

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**  
**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 11.00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Liam Carroll  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Comh./Cllr. T. Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, J. Charity, , D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, A. Dolan, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Baill ar líne:** Comh./Cllr. D. Collins, D. Ó Cualáin, S. Curley, C. Keaveney, M. Kinane,

**Oifigh:** Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services, Ms. L. Keady Meetings Administrator, Ms. Tina Ryan Climate Action Coordinator, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Mr. M. O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, Ms. B. Reilly, Clerical Officer, Ms. Claire Smith, Clerical Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

**ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 4181**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were **AGREED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4182**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh O'Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Dolan the minutes of the Transportation and Infrastructure SPC Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the minutes of Corporate Policy Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were **NOTED**.

Referring to the Corporate Policy Group minutes Cllr. Geraghty sought clarification on a query raised by Cllr. McKinstry at the Corporate Policy Group meeting to which Ms. Ruane was seeking a response from the Department. Cllr. Geraghty said it was unclear what the question asked at the meeting was and what particular information was sought. He stressed that the Elected Members were entitled to know what was discussed at the Corporate Policy Group meetings and other meetings of Council which Members attended. As she was not in attendance at the particular Corporate Policy Group meeting the Ms. Keady agreed to revert to Cllr. Geraghty with clarification.

**ITEM NO. 3 (A) TO REVOKE RESOLUTION 1311 OF JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 2007, WHICH APPROVED THE DISPOSAL OF 0.5763 HECTARES OF LAND BY LEASE AT MEAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY TO CUMMANN LUTHCLEAS GEAL, CILL-IOMAIR. 4183**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and report dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Cllr. McClearn recused himself from the meeting for the discussion.

Mr. Hanrahan advised Members that the Section 183 disposal of lands at Meagheramore, Killimor, Co. Galway was drafted to allow for the sale of the lands and a derelict detached dwelling to the adjoining property owner Killimor GAA Club. He noted that previous resolutions at the monthly meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and monthly meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 had provided for the sale of land and house by way of a lease to the Club. He advised that in both cases the Club did not have the required legal status to complete the transaction. The Section 183 presented for consideration would allow for completion of the transfer to the GAA. He noted the lands were currently used by the GAA and the derelict dwelling was not economically viable to refurbish. A revocation of the two original Section 183's was required to facilitate the transfer.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Comh O'Curraoin it was **AGREED** to revoke resolution 1311 of June 25<sup>th</sup> 2007, which approved the disposal of 0.5763 hectares of land by lease at Meagheramore, Killimor, Co. Galway to Cummann Luthcleas Geal, Cill-Iomair.

**ITEM NO. 3 (B) TO REVOKE RESOLUTION 1716 OF MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 2014, WHICH APPROVED DISPOSAL OF HOUSE BY SALE AT MEAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY (0.097 HECTARES).** **4184**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and report dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Comh. O'Curraoin it was **AGREED** to revoke resolution 1716 of March 24<sup>th</sup> 2014, which approved disposal of a house by sale at Meagheramore, Killimor, Co. Galway (0.097 hectares).

**ITEM NO.3 (C) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.719 HECTARES OF LAND AND DWELLING AT MEAGHERAMORE, KILLIMOR, CO. GALWAY.** **4185**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and report dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Comh O'Curraoin it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.719 hectares of land and dwelling at Meagheramore,

Killimor, Co. Galway in accordance statutory notice dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and report dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO APPROVE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE OPERATION OF IRISH WATER SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 67 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001.**

4186

*Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Mr. Farrell advised Members that Water Safety Ireland was a statutory voluntary body promoting water safety in Ireland and provided a range of services to the local authority. As there was no charge to the local authority for the services provided, he recommended payment of a contribution of €6,150 to Water Safety Ireland. He confirmed provision for this amount was included in the Adopted 2023 Budget.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne it was **AGREED** to approve a contribution of €6,150 towards the operation of Irish Water Safety in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act 2001.

**ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4187

*Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> July was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. O'Curraoin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Maher to attend AILG 'Annual Conference' at Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Hoade, King and Welby to attend AILG Module 4 'Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) – A Briefing for Councillors' at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo (alternative location) on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. (Retrospective Approval)

A brief discussion took place about Uisce Éireann. Members highlighted the difficulties around communication with the company. In particular the length of time to get a response and sometimes the lack of response to queries raised. The timeframe of thirteen weeks to confirm a water connection to new house was considered

unacceptable. The cost of up to €40,000 for connections in some cases was also noted as exorbitant. Members also considered the situation regarding wastewater treatment facilities in the County was deteriorating and not improving. In response to the issues raised Mr. Pender advised he would bring them to the attention of Uisce Éireann.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION REGARDING CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S CLIMATE ACTION CO-ORDINATOR**

**4188**

Ms. Tina Ryan Climate Action Coordinator made a presentation to Members on the local authority Climate Action Plan. She advised Members the overall target of greenhouse gas emissions 2022 - 2030 for the county was a 51% reduction under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021 and National Climate Action Plan 2023.

She noted in June 2023 the EPA had advised that Ireland was currently projected to fall well short of its climate targets. It was projected to achieve 29% reduction instead of a 51% reduction with the existing measures in place. She stressed this increased the urgency to fully implement the actions in the 2023 Climate Action Plan and to identify and implement further policies and measures to achieve targets.

Ms. Ryan outlined the timeline and process for the development of the local authority Climate Action Plan. She referenced two reports which will inform the development of the plan for Galway County Council:

- Baseline Risk Assessment (KPMG)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment (Bable GmbH)

She informed Members, Galway County Council will work with communities, businesses, public representatives, and other stakeholders over the coming months to develop a Climate Action Plan for the county. She advised a consultation survey had been launched to inform the local authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029. She noted Members had a key role in terms of education in their communities.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Nationally the government have shown no real will to tackle transport issues. It is hard to encourage people off the roads until they have alternative options. Public transport is abysmal. The infrastructure is not there for electric cars.
- The country has no hydrogen policy in place. HVO is 93% carbon free. Why are we not using it in our cars? Galway County Council should lead by example by using HVO fuel and requiring contractors to use HVO fuel.
- Climate change is now a global concern, but it is important to realise that all problems are not caused by climate change. The biggest cause of flooding in Ireland is not climate change. It is due to a build-up of silt in rivers. In the past the Bord of Works carried out maintenance work on rivers. This work is no longer done.
- If flooding was such a real concern it is difficult to see the logic of a Member of Government planning the rewetting of lands.
- There is confusion regarding rewetting lands in Ireland - 80% of our fields are peat based. If we raise the water levels, we stop emitting gasses and farmers can continue to use these fields. We need to trap that water on land.
- Unconvinced that 95% of all experts agree on climate change. That depends on what experts were asked and on what questions were asked.
- It is important to question the narrative that climate change is solely caused by the increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. The reality is that CO<sub>2</sub> makes up only 0.04% of the atmosphere.
- Clarification sought on the exact timeframe for taking CO<sub>2</sub> measurements presented. How were those measurements determined during the timeframe?
- Concern raised that with the huge financial investment in the climate change agenda it may be open to corruption. Already people have become very wealthy from the climate change agenda.
- Concern raised that fear and scare tactics are being used in the climate change narrative e.g. current weather forecast reporting. Note that talk of the hole in the Ozone layer and acid rain popular 20 years ago has now disappeared.
- People are being asked to take extreme and costly measures for climate change. The recent weather reports of the highest temperatures in 50 or 60

years suggests this type of weather has happened before. It cannot be considered an emergency.

