

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

Monday 26th April 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, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, Dr. E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh: Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms V. Loughnane-Moran Senior Planner, Mr M. Owens, County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McGann, Administrative Officer, Ms. U. Ni Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Ms. C. Hannon, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. E. Hoffman, Clerical Officer, C. Averill, IS Project Leader & M. Martyn, Head of IT

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING: 3763

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 22nd March 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Ó Curraoin the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 22nd March 2021 were **AGREED**.

Matters arising:

A discussion took place around the need to be 'summer ready' in the context of the demands placed on services in certain areas over the previous weekend. In response to a number of queries raised, Mr. Cullen acknowledged there had been difficulties on the N59 over the weekend due to roadworks and related traffic signals, but noted it was addressed by the contractor when they were notified. Regarding public toilets, he confirmed they would be opened before the bank holiday weekend and advised there would be a higher frequency of bin collection. The lack of toilet facilities in certain areas was a temporary difficulty exacerbated by the fact that pubs, restaurants and hotels are closed. He agreed engineers will assess locations for portaloos where there are no other facilities in the area but noted that it's not possible to have them at every location due to expense. Regarding Community Wardens he advised that consideration would be given to rostering additional hours during the current period but noted that while they liaise with the Gardai they do not have crowd control functions. In response to query regarding provision of laybys on the N59 Mr. Cullen confirmed the contractor is required to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the Emergency Services and provide a layby.

In response to queries regarding outdoor dining Mr. Farrell confirmed he had circulated details of the various schemes available for outdoor dining to members.

The County Secretary confirmed Eir have agreed to address Members but that the date and arrangements were to be agreed.

Mr. Mullarkey confirmed the Rates Waiver Scheme will be in place for qualifying business for Q1 and Q2. He confirmed he had received no response to correspondence in relation to the Re-start grant. He undertook on receipt of a response to circulate it to the Members.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a process is in place to fill the position of Senior Executive Engineer in the Ballinasloe MD.

Cllr. Byrne advised the Members that Minister Peter Burke, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning together with department officials met with group leaders and the Chief Executive to discuss a financial plan for Galway County Council. Minister Burke will attend a Plenary Meeting to set out the details. Cllr. Byrne noted Minister Burke had confirmed the merger of Galway County and City Council was now off the table.

Cllr. Hoade advised Members that Minister Darragh O'Brien had a further meeting with Fianna Fail members last week in relation to the situation regarding finances.

In response to a query regarding reference to private individuals in the minutes the County Secretary referred to Standing Order no.15. He advised that in drafting the minute it was considered not appropriate to reference a private individual who was not present at the meeting but added that Members may decide to agree minutes with or without amendment.

ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. 3764

(a) Minutes of the Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC held on 16 December 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dr. Parsons the minutes of the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC held on 16th December 2020 were **NOTED**.

Matters arising

In response to a query from Cllr. Dr. Parsons regarding the issue of a Waste Permit, Ms. Loughnane advised that there is a process in place and all information submitted with the application is available for members of the public. She said it was not appropriate to comment with respect to the particular application now as it may prejudice the process going forward.

In response to a query regarding a swimming zone in Renville Ms. Loughnane advised that a risk assessment was previously completed and agreed to get further clarification from the Director of Services and revert to the Members.

Mr. Farrell confirmed that the Water Safety Officer had completed a risk assessment in Renville, and reported it was not recommended for swimming. He noted that unless there was any change that would that would remain the position.

(b) Minutes of Transport & Infrastructure SPC held on 17th December 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Ó Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dolan the minutes of Transport & Infrastructure SPC held on 17th December 2020 were **NOTED**.

In response to queries regarding supports for outdoor dining scheme, Mr. Farrell advised there are three different schemes and confirmed he had circulated details of each to all Members. The outdoor seating and dining accessory for tourism hospitality provides direct support to businesses with a grant up to €4000 for tables chairs umbrellas and windbreakers etc. of robust nature. He noted that furniture placed on a public footpath will require a section 254 license. On private property they are not subject to licensing, but they must be in compliance with planning and other regulations.

He advised there will be an online information session for Members to provide an overview of the various schemes and answer any queries. He said he will also consider an online information session for the business sector.

In relation to a query about supports for businesses outside of the town centers he said it has been acknowledgement that businesses outside of towns also need support and confirmed supports are available for business in any location within the County.

In response to a query regarding taking in charge Mr. Cullen noted there are many roads that are private roads. He advised Members that one of the requirements that the Council is obliged by law to take into consideration before declaring a road to be a public road is the financial implication of doing so.

In response to a query regarding the requirement for two herd numbers in order to avail of the LIS scheme, he advised the terms and conditions are determined at national level.

Regarding section 254 licenses, Ms. Loughnane advised they are issued to businesses for a specific length of time. They deal with anything that's removable or that can be taken inside the premises at close of business e.g. tables and chairs. More permanent fixtures require planning permission.

Parking spaces in front of the business can be used for the purpose of the license but where a few businesses in the same town require a license there may be an issue in relation to the overall impact on parking.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, THE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES 2021
PROPOSED LIST OF APPROVALS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERFORMANCE
OF ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 67 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT
2001 AS AMENDED.**

3765

Report dated 26th April published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Farrell gave a brief overview of the allocations under Galway County Council Community Support Schemes 2021 as follows:

- Support Scheme for the Economic Development €62,000
- Support Scheme for Community Development €101,000
- Support Scheme for Cultural Development €70,390
- €5,000 set aside to for the County Galway Community Games

Mr. Farrell noted that while many events were unable to proceed during the year due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the Arts Officer, Tourism Officer and staff of the Economic Rural and Community Development Unit had engaged with organiser's of festivals and events to provide support during the year. He acknowledged individuals and communities made huge efforts to be innovative and re-imagine events and festivals.

Together with the financial supports given, help was provided for planning post Covid, in terms of capacity building within community groups. He acknowledged the work of the Arts Officer and the Heritage Officer and the training provided in this regard. He highlighted the commitment of the Tidy Towns Groups across the county who drew down all the Tidy Town funding despite the cancellation of the National Tidy Towns Competition last year.

Mr. Farrell thanked the Members for their support, ensuring money was available and for acting as a link with the community groups. He acknowledged the work of the staff in the Community and Enterprise Unit together with the staff from other directorates who all contributed to the ongoing support for communities. In particular he commended Ms. M. McGann for her efforts in terms of coordinating this work in the last year together with the Covid Response work.

Ms. McGann advised members that most applications refused funding were outside the remit of the Community Support Schemes. She noted the online webinars held around the various funding schemes were a huge success with a higher attendance and reaching a wider audience than any roadshow previously done.

The following points were raised by Cllrs. P. Keaveney, Broderick, Mannion, McClearn, Welby, Canning, Reddington, Hoade and Kinane

- Complimented the Community and Enterprise Team on their work and noting the funds were a huge boost to community groups.
- Queried if the surplus funds could be allocated to other Shop Local Initiatives.
- The significant extra workload of the Community and Enterprise Team was acknowledged, in light of the fact that the majority of additional Covid funding has been administered through the unit.
- The Community and Enterprise Team can only distribute what is made available to them. Members should be mindful at budget time there is no better way to spend money than by giving it back to communities.
- Queried the flexibility of terms of the scheme to groups who may be affected by contractor delays in completing works due to Covid restrictions.
- Thanked Ms. McGann and the team and Ms. Doddy who have shown huge commitment to their work.
- Covid has presented huge challenges for Community and Enterprise Unit engaging with community groups around the county and required new ways of working.
- Funding is not only welcomed by community groups but also serves as an acknowledgement of the work that is carried out by them.

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

- a number shop local initiatives were supported as part of the community support grants scheme and under the town and village renewal.
- any groups experiencing difficulty in carrying out works should contact the office and they will do their best to facilitate them.
- in relation to funding that has been held back he noted some groups had applied for funding and it was clear that they were not ready to proceed, however, funding was retained in order to afford discretion in providing financial support for these projects later in the year.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. P. Keaveney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning the Galway County Council Community Support Scheme 2021 proposed list of approvals (in accordance with the performance of its functions under section 67 of the Local Government Act 2001) as amended was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221(1)(a) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001.

3766

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy the Annual Report 2020 in accordance with section 221(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 was **AGREED**.

The following points were raised by Cllrs Ó Cualáin, Mannion, Geraghty, Byrne, and C. Keaveney

- Welcomed the report and acknowledged the work by the Housing Department in the delivery of social housing. Raised concerns about the number of people on the housing list for over 10 years.
- Commended the work of the Fire Services throughout the county and noting An Cheathru Rua was the busiest station outside of Galway in terms of callouts.
- Welcomed the provision of 14 new social housing units in Roundstone.
- The closing of Castlerea Fire station has left a blind spot in the provision of a Fire Services in the East of the County. Queried if the reopening of Castlerea Fire Station could be raised with Roscommon County Council to address the matter.
- Highlighted the importance of linking the delivery of social housing with the County Development Plan. In particular the proposal for a reduction in density of housing allowed in small towns and villages may have a detrimental effect on overall delivery of social housing.
- It is important to provide housing where demand is. Many single people have been priced out of the market. Covid will have further a long-term effect on these applicants who are not eligible for social housing.

In response to the issues raised Mr Hanrahan advised that the delivery of social housing is a significant challenge across all Municipal District areas. He advised that restrictions

due to lack of wastewater and sewage facilities has a significant impact on the delivery of housing in small towns. Regarding the significant demand for one- and two-bedroom properties he advised there are discussions at national level regarding prioritisation in terms of building these type of units and around the social housing list in terms of lifetime requirements or short term requirements. He confirmed the issue regarding density will be discussed with the planners in terms of the County Development Plan.

Ms. Loughnane advised Members that the rationale behind the proposed reduced density was set out at recent workshops on the draft County Development Plan. In response to a query regarding statistics for planning permission refusals, she advised the percentage grant rate of planning permission in County Galway is currently circa 80 to 85%.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-20285 UNDER SECTION 11(5) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED).

3767

The Cathaoirleach advised that at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group, the Members agreed that the consideration of the draft development plan be deferred and for the meeting to reconvene on Thursday, 29th April 2021 at 11 am to consider same. Cllr. Hoade advised the Members that the AILG had a meeting scheduled on Thursday morning to discuss the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 which would be very important for members in terms of their understanding of the issues around the proposed Bill.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the Members **AGREED** to defer consideration of the draft county development plan until 2pm on Thursday 29th April via Teams.

ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – APRIL 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136 (2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)

3768

Report dated 22nd April published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

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

The following points were made by Cllrs. McClearn & Byrne

- Ruth Mulhern Tourism Officer and her team were complimented on the Lough Derg Tourism Plan.
- The provision of additional resources will be required for the successful rollout of the Active Travel Programme. Existing staff cannot take on the extra

workload involved in such a large programme and the requirement for additional resources was set out to Minister O'Brien and Minister Burke at a recent meeting.

Regarding the Active Travel Investment Programme the Chief Executive noted the significant amount of funding awarded, he thanked the team involved in securing the funding. He confirmed an additional two staff had been allocated to deliver the programme and expects further resources will be made available.

Mr. Cullen agreed the local authority needed to be adequately resourced for the successful delivery of the Active Travel Programme and confirmed that there had been positive engagement on the matter.

In response to a query, Mr. Farrell clarified that the portion of funding received for the Eurovelo Route will be spent mainly on signage on the route from Leenane to Kinvara.

ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER THE 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.

3769

The following points were raised by Cllrs. C. Keaveney, Dr. Parsons, McClearn, C. Keaveney, McKinstry & Welby:

- Requested a preliminary analysis and map the potential impact of the Land Development Agency on parcels of land owned by Galway County Council to allow an informed discussion.
- The opposition from Councillors around the country was noted. There should be no interference with the Section 183. The need to be mindful that while the proposed bill may not have an immediate impact in Galway in terms of population figures, these can be changed in the future and may have a serious impact.
- The number of motions received from County Councils around the country indicates the level of opposition to the removal of Section 183 reserved function of elected members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the Land Development Agency.
- The proposal is a further erosion of powers for local authorities. Members around the country have to take a certain responsibility for the situation, on the one hand they decry the numbers on the housing list and then have serious reservations when housing schemes are being proposed.
- While the proposal may not have an impact in Galway immediately, in a few years' time it may impact Tuam, Ballinasloe and other towns. Suggested an

assessment of the short and medium-term impact of the legislation on the role of the county in terms of delivering housing.

- When land is transferred over to the Land Development Agency, the Council losses its ability to have an input on future plans for the land. Suggested there should be provision for the Council to cooperate with the Land Development Agency in the development of plans.

Cllr. Hoade advised Members that the AILG had commissioned a report on the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 on behalf of Elected Members. She briefly outlined a number of issues of concern, and stressed Members need to protect their role. She advised the report will be available and circulated to all Members this week. Cllr. Hoade suggested the implications of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 could be discussed in more detail when this AILG commissioned report was available to all Members.

The Chief Executive agreed it would be beneficial for the Members to have the findings of the AILG report to ensure clarity on the issues. He advised that 70-75% of Galway County Councils current land banks for housing is already accounted for. He suggested the intent of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 maybe be focused on large land banks owned by those not in the business of providing housing, that may be or should be available for affordable or our public housing.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. M Connolly it was **AGREED** to defer item no. 7 to the next Plenary meeting for further discussion.

ITEM NO. 8 CHIEF EXECUTIVES BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 3770

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

1. Letter dated 25.2.21 to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin- Resolution; CETA/ICS
2. Letter dated 16.3.21 from An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin – Response; CETA/ICS
3. Letter dated 25.2.21 to Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development – Resolution; Broadband connection for Clarinbridge Care Centre
4. Email dated 24.3.21 from Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development – Resolution; Broadband connection for Clarinbridge Care Centre.
5. Letter dated 23.3.21 from Wicklow County Council - Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021
6. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Leo Varadkar, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment – Resolution; Restart Scheme
7. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Mayor, Galway City Council; Expression of Support.
8. Letter dated 24.3.21 to each Local Authority from Galway County Council - Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021

9. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Martin Wells, Managing Director Eir Business - Resolution; Invitation to Plenary Meeting.
10. Letter dated 24.3.21 from Louth County Council - Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021
11. Letter dated 25.3.21 from Monaghan County Council – Resolution; Vaccines
12. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Stephen Donnelly, TD, Minister for Health, Resolution; Independent Beef Regulator
13. Email dated 26.3.21 from Stephen Donnelly, TD, Minister for Health, acknowledgement; Independent Beef Regulator
14. Email dated 13.04.21 from Stephen Donnelly, TD, Minister for Health, Response; Independent Beef Regulator
15. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Darragh O' Brien, T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021.
16. Email dated 26.03.21 from Darragh O' Brien, T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Acknowledgement; Land Development Agency Bill
17. Email & letter dated 07.04.21 from Darragh O' Brien, T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Response; Land Development Agency Bill 2021
18. Letter dated 24.03.21 to Charlie McConalogue, T.D., Minister for Agriculture Food and Marine: Resolution; Independent Beef Regulator.
19. Letter dated 31.03.21 from Charlie McConalogue, T.D. Minister for Agriculture Food and Marine; Response; Independent Beef Regulator.
20. Letter dated 29.03.21 from Mayo County Council- Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021
21. Email & letter dated 05.04.21 from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat; Invitation to General Conference in Hiroshima.
22. Mayors for Peace; News Flash – March 2021
23. Letter dated 24.3.21 to Niall Grogan, Head of Group Property, CIÉ Group Property Department- Resolution; Properties and Stations owned by CIE.
24. Email and letter dated 08.04.21 from Niall Grogan, Group Property Manager Response; Properties and Stations owned by CIE.
25. Letter dated 08.04.21 from Cork City Council- Resolution; Lord Mayor of Dublin
26. Letter dated 15.04.21 from Donegal County Council- Resolution; Rosses Community School.
27. Letter dated 15.04.21 from Roscommon County Council-Resolution; Annual Fund for capital works.
28. Letter dated 15.04.21 from Sligo County Council – Resolution; Community Sector Insurance.
29. Letter dated 15.04.21 from Sligo County Council- Resolution; Taxation
30. Letter dated 28.01.21 sent to Anne Rabbitte T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth – Resolution; Personal Assistance Service.
31. Letter dated 15.04.21 from Anne Rabbitte T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth – Response Personal Assistance Service.

32. Letter dated 16.04.21 from Limerick County Council – Resolution; Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

Referring to the letter from Darragh O'Brien, T.D. regarding the Land Development Agency Bill 2021, Cllrs. Dr. Parsons and Welby noted the response did not answer the issue raised.

