

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

Monday 24th May 2021 at 11:00am

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. Donohue, 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, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh:

Mr J. Cullen, Chief Executive, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms E. Ruane Director of Services, Mr D. Pender, A/Director of Services, Mr G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms V Loughnane- Moran Senior Planner, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services/Meetings Administrator, 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.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Members to the first Plenary Meeting held in person since December. He acknowledged council staff for their work in preparing Corrandulla Sports Hall for the meeting. A special word of thanks was expressed to Mr. Tom Creaven and Annaghdown Parish Council for the use of the hall and their ongoing assistance to facilitate Plenary Meetings in the past year when required.

The Cathaoirleach was joined by the Members in extending condolences to Cllr. Hynes and Cllr. Donohue on behalf of all the Members following the recent death of Mr. Sean Hynes RIP, brother of Cllr. Hynes and uncle of Cllr. Donohue. The Chief Executive expressed his sympathies on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Galway County Council. At the request of the Cathaoirleach, a minute's silence was observed. Cllrs. Hynes and Donohue expressed their appreciation for the condolences and support conveyed by the Members, Executive and Staff on the sad passing of Mr. Sean Hynes RIP.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed his solidarity with the people of Gaza and the West Bank. He said Palestinian men, women and children were being slaughtered in the current crisis and stressed from a humanitarian perspective the importance of keeping a focus on the situation. He said he wanted to send a strong message to the Palestinian people that we stand in solidarity with them in Galway.

Cllrs. Murphy, McClearn, Byrne, and McKinstry joined with Cllr. D. Connolly and voiced their solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Cathaoirleach concurred with the Members noting the appalling images coming out of Palestine.

The Cathaoirleach was joined by the Members in conveying their best wishes to Mr. Cullen, Mr. Pender and Mr. Owens in their new roles and the other Directors of Services in their new areas of responsibility.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING: 3778

- (a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 26th & 29th April, and 4th & 6th May 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 26th & 29th April, and 4th & 6th May 2021 were **AGREED**.

Cllr. Byrne acknowledged the comprehensive minutes in relation to the consideration by the Members of the Draft County Development Plan.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. 3779

(a) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 15th March 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 15th March 2021 were **NOTED**.

(b) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 22nd April 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche the minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 22nd April 2021 were **NOTED**.

(c) Minutes of Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC held on 18th November 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC held on 18th November 2020 were **NOTED**.

Matters arising

In response to a query by Cllr. Kinane regarding the reimbursement of €60,000 from the Department of Agriculture for the Control of Horses, the Chief Executive advised that there is a cap on the amount of expenditure that can be recouped. He noted the maximum amount may have been recouped.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane it was **AGREED** to refer the matter to Housing SPC for examination and follow up.

Cllr. D. Connolly stressed the proposed draft bye laws on the Control of Horses must be carefully tailored to ensure there is no unintended effects on farmers and others who care for their animals. The Cathaoirleach advised the draft bye laws will be presented to Plenary Council for further discussion prior to adoption.

- (d) Minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 8th December 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty the minutes of Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held on 8th December 2020 were **NOTED**.

- (e) Minutes of Housing SPC held on 3rd February 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne the minutes of Housing SPC held on 3rd February 2021 were **NOTED**.

Matters arising

In response to a number of queries raised about the Affordable Housing Scheme Mr Hanrahan confirmed a site in Athenry, had been earmarked for the Affordable Housing Scheme near Raheen Woods. He advised currently there are issues with the sewer. To remedy the issue, the expansion of the services and infrastructure is required. He confirmed the Council was engaging with Irish Water on the matter.

Mr Hanrahan noted the Affordable Housing Scheme comes with a caution, not every site will be suitable for the scheme. The cost per unit for affordable housing has to be worked out and developers are warning costs are increasing. He advised that the figures on the percentage of the affordable and social housing required under the scheme are not available yet. He confirmed a draft Tenancy Handbook will be presented at the next Housing SPC. Regarding the €1.7 million announced recently for housing, Mr Hanrahan confirmed it relates to voids and the turnover of houses. He noted Galway County Council turned 67 properties back into tenancy last year, the funding is used to turn those properties around, getting them ready for next tenant.