- Regarding rising temperatures Ireland's use of fossil fuels is a drop in the ocean compared to other states. If China and the USA are not making changes we are fighting a losing battle.
- Globally the demand for meat and milk is growing. Ireland are the most efficient producers of meat and milk and do it very well in an environmentally friendly way. To meet current market demands, a decrease in meat and milk production in Ireland to reduce agricultural emissions, will result in a corresponding increase in emissions in other areas.
- We cannot deny the science, statistics and analysis regarding climate change. We need to have plans in place. Everyone has a role to play.
- Members need to engage with local communities on the Climate Action Plan.
- Members need to lead by example. With upcoming local elections suggest all Members go poster free for the next local elections.
- Election posters are an important communication tool to inform the public about elections. This is particularly the case for the elderly who maybe don't use social media.
- Members payslips should be provided in electronic format.
- When focusing on small things, we miss the bigger picture. The solution to the renewable energy issue is in the development offshore wind energy, solar farms and hydrogen. By 2035 there is no reason we could not have our homes fuelled by renewable energy. We have to make up our minds for a renewable future.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ryan:**

- The provision of public transport is essential. It is a huge challenge in a rural country like Ireland.
- We have moved beyond discussing if climate change is real or not. Over 95 % of experts agree on it.
- Rewetting of lands will protect against flooding. It is important to work with landowners to ensure they are protected and provided with the necessary funding.

- Education is vital in terms of climate change.
- Everyone should identify actions they could take to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels and make a start today.

The Chief Executive thanked Ms. Ryan for her presentation. He welcomed the Members' discussion and considered it was important for this climate action plan which would bring significant change to the way we do our business. He noted a number of important issues had been raised by the Members and that these would inform the Councils CAP.

He advised Members the local authority Climate Action Plan was not discretionary but was required by legislation. He informed Members the local authority was required to show a 50% improvement in its energy efficiency by 2030.

He noted that while the Climate Action Plan would impact both private enterprise and the public sector alike, he stressed the local authority must lead by example. Local authority leadership is required not only in terms of policy, in areas such land use and transportation etc. but in terms of changes in areas such as fuel, retrofitting housing stock and the use of electric vehicles as part of our fleet. On a broader level he advised it wasn't just a matter of putting a climate action team in place in the local authority, he highlighted the importance of upskilling staff across all Directorates/ functions of the Council and the wider Galway community in general.

He reassured Members the Climate Action Plan would be guided by them. He noted significant changes to the way the Council does its business would be required and highlighted the positive impact of these changes would bring. He noted for example, a more energy efficient County would serve to attract investment to the County Galway, making it a more desirable place to live, work and do business.

Mr. Cullen informed Members it was his last plenary meeting before retiring. He thanked the Executive Team for their support over the years and expressed thanks to the media. He wished the Chief Executive well for the future. The Cathaoirleach was joined by party leaders in expressing best wishes to Mr. Cullen and his family on his retirement. On behalf of the staff and the Management team the Chief Executive

thanked Mr Cullen for his service to the people of Galway. He extended best wishes to Mr. Cullen and his family on his retirement.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4189

*Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy the Management Report – July 2023, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

**Members raised the following points and queries:**

- The sale of twelve derelict houses across the county is disappointing. Could these houses be brought back into use for social housing?
- What is the level of risk to the Council with the Caravan Loan Scheme which provides preferential loans to Travellers to purchase caravans or mobiles homes for use on halting sites as their residence?
- Following the purchase of the Galway Airport site in 2014 by Galway County and City Councils, Galway Flying Club are the only permanent tenant renewing their lease each year. After so many years it is still not clear what the plans are for the site. Is there an update on the Masterplan?
- Regarding the rollout of playground stencils for schools in Galway by Healthy County Galway could the initiative be extended to community playgrounds across the county?
- Acknowledge the work of the former Tourism Officer, Ms. Ruth Mulhern, on the draft Galway Tourism Strategy. The strategy is an excellent document. It will require significant investment to implement it.
- The Tourism Strategy has potential for the whole county including areas previously not included in the Wild Atlantic Way or Hidden Heartlands. Headford is now included in zoned area.
- Welcome the opening of the Kilcornan Walking Trails in Clarinbridge. Commend everyone involved in the project.
- Clarification sought on the inclusion of the Oyster Interactive Heritage Centre Clarinbridge in the Tourism Strategy.

