

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway**  
**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 11:00am**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr. James Charity  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIXS R FREISIN:**

**Baill:**

Comh./Cllrs. T Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, J. Cuddy, T. Ó Curraoin, Albert Dolan, G. Donuhue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, E. Parsons, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Oifigh:**

Mr. K. Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim), Mr J. Cullen, Director of Services, Ms E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Ms S. O'Grady Arts Officer, Mr. M. Owens, County Secretary/Meetings Administrator, Ms. I. Martyn, Senior Staff Officer, Ms. U. Ní Eidhín, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Ms. B Ryan, A/Staff Officer and Ms. S. Elwood, A/Assistant Staff Officer

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

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

**3703**

(a) Minutes of Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 were **AGREED**.

(b) Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were **AGREED**.

**Matters arising:**

Noting Eirgrid's orange warning regarding the supply of power going forward. Cllr. Geraghty raised the issue of provision of chimneys in houses. In response Cllr. McKinstry advised that all houses built since 2000 are built to passive standards. As a result, the need for heating is significantly reduced. Going forward he noted that electric cars will provide a backup plan with a battery outside your house with potential to heat a house for up to a week. Cllr. McClearn added that climate change is a reality and we must look at every possible means to deal with it noting power outages don't happen very often.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Budget Meeting. Cllr. Canning referred to media reports he had voted against funding for tourism in Galway County. He wished to correct the reports and clarified the reason he voted against the budget was that we were not getting enough money from central government. Cllr. McClearn suggested that we need to start working on the issue of underfunding of the Council in January.

The Cathoirleach noted that the Council were presented with difficult budget choices and chose to look to the capital account to balance the books as an alternative to increasing rates or LPT. He stressed repeated Governments have failed to deal with the funding issue of Galway County Council.

**ITEM NO. 2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**3704**

(a) Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne the minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were **NOTED**.

(b) Minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were **NOTED**.

(c) Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Comh. Mc an Iomaire the minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were **NOTED**.

(d) Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Galway County Council and Galway City Council Group Policy Groups held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Galway County Council and Galway City Council Group Policy Groups held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were **NOTED**.

#### **Matters arising.**

**The following points were raised by Cllrs. McClearn, D. Connolly, Carroll and Killilea,**

- In terms of the review of the County Development Plan including the Galway Transport Strategy it was noted that the Joint Corporate Policy Group meetings were very important at the moment. These meetings are the way forward and it was hoped that they would become a more regular occurrence.
- Regarding Galway to Athenry railway dual tracking, clarification was sought on the contact between Galway County Council and Iarnród Éireann. It was stressed that Galway County Council needed to make a strong submission on dual tracking, noting the Minister is very positive towards the idea. The need to be ambitious in terms of climate change was also stressed. The suggestion was made that the dual track needs to be electrified and this should be included in our submission.
- An update on the Peter McVerry Trust Presentation at SPC was requested.
- The lack of a structured out-of-hours arrangement for urgent issues relating to housing maintenance was referenced.

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

- He confirmed that the Executive team were fully committed to supporting Joint Corporate Policy Group meetings.
- Regarding the dual tracking of the Galway to Athenry railway he confirmed he had discussed the matter with the Chief Executive of Iarnród Éireann.
- He informed members that an application for URDF funding had been made for a passing loop at Garraun and is hopeful that the proposal will be approved.

- He advised Members that dual tracking was included as part of the County Development Plan. The passing loop at Garraun was the first step, delivering in the short term. The dual track to Athenry, if not Ballinasloe, has a longer timeframe. He confirmed the matter has been raised with Minister Eamon Ryan.

The Cathoirleach confirmed the Joint Corporate Policy Group had met since July and noted another meeting was scheduled for first quarter of 2021. He informed members that the corresponding chairs of each SPCs had also met and agreed a program for meetings going forward. He commended the former Cathoirleach, Cllr McClearn, for initiating the joint CPG meetings.

