

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Monday 24th November at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr David Collins

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Killilea, P. Killilea, G. King, M. Lee, P. Mac An Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, , S. McHugh Ryan, M. McNamara, , A. Reddington, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar line:

P. Keaveney, D. Kelly, M. Kinane, M. Leainde, K. McHugh Farag and E. F. Parsons.

Oifigh:

Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. S. Lawless,

Administrative Officer, Mr. M. O
Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge,
Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. L.
O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 4618

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Cllr. Regan the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 20th October 2025 were **AGREED**.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to Cllr. Ivan Canning on the recent loss of his father Seán RIP.

The Elected Members offered their sympathies to Cllr. Ivan Canning on the loss of his father RIP. Also, sympathies were also expressed to Mr. Sean Ó Neachtain former MEP on the loss of his sister Philomena RIP and to former Councillor Michael Ryan on the loss of his mother.

Cllrs. Regan, Welby and Geraghty raised the following points and queries:

- The issue of poor communication from Council officials, first highlighted at the October plenary, was raised again.
- At the October plenary meeting, the Director of Services for Housing advised Members that he had received verbal confirmation of amendments to the Affordable Housing Funding from the Department. It was asked whether this confirmation had since been provided in writing.
- Issues with accessing Council IT systems were raised.
- Old documents on Teams should be removed.
- The speaker module on the left-hand side of the Chamber is not working.

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

- Confirmed that a new system for dealing with Elected Members queries has been implemented and he committed to investigate further.

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

- He has not received written confirmation on changes to the Affordable Housing Scheme, however he was informed of the change at a Galway Housing Task Force meeting. The Department confirmed that they will treat each application on a case-by-case basis.

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

- Explained that the two point verification process to log onto the Councils IT network is necessary to protect the Council systems. The Innovation Team are looking at implementing a Share Point system as used by other Council committees.
- The speakers in the Chamber were checked and confirmed to be working. However, it must be noted that the sound volume needs to be balanced to avoid feedback. Headsets are available to improve audio quality. She will ask the IT supplier to review the acoustics in conjunction with the IT department.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4619

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 13th October 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Grealish **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the minutes of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee held on 12th May 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the minutes of the Environmental Protection and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee held on 23rd July 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Lee **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Killilea the minutes of the Community Irish Language, Gaeltacht Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee held on 24th July 2025 were **NOTED**.

Cllr. Mannion raised the following point and query:

- Enquired if the civic amenity site in Clifden is accepting textile waste.

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

- It was confirmed that the civic amenity site in Clifden accepts textiles, and the Environment Section is currently engaging with providers to expand facilities.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE GRANTING OF TEMPORARY LEASEHOLD AND LICENCE ON LANDS AT THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT AT CARNMORE, CO. GALWAY TO GALWAY FLYING CLUB FOR THE PERIOD 23RD DECEMBER 2025 TO 24TH DECEMBER 2026. **4620**

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 5th November 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly it was **AGREED** to grant a temporary leasehold and licence on lands at the former Galway Airport at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for the period 23rd December 2025 to 24th December 2026, in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 5th November 2024.

Cllrs. M. Connolly, Charity, Maher, O Curraoín, Mannion, Cunniffe, Geraghty, Grealish, D. Connolly, Donohue, McClearn, Turner, Regan, Welby and Parsons, raised the following points and queries:

- If the site were to be sold during the term of the temporary leasehold and licence, will the Flying Club then deal directly with the new owners.

- The site should be retained as an airport.
- An update on the Masterplan for the site was requested.
- The availability of existing airstrips at Cleggan and Inishboffin was highlighted.
- Part of the site should be assigned to sports and recreational needs.
- Could a feasibility study on the retention of the site as an airport be carried out.
- The Flying Club cannot plan for the future while only having one-year leases.
- The Council should investigate the possibility of buying Galway City Council's share of the site.
- The site is not utilised enough, it should be used to hold concerts again.

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

- The site is identified in the County Development Plan and the National Planning Framework as a site of strategic economic potential.
- Expressions of Interest were invited during the summer.
- A Masterplan will be required before any planning applications can be considered.
- The Council is not in a position to operate the site as an airport. Any site disposed will need a business case assessment by the Executive and the final decision on its future rests with the Elected Members.
- A report on the Expressions of Interests received will be provided to the Members.