- The Tourism Strategy should focus on assisting and working with businesses paying rates and supporting the local authority.
- Welcome the assessment of Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark by UNESCO to obtain Global Geopark status.
- Request an update on the progress on the Quiet Man Greenway.
- Regarding the Community Involvement Scheme 2024-2025 when will applications forms be available?
- Welcome the appointment of Galway's first Biodiversity Officer Ms. Rosina Joyce.
- A Sustainable Plant Policy is required for the county. How do we keep verges trimmed without the use of pesticides?
- In an effort to promote biodiversity overgrown roadside verges are becoming an increasing safety concern. While it is important to preserve ecosystems, we need to maintain a balance between preserving ecosystems and ensuring road safety, erring on the side safety to protect human lives.
- Have we gone too far with biodiversity? In some towns and villages areas of grass which were previously cut and maintained for Tidy Towns are now overgrown with weeds and becoming litter havens.
- Is the removal of Japanese Knotweed the responsibility of farmers or another body?
- Galway County Council are providing support to a PhD Candidate at NUIG examining alternative treatments for Japanese Knotweed. Can this information or the findings be provided to the Council?
- Any update on the reopening of Castlerea Fire Station which previously covered the northeast of County Galway. It is a huge loss to the area.
- Request an update on the commencement date for Loughrea LAP.
- There are extensive clean-ups around the county to deal with illegal dumping. Is there any update on the use of CCTV footage to combat the issue.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens**

- Regarding the disposal of twelve houses in various locations in the county, these were assessed and deemed to be derelict and not economically viable to return to social housing stock.

- Regarding the provision of Caravan loans they are offered by Galway County Council but underwritten by the Department. There is no exposure to Galway County Council.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender**

- Progress on the Quiet Man Greenway is on hold while awaiting the publication of the draft All-Island Strategic Rail Review. Publication has been delayed by the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive.
- The removal of Japanese knotweed is the responsibility of the landowner. The Council will assist where it can. Generally, it is a 3-4 year cycle to remove it. To tackle the issue properly it will require a large investment nationally.
- Requirements regarding areas of Biodiversity are set out in legislation. It is prohibited during the nesting season to carry out verge trimming. However, the local authority can carry out necessary works on Health and Safety grounds to ensure visibility and sightlines etc.
- There has been no announcement to date on the Community Involvement Scheme 2024-2025.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Farrell**

- The draft Tourism Strategy was approved by the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC. The draft strategy will come before plenary for final approval.
- The possibility of extending provision of playground stencils to Community Playground groups will be raised with the Healthy Ireland Coordinator.
- A key objective of the Tourism Strategy is to support local communities and businesses.
- While the Oyster Interactive Heritage Centre in Clarinbridge is not specifically mentioned in the Tourism Strategy it is fully supported.

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

- There have already been discussions with the IDA for the Masterplan for the Galway Airport site. Work on the Masterplan will be advanced by the Planning Department in September. The Masterplan will be prepared in conjunction with

the City Council. It will ultimately form part of the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

- The Planning Department are currently working on a number of Local Area Plans. It is hoped to have the Loughrea LAP drafted October to November.

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

- The use of CCTV footage in illegal dumping prosecutions is a national issue. The Data Protection Commission has taken legal cases against a number of local authorities regarding their use of CCTV surveillance. The Council have sought legal advice on the matter. As it stands there is no legal basis for the use of CCTV footage. For this reason, the use of CCTV was discontinued in the effort to combat illegal dumping.
- On behalf of the Council, the LGMA is developing CCTV codes of practice and they will inform the Council once this work is finalised.

**ITEM NO.8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 4190**

The following correspondence was published on the extranet prior to the meeting:

- Letter dated 03.03.23 to Comreg. Resolution – Invitation to Plenary Council meeting.
- E-mail dated 22.06.23 to Comreg. Resolution – Invitation to Plenary Council meeting (reminder).
- E-mail dated 22.06.23 from Comreg. Resolution – Invitation to Plenary Council meeting. Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 10.07.23 from Comreg. Resolution – Invitation to Plenary Council meeting. Response
- Letter dated 12.06.23 from South Dublin County Council. Resolution – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Letter dated 29.06.23 from Wexford County Council. Resolution – Renaming 'Halting Sites.'
- Letter dated 30.06.23 to Ms. Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Rural & Community Development. Resolution – Cleggan & Inishbofin Airstrips.

