

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Comh./Cllrs. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, A. Dolan, G. Donohue, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, S. Herterich Quinn, D. Kelly, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, A. McKinstry, PJ. Murphy, E. Francis Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Baill ar líne:** Comh/Cllrs. D. Geraghty, M. Kinane, K. McHugh Farag, T. Ó Curraoin,

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. A Farrell, Director of Services, Mr. M. Owens, Director of Services, Mr D. Pender, Director of Services, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms. A Fenton, Head of Finance, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, Administrative Officer, Ms L. Sharkey, Administrative Officer, Mr. M O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, Mr P. Scannell, Clerical Officer

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

*A minute's silence was observed for Lukas Joyce and Kirsty Bohan*

**ITEM NO. 1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 4139**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. C Keaveney the minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4140**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the minutes of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the minutes of Housing SPC Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 were **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO. 3 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE DISPOSAL OF LAND (0.144 HA.) AT BALLINTOBER, TUAM, CO. GALWAY 4141**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Roche **SECONDED** by Cllr. C Keaveney it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.144 Hectares of land at Ballintober, Tuam, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE DWELLING PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11 OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT 2021 4142**

*Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

**Members discussed the following:**

- In respect of the 70/30 split, is there flexibility if the 30% is not reached to review our approach for this allocation
- Is the draft scheme on a first come first served basis or development by development basis
- Any plans for affordable developments in South Connemara, Clifden/Letterfrack and Headford/Corrandulla areas
- To view the medium to long term plan for affordable developments for County Galway
- With the lump sum that is required to be paid back by the purchasers at the end of the scheme and with it being compared to the Open Market Value, it will be difficult to supply affordable housing to the public
- Is the reserved function being removed from the Part VIII approval process

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

- Applications will be by a development by development basis – once the list is full, will be eligible to apply for the next development
- Housing Department are actively looking for sites to construct affordable housing and have advertised for Expression of Interest from landowners/developers
- Local Authority Home Loan Scheme allows for individuals to self build on their own land
- Scheme of Letting Priorities is based on national legislation with rules for the 70/30% split

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

- The Minister has provided regulation to allow Chief Executives until the end of next year to approve an accelerated level of supply of housing on lands that are zoned residential, do not contravene the Development Plan and the land is

serviced. Notification must issue to the Members before any Public Notice is published.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby it was **AGREED** to appoint adopt the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements in accordance with Section 11 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021

**ITEM NO. 5 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY AS THE AGRICULTURE / FARMING REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND EMERGENCY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE** 4143

*Report dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley it was **AGREED** to appoint Roy O'Brien to the Planning, Environment, Agriculture and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee to replace Ann Mitchell.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** 4144

*Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. King it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Hoade, King, McClearn, Roche and Welby, to attend the AILG Module 2 'Local Authority Climate Action Plans – Action focused ambition at local and community level at Fairways Hotel Dundalk, Co. Louth on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and the Clayton Whites Hotel, Co. Wexford on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Donohue and Cuddy to attend the AILG Annual Conference 2023 at Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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

4145

*Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Parsons it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Hoade, Geraghty, Welby and Parsons to attend The Suck Valley Way Conference 2023 at the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April (Retrospective Approval)

**ITEM NO. 8 TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

4146

*Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kililea the summary of proceedings at conferences attended were **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – APRIL 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

4147

*A standing ovation and round of applause welcomed the Delegates from Washington County to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the twinning between Galway County and Washington County, Wisconsin.*

*Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Management Report – April 2023, in accordance with section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

**Members discussed the following:**

- To welcome submission for €300,000 for the Community Enhancement Scheme
- To welcome the Community Monuments Fund and projects that have been awarded funding for 2023
- To congratulate staff and groups that have undertaken part of the National Spring Clean Programme
- What impact has the removal of the eviction ban had for the Housing Department and the number of Notice to Quits received
- To thank the Tuam team for work completed on the Monument on the Dublin Road, Tuam
- To clarify the position for individuals in relation to turf cutting, are Galway County Council the regulator for solid fuels and if a meeting could be held for rate payers who are fuel merchants.
- For Athlone-Galway Greenway, there are still a number of outstanding issues including the dividing of land holdings, the concerns of homeowners for their privacy, the use of private roads (boithríns), and the existing infrastructure on the N67 is not being used
- Where a group has to register with An Taisce and are required to provide insurance, can Galway County Council look to include these groups under an umbrella insurance scheme
- What is envisioned for the Multi-Purpose Community Building in Athenry currently under the Part VIII process
- An update on Cross Street enhancement and when the Local Area Plan for Athenry will be completed
- An update on Electric Vehicle Parking
- To congratulate staff on the completion of 18 social housing units in Clifden
- An update on staffing in the Planning Enforcement Section
- An update on signage for Claregalway from TII
- To welcome the computerised library being introduced by the Library Service
- To ensure connectivity between Active Travel Projects and both greenways in Galway County
- To welcome plans for domestic violence refuge in Ballinasloe