A discussion took place on the location of the site, Galway City Council's role and a request was received that the future of the site to be an item on a future agenda.

The Chief Executive said that the site is in the Galway strategic economic corridor, primely located with access to the motorway system, rail network and electricity and broadband networks. Members feedback will be considered. The City Council are willing to collaborate with the Council on the sale of the site. Preparing the joint economic strategy for the Galway Metropolitan Area and key towns will add value to the site. He added that a special workshop will be held for Members which will include proposals in conjunction with the economic strategy.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) STANDING ORDERS REGULATING PROCEEDINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE SPC'S. **4621**

Report dated November 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Service presented the Draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Standing Orders Regulating Proceedings and Meetings of the SPC. Mr. Owens highlighted the proposed amendments that have been made to the Standing Orders, including non-attendance of meetings and submission of agenda items. The draft Standing Orders have been approved at Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the CPG recommended them for adoption.

The Members welcomed the amendments and commented that they will add value to the work of the SPCs.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Standing Orders Regulating Proceedings and Meetings of the SPC's.

ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER A DATE AND TIME FOR THE DECEMBER PLENARY MEETING. **4622**

It was unanimously agreed by the Members to hold the December plenary meeting of Galway County Council on Monday 15th December at 11.00am.

ITEM NO. 6. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT. **4623**

Report dated 10th November 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Kinane to attend AILG October Training Module – Local Authority

Finance and Budget Process at the Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary on the 11th October 2025. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Comh. O' Curraoin it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Reddington, and Maher to attend LAMA Autumn Training Seminar at the Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey on the 16th & 17th October 2025. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. Regan it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Reddington, Kinane, Turner, L. Harney, Maher to attend AILG November Training Module – DHLGH, OPR and CCMA Briefing on Updated Planning Legislation & Guidelines at Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on 15th November 2025.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. Regan it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. King, Mc Hugh-Ryan and Regan to attend at Ravenport Resort, Wexford on 13th November 2025 (Retrospective Approval).

ITEM NO. 7. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, MEETINGS OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **4624**

Report dated 10th November 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Maher to attend Celtic Conferences – “The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations” at O'Donovan Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 7th, 8th & 9th November 2025.

ITEM NO. 8 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE WESTERN REGION DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE ON THE PLANET YOUTH PROJECT. **4625**

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Emmett Major from Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force gave an insightful presentation on Galway County, Planet Youth Report 2025.

The Members joined to express their concerns for the young people of Galway and the dangers that they encounter.

Cllrs. McClearn, Regan, Maher, Canning, McHugh Ryan, Mannion, Hoade, Cunniffe, McNamara, Reddington, Turner, Thomas, Donohue, A. Harney, Keane, Geraghty, Finnerty, Wely and M. Connolly raised the following points and queries:

- Presentations from external bodies should be taken earlier in the meeting, subject to statutory requirements.
- If the findings from the school reports compiled by the Task Force are shared with the students.
- Clarification was sought on which government agency oversees the Task Force
- The lack of regulations for off-licences was raised.
- It was asked how Galway County Council can help the work of the Task Force.
- It was asked whether the Task Force has conducted a survey on the types of spaces teenagers would like to see provided for them.
- Derelict buildings should be used to provide community and youth spaces.
- Lowering the voting age to 16 would help bring young people closer to the decision-making powers.
- Gardaí are under resourced.

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

- School surveys are conducted every two years, and individual schools use the information in different ways.
- The Task Force is under the remit of the Department of Health.
- The Task Force are a small unit. Prevention measures are severely underfunded.

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

- He extended his thanks to Mr. Major for addressing the meeting. The information provided is invaluable for shaping planning policies and guiding funding priorities, including identifying areas for community and recreational use. Given the Council's limited resources, decisions must be made on how best to allocate funding. This input will inform discussions under the Local Government Safety Partnership (LCSP) and Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). This population group has not received sufficient focus in the past but should be prioritised in the future.

The Cathaoirleach said that the possibility of taking presentations from external bodies earlier in a plenary meeting would be discussed at Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

Clirs. Donohue, A. Harney, Keane raised the following points and queries:

- The area covered by the Clár funding map should be expanded to include more of County Galway.
- Cyber Safety talks currently taking place in Galway should receive financial support. The Healthy Galway Strategy, under the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), should collaborate with them to ensure their wider rollout
- Greater efforts are needed to raise awareness on the dangers facing young people.

