

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Monday, 26th June 2023 at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. L. Carroll,
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh./Cllr. T Broderick, I. Canning, , D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, D. Geraghty, M. Hoade, D. Kelly, C. Keaveney, G. King, E. Mannion, M. Maher, J. McClearn, A. McKinstry, E. Francis Parsons, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar líne: J. Charity, D. Cualáin, A. Dolan, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, K. McHugh Farag, A. Reddington

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 Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. A. Fenton, Head of Finance, Mr. K. Coyne, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. J. Brann, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, Administrative Officer, Ms. B. Ryan, Staff Officer, Mr. M. O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, Officer. Ms. B. Reilly, Clerical Officer

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 4169

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 22nd May were **AGREED** subject to the following amendment by the Cathaoirleach on p.5:

"Dexcom intend to create 1,000 full time jobs in Athenry with a further 500 created during the construction phase"

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4170

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. O' Cualáin **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly the minutes of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 31st January 2023 were **NOTED**.

Members raised concerns about the Planning Strategic Policy Committee proposal to pilot a scheme in response to ASH Ireland's proposal to introduce a 'no smoking' area condition on Section 254 licences granted by local authorities for outdoor seating areas. Further concerns were raised regarding availability of pre-planning meetings.

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

- Section 254 licences are provided for in the Planning and Development Act 2001. ASH Ireland's request to introduce a 'no-smoking area' for outdoor seating relates to Section 254 licences granted by the local authority for outdoor seating in public areas. It does not relate to private property. Other local authorities have implemented the condition on relevant Section 254 licences. The approach by Galway County Council in the matter will be informed by the Members.
- Acknowledge the huge value and benefit of pre-planning meetings for applicants and agents. While provision is made for pre-planning meetings in the Planning and Development Act 2001 it is not a compulsory requirement for the majority of development management applications including single rural dwellings. Pre-planning meetings are available in all areas on a fortnightly basis. Requests are currently manageable in all areas, with approximately half of the meeting requests on-hand relating to Conamara. An additional planner is being assigned to assist with facilitating pre-planning meetings for Conamara.

- Funding has been allocated and ICT consultants are working on an enhanced online pre-planning system based on a best practice recommendation of the OPR. The new system will not replace the existing pre-planning process but will serve to compliment, enhance and support the existing pre-planning arrangements.

The Chief Executive acknowledged pre-planning meetings were of significant value to all planning applicants. He noted that the transfer of the pre-planning discussion notes to the subsequent planning file ensured consistency from the initial meeting right through to the planning decision. He advised Members the provision of information to applicants and agents was very important, so that they in turn could provide adequate information for their customers, the planning applicants. He noted the new online pre-planning system together with the provision of increased resources at Municipal District level would serve to further improve information provision and the subsequent quality of planning applications received and the planning service position.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 15th May 2023 were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.3 (A) TO REVOKE RESOLUTION 3903 OF DECEMBER 17TH 2021, WHICH APPROVED THE DISPOSAL OF 23.4559 HECTARES AT MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN, CO. GALWAY. 4171

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Pender advised Members that the Council had originally acquired the land by CPO on behalf of the Minister for Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the development of an airstrip to serve Inishbofin. It was agreed that on completion the lands not required were to be transferred to the Minister for Rural and Community Development. He advised Members that an opportunity has arisen for the Council to retain additional lands as indicated on the map circulated and noted the Department had consented to the mapping amendments. A revocation of the original Section 183 was required to facilitate the change.

Cllr. Mannion voiced concern that €10m had been spent on the airstrip for Inishbofin and Cleggan and neither were operational. In response to a query regarding the possible use of the lands for social housing the Chief Executive advised that the

Section 183 in this case specifically related to lands originally acquired by CPO. He advised such lands could be used only for the specific purpose for which they were acquired under CPO. Any change to this would require an objective in the County Development Plan.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was **AGREED** to revoke Resolution 3903 of December 17th 2021, which approved the disposal of 23.4559 hectares at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway.

ITEM NO.3 (B) TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 21.9647 HECTARES OF LAND AT MIDDLEQUARTER, INISHBOFIN, CO. GALWAY.

Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 15th June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh it was agreed to dispose of 21.9647 hectares of land at Middlequarter, Inishbofin, Co. Galway in accordance with the statutory notice dated 15th June 2023.

ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT CHANGES TO THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2009 AND THE SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION REGULATIONS 2011 (S.I. NO. 198 OF 2011) AS AMENDED.

4172

Report dated 16th June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan gave an overview of the two amendments to the Draft Housing Allocation Scheme 2023:

- Changes to qualifications for the provision of one, two and three-bedroom properties in relation to occupancy.
- Addition of new schemes in the special allocation category.

He set out the changes to qualifications under different bed categories. He advised Members the changes would allow a lone parent or family with one child to move to the three-bedroom category. He noted the percentage for one and two-bedroom properties versus three-bedroom properties under construction, constructed or

purchased in the last few years were almost equal. He advised that the change to qualifications under bed categories would have a substantial effect on the council social housing waiting list. It would reduce the demands for two-bedroom units from 73.98% to 57.05% while simultaneously increasing the demand for three-bedroom units from 20% to 37% which was more in line with supply and demand. Without a change in qualifications under different bed categories applicants in the three-bedroom category would have an advantage over applicants in the two-bedroom category.

Mr. Hanrahan advised Members of the new schemes included under the special allocation category. He noted most were schemes introduced by central government since the adoption of the last Housing Allocation Scheme.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Welcome the changes it will speed up the process of getting people off the list and into housing.
- It will make allocations fairer as there has been a huge demand for two-bedroom properties around the county, but no two-bedroom properties are coming available.
- It will give staff and the housing liaison officers more flexibility to maximise the use of the Council's current housing stock.
- An individualised approach to housing allocation is required for people with disabilities. The equipment they use often requires extra storage space. This need to be considered in addition to universal best design for housing.
- Clarification sought on the "Tenant-in-Situ Purchase Scheme". Following the Notice to Quit does the tenant remain in the property while the sale of the house goes through?
- Is it possible to impose stronger sanctions against those with criminal records seeking social housing. Currently a person with a criminal conviction will not be housed for one year. Three years would be more appropriate in some cases.
- Consider increasing the age limit of young people moving from care into independent accommodation. Suggest raising the age limit from 18 to 20 for young people leaving care. It is huge pressure on an 18-year-old going from a foster family to live independently. It also puts pressure on housing demand.

- Regarding vacant properties identified and purchased will those houses form part of the social housing stock or will they be resold.

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

- The Department of Housing has increased Galway's target for "Tenant in Situ Purchase Scheme" to 50 from an initial target of 24 as a result of demand for the scheme. The Council are in the process of purchasing more than 40 homes under the scheme.
- The Notice to Quit issued by the landlord is not acted upon once the Council begin the process of buying the property. The process will only continue if the person remains in the property.
- Sanctions against those with criminal records seeking social housing is not covered by this scheme. The provisions are set out in Housing legislation. It would require a change in policy by Government to extend it to three years.
- Young people in care can decide at eighteen years of age to leave their foster family but it is not a requirement. For those who decide to leave at eighteen Galway Simon Community have a project in place to assist them.
- The Department have asked us to identify derelict properties. If we decide to CPO them an assessment will be made to add them to housing stock or resell them depending on our requirements in the area.

On the **PROPOSAL** Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby it was **AGREED** to adopt changes to the Galway County Council Housing Allocation Scheme in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 (S.I. no. 198 of 2011) as amended.

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). **4173**

Report dated 6th June was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Kinane and McClearn to attend AILG Module 3 'OPR Overview of

Existing and Emerging Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance at Mullingar Park Hotel, Westmeath on 15th June 2023. (Retrospective Approval)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Hoade to attend AILG Module 3 '*OPR Overview of Existing and Emerging Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance*' at Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny (alternative location) on 17th June 2023. (Retrospective Approval)

Cllr. McClearn commended Mr. Niall Cussens, Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) for the excellent presentation '*OPR Overview of Existing and Emerging Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance.*' at Mullingar Park Hotel, Westmeath on 15th June. He advised Members it was a very informative day and considered it was a missed opportunity for anyone not in attendance. Cllr. Hoade concurred. She noted Members were given an opportunity to question and raise issues of concern directly with the Planning Regulator.