Referring to the letter from Minister Anne Rabbitte T.D. regarding Personal Assistance Service, Cllr. Dr. Parsons expressed her disappointment that while Ireland had ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the service remains discretionary. Cllr Cronnelly concurred and said discretionary funding was an insult to people who required the service most.

Cllr. McClearn expressed dissatisfaction at the two responses received regarding the resolution on the Independent Beef Regulator. He said the issue raised had not been addressed. On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to send previous correspondence in relation to the Independent Beef Regulator to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty it was **AGREED** to send a letter to Leo Varadkar, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment relating to the query previously raised by the Head of Finance at the request of Cllr. Broderick relating to the operation of the Restart Grant Scheme.

ITEM NO. 9 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.

3771

Acknowledging the Chief Executive's last Plenary Meeting in Galway County Council the Cathaoirleach said he had been an excellent public servant for Galway County Council. He thanked him for all his support during the year as Cathaoirleach and wished him well on his new appointment as Chief Executive in Mayo County Council.

The following Members paid individual tributes to the Chief Executive; Cllrs. Byrne, Carroll, D. Connolly, Donohue, Dr. Parsons, Hoade, Killilea, Mannion, M. Connolly, McKinstry, Kinane, McKinstry, Kinane, Ó Cualáin, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, Geraghty, McClearn, Roche, Ó Curraoin, Mc Iomaire, Canning, Sheridan, Cuddy, Welby, Dolan, Collins and Reddington. The following tributes were made:

- As Chief Executive he had proved himself to be an exemplary public servant. He had earned huge respect in the role, which was testament to his work, his dedication and commitment to serving the people of County Galway. His immense experience and wealth of knowledge will be a huge loss to Galway County Council.

- He leaves a mark behind him across the county in a very positive way. The many facilities located around the county are a tangible legacy to his vision for County Galway and the support and help he has given to community groups. The people of Oranmore especially the young are indebted to him for the decision made as a Director of Services to purchase land for recreational facilities. The recent announcement of additional funding for Calasantius College Oranmore would not have happened without his efforts. He played a key role in the delivery of Ballinasloe Library. In Tuam, he was responsible for the delivery of high-speed broadband to every house in Tuam. He was commended for his work in the Athenry-Oranmore and the Gort-Kinvara areas also. In Clarinbridge the progression of Cowpark was noted as an example of his vision for a small village.
- His professionalism in carrying out the day-to-day business of the organisation was praised and, his even-tempered approach in all situations was acknowledged. His working rapport with the elected members was commended, He was, sincere, open and honest, in his dealings with members and the support and help he provided to new newly elected members was also noted. He made himself available whenever needed, his door was always open, and his phone was always on. As Chief Executive he often had to tell Members what they didn't want to hear but he always explained the reasoning behind it. When unable to assist he pointed Members in the right direction on how to further their own and their constituents' requests.
- His experience and calmness were invaluable in facing the challenges and uncertainties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the course of the pandemic he took a human-centric approach in the delivering services in the council and made himself available on the most unsociable of hours to ensure that the citizens of the County could access necessary services in a safe way.
- The real tribute over the last seven years was probably his ability to keep the show on the road despite the huge funding challenges faced by Galway County Council. Given the lack of resources what was achieved in the county under his leadership and guidance has been huge. It's a remarkable achievement that the County is being handed over in the shape it is.
- On a personal level it was noted that he was a true gentleman
- Both the Chief Executive and his family were wished every success and good health in the future. Personally, he was wished all the best in his new role as Chief Executive in Mayo County Council.

Mr. Declan Tierney spoke on behalf of the media. He complimented the Chief Executive on his work in Galway County Council and wished him all the best in his new position in Mayo.

The Chief Executive thanked everyone for their generous words and warm wishes expressed at the meeting and over the past number of weeks.

Reflecting on his career which started as a Clerical Officer in Dublin County Council he said he didn't foresee himself attaining the level of Chief Executive in his native county.

In 2005 he was appointed Director of Services in Galway County Council which he felt was an enormous honor and opportunity to work at senior level in his native county. As Director of Services for nine years he had responsibility for a number of areas including Corporate Services, Planning, Community and Enterprise, Libraries, IT, Internal Audit, Human Resource and Ballinasloe Town Council. He reflected on the teams he led and outlined some of the projects and initiatives that were delivered in his time as Director of Services.

In 2014 he took on the role of Chief Executive and the associated greater burden of responsibility to the County and County Council. In his role as Chief Executive he reflected that, collectively as a council, including the management team, staff and members, a significant amount of work had been delivered in the last seven years. He noted that the stretched human and financial resources did not become an excuse for inaction. While operating in less than ideal circumstances, he said everyone can be proud of what has been achieved, what is now in progress and the many exciting developments planned for the future.

He said there are many things that he would have loved to progress further, but which were not possible, but added he was content in the knowledge that he played the hand that he was dealt as best he could. He said everything he did was with sole aim of doing what was in the overall best interests of Galway County and Galway County Council.

While financial resources were strained, he said budgets were managed effectively and the overall financial position is now very stable. He noted the success in competing for funding under RRDF, URDF, Smarter Travel, Regional Enterprise, Town and Village Renewal and other initiatives had delivered many millions every year and almost €50m in the last three years.

He reflected that he worked as a Clerical Officer in Dublin County Council when the Galway Hurlers won the Liam McCarthy in 1987 and 1988. Like most he noted he didn't think that it would be 2017 before the Liam McCarthy returned to Galway again and even less believable to him that as Chief Executive, he would be welcoming home the Galway Minor and Senior Hurlers on that great occasion.

Reflecting on the many interesting and challenging meetings over the last few years the occasion that stood out most for him was hearing so powerfully the testimonies in respect of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. It will live long in the memory.

Looking to the future he said the current draft County Development Plan sets out a positive and ambitious course for the county. He welcomed the recent success in respect of URDF funding for Garraun which will support the ambitious vision for the area including Garraun, Briarhill and the former Airport Site, providing unapparelled opportunities for employment and residential options. He said he was hopeful of a positive outcome on the GCRR which is essential for Galway's future.

He expressed sincere thanks to all the elected Members, the members of the management team and the members of staff both past and present who he worked with

since 2005, acknowledging the support, assistance and friendship he received throughout.

During his term as Chief executive he reflected he had worked closely with a number of Cathaoirlaigh; Councillors Mary Hoade, Peter Roche, Michael Connolly, Eileen Mannion, Sean O'Tuairisg, Jimmy McClearn, and James Charity, he thanked each for their support.

He concluded saying while the last seven years may not have been the easiest time to lead Galway County Council in terms of resources and certainty of tenure it had been an honor and a privilege to undertake the role as a Galway man. While looking forward to the challenge of his new role in Mayo he said he will continue to keep a keen interest in what happens in Galway.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive and concurred that we frequently focus on what we don't have and our shortcomings but noted it was good to look at what we've achieved as a Council.

The following Motions were submitted:

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

"That Galway County Council executive writes to the Minister for agriculture and asks him to commit to the promise made to Irish farmers of €200 per head payment on the first 20 cows for beef farmers."

The following Motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Dr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea:

"The Principle of Environmental Justice - a 'fair' distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, including the application of environmental policy planning implementation and governance. The issue of Environmental discrimination is one that environmental justice measures should address with regard to the serial siting of old Landfill, Superdump, waste facilities in an area of heightened environmental sensitivity and community amenity importance close to residential communities, particularly in areas of heightened socio-economic deprivation."

Motion

That the Principle of Environmental Justice is adapted by Galway County Council to ensure that a fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, including the application of environmental policy, planning, implementation and governance is undertaken in the county, and a safeguard is put in place to apply a 5km minimum setback of siting of Waste Facilities from residential communities, save for civic amenity sites."

The Chief Executive expressed concern that there may be unintentional consequences from the motion submitted. Mr. Cullen noted it would be difficult to achieve the 5 km

setback from residential area for all waste facilities noting many garages are involved in managing end of life vehicles. Ms. Loughnane advised members that the current County Development Plan included 130-150 settlement centres. If the 5km restriction was to be imposed it would be very difficult to find suitable locations for waste facilities.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons said the '5km restriction' was based on medical evidence of the effects, in terms of health, of huge waste tonnage located on the periphery of a community. She said it was a very emotive issue, causing huge concerns and noted there was huge objection in the community. Cllrs. Dr. Parsons and Killilea with the agreement of the Members **WITHDREW** the motion deferring it to the Planning and Environment SPC for further discussion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche the members **AGREED**:

"That the terms and conditions now being offered to Community Employment Supervisor, with respect to pension and other entitlement, be extended to Rural Social Scheme and Tús Supervisors given the close similarity to their respective programmes and community work".

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

"That Galway County Council send a letter of good wishes to Archbishop Micheal Neary, Tuam on the announcement of his retirement. A native of Castlebar and student of St Jarlath's College, Tuam, a former curate in Belclare, Headford and Moylough Dr Neary was appointed Archbishop to the Tuam diocese in January 1995. Dr Neary has dealt with an immense workload since entering the office of Archbishop we wish him well in retirement."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Collins **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll the members **AGREED**:

"That the Council request that Fáilte Ireland and the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media broaden out the criteria for Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business 2021 to allow for the inclusion of business outside town and village boundaries."

Mr. Farrell advised that there had been discussion at national level and confirmed it had been agreed to apply the scheme to businesses outside towns and villages.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ITEM NO.10 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3772

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

"I propose that Galway County Council provide communication boards to be installed across playgrounds in Co. Galway.

These boards allow children who are nonverbal or have challenges communicating to express themselves. These communications boards will increase inclusion and independence".

The following reply issued:

"The Council is supportive of inclusive play initiatives and an application for grant funding has been submitted under the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2021 in order to provide communication boards on a pilot basis in a number of playgrounds."

ITEM NO.11 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3773

Cllr. Byrne submitted the following Notion of Motion prior to the meeting:

"The last 12 months has seen increased walking activity in our towns and villages, a very welcome development, and one which we hope will continue. The lack of public lighting on some of our footpaths on the outskirts of towns and villages has been one cause of concern with respect to safety.

Currently there is no public funding under our Roads Programme for the provision of new Public Lights.

This motion requests that for 2021 and 2022, that the current limit of funding by each Councillor through NOM for 1 Public light per year, be increased to a max of 3 per year to address this issue and let it be one Covid legacy to our communities from local public representatives".

The following reply issued:

"The motion presented to the Plenary Council by Cllr. J Byrne in March 2021 was referred for review by Roads & Transportation SPC, which was held on 29th March 2021. The SPC were advised that the funding of public lighting is from Council's own resources, additional provision of public lighting leads to increased utility and maintenance costs to the Council and will reduce funding availability elsewhere. Notwithstanding this, given the additional funding being made available to the Council under the Active Travel Programme, the notice of motion as presented above by Cllr. Joe Byrne can be accommodated for the period specified.

After due consideration, on the proposal of Cllr. A. Dolan, seconded by Mr. Diarmuid Kelly, the motion as presented was agreed by the Roads & Transportation SPC."

ITEM NO.12 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3774

Cllr. Herterich Quinn submitted the following motion prior to the meeting:

"On 22nd January this year, the Government announced funding for 248 posts to provide specifically for Active Travel Teams within City and County Councils. There have been many allocations since this announcement. 22 posts were allocated to Galway City Council. No posts have been allocated to Galway County Council at the writing of this motion.

I propose that the City and County Managers Association, who were given responsibility for these allocations, inform the members of this council why no such allocations have been assigned to Galway County Council to-date, and what is the mechanism being used to make these allocations."

The following reply issued:

"The National Transport Authority has written to the City and County Management Association (CCMA) with proposals for additional staffing for local authorities for the implementation of the Active Travel Programme. In that proposal the council would have received an allocation of 2 no. staff with a further 3 no. assigned to the Regional Design Office.

Because of concerned that such an allocation of staffing was less than what is needed, the council wrote to the NTA to request a review of proposed staffing levels. The NTA has replied to the council confirming its intention to ensure that the council is adequately resourced for the effective delivery of the Active Travel Programme in the county and the council will be engaging with the NTA in that regard. In the meantime, the NTA has confirmed approval for a SEE and EE and the council is in the process of advancing this while in discussions on further staffing."

Mr Cullen clarified the response issued from the Roads Department.

ITEM NO.13 - NOTICE OF MOTION

3775

Cllrs. Herterich Quinn and McHugh submitted the following motion prior to the meeting:

"That Galway County Council agree to sign the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

In doing so, the local authority, executive and members, 'make a formal public commitment to the principle of equality of women and men, and to implement, within (our) territory, the commitments set out within the Charter."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllrs. Herterich Quinn and McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington the motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.14 VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

3776

Cllr. Gerry King was joined by the Cllr. Mannion in extending condolences on behalf of all the Members to the family of a person who died tragically in Carna earlier that morning.

The Cathaoirleach reminded Members that the Cathaoirleach's Awards are open for nominations next week and advised the closing date was mid May.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting to reconvene on Thursday, 29th April 2021 at 2pm via Teams.

MINUTES OF DEFERRED REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 29th April 2021 at 2:00pm

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, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, Dr. E. Parsons, A. Reddington, J. Sheridan, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh:

Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services, Ms E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms V. Loughnane,

Senior Planner, Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Mr. B. Dunne, Executive Planner, Ms. U. Ní Eadhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Mr. B. Corcoran, Assistant Planner, Ms. F. Glynn, Assistant Planner, Mr. P. O'Sullivan, Assistant Planner, Ms. C. Hannon, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. D. Byrne, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

Cllr. McHugh Farag proposed a vote of congratulations to be sent to Minister Helen McEntee on the birth of her baby boy. She would like to thank her for making history by becoming the first serving Cabinet Minister to give birth while in office.

Cllr. L. Carroll, M. Connolly, M. Hoade, E. Mannion & A. Reddington joined in this proposal. Cathaoirleach extended the vote of congratulations from all the members.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-20285 UNDER SECTION 11(5) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED).

The Meetings Administrator advised that in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended where at a meeting of a local authority a resolution, motion, question or other matter is proposed or otherwise arises then, a member of the authority present at such meeting shall, where he or she has actual knowledge that he or she or a connected person has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in, or which is material to, the matter—

(1) disclose the nature of his or her interest, or the fact of a connected person's interest at the meeting, and before discussion or consideration of the matter commences withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered, and, accordingly, he or she shall take no part in the discussion or consideration of the matter and shall refrain from voting in relation to it.

(2) Where a member of a local authority has actual knowledge that a matter is likely to arise at a meeting at which that member will not be present and which, if he or she were present, a disclosure would be required to be made under subsection (1), then that person shall in advance of such meeting make such disclosure in writing and furnish it to the ethics registrar.

(3) There shall be recorded in the minutes of any meeting referred to in subsection (1) or (2) a reference to any disclosure made for the purposes of either of those

subsections and of any subsequent withdrawal from the meeting and such disclosure shall be recorded in the register of interests.

(4) A member of a local authority shall neither influence nor seek to influence a decision of the authority in respect of any matter which he or she has actual knowledge that he or she or a connected person has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in.

The Meetings Administrator advised that he had not received any disclosure in writing prior to the meeting.

Cllrs. Byrne, Reddington, Dr. Parsons and Murphy indicated that due to their ownership of certain land holdings a beneficial interest may arise in the course of the meeting and if so they undertook to declare same and withdrawn from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the relevant matter(s).

Cllr. McClearn queried if a letter had recently been received by the Planning Department from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) in the relation to the requirements and timelines for the Draft Development Plan.

Ms. Ruane advised that she was not aware of any letter being received.

The Chief Executive outlined that he had a recent meeting with Planning Officials in the Department and there had been no mention of any correspondence issuing in relation to the matter.

Cllr. Curley outlined that it was his understanding that Members were to have received the motions being proposed by 4.00pm on the 28th April 2021. He highlighted that these motions had not been received so under Standing Orders he was proposing to postpone this meeting until 2.00pm Friday 30th April 2021 so members could have time to review the motions received.

This motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dolan.

Ms. Loughnane explained that it was the intention to bring each motion up on the screen so the members could review and consider same. She outlined that they had spoken with each Member who had submitted a motion. She advised that it was the intention to email the motions to Members, but submissions were still being received just before the start of this meeting and therefore impossible to have them furnished to the members in advance.

Cllrs. Curley and Dolan outlined that they believed that additional time was needed to go through each motion in detail.