Cllr Byrne, Chair of Housing SPC confirmed that the Peter McVerry Trust had made a very informative presentation at the November Housing SPC meeting. The details will be included in the Housing SPC Minutes for November.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 1.83 HECTARES AT ROSS, HEADFORD, CO. GALWAY.** **3705**

*Statutory Notice dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to dispose of 1.83 hectares at Ross, Headford, Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.054 HECTARES AT CLAREMOUNT, OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY.** **3706**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr Mannion it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.054 hectares at Claremount, Oughterard, Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**ITEM NO.5 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.122 ACRES OF LAND AT EOCHAILL, INIS MÓR, CO. GALWAY.** **3707**

*Statutory Notice dated the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Mac an Iomaire **SECONDED** by Cllr Walsh it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.122 acres of land at Eochail, Inis Mór, Co. Galway in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**ITEM NO.6 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOR THE GRANTING OF TEMPORARY LEASEHOLD AND LICENCE ON LANDS AT THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT AT CARNMORE, CO. GALWAY TO GALWAY FLYING CLUB FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2020 TO DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.** **3708**

*Statutory Notice dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Cronnelly **SECONDED** by Cllr Walsh it was **AGREED** to grant a temporary leasehold and licence on lands at the former Galway Airport at Carnmore, Co. Galway to Galway Flying Club for the period 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 in accordance with the terms of the Statutory Notice dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

The Cathoirleach confirmed the leasehold is for one year only. The Chief Executive advised members the airport site will be discussed and considered again in the context of the County Development Plan.

**ITEM NO.7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE PUBLIC ART POLICY 2020 - 2024.** **3709**

*The Draft Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020 - 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Arts Officer gave a brief overview of the *Draft Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020 - 2024*.

**The following points were raised by Cllrs. Carroll, Killilea, McHugh, Broderick, and Donohue**

- The Arts Officer and her team were commended on the ambitious plan.
- The importance of nurturing and cultivating the arts was acknowledged.
- Concerns were raised over the recommendation that no monument should be accepted or commissioned until twenty years after the death of an individual. Reference was made to both Tom Murphy, Playwright and Paddy Fahy, Musician. The view was expressed that it was very disappointing to have to wait so long to commemorate someone who may have contributed significantly to the Arts.
- The reference to 'professional' artist was queried, noting many people contribute to the Arts in County Galway who would not be considered professional artists.
- Clarification was sought on the decommissioning of pieces.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by the Arts Officer.**

- She confirmed it is only a recommendation to wait twenty years to commemorate a person with a permanent statue or memorial. The recommendation comes from

the general practice in other Local Authorities allowing time to consider options carefully. She said the Public Art Management Group can consider any proposal presented.

- She clarified that there was a strategic objective to support professional artists, but stressed funding is provided through the Arts Programme to support other artists, including part-time artist and voluntary artists. She also noted that Creative Ireland provides many opportunities in this regard across a wide range of cultural activities.
- She advised permanent pieces can become damaged and this is the main reason pieces are decommissioned. Such a piece may need to be re-sited in consultation with the artist and the community.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. Reddington it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024.

**ITEM NO.8 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS PLAN 2020 - 2024.** 3710

*The Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020 – 2024 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Arts Officer gave a brief overview of the Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020 – 2024 outlining the Strategic Priorities of the plan.

The Chair of the Community and Cultural SPC, Cllr. Canning thanked the Arts Officer and acknowledged the huge amount of work going on behind the scenes. Cllr Hoade commended the Arts Officer for her work particularly in terms of engagement with communities, and partnership with communities in the time of Covid.

The Cathoirleach joined with the Members in acknowledging the work of the Arts Officer and Ms Jane Daly in the preparation of the Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020-2024. He acknowledged the work of the Community and Cultural SPC and expressed his thanks to them also.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to adopt the Galway County Council Arts Plan 2020 - 2024.

