that the minister would meet with the council to discuss the financial issues. He noted they had reneged on this to date. He expressed his disappointment at the recent media reports that they had no intention of meeting.

Cllr. Byrne said he didn't disagree with Cllr Charity but noted it was made clear at the meeting that the Minister and officials wanted to see an element of reciprocation in terms of funding. Cllr Byrne also expressed his disappointment that Minister O'Brien and Minister Burke had not yet come to meet the Council.

Chief Executive said that arising from the meeting on the 13th April, Department officials indicated they would meet and engage with the council regarding financial matters. The Chief Executive confirmed he had written on two occasions since to invite the Minister to Galway but had no response. He noted he also took the opportunity to meet with and raise the matter with Minister O'Brien at a "Housing for All" event in Dublin on 13th September. Following the media reports on Friday that Department Officials had no plans to meet with the Council, he confirmed he had again contacted the Department on Friday evening.

d) Minutes of Housing SPC held on 15th September 2021

In response to a query from Cllr. McKinstry, Mr. Hanrahan explained why the cost rental model doesn't always work in rural areas. The model requires Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to purchase housing units and rent them out in line with local rents. In reality AHBs can only make this work financially in line with urban rents. He noted the cost effectiveness had to be examined on a project by project basis.

In response to a query from Cllr. Roche, Mr. Hanrahan said the Irish Language Clause did not apply to every unit in the Claregalway area but advised that the units currently available had the Irish Language Clause attached to them.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne the minutes of Housing SPC held on 15th September 2021 were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.3 TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL ARISING FROM THE RETIREMENT OF CLLR. PAT HYNES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 19 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) AND STANDING ORDER 76 OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS. **3863**

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

The Cathaoirleach congratulated retiring Cllr. Pat Hynes on his long service with Galway County Council. He said his 42 years' service was a testament to his popularity as a politician. Cllr. Hynes had started his career in 1979 in Loughrea Town Council. In 1999 he was elected to Galway County Council. He served as Loughrea Town Mayor on three occasions: 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2009-2010. He was elected Mayor of County Galway for 2005-2006. He served on various committees and boards in his 42 years. The Cathaoirleach wished Cllr. Hynes and his partner Anne all the best on his retirement.

Cllr. Hynes thanked his partner Anne for her constant support. He expressed his gratitude to his constituents who supported him over the years. He thanked the Elected Members for their cooperation and support. He acknowledged the staff of Galway County Council who assisted him in carrying out his work. Reflecting on his 42 years as Councilor he said he had enjoyed it all and was now looking forward to retirement. He wished Declan Kelly well in his new role.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy it was **AGREED** that Declan Kelly fill the Casual Vacancy in the Membership of the Council arising from the retirement of Cllr. Hynes in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act

2001 (as amended) and Standing Order 76 of Galway County Council Standing Orders.

The following Members paid individual tributes to the Pat Hynes; Cllrs Dr. Parsons Cuddy, Maher, Hoade, Curley, Keaveney, Killilea, Finnerty, Byrne, Canning, Mannion, Sheridan, McClearn, Welby, Murphy, Cronnelly, McKinsty, Roche, Geraghty, Reddington, McHugh Farag, Carroll, Collins, Charity. The following tributes were made:

- Acknowledged Cllr Hynes outstanding and loyal service of 42 years.
- Commended his commitment to his constituents. He represented them fairly and honestly at all times.
- Long standing Members acknowledged his help and support over the years.
- Recently elected Members thanked him for his invaluable advice, guidance and assistance when taking up their roles as Councillors.
- A lot of people are leading a better quality of life because of their interactions with Cllr Hynes. He has left a substantial legacy.
- His work as a local historian was acknowledged and it was noted he was an authoritative historian on Michael Collins.
- Personally, he was a true gentleman, he treated everyone as an equal and never had a cross word.
- It was a great testament to him that had the privilege to leave on his own terms.

Members wished Pat and his partner Anne long life, health and happiness on his retirement. Cllr. Donohue paid special tribute to her uncle, Pat. She reflected that his dedication to his constituents was evident to her from a young age. She said he always had the best interest of the people of Galway at heart. She acknowledged the Members tributes and said it lovely for Pat to hear how well thought of he was. She wished him a healthy and happy retirement.