Cllr. Byrne stated that he understood their concerns but highlighted that this was the draft stage and that there was a long road ahead yet so he would ask that the meeting would go ahead today.

Cllrs. Geraghty, Mannion & Welby agreed that the meeting should proceed today as it was the early stages of the plan.

Cllr. C. Keaveney stated he was supporting the motion as they should be allowed the time to consider all motions and members were well within their rights to ask for extra time.

The Cathaoirleach outlined that if there were any concerns there would still be time to discuss further. He advised that members have had the added benefits of workshops over the past 2 weeks.

Cllr. Dolan asked for at least 1-2 hours to go through the motions as in other meetings motions were received 10 days in advance. He stated that this was the first step forward for the plan and would like to give it full consideration as it was a critical time for the plan.

Mr. Dunne explained that the motions were still been submitted today at 2.00pm. He advised that they had planned on circulating the motions to the members in advance but needed clarification or further discussions on most submissions. He outlined that the submissions have been grouped by chapter and it was intended to review each in detail.

Cllr. Curley outlined that this was an important plan and owed it to the people of Galway to give it the time required.

In the absence of agreement, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote on the proposal to postpone this meeting until 2.00pm Friday 30th April 2021 as proposed by Cllr. Curley seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

The Cathaoirleach noted that in accordance with Standing Orders in order for the motion to be passed it was necessary that a minimum of 20 Members vote in favour:

The Vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 9

Cllr. M. Connolly	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. S. Curley
Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. G. King	Cllr. J. Sheridan

Against 20

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Comh. T. Ó Curraoín	Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag
Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. P.J. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons
Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. T. Welby	

Abstain 3

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. M. Kinane
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As a result of the Vote, the Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Ms. Ruane thanked the members for their engagement to date and highlighted that she had received great feedback from members on the workshop process. She advised that this level of engagement would continue, with the plan due to go on public display at the end of May / early June.

Ms. Loughnane presented an overview of the plan and chapters. She explained the planning policy hierarchy behind the plan and outlined the preparation involved in producing the plan. She advised that population allocations were taken from the National Planning Framework /NPF Roadmap and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. She outlined that the plan must comply with EU guidance and all environmental legislation, the NPF, the RSES and flood risk guidelines. She commented that the Draft Galway County Development Plan which had been delivered to the Members was in line with all these documents and she felt the plan produced had struck the balance required.

Mr. Dunne then gave a brief presentation on Volume 1 of the plan.

Cllr. Kinane referred to the legislative context of the development plan. She highlighted that the Flemish decree ruling was back in 2013 and it still hadn't been addressed. She queried if a decision was made about same before the plan was published would there be an opportunity to revisit it going forward. She outlined that she understood why it was not referenced now but if the Department issued guidance could it be revisited.

Ms. Loughnane advised that the Flemish decree was not legislation, it was a judgement delivered by the EU courts. She stated that there were Rural Housing Guidelines in place and the plan was in line with them. She explained that if any further guidance was forthcoming it can be included in the Chief Executives report following the public consultation period of the Draft as a recommendation but at present the plan was in compliance with all guidance.

Cllr. Cuddy felt it was not in compliance with legislation as the EU law supersedes the Irish law. He stated if ministerial guidelines aren't changed then the Plan would not be in compliance.

The Chief Executive advised that the Department was working on rural guidelines, wind energy guidelines and development plan guidelines but were not expecting that any major changes would be made to Rural housing. He advised that in his view the changes being made were along the lines of what's in the draft plan, so the plan before the members was as close as it could get to what guidelines will be published in the coming months. He commented that the council have to operate on the basis of what guidelines are currently in place and this has been done

Comh. Ó Cualáin queried what proposals were in place for members of the public who would not have access to online to view the plan or make a submission. He also asked if there were any guidance issued from the Department about a possible extension to time if restrictions weren't to ease.

Ms. Loughnane pointed out that the process was very different now with everything being online. She advised that submissions would be taken by post, online, at council office etc. She outlined that the restrictions may ease during the summer so could be in a situation where could invite members of the public in or have documents available to members of the public and they could view at various locations. She highlighted that they wanted the plan to reach a large audience by all means possible. She advised that they were engaging with the Department about same but even in level 5 restrictions there were some places opened and would be hoping could avail of these places if required. She stated that they wanted everyone to be able to engage and the Forward Planning team were available at any stage to take a call on the matter and possibly arrange meetings if required in the future if restrictions eased.

Cllr. Hoade pointed out that the working hubs may be suitable to be used for public engagement.

Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the Flemish decree and asked could a letter be sent to the Planning Regulator asking what they intended to do about the situation. He highlighted that the matter needs to be dealt with, so everyone knows where they stand with it.

Cllr. Kinane explained that the matter had been discussed at the MD level and a letter was sent to the Department for clarification, but no reply had been received to date. She outlined that she had been speaking with the Department in 2020 and that they were doing a scoping exercise around same.

Ms. Loughnane advised that they now go through each submission which had been received, by Chapter. She explained that no submissions had been received in relation to Chapter 3.

Submission received from Cllr. Kinane:

Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development

4.5.2.2 Un-Serviced Villages

In addressing the villages that have a deficiency in wastewater infrastructure it is warranted to support the clustering of five houses or less on sites with individual waste water treatment plants in certain circumstances to enhance the viability and attractiveness of these areas and to provide a viable alternative to the single house in the countryside.

Rural Clustering in relation to the Village of Clarinbridge.

Cllr. Kinane outlined that she understood the issue with identifying a specific village but felt it was crucial to acknowledge the importance of the oysters and quality of water in Clarinbridge.

Ms. Loughnane advised that Clarinbridge was listed in tier 7 of the settlement Strategy. She acknowledged that Cllr. Kinane wished to include Clarinbridge specifically but it was already included with the other villages.

Cllr. Byrne acknowledged the importance of Clarinbridge but felt it may raise concerns.

Ms. Loughnane advised that settlement strategy in tier 7 covers this area. She said if concerned about the oyster beds then they could look at that concern under the utilities chapter as that would cover all the County.

Cllr. Kinane stated she was agreeable to addressing the matter as outlined by Ms. Loughnane.

The next submission was from Cllr. Thomas but as he was not present at the meeting at the time it was agreed to postpone consideration of the submission.

Submission received from Cllr. Cuddy:

Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development

RH20

Where applicants can supply land registry or folio details that demonstrate that the lands on which they are seeking to build their first home, as their permanent residence, in the area have been in family ownership for a period of 20 years or more, their eligibility will be considered. Where this has been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, additional intrinsic links will not have to be demonstrated.

Cllr. Cuddy outlined that he wished to have this additional policy inserted which was in the existing plan.

Ms. Loughnane confirmed that it was in the existing plan

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dolan, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Donohue:

Chapter 4

RC 5 Rural Clustering on un-serviced lands in Villages

Support the development of clusters of five houses or less within the footprint of existing villages with individual wastewater treatment plants in accordance with the most up to date EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving single houses. **All proposals shall ensure that there is the provision of safe water supply.** Proposals for development in these villages shall include an assessment undertaken by a qualified hydrologist, that demonstrates that the outfall from the septic tank will not, in combination with other septic tanks within the village and wider area, contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of the water group under the Waste Framework Directive

Ms. Loughnane explained that Cllr. Donohue wished to change the wording in the above policy, piece in red to be added.

Cllr. Donohue highlighted that there was no mention to safe water and noticed it was absent.

Cllr. Walsh advised that it was a requirement of any planning applications to show provision of safe drinking water, so he felt there was no need to have it included here.

Cllr. Donohue stated it should not be assumed that it would be dealt with. She advised that there had been issues in the past around same.

Ms. Loughnane explained that the Planning Department had no objection to the wording being added. She outlined that the matter is dealt with at the planning application stage but as it will service as guidance there was no issue with the proposal.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Geraghty:

Chapter 4: Rural Living and Development

CD 1 Rural Enterprises

Consider **and support** the establishment of small scale rural orientated enterprises in unserviced rural areas outside of town or village settings which can be accommodated in existing farm buildings or can be established on a brownfield site, subject to satisfying the following criteria:

- (a) Compatibility and general suitability to an unserviced rural area (primary consideration will be given to agriculture, renewable and marine resources, forestry, tourism, recreation or food production related enterprise activities and services);
- (b) Scale of development (assimilate appropriately into a rural setting);
- (c) Nature of development (raw materials sourced locally);
- (d) Consideration of social and environmental impacts (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or rural amenity);
- (e) The enterprise must not constitute a road safety hazard or have a major adverse impact on the road network, road capacity and traffic levels;
- (f) Residential amenity (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity).

Mr. Dunne advised that the motion being proposed by Cllr. Geraghty was the addition of wording as shown in red above.

Cllr. Geraghty said young people should be supported to open a local business.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Geraghty:

F6 Afforestation

The development of afforestation shall not take place within 100m of residential units.

Mr. Dunne advised that this motion was for the addition of a new objective.

Cllr. Geraghty outlined the devastating and serious effects forest fires can have so was ensuring no forests would be put near houses.

Mr. Dunne advised that essentially a felling license is authorised by the Department of Agriculture & Forest so would not be something for the Planning Authority.

Cllrs. Connolly, Cuddy, P. Keaveney, McClearn and Reddington advised that they were supporting this motion.

Cllrs. Byrne & Killilea highlighted their concern if this objective was inserted could it result in an application being refused for someone seeking planning permission next to a forest.

Mr. Dunne advised that the wording could be taken either way by reading the objective and it may be the wish to change the wording to avoid confusing anyone.

Cllr. Geraghty stated it was to protect life as some areas are too close to houses.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development

RH 15 Backland Development in the open countryside

In all areas subject to the other provision of Rural Housing policy objectives considerations will be given to an immediate family member on family lands as backland development.

This is subject to the following:

Where no alternative lands are available on the family holding;

Where there is an existing/historical pattern of backland/cluster residential development within the rural area;

The proposed development shall not have a negative impact on third parties/neighbouring property owners;

Viable sites with sufficient independent percolation areas will be required in order to meet technical guidelines;

Only one **Only two** family members shall be accommodated in a backland development; Access shall in normal circumstances be by means of the existing entrance;

The site must be capable of satisfying all other criteria such as separation distance.

Definitions applied above:

***Rural Links:**

For the purpose of the above is defined as a person who has strong demonstrable economic **and** or social links to the rural area and wishes to build a dwelling generally within an 8km radius of where the applicant has lived for a substantial continuous part of their life.

***Substantiated Rural Housing Need:**

Is defined as supportive evidence for a person to live in this particular area and who does not or has not ever owned a house/received planning permission for a single rural house or built a house (except in exceptional circumstances) in the area concerned and has a strong demonstrable economic **and** or social need for a dwelling for their own permanent occupation. In addition, the applicants will also have to demonstrate their rural links as outlined above.

Cllr. Byrne stated he was proposing that back land development be supported for two family members.

Ms. Loughnane advised that Cllr. Thomas had put in an amendment on this motion also.

Cllr. Byrne agreed that he would defer consideration until such time as Cllr. Thomas was available to move his motion in relation to the related matter.

He put forward the proposal to change and with or under - Definitions applied above for Rural Links and Substantiated Rural Housing Need.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Carroll:

Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail Development

Settlement Hierarchy	Settlement	Population 2016	Population 2028-2028	Resident Workers 2016	Resident Workers 2031	Local Jobs 2016	% of Galway County Jobs 2016	Jobs: Resident Workers Current / Target
Metropolitan Towns	Oranmore ^[1]	4,990	6,690 (4,990 +1,700)	2,591	3,478	1,134	2.6%	0.44
						2,434		070
								Target 2,434 jobs by 2031 Total requirement approx. 97,360 m ² / 97 ha
Strategic Potential	Athenry ^[2]	4,445	5,945	1,891(42% pop)	2,497	1,450	3.4%	0.77
								Target 1,747 job by 2031 Total requirement approx. 70,000 m ² / 70 ha

Ms. Loughnane referred to amended figures based on discussions from the workshop, an error which Cllr. Carroll had brought up.

Cllr. Carroll confirmed he was happy with that change and accepted same.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Sheridan:

Chapter 5 Economic Development, Enterprise and Retail Development

5.10.3 Evening and Late Night Uses

It includes a variety of activities ranging from **pubs**, restaurants, cafes, clubs, takeaways, cinema, theatre and other means of entertainment.

Ms. Loughnane highlighted this submission was for the inclusion of the word 'pubs' as above.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Geraghty:

Chapter 6 Transport and Movement

National Roads

N6 Galway City Ring Road(N6GCRR)
 N59 Clifden to Oughterard (N59 Clifden to Maam Cross and N59 Oughterard to Maam Cross)
 N59 Clifden to Leenane (Mayo County Border)
 N59 Galway to Oughterard
 N84 Galway to County Boundary
 N67 Kilcolgan to County Boundary,
 N17 Tuam to County Boundary,
 N63 Annagh Cross to Ballygar
 N83 Tuam to Dunmore **and to County Boundary**
 N65 Kilmeen to Portumna
 N18 at Carrowmoneash northwards towards the interchange with the M6;

Routes	Works to be Undertaken
R336, R446, R360, R328 & R365	Network improvement works, strengthening overlay and improvements.
Oranhill Link Roads.	To complete link roads.
N6 at Carrowmoneash to link to Oranmore Industrial Area on N18.	Investigate and provide for a pedestrian crossing.
Tuam Road Quality Bus Corridor Consider creation of additional lanes or alteration of existing lanes for Quality Bus Corridors on the R446, N83, N59, N84.	In conjunction with Galway City complete the design of the Tuam Road quality bus corridor and reserve lands accordingly. Complete the design of Quality Bus Corridors and reserve lands accordingly.
Local and regional road networks within the County.	Continue strengthening, improvements and realignment work where necessary, to these networks.

Ms. Loughnane advised this submission referred to wording change as shown in red.

Cllr. Killilea asked for the insertion of the addition of R332 to be included also.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea this motion, to include the amendment relating to the R332, was **AGREED**.

Cllr. McHugh Farag advised that she was proposing to suspend standing orders until 6.00pm in order to continue the meeting.

This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McHugh Farag **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher and **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Curley:

3777

Chapter 6 Transport and Movement

Add new Policy Objective as follows:

PT 8 Loughrea Rail Infrastructure

To support the addition of Loughrea to the Western Rail Corridor and to plan for the addition of a commuter route from Loughrea to Galway by linking Loughrea to either Attymon or Athenry train station to create a commuter tributary to Galway.

Cllr. Curley highlighted the need to plan for the future.

Cllrs. Broderick, Carroll, M. Connolly, Ó Curraoin, Donohue, Maher, McClearn and McKinstry supported this motion, outlining that it would be great to see this happen.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. McKinstry:

Chapter 6 Transport and Movement

PT 2 Development of Public Transport Infrastructure (Instead of proposed PT 4)

To engage and work closely with the National Transport Authority and other relevant transport authorities and both public and private operators, in facilitating and securing improvements to and the expansion of public transport infrastructure **in areas such as spaces for parking of local link buses and services in the County.**

Cllr. McKinstry referred to the need for more services in the area and was proposing the addition to wording as shown in red.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Kinane:

Chapter 6 Transport and Movement

WC 2 Bicycle Parking

To encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities **and associated facilities** within the public realm of towns and villages throughout the County.

Cllr. Kinane stated it was a proposal for addition to wording as shown in red. She referred to the bike kiosks in other countries which provide additional facilities.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry, this motion was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons requested policy objectives re heavy duty trucks and heavy traffic to be taken on board as previously discussed. She queried if this had been done.

Ms. Loughnane advised that Page 131, NNR4 there was an existing policy objective re traffic management plans and NNR7 also referred to concerns that Cllr. Dr. Parsons expressed. She explained there was a suite of policy objectives which covered those concerns.

Submission received from Cllr. McKinstry:

Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape

Add new Policy Objective LCM5

LCM 5- Prospecting and Mining

It is a policy objective of the Council to give careful consideration in exceptional circumstances for prospecting or mining for gold, silver or base metals in landscapes class 3 or 4.

Mr. Dunne stated that essentially a license would be issued by the relevant Department and so Galway County Council has no role to play in administering that license. It is not a policy that should be included in the Development Plan as the Council had no jurisdiction in this regard.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Geraghty:

Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape

Landscape Strategy:

The area of Dunmore and surrounding townlands to be returned to Landscape Sensitivity 1.

