

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL
Monday, 15th December 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr David Collins

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T. Ó Curraoin, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, P. Keaveney, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, P. Killilea, M. Kinane, M. Lee, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, S. McHugh Ryan, E. F. Parsons, A. Reddington, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar líne: D. Connolly, G. Donohue, C. Keane, G. King and M. Leainde.

Oifigh: Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Mr. M. O Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS 4641

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 24th November were **AGREED**.

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 4642

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning **SECONDED** by Cllr. L. Harney the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 17th November 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Feeney the minutes of the Minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 4th June 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Killilea the minutes of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 15th September 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane the minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 17th September 2025 were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANALA UNDER SECTION 37(E)(4) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED ON THE FOLLOWING -PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:
CONSTRUCTION OF WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND ALL ASSOCIATED WORKS, LOCATED WITHIN CLOONDAHAMPER, CLOONASCRAUGH, ELMHILL, COOLOO, LECARROW, DANGAN EIGHTER, LISSAVALLY AND SLIEVEGORM, CO. GALWAY ACP – 323761-25 4643

Report dated 10th December 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Director of Services, Mr. Hanrahan informed the Members that a joint workshop was held the previous week for the Members of the Ballinasloe and Tuam Municipal Districts (MDs), as the proposed development straddles the boundary between both MDs. The Cathaoirleach of each MD made submissions on behalf of their respective MD, to be included with the Planning Report. The decision to grant or to not grant the development lies with An Coimisiún Pleanála and not Galway County Council.

Cllrs. Reddington, M. Connolly, Cunniffe, Grealish, Hoade and Keaveney raised the following points and queries:

- The Director was thanked for facilitating the workshops, and the MD Cathaoirligh were commended for their efforts in preparing the submissions.
- These developments have the potential to create divisions within communities.
- Preliminary works on this project commenced before Elected Members or the local community were informed of the proposal.
- Criticism was directed at the Government for delays in updating Windfarm Regulations, as the absence of clear guidelines leaves communities without adequate support.
- Concerns were raised regarding the proposed expansion of the solar farm in Ballymoneen, particularly the need to assess the risks associated with lithium batteries.
- Proposed wind farms are generating significant controversy, while existing turbines in Derrybrien are simultaneously being decommissioned

Cllr. Hoade read the following submission on behalf of the Members of the Tuam MD:

'As members of the Tuam MD, we would like to make the following observations in relation to the CE Report on the Cooloo Windfarm Proposal ACP-323761-25

We are of the opinion that the following points must be considered by the planning inspector for An Coimisiún Pleanála.

- The scale of the development with a proposed 9 Wind turbines is not in keeping with the landscape sensitivity of the area. The scale of proposed development will have an adverse impact on the local built environment.
- The proposed development has one turbine and associated works that are within the Tuam Municipal district, we strongly object to any of the development taking place within the Tuam MD as it is within the LARES area, an area not deemed appropriate for such a development, we ask that this part be excluded for consideration for that reason.
- The scale and siting of the proposed development will also adversely impact the local road infrastructure which are not to a standard for such heavy transport of equipment and building materials.
- The scale of the development will have an impact on consumable water, not in keeping with the protection of major drinking water sources for the local population.
- The impact of the development on traditional boglands in the area is unprecedented, we are of the opinion that mitigation against such peatland disturbance is not sufficient and will have a longer lasting environmental impact.
- The proposed intensification and concentration of large scale SID's within the Tuam Municipal district is not in keeping with sustainable development and could constitute a over development of the district as a whole. We need to protect the built environment for future development in both tourism and amenities and other rural development. The Tuam Municipal district is mapped under the Galway County Council Development plan 2022-2028 Galway County Transport and Planning Study (GCTPS), therefore such proposed developments need to be considered on that basis.
- The area's within the townlands of Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm, are areas of strong rural communities, such a development if granted could reduce significantly the ability for new rural housing and a protection of the rural

population and its future expansion, especially the parts of the area that fall within the Tuam Municipal District.'

The Tuam MD Submission for inclusion in the Chief Executive's Report, as detailed above was Proposed by Cllr. Hoade and Seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan.

Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe MD read the following submission on behalf of the Members of the Ballinalsoe MD:

'As members of the Ballinasloe MD, we would like to make the following observations in relation to the CE Report on the Cooloo Windfarm Proposal ACP-323761-25

We are of the opinion that the following points must be considered by the planning inspector for An Coimisiún Pleanála.