ITEM NO. 9 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG).

4626

Mr. Paddy O'Rourke addressed the meeting and Ms. Elaine Lynch delivered a presentation on behalf of the Association of Irish Local Government, outlining the role and functions of the AILG which benefit the Elected Members

Cllrs. McClearn, Hoade, Welby L. Harney, Finnerty, Ó Curraoín and Geraghty raised the following points and queries:

- The importance of AILG training was highlighted, and Members were strongly encouraged to attend events to stay informed on evolving legislation
- The AILG provide a great support to Elected Members.
- It was noted that not all political parties are represented on the AILG.

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

- The invaluable role of AILG in keeping Members updated was emphasised, and all Members were encouraged to use their training allowances to avail of these opportunities.

ITEM NO. 10. TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **4627**

Report dated November 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Management Report – November 2025, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

Cllrs. Donohue, Maher, Mannion, Keane, O Curraoín, Regan, McNamara, D. Connolly, Geraghty, Lee, Mac An Iomaire, Finnerty and Kelly raised the following points and queries:

- Ms. Edel Hourigan was wished well in her upcoming retirement and her hard work over the years was commended.
- The report on Storm Éowyn was welcomed.
- If any action has been taken on trees near electricity lines, in particular by Coillte.
- It was asked that pressure be kept on ESB following recent power outages in Conemara.
- It was asked if the Council are ready to respond if another bad storm were to hit Galway.

- It was asked if the Community Hubs set up in response to emergencies are community or Council led.
- The granting of Part 10 planning permission for the Public Realm project for Clifden was welcomed. It was asked if there is adequate staff and funding for the project. Concern was raised at the limited amount of parking available.
- The provision of buses to Galway City for the Local Craft Fair was questioned, as it may draw potential customers away from the County.
- It was asked if parking in County towns will be free in December.
- The funding for Renville Sports & Community Grounds was welcomed.
- The carpark at Oranmore Train Station must be provided as quickly as possible.
- Some Members noted concerns regarding the recent visit of the British Ambassador.
- Every visitor to the Council should receive a warm welcome. There are important trade links that must be maintained between Galway and Britain.
- A query was raised regarding the number of temporary sewerage systems operating in the County, their status, and the potential negative impact on waterways.
- Congratulations and best wishes were conveyed to the new President Catherine Connolly.
- It was requested that confirmation be provided on whether each Municipal District will receive an update on housing provision in the upcoming variation of the County Development Plan.

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

- He wished Ms. Edel Hourigan all the best in her retirement and thanked her for her 43 years of service.
- Outdoor staff were deployed an hour after the red alert was lifted following Storm Éowyn.

- Council outdoor staff are certified and are competent in the use of chain saws. He thanked the Farming Community and wider Galway communities for their help to the Council in the aftermath of the storms.
- For future events, Community Hubs will be set up where and when needed.
- If the Members have any areas of concern regarding dangerous trees, he asked them to give details to the Executive and we will pass the information to the necessary party.
- A report on the proposed variation of the County Development Plan will be prepared, followed by workshops, with recommendations presented to the Elected Members
- Ambassadors are not political representatives. All visitors to Áras an Chontae will receive respect. The communication between Governments that Ambassadors provide is very important.
- Members are asked to bring any concerns regarding wastewater treatment plants to the attention of the Environment Section.

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

- The Council are responsible for roads. All national roads were open within 2 days of Storm Éowyn, or where they remained closed there were alternative routes open. The power and communication problems are not the direct responsibility of the Council.
- Agencies are progressing new communication network plans.
- Trees are the responsibility of landowners.
- The level of hedge trimming in County Galway is the highest in the country.

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

- The craft fair is an initiative supported by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO). Many of the trades people that will have stalls at the craft fare are from the County. This will be an opportunity for them to sell their work.
- The provision of carparking is included as part of the Clifden Public Realm.
- Contracts have been signed for the design stage of the multi-story carpark at Oranmore rail station.