- To request an update for plans for fire station in Tuam
- Timescales to complete refurbishment for 41 voids

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

- Design consultants have been appointed for Sun Street and moving for Stage 2 approval
- Housing haven't received a big number of Notice to Quit since the end of the Eviction Ban
- 14 applications received by landlords to purchase their property under the tenant in situ scheme but they had no tenant in place
- 22 voids have been completed, not all of these properties included energy retrofit but a number of the remainder of voids are long-term rural projects
- Working with other agencies for the domestic violence refuge and will engage with the HSE and SAFE Ireland in respect of developing this project

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

- Extremely successful public engagement for the Athlone – Galway Greenway and the metric that will be used by An Bord Pleanala to judge any application will be proportionality
- The Greenways will also need to carry out the appropriate assessment for Special Areas of Conservation and complete natura impact statements
- 3 events are planned for Galway to Oughterard Greenway from 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Significant works have been completed in Athenry under Active Travel Projects and are required to follow the NTA's policy in respect of payment and funding for these schemes
- Will follow up with TII in relation to signage for Claregalway
- Environment are completing an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the County

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

- Multi purpose building in Athenry will be 300 sq foot looking at job creation and a meeting space – it will be fully accessible for all
- Cross Street project is with Road and Planning and the deadline for Cat 1 Funding will open in November

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

- The Chief Executive's Report in relation the submission on the Draft Tuam LAP will issue to the Members within the next fortnight.
- The process for the Athenry LAP will commence this quarter.
- A Technician has been appointed to support the Planning Enforcement function.
- Applications to avail of the Community Monument scheme is supported by both the Community Archaeologist and Heritage Officer.

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

- Will continue to support the National Spring Clean Project
- WEEE collections will be extended and are mobile – will continue to look at other locations
- National regulation for solid fuel came into force last October and individuals with Turbarry Rights will be unaffected by these regulations and can continue to cut and sell turf but not by any use of media
- Will agree to meet with solid fuel rate payers but in an organised way

**ITEM NO. 10 TO FIX A DATE, TIME & VENUE FOR THE MAY ORDINARY MEETING OF PLENARY COUNCIL** 4148

It was agreed by the Members that the May Ordinary Meeting of Plenary Council will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 11am in Loughrea with the venue to be confirmed.

**ITEM NO. 11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE** 4149

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

1. Letter dated 29.06.2022 to An Bord Pleanala – Director of Services for Planning re Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Residential Zone and Land Tax.
2. Letter dated 23.03.2023 from Claragh Mulhern, A/Principal Planning Adviser, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to Director of

Services for Planning – Additional funding to support the Residential Zoned Land Tax mapping project.

3. Letter dated 06.12.2022 to Derek Pender, DOS, Infrastructure & Operations. Resolution – Galway to Athlone Greenway (Kinvara to Kilcolgan).
4. Letter dated 17.01.2023 from Derek Pender, Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations Unit, Galway County Council to Jean Brann, County Secretary – Resolution – Galway to Athlone Greenway (Kinvara to Kilcolgan) – Response
5. Letter dated 22.03.2023 from Wexford County Council to County Secretary - March 2023 Meeting Wexford County Council
6. Letter dated 28.03.2023 to Darragh O' Brien T.D. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Resolution - Election poster legislation.
7. Email dated 05.04.2023 from Danielle McDonnell, Private Secretary to Minister Malcolm Noonan T.D. to County Secretary – Acknowledgement.
8. Letter dated 28.03.2023 to Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. Resolution – Election poster legislation.
9. Email dated 03.04.2023 from Gerry Ryan, Minister of State's Office. Election poster legislation – Acknowledgement.
10. Letter dated 28.03.2023 to Roderic O' Gorman T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Resolution - Inclusion of autism on the HMD Form 1.
11. Email dated 04.04.2023 from Adrian McLaughlin, Private Secretary to Minister Anne Rabbitte T.D. Resolution - Inclusion of autism on the HMD Form 1 – Acknowledgement.
12. Letter dated 28.03.2023 to Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Resolution – Accommodation for tourism sector.
13. Email dated 31.03.2023 from Claire Naughton, Minister's Office, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to County Secretary. Resolution – Accommodation for tourism sector – Acknowledgement.
14. Letter dated 28.03.2023 to Darragh O'Brien T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Resolution – Accommodation for tourism sector.
15. Letter dated 03.04.2023 from Offaly County Council. Resolution – Extend the Eviction Ban.