- Email dated 04.07.23 from Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural & Community Development. Resolution – Cleggan & Inishbofin Airstrips. Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 03.07.23 to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for Transportation. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces.
- Email dated 04.07.23 from the office of Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for Transportation. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces. Acknowledgement.
- Email dated 04.07.23 from the Private Secretary to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for Transportation. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces. Acknowledgement.
- Email dated 05.07.23 from the Private Secretary to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for Transportation. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces. Acknowledgement.
- Email dated 05.07.23 from the Private Secretary of Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for Transportation. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces. Response.
- Letter dated 03.07.23 to Mr. Sam Waide, CEO of the RSA. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces.
- Email dated 05.07.23 from the RSA. Resolution – Disability Parking Spaces. Response.
- Email dated 04.07.23 to Mr. Niall Cussen of the OPR. Resolution – Invitation to Plenary Council meeting.
- Letter dated 07.07.23 from Leitrim County Council. Resolution – Recruitment of Bus Drivers.
- Mayors for Peace News Flash June 2023.

The Chief Executive informed Members that at a meeting held prior to the Plenary Meeting, Oireachtas Members and Department Officials had been briefed on the issue of Galway County Council's baseline funding. He stressed the message regarding County Galway's underfunding was made loud and clear. He advised Members correspondence would issue to the respective Ministers regarding the issues raised at the meeting. The Chief Executive assured Members that the Executive would continue

to work with Department Officials to progress the matter. He considered it was vital to have the matter addressed in advance of the 2024 process.

In response to a query raised regarding re-naming of halting sites, Mr. Owens advised the matter could be considered at the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) noting the next meeting was in September.

Clarification was sought on the Members role in terms of the OPW acquisition of lands for Ukrainian Refugees. Concerns were raised regarding the provision of wrap around support services required in areas accommodating refugees. In particular it was noted the additional pressure placed on already stretched services, such as GP services and schools, in the Ballinasloe area. In response to the queries raised Mr. Hanrahan told Members he would be providing an update at the next Ballinasloe MD meeting. He advised that the OPW have been tasked to acquire suitable sites. In addition to their work to examine the topography of each site they were also engaging with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to ensure wrap around services were in place for incoming families.

In response to a query regarding the use of CCTV footage to identify and prosecute roaming criminal gangs the Chief Executive reminded Members all local authorities had the same issue and were prevented by a lack of grounding legislation to use CCTV footage for those purposes. He advised the Gardai had more legislative power in terms of using CCTV for prosecution.

#### **ITEM NO.9 NOTICE OF MOTION**

4191

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

*"I propose that Galway Co. Co. immediately set up a facility where members of the press, public and Galway Co. Co non-elected staff can attend our meetings remotely. It is not good enough that we deny non-elected members the ability to be able to use our online service via teams so that we have an all-inclusive access to public meetings. The Regional Health Forum West has embraced and adopted this format for up to 60 users per meeting and it should be no different at Council level"*

**The following reply issued:**

"The Standing Orders regulating proceedings and meeting of the Plenary Council includes the following provisions:

7. Given the designation of local authorities, the meetings of the local authority may now be held at:

- The Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Galway
- An external venue used to accommodate meetings of Galway County Council
- An electronic, digital, or virtual location or web address.
- A combination of the above to provide for physical and remote attendance by elected members (known as a 'Hybrid Meeting').
- It will be mandatory for members to be in attendance in person, for the Annual Meeting, the Statutory Budget meeting, and the relevant Plenary meeting with has Local Property Tax as an Agenda item. An exception will be made in this regard in the case of a member who may be on maternity leave.
- A remote meeting for the purposes of these standing orders may be held following the signing of an order by the Cathaoirleach following consultation with the members of the Corporate Policy Group.