- Closing date for submissions for the variation to the County Development Plan is 12 noon on December 23rd. The review will be completed after Christmas and the Chief Executives report will be circulated to the Members in late January 2026.
- There are no temporary sewerage plants in County Galway.
- Discussions are being held at national level on how the developer led water treatment plant process will operate. Applications will be approved by Uisce Éireann before they come to the Council.
- Parking arrangements in the County towns in the lead up to Christmas, will be the same as previous years.

Cllrs. McNamara, Maher, Regan, Geraghty, D. Connolly, raised the following points and queries:

- How many Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (DPIs) are in the County.
- Athenry town center has not been taken in charge.
- It was suggested that Council workers undertake the GRETB Tree Surgeon training course.
- Clarification was sought on how the Members can have a Notice of Motion prioritised, and whether the process can be escalated after a certain period.

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

- There are approximately 100 DPIs in County Galway.
- Athenry has a permanent treatment plant, which is awaiting an upgrade
- If there are outstanding NOMs, the Members can bring them to the attention of the relevant Director.

ITEM NO. 11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 4628

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

- Letter dated 25.09.25 from Roscommon County Council – Resolution letter to Minister for Local Government regarding Development Contribution Waiver Scheme.
- Letter dated 07.10.25 – reply to Roscommon County Council from Eoin Colleary Private Secretary to Minister of State John Cummins re Resolution letter – Development Contribution Waiver Scheme.
- Letter dated 25.06.25 – Resolution Letter to Department of Climate, Energy & Environment – Increased Climate Action Fund Funding.
- Email dated 13.10.25 from Climate Action Fund Team, Department of Climate, Energy & Environment – Reply to Resolution.
- Letter dated 15.10.25 from Tipperary County Council – Resolution – Inclusion of Commercial Operators in Child Leap Card Scheme.
- Letter dated 13.10.25 from Westmeath County Council – Resolution letter In support of Galway County Council's Resolution letter - Portiuncula Hospital.
- Email dated 22.10.25 from Eoghan Flynn, Private Secretary to Minister for Health – Reply to Westmeath County Council Support Letter for Portiuncula Hospital.
- Letter dated 16.10.25 from Galway City Council – Resolution letter to Minister for Transport – Extension of Free fares under 9s.
- Letter dated 22.10.25 from Wexford County Council – Resolution – Reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act, Stouts Law.
- Letter dated 22.10.25 from Wexford County Council – Resolution – End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax.
- Letter dated 22.10.25 – Resolution Letter from Galway County Council to Minister for Culture, Communications & Sport – Support Irish Post Masters.
- Email date 28.10.25 from Darragh Hogan, Minister of State for Sport and Postal Policy – reply to Resolution letter re support of Irish Postmasters.
- Letter dated 02.11.25 from Kerry County Council – Resolution Letter End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax.
- Letter dated 25.06.25 from Galway County Council – Resolution letter to Department of Transport – Guidelines for Bus Drivers.

- Email dated 03.11.25 03.11.25 from Patrick Leonard, Private Secretary to Minister of State for Internation & Road Transport, Logistics, Rail & Ports, Seán Canney TD.
- Letter dated 04.11.25 from Donegal County Council – Resolution – Emergency Household Response Pack.
- Letter dated 24.09.25 from Galway County Council to Uisce Éieann – Resolution Letter – Measure 178 MARWP.
- Email dated 05.11.25 from John Noone, LRSD/ERSD Analyst Uisce Éireann – reply to Resolution letter dated 24.09.25 – Measure 178 MARWP.
- Letter dated 13.11.25 from Clare County Council – Resolution Letter – Establish single common fund under new Multi annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.
- Letter dated 13.11.25 from Leitrim County – Resolution – Alternative pathway for Junior Cert Students.
- Mayors for Peace – Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2024.

ITEM NO. 12. QUESTION.

4629

Cllr. P. Killilea submitted the following Question prior to the meeting:

‘To ask the Chief Executive for

1) A detailed breakdown of costs associated with the reopening of Dunguaire Castle.

2) Can the CEO confirm that of May 2023 Clare County Council had taken ownership of Dunguaire Castle with responsibility to open and run it to visitors excluding banquets.’