**ITEM NO.9 TO AGREE A DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT ON THE PRE-DRAFT SUBMISSIONS ON THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 – 2028.**

3711

The Chief Executive Informed Members that the Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Submissions on the Galway County Development Plan 2022 -2028 had to be completed by the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

In response to a query regarding the possibility of having a hybrid meeting (in person and online) the Cathoirleach advised the options for the various types of meetings had been sent to the Members and following consideration by the various political groupings a recommendation on the approach to meetings will be made by the CPG.

The Chief Executive advised that a physical meeting would be required to facilitate for the purpose of considering the Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Submissions. He requested the Members to make their preferences in relation to approach to meetings known. He advised that in respect of hybrid meetings, a lead in time would be required to allow the IT Department make the necessary arrangements for the preferred option.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to hold a Special Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Submissions on the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy it was **AGREED** to hold a follow up meeting to the Special Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Submissions on the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, if required.

**ITEM NO.10 TO AGREE A VENUE FOR THE JANUARY ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL.** 3712

A brief discussion took place. The County Secretary/Meetings Administrator advised that venue options are limited for a physical meeting due to Covid restrictions. He noted that Corrandulla Sports Hall or the Loughrea Hotel had been identified as the most suitable options, subject to availability.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll it was **AGREED** the County Secretary would decide on the venue to host the January Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The Cathoirleach confirmed the meetings will convene at 11:00am.

**ITEM NO.11 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).** 3713

*Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> December was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to to authorise the attendance of the following member at the "Economics and Economics Policy Module", University of Birmingham, Academic Year 2020 / 2021 (retrospective approval)

- Cllr. Karey McHugh

**ITEM NO.12 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** **3714**

*Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> December was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

**Matters arising.**

**The following points were raised by Cllrs. Byrne, Killilea, McClearn, Welby, D Connolly, M Connolly, O 'Curraoin, Geraghty, Roche, Broderick, McHugh, Sheridan, Hynes**

- There is an urgent need to get people back living in towns to regenerate them and combat dereliction.
- The vacant property tax introduced last year held no incentive in rural areas. A lot of town centre properties are vacant because it's not viable run a business. Property owners in small towns often cannot sell these properties.
- The Council should consider acquiring town centre properties vacant for 10-15 years by way of CPO.
- The Peter McVerry Trust has expressed an interest in houses in towns centres. This presents a real opportunity to revitalise towns and provide social housing in towns. The Housing SPC should consider CPO's for long term derelict sites to turn over to the Peter McVerry Trust.
- Acquiring property by means of a CPO may not be a solution either. Town Centre properties often have issues with proof of title and properties rights are extensive.
- Many houses in town centres are often only fit for demolition. Maybe we should consider how to build environmentally friendly units in our towns and villages. We need to ensure we have good water and sewerage facilities in place.
- The real issue is that rural Ireland is in trouble. In some villages there are more empty houses than full houses. We need to engage with people and give them an incentive to live here. We need a regeneration scheme for all or most of the towns in Galway.
- The Minister in conjunction with LAMA should meet up and see if measures can be put in place to address this problem.
- The focus should remain primarily on property owned by developers who are allowing their properties to go derelict. We want to see vibrancy and life in towns and villages we must come up with a way to deal with people who refuse to do something with properties.

Cllr Hoade advised Members that as President of the AILG she had been invited to join the Governments' Town Centres First Advisory Group established with the aim of regenerating town centres. The first meeting was due to take place the following Friday. She informed members she will be attending the meeting and welcomed any submissions from Members before then.

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



- He confirmed the Housing Department will be pursuing infill, town regeneration projects.
- He advised the new County Development Plan will include a Vacant Sites Register. Vacant sites will be identified and compiled in a Register and these sites will be subject to a vacant site levy.
- He noted that from a housing perspective taking back properties by way of CPO was very resource intensive work.