Mr. Dunne shared a map on the screen showing the area being discussed.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. McKinstry:

Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure

BGP 3 Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and Trails

(b) It is a policy objective to support where relevant the concept of Greenways to consider local travel infrastructure, and connectivity to local towns and villages in the design of any Greenway route.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Dr. Parsons:

Chapter 10

10.16 County Galway 's Network of Blueways, Greenways and Peatways

Peatways within the County consists of a number of significant raised peat sites some of which are identified as worthy of protection in East Galway, for example **Kelleysgrove Bog** and some identified as having potential to connect with other green/blue parkland infrastructure.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons advised this proposal was for the addition of text as shown in red. This was to ensure a possibility of it being development as there was a lack of amenities.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Sheridan:

Chapter 10 Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green/Blue Infrastructure

10.16 County Galway 's Network of Blueways, Greenways and Peatways

Blueways consist of a network of navigable inland waterways such as lakes, canals and rivers. They provide scenic routes by canoe, bike or on foot and connect Galway County with Galway City and with neighbouring Counties. In County Galway examples include the River Shannon: Linear Park from Banagher, Co. Offaly to Meeelick in Co. Galway, River Corrib and Lough Corrib; Great Western Blueway (River Corrib and Lake Blueway) **Clare River Valley**, Lough Derg; Lough Derg Blueway from Portumna to Scarriff in Co. Clare. Given the number of rivers and lakes in the county, the Council will endeavour to develop a network of integrated blueways both within the county and to other counties.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Curley:

Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure

End of second para insert as follows:

The council recognises that every town in the county should have ASD classes available to students with additional needs in at least one secondary school in each town. Where this does not currently exist, the council will endeavour to work with the DES to ensure the realisation of this provision.

Mr. Dunne referred to Section 11.9, Page 217 where it referenced the close relation with the Department of Education. He explained that this proposal was one step further re specific needs and the narrative that's being proposed is outside the remit of the development plan.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Sheridan:

Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure

11.17 Co-Working Hubs / Remote Working

The Council will support the establishment of co-working hubs as either standalone facilities or ancillary to public buildings, libraries or community **facilities** in our settlements. The development of digital co-working hubs, creative spaces and also remote working have the potential to stimulate local economies and accommodate more flexible work options while also reducing commuting levels from our towns and villages. *Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development and Chapter 5 Enterprise, Economic and Retail* addresses remote working and co-working hubs further.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Geraghty:

Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource

RE 5 Renewable Energy Strategy

Support and facilitate the sustainable development and the use of appropriate renewable energy resources and associated infrastructure within the County having due regard to the Habitats Directive and to the detailed policy objectives and Development Standards set out in the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy as follows:

Renewable Energy Transmission

Renewable Energy Generation

'Strategic Areas' for renewable energy development

Onshore Wind Energy

Solar Energy

Bioenergy /**Anaerobic Digestion**

Micro-renewables

Marine Renewables

Hydro Energy

Geothermal Energy

Alternative Technologies

Energy Efficiency & Conservation

Sustainable Transport

Auto production

Battery Storage

Repowering/Renewing Wind Energy Developments

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Kinane:

Chapter 15 Development Management Standards

Bicycle Parking Standards

In compliance with Smarter Travel Policies, secure cycle parking facilities shall be provided in new office, residential, retail and employment generating development. Larger developments should provide a broad range of facilities for cyclists to encourage increased cycle usage, including cycle parking facilities and **associated facilities such as air pump to reflate flat tyres, lockers, changing rooms and shower facilities.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

Chapter 15 Development Management Standards

15.2.3 Guidelines for Residential in Towns and Villages

DM Standard 2: Multiple Housing Schemes (Urban Areas)

Taking in Charge

Developers intending on having residential developments "Taken in Charge" by the Local Authority shall engage with the relevant personnel in the Planning Authority with regard to the requirements of same to ensure compliance with appropriate standards and the Grant of Permission and ensure an orderly handover of services, roads, etc. on completion of the development. Individual wastewater treatment plants serving housing developments will not be taken in charge.

Developments less than 10 residential units -Complete as one phase

Developments greater than 10 residential units phasing should be completed up to TIC standard before next phase starts

Cllr. Byrne stated that DM standards are very important and there was an issue in the County with half built housing estates.

Ms. Loughnane advised that this proposal was not appropriate here. She highlighted that there was a piece on Taken In Charge on page 289 of the Draft Plan.

Cllr. Byrne stated he was happy once the principle of finishing estates was included in the Plan. He commented that he would consult further with Mr. Dunne and Ms. Loughnane on this matter so would defer this proposal until the next meeting.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

DM Standard 6 – Domestic Garages (Urban and Rural)

The design, form and materials should be ancillary to, and consistent with the main dwelling on site;

Structures should generally be detached and sited to the rear of the dwelling house and be visually subservient in terms of size, scale and bulk;

Storage facilities should be used solely for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling and not for any commercial, manufacturing, industrial use or habitable space in the absence of prior planning consent for such use

Maximum size of Garages shall be 60sqm gross internal area

Cllr. Killilea highlighted that he would prefer to see ground floor space stated.

Cllr. McHugh Farag advised that she would not be comfortable with including a limit.

Cllr. Sheridan stated that urban and rural requirements were not the same. He queried if they were placing themselves in a troublesome area.

Cllr. Walsh informed members that the current situation was 60 sq. m allowed for a garage. He explained that if extra space is required same can be applied for. He said that there should not be a limit on this, there was a good policy in place and some people like to have a garage on to their house.

Cllr. Byrne said that based on the comments made he was happy to withdraw this proposal.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

DM Standard 10 – Linear Development

Linear development is a prevalent issue in the County that is having a detrimental impact on the character of the rural landscape. *The Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines* define linear development as five or more houses on any one side of a given 250 metres of road frontage. Linear development does not necessarily have to be served by individual accesses nor have a continuous or uniform building line. Buildings sited back, staggered, or at angles and with gaps between them can still represent ribbon development, if they have a common frontage or they are visually linked.

In cases where a development would create or extend linear form of development, the proposal will not be considered favourably.

Applicants will be considered favourably if this is the only family owned site available (5 or more in 250m does not apply in this case).

Mr. Dunne advised that there were sufficient policies in Chapter 4 to support this on page 79. He stated that he did not feel there was a need to add this extra text.

Cllr. Byrne confirmed that he would not be happy to leave it up to the planner and therefore would like it included.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, this motion was **AGREED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

DM Standard 13 – Rural Clustering on un-serviced lands in Villages

The development of rural clusters of five dwelling or less within the footprint of existing unserviced villages, within the 50km~~60km~~ speed limits and serviced by public footpaths shall be considered to provide an alternative to one off rural housing (i.e. No public sewer) subject to the following:

Site size shall be reflective of both the site context and the surrounding built environment. The proposed layout shall ensure setbacks appropriate to the site and surrounding context are met while also ensuring minimum separation distances for waste water infrastructure can be achieved in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving single house.

A design statement shall accompany the application and will be required to demonstrate how the proposal will integrate appropriately with the village.

A single access point shall be provided from the public road which shall be designed in accordance with the principles and standards set out in the 'Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets' (2013).

Each dwelling house shall be served by their own on site individual waste water treatment system which shall be will be required to be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the 'EPA Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems for Single Houses' in place at the time of the application.

Mr. Dunne advised members that he had liaised with the Roads Department on this matter and it was felt that it should be left at 50km.

Cllr. Kinane stated she would be concerned with the jump from 50 to 60 in relation to road safety. She highlighted that speeding coming into a village is a problem and felt this was a big jump and would like clarity on this matter from the planners.

Cllrs. M. Connolly, Ó Curraoin, Geraghty and Killilea commented that they were supporting this motion.

Cllr. Byrne explained that not all villages and towns have a 50km zone. He was suggesting 60km as it would be more appropriate to covers more of our villages.

Ms. Loughnane highlighted that footpaths are only covered to 50km so she would be concerned about increasing it to 60km due to safety and concerns over who was going to provide the additional footpaths.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, this motion was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Byrne referred to his next submission:

15.5.2 Guidelines for Roads & Parking

DM Standard 27: Access to National and Other Restricted Roads for Residential Developments

Housing Need Eligibility

a) Residential development along National Roads will be restricted outside the 50-60kmp speed zones in accordance with the *DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines (2012)*.

Consideration shall be given to the need of farm families to live on the family holding on a limited basis and a functional need to live at this location must be demonstrated. Where there is an existing access, the combined use of same must be considered and shown to be technically unsuitable before any new access can be considered. Access via local roads shall always be the preferred access.

Cllr. Kinane stated that road safety was a concern. She queried who would put in these footpaths.

Mr. Cullen highlighted that members need to be clear, this motion was proposing "serviced by public footpaths" – must be footpaths in place as it's not a case of them being provided.

Cllr. Byrne explained that he was trying to include everyone by increasing to 60km, therefore increasing village envelope so housing need would not need to be met.

Cllr. Hoade advised that she was proposing to suspend standing orders to finish these motions by continuing the meeting.

This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh and **AGREED**.

Comh Ó Curraoin explained that the speed limit previously changed in Bearna and it can be very dangerous. 3778

Mr. Cullen advised that he was concerned with this motion as it could potentially have safety issues. He stated that the paragraph mentions national route so the TII would have objections. He was advising members not to increase the limit from 50km to 60km.

Cllr. Byrne explained that he was not proposing to increase the speed limit. He pointed out that it was currently stating 50-60 and he was recommending to just leave out the 50.

Ms. Loughnane referred to national standards and advised the requirement to be in accordance with the TII guidance. She advised members to leave it at 50km on safety grounds. She explained that current standards are 50km and if 60km is added to plan then people may think it's possible.

This motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea.

As all of the Members did not agree with the proposal, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 26

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Comh. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. S. Curley	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. G. Finnerty	Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. Dr. Parsons
Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N Thomas
Cllr. T. Welby	Cllr S. Walsh	

Against 1

Cllr. A. McKinstry

Abstain 1

Cllr. C. Keaveney

Cllr. G. Finnerty lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. G. Finnerty cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

As a result of the Vote, the Cathaoirleach declared the Motion **CARRIED**.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

15.5.2 Guidelines for Roads & Parking

DM Standard 28: Access to National and Other Restricted Roads for Commercial & Other Developments

Commercial development along National Roads and Other Restricted Roads will be restricted outside the defined settlement centres or the Local Area Plan boundaries as follows:

a) Class I Control Roads (National Road)

In general, commercial and industrial development shall be prohibited outside the 50/60kph speed limits of National Routes. Consideration will be given to substantiated cases for extension and intensification of existing establishments and to the provision of park and ride facilities. All existing and proposed National Roads are included under the Class 1 Control Roads designation.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, this motion was **AGREED** subject to noting that Cllr. McKinstry was not in agreement with the Motion.

Submission received from Cllr. Byrne:

DM Standard 29: Sight Distances Required for Access onto National, Regional and, Local and Private Road

Exit Visibility Check

Visibility splays shall be measured a minimum distance of 3m **2.4m** from the edge of the carriageway ('x' distance) or as determined by Galway County Council. In limited instances this may be reduced to 2.4m and to 2.0m in difficult circumstances on urban roads.

Site visibility requirements shall be provided within the development boundary of the site or on lands in the control of the applicant or lands in public ownership.

Letter of consent from adjoining land owner is acceptable. Planning condition should be included to state that wall set back must be done in accordance in advance of construction.

Following discussion, Cllr. Byrne agree to defer consideration of the proposal to allow for further consultation with Forward Planning.

Entry Visibility Check

A vehicle turning into the proposed development shall be visible to an approaching vehicle for a distance of Y in order to avoid a rear end collision.

A vehicle turning right into the proposed development shall have a forward visibility to the centre of the opposite lane for a distance of Y to ensure they can safely cross the path of an on-coming vehicle.

The Sight Distances required for Access onto National Regional and Local Roads are set out below:

Design Speed and Sight Distances	Sight Distance required for the following Design Speed on The Major Road in kph						
	85	70	0	0	2	0	
Y Distance on Major Road	160	120	90	0	50	5	

Table 15.3: Sight Distances required for Access onto National, Regional and Local Roads

On narrow Local Roads with poor horizontal and vertical alignment and where the 80 km/h speed limit applies, the design speed applied for access visibility requirements should be the speed (km/h) that one can drive the road in a safe manner. This can be assessed as the 85th percentile speed drivers travel on the road. The visibility will then be assessed on the 85th percentile speed for that road.

Visibility/Sightlines to centre of road.

In general, where the capacity, width, surface condition or alignment of the road is deemed inadequate, development will not be favoured.

The Chief Executive referred to the motion advising that it should not refer to planning conditions and could be re worded.

Ms. Loughnane commented that 3 metres was the preferred standard. She advised that she had checked with the Roads Department. She explained it may cause more problems. She agreed that the words planning condition could not be included. She stated it was putting an onus on another/pressure on adjoining landowners. She asked that 3 metres be retained and not create confusion with additional wording. She stated she would cite caution on this re sight distances and letter of consent.

Cllr. Walsh outlined that 2.4 m was in the existing plan, he advised that they should keep it to the 2.4m as it was not putting pressure on any landowner.

Cllr. Byrne referred to the sightlines advising that it should be to the centre of the road.

Ms. Loughnane stated it was a safety issue and she was not in favour of inserting this. She explained that they had liaised with the Roads Section and in accordance with regulations it was not safe to insert it.

The Chief Executive explained that if standards were set at national level then need to ensure certainty in planning applications. He highlighted that it would create uncertainty if it deviated from national policies.

Cllr. Walsh advised that sightlines in the centre of the road on county roads, if a car had to pull in to let a car park it puts restrictions on these roads.

Cllr. McKinstry pointed out it could be a motorbike on the road.

Cllr. Byrne stated that based on the above well-made point he would withdraw this proposal specifically in relation to the visibility/Sightlines to the centre of the road.

DM Standard 38: Group Water Scheme and Private Wells

The provision of a safe and reliable water supply is a requirement of development. If the water is supplied by a group water scheme, any planning application must be accompanied by a letter of consent to connection from the secretary of the scheme and in certain circumstances; the developer may be required to extend the main to the site. Where a bored well is necessary or more feasible, details of separation distances from treatment systems shall be in compliance with the standards in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Dwellings*.

Private Bore Holes should comply with the Guidelines from The Institute of Geologist of Ireland publication '*Water Well Construction*' www.igi.ie

~~The following should be submitted to the Planning Authority:~~

The following should be a condition of Grant of Planning Permission

- A record of an appropriate test of the sustainable yield of the well;
- Documentation of the well construction, its yield and its water quality including a list of tested chemical and bacteriological parameters;
- A detailed account of the water treatment system that will be installed if necessary.

Ms. Loughnane referred to the standard being proposed re: group water scheme. She advised if this was allowed it would potentially be granting planning permission for someone who may not get water and the planning authority would not want that. If there was no water, then the house would not be habitable. It's not reasonable to give the impression that the Planning Authority could grant permission without an applicant having access to a potable water supply.

Cllr. Sheridan outlined that the test of water was only a point in time, if a grant of permission is given it may not be in compliance with a potable water source.

Cllr. Welby asked if an application could be accepted without a potable water supply source. He highlighted if there were any other issues and that would result in them not getting planning the applicant would not need to go to the expense of the test.

Cllr. Byrne referred to Cllr. Welby's proposal agreeing it would be a good solution, as it would prevent unnecessary money being spent.

Ms. Loughnane stated she could see this point, but it would be problematic to have incomplete applications. She advised that issues such as this are raised at pre-planning stage. She explained that false hope may be given to applicants if this was done and An Bord Pleanala would not approve same.

Cllr. Byrne explained that he had to leave the meeting as had another meeting to attend so would have to defer these motions until Tuesday's meeting.

Submission received from Cllr. McKinstry:

Chapter 15 Development Management Standards

DM Standard 39 © : Municipal Effluent Treatment Plants

New Municipal Effluent Treatment Plants should be set back at least 100m from domestic purposes. (premises).

Cllr. Mannion stated she was proposing to defer consideration of the remaining submissions.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, this was **AGREED**.

Ms. Loughnane advised that it was intended to review the motion deferred and indicated that proposals were still being received. She explained that there would need to be a cutoff point so motions could circulate to members in advance of the next meeting.

It was agreed that close of meeting today would be the cut off for motions to allow the planning staff time to take them into account, discuss with the environmental consultants and forward same to the Members in advance of the next meeting.