Cllrs. Killilea & Reddington complimented Mr Hanrahan on the refurbishment of two houses they recently visited. Mr Hanrahan advised that both properties, an old

bungalow and a land commission cottage, were recently refitted with funding under the Retrofit Scheme. He noted both homes, which were previously uninhabitable, are now 'A' rated homes with heating bills under €400 a year. Regarding Repair and Re-leasing Scheme he advised Members anyone with property interested in the scheme should get in contact with Galway County Council.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE LEASE OF 1.289 ACRES IN THE TOWNLAND OF ORANMORE TO CALASANCTIUS COLLEGE, ORANMORE. 3780

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 18th May 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity the lease of 1.289 acres in the townland of Oranmore to Calasanctius College, Oranmore in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 13th May 2021 for a period of 50 years was **AGREED.**

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE LEASE OF 0.184 ACRES IN THE TOWNLAND OF ORANMORE TO GAELSCOIL DE HÍDE. 3781

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 18th May 2021 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity the lease of 0.184 acres in the townland of Oranmore to Gaelscoil de hÍde in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 13th May 2021 for a period of 50 years was **AGREED.**

Cllr. Carroll welcomed both leases, to Calasanctius College and Gaelscoil de hÍde. He informed Members that Calasanctius College had just received approval to add four new rooms and noted the lease to Gaelscoil de hÍde will enable the addition of a further two rooms. He said the addition of these classrooms is hugely important for the schools and Oranmore. He expressed thanks to Oranmore Community Development Association who relinquished their lease on the properties. He thanked Mr. Kevin Kelly, the former Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Owens, County Secretary and Mr. Alan Farrell, former Director of Services for their work in this regard. Cllr. Kinane welcomed the

leases for both schools and acknowledged, Ms. Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education, for the funding she has made available.

ITEM NO.5 TO FIX A DATE, TIME & VENUE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PLENARY COUNCIL. **3782**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne it was **AGREED** that the Annual Meeting of Plenary Council will take place on Friday 18th June at 2:00pm in Glenamaddy at a suitable venue to be determined by the Meetings Administrator.

ITEM NO. 6 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF FORUM CONNEMARA CLG. **3783**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Welby as member of Forum Connemara CLG.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr Byrne it was **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to bring forward item No. 9 on the Agenda.

ITEM NO.9 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM GALWAY FILM CENTRE ON THE WESTERN REGION AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCERS (WRAP) FUND, UNESCO CITY OF FILM AND THE IMPACT/POTENTIAL FOR AUDIO-VISUAL SECTOR IN GALWAY AND THE REGION. **3784**

Mr. Alan Duggan and Ms. Sarah Dillon from Galway Film Centre made a presentation. The following points were highlighted:

UNESCO City of Film

Galway was designated UNESCO City of Film in 2014. The management of the designation has been entrusted to Galway Film Centre. There are 18 cities of film across the world. Each city presents a four-year plan. Galway's City of film current plan runs from 2019 to 2022. the main areas it covers are:

- Access for entrant filmmakers
- Initiatives addressing diversity and inclusion
- Enhanced support for animation and games
- Promotion promote the region for inward production

- Broader talent development opportunities
- Increased international collaboration

Key local initiatives include Fis Summits, Short Film Schemes, Mentorships and Networks, Professional Development and screenings. International initiatives include International Film Festival's, screenings, collaborative research, student exchange, film residencies camps, workshops, and pitching. Galway County Council contribution to City of Film funding totaled €41,000.

Galway Audiovisual Sector Infrastructure

There was a global production boom with Streamers and a shortage of studio space prior to the pandemic. There is now a backlog across the world for studio space, with studio space at a huge premium. In Ireland there are large studio spaces on the East Coast and Troy in Limerick. In Galway studio spaces are small. A tender by Atlantic Studios for facilities at Galway Airport site would serve as an anchor for the talent we are developing in the area. Atlantic Studios have proposed a world class studio facility which would attract large scale film and TV production and have a significant economic impact and job creation if successful.

Creative Enterprise West CREW

An initiative supporting the creative digital enterprise sector in the West. CREW's focus will be on the development and scaling of creative digital entrepreneurs, job creation, incubation and accelerator programmes, training, and outreach services in the west.

The Western Region Audiovisual Producers Fund (WRAP Fund)

WRAP encourages regional production activity across the film, television drama, animation and gaming sectors, to support local talent, create sustainable employment and build the audio-visual infrastructure. The region encompasses counties Clare, Donegal, Galway (City and County), Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo (Region).