16. Mayors for Peace Newsflash March 2023.

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

**4150**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac an Iomaire

*'Fresh funding has been announced in the building acquisition fund measure to tackle vacancy and dereliction in Rural Ireland. Funding is available to fund old banks and halls , this is a great opportunity for rural areas.*

*I am proposing that Galway County Council investigate the possibility of purchasing the credit union and the white horse old pub in Headford , two vacant buildings adjoined side by side. The buildings are ready made for community use for youth services, community services and a heritage centre for the town and hinterlands. We have so much work completed at a local level the Reimagine Headford was a community project run by Headford Town Team / Headford and District Association and the Irish Architecture Foundation.*

*I am urging the executive to investigate the purchase of these named buildings above.*

*I am chair of the group above and I believe that all the hard-working members deserve this for all the hard work that they are doing on a voluntary basis.'*

was **AGREED**.

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

**4151**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn and Cllr. Geraghty

*'A vote of sympathy to the issue to The family of the Late Paul O'Grady, 'Ballincurry, Glinsk, Ballymoe, Castlerea, Co Galway.'*

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

- Margaret Cullinane, Fahy, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Gerry Dunleavy, Coolarne, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.
- Patrick Dunleavy, Coolarne, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.
- Ann O'Brien, Waterdale, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- Christy & Theresa Bohan, Ballyfruit, Headford, Co. Galway.
- Joe Joyce, Farmerstown, Corrandulla, Co. Galway.

**ITEM NO. 14 TO WELCOME A DELEGATION FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN IN HONOUR OF THE 20 YEAR SISTER PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF WISCONSIN, USA AND THE COUNTY OF GALWAY, IRELAND 2003 – 2023**

**4152**

The members of the delegation from Washington County, Wisconsin included County Board Chairman Jeffrey Schleif and his wife Pam, County Board Vice-Chair Carroll Merry and his spouse Jean, County Board Supervisor Lois Krueger-Gundrum, State Representative Rick Gundrum, County Board Supervisor John Schodron and his wife Dawn, County Board Supervisor Pam Konrath and County Board Supervisor Tony Thoma and his spouse Susan.

The Chief Executive welcomed the delegation to Áras an Chontae and congratulated all of those who have been involved over the past 20 years in nurturing our Sister County Relationship. He said that today we strengthen those close friendship ties and cooperation that join Galway County & Washington County. Now twenty years after the signing of the Twinning Charter it is even more pertinent to renew our close ties with one another. Recent world events have underlined the importance of maintaining friendships so that we can work together on common issues for the benefit of our Counties and our communities.

He referred to the similarities that exist between the County of Galway and Washington County which run through many strands of society and history and pledged his support

as the Chief Executive of Galway County to continue to foster the positive partnership and relationship between our two Counties, adding that he is confident that the relationship that will continue to thrive. Concluding with the wish that we look forward together to another twenty years of friendship and cooperation between our two Counties.

The Cathaoirleach in his contribution referenced the renewal of the friendship in marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister County Partnership. He noted that it was an occasion of sincere friendship that is a reflection of the depth, authenticity, and warmth of the ties Washington County enjoys with County Galway. Citing an Irish phrase "In eineacht le cheile" which translates as "Together with one another" the Cathaoirleach noted the visit was a celebration of the strong links between Galway County and Washington County.

The Cathaoirleach remarked upon the wonderful friends made in Washington over the years noting that all those who have travelled between our two Counties share a unique bond and it was wonderful that our links are still going strong.

The Cathaoirleach invited the Chairman of the Washington County Board Mr Jeffrey Schleif to join him in signing a Charter to further strengthen the friendship ties and cooperation that join the County of Galway and Washington County.

The Cathaoirleach presented Washington County with a wall hanging 'Contours' a replica of the wall hanging outside the Council Chamber that reflects the design and inspiration for the bespoke carpet that forms the central design element for the Council Chamber. The design inspired by the landscape of the County of Galway, from its green fields to its mountains, lakes and rivers. The Wall Hanging is 100 % pure wool and was designed and handmade in Connemara using twenty different colours to represent the diversity of the landscape of the County.

After the presentation and exchange of gifts the delegation and members of the Council gathered outside Áras an Chontae for a tree planting ceremony. The ceremony celebrated the renewal of our Partnership and special relationship with our Sister County Washington by planting a Sugar Maple Tree at County Hall. The tree

represents our commitment to our solid and binding relationship with Washington County.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by inviting all in attendance to the Galmont for refreshment and thereafter to return to County Hall for 'Spraoi' a celebration and showcase of Galway culture through music, poetry, song and dance.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

Cathaoirleach: Michael Maher

Date: 22/05/2023