The Chief Executive said he was delighted that Cllr. Hynes was present to hear all the tributes and commendations from Members. He thanked him for his 42 years as a public representative for the people of Loughrea. He said he had always been

courteous and respectful in his dealings with staff and noted the staff in Loughrea held him in high regard. He wished him every health and happiness on his retirement.

The Cathoirleach joined with Members in welcoming Cllr. Kelly. They extended best wishes to him in his new role. The Chief Executive welcomed Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Kelly thanked those who proposed and seconded his nomination. He said he was both honored and humbled. He noted it was a bittersweet day for him as he would like to have shared this special day with his late father and brother who had died earlier this year. He thanked his partner Aisling for her support and Seamus McGinley for being with him on the day. He expressed his wish to follow Cllr Hynes's example of dedication to public service.

ITEM NO.4 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE. 3864

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Kelly be appointed a member of the Transport & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee.

ITEM NO.5 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE. 3865

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Welby be appointed a member of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

ITEM NO.6 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE. 3866

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Broderick be appointed a member of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT REAGHAN, TYNAGH, CO. GALWAY – 0.1715HA. 3867

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Reaghan, Tynagh, Co. Galway, 0.1715ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT BALLAGHAUGEAG WEST, WILLIAMSTOWN, CO. GALWAY – 0.1360HA. 3868

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Ballaghaugheag West, Williamstown, Co. Galway, 0.1360ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

ITEM NO.9 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT MEELICK, WILLIAMSTOWN, CO. GALWAY – 0.3495HA. 3869

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Meelick, Williamstown, Co. Galway, 0.3495ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

ITEM NO.10 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT UPPER KILLASOLAN, MOUNTBELLEW, CO. GALWAY – 0.3137HA. **3870**

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Upper Killasolan, Mountbellew, Co. Galway, 0.3137ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

ITEM NO.11 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT BAUNOGE, LETTERFRACK, CO. GALWAY – 0.3740HA. **3871**

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Baunoge, Letterfrack, Co. Galway, 0.3740ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

Cllr. Mannion expressed disappointment that the council was selling off properties that were allowed become derelict. She hoped in future these properties could be maintained. She raised concerns about properties being sold to people outside the county which was driving up prices for locals.

In response, Mr. Hanrahan advised that all properties were considered for reallocation and redesign however the amount of money required meant they were beyond funding available. He said while it was expected people may rebuild on the sites, he noted that the sites were sold as plots of land without planning permission, with no guarantee of planning permission. Some of the sites were small and maybe used only as access to other lands. In response to a query from Cllr. Charity, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that the proceeds of the sale come back to the capital account.

ITEM NO.12 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF A DERELICT PROPERTY LOCATED AT BALLAGHAUGEAG, EAST, CO. GALWAY – 0.1074HA. 3872

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 4th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to dispose of a derelict property located at Ballaghaungeag, East, Co. Galway, 0.1074ha., in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 4th November 2021.

ITEM NO.13 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HOUSING PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY 2021-2026 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY. 3873

Draft Plan was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. C. Keaveney it was **AGREED** to adopt the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 in accordance with the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.

The following queries and points were raised by Cllrs. Byrne, Cronnelly, Reddington, Carroll, Keaveney, Cuddy, Broderick:

- Welcomed the Plan for Housing People with Disabilities. It set out a roadmap to enable them to move into independent living.
- People with disabilities should have input into the dedicated disability form.
- The Housing Adaption Grant should not take into account the overall income of the household but rather that of the person with the disability.
- Need to be mindful of language, in terms of the 'dis' in disability. Most people have the 'ability' to living independently away from parents or service providers.
- Access to affordable social housing needs to be raised with the Minister.
- Will the strategic plan have an impact on Part V housing in future?
- Has the local authority examined the associated costs with this strategy?

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr Hanrahan

- The aim strategy plan is to support people to live in their own communities independently or allow people to use their own support structures to facilitate independent living.
- The form for the strategic plan is being relaunched by the Department. The aim is to use the information provided to accurately inform the design of suitable housing.
- Working with occupational therapists, service providers and people themselves housing will be designed around individual needs. Costings will be on a case-by-case basis.
- The Housing Adaption Grant is a national grant and is not covered under this plan. The income levels are set to target the most vulnerable in the community to ensure that grants go to the most vulnerable categories – people on lower incomes and social welfare.
- Not all Part V's will be universal design. It will depend on when planning permission was granted.