The economic impact of the audiovisual sector was set out with the example of the film "Camp with Horses", filmed in 2018. It had a total budget of €2.5 million, the local spend was €1.39 million, there was 21 regional crew with 234 local extras, there was €60,000 spent on locations and offices are €120,000 spent on accommodation and €40,000 spent on travel. For every €1 invested it puts €8 back into the economy. Film locations were based in Galway Loughrea, Renville and Conamara.

As Chair of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Cllr. McHugh thanked Mr. Duggan and Ms. Dillon for accepting the invitation to attend and for the informative presentation outlining the economic potential of the audio-visual sector. Cllr McHugh thanked them for their work to date which has brought major investment to the region. Noting the highly skilled crew available in the west she hoped WRAP funding will help put foundations in place to attract big players to the west of the country.

The following points were raised by Cllrs. Carroll, Byrne, Donohue, Hoade, Broderick, Mac An Iomaire, Cuddy and Kinane.

- Complimented Galway Film Centre on their work and acknowledged the importance of WRAP funding for the audiovisual sector. Noted the significant increase in the number of staff employed in the sector in the past 7 years.
- In terms of the County Development Plan how can the Council provide support.
- Apart from Galway Airport, are other vacant properties suitable for adaption as studio space and are other potential sites for studio space being examined.
- The huge economic returns from the audiovisual sector to the local economy is evident.
- Saint Bridget's Hospital, Ballinasloe suggested as a potential location for studios. It has a huge tract of unused land.
- The local economy in Connemara benefits from the film industry in terms of revenue from accommodation, catering and transport hire etc.
- How compatible the proposed studio would be while maintaining aviation at Galway Airport site. The Airport was put there by taxpayer's money and currently over 100 members in the flying club use the airport.

- Noting the current use of the airport by the flying club, the HSE and possible future requirements by HSE, queried if the location of a studio at the airport would affect them.

Mr. Duggan responded to Members as follows:

- There are two key aspects to the development of the audio-visual sector: capacity building, in terms of training new people and secondly, sustainability. With facilities in place, film production companies will come to work in the west and local talent can remain and build a career in the area. WRAP funding will play a huge part in achieving this.
- In terms of the help, a studio is required and support for the proposed facility at Galway Airport is the quickest way to achieve that.
- In terms of vacant properties and potential use as studio space, not every site is suitable. There are certain requirements for example requirement for high ceilings without pillars.
- Film tourism is something also to be considered in terms of returns to local economy. Cong and "The Quiet Man" is a good example of film tourism.
- Regarding St. Bridget's as a possible location, consideration was given in 2018 to what the hospital had in terms of audio-visual infrastructure. The site may be suitable as a hub location. Following the pandemic, hubs will become more important in the audiovisual industry.
- Connemara has benefited hugely by Údarás support.
- Galway Film Centre support the audiovisual industry broadly. They are not promoters of Atlantic Studios but do support their application at Galway Airport.
- In relation to the current aviation use and HSE use of the airport, the proposed studio would not impact on the airstrip or the current requirements by the HSE. The location of a studio at the site may require in the region of seven acres and two hangers, forming only a part of the whole site. Soundproofing the hangers is a requirement in order to make them suitable as a studio.
- Regarding possible future HSE requirements, the development of a studio in the airport will take some time and involve a planning process therefore the HSE usage is not a problem at the moment.

- Regarding other suitable locations for studio space, there are other potential greenfield sites. However, a greenfield site would require a significant amount of funding. There aren't that many sites that could be renovated certainly not to the level of the airport.
- There are plans by Eimear Noone, conductor at last year's Oscars, to build a sound studio in Kilconnell. This will assist in the development of the sector.
- At the moment there is no available studio space in the county Galway. There will be huge demand for studio space in next two to three years. Galway needs a studio and if we don't act now there is a strong possibility we will be left behind.

The Cathaoirleach noted the audiovisual and entertainment sectors are both very important with enormous potential economically. Regarding the Galway Airport site he advised Members the Chief Executive and the Community and Enterprise Team had been working with the applicants to examine the suitability of the site from a planning perspective. He noted it is a jointly owned site, by Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAY 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **3785**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne the Management Report – May 2021 in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

Cllrs. Donohue, Hynes and Curley raised a number of queries regarding progress on the renovation works on Loughrea Town Hall. Cllr. McClearn reminded Members that this was a Municipal District matter and noted a report was due to be presented at the next meeting. The Chief Executive advised that queries will be addressed at the meeting.