Referring to the National Broadband Plan the Cathaoirleach welcomed work in this regard. However, he noted recent works on the N84 were carried out without notice to Galway County Council causing disruption to local business and commuters. Regarding further works scheduled in the first quarter of 2021 he suggested a condition should be placed on the licence issued. Cllrs Hoade and Reddington concurred with views expressed by the Cathaoirleach.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Carroll, **SECONDED** by Cllr Roche the Management Report – December 2020 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO.13 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.** **3715**

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

- Email dated 16.11.20 from Liam Kenny, Director of AILG – Election of Cllr. Mary Hoade as President of AILG
- Email dated 25.11.20 from Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Peter Burke Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Position of Chief Executive in Galway County Council.
- Letter dated 30.11.20 from County Secretary to each Local Authority – Resolution, Mother and Baby Homes.
- Letter dated 30.11.20 from Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach – Acknowledgement of correspondence dated 27.11.20

There were no matters arising.

**ITEM NO.14 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS.** **3716**

The following Motions were submitted:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy the Members **AGREED**:

*"That Galway County Council Housing department investigate and may adopt a policy of one chimney in a house as a backup plan for the future in all council houses where possible and all new builds or a least the provision would be there for the future."*

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McKinstry

*"I note that in following to my previous motion of November 2020, consolidated updates on funding issues have not been distributed to councillors and wish to raise this at Cathoirleach business."*

The Chief Executive noted this motion was agreed and measurements had been put in place to notify Members of funding opportunities by email as they arise.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr. Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry the Members **AGREED:**

*"In view of the fact that a waste transfer station permit application is being considered in County Galway I'm asking Galway County Council to request the Ministers with responsibility for the Environment & Climate Action to engage with members of the Municipal District in a time sensitive fashion to clarify the national policy governing the operation of such waste facilities in proximity to centres of residential urban population and sensitive environmental sites including Special Areas of Protection & Conservation, and sites of community importance with regard to active Floodplains, Inland Waterways and recent decommissioned Peatlands which are participating in upcoming rehabilitation and re-wetting programs."*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Dr Parsons **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the Members **AGREED:**

*"I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to request that the review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence is expedited to provide a fit for purposes strategy taking into account the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during COVID Pandemic restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services. I propose that a copy of this motion be sent to all local authorities as correspondence."*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity the Members **AGREED:**

*"That the issue of livestreaming of council meetings be discussed at the next Corporate Policy Group Meeting."*

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Cuddy **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly

*"I propose that Galway Co. Co. immediately enter into discussions with landowners in Claregalway for the purchase of suitable lands for the extension of the existing Burial Grounds and that a progress report be given at the January Plenary meeting."*

The Chief Executive advised that in accordance with Standing Orders this motion was a matter for the relevant Municipal District. After a brief discussion the motion was amended and **AGREED** by members as follows:

*"I propose that Galway Co. Co. immediately enter into discussions with landowners for the purchase of suitable lands for the extension of the existing Burial Grounds and that a progress report be given at the January Plenary meeting."*

In accordance with Standing Order no.18 Motions to Amend or Revoke Resolutions, the following notice was submitted together with the written assent of 20 members:

*"We propose to revoke the decision taken at CPG on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 which was agreed by the Council at the October Plenary meeting of Galway County Council which states that:*

*Any allocation to NOM or individual groups of Conferences and Training monies would take place at the Budget meeting and allocation to be made at the next meeting."*

The Motion was signed by the following members:

Cllr. Finnerty	Cllr. Murphy	Cllr. King
Cllr. Geraghty	Cllr. Hoade	Cllr. Cuddy
Cllr. Reddington	Cllr. Donohue	Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. Cronnelly	Cllr. Hynes	Cllr. Dolan
Cllr. Roche	Cllr. P. Keaveney	Comh. Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Killilea	Cllr. C. Keaveney	Cllr. Canning
Cllr. M. Connolly	Cllr. Walsh	

The Chief Executive said he understood the intent of the motion was to revisit Training and Conference Monies for 2020. He reminded Members that it was already agreed these monies would be carried forward to 2021 for Training and Conferences. He said the Members had been fully advised. He stressed the matter needs to be comprehensively and finally dealt with at the January meeting.