- The scale of the development with a proposed 9 Wind turbines is not in keeping with the landscape sensitivity of the area. The scale of proposed development will have an adverse impact on the local built environment.*
- The scale and siting of the proposed development will adversely impact the local road infrastructure which are not to a standard for such heavy transport of equipment and building materials.*
- The scale of the development will have an impact on consumable water, not in keeping with the protection of major drinking water sources for the local population.*
- The impact of the development on traditional boglands in the area is unprecedented, we are of the opinion that mitigation against such peatland disturbance is not sufficient and will have a longer lasting environmental impact.*
- We need to protect the built environment for future development in both tourism and amenities and other rural development including one off houses. The Ballinasloe Municipal district is mapped under the Galway County Council Development plan 2022-2028 Galway County Transport and Planning Study (GCTPS), therefore such proposed developments need to be considered on that basis.*
- The area's within the townlands of Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm, are areas of*

strong rural communities, such a development if granted could reduce significantly the ability for new rural housing and a protection of the rural population and its future expansion, especially the parts of the area that fall within the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

- *Three of the proposed turbines - numbers 6,7 and 8 are in locations that are considered "generally to be discouraged" by the Galway County Council Wind Potential report, for such developments.'*

The Ballinasloe MD Submission for inclusion in the Chief Executive's Report, as above was Proposed by Cllr. Keaveney and Seconded by Cllr. A. Harney.

The Cathaoirleach said that the proposed expansion of the Ballymoneen solar farm is currently progressing through the planning process. He also confirmed that the submissions made on behalf of the Tuam and Ballinasloe MDs will be included in the appendices of the Chief Executive's report that will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

ITEM NO. 4 TO CONSIDER REPORT TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANALA UNDER SECTION 37(E)(4) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED ON THE FOLLOWING- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: CONSTRUCTION OF 11 NO. TURBINE WIND FARMS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TOWNLANDS OF BEAGH, BEAGH MORE, CLOONBAR, CLOONWEELAUN, CLOONNAGLASHA, CLOONTEEN, CORILLAUN, DERRYMORE, IRONPOOL, SHANCLOON, TOBERROE AND TONACOOLEEN, CO. GALWAY ACP – 323699-25

4644

Report dated 10th December 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach informed the Members that a workshop was held for the Tuam MD. The Tuam MD Members have compiled a submission on the proposal. Director

of Services, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed the submission will be included in the Planning Report made to An Coimisiún Pleanala.

The Tuam MD Submission was Proposed by Cllr. Hoade and Seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag.

**ITEM NO. 5 TO CONSIDER AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICE
STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT TO GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR
ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2024.**

4645

Audited Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report were published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Director of Finance, Ms. O'Connor presented the Audited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County Council, for year ended 31.12.2024. She explained that the unaudited Annual Financial Statement was presented to and adopted by the Members at the April 2025 plenary meeting and that no changes have been made to the Statement since then. The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations for Local Authorities in Ireland and the directions for the Minister for the Housing, Local Government and Heritage. She highlighted the main points to note in the report, including that 2024 saw an increase in expenditure year on year of over €13m or 8%. There was a surplus of €1,553 for the year ended 31 December 2024. The overall gross expenditure for 2024 was €181m. At 31st December 2024 there was a General Reserve of €47,000.

Cllr. Regan raised the following point and queries:

- Issues with the PA system were raised.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. O'Connor:

- The installation of speakers adjacent to the microphones on the desks is currently being explored.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh Farag **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the Audited Annual Financial Statement for Galway County Council and Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report to Galway County Council for year ended December 31st, 2024 was **NOTED**.

ITEM NO. 6 TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4646

Report dated 9th December 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoín the summary of proceedings at conferences attended were **NOTED**.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2025 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).

4647

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

The Management Report – December 2025, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT CUSTOMER SERVICES ACTION PLAN 2025-2029

4648

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Owens, Director of Services gave an extensive overview to the Members on the Draft Customer Services Action Plan 2025-2029. Outlining the core values, ambitions and vision of the plan, the standards that are to be expected in relation to Customer Service and the complaints and appeals process.

It has been considered and recommended by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

Cllrs. McHugh Farag, Donohue, Kinane, Hoade, Cunniffe, Regan and Maher raised the following points and queries:

- Whilst digital transformation is crucial it is vitally important that there is no erosion of the personal touch and that the Council maintains its ability to be able to talk to our customers and the public directly.
- The requirement for under-16s to be supervised in Council facilities was queried, particularly as it could result in their exclusion from library services.
- If the County Librarian's views on the age limit had been sought.
- Clarification was sought on the rationale for introducing the age limit and whether an adult could provide a disclaimer.
- It was asked if other Local Authorities have implemented the age restriction.
- Will the age limit also be implemented in the public swimming pools and recreation parks.
- It was proposed to amend the age limit from under 16 to under 12.

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

- The age restriction was included on the request of the library service, based on a risk assessment relating to the requirements associated with child safeguarding.
- The restrictions would only apply to indoor civic buildings.