The Chief Executive encouraged Members to take every opportunity to avail of training provided by the OPR and other agencies of the state. He advised there was a large number of presentations available online on the OPR website which would also be useful for Members at www.opr.ie

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to invite a representative from the ORP or to make a presentation to plenary.

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). 4174

Report dated 20th June 2023 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

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

Members raised the following points and queries:

- Request an update on the appointment of a new Tourism Officer.
- Staffing is required in a number of areas including Community Wardens, School Wardens and Municipal District offices.

- Clarification sought on Solid Fuel Regulations 2022. Do the regulations apply to people working on the bogs?
- There is a lack of investment in playgrounds. Consideration must be given to the demand for equipment for people with disabilities.
- Have the OPW any plans for to install modular homes for refugees on sites other than Galway County Council owned lands.
- Welcome the increase in social media activity. The Management Report, running to a hundred pages, reflects all the good work carried out by the Council. We need to promote this work more in terms of social media.
- When will Loughrea Town Hall plans go to tender?
- As a coastal county all Members should have water safety training.
- Can defibrillators be provided on beaches without lifeguards?
- Systra's Headford traffic study must address off-street car parking and footpaths access for people with disabilities.
- The misuse of disabled parking spaces is unacceptable.
- The provision of bus shelters for Rural Link needs to be addressed.
- The development of a temporary Emergency Electricity Generation Plant at Shannonbridge which includes 3 oil storage tanks on the River Shannon will be an environmental disaster for the region if there is an oil leak. Was Galway County Council notified?
- New regulations relating to the licensing of outdoor events extend the current 12-month notification period to 24 months. Galway County Council do not have the resources to enforce regulations for pop-up events around the county.
- Commend the Road Safety Officer on the Junior Schools Warden Scheme Competition for 2023.

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

- All staffing requirements will be considered as part of the Strategic Workforce Plan.
- Applicants have been shortlisted for the position of Tourism Officer. An appointment will be made shortly.

- Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 require the preparation of a register of solid fuel merchants and products being sold in Galway. It does not include people with turbary rights.

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

- The OPW propose to install modular homes on publicly owned sites. There is no indication they will be installed on private sites. The OPW are assessing sites currently. There will be further discussion when survey works are completed.

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

- A full-time Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer has recently been appointed. Water Safety Awareness Training can be arranged for Members.
- Defibrillators are only available on the beaches when lifeguards are on duty.
- The regulations regarding event licencing relates to licencing of large outdoor events with over 5,000 in attendance. The regulations have been extended from 12 months to 24 months prior to the event to allow for larger scale events which needs a greater lead in time in preparation. The Local Authority has no planning remit in respect of small pop-up events of less than 5,000 in attendance.
- Regarding investment in playgrounds the budget is limited. We do avail of sources of funding that becomes available when an opportunity presents. It is important to note there is a distinction between playgrounds provided, managed and maintained by Galway County Council and community groups. In Council owned playgrounds the equipment installed is to a specific standard, it is maintained, and insurance cover is provided.
- The Emergency Electricity Generation Plant at Shannonbridge to his knowledge has not been notified to the Planning Department.

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

- Systra's Traffic Review in Headford will take into consideration all road users.
- Disabled parking spaces are provided for a reason. Illegal parking in these spaces is socially unacceptable. The Gardaí also have a role to play.

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

- The plan for Loughrea Town Hall is being developed with design elements which are being agreed between the Council and the Architectural Team. The Department has approved we move to procurement.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive

- There is an amount of work going on at both an operational and policy level in the Council. It is important we communicate this message to the public. The CE has initiated the preparation of a Council Media Strategy which will assist communications in this regard.
- The lack of funding impacts staffing levels in all service areas of the Council. The Strategic Workforce Plan is being prepared. Success of the plan is dependent on our ability to implement it. The baseline funding issue will need to be addressed fully to allow for implementation of the Plan.
- Regarding any proposed development at Shannonbridge Galway County Council will prepare a submission on any application should such a submission be required.

ITEM NO.7 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (NWRA) 4175

Mr. Denis Kelly Director NWRA and Mr. John Daly Economist, NWRA made a presentation to Members on Regional Policy and Economic Developments - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2022-2032.