Referring to the recent discovery of an explosive device in an estate in Tuam, Cllr. Killilea queried why the matter had not been addressed in the Management Report. The Cathaoirleach said the matter was under active investigation as advised by the Chief Superintendent at a recent Joint Policing Committee meeting. The Chief Executive

acknowledged it was a very serious matter, but it was not appropriate to include it in the Management Report as it is subject to an ongoing Garda investigation.

The following points were raised by Cllrs. Geraghty, Byrne, Herterich-Quinn, Broderick, Mannion, Sheridan and Mc Hugh-Farag:

- Small community groups are struggling to maintain and repair playgrounds due to lack of funding available. Equipment and insurance is provided by the Council but there is no funding available for repair and maintenance. This needs to be examined.
- Regarding the South Galway Flood Relief Scheme there needs to be engagement between landowners and Galway County Council to alleviate any concerns.
- Difficulties in getting tradesmen and increasing costs are having an adverse effect on the Housing Adaptation Grants. We need to examine the level of grants available in light of this.
- Disappointment expressed that we as a County are limited in the amount of funding we can receive from Fáilte Ireland due to the lack of pedestrianized areas.
- Have Fáilte Ireland allocated any resources to the local authority to support the administration and rollout of a number of initiatives carried out on their behalf to support businesses and the tourism sector.
- Clarification sought on the number of positions being made available under the NTA Active Travel Programme.
- Acknowledged the work in progressing successful applications for funding for work on Piers and Harbours.
- There are a large number of applications for Section 254 licences for outdoor dining areas by public houses that are due to open soon.
- Request for including planning metrics on the Management Report.

The Chief Executive responded to Members as follows:

- In relation to extra funding for small community groups and the upkeep of playgrounds this is a budgetary matter and will require an increase in the overall budget.
- Housing Adaptation Grants can be considered at the Housing SPC.

- Acknowledged it is very important where possible to an opportunity for in person consultation on the Gort Flood Relief Scheme.
- Regarding Fáilte Ireland Initiatives there was no additional resources provided for the administration and roll-out of the various initiatives.
- The NTA originally provided funding for two additional posts for the rollout of the Active Travel Programme. They have since confirmed funding for a minimum of four. They are open to further requests for staffing and have confirmed the local authority will be adequately resourced to effectively deliver the programme.
- All outdoor dining is governed by Section 254 licenses. The applications will be dealt with in a timely manner. Some application may require more examination than others, but they will be all dealt with as quickly as possible.
- It is the intention to include more metrics in the Management Report noting the staffing and time resources required in the preparation of these details.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh Farag **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Geraghty it was **AGREED** to include a table on the Management Report in respect of planning metrics. The Cathaoirleach clarified that a quarterly report would suffice and this was agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons sought clarification on the application for funding under the Anti Littering Infrastructure scheme. In response Ms. Ruane advised the Anti-Littering scheme was launched only recently and applications were currently being finalised for a number of items including, solar compacting bins, portaloos at beauty spots and a dog fouling awareness campaign. In addition, she confirmed there will be additional bin collecting and an increased community warden presence. She advised that lifeguards start a week earlier than usual with extended working hours from 11am to 7pm. An increase of 2 hours from the previous years.

Comh. O 'Cualáin queried if the guidance in relation to Housing Grants for Older people living in their own homes had changed. He said he was aware of a number of applications to replace their windows and doors which had been refused. In response, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that the eligibility and conditions for the grant scheme had not changed. He advised that the number of grant applications had increased and in addition, the number of ineligible applications had also increased. He noted for example anyone already with double glazing window will not be eligible for replacements.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BILL 2021 TO INCLUDE THE PROPOSAL FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE SECTION 183 RESERVED FUNCTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS IN RELATION TO THE DISPOSAL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HELD LAND TO THE LDA AS PROVIDED FOR IN PART 7 SECTION 56 OF THE BILL. 3786

The contents of the reports published on the Extranet prior to the meeting were **NOTED**. Cllr. Hoade outlined the presentation made by the Association of Irish Local Government's (AILG) to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 on 11th May 2021. She advised Members the AILG was taking a strong position in defense of the role of Councilors in the disposal of lands owned by the local authority and on the primacy of the local authority as the housing and planning authority.