The following reply issued:

Dunguaire Castle needs extensive repairs and modernisation to continue serving as a premier tourist attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way. A due diligence and technical assessment process undertaken by Galway County Council identified significant structural and safety issues that require immediate attention at an estimated cost of

€5 million. This includes construction works, professional fees, fit-out costs together with the costs of addressing the flood risk at the site and providing appropriate parking.

The detailed breakdown of the estimated costs is deemed commercially sensitive, the publication of which, at this time, may prejudice any future competitive tendering process to be undertaken by the Council in relation to the significant structural and safety works required.

Dunguaire Castle remains in the ownership of the Shannon Airport Group and at no time has the Castle been in the ownership of Clare County Council. A proposal for Clare County Council to facilitate the opening and running of the Castle, excluding banquets, on an interim basis, in conjunction with the portfolio of heritage assets transferred from the Shannon Airport Group to Clare County Council was considered in 2024, however, Clare County Council were not in a position to progress the proposal.

Galway County Council with the support of local Oireachtas Members, is actively engaging with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, with a view to securing the necessary funding to undertake the works and facilitate the transfer of Dunguaire Castle to Galway County Council.

Cllr. P. Killilea spoke on his motion and acknowledged the commercial sensitivity in relation to costs but asked that pressure be kept on the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to secure funding.

The Chief Executive agreed to keep pressure on the Department and Oireachtas members in seeking the required capital funding. He confirmed that works would be tendered for if funding is forthcoming.

ITEM NO. 13. QUESTION.

4630

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

'To ask the Chief Executive how many Council Tenants have registered and been approved for the Rent-a-Room Scheme to Local Authority tenancies'.

The following reply issued:

There has been 3no. applications for the Rent-a-Room Scheme to Local Authority tenancies, of which one was a duplicate application. There has been 1no. application approved to date.

Cllr. Donohue spoke on her motion and queried the low number of applications. She asked if there were any comparative figures from other Local Authorities and said that she will contact Galway City Council for their figures.

Mr. Damien Mitchell, Director of Service indicated that the scheme is confined to providing accommodation for students and that county towns that are generally too far to commute from to third level colleges in Galway City.

ITEM NO. 14. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4631

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

'I propose an information flyer is circulated to every household in relation to the 1993 Roads Act and the responsibilities of landowners, homeowners and property owners for maintenance of hedge cutting and roadside trees.'

The following reply issued:

In relation to the Notice of Motion proposing that an information flyer be circulated to every household outlining responsibilities under the Roads Act 1993, I wish to advise the following.

Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, the responsibility for the maintenance of roadside vegetation, including the cutting of hedges, trees and other vegetation, rests with the owner or occupier of the land adjoining the public road. These obligations are longstanding and well established in national legislation and in Department of Transport guidance.

Galway County Council's current practice provides annual public reminders through the Council website, social media channels and newspaper notices. Each Municipal District also engages directly with landowners where overgrowth is obstructing visibility or causing safety concerns.

Consideration of the Proposal to Circulate a Flyer to Every Household

The Notice of Motion proposes that a hard-copy flyer be issued to every household in the county.

In considering this proposal, the following should be noted

Scale of distribution: Referring to the Central Statistics Office, there are approximately 68,000 households in County Galway, excluding Galway City.

Estimated costs: The cost of producing 68,000 flyers and distributing them to every household in County Galway is estimated to be in the region of €20,000 to €25,000. This includes design, printing, procurement and county-wide distribution.

Relevance of the flyer to households: It should also be considered that not every household has roadside boundaries, including apartments, terraced houses and many properties in towns and urban centres. Issuing the flyer universally, regardless of whether households have hedge-cutting responsibilities, may lead to confusion and result in increased clarification queries to the local authority.

Environmental and administrative impact: A hard-copy distribution of this scale has an environmental impact and would require lead-in time for design, printing, procurement and distribution. We can also expect negative comments on social media in relation to the widespread distribution of hard copy material that in many cases has no relevance to the household.

Recommendation

Given the above considerations, it is recommended that the Council continue with its existing annual public communications campaign on hedge-cutting responsibilities through strengthened targeted social media and newspaper notices.

A flyer can also be developed but rather than broad delivery to every household, they will be dropped to targets households and areas where appropriate.

There may also be value in further engagement with farmers' representative associations, such as the IFA. These approaches would represent better value for money and would allow a greater portion of the Roads budget to be directed towards the direct maintenance of the road network.