Cllr. Maher explained that he could not make the meeting at 11.00am on Tuesday.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, it was **AGREED** to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, 4th May at 2pm via Teams.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting to reconvene on Tuesday, 4th May at 2pm via Teams.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILIMHE
MINUTES OF DEFERRED REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL

Thursday 4th 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, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, Dr. Parsons, A. Reddington, J. Sheridan, S. Walsh and T. Welby.
Oifigh:	Mr. J. Cullen – Chief Executive, Ms E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Mr M. Owens, County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Mr. B. Dunne, Executive

Planner, Ms. U. Ní Eadhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge,
Mr. B. Corcoran, Assistant Planner, Ms. F. Glynn, Assistant Planner, Mr. P. O'Sullivan, Assistant Planner, Ms. D. Byrne, A/Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. D. Kelly, Clerical Officer

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

The Cathaoirleach was joined by all Members in expressing sympathies to the Gilmore Family following the recent death of Mr. Frank Gilmore, RIP, retired Director of Services, Galway County Council.

The Members expressed their regret and sadness upon hearing of Mr. Gilmore's passing. Cllr. McClearn expressed his condolences to the Gilmore family and proposed a vote of sympathy. He acknowledged the significant contribution made by Mr. Gilmore over the span of his career. Cllr. M. Connolly reiterated the points made by Cllr. McClearn above in addition to acknowledging Mr. Gilmore's dedication to his role and his prowess as a Civil Servant. Elected Members recounted the enormous ability displayed by Mr. Gilmore in his many roles within Galway County Council and the ease with which he carried out his role which was in no small way due to the personable and amiable nature of his character.

The Chief Executive extended sympathies on his own behalf and behalf of the staff of Galway County Council

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr Jim Cuddy, it was **AGREED** to commence one minute's silence to accord respect to the passing of Mr. Frank Gilmore, Retired Director of Services, Galway County Council.

Elected Members also extended their congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Jim Cullen on his recent appointment to Galway County Council as Chief Executive. The Chief Executive expressed his thanks for the comments.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-20285 UNDER SECTION 11(5) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED).

The Cathaoirleach reminded members of any obligations under Part 15 of the Ethical Framework of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) which stipulates that where a member has a beneficial, declarable or otherwise pecuniary interest in a matter being discussed, that they disclose the nature of their interest before discussion or consideration of the matter commences and withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered.

Cllrs. Byrne, Reddington and Dr. Parsons advised that due to their various interests in land holdings a declarable interest may arise in the course of the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members of the need to recuse themselves should the matters inferred to arise in the course of proceedings.

Motion by Cllr. Byrne

DM Standard 2: Multiple Housing Schemes (Urban Areas)

Taking in Charge

Developers intending on having residential developments "Taken in Charge" by the Local Authority shall engage with the relevant personnel in the Planning Authority with regard to the requirements of same to ensure compliance with appropriate standards and the Grant of Permission and ensure an orderly handover of services, roads, etc on completion of the development. Individual wastewater treatment plants serving housing developments will not be taken in charge.

Developments less than 10 residential units -Complete as one phase

Developments greater than 10 residential units phasing should be completed up to TIC standard before next phase starts

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane reiterated her previous comments on this motion that was discussed on the 29th April 2021 and that the specifics of the wording proposed is a matter to be discussed outside of the plan making process.

Cllr. Byrne accepted the position as outlined by Ms. Loughnane and withdrew his proposal.

Submission from Cllr. Byrne:

DM Standard 29: Sight Distances Required for Access onto National, Regional & Local and Private Road.

Exit Visibility Check

Visibility splays shall be measured a minimum distance of 3m 2.4m from the edge of the carriageway ('x' distance) or as determined by Galway County Council. In limited instances this may be reduced to 2.4m and to 2.0m in difficult circumstances on urban roads.

Ms. Loughnane reiterated her previous comments on this proposal that was discussed on the 29th April 2021 and that the specifics of the wording proposed is contrary to national guidance. Ms. Loughnane outlined that while there may be a deviation of 2.4m on an individual basis however 3metre is the recommended distance as per the T.I.I. 's guidelines and this would also accord with the Council's Roads Division. T.I.I. are all times guided by international standards and any reduction of sight lines would potentially have very adverse effects on the national roads systems. She noted that where planning applications are appealed to An Bord Pleanála for deficient sightlines, they invariably uphold the reasons for refusal.

Cllr. Byrne indicated that he was not happy with this response and that a sightline of 2.4m should suffice where it relates only to family access. Cllr. Walsh noted that sightlines of 2.4m can be difficult to achieve in areas like Connemara.

The motion was **PROPOSED** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh and **AGREED**.

Submission from Cllr. Byrne:

Site visibility requirements shall be provided within the development boundary of the site or on lands in the control of the applicant or lands in public ownership.

Letter of consent from adjoining land owner is acceptable. Planning condition should be included to state that wall set back must be done in accordance in advance of construction.

In relation to the letter of consent from the adjoining landowner, Cllr Byrne considered that rural housing applications should not be impeded due to the need for a 'Letter of Consent' from adjoining landowners. Cllr. Walsh expressed a hope that the status quo would be reinstated in terms of accepting a letter of consent as this appears to have changed in recent times. Cllr McClearn warned that members need to be wary of not overlooking what essentially amounts to unauthorised development if works are being conducted prior to permission as per the motion as put forward. There is potential for abuse of the system if this happens.

Ms. Loughnane stated that the Development Plan as a policy document is not the appropriate forum in which to evolve and advance on the matters referred to above. This is a matter that can be dissected at a later stage with the Strategic Issues Paper.

Cllr Byrne acknowledged the comments from the senior Planner and suggested the following wording:

"Amended Motion-Letter of Consent from adjoining property owners will be required in order to achieve sightlines, and these works to be carried out in advance of commencement of construction."

The amended motion as **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Thomas was **AGREED**.

Submission from Cllr. Byrne

DM Standard 38: Group Water Scheme and Private Wells

The provision of a safe and reliable water supply is a requirement of development. If the water is supplied by a group water scheme, any planning application must be accompanied by a letter of consent to connection from the secretary of the scheme and in certain circumstances; the developer may be required to extend the main to the site. Where a bored well is necessary or more feasible, details of separation distances from treatment systems shall be in compliance with the standards in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Dwellings*.

Private Bore Holes should comply with the Guidelines from The Institute of Geologist of Ireland publication 'Water Well Construction' www.igi.ie

~~The following should be submitted to the Planning Authority:~~

The following should be a condition of Grant of Planning Permission

- A record of an appropriate test of the sustainable yield of the well;
- Documentation of the well construction, its yield and its water quality including a list of tested chemical and bacteriological parameters;
- A detailed account of the water treatment system that will be installed if necessary.

Cllr. Byrne advised that following on from the previous discussion in relation to the submission he was now withdrawing his submission.

Submission from Cllr. McKinstry

DM Standard 39: Municipal Effluent Treatment Plants

New Municipal Effluent Treatment Plants should be set back at least 100m from domestic purposes (premises).

Cllr. McKinstry commented that the 100m standard currently in place is a problem for local communities. Cllr. Killilea remarked that he would welcome clarity on standard overall whilst Cllr. Thomas felt that the current standard is too restrictive and hinders development. In contrast, Cllr. M. Connolly observed that consistency is important in any approach taken to overcome this challenge and he expressed concerns that if this motion were to be passed would it hinder the infrastructural development of wastewater treatment systems by Irish Water. Comh. Mac An Iomaire and Comh. Ó Curraoín favoured the motion as put forward. Cllr. Mannion expressed concerns about the proposed setback in that while modern treatment systems require the benefit of planning permission, setback of 100m could hinder development going forward. Cllr. Murphy in agreement with Cllr. Mannion observed that a so called 'blanket rule' of 100m may be too restrictive in light of the fact that Planning Permission is required for such developments and that a setback could be decided on an individual basis if required. Cllr. D. Connolly echoed the comments of Cllr. M. Connolly and commented that the interests of both the environment and public health would need to be a prime consideration in any motion adopted, lest it be injurious to public health. Cllr. Thomas counteracted the comments of Cllr. Mannion and said he felt that standards as set out by the EPA were outdated in respect of any development for WWTS.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane observed that a 100m standard would be too restrictive and consequently represent challenges going forward. She concurred with the points raised by Cllr. Mannion in relation to planning permission being sought for any such development. She clarified the role of the EPA as a licensing body with the onus of responsibility for any implementation of such plants resting with the local authority with public health being of paramount consideration. Ms. Loughnane further clarified that Local Area Plan's make provision for flexible distances and that standardising or regulating the setback is not in the interests of proper planning.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that infrastructural upgrade is one of the biggest hurdles to overcome in the County at present. He advised the members not to increase

restrictions any further as further engagement with Irish Water would be hampered by obstacles that do not currently exist.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Thomas.

Cllrs. Geraghty and Sheridan referenced a set-back of between 50m-100m from domestic premises.

An amendment was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher to make no change to the existing requirements.

As the amendment was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 23

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. PJ Murphy	Cllr. A. Reddington
Cllr. P. Roche	Cllr. J. Sheridan	

Against 10

Cllr. J. Charity	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Comh. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry
Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons	Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. T. Welby		

Abstain 3

Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. S. Curley	Cllr. M. Kinane
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The Cathaoirleach declared the amendment as proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Maher **CARRIED**.

Submission from Cllr. Thomas

RH 5: Rural Housing Zone 5 (An Ghaeltacht)

One off rural Planning will be granted to an applicant who can demonstrate a very proficient standard in the Irish language. The applicant would be tested by an external body other than the local authority and would have to show their proficiency to a Teg 2b standard and commit to using the language on a daily basis.

Cllr. Thomas suggested that an external body would be a more appropriate way to assess the language proficiency of an applicant who is looking for planning permission in a Gaeltacht area. He felt that an accredited external body would provide a more strenuous and robust level of testing. Cllr. Walsh noted his involvement in the concept from its inception and he observed that the status qua has been raised year on year. He feels the policy at present is to stringent and restrictive as it restricts bona fide speakers from dispersing fluidly around the Gaeltacht. Cllr. Welby and Comh. Ó

Curraoin echoed his concerns and added that the preservation of the language should be of significant importance in any policy going forward.

Cllr. McHugh Farag queried what would become of residents/ inhabitants who become displaced of their family home due to the construction of the 'Ring Road' who are relying on this policy objectives.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne acknowledged the comments from the Members but noted that as the Planning Authority, the County Council must ensure compliance with its own policies and that the current situation is satisfactory in relation to the assessment of Irish speakers who are applying for permission under this policy objective. He further commented that it too difficult to predict what will happen with the Ring Road however policies are in situ to offset possible challenges. Ms. Loughnane agreed with the points addressed by Mr. Dunne and added that the Council does not charge for this service whereas an applicant will incur charges if an external body were to undertake the position. Cllr. Byrne in agreeing also stated the determinations of planning permission to include Irish language assessments is a matter for the staff of the County Council. The Irish Officer, Una Ní Eidin commented that in assessing the standard of Irish of a candidate that the identity of same is verified thoroughly and also conducted by a face to face interview to eliminate any potential falsification of identity. Cllr. Maher proposed that there be no change to RH Rural Housing Zone 5 (An Ghaeltacht).

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas and **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy that there be no change to the existing requirements.

As the amendment was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result:

For 23

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. M. Kinane	Comh. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag
Cllr. P.J. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. Parsons	Cllr. A. Reddington
Cllr. P. Roche	Cllr. T. Welby	

Against 11

Cllr. I. Canning	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. S. Curley
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. G. King	Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. J. Sheridan
Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. S. Walsh	

Abstain 3

Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
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The Cathaoirleach declared the amendment as proposed by Cllr. Maher seconded by Cllr. Murphy **CARRIED**.

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Chapter 4- Rural Living & Development - RH 15 Backland Development in the open countryside

In all areas subject to the other provision of Rural Housing policy objectives considerations will be given to ~~an immediate family member~~ family members including nieces and nephews of the land owners and will not be restricted to only one immediate family member on family lands as backland development. Backland development will not be restricted to only where this pattern of development already exists

This is subject to the following:

- Where no alternative lands are available on the family holding;
- Where there is an existing/historical pattern of backland/cluster residential development within the rural area;
- The proposed development shall not have a negative impact on third parties/neighbouring property owners;
- Viable sites with sufficient independent percolation areas will be required in order to meet technical guidelines;
- Only one family member shall be accommodated in a backland development;
- Access shall in normal circumstances be by means of the existing entrance;
- The site must be capable of satisfying all other criteria such as separation distance.

Cllr. Thomas referenced that the biggest problem for those obtaining planning permission is overcoming the hurdle of backland development. He felt that the policy objective should extend to the extended members of families, not just immediate members. Cllr. Cuddy agreed that it was an important development. Cllr. Walsh held that it was inherently unfair to deny other immediate family members from gaining planning permission on the basis that one family member already have been given permission. Cllr. Kinane agreed that in the interests of family harmony – that it should be addressed.

Cllr. Byrne disagreed with the extension of same to nieces and nephews. Cllr. McClearn noted that east of the county is under significant stress to accommodate all potential applicants and that a line needed to be drawn with regard to the parameters being widened for another generation. Cllr. Killilea agreed with these comments. Cllr. Murphy disagreed with Cllr. Kinane comments and noted that to house an entire family in one small plot of a backland would be disastrous. Cllr. Byrne suggested that it be finalized at a later stage in the draft plan process.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne for the Planning Department noted that this issue had been raised in January with reference to historical family landholding and was currently being reviewed. He further noted that the parameters of the motion has once again been expanded upon to include extended family members which introduced a new concept into the initial policy. He also referenced that the wording proposed would be contrary to the motion proposed by Cllr. Byrne at the Council meeting on 29th April 2021 in relation to this policy objective.

The Chief Executive observed that to pass this motion was contradictory to proper planning and sustainable planning which consequently could draw the attention of the Office of the Planning Regulator. In addition, it was pointed out to the members that the wording as proposed was contradictory to a bullet point within the policy objective.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy and **AGREED**.

Arising from same, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich-Quinn to further amend RH15 by the deletion of the following:

~~Only one family member shall be accommodated in a backland development.~~

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result:

For 26

Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. S. Curley	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. M. Kinane	Cllr. G. King
Comh. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag
Cllr. Dr. Parsons	Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N. Thomas
Cllr. S. Walsh	Cllr. T. Welby	

Against 9

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. PJ. Murphy	Cllr. P. Roche

Abstain 2

Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. A. Reddington
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The Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Submission by Cllr. Byrne:

Chapter 4 Rural Living and Development

RH 15 Backland Development in the open countryside

In all areas subject to the other provision of Rural Housing policy objectives considerations will be given to an immediate family member on family lands as backland development.

This is subject to the following:

- Where no alternative lands are available on the family holding;

- Where there is an existing/historical pattern of backland/cluster residential development within the rural area;
- The proposed development shall not have a negative impact on third parties/neighbouring property owners;
- Viable sites with sufficient independent percolation areas will be required in order to meet technical guidelines;
- ~~Only one~~ **Only two** family member shall be accommodated in a backland development;
- Access shall in normal circumstances be by means of the existing entrance;
- The site must be capable of satisfying all other criteria such as separation distance.

In the context of the previous resolution in relation to RH 15 Backland Development in the open countryside, Cllr. Byrne withdrew his submission.

Motion by Cllr. Thomas

Chapter 4 Rural Living & Development- RH 18: Log Cabins and Pods

The construction of log cabins and pods or wooden structures will be permitted in locations where they can be integrated into the existing landscape or where an application can demonstrate that an appropriate landscape will be designed around the structure.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne commented that the wording of the current draft is sufficient and appropriate and that the local Authority encourages Log cabins and pods in appropriate locations and that the wording as proposed was not required. Cllr. Thomas disagreed and considered his wording more appropriate.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, the motion was **AGREED**.

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Chapter 4 Rural Living & Development- RH19

A person living in a town or village will be allowed to build in the surrounding countryside of that town or village once they can show that they were living there for a period of seven years or more and can show very strong links to the area such as their Children are attending the local schools and are also members of local clubs etc. A 15 year enurement condition would apply to any such application.