She highlighted the AILG's concerns and proposed amendments to the Bill:

- AILG are adamant local authorities remain the lead provider of social and affordable housing and are central to any public housing delivery program, they have a strong record of achievement in this area.
- The proposed Land Development Agency Bill 2021 will lead to the curbing of some of the reserved functions of councilors particularly in relation to section 56 of the bill, which proposes to remove the section 183 reserved function of Members in relation to the disposal of local authority owned land. AILG proposed an amendment to section 49 and section 56 of the bill which will protect the reserved function of members.
- The proposed Land Development Agency Bill 2021 does not protect the primacy of County/City Development Plans which have a high level of legitimacy through public engagement, and the councilors' role in their development and approval. AILG proposed an amendment to section 50 (3) and an additional section to ensure that the Land Development Agency will take account of the development plan policies of the local authority.
- AILG proposed an amendment to section 75 of the bill to ensure that the local authority will be responsible for setting the appropriate percentage of land to be set aside for affordable housing in line with their local development plans, housing strategies, core strategies and population projections.

- A proposed amendment to section 59 of the Bill will ensure local authorities are excluded from the Land Development Agency's CPO powers.
- AILG's proposed amendment to section 55 of the bill will ensure provision is made that the local authority has the option of acquiring back public lands where the Land Development Agency are disposing of lands, originally acquired from a local authority.

Cllr. Hoade advised the AILG had proposed 14 amendments in total to the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 focusing on key concerns including; protecting the reserved functions of the counselor in the disposal of council and foot, retaining the primacy of the County Development Plan, asserting the role of the local authority in the deciding of the amount of affordable housing needed on any Land Development Agency site in its jurisdiction and expanding the range of towns to benefit from Land Development Agency technical assistance.

Cllr. Hoade confirmed the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage are supporting all amendments.

Cllr. McClearn said local authorities had a tremendous track record in the delivery of social housing and noted the reason they have fallen down in this regard is due to a lack of proper funding. He stressed there is a mechanism already in place for the delivery of social housing which should be properly funded.

ITEM NO.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. **3787**

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

- Letter dated 16.04.2021 from Limerick City & County Council – Resolution; retain existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing.
- Letter dated 16.04.2021 from Limerick City & County Council – Resolution; the Council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 removing the role of the Elected Members.

- Letter dated 25.02.2021 from County Secretary to Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Resolution: CETA / ICS
- Letter dated 19.04.2021 from Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment office regarding resolution letter CETA / ICS
- Letter dated 26.04.2021 from Clare County Council – Resolution; Carers allowance
- Letter dated 26.04.2021 from Clare County Council – Resolution; “Connecting for Life” pilot scheme
- Letter dated 26.04.2021 from Clare County Council – Resolution; request for victims of abuse have access to free psychological support and counselling
- Mayors for Peace News Flash – April 2021
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Social Protection – Resolution; Pension and other entitlements be extended to rural social scheme and Tús supervisors
- Email dated 29.04.2021 from Minister of Social Protection’s office – acknowledgment of resolution letter regarding Pension and other entitlements
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Catherine Martin T.D. Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media – Resolution; broaden the criteria for outdoor seating and accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business
- Email dated 29.04.2021 from Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media office – acknowledgement of resolution letter regarding outdoor seating
- Letter dated 12.05.2021 from Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media office – acknowledgement of resolution letter regarding outdoor seating
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Charlie McConalogue T.D. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Marine – Resolution; Beef farmers
- Email dated 30.04.2021 from Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine office - acknowledgement of resolution letter regarding beef farmers
- Letter dated 12.05.2021 from Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine - acknowledgement of resolution letter regarding beef farmers
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Archbishop Michael Neary- Resolution; good wishes on his retirement

- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Fáilte Ireland – Resolution; broaden the criteria for outdoor seating and accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Resolution: Restart Grant
- Letter dated 28.04.2021 from County Secretary to Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment – Resolution: Beef Farmers
- Email and letter dated 30.04.2021 from Joint Committee on disability matters.
- Letter dated 30.04.2021 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council – Resolution; Epilepsy Ireland
- Letter dated 17.05.2021 from Clare County Council – Resolution; Maximum household income thresholds in the three banded areas.