A discussion took place on the wording of the motion. It was agreed to amend the wording on this notice of motion and Cllr. Donohue submitted the following amended motion:

An information flyer be developed in relation to the 1993 Roads Act and the responsibilities of landowners, homeowners and property owners for maintenance of hedge cutting and roadside trees and be used to drop to household in targeted areas where there is an issue with maintenance of roadside hedges and trees.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoin the Members **AGREED** to the amended motion.

ITEM NO. 15. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4632

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

“Galway County Council write to newly elected President Catherine Connolly wish her well in her term as Uachtaran na hÉireann”.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. McNamara the Members **AGREED** to write a letter of congratulations in Irish to the newly elected President Catherine Connolly.

ITEM NO. 16. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4633

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

"Galway County Council calls on the Department of Transport to ensure that traffic calming measures, speed ramps are implemented on all national routes and roads passing through villages and builtup areas, with particular emphasis on location in front of schools where there is a concentration of pedestrian and student activity.

Furthermore, that similar measures be prioritized on roads that lost their national classification but continue to experience significant traffic volumes and pose ongoing safety risks to local residents and road users".

Cllr. M. Regan spoke on his motion, expressing concern about the high percentage of drivers exceeding speed limits in towns and villages and the disregard for road signage

Cllrs. O' Curraoin, D. Connolly, Hoade and Welby raised the following points and queries:

- Warning signs should be installed at schools, especially where there are no footpaths present.
- The slip road at Creagh to Shannon Bridge Road is very effective.
- It was queried why different local authorities vary in their operations.
- The area around Roscahill school and crèche is a particular area of safety concern.
- There should be ramps 50 yards either side of pedestrian crossings.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoin the Members **AGREED** to the above motion.

ITEM NO. 17. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4634

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

"That Galway County Council write to Minister Daragh O'Brien to request dedicated funding for the development, extension and repair of footpaths within the county. This includes funding for new footpaths, extending existing paths and making repairs that enhance accessibility in line with universal design principles.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the Members **AGREED** to the above motion.

ITEM NO. 18. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4635

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

"Potential Candidates must secure the support of at least 10% (round up: currently 4 Cllr's) of the elected members of Galway Co Co to attend and present at the Special Council Meeting to select a candidate for the Presidential Election. Unless they attend, in person, the Special Meeting of the Council is precluded from nominating them."

Cllr. Welby spoke on this motion. He supports the role of Local Authorities in the nomination process, but feels that a filtering system of potential candidates is required. He referenced the process that Fingal County Council have in place as one that Galway County Council could incorporate.

Cllrs. Cunniffe, Mannion, Keane, D. Connolly, O'Curraoin and Kelly raised the following points and queries:

- It was noted that many Local Authorities hold their special presidential meetings at the same time.

- There are already impediments for potential candidates in receiving nominations.
- No candidates should be considered unless they attend in person.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Grealish the Members **AGREED** to the above motion.

Mr. Owens, Director of Service informed the members that that Standing Orders will need to be amended and then brought back to full Council for approval.

ITEM NO. 19 NOTICE OF MOTION.

4636

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

"That this Council expresses its strong opposition to the Government's intention to abolish or amend the Triple Lock, which governs the overseas deployment of Irish Defence Forces personnel.

The Triple Lock – requiring approval of the Cabinet, Dáil Éireann, and a United Nations mandate – has been a core safeguard of Irish neutrality since its introduction as part of the Solemn Declaration (Seville Declaration) following Ireland's rejection of the Nice Treaty in 2001 and reaffirmed after the Lisbon Treaty.

Any move to remove or weaken this safeguard would represent a breach of trust with the Irish people and a serious erosion of Ireland's neutrality.

Accordingly, this Council call on the Government that any proposal to abolish or amend the Triple Lock be put to the People of Ireland by way of referendum, ensuring that the Irish people remain the ultimate decision-maker on this matter.

If adopted, this motion is to be forwarded to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and Minister for Defence.

Cllr. McNamara spoke on his motion and acknowledged the vital role that the Irish Defence Forces play they play in international peace keeping. He raised concern that if amended this would weaken and expose Irish neutrality.