ITEM NO.14 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDED AWARDS UNDER THE CLIMATE ACTION OPPORTUNITY FUND 2021. 3874

Report dated the 17th November 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan the Report and recommended awards under The Climate Action Opportunity Fund 2021 were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.15 APPOINTMENT OF 3 ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC ART MANAGEMENT GROUP. 3875

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick it was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Dr Parsons to the Galway County Council Art Management Group.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Mannion to the Galway County Council Art Management Group.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Finnerty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Hoade to the Galway County Council Art Management Group.

ITEM NO.16a TO CONSIDER A DATE & VENUE FOR THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF PLENARY COUNCIL. **3876**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to hold the December Monthly Meeting of Plenary Council on Friday 17th December 2021 at 11:00am in Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway.

ITEM 16b TO CONSIDER A DATE & VENUE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING IN RELATION TO THE CONSIDERATION UNDER SECTION 12(5) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (AS AMENDED) OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028.

Regarding the upcoming draft County Development Plan meetings, concerns were raised about reports of increasing Covid numbers and the impact this might have on Members ability to participate fully in the draft County Development Plan process. In the event that some members were required to self-isolate, hybrid meetings, allowing remote access to 'in person' meetings, maybe required to ensure the full participation of Members and the integrity of the draft County Development Plan process. A flexible approach was required in the context of Covid restrictions.

In response to the issues raised, Mr Owens confirmed the CPG had been consulted in relation to the date and venue of the draft County Development Plan meeting. He noted that suitable locations for in person meetings were limited due to the size of venue required. He said while it was preferable to have in person meetings for the draft County Development Plan decisions would be guided by Public Health Advice.

Mr. Owens reminded Members that there was no provision for hybrid type meetings in the current Standing Orders - meetings could be held either in person or online. He noted the Standing Orders were under constant review. In the event an in-person

meeting could not take place he advised that, following consultation with the CPG and with signed agreement of the Cathaoirleach, the scheduled meeting could revert to an online meeting.

In response to a query regarding voting by Councilors who may have to self-isolate, Mr. Owens advised that it was a matter for each member to decide if they could attend a meeting. Regarding votes, if the meeting was in person each person would need to be present to cast a vote. If the meeting was online, they would need to vote online.

The Chief Executive advised members that hybrid meetings needed careful consideration in terms of the draft County Development Plan process. He said the CPG will consider the matter and make a recommendation in due course. The Cathaoirleach confirmed the CPG would meet as soon as possible to discuss the matter.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to hold a Special Meeting to consider the Chief Executive Report on submissions received to the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 under Part II, Section 12 (5) and (6) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) on Monday 6th December 2021 at 11:00 am in Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway.

ITEM NO.17 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). **3877**

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. McHugh to pursue a Master of Business Administration at the University of Birmingham for the Academic Year 2021 / 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. C Keaveney it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Maher, McClearn, Welby, O 'Curraoin, Hoade & C. Keaveney to attend the "LAMA Autumn Training Seminar 2021" at Sligo Park Hotel from 3rd to 5th November 2021. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. McClearn, O' Curraoin, Hoade & Maher to attend "*AILG Elected Members Mental Health & Well-being and briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention*" at the Clayton Hotel, Galway, on 6th November 2021. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. McClearn & Hoade to attend the "*Irish Planning Institute – Annual Conference 2021*" at Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford from the 17th to 19th November 2021 (Retrospective Approval).

ITEM NO.18 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). **3878**

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. McKinstry to attend "Environment Ireland Conference" at Croke Park, Dublin on 18th & 19th January 2022.

ITEM NO.19 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **3879**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. O'Cualáin the Management Report – November 2021 in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

Matters arising.

Mr Hanrahan informed members that Department of Rural & Community Development had requested each local authority to put forward three towns which would be considered for Department funding for a Town Centre First Plan. He confirmed he would be making proposals to the Department in the coming days. One town will be chosen and provided with €100,000 to develop a masterplan for the town centre.

In response to a query regarding the recruitment of a Community Warden, Ms. Ruane confirmed that the position was part of the current recruitment process. Regarding the provision of additional burial spaces in the Connemara area, Ms. Ruane advised Members that a number of sites had been assessed but noted it was very difficult to find land suitable for the burial grounds.

In response to a request for an update on the N59 Clifden to Maam Cross upgrade, Mr. Pender advised Members that consultants will be appointed following completion of the Strategic Assessment Report. Works on the project would then gain momentum.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the Members compliments to Paul Connolly and the team for their work which secured the Green Flag Award 2021 for the Palace Grounds, Tuam. He said it was a great result for them and for County Galway.