ITEM NO.11 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3788

The following Motions were submitted:

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

“that this local authority sends a strong message of solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine as a whole, by calling on the Irish Government to hold the Israeli Ambassador to account by calling him for interview by the relevant Dáil Committee (Foreign Affairs). Also, that Galway County Council as a local authority will abide by the guidelines of the B.D.S movement as part of its purchasing policy. (this prevents the purchasing of any products from companies that have premises on illegally occupied Palestinian land).”

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh and Cllr Roche:

“That the Ethics Officer investigated the proposed distribution of the €180,000 in the Tuam Municipal area. I would like to bring special attention to the following two motions:

Motion MDT210002

The meeting held on March 1st, 2021, and the failure to adhere to this motion which was passed on March 1st 2021 unanimously that members would have an in-house meeting with the Tuam Municipal area engineers before any decision was made on the distribution of the €180,000.

Motion MDT 2100014

Meeting held on the 12th April in which a motion was passed that the €180,000 fund be unfairly divided between 4 councillors and whether this motion and the details of the projects outlined contravenes the direction set out by the Minister which was to strengthen the Municipal area."

The Cathaoirleach noted the motion proposed was, without notice and dealt with urgent business relating to a function of the Council. In accordance with Standing Order 25 he advised that it was necessary for the majority of the Members present to approve the taking of motion and the passing of the motion required not less than 20 members voting in favour of the motion. The Cathaoirleach called for a vote to approve taking the motion. The following was the result:

For 21

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Charity	Cllr. Collins	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Cronnelly	Comh. Ó' Curraoin	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Comh. Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McHugh Farag
Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Welby

Against 6

Comh. Ó'Cualáin	Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Hoade
Cllr. King	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas

Abstain 5

Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Dolan,
Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Herterich Quinn	

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the Members approval to take the motion. The result of the vote on passing the motion was as follows:

For 21

Cllr. Broderick	Cllr. Byrne	Cllr. Carroll
Cllr. Charity	Cllr. Collins	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Cronnelly	Comh. Ó' Curraoin	Cllr. Donohue
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Comh. Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Mannion	Cllr. McClearn	Cllr. McHugh Farag
Cllr. McKinstry	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Roche	Cllr. Welby

Against 6

Comh. Ó'Cualáin	Cllr. Curley	Cllr. Hoade
Cllr. King	Cllr. Sheridan	Cllr. Thomas

Abstain 5

Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Dolan,
Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Herterich Quinn	

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM NO.12 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3789

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

"Galway County Council calls on the government to legislate to make it mandatory that all products and packaging labelling be written in Irish, as well as whichever other language the seller chooses.

This is already in existence in Canada and Finland and has proven extremely successful in helping to enhance the level of fluency in the native tongue of these countries."

ITEM NO.13 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3790

Cllrs. Herterich Quinn & Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

"Cllr Shelly Herterich Quinn and Cllr Martina Kinane support the Love 30 Campaign for Lower Speed Limits

- 30 km/h speed limits should be introduced in all residential estates, other residential roads and in neighbourhood centres.
- Periodic 30 km/h zones should be implemented around all schools and other places of assembly (cinemas, theatres, community centres, religious buildings, all sporting venues etc.), that have large numbers of people arriving and/or departing at the same time.
- These 30 km/h speed limit changes should also apply to roads in new housing estates that have not yet been taken in charge and to future housing estates. This can be achieved by setting 30 km/h as the default speed limit across whole towns and villages, with exceptions for specific roads.
- In semi-rural and rural areas, roads with ribbon housing should not have speed limits exceeding 50-60 km/h. In some of these cases, the speed limit should be substantially lower.

We, therefore, wish to propose that the Transport and Infrastructure SPC undertake a review of the recommendations as stated above."

The following reply issued:

"I can confirm that the motion will be referred to the next meeting of the Roads & Transportation SPC for consideration."

ITEM NO.14 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3791

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

" "The EPA is implementing a revised Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent < 10) on the 7th June 2021. On page 22 of the document it states, "As soon as the assessment has been completed the trial hole and percolation test holes should be backfilled as they may fill following heavy rainfall and pose an even greater health and safety risk."

Can Galway County Council confirm that applicants will not be required to leave open test excavation holes or planning will not be refused on the grounds that the holes were backfilled?"

The following reply issued:

"The Planning Authority has examined the revised Code of Practice issued by the EPA which becomes effective from June 7th, 2021. The EPA guidelines have identified a health and safety risk in leaving the trial holes and percolation test holes open following the completion of the site characterisation assessment. The EPA guidance recommends that the holes be backfilled as soon as the assessment is completed. Galway County Council will adhere to the guidance provided by the EPA and currently the Development Management unit in conjunction with the Environment section are examining our application assessment processes to incorporate the EPA guidance into same."