Cllrs. Mc Clearn, Keane, Charity, L. Harney and Welby raised the following points and queries:

- There is a difference between Irelands neutrality and the triple lock. Further discussion is needed on subject.
- It was asked if the triple lock was removed, what will it be replaced by.
- The permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council was questioned.
- It needs to be ensured there is no conflict of interest on the Security Council.

A vote was taken on the motion.

The following was the result:

For 12

Cllr. S. Broderick	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. S. Cunniffe
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. C. Keane
Cllr. D. Kelly	Cllr. M. Lee	Cllr. M. McNamara
Cllr. E. Francis Parsons	Cllr. M Regan	Cllr. N. Thomas

Against 12

Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. G. Finnerty
Cllr. L. Harney	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. P. Killilea	Comh. P Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. Mc Clearn	Cllr. A. Reddington

Abstain 3

Comh T. Ó Curraoin

Cllr. O. Turner

Cllr. T. Welby

No-Voting 12

Cllr. I. Canning

Cllr. M. Connolly

Cllr. P. Feeney

Cllr. T. Grealish

Cllr. A. Harney

Cllr. D. Killilea

Cllr. M. Kinane

Cllr. G. King

Cllr. M. Leainde

Cllr K. Mc Hugh Farag

Cllr. S Mc Hugh Ryan

Cllr. S. Walsh

The Meetings Administrator confirmed there was an equal division of votes. As per Standing Orders the Cathaoirleach exercised his casting vote and reiterated that he was voting against the motion.

As the Cathaoirleach's vote was the casting vote the motion was not carried.

ITEM NO. 20. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4637

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

"Galway County Council calls on the Irish Government not to support the European Commissions proposal to establish a single fund under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034. This proposal would merge EU policy instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy, Cohesion Policy, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture policy into one overarching funding mechanism to be administered at National Level. The existing policies have delivered tangible benefits to Irelands Regions, Farmers and Costal communities.

This proposal has very serious implications for our region the Northern and Western a region in transition by European norms.

Cllr. McClearn spoke on his concerns on the potential financial impact that this proposal would have on County Galway.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 21. NOTICE OF MOTION.

4638

Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

Galway County Council request the Chief Executive to provide a written statement on the status of the Ballinasloe Landfill Remediation Fund, a specific reserve held in the Council's Capital Account and forming part of the overall credit balance to include

- The current balance of the Fund*
- The amounts ring-fenced for the two designated projects in Ballinasloe*
 - the Townparks Relief Road, a roads objective in the current Galway County Development Plan (GCDP), and*
 - the Townparks Amenity Area*
- An update on how these two commitments are being progressed during the lifetime of the current GCDP and*
- Confirmation as to whether major funding opportunities can be leveraged by using this specific reserve as match funding to secure significant external investment and bring these projects forward.*

With the establishment of the Council's Project Office, Galway County now has the organisational capacity to deliver major projects; what is needed is the financial capacity to leverage external investment. Clarifying the status of this specific reserve, the sums ring-fenced for each project, and whether it can be deployed as match funding will determine if substantial national funding streams can be unlocked, enabling these long-promised commitments to be delivered within the lifetime of the Plan.

The following reply issued:

In regard to your NOM on the Ballinasloe Projects, a decision was brought through Ballinasloe Town Council before its dissolution to fund a number of priority projects in Ballinasloe. This approach was agreed in conjunction with the elected members of the former Town Council.

Four projects were identified for support through the fund:

1. The Town Enhancement Scheme
2. The development of the new Library
3. The Townparks Recreational Area
4. The Townparks Inner Relief Road

And in addition to the four projects above, a Community Grants Fund was also established and funding provided to sporting and community groups in the town.

Since that decision was made, the Town Enhancement Scheme and the Library projects have been completed, representing a significant investment in the town.

Two projects remain outstanding, as referenced in the Motion: the Townparks Inner Relief Road and the Townparks Recreational Area. Both projects remain included as objectives of the current County Development Plan.

I can confirm that the funding allocated to these projects remains in place, comprising €1.6 million for the Inner Relief Road and €500,000 for the Recreational Area.

I can further confirm that these amounts can be used to seek match funding.