ITEM NO.20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 3880

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

- Letter dated 30.9.21 to Roderic O' Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution - Support new deal Early Years Sector by increasing Government investment in Budget 2022.
- Letter dated 1.10.21 from Roderic O' Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Acknowledgement - New deal for the Early Years Sector
- Letter dated 11.10.21 from Minister Roderic O' Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Response - New deal for the Early Years Sector
- Letter dated 14.10.21 from South Dublin County Council. Resolution - Boycotting Israeli Goods.
- Letter dated 19.10.21 from Kerry County Council. Resolution - Flying Palestine Flag on November 29th 2021.
- Letter dated 20.10.21 from Tipperary County Council. Resolution, Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

- Letter dated 30.9.21 to Éamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications. Resolution- Fast Track legislation to give effect to the Data Commissioners report for the use of Community CCTV.
- Email dated 21.10.21 from Éamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications. Acknowledgement. Fast Track legislation to give effect to the Data Commissioners report for the use of Community CCTV.
- Letter dated 16.11.21 from Sligo County Council. Resolution - Establishment of a Refuge Centre for victims and survivors of domestic violence.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash, No. 142, dated October 2021.

ITEM NO.21 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

3881

The following Motions were submitted:

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

"That the Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien and Minister of State Peter Burke jointly meet as a matter of urgency with the Chief Executive of Galway County Council and leaders of each of the respective political groupings in Galway County Council regarding the upcoming budget and finances of Galway County Council. It is noted a commitment was provided by the Minister of State and Departmental officials at a meeting held on the 13.4.21 to meet and work with this council on historic underfunding by central government but to date this commitment has not been fulfilled."

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

"To call on government to individualize and include autism as a category of its own on the HMD form 1."

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

"That following the correspondence from South Dublin County Council and this council's recent motion that this council also agrees to write to the Department of the

Taoiseach, other local authorities and Retail Ireland calling on Irish and international supermarkets operating here to join the boycott on goods from occupied territories.”

Cllr. Finnerty expressed concern that Members were not getting sufficient time to discuss or debate Notice of Motions submitted, due time constraints on meetings. The Chief Executive agreed this was an important point but noted the current advise on meetings was to meet for the shortest period of time and discuss items of central importance only. He advised that the matter would be brought to the Corporate Policy Group for further discussion.

ITEM NO. 22 NOTICE OF MOTION

3882

Cllr. Herterich Quinn & Cllr. Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“When it comes to addressing gender balance on external boards like the GRETB, GRD, and NWRA, that the membership of Galway County Council is conscious of the necessity for gender balance to support the delivery of stronger outcomes for individuals, organisations, and communities, and in particular where a Statutory Instrument exists.

Where no Statutory Instrument exists for external boards, that we as the Elected Representatives for our County work together to ensure that a Statutory Instrument is put in place for gender balance.”

Cllr. McClearn stressed there was no discrimination in the Council regarding the appointment of female Members to boards. He noted all Members serve on one or other committees. He stressed it was up to each party at election time to put forward female candidates and until female membership of the council increased, gender balance could not be achieved. Cllr. Broderick concurred and said gender balance within parties needed to be addressed.

Cllr. Charity said he agreed with the spirit of the motion but noted a statutory instrument could only be introduced by the Oireachtas. Cllrs. Cuddy and Byrne concurred saying it was outside the remit of the Council.

Cllrs. McHugh, Dr. Parsons and Hoade raised concerns about the commitment required from the seven elected female members if the motion was agreed. It would create huge difficulties if the seven members were obliged to sit on all boards. Cllr. Welby said it was important to recognise the need for gender balance, but stressed people should not be forced into positions that they don't have time for.

Cllrs. Mannion & Donohue said they had always felt supported and gender balance has never been an issue. Cllr. Hoade while agreeing with the spirit of the motion noted she never felt discriminated against. Cllr. Maher raised concerns about the message being sent out on foot of the motion. He feared it may sound like there was no support for female members. He stressed there has always been the opportunity for gender balance on boards. Every member had the opportunity to put themselves forward when a position arises.

The Cathaoirleach sought clarification on the second part of the motion. In response Cllr. Herterich Quinn clarified that in respect of appointments to boards where no statutory instrument existed, the Members would work with Oireachtas members to put them in place. She said statutory instruments were required to ensure gender balance.