Cllrs. Donohue, Mannion, D. Killilea, McHugh Farag, Geraghty, Kinane, McHugh Ryan and Welby raised the following points and queries:

- The age limit was not highlighted at the Loughrea MD meeting.
- Is there currently an age limit in force at the moment.
- The matter should be deferred until the January plenary meeting.
- The feedback of the library staff should be sought.
- Staff need to be protected.
- It is unfair to exclude all children aged between 12-16.
- Will this affect the mobile library service.
- The presentation by the Drugs & Alcohol Task Force, delivered at the November plenary meeting, emphasized the need for spaces for young people; this proposal runs counter to that objective.
- Is the decision to implement an age limit a Reserved Function.

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

- The request for the age limit was received from the library service with regard to requirements relating to child safeguarding.
- If the item is deferred until the January plenary, it would provide an opportunity for further review by the Library Service.

Cllrs. Donohue, M. Connolly, Keane, Reddington, Kelly, O Curraoín, Canning and McHugh Farag, raised the following points and queries:

- Were the Library Association of Ireland were consulted on the matter.
- A solution to fixing the issues needs to be found, not a blanket ban.
- If there are specific problems, they should be dealt with as they arise.
- The item should be deferred until the January plenary, when more information is available.

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

- Confirmed that the approval of the Draft Customer Services Action Plan 2025-2029, will be a matter for the Members.

- The library service will be asked to confirm who was consulted regarding the age restriction.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by D. Killilea it was agreed by the Members that a decision on the Draft Customer Services Action Plan 2025-2029 be deferred and included on the January 2026 plenary agenda for further consideration.

Cllrs. Maher and Regan raised the following points and queries:

- Clarity was sought on the Council's role in the provision of a Swimming Pool in Loughrea.

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

- The proposed Loughrea Swimming Pool is a Community Initiative. It is not led by Galway County Council, but the Council will support a viable proposal.
- The first step in the process is to find a suitable site.
- There is no window of funding available at the moment.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council will work with the Loughrea Community on this Community Infrastructural Initiative. He added that there is a significant amount of work to be done before the project reaches the funding application stage.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CIVIC HONOURS PROTOCOL.

4649

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens introduced the Draft Galway County Council Civic Honours Protocol to the Members, which was compiled following a request from plenary, with a view to strengthen the role of the Municipal Districts. It has been

considered and recommended by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Corporate Policy Group (CPG). The Protocol outlines the circumstances for a Civic Reception to be held at Plenary level or Municipal District Level. It also outlines the protocol for the visit of a distinguished individual or group to the County. Civic Receptions will generally be held quarterly. Requests for Civic Receptions at Plenary level must be submitted in writing to the Cathaoirleach or Meetings Administrator. Requests for Civic Receptions at Municipal District level can either be submitted in writing to the Cathaoirleach or Meetings Administrator or referred to the relevant MD by the CPG.

Cllr. Mannion raised the following points and queries:

- The Conemara MD do not have a civic space to hold Civic Receptions.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the Draft Galway County Council Civic Honours Protocol was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL OVERSIGHT AUDIT COMMISSION (NOAC) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2024.

4650

Report dated 15th December 2025 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens gave an overview of the Chief Executive's Report on the Analysis of the NOAC Performance Indicators 2024. The report provides a transparent account of our achievements, ongoing improvements, and key challenges, reflecting our commitment to delivering high-quality public services for the citizens of County Galway. Galway County Council was one of 6 local authorities selected by NOAC for validation. The key areas of Housing, Roads, Financial Management and Innovation were highlighted. Attention was drawn to opportunities for growth regarding Baseline Funding, Rates collection & Income and Digitalisation. Future focus on Housing Finance and Residential Zoned Land Tax were noted. A summary and comparison of each of the indicators against both other comparator

Local Authorities and a comparison of previous year's performance by Galway County Council is included in the report.

The Chief Executives Report on the analysis of National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) Performance Indicators 2024 was **NOTED**.

ITEM NO. 11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE. 4651

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

- Letter dated 06.11.25 from Laois County Council – Resolution -Nomination Process Presidential Elections
- Letter dated 20.11.25 from Wexford County Council – Resolution – Supporting Survivors of Ireland's Industrial School
- Letter dated 26.11.25 from Donegal County Council – Resolution – Electrical Wiring Systems in older homes
- Letter dated 26.11.25 from Galway County Council to Minister Darragh O Brien – Resolution – Dedicated funding for footpath repair
- Email dated 28.11.25 from Department of Transport – Acknowledgement email of Resolution letter dated 26.11.25
- Letter dated 26.11.25 from Galway County Council to Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform & Digitalisation – Resolution Single Fund under MFF 2028-2034
- Email dated 27.11.25 from Niamh Kavanagh, Private Secretary to Minister Jack Chambers TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 26.11.25
- Letter dated 26.11.25 to Department of Transport – Resolution letter – Traffic Calming: Speed Ramps.
- Email dated 27.11.25 from Gordon Ryan, Private Secretary to Minister O Brien, TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 27.11.25
- Letter dated 27.11.25 from Galway County Council to Minister Dara Calleary, Department of Rural & Community Dev. & the Gaeltacht. – Resolution - Review CLÁR map