ITEM NO.15 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3792

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

"The Motion being that the Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore for which the Council have received funding to carry out a Feasibility study should include in that study the feasibility of a Coastal Cycling/Walkway from Tesco's in the centre of Oranmore to the rear of Renville Park approx 4km in length, and seek the support of the Councillors for same.

The advantages gained from the proposed cycle way are vast:

- a) Develop a safe cycle, walking, jogging path for an expanding population.

- b) For the use of the combined membership of the various sporting codes located in or to be located in Maree that combined number of sports persons of all ages and codes are over 2,500 players.
- c) Reduce traffic on an already busy road.
- d) The potential as an amenity to south Galway and to tourism as part of the Wild Atlantic way. Routes can be planned to takers walkers, cyclists and joggers through this coastal route through Renville Park and on to natural beauty spots like Taiwan Island, Ardfry house etc. with the potential for a round trip of 36km.
- e) A safe means of connecting to the cycleway planned from the railway station to the village thereby creating the opportunity of leaving the car at home.
- f) If the width of the cycle way is 4m this will allow its use by 4x4 vehicles by the Coast Guard and the Oranmore Search and Rescue group and speed up the response time considerably and searches of the coastline."

The following reply issued:

"The review of the Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore will study the existing infrastructure in Oranmore and provide recommendations of some alterations to improve the existing network functionality.

The feasibility of a Coastal Cycling /Walkway from Tesco's in the centre of Oranmore to the rear of Renville Park is a major study involving the provision of new infrastructure in an area of ecological importance that is classified as a special area of conservation and would require extensive ecological and environmental surveys, and would not be appropriate to include in a Traffic Management Plan."

Cllr. Cronnelly acknowledged receipt of the reply in advance of the meeting and advised that arising from same further clarification was required. He agreed to **DEFER** the motion to the June meeting to allow for a supplementary written response.

ITEM NO.16 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3793

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

"that Galway County Council write to the Minister Roderic O'Gorman calling on his department to help victims of domestic, sexual and gender based violence access free

counselling and support and for better awareness of services available to victims after their court case ends without facing long waiting lists, bearing in mind that perpetrators have immediate and free access to therapy while in prison"

ITEM NO.17 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3794

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

"I propose that Galway County Council immediately investigate the serious problem of not having sufficient Planning Enforcement Officers for the County. My understanding is that at the moment we have but one to cover the whole county and that there is a six months backlog in dealing with possible breaches of planning regulations. I propose that the council set in progress the appointment of at least 4 enforcement officers and that if they cannot recruit sufficient enforcement officers from their present staff that the CEO would apply to the Department for the necessary funding to employ the required extra staff."

The following reply issued:

"I wish to confirm that the recruitment process has been finalised to facilitate the filling of the vacant Planning Enforcement Officers and we expect staff to be in place within a few weeks. Further an increase in the number of Enforcement Officers is being put in place to facilitate the clearance of the backlog in this area of work.

In addition, I wish to confirm that a new planning enforcement computer system/workflow is being rolled out which will streamline the work and facilitate greater efficiencies in this area."

ITEM NO.18 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

3795

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Maurice Davin & Family Cashleen, Renvyle, Co. Galway.
- Bernie Glavin, Canteeny, Turloughmore
- Catherine McGrath, Cregmore, Claregalway
- Paddy Gibbons, Glengowla, Oughterard
- Monica Baldwin and Family, Ballyaneen, Gort

- Amanda and Niall Stewart, Coole Demesne, Gort
- Mary and John McDermott, Lissavruggy, Newbridge
- Teresa Lyons and Joanne Flynn, Curraghduff, Newbridge
- Tom and Bernie Walsh and Family, Springlawn, Mountbellew
- Mary Mannion and Family, Cloonoran, Moylough
- Patsy Devaney, Belderney, Mountbellew
- Rita Barrett and Family, Tuam Road, Mountbellew
- Colm and Jillian Devaney, Dóirín Glas, Lettermore
- Barbara Folan, Cornarone Middle, Inverin
- Henry Cosgrove, The Mall, Tuam
- Joseph Knight, Cashel, Williamstown

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach : James Christy

Date: 28/6/21