Cllr. Parsons commented that the response did not provide details how the projects will be advanced. She also raised concern at the devaluation of the funding due to rising inflation. Ballinasloe is the only town without a public park.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Connolly the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 22. CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

4639

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr.

Thomas:

'We the members of Galway County Council are asking all our MEPs and TDs to vote against the Mercosur Trade Deal. This deal has the potential to decimate the Irish Beef Industry through cheap and inferior imports from South American countries. The commitment to not support this deal was given in last year's Dail election and the European elections. We are asking for these election promises to be upheld.'

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

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby:

'I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, to request that Cleggan and Inishbofin airstrips (built at a cost of €10million) are put to use on a trial basis for the summer months and progressed to an all year service to facilitate flights from the mainland to the Island..'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby the above motion was **AGREED**.

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Turner **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoin.

'That Galway County Council revisit the purchase of Galway City Council's share in the ownership of the Galway Airport site.'

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Turner **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoin the above motion was **AGREED**.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a workshop will be held for the Members in relation to the Galway Economic Strategy preparation progress including the airport site in Carnmore.

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby:

'That Galway County Council write to Minister Dara Calleary, T.D. requesting that the CLAR area - map attached be extended to include the whole of the County along with additional funding. Note. Craughwell, Clarinbridge, Athenry, Oughterard etc are all excluded. We have youth in those areas too and communities that area excluded from CLAR funding is very unfair. These Communities would greatly benefit from this funding stream.'

A discussion took place and it was agreed that Cllr. Donohue would amend her motion to the following:

'That Galway County Council write to Minister Dara Calleary, T.D. requesting that the CLÁR area map attached be reviewed to include the whole of the County. We have youth in those areas too, and communities that are excluded from CLÁR funding is very unfair. These Communities would greatly benefit from this funding stream.'

The Members discussed the motion and Mr. Owens confirmed that the Department are currently reviewing the Clár programme and a report on same is due to be published in 2026.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby the above motion was **AGREED**.

Cllrs. Maher, Turner, Reddington, Keaveney, Geraghty raised the following points and queries:

- If grants would be available for Christmas lights in towns this year.
- Disappointment at the lack of progress of the Dunmore Urban Regeneration Plan was expressed.

- The regeneration of Dunmore is also of interest to the Ballinasloe MD.

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

- An update will be provided to the Tuam MD on the Dunmore Urban Regeneration Plan. Submissions that are lodged will need to be considered.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that as per Standing Orders, Motions unless urgent, should be submitted to the County Secretary 10 days before the plenary meeting to allow time for a considered response from the Executive.

ITEM NO. 23 VOTES OF SYMPTAHY/CONGRATULATIONS.

4640

- Máirin Uí Cheidigh, Sáile Chúna, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Brendan James, Gran Frigoh, Furbo, Co. Galway
- Noel, Katie, & James Joyce, Stradbally North, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
- Nora Linnane, Cushatrower, Roundstone, Co. Galway
- Ann Mullen, Caislean, Renvyle, Co. Galway
- Bernard & Josphine Callanan, Greenhouse, Ardahan, Co. Galway
- Mary, Noel, Carmel & Tish Dooley, Abbert, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Michelle, Lisa & Sharon Cunningham, 10 Brusna Court, Ballina, Co. Mayo
- PJ & Nora King, Kilmoylan, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Jodie Gardiner, Baratoor, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Peter Whelan, The Hill, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Eamon Hanney, Kylemore, Killimor, Co. Galway
- Anne Manicle & Family, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Martin Ward, Carrowmore, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- The Treacy Family, Lisnacody, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway
- Mary Monaghan, 8 Ballyhugh, Gort, Co. Galway
- Nancy Stanford, Ballybaun, Gort, Co. Galway

- Sean O Neachtain, Baile and Domhnalláin, An Spidéal, Co na Gaillmhe, H91TCZX
- Michael Ryan, Moate, Moylough, Co. Galway
- Paddy Joe Egan & Family, Derrybrien, Loughrea, Co. Galway

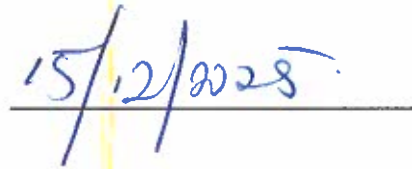
Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. H.', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

A handwritten date '15/12/2025' in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.