In suggesting this motion, Cllr Thomas did acknowledge the uncertainty in doing so and he requested the opinion of the other members. Cllr. Cuddy supported the motion but added that it needed to be tidied up to include the addition of 'on family lands'. Cllr. Connolly queried the legality of an enurement clause. Cllr Welby questioned the application of the policy on those who are renting and acknowledged that the Planning

Authority cannot provide an exhaustive list of any/ all potential solutions to getting permission. Cllr. McHugh Farag noted the scope of the motion and felt 'the surrounding area' was ill-defined and required a tighter definition overall. Cllr. Mannion felt that the motion as put forward would give false hope to potential applicants. Cllr. McClearn felt that any change to current policy would only serve to hinder the planning process overall.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne stated that the proposed wording was not appropriate and that it would conflict with a significant number of policies with the Draft Plan in addition, it would also undermine the zoning policy for the towns and villages of the County if this policy objective was included.

Ms. Loughnane outlined that any change in policy would be contrary and would raise significant issues with the Office of the Planning Regulator.

The Cathaoirleach at the request of Cllr. Thomas agreed to defer further consideration of the proposal to a later stage in the consideration of the proposals.

Submission by Cllr. Dr. Parsons

7.6 Waste Management

7.9 Environmental Protection

I propose an insertion here of the adoption of the Principle of Environmental Justice - a 'fair' distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, including the application of environmental policy planning implementation and governance is incorporated into the Co Galway CDP.

The issue of Environmental discrimination is one that environmental justice measures should address with regard to the serial siting of old Landfill, Superdump, waste facilities in an area of heightened environmental sensitivity and/or community amenity importance close to residential communities.

Areas of heightened socio-economic deprivation indices should be protected from compounding environmental injustice and environmental discrimination and should be reflected in planning policies & operations in environmental decision making and implementation. Policy implementation and planning can stack the odds against attracting industry and investment to certain locations within the county and blight communities from attracting investment and high value job creation despite outstanding infrastructure, location, resources, skills and natural environmental beauty. This principle of environmental justice will ensure that all communities will be supported by contents of the CDP TO improve and maintain a clean and healthy environment, especially those who have traditionally lived , worked and played closest to sources of pollution, therefore in the interests of equity I call that this principle of environmental justice is named and inserted into the CDP.

Cllr. Killilea declared a potential interest in the matter the subject of the submission by Cllr. Dr. Parsons and accordingly withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the matter.

Waste Management- Principle of Environment

Cllr. Dr. Parsons observed that in the interests of fairness that all communities should have the benefit of proper waste management amenity and in the interests of social justice that all communities should accordingly bear the burden of any matters arising from such an amenity. Cllr McClearn supported the motion and cited the merit of same particularly in the context of a community who is consistently bearing the brunt of such a facility on a constant basis. Cllr. Maher observed that this issue was discussed at SPC level wherein it was noted that the Western Regional Authority with Mayo County Council as the lead authority were dealing with the matter and as such it is not the remit of Galway County Council to consider it on any exhaustive manner. Cllr. M. Connolly wished to have his support for the motion noted. Cllr. Broderick in support of the motion noted that it should be policy for waste management principle should be incorporated into the draft.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane noted the strategic element that runs throughout the plan insofar as the current plan supports the motion and as such there is no need to explicitly mention it.

The motion on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue was **AGREED**.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Killilea **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Curraoin and **AGREED** to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on Thursday, 6th May at 11am via Teams.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting until Thursday, 6th May at 11am.

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF DEFERRED REMOTE COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL

Thursday 6th 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, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, Dr. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Oifigh

Mr. J. Cullen, Chief Executive (Interim); Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services; Mr. A. Farrell- A/Director of Services; Mr. L. Hanrahan- Director of Services; Mr. M. Owens-County Secretary/Meetings Administrator; Ms. V. Loughnane- Senior Planner; Mr. B. Dunne- Executive Planner; Ms. U. Ní Eidhin, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Mr. B. Corcoran - Assistant Planner; Ms. F. Glynn- Assistant Planner; Ms. P. O'Sullivan- Assistant Planner; Ms. D. Byrne- A/Assistant Staff Officer; Ms. D. Kelly, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinníú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-20285 UNDER SECTION 11(5) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED).

In the absence of the Cathaoirleach at the commencement of the meeting, the Leas-Chathaoirleach chaired the meeting.

The Leas - Cathaoirleach reminded members of any obligations under Part 15 of the Ethical Framework of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) which stipulates that where a member has a beneficial, declarable or otherwise pecuniary interest in a matter being discussed, that they disclose the nature of their interest before discussion

or consideration of the matter commences and withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered.

Cllrs. Byrne, Parsons, Murphy and Reddington referenced their previous contributions in relation to the potential for an interest to arise and in the event of same to declare the interest and withdraw from the meeting.

Submission from Cllr. Joe Sheridan:

Chapter 4 Rural Living & Development- RH 2- Urban Fringes

Proposed the below deletion as marked below by strikethrough from the plan page 76 & 73

RH 2 Rural Housing Zone 2 (Rural Area Under Strong Urban Pressure-GCTPS- Outside

Rural Metropolitan Area Zone 1)

It is policy objective to facilitate rural housing in this rural area under strong urban pressure

subject to the following criteria:

1(a). Those applicants with long standing demonstrable economic and/or social Rural Links* to the

area through existing and immediate family ties seeking to develop their first home on the existing

family farm holding. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify

the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OR

1(b). Those applicants who have no family lands but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing demonstrable economic and or social Rural links* and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area and have immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area. Having established a Substantiated Rural Housing Need*, such persons making an application on a site within a 8km radius of their original family home will be accommodated, subject to normal development management criteria and provided the site does not encroach into the Urban Fringe* of the towns of Gort, Leughrea, Athenry or Tuam. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

4.6.1 Rural Areas under Strong Urban Pressure –Metropolitan Area and GCTPS (p72 to 73)

Galway city and environs which encompasses the settlements of Bearná, Baile Chláir and Oranmore it is considered that the rural areas between these settlements and the administrative boundary of Galway city should be protected from sporadic rural housing. Within the metropolitan area of the county, the Applicant must be from a member of farm family and meet a number of criteria which will be outlined in policy objectives to follow.

In areas outside the metropolitan area, the areas under urban pressure, the Applicant will be required to demonstrate an established a substantiated Rural housing need.

~~In relation to the urban areas around Gort, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam it is considered that the principles of proper planning and sustainable development would dictate that the erosion of the urban fringe around these towns should be discouraged. Applicants whose family home is within the Urban Fringe of these towns will be requested to establish a substantiated Rural Housing Need and only this category of persons will be allowed to construct a dwelling in these areas.~~

Cllr. Sheridan outlined his reasoning for bringing the motion. He feels there is an inherent injustice being laid against families who have been residing outside the Urban Fringe who cannot obtain Planning permission on the basis that they are reside outside its containment. He put the matter further and observed that the GTPS as an instrument was designed to contain the County towns and there is a portion of the local population who have become victims to a thirty-year-old rule that doesn't operate in their favor. Cllr. Geraghty stated for the meeting that he felt that the urban fringe as a concept doesn't allow for flexibility in light of the changing ideals of urban to rural living which is exceptionally prevalent against the backdrop of Covid 19. At this juncture, Cllr. Broderick expressed concerns that the urban fringe would be expanded further east of the county – into Ballinasloe and its hinterlands and this being the case, how would it marry in with the incoming LAP for Ballinasloe and its hinterlands particularly in the context that part of the old urban area is now being levelled into the County. Cllr. Dr. Parsons queried how it is proposed to deal with lands that don't fall within the current LAP for Ballinasloe will be dealt with over the course of the County development plan? Cllr. M. Connolly cited his experience in Tuam and he queried of the Executive whether there were plans to add Ballinasloe to the urban fringe, however he did observe that the urban fringe as a concept is not necessarily prohibitive in that in the case of a brownfield site that is located within an urban fringe, it can easily be inserted elsewhere. Cllr. Byrne asked for clarity around the motion and cautioned the other members to be wary in deciding to eliminate the concept as it won't assist in applicants who still have to prove intrinsic links to an area. Cllr. McClearn in favouring the retention of the concept observed that if Members want to contain urban sprawl then it is necessary for the concept to remain in the draft plan.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane explained that Ballinasloe does not currently come within the confines of the urban fringe which is a concept that has been in situ for almost 30 years. The rationale behind the concept is to prevent urban sprawl in that it contains the towns that fall under its remit. Its elimination from the draft plan would only serve to marginalise people who reside in urban towns as house prices would rise from the corresponding rise in land prices. The urban fringe as a concept is not prohibitive and the balance stuck needs to reconcile with proper planning policy. Members were advised to be conscious of its importance in maintaining a proper balance in sustainable planning practices.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Sheridan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley

As the motion was not agreed, the Leas-Chathaoirleach called for a vote.

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 15

Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. M. Connolly	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. S. Curley	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N. Thomas

Against 10

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. PJ Murphy	Cllr. P. Roche
Cllr. T. Welby		

Abstain 9

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Broderick	Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons	Cllr. A. Reddington

The Leas-Chathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

The Cathaoirleach joined the meeting and on thanking the Leas-Chathaoirleach assumed the Chair.

Presentation by the Forward Planning Section

Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Dunne briefed the Members in relation to Volume 1, & Chapter 2 which included the settlement plans. Ms. Loughnane outlined the projected growth volume agenda for the County over the course of the plan were in line with the NPF & RSES. Members were shown a table which outlined the population at present with the projected forecast of population increase year on year with an average increase of 1.46%.

Mr. Dunne outlined the settlement plans that were to be included. The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan [MASP] will highlight key areas of population growth within the close proximity of Galway City which would include the settlements of Baile Chlair, Bearn, Oranmore and the two framework plans for Garraun & Brairhill. Another settlement category referenced was keys towns in bracket which were described as being regionally strategic. The key towns are Ballinasloe and Tuam. Athenry is referenced as an area of strategic potential. Notable areas of interest include the projected growth and promotion of small town across the County. Other areas outlined in relation to areas of projected growth were small growth towns and small growth villages.

In comments, Cllr. Byrne welcomed the presentation and observed the overall importance of the Core Strategy in the draft plan. He queried the settlement figures defined by the Department. Cllr. Hoade queried the figures provided for smaller towns and asked if permission has been granted for a number of houses- has this been deducted from the overall figures? Cllr. Murphy asked of the Executive where the

boundary of unserviced settlements would be positioned and added that there is a prerequisite for clearly defined boundaries for all settlements areas-serviced or unserviced.

In responding:

In clarifying, Mr. Dunne noted that the smaller towns and the accompanying figures for those towns, wherein the majority of sites would already have obtained planning permission with the bottom line being that the lands must be zoned R1. He added that the figures were provided by the Dept and were appraised through an evidence-based research methodology which provided the rationale for the 30-35 hectares. He explained that the settlement figures have been identified as per population allocation after a substantial and considerable period of research. It is now a matter for the members to alter or change current policy. The Cathaoirleach at this point affirmed that the submission period will inform and address this issue further.

Motion 1

**Submission by Oranmore / Athenry Municipal District Councillors
Oranmore- from Residential Phase 1 to Open Space / Recreation.**

Cllr. Carroll noted the uniqueness of the situation in that at the request of the Cathaoirleach of the Athenry MD, the Elected Members of the MD met and agreed to collectively propose various motions. He noted the assistance of the Executive in this regard. He observed the strategy of settlement figures of 32.7% which under the new plan would forecast 2,440 new units. He explained that there is an expectation that the County Council will protect the hinterland of Oranmore from unfeasible development-i.e. the lands at Carrowmoneash wetlands should act as a surety against unsustainable planning in the area and this further substantiates the motion of taking it from Phase 1 to open space and amenity. Cllr. Carroll referred to previous Ministerial correspondence from 2007 which recommended that Local Authorities should not build on flood plains especially in light of the view that there is plenty of other land that would be more appropriate. He observed the support of this motion from local residents.

Cllr. Cronnelly wished to voice his support to the motion being put forward. Cllr. Cuddy also voiced support for this rezoning as there was evidence of previous flooding.

Cllr. Killilea queried the input of landowners on the matter and requested that his concern in relation to the failure to notify the landowner of the proposal be recorded.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne informed the members that as part of the review of the County Development Plan that a stage two flood risk assessment was carried out on all of the settlement plans including Oranmore. The flood risk assessment for Oranmore has indicated that the subject lands are not prone to flooding and are outside the flood zone A / flood zone B boundary therefore to remove these lands as requested by the Elected members on the basis of flooding would be contrary to the finding of the said Stage 2 flood risk Ms. Loughnane reaffirmed Mr. Dunne's analysis and advised the members not to dezone the lands from Residential Phase 1 to Open Space / Recreation.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllrs. Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone 2.14 hectares of land in Oranmore from Residential Phase 1 to Open Space / Recreation.

Motion 2:

Submission by: Oranmore / Athenry Municipal District Councillors
Lands at Garraun from Community Facilities & Open Space to Residential Phase 1

Cllr. Killilea again queried if landowners were notified. The Cathaoirleach reminded Cllr. Killilea that Members were undertaking a reserved function. Cllr's Cronnelly, Dolan & Collins put forward their support for the motion.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne raised concerns regarding the proposed rezoning and that the Planning Authority considered that it was appropriate to retain the lands zoned Community Facilities.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllrs. Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone 0.57 hectares of land in Garraun from Community Facilities and Open Space to residential [Phase 1]

Motion 3

Submission by: Oranmore / Athenry Municipal District Councillors
Lands at Briarhill from Community & Indicative Green Corridor & Open Space to Residential Phase 1

Cllr. Carroll informed the meeting that local residents in Briarhill were supportive of this motion with Briarhill being an intrinsic component of MASP. He referenced the fact that the existing Briarhill school had sufficient space to accommodate growth in school numbers and that any rezoning would not compromise any future educational facilities.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne raised concerns regarding the future availability of lands to accommodate the expansion of the school in 10-15 years. He referenced other areas of the County where such restrictions now exist, and he considered that this pattern should not be repeated in Briarhill. In response, Cllr. Carroll maintained that there were lands left for Community Facilities.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllrs. Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone 1.61H from Community & Indicative Green corridor to Residential Phase 1.

Motion 4

Submission by: Oranmore / Athenry Municipal District Councillors
Lands at Briarhill from Residential Phase 2 to Residential Phase 1

Cllr. Carroll in bringing this motion noted that there is a sufficient amount of lands in Briarhill to achieve this rezoning based on the reduction on the reduction of R1 lands in

Oranmore. Cllr. Carroll also noted that this was achieved by the reduction of density from 35 hectares to 30 hectares.

Cllr. Cuddy noted the idea of reducing density is a good idea as it will reduce the carbon footprint and enable people to live in a 'greener' fashion by choosing to walk to work/school. Cllr. Herterich-Quinn wished to thank the Oranmore /Athenry Members for their input.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane noted that density in Briarhill has decreased from 35 to 30 hectares to accommodate the rezoning, however this has actually increased the numbers of units from 350 to 391. By increasing the residential units in Briarhill, the Planning Authority would have concerns about the traffic implications.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllrs. Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone 1.51 Hectares from Residential Phase 2 to Residential Phase 1.

Motion 8, 9, 10 &11- these motions were withdrawn in favor of motion 12 and 13 as they related to the same parcel of lands.

Motion 12 by Cllr. Kinane

Lands at Oranmore from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 2.

And

Motion 13 by Cllr. Kinane

Lands at Oranmore from outside Plan boundary to Open space / recreation & Amenity

Cllr. Kinane cited lack of amenity lands in Oranmore as a prevalent issue with regard to land development. This motion concerns a strategic parcel of land and its proximity to the center of Oranmore. In agreeing, Cllr. Donohue said that rezoning would make the local road network more efficient. Cllr. Herterich – Quinn offered her support for the motion. Cllr. Dolan welcomed the motion and concluded that if this parcel of land is zoned residential during the lifetime of this plan, it could be developed in the next plan in order to provide amenity to the area – for instance- a ball alley.

In opposing the motion, Cllr. Carroll voiced concerns about the capabilities of the Maree Road in light of comments and concerns from his constituents on the possibility of the road becoming a 'rat run' to overcome traffic congestion on the major arterial routes especially during the morning and evening rush. Cllr. Murphy offered his support for the comments by Cllr. Carroll and noted that 10 hectares of land is significant and would result in an uptake of 700 extra cars in the area, in addition to threatening the sensitivity of the rich wildlife and landscape that exist within the SAC. Cllr. Byrne expressed his dismay with previous comments to support this rezoning in light of the many concerns that have been highlighted to him by local residents.

Cllr. Kinane clarified that she always has the best interests of the people of Oranmore in mind in any motion put forward and has not had the same feedback from her constituents.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne stated that a full review of all lands was undertaken as part of the review process including the subject lands. It was considered that a reduction in plan boundary was justified in this instance as the lands have been zoned Residential Phase 2 for a significant period of time and no development has taken place.