### **Matters arising.**

**The following points were raised by Cllrs. Donohue, D Connolly and Broderick**

- Request to bring about a more formal process for Members to submit written questions which will be on the record. Members would submit written questions to the Chief Executive relating to the business of the Council for written reply.
- Regarding reducing lift timeframes of Skip Bag collections, it was suggested that conditions should be attached to the collection permits.
- Waste collection services are not available in certain areas where licenced operators don't cover certain routes. A report was requested on licenced operators and these anomalies.

- Referring to Coral Leisure, the announcement of €2.5m for pools including €10,700 for Ballinasloe and €10,900 for Tuam was welcomed. There is still a huge gap in funding and clarification was sought on who makes the application for funding
- Further clarification was sought on the discount by Coral Leisure on the management fees and the approach to reflecting the discount in the accounts.
- A request for confirmation of the amount of money to be recouped from the government's rates waiver scheme, and clarity on where it is going.
- Members were not aware of the Chief Executives discussion with the Tánaiste about job losses in Aptar Ballinasloe, as reported in the media.

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

- Regarding the submission of written questions. He noted there is a lack of clarity on the parameters involved. The question submitted may just require a piece of information or it may require a significant report in response. This has resource implications and it needs to be considered at CPG first. He noted that the Notice of Motions often take the form of a question.
- Regarding the waiver of commercial rates, he confirmed the details of the final amount for the nine-month period would be provided to the Members and confirmed that the related income from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of the waiver would be included in the 2020 accounts as part of budget income.
- He clarified he recently engaged with the Tánaiste about the job losses in Aptar Ballinasloe. The opportunity arose through the Regional Enterprise Plan's steering group. He informed members it is a working group comprised of officials/representatives from bodies including local authorities.

The County Secretary confirmed that funding was applied for by Coral Leisure and it will be reflected in their final year-end accounts for 2020 thereby reducing the level of additional subsidy required from the Council. He advised that it was not included in the initial projections for 2020 as initially the criteria associated with the funding was awaited and therefore the outcome of the application and the amount of funding to be approved was awaited. He advised that a meeting with Coral Leisure was scheduled for that afternoon and a further update would issue to the Members following the meeting.

The Cathoirleach advised the matter regarding submission of written questions will be the subject of further consideration by the CPG.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**ITEM NO.15 – NOTICE OF MOTION**

**3717**

**Notice of Motion No. 15**

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

*"I propose that any significant planning application received by Galway County Council planning section is sent back to the applicants for rework at the earliest possible time if it's obvious to the planners that the application is not going to be granted. This will give the applicant the opportunity to withdraw the application and engage with the planners to amend the application and bring it up to the criteria acceptable to the planning section".*

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Cronnelly.

"There is no provision in legislation for such a proposal. Once an application is submitted, it must go through the statutory process. The applicant is entitled to have the decision issued so that they can avail of their statutory right of appeal to An Bord Pleanála"

#### **ITEM NO. 16 – VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS**

**3718**

##### **Resolutions of Sympathy:**

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

- Paul Connolly, Ballymana, Craughwell, Co. Galway
- Fiona Moggan, Clogherboy, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Ray Doorley, Schrahalia, Cashel, Co. Galway
- Yvonne Keane, Roundstone, Co. Galway
- Noel Nelly, Ballyturn, Gort, Co. Galway
- John Coen, Ballycahan, Peterswell, Co. Galway
- Mary Carr, Keamsella, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway
- Bonnie Tierney, 25 St. Enda's Ave, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Natalie Grealish, Tamborine Mountain, Queensland, Australia
- Seán Ryan, Montpelier, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Carmel Burke, Mellows College, Athenry, Co. Galway
- Margaret Curran, Deerpark, Headford, Co. Galway
- Declan Murphy, Kilbeg, Ower, Headford, Co. Galway

Cllr Hoade was joined by all Members wishing to send a clear message of thanks to all frontline workers at this time during the Covid Pandemic.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed & Approved:**

**Cathaoirleach:**



**Date:**