In response to the other issues raised, Cllr. Herterich Quinn said her aim was to encourage women into politics. She stressed Members needed to work together to facilitate gender balance. She said Members had the capacity to change things and needed to do everything in their power to allow women, if they wished, to sit on the various boards. Regarding the commitment required from female elected members she noted it was not the intention to force anyone onto boards and clarified it would be based on their availability and interest. Cllr. Herterich Quinn noted the Members concerns. She expressed her disappointment the motion wasn't supported. She stressed she would continue to champion women's role in politics in any way she could. Cllr Herterich Quinn agreed to **WITHDRAW** the motion.

ITEM NO. 23 NOTICE OF MOTION**3883****Cllr. Curley submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

"That Galway County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:

1. Access to Free Travel.

2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy." The Motion, if agreed, to be then sent to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, Minister for State for Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte, T.D. Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, Michael Moynihan TD (Chair, Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters) and to other local authorities for correspondence purposes."

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 24 NOTICE OF MOTION**3884****Cllr. Geraghty submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

"That this Council propose to the Minister with responsibility for Inland Fisheries Ireland, the CEO of Inland Fisheries and Bord Failte that the current necessity for a permit to fish the River Suck be withdrawn".

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 25 NOTICE OF MOTION**3885****Cllr. Herterich Quinn & Cllr. Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

"That Galway County Council write to both Chairpersons of A.I.L.G. and LAMA, Director of NWRA and Minister for Local Government Darragh O'Brien, seeking that a process commences to explore mechanisms or policy recommendations that can be put in place by June 2024 to ensure a more inclusive Regional Assembly."

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 26 NOTICE OF MOTION

3886

Cllr. David Collins submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"That Galway County Council write to the Department of Social Protection for an update on the numbers that are eligible for Fás, Tus, and Rural Social Schemes and is there a plan in place to fill the vacancies locally."

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 27 NOTICE OF MOTION

3887

Cllr. Canning submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"That a detailed breakdown of staff vacancies be contained in all future management reports."

The following reply issued:

"During 2021 the Human Resources Department has briefed the CPG and the members generally, at a high level, of our plans for staffing from an immediate perspective and also proposals for the future, funding dependant. It is proposed to continue this approach going forward. Collating the data requested on a monthly basis would prove an administrative burden for the unit as the situation changes almost daily."

ITEM NO. 28 NOTICE OF MOTION

3888

Cllr. Charity submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"This Council notes that in the 'Connecting Ireland' proposals for County Galway, the NTA incorrectly reference a service to Eanach Dhúin/Annaghdown in Proposal 22A, which stop/service as outlined therein is actually 10.67km as the crow flies from the village of Annaghdown, while Proposal 21 also lists a service to Corrandulla despite omitting the village of Corrandulla entirely and calls on the NTA to immediately rectify and amend their proposals.

This Council further calls on the NTA to revise the entirety of its plans under Proposals 21 and 22A of 'Connecting Ireland' to provide a proper rural public transport option which directly services the villages and environs of Annaghdown, Corrandulla, Caherlistrane, Auchlogheen, Bawnmore, Kiloughter and Menlo, all of which have been omitted from same.

The Council will send this proposal to the NTA and Minister for Transport on approval."

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 29 NOTICE OF MOTION

3889

Cllr. Cuddy submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"that in view of the failure of the Department of Finance to provide sufficient funding to Galway Council to provide a proper level of services within the County of Galway that a letter signed by all the elected members outlining the shortfall be sent immediately to each of the Oireachtas members for the county of Galway and the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure to deal with this issue before the Budget Plenary meeting takes place at the end of the month."

The Notice Motion was unanimously agreed by the Members.

ITEM NO. 30 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

3890

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Shane Jennings, Barbersfort, Tuam Co. Galway
- Sean Concannon, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Margaret Langan, Cartymore, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Gerry Burke, Coolarne, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
- Ita Martyn, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway
- Loretta Canavan and Family, Westport Road, Clifden, Co. Galway
- The Lynch Family, Oaklands, Salthill, Co. Galway

Cllr. Sheridan expressed congratulation to Milltown Tidy Towns recently named as winner of the "Galway County Award" under the Tidy Towns Awards.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn congratulated Monivea Tidy Towns who were named national winner of "Gum Litter Task Force Award" under the Tidy Towns Awards.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach: Pete Harvey

Date: 17/12/21