Ms. Loughnane concurred and also noted that we can't give the impression that 3.71 hectares in Motion 13 can be developed for community amenity as some of the land is prone to flooding.

Motion 12 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result.

For 21

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. S. Curley	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. Dr. Parsons
Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. T. Welby

Against 12

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. PJ. Murphy	Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche

Abstain 1

Comh. T. Ó Curraoín

Cllr. P. Keaveney lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. P. Keaveney cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Motion 13 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result.

For 21

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. S. Curley	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea	Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. Dr. Parsons
Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. T. Welby

Against 12

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. PJ. Murphy	Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche

Abstain 1

Comh. T. Ó Curraoin

Cllr. C. Keaveney and Cllr. P. Keaveney lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. C. Keaveney and Cllr. P. Keaveney cast their vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Motion 14

Submission by Cllr. Dolan

Lands at Oranmore from outside plan boundary to Residential Phase 2.

Cllr. Dolan justified this motion as the lands referred to is a serviced site and was therefore logical to rezone to R2. Cllr. Cronnelly observed that the layout of same has changed considerably and no longer poses a flood risk. Cllr. Killilea queried whether the lands in question ever flooded and he made reference to lands in Tuam where units were inserted into potentially flood planed land but to date have not flooded. In opposing the motion, Cllr. Carroll stated he will not support any motion involving lands with a flood risk against them. Cllr. Cuddy agreed. Cllr. Byrne opposed the motion and said it gave precedent and false hope to applicants who think they can build on flood risked land. Cllr. Mannion also voiced opposition to the motion and observed that credence should be given to the specialists that are engaged in flood risk activity. She noted an example in Clifden where a flood risk assessment strongly advised against development of a parcel of land which subsequently flooded.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane clarified that the motion as put forward referred to land that was a flood risk and therefore the Planning Authority would advise against any residential rezoning.

She further advised that a rigorous assessment was conducted on the lands in question which strongly advocated against residential development. She stated that should the members vote to rezone the lands, that the Planning Authority are obliged to notify the public of the potential flood risk with a symbol being attached to the lands.

Cllr. Dolan advised the Members that he wished to withdraw his motion.

Motion 15

**Submission by Oranmore Athenry Municipal District Members
Lands at Baile Chláir from Residential Phase 1 to Residential existing**

In responding:

Mr. Dunne noted the motion and had no observation to make.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone from Residential Phase 1 to Residential existing.

Motion 16

**Submission by Oranmore Athenry Municipal District Members
Lands at Baile Chláir from Residential Phase 2 to Residential Phase 1**

Mr. Dunne noted the motion and had no observation to make.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllrs. Charity, Collins, Cronnelly, Cuddy, Dolan and Herterich-Quinn it was **AGREED** to rezone from Residential Phase 1 to Residential Phase 2.

Motion 17

**Submission by Cllr. Thomas
Small Growth Towns**

Settlement	Census 2016	Population Projection 2022 – 2028	Residential Units	Quantum of Residential Lands required (ha)
Clifden	1,597	470 421	195 168	12.19 10.53
Headford	973	290	116	7.25
Maigh Cuilinn	1,704	350 443	140 177	8.75 11.08
Oughterard	1,318	350	140	8.75
Portumna	1,450	300	120	7.50

Table 4.1: Population Allocation 2022-2028

1. *Remove 0.40ha, 1.23ha =1.63HA. 12.19ha-1.63ha=10.56ha R1 Lands left for Clifden.

Population loss of 49 people.

2. *Remove R1 lands 0.69ha in Maigh Cuilinn

Removal of R1 lands to be reallocated in Maigh Cuilinn is 0.69ha +1.63ha = 2.32ha

3. As per Motions two new areas identified for R1 lands =2.53ha +.62ha=3.15ha

There is a shortfall of 3.15ha-2.32ha=0.83ha.

Cllr. Thomas queried the figures provided by the Forward Planning Team in relation to projected population growth and how it reflects in the number of units provided to Moycullen. He felt the figures were inaccurate as the population of Moycullen has grown exponentially in the last few years with a population growth of almost 90%. He felt this must be reflected in the allocation of residential units allocated in light of the fact that there has been a population decrease in Clifden. In providing justification for his motion, he noted the support of constituents in rezoning this land to provide an amenity to the area-eg.- a natural woodland.

Cllr. McKinstry supported the motion as put forward, noting that the numbers needed to reflect the rapid growth of both Moycullen & Oughterard. Cllr. Welby acknowledged that the research undertaken was evidence- based but queried how Moycullen with its proximity to Galway was forecasted to grow at a slower rate to Clifden? Cllr. McClearn referenced previous discussion in relation to the pace of development in Moycullen and the current proposal to allow for additional residential development to that proposed in the draft plan. Comh Ó Curraoin opposed the motion for lack of clarity. Cllr. Broderick also expressed concerns about the figures and source of same.

Motion 18

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Clifden – 0.40HA from Residential Phase 1 to Removed from Plan Area.

Cllr. Mannion in opposing Cllr. Thomas's comments decried the motion put forward and argued that there was no agreement to take lands from Clifden as the lands referred to had been zoned under the Clifden LAP which had been done under significant engagement with all parties concerned. She drew the members attention to Clifden's dexterity as a large, fully serviced town in the County which is marketed by Failte Ireland as tourism driver in the West.

Cllr. Broderick raised the issue of Core Strategy table and that the figures did not add up with the proposed motions submitted by Cllr. Thomas.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne outline the process involved in that the members submitted the motions and in this instance was very clear in the proposed changes to the Clifden plan [and removal of R1 lands] and the subsequent addition of these lands to Maigh Cuilinn. The Forward Planning Section issued the pre-draft plans to the members before Easter with settlement plans and as result of these motions the members were altering the zoning plans. Brendan Dunne stated that the Planning Authority has serious reservation of removing R1 lands in one growth town and reallocating it to another growth town. He

also advised that the lands subject to motion 18 were also adjacent to lands as per motion 19.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result.

For 4

Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. T. Welby

Cllr. A. McKinstry

Cllr. N. Thomas

Against 14

Cllr. J. Byrne
Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. A. Reddington

Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. G. King
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. P. Roche

Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. PJ. Murphy

Abstain 16

Cllr. T. Broderick
Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. G. Donohue
Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. J. Sheridan

Cllr. I. Canning
Cllr. M. Connolly
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag

Cllr. J Charity
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Motion 19

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Lands at Clifden from Residential to Phase 1 to Removed from Plan area.

In responding

Mr. Dunne again outlined the process involved in that the members submitted the motions and in this instance was very clear in the proposed changes to the Clifden plan and the subsequent addition of these lands to Maigh Cuilinn.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The following was the result.

For 4

Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. T. Welby

Cllr. A. McKinstry

Cllr. N. Thomas

Against 14

Cllr. J. Byrne
Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. G. King
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. A. Reddington

Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. P. Keaveney
Comh. P Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. P. Roche

Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. PJ. Murphy

Abstain 17

Cllr. T. Broderick
Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. G. Donohue
Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. Dr. Parsons

Cllr. I. Canning
Cllr. M. Connolly
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. J. Sheridan

Cllr. J Charity
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag

Cllr. C. Keaveney lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. C. Keaveney cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Motion 20

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Lands at Moycullen from Residential Phase 1 & Open Space to Community Facilities.

Cllr. Thomas stated that the local residents of Maigh Cuilinn were in favor of the removal of these lands. Cllr. McKinstry voiced his concern regarding the removal of the lands from Residential to Phase 1 Open Space to Community Facilities.

Mr. Dunne advised that the lands proposed to be rezoned from Residential to Phase 1 & Open Space to Community Facilities were council owned lands where there is an expectation that housing units would be proposed on these lands. He also advised that there would be an undesirable precedent being established in removing these lands.

Ms. Loughnane reminded the Elected Members that there is a responsibility on the Local Authority to provide housing and that what was being proposed on these lands in Maigh Cuilinn.

Mr. Hanrahan noted the limited number of R1 zoned lands in the vicinity of Moycullen. He also noted the Department's position in relation to the usage of the land in terms of providing housing to the area.

The Chief Executive noted the dangerous precedent that the rezoning of these lands would set within the County. As a Local Authority, one of the key strategic function is to provide housing and that any divergence from same would make it difficult to carry out the function.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.
The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 4

Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. J. Sheridan
Cllr. N. Thomas		

Against 15

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea
Comh. P Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. PJ. Murphy
Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche	Cllr. T. Welby

Abstain 17

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. S. Curley	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. M. Kinane	Cllr. G. King
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons	

Cllr. C. Keaveney lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. C. Keaveney cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Motion 21 by Cllr. Thomas

Seconded by Comh. Ó Cualáin

Lands at Moycullen from Residential Phase 2 & Agriculture to Residential Phase 1.

Based on the outcome of the previous related motions, Cllr. Thomas withdrew Motion 21.

Motion 22 by Cllr. Thomas

Lands at Moycullen from Agriculture to Residential Phase 1.

Based on the outcome of the previous related motions, Cllr. Thomas withdrew Motion 22.

Motion 23 by Cllr. Thomas
Lands at Moycullen from Agriculture to Residential Phase 2.

Based on the outcome of the previous related motions, Cllr. Thomas withdrew Motion 23.

Motion 17 by Cllr. Thomas

Small Growth Towns

Based on the outcome of the previous and related motions, Cllr. Thomas withdrew Motion 17 as previously proposed.

Motion 24 by Cllr. Mannion

Lands at Moycullen from residential existing to residential infill

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry it was **AGREED** to rezone from residential existing to residential infill.

Motion 25 by Cllr. Mannion

Lands at Oughterard from Town Centre to Tourism

In responding:

Mr. Dunne noted that the town centre is the most appropriate location for tourism zoning.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry it was **AGREED** to rezone from Town Centre to Tourism.

Motion 26 by Cllr. Welby

Small Growth Towns

Population allocation 2022-2028

Cllr. Welby stated a number of concerns with the figures as presented. With regards to the figures for Clifden, he asked for a reduction of the population projection from 470 to 447 with an increase in Oughterard from 350 to 373.

In opposing the motion, Cllr. Mannion cited the lifespan of the Clifden LAP and opposed the view put forward that development in Oughterard is being hindered. Cllr. Maher supported Cllr. Mannion's comments.

In responding:

Mr. Dunne stated that the Planning Authority has serious reservation of removing R1 lands in one growth town and reallocating it to another growth town. He observed that

the population objectives are the result of extensive research and study with all factors being taken into consideration. There are significant landbanks available in Oughterard in the town centre so the figures and zonings put forward represent a balanced approach.

Motion 27 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Clifden from Residential Phase 1 to Removed from the Plan Area

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin.

As the motion was not agreed the Cathaoirleach called a vote.

The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 11

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Charity	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons
Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. T. Welby	

Against 15

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll	Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. S. Curley	Cllr. C. Keaveney
Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. G. King	Comh. P Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. M. Maher	Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. PJ. Murphy	Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche

Abstain 9

Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. M. Kinane	Cllr. J. Sheridan

Cllr. G. King lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. G. King cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Motion 28 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Residential Phase 1 to Removed from Plan Area

Cllr. Welby stated that rezoning the council owned lands at this location would improve the sustainability as planning applications are being refused for want of connectivity.

Cllr. Byrne opposing the motion clarified that he will not support any motion to rezone council lands.

In responding

Mr. Hanrahan observed that removing this parcel of land from R1 is not good housing or planning practice. The Chief Executive again reaffirmed his opposition to the proposed motion to rezone council owned lands.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.
The vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 15

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Charity	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin
Cllr. J. Cuddy	Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. G. Donohue
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade	Cllr. D. Killilea
Comh. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag	Cllr. A. McKinstry
Cllr. Dr. Francis Parsons	Cllr. N. Thomas	Cllr. T. Welby

Against 14

Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. I. Canning	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. D. Connolly	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. PJ Murphy
Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche	

Abstain 6

Cllr. S. Curley	Comh. T. Ó Curraoin	Cllr. D. Geraghty
Cllr. M. Kinane	Cllr. G. King	Cllr. J. Sheridan

Cllr. G. King lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. G. King cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Motion 29 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Residential Phase 1 to Removed from Plan Area

In responding:

Mr. Dunne outlined the justification and rationale for removing these lands as they were adjacent to education facilities.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Residential Phase 1 to be removed from plan area.

Motion 30 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 1

In responding

Mr. Dunne cautioned the members of the findings of the stage two flood risk assessment carried out. He noted the Ministerial Guidelines and the requirements to take the precautionary approach for vulnerable uses on flood risk areas. Cllr. Welby disagreed with the finding of this assessment and state that the CFRAM mapping did not illustrate the extent of the flood area as identified by the stage 2 flood risk assessment. Mr. Dunne advised the Members that hazard symbols will have to be attached with specific policy objective if the motion is passed to zone the lands.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 1.

Motion 31 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 1

Cllr. Welby stated the lands identified under this motion were appropriate for development and would be attractive for development proposal rather than the lands that the Forward Planning Section had initially identified on the other side of Oughterard towns.

In responding

Mr. Dunne noted the lands mentioned have no access off N59 and in this regard the Planning Authority are reluctant to set a precedent. He also noted the established pattern of development in the area with single houses adjacent to the subject lands. Cllr. Welby requested that his motion be amended by reducing the area in question to align with the core strategy as a result of the surplus lands in question not being available as per motion no. 27.

Cllr. Welby requested that his motion be amended by reducing the area from 3.19 h to 2.214 h.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick it was **AGREED** to amend the motion to reduce area mentioned to 2.214 H.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick the amended motion was **AGREED**.

Motion 32 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Residential Phase 2 to be removed from Plan Area

In responding

Ms. Loughnane wished to note the motion and reiterated again access issues subject to motion 31.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry it was **AGREED** to rezone from Residential Phase 2 to Removed from Plan Area.

Motion 33 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Residential Infill to Community Facilities

Cllr. Welby cited the difficulty of finding parking in the area & suggested that these lands were suitable.

In responding

Mr. Dunne acknowledged the rezoning to Community Facilities and the merging of same.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy it was **AGREED** to rezone from residential infill to community facilities.

Motion 34 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Infill

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane the concerns of the Planning Authority over efforts of trying to consolidate the boundary.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Infill.

Motion 35 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Outside Plan Boundary to Tourism

In responding

Ms. Loughnane noted that accessibility is an issue on the site and a more suitable alternative would be the lands zoned in the town center.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside Plan Boundary to tourism.

Motion 36 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 2

A number of Members queried the disconnection of this parcel of lands to the Plan Boundary.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 2.

Motion 37 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Town Centre to Community Facilities

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Town Centre to Community Facilities.

Motion 38 by Cllr. Welby

Lands at Oughterard from Community Facilities to Town Centre

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Cualáin it was **AGREED** to rezone from Community Facilities to Town Centre.

Motion 26 by Cllr. Welby

Small Growth Towns

Settlement	Census 2016	Population Projection 2022 - 2028	Residential Units	Quantum of Residential Lands required (ha)
Clifden	1,597	470 447	195 179	12.19 11.17
Headford	973	290	116	7.25
Maigh Cuilinn	1,704	350	140	8.75
Oughterard	1,318	350 373	140 149	8.75 9.33
Portumna	1,450	300	120	7.50

Table 4.1: Population Allocation 2022-2028

*Reduction of 1.02ha from Clifden given to Oughterard

*Remove R1 lands in Oughterard = 1.59ha, 2.11=3.7ha

Quantum of R1 lands to be re-allocated to Oughterard

3.7ha +1.02ha=4.7ha

New R1 lands identified in Oughterard as per Cllr. Motion

3.19ha + 1.88=5.07ha

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne Motion 26 was **AGREED** subject to the amendments required to reflect the outcome of the various related and preceding motions as agreed by the Members.

Motion 39 by Cllr. Murphy

Lands at Headford from Outside Plan Boundary to Business and Enterprise

Cllr. Murphy in putting his motion forward observed that any rezoning would have a positive effect on businesses in the area. Cllr. C. Keaveney cited the merit in this motion but also noted the need to gain the consent and support of local business owners.

In responding:

Ms. Loughnane observed that while the incoming plan would support the consolidation of business opportunities, the lands in question are removed from the Plan area and are located currently in the transitional speed limit and therefore there are concerns with the proposal relating to these lands.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside Plan Boundary to Business and Enterprise.

