

**CEANTAR BARDASACH BHAILE LOCHA RIACH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGREA**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices Loughrea, on 10th November 2025**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Killilea

Baill: Cllrs. I. Canning, G. Donohue, L. Harney, D. Kelly, M. Kinane (online), M. Maher, J. McClearn, M. Regan.

Oifigigh: Ms. E. Ruane Director of Services, Mr. D Troy A/Senior Engineer (online) Mr. G. Haugh Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Kennedy Executive Engineer, Mr. D. O'Loughlin Executive Engineer, Ms. M. McGann Meetings Administrator, Ms. S. Cleary Staff Officer, Ms. O. Cloonan Staff Officer.

AS LÁTHAIR: Cllr. G. Finnerty

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. Killilea and the Members extended condolences to Cllr. Ivan Canning and family on the recent passing of Mr. Sean Canning R.I.P.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2025 LMD2455

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 20th October 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. McClearn.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA HELD ON 20TH OCTOBER 2025 LMD2456

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 20th October 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Maher and **SECONDED** by Cllr. L. Harney.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. Maher requested an update on the traffic lights situated at Westbridge, Loughrea, stating that the lights were not operating effectively. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that NOM funding support would be needed to further progress the technical consideration of any alternative options. Cllr. Maher stated that it was essential to rule other options in or

out and agreed to allocate NOM funding to consider the feasibility of implementing a mini-roundabout, including upgraded pedestrian facilities, at the Westbridge junction in Loughrea.

Cllr. Maher enquired if there was an update on the Long Point project and stated that any income received from the tender of the coffee dock at Long Point should be ringfenced for the upgrade of the toilet facilities at that location. The opening period of the facilities should be extended, and the cost should be reflected in the budget.

Cllr. Donohue raised queries in relation to the issue of Ash Dieback and welcomed the budget allocation for hedge cutting. Cllr. Donohue noted the road maintenance issues caused by flooding and the lack of resources for general maintenance of roads, but acknowledged recent works completed.

Cllr. Kelly sought an update on when the Abbey Street traffic management works will take place and when the roads programme will be completed. In response, Mr. Haugh stated the assigned contractor is delivering a number of projects in other counties but is expected to begin these works in November, and the remaining works should take between 4 -5 weeks to complete.

Cllr. Kinane referred to clarification received from Mr. Haugh regarding funding for a proposed cycleway between Oranmore and Clarinbridge and stated that it had given rise to further questions, in particular why it was not selected as a pilot project by TII and the current status of the funding. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that three locations had been selected by TII and he was aware that a project in Kildare had recently been completed where the existing hard shoulder was repurposed as a cycleway outside of current standards. To date, there is significant negative local feedback to this pilot project as reported by RTE. Cllr. Harney stated that these cycleways were a health & safety issue, and it was important to make room for all road users, and a compromise solution should be found and costed. Mr. Haugh advised that this was the intention of the pilot schemes where TII were trying to establish a compromise solution that fully utilised existing hard shoulders, provided adequate segregation for Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs) and didn't compromise road safety. Any decision in this regard would be a national decision following full analysis of all the pilot schemes.

Cllr. Canning raised concerns regarding safety signage on the N65 and Mr. Haugh referred to e-mail correspondence already issued to Cllr. Canning in this regard. In response to cutting hedges down to road level for safety purposes, Mr. Haugh advised that hedge-cutting is done to a specific standard and current best practice for biodiversity does not advise topping of an escaped hedge, but this suggestion could be examined as part of the hedge cutting policy review being undertaken by the Senior Engineer.

In response to Cllr. Canning and Cllr. McClearn, Mr. Haugh confirmed that Mr. Sean Devaney, Senior Engineer, had advised that consultants are to be appointed in 2025 for works at Healthlawn on the N65 to be undertaken in 2026.

Cllr. Mc Clearn referred to a section of road situated between the Green Door junction and Portumna that is not realigned and is between two stretches of road that have been realigned. Cllr. McClearn stated that this is a safety issue, in particular for those that are not familiar with the area, and TII need to be called upon to provide funding to properly realign this stretch of road. He proposed that funding be sought from T.I.I. to realign the N65 and this was seconded by Cllr. Canning. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that realignment works by TII are generally safety-driven following an analysis of accident cluster locations which are then prioritised for works.