Mr. Kelly gave an overview of the Regional Policy context. He advised Members the RSES was a statutory investment framework that aims to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework. (NPF). The NPF estimated 160,280 thousand extra people in the Northern and Western region by 2040. The RSES aims to manage this growth in a sustainable manner up to 2032. It aims to develop urban centres of scale to provide a counterbalance to the greater Dublin area. It targets Galway Metropolitan Area, three regional growth centres Sligo town, Letterkenny and Athlone and eight key towns.

Mr. Kelly set out objectives of the Galway Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP):

- increase the population of Galway Metropolitan Area by 50% to 55% by 2040.
- 50% of new homes for the population targets will be constructed within the existing city development area.
- supports policies of the Galway Transport Strategy.

Regarding a review of the NPF Mr. Kelly advised that there had been many policy changes including *“Housing for All”* and the *“Climate Action Plan”* since its publication but noted the plan was in line with these changes. The review should be complete by March 2024. He expressed hope that the focus of the NPF review would remain on the implementation of the plan.

Mr. Daly set out the four key challenges facing the North and Western Region.

- Transition Region Status - The North and Western Region has a transition region status in the EU with GDP per capita between 75% and 100% of the EU27 average. It is the only region in Europe to be downgraded to this status, moving from 105% in 2006 to 83% in 2021. On a EU Regional Competitiveness Index the Northern and Western Region was the only Irish region to record a below average index score of 98. Out of 234 EU regions the Northern and Western Region was ranked 114th in the index. (The Eastern and Midland Region ranked 24th and the Southern Region ranked 94th). The region notably underperforms in terms of infrastructure and market size while Ireland ranks as the ninth most competitive economy in the EU 27.
- Moderate Innovator Status - The North and Western Region is the only region to be classified as moderate innovator in Ireland and UK on the European Commission's Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2021.
- Weak Urban Structure - The population density is quite low affecting the ability to attract investment. The region performs poorly in terms of disposable income per capita as a percentage of the state average by county.
- Rising Regional Disparities - The North and Western Region performs poorly in terms of the difference in disposable income per capita between the region and

state average. Galway City and County performs poorly in terms of the difference in disposable income per capita with the state average.

Mr. Daly outlined the main priorities for the North and Western Regional Assembly.

- Positively discriminate in favour of the North and Western Region by providing a higher rate of capital investment per head of population in our region's infrastructure assets.
- Provide sizable stimulus package for the North and Western Region's economy to counter the economic impact of Brexit and COVID-19 and to provide a platform for the region to improve its performance as a transition region lagging region and moderate innovator.
- Support the strategic priorities of the RSES of the North and Western Region namely for the region to be more urban connected smart specialised green and focused on people and places.
- Adopt a fully integrated approach to funding that delivers effective regional development targets set out in the NPF and RSES of the North and Western Region.

He advised Members that the challenges cannot be addressed without exchequer funding.

Members raised the following points and queries:

- The regional disparities figures are stark and would be worse if Galway City was taken out of the equation.
- The main reason for the regional decline is weak infrastructure in a predominantly rural region. The region needs significant funding and investment. The original intent behind the Spatial Strategy was that as a lagging region we would get 60% of funding from Europe to match 40% government funding. It's all dependent on the government funding. There is no incentive on the government to release funds to address those issues.
- The Atlantic Economic Corridor needs to be developed and we need strategic projects in the region.
- Galway Port needs huge investment. It could be a major player in terms of wind solar power.
- Cruise liners have nowhere to dock or to disembark in Galway.