The Standing Orders do not provide for the press or public to attend our meetings remotely, but staff can join the meeting in if necessary.

Under Section 8 of the Standing Orders there is a provision for Webcasting.

**8. Webcasting**

It is Council policy to record and webcast Council Meetings where possible.

The technical requirements and costs associated with the implementation of Section 8 of the Standing Orders are currently being explored by our IS staff and it is intended that this is one of the matters that will be considered as part of the wider digitisation agenda."

**ITEM NO.10 NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4192**

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

*"That Galway County Council appoints a liaison officer to work with the Galway disability forum and disabled drivers' association Ireland in relation to any issues they are having in relation to parking, illegal parking on disabled parking spots, misuse of permits etc."*

**The following reply issued:**

"Traffic enforcement is a matter for An Garda Siochána (AGS) and Galway County Council's Community Wardens. Galway County Council has 15 no. Community Wardens across the county. AGS and our Community Wardens are the appropriate persons to enforce the traffic management byelaws and have the required statutory authorisation to do so. This includes in respect of disabled parking permits etc. Any particular concern re abuse of parking should be referred to AGS or the local Community Warden via the local Municipal District Office for follow up.

In relation to the abuse of permits the EU parking permit is issued on behalf of the Department of Transport by the Disabled Drivers Association and the Irish Wheelchair Association. Traffic Wardens and members of AGS have the power to request and inspect a parking card to ensure it is not being misused."

Cllr. Reddington informed Members that at a recent JPC meeting a presentation made by a group of disabled drivers. It was noted that most local authorities had a Liaison Officer in place to deal with issues that arise. Cllr. Reddington noted the group were looking for a person to be assigned to a similar role in Galway County Council. In response Mr. Pender advised that a Senior Community Warden was shortly due to be appointed. He confirmed the new appointee had been assigned the role of Liaison Officer.

**ITEM NO.11 NOTICE OF MOTION**

4193

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

*"I propose that Galway County Council will follow Kilkenny in introducing a ban on disposable coffee cups.*

*We will promote the use of reusable ("Go-Cup") returnable coffee cups by all vendors in the county."*

**The following reply issued:**

"There is no legal basis for banning single use cups in the county, but there are several initiatives being developed at national level to reduce the use of single use items.

Galway County Council trialled the use of reusable cups in Loughrea in local coffee shops funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative Fund. All businesses were contacted and offered support by 2GOCUP Deposit and Return scheme on behalf of Galway County Council and only one coffee outlet signed up to it.

The Government is set to introduce a 20c levy on disposal cups to cut the amount of waste which is produced through the sale of hot beverages. The 20c charge will apply to each drink being sold under the new Circular Economy Bill.

The Bill has been agreed by Cabinet and aims to minimise waste and to keep products in use for as long as possible, through design, repair, and reuse. We are awaiting the outcome of the introduction of the Latte Levy and see what affect this will have on the number of single use coffee cups.

There is also a return deposit scheme to be introduced on plastic bottles and beverage cans which will keep the focus on reducing the use all single use items.

Galway County Council will continue to promote and encourage the use of reusable cups as part of our Environmental campaigns. In 2023, It is proposed to link in with a community group through the Public Participation Network to support the reduction of single use cups in that community."

Cllr. McKinstry expressed his disappointment at the response.

**ITEM NO.12 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**4194**

The Cathoirleach informed members that following the meeting earlier in the day with Oireachtas Members and Department Officials a letter was due to issue seeking additional funding for Galway County Council.

**ITEM NO.13 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS**

**4195**

**A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:**

- Ann Higgins, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
- Cliona Salmon, Parklands, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.
- Zita O'Brien, Lemont House, The Weir, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway.
- Tom Loftus and Loftus Family, Brierfield, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

- Margaret Coleman, Cloonascragh, Tuam, Co. Galway

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

Cathaoirleach: Evelyn Fadros  
Date: 26/9/2023