In response to Cllr. Donohue's query, Mr. Haugh advised 6 hedge cutters are sourced via contract and one hedge cutter is in the ownership of the Loughrea MD. Mr. Haugh stated that hedge cutting operations are not the responsibility of Galway County Council but despite this position, Galway County Council do carry out significant hedge cutting operations. In this regard, budget allocations are underfunded having regard to the size of the Loughrea MD. A discussion took place regarding hedge cutting in the Municipal District in terms of cost-effectiveness of direct labour versus contracting, biodiversity, and the size of the road network. In relation to increasing the use of own-labour and plant resources, Mr. Haugh advised that factors other than cost had also to be considered, such as, staff availability, maintenance, traffic management, liability, health and safety and the ability and flexibility of contractors to provide plant as required.

Cllr. Regan stated that outdoor staffing numbers had disintegrated, and additional staff should be recruited for outdoor work as the majority of queries relate to hedges, gullies and potholes. Cllr. McClearn stated the matter should be raised at Plenary.

3. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

LMD2457

Cllr. Killilea stated that it was important to acknowledge the achievements of the County's Tidy Towns Groups in the National Tidy Towns Competition, and extended congratulations to the Medal winners which had increased from 3 to 6 this year, and to the Groups who won Special Awards.

Cllr. Killilea also expressed congratulations from the Municipal District to Clarinbridge Tidy Towns who won the village category of the All-Island Pride of Place Competition. Cllr. Kinane acknowledged the work of the Tidy Towns Committee, the community, and Galway County Council staff, which led to this prestigious award. She advised the Members that the award is on display in the Poppy Seed restaurant, Clarinbridge for anyone wishing to view it.

The Elected Members also congratulated the Loughrea Senior Hurling Team on winning the 2025 Galway Senior Hurling Championship Final.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LMD2458

Cllr. Maher asked for an update on a proposal to set up a business at the Long Point to maintain the public facilities. Cllr. Regan enquired if the maintenance of the toilets would be in lieu of payment, and Cllr. McClearn enquired if a Coffee Truck would require a Casual Trading Licence. In response, Ms. Ruane advised that the Long Point area is not covered by

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the current Casual Trading Byelaws, and a tender would not issue until full discussions took place to clarify this matter.

In response to Cllr. McClearn and Cllr. Canning regarding the presence of reeds in Portumna Bathing Area, Ms. Ruane advised that Ms. Ann Dolan is arranging an assessment at the swimming area and the Environment Department will lead out on this project.

Cllr. McClearn stated that safe access between outlying areas and Portumna Town should be considered under the Active Travel Scheme and constituents residing off the R355 do not have safe access to the town. Cllr. Canning concurred with these safety issues. Cllr. Harney stated there was too much emphasis on cars and traffic, and there needed to be more focus on pedestrians in outlying areas of towns.

Cllr. Canning raised concerns regarding a lack of lighting along St Josephs Road and Mr. Haugh responded that he was aware of an issue with the Public Lighting maintenance contractor in recent weeks, but public lighting repairs should now be back on track.

Cllr. Canning raised concerns regarding illegal parking issues near the RV Park in Portumna. Cllr. McClearn stated that there was a necessity to revisit the Byelaws or liaise with the OPW who owned the land. In response, Ms. Ruane advised she will review the Byelaws with Mr. Liam Hanrahan DOS and will link with Mr. Damien Michell DOS regarding the illegal parking.

Cllr. Kinane requested an update from the Director of Services for Roads regarding the transfer of ownership of Rinville Coastal Walkway to Galway County Council which was required to allow Galway County Council to apply for funding to upgrade this amenity.

In response to a query from Cllr. McClearn regarding replacement of the Manager for Portumna Courthouse, Ms. Ruane confirmed that a panel is in place and the recruitment process would recommence.

CHRIODHNAIGH AN CRUINNUI ANSIN.


Cathaoirleach:

Date:

08th December 2025