- Galway City has one of the worst commute times compared with other EU cities. We need sustainable transport links. Business are not willing to come to the city because of the bottlenecks.
- Galway Ring Road is a vital piece of road infrastructure necessary for the development of the region.
- In terms of rail development, a hundred years ago we were where we should be today. The Western Rail Corridor need to be reopened and fully developed. The region would be served by a rail connection all the way to Sligo and Derry.
- The RSES places too much focus on the MASP which encompasses Galway City and surrounding parts of the county.
- The potential for Ros a Mhíl port is enormous in terms of wind farms developed off the coast. Ros a Mhíl port has greater potential for industrial development than Galway. It needs the proper road infrastructure to access to it.
- We need a master plan for Rinville Pier, Oranmore. It has huge potential.
- For balanced regional development government agencies needs to work together and plan coherently with reference to the RSES.
- Suggest every local authority should have a European Office to access funds available. The NWRA gives us an opportunity to access such funds. We need to maintain good communication with the NWRA and the Executive.
- As a local authority our low baseline funding makes it difficult to compete with the Dublin region. Other authorities in NWRA region also have low baseline funding. In terms of regional disparities, the issue needs to be addressed.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Denis Kelly

- The issues affecting regional development have been identified in the RSES. We have the plans, but we need the funding to get them implemented. The region is not getting a fair share of investment.
- Regarding ports on the western seaboard, ports such as Foynes, Ross A Mhíl, Galway and Killybegs all have huge potential. We need to establish what role each one has in the development of the western region.
- A study was commissioned on marine spatial planning and the preparation of Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) by Dr. Cormac Walsh. It is an

important change for the NPF and RSES to consider. The planning legislation is not in place yet to consider who would be in charge of these plans.

- The NWRA made a submission on the Western Rail Corridor and agree it should go up to Sligo. The feasibility of it continuing to Derry could also be examined.
- Poor road infrastructure is a huge issue. While the A5 motorway is an integral part of linking the north-western region to Dublin there is plenty work to be done within the north-western region. Aside from the Galway Ring Road, the basic road infrastructure is there but we are not getting our fair share of funding to develop it. The NFP review may be an opportunity to review that.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. John Daly

- In terms of the disposable income per capita, the figure for the North Western Region is given at 84% of the state average. Considering the rural makeup of the region, it is not an accurate figure. It will be lower again in rural areas compared to the urban areas.
- The EU Commission has highlighted underinvestment in higher education institutions, roads infrastructure etc. as a key issue in terms of growing regional disparities. The centralised structure of government is also a key factor. In areas that have strong regional structures funding is more evenly distributed. There is a case that regional structures need to be enhanced. It is not within the remit of the NWRA.
- Regarding regional policy and economic development, the problem is not with the RSES but with the implementation of the strategy. Investment is needed.

The Chief Executive thanked both Mr. Kelly and Mr. Daly for the informative presentation. He thanked Cllr. Collins, Chair of the NWRA, for organising the presentation for Members. Noting the RSES projected population increase of over 50% from 2016 to 2040 in the MASP area he advised Members that implementation of the policy objectives was a priority. In terms of the governance of MASP he advised it would require Galway City and County to work closely together. He stressed the importance of both authorities speaking with “one voice” to central government to ensure coherence in the implementation of the Plan. The aim is to make the West of Ireland and Galway a great place to work and live.

4ITEM NO.8 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 4176

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

- Letter dated 08.05.23 from Mayo County Council. Resolution – Grant level for Croí Cónaithe Scheme.
- Letter dated 09.05.23 from Clare County Council. Resolution – Support Macra na Feirme campaign 'The Rural Revival, Steps for our Future.'
- Letter dated 16.05.23 from Kerry County Council. Resolution – National Pension Scheme for the State.
- Letter dated 16.05.23 from Kerry County Council. Resolution – Paperless correspondence with elected members.
- Letter dated 30.05.23 to Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D. Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform Resolution – Funding for local roads.
- Email dated 02.06.23 from Ian Kelly, Private Secretary to Minister Paschal Donohoe T.D. to County Secretary - Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 30.05.23 to Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Resolution – Funding for local roads.
- Email dated 30.05.23 from Dean, Office of Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D. to County Secretary - Acknowledgement.
- Email dated 30.05.23 from Amanda Corley, Private Secretary to Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. to County Secretary - Acknowledgement.
- Letter dated 12.06.23 from Wicklow County Council. Resolution – Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.
- Mayors for Peace Newsflash May 2023.
- Mayors for Peace 100 Day Countdown Message for the International Day of Peace.