Motion 40 by Cllr. Murphy

Lands at Headford from Residential Phase 2 & Outside Plan Boundary to Community Facilities

Cllr. Murphy indicated that he wished to withdraw the motion in favour of Motion 44.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue beyond 5pm and to conclude consideration of the item.

Motion 41 by Cllr. Murphy

Lands at Headford from Outside town Boundary to Residential Phase 2. 3779

Cllr. Reddington declared his interest in the matter under consideration and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of consideration of the matter.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche it was **AGREED** to rezone from Outside town Boundary to Residential Phase 2.

Motion 42 by Cllr. Reddington

Lands at Headford from Outside town Boundary to Residential Phase 2.

Mr. Dunne advised that these lands had previously been zoned R2 lands, the proposal now was to remove section of R1 and re zone alternative piece of land.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche, Motion No. 42 was **AGREED**.

Motion 43 by Cllr. Reddington

Lands at Headford from Residential Phase 2 to Residential Phase 1

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche, Motion No. 43 was **AGREED**.

Motion 44 by Cllr. Reddington

Lands at Headford from Business & Enterprise to Community Facilities

Cllr. Hoade advised that she had a potential interest in the matter due to her involvement with a community group that had secured €25,000 euro in funding from Galway Rural Development to undertake a feasibility study for a proposed development potentially on the lands the subject of the motion. Cllr. Hoade withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the matter.

Cllr. Reddington outlined that he had no conflict of interest in this piece of land but was proposing to zone it from business to community facilities. Proposals for this piece of land include community hub, community garden and community pitch. He highlighted that this piece of land had been zoned business for a significant length of time but had never been developed on. He said there was strong interest by the Headford Women's football team to use this area as a pitch.

Cllr. Murphy stated he was fully supporting this proposal as it's the only option for the girl's football team to have a facility. He said he would strongly urge support from the members on this motion.

The Chief Executive commented that he was not familiar with that particular funding but any proposals would still be in line with proper planning. He stated he understood the point being made but it was a separate issue.

Cllr. C. Keaveney proposed that the 3.1 acres to the front would be retained as business. He outlined that it would be a good compromise to provide for the community group and funding. Therefore, he was putting forward a counter motion to retain the 3.1 acres of land to the front as business zoning.

This motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. C. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane.

Cllr. Kinane advised that as a member of the GRD she was concerned that the funding provided would be jeopardised.

Cllrs. Byrne, Carroll, Collins, Geraghty, P. Keaveney, McHugh Farag, McKinstry, O 'Curraoin, Dr. Parsons, Roche and Sheridan all supported Cllr. Reddington's proposal to zone the land community, in support of the women's football facility.

Cllr. Roche advised that he was a member of the GRD and had looked into the funding which had been provided and confirmed that the feasibility study was to carry out a study on the town and therefore would not be affected if the land was zoned community. He highlighted that he had confirmed same with the Chief Executive Officer of Galway Rural Development.

Cllr. M. Connolly outlined if the piece of land could accommodate both proposals then it may be the best outcome if possible.

Cllr. Kinane advised that she did not have the opportunity to check the status of the funding and thanked Cllr. Roche for confirming same, she welcomed the news that it would not impact the funding previously approved. She commented that she fully supported ladies' football and if a compromise was available would be the best outcome.

Cllr. Killilea agreed that the land share would be the best way forward as it was community owned land which had proposals for walkways, men's shed, ladies' football etc.

Cllr. Maher agreed that possibly the site may work to have part zoned business and part zoned community, would be a welcome balance as there was a requirement for Business and Community facilities in Headford.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the funding was a separate issue. He advised that there would be no issue with having a feasibility study still carried out and brought forward, but the zoning was a separate issue.

Mr. Dunne identified the business lands on the screen. He outlined that these lands had been zoned business enterprise previously and that the proposed motion to change these lands to community facilities would in general be acceptable by the Planning Authority. Community zoned lands by their very nature would benefit the local population. In relation to the future uses being discussed of these lands, the zoning matrix for community facilities allow a number of different uses on the lands subject to proper planning & development of the area.

Based on the discussions in relation to these lands, Ms. Loughnane outlined that there may be a solution with the business and enterprise zoning matrix. She advised that if the zoning was changed to open for consideration would elevate any concerns, that way community or business could be considered.

Cllr. Reddington stated that all proposals would still work under community facilities and therefore his proposal stands to zone the land community. He said whether it's a feasibility study, garden or pitch, they would all work under community facilities.

Cllr. C. Keaveney outlined that the planner had stated that the matrix would be an option in the future, not a polarized debate. He highlighted the need for sufficient land for each by zoning 3.1 acres business. He advised that he was standing by his counter motion to provide both zonings on the land and therefore allowing the funding to continue and the community development.

Cllr. C. Keaveney put forward the map showing the piece of land in question outlining the parcel of land in red, which would provide sufficient use for business and the remaining land for community.

Cllr. Murphy said he was strongly encouraging the members not to zone this land business.

Cllr. Reddington pointed out that if the 3.1 acres of land were removed then it would not be leaving enough for the community.

The motion by reference to the map as provided by Cllr. C. Keaveney was again **PROPOSED** by Cllr. C. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The Vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 5

Cllr. M. Connolly	Comh. D. Ó'Cualáin	Cllr. S. Curley
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. N. Thomas	

Against 24

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Cllr. J. Cuddy	Comh. T. Ó Curraoín
Cllr. G. Donohue	Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. P. Keaveney
Cllr. D. Killilea	Comh. P Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag
Cllr. A. McKinstry	Cllr. P.J. Murphy	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons
Cllr. A. Reddington	Cllr. P. Roche	Cllr. T. Welby

Abstain 4

Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. S. Herterich-Quinn	Cllr. G. King
Cllr. J. Sheridan		

Cllr. S. Curley lost connectivity during the statutory vote and as it was not possible to restore the connection Cllr. S. Curley cast his vote by means of a telephone call in accordance with Standing Order 71.

The Cathaoirleach declared that the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy it was **AGREED** to rezone 3.01HA of land from Business and Enterprise to Community Facilities.

Motion 45 by Cllr. Byrne
Lands at Kinvara from Agriculture to Residential Phase 2

Cllr. Byrne referred to the Kinvara boundary which had significantly reduced and was a challenge to see where could get recreation, amenity and business going forward. He advised that the land in question was subject to an application at present. He outlined that the land which was previously zoned R1 is now gone to agricultural, but he was proposing it be zoned R2 land.

Ms. Loughnane advised that there was limited R2 zoning in Kinvara. In principle, the Planning Authority had no significant objection to this rezoning.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, Motion No. 45 was **AGREED**.

Motion 46 by Cllr. Byrne

Lands at Kinvara Outside Plan Boundary to Residential Phase 2.

Cllr. Byrne stated that this was a strategically important piece of land to give the road a chance to be built in the future. He referred to the R2 land already included in the plan but stated it was land locked.

Ms. Loughnane advised as a point of clarity the existing estate could be used for access, so the land was not locked. She stated that again no objection but may draw attention.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, Motion No. 46 was **AGREED**.

Motion 47 by Cllr. Byrne

Lands at Kinvara Village

Village Plans

OPT-KI 2 Site Kinvara – OPT - KI 2 Site Kinvara - Lands to the rear of the Main Street.

Brief Description: This site fronts onto the Main Street with an existing 2-Storey dwelling that has a side access onto the Main Street to the north-eastern part of this Opportunity site. The plot extends westwards to the rear of Tully's Bar and associated buildings to the boundary of Arvough Housing estate. The roadway serving the car park to the rear of the Supermarket runs along the eastern site boundary.

Area: The site area measures circa. 0.24 HA.

Zoning: The site is zoned Village Centre.

Current Land-Use: Residential with a large part of this opportunity site in use as rear gardens serving the properties fronting onto the Main Street.

Opportunity: To provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating tourism, residential, commercial or a mixed-use development.

Brief Description: This site fronts onto the Main Street and extends south and south-westwards with an access off the Killina Road south of the junction. There are dwellings to the north and south of the access/entrance off the Killina Road and a natural stone wall along this eastern roadside boundary. There is a bungalow fronting onto the Main

~~Street and it is set back from the road with large parts of the site overgrown with trees and vegetation.~~

~~Area: The site area measures circa. 0.24HA.~~

~~Zoning: The site is zoned Town Centre.~~

~~Current Land Use: Residential dwelling to the northern part of the site and majority of site overgrown with vegetation and trees.~~

~~Opportunity: To provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating tourism, residential, commercial or a mixed use development.~~

Cllr. Byrne advised that this was a correction of the wording to be made.

Ms. Loughnane thanked Cllr. Byrne and explained it was an error and same would be rectified.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, Motion No. 47 was **AGREED**.

Motion 49 by Comh. Ó Cualáin
Small Growth Villages

• SGV 11 Public Utilities

a). Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential public utility infrastructure, together with the necessary ancillary facilities and uses, as appropriate. **There shall be a 100m Buffer zone around all new wastewater treatment facilities.**

Comh. Ó Cualáin advised that he was seeking support from the Members on this. He outlined that a site had been chosen in An Cheathrú Rua but there were alternative sites available which would be more suitable. He explained that he had concerns about the current chosen site with regards to climate change and the changing sea level.

Ms. Loughnane outlined that if added here it would be brought into the Small Growth Villages so therefore would affect all 7 villages under this category. She advised that it would be more appropriate to add it to Chapter 7.

Comh. Ó Cualáin agreed with that suggestion so therefore sought to amend his motion to have same added to Chapter 7.

Comh. Ó Cualáin proposed the amendment of 'Development proposals in the vicinity of public utilities infrastructure will be assessed on a case by case basis in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development' to include a minimum 100 metre setback for all new wastewater treatment plants in the village of An Cheathrú Rua.

Comh. Mac an Iomaire highlighted that he was supporting this motion. He stated that Irish Water wanted to put the treatment plan in the middle of the houses with the sea nearby and there was local concern about same.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh Ó Cualáin, **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac an Iomaire, Motion No. 49 as amended was **AGREED**.

Motion 1 by Cllr. King

Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing Strategy

2.4.11 Rural

Rural population will continue to be supported through the villages and through a sustainable approach to maintaining the rural economy and population, balanced against responsible **reasonable** environmental protection. Support for housing and repopulation, as necessary, taking place within towns and villages will help to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside and will contribute to the principle of compact growth.

Cllr. King advised that he was proposing this word change as there was a lot of responsibility around Environmental Protection and understands the guidelines but would like to see the easing of the word here.

Cllr. McKinstry queried what difference this would make as Environmental Protection was defined by law so asked for clarification as to how this would work.

Cllrs. D. Connolly, Cuddy, Geraghty, Killilea and Sheridan all supported Cllr. King's proposal to have the wording changed to reasonable.

Ms. Loughnane referred to Environmental legislation, she advised that if the word reasonable was added then it may give the opinion that there was discretion but there is no discretion available in relation to complying with legislation.

Cllr. King commented that if it was a serious environmental issue then would not apply as guidelines were there but he would like to have reasonable left in to allow some easing if this is an option.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty, this motion was **AGREED**.

Proposal vehicular access in R1 lands in Briarhill

Submission by Cllr. Thomas

Chapter 4 Rural Living & Development- RH19

A person living in a town or village will be allowed to build in the surrounding countryside of that town or village once they can show that they were living there for a period of

seven years or more and can show very strong links to the area such as their Children are attending the local schools and are also members of local clubs etc. A 15-year enurement condition would apply to any such application.

The Cathaoirleach on revisiting the above submission from Cllr. Thomas was advised by Cllr. Thomas that in reference to the previous discussion relating to the matter he wished to withdraw the submission.

Motion 51 by Cllr Collins

Access to serve lands at Briarhill

Finally, we are proposing that the Bus and Cycle Only restriction on the Parkmore Road be removed to allow vehicular access to the Briarhill Framework Lands.

Cllr. Collins advised that as part of the initial submission there was reference to vehicular access to the lands in Briarhill.

Cllr. Carroll outlined that this submission was made by the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District members. He highlighted that it was difficult to expect cars to be kept out.

Cllr. McKinstry queried if that proposal would remove the cycle only restriction.

Cllr. Cuddy highlighted that the new ring road would take traffic from this area. He stated that there was a need to be able access land.

Cllr. Dolan said that the planners had confirmed that the land would have access so would like clarity so he could fully support proposal.

Ms. Loughnane advised that there was a framework for Briarhill and would not be zoning land if it could not be accessed. She outlined that the framework process was new for Galway County Council but were trying to integrate the piece of land with public transport access. She reiterated that the framework plan would not allow lands to be land locked, they were trying to integrate everything to have connections. She advised that it was achievable but would need these points teased out at the planning application stage. She stated that there was a master plan for the area and all land would be accessible. She advised that the pedestrian access and cycle only was a short-term proposal at present as it was the best solution at this time. She explained that there is a need to integrate all proposals and need to think into the future and plan for same.

Cllr. McKinstry advised that given this confirmation by the Planning Department that the land would not be land locked he could not support this motion.

Cllr. Carroll reinforced the message from Ms. Loughnane, he advised that his concern had been met. He stated that the level of details is something which should emerge within the framework plan which would be considered in the future. He highlighted the level of reassurance given by planners.

Ms. Loughnane urged the members to let the plan go on public display as was and allow the framework to develop. She referred to the decision on the ring road, advising that this would be made soon and may provide further clarity then. She explained that this level of detail could hinder the proposal.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Collins **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll.

As the motion was not agreed, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote.

The Vote was taken, and the following was the result:

For 30

Cllr. T. Broderick	Cllr. J. Byrne	Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr J Charity	Cllr. D. Collins	Cllr. M. Connolly
Cllr. G. Cronnelly	Comh. D. Ó Cualáin	Cllr. J. Cuddy
Comh. T. Ó Curraoín	Cllr. A. Dolan	Cllr. G. Donohue
Cllr. D. Geraghty	Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn	Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. G. King	Comh. P. Mac an Iomaire	Cllr. M. Maher
Cllr. E. Mannion	Cllr. J. McClearn	Cllr. K. McHugh Farag
Cllr. PJ Murphy	Cllr. Dr. E. Parsons	Cllr. A. Reddington
Cllr. P. Roche	Cllr. J. Sheridan	Cllr. N. Thomas

Against 2

Cllr. A. McKinstry Cllr. T. Welby

Abstain 1

Cllr. D. Connolly

As a result of the Vote, the Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Motion 52 by Cllr. M. Connolly

Moylough Village- Removal of Residential Phase 1 Lands for Planning Boundary.

Cllr. M. Connolly proposed the removal of these lands as he considered that they would not be developed in the lifetime of the plan.

Ms. Loughnane noted the rational for removal of said lands.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, and **AGREED**

Motion 53 by Cllr. M. Connolly

Moylough Village – Zoning of R1 lands north of the village centre.

Cllr. M. Connolly confirmed that these lands have the potential of being developed within the lifetime of the plan.

Ms. Loughnane noted that the rational for this zoning and that the population allocation was being maintained in Moylough as per the Core Strategy.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, and **AGREED**.

Motion 54 by Cllr. M. Connolly

Ballygar Village- Removal of Residential Phase 1 lands from Plan Boundary.

Cllr. M. Connolly proposed the removal of these lands as he considered that they would not be developed in the lifetime of the plan

Ms. Loughnane noted the rational for removal of said lands

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, and **AGREED**.

Motion 55 by Cllr. M. Connolly

Ballygar Village- Removal of Residential Phase 1 to Community Facilities.

Cllr. M. Connolly noted the removal of this parcel of R1 lands to facilitate the future expansion of a graveyard.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. King and **AGREED**.

Motion 56 by Cllr. M. Connolly

Zone lands from Outside plan boundary to Residential phase 1.

Cllr. M. Connolly confirmed that these lands have the potential of being developed within the lifetime of the plan.

Ms. Loughnane the rational for this zoning and that the population allocation was being maintained in Ballygar as per the Core Strategy.

The motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Keaveney, and **AGREED**

The Cathaoirleach commended the Forward Planning team on all of their work as did the Members. The Chief Executive acknowledged and thanked the work of all members of staff involved in addition to the Senior Planner who in agreeing with the CE, acknowledged & thanked all staff concerned in the work undertaken to date in relation to the Draft County Development Plan.

It was **PROPOSED** by the Cathaoirleach, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher and **AGREED** to proceed to place the Draft County Development Plan as amended by the Members on public display in accordance with all statutory requirements.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach

James Charthy

Date :

18/6/2021