- Email dated 04.12.25 from Éamonn McCormack, Programme Manager to Dara Calleary T.D. – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 27.11.25
- Letter dated 27.11.25 from Limerick City & County Council – Commemoration to mark anniversary of Catalpa expedition.
- Letter dated 28.11.25 from Roscommon County Council – Resolution- Creagh Area Plan.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Longford County Council – Resolution – Reverse decision for elderly people to pay for their blister packs.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Galway County Council to Catherine Connolly, Uachtarán a hÉireann – Letter of Congratulations.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Galway County Council to Minister Dara Calleary, Department of Rural & Community Dev. & the Gaeltacht. – Resolution - Cleggan and Inishbofin Airstrips.
- Email dated 04.12.25 from Éamonn McCormack, Programme Manager to Dara Calleary T.D. – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 02.12.25
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Galway County Council to each of the 174 T.Ds. – Resolution – Vote against Mercosur Trade Deal.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Liam Quaid T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from John Lahart T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Jen Cummins T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Tom Brabazon T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Barry Heneghan T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Ciarán Ahern T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Matt Carthy T.D.

- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Paul Lawless T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Mary Lou McDonald T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Jennifer Whitmore T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Eoin Hayes T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from James Lawless T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Aidan Farrelly T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of Hazel O Grady T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Holly Cairns T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from Shane Moynihan T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of Michael Healy Rae T.D. – Notice of forwarding.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Carol Nolan, T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of the Tánaiste.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Donna McGettigan, T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Rose Conway Walsh, T.D.
- Email dated 02.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of Malcolm Byrne T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of Martin Heydon T.D.

- Email dated 03.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of James Browne T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Michael Collins, T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Claire Kerrane, T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Martin Kenny, T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Acknowledgement email of letter dated 02.12.25 from the office of Niamh Smyth T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Paul Lawless, T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Pa Daly, T.D.
- Email dated 03.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Roderic O Gorman, T.D.
- Email dated 04.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Mairéad Farrell, T.D.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Galway County Council to Nina Carberry, MEP – Resolution – Vote against Mercosur Trade Deal
- Letter dated 02.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Nina Carberry, MEP.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 from Galway County Council to Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, MEP – Resolution – Vote against Mercosur Trade Deal.
- Letter dated 02.12.25 – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.12.25 from Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, MEP.

ITEM 12. NOTICE OF MOTION

4652

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

'That Galway County Council write to Coillte and ask them to carry out a full investigation on all trees beside any road or near any ESB power line.

Coillte report back to Galway County Council with exact locations of these trees and also what action and when these trees are going to be removed'.

Cllr. Broderick raised the following points and queries:

- Before trees can be removed a Felling Licence is required. He was informed that if a local engineer identified trees as dangerous than a Felling Licence would not be required in that instance. He asked if Council Engineers could accommodate this.

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

- Confirmed that Coillte will be written to, as per the request of the Notice of Motion. He also said that Council Staff will assist.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Killilea the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM 13. NOTICE OF MOTION

4653

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

'Galway County Council write to the relevant department for design and works to be carried out of the link road which was part of the Loughrea By Pass over twenty years ago.

On the west side at the Caherlavine roundabout to Corheen on the Gort road and also on the eastern end the Fairfield roundabout to the Masonbrook road on the Tynagh road.

Cllr. Regan expanded on his motion, informing that these works are required to remove Heavy Goods Vehicles from the town of Loughrea.

The Chief Executive stated that it was imperative that a reserve corridor exists in the County Development Plan/LAP.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM 14. NOTICE OF MOTION

4654

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

'Galway County Council write to ComReg to highlight a serious and persistent issue with mobile phone coverage across Ireland. I travel extensively throughout the country for work, and over the past year, the reliability of mobile service has noticeably deteriorated across multiple regions and on multiple networks.

In areas that previously had dependable 3G/4G coverage, I am now regularly experiencing: Complete loss of signal; Calls dropping mid-conversation; Data speeds falling to unusable levels; Long periods of "No Service" even in populated areas.

*This decline is having a direct impact on people to work efficiently and to stay connected while travelling. I would like to understand whether this reduction in coverage is the result of: **Reduced output or maintenance of existing masts and repeaters, Reallocation of resources towards 5G rollout, or Other technical or operational changes within the network.***

While investment in future technologies is important, it should not come at the expense of basic, reliable nationwide coverage—something customers already pay for and reasonably expect.

I would appreciate clarification on what is causing these issues, as well as any planned measures to restore