ITEM NO.9 NOTICE OF MOTION 4177

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

"That Galway County Councillors support the Retained Fire and Rescue Service personnel and their continued struggle for improvements in pay, conditions and a decent work/life balance with agreed time off and call on the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Public Expenditure to provide the funding necessary to sustain and enhance the service now and for future generations."

The following reply issued:

"Galway Fire and Rescue Service, both fulltime and retained, provide an invaluable service to the communities across County Galway. Galway has one full time station covering Galway City, and 11 retained stations. In 2021 the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage directed the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to review the delivery and sustainability of the retained fire services with particular emphasis on recruitment and retention of staff. The final report and recommendations were published in December 2022. The report highlighted 13 areas which are considered the priorities for urgent action. The recommendations are wide ranging and include remuneration, minimum staffing levels, time/distance criteria, annual leave, recruitment, potential extension of responses on behalf of other agencies. The implementation of these recommendations require continuous engagement with the parties and the matters will come before the Labour Court on Monday 26th June, 2023, and both SIPTU and the Local Government Management Agency have confirmed that they will engage with the court in an effort to finalise matters in detail. Once talks have been concluded Galway County Council will proceed to implement the required actions with immediate effect."

ITEM NO.10 NOTICE OF MOTION

4178

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

"I propose that Galway County Council in consultation with the City Council outline what proposals they have to improve the numbers of the retained fire service personnel.

This is an important service for both the City and County, and it is important that sufficient firefighters are always available to deal with emergencies."

The following reply issued:

"Galway Fire and Rescue Service, both fulltime and retained, provide an invaluable service to the communities across County Galway. Galway has one full time station covering Galway City, and 11 retained stations. In 2021 the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage directed the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to review the delivery and sustainability of the retained fire services with particular emphasis on recruitment and retention of staff. The final report and recommendations were published in December 2022. The report highlighted 13 areas which are considered the priorities for urgent action. The recommendations are wide ranging and include remuneration, minimum staffing levels, time/distance criteria, annual leave, recruitment, potential extension of responses on behalf of other agencies. The implementation of these recommendations require continuous engagement with the parties and the matters will come before the Labour Court on Monday 26th June, 2023, and both SIPTU and the Local Government Management Agency have confirmed that they will engage with the court in an effort to finalise matters in detail. Once talks have been concluded Galway County Council will proceed to implement the required actions with immediate effect."

ITEM NO.11 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

4179

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the Members **AGREED:**

"I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister Heather Humphries to request her Department to bring forward proposals to put both Cleggan and Inishbofin Airstrips into use.

The airstrips were built at a cost of €10m to the state and they have not been used for the purposes they were built for, and that was to provide connectivity between Inishbofin and the mainland."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Broderick **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly the Members **AGREED:**

Regarding "The violation of disability car park spaces that the offenders be given penalty points. 'Vulnerable users being forced into non compatible car park spaces endangering users as a result of this violation' "

In response to a query regarding bye-laws for anti-social behaviour in open spaces and parks Mr. Owens advised a discussion with Gardaí may be helpful to decide what exactly was required the matter could be addressed at the Joint Policing Committee.

ITEM NO.17 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

4180

A resolution of congratulations was extended to the following:

- Athenry won the Féile na nGael National Hurling tournament 2023 (div 1)
- Turloughmore won the Féile na nGael National Camogie tournament 2023 (div 1)
- Castlegar won the Féile na nGael National Camogie Shield Final (div 2)
- Teresa Smyth - represented Ireland in the World Transplant Games in Perth, Australia in April and won a silver medal in darts
- Martin Mulkerrins won the Men's Open World Handball Championship in the US in May

The Cathaoirleach commended Teresa Smyth and Martin Mulkerrins and joined with the Members in congratulating them both on their achievements representing Ireland at an international level.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Michael Joe Murphy, Drimsnave, Maam, Co. Galway.
- Jackie Freeney, Derrydonnell, Athenry, Co. Galway.
- Brendan Melley, Corrantarramud, Monivea, Co. Galway.
- Joe Healy, Greethill, Athenry, Co. Galway.
- Maura Fahy, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.
- Gerry Flannery & Family, Kinneask, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Damien Traynor & Family, Ballygar, Co. Galway.
- Nellie Healy & Family, Lakeview, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach: 

Date: 24th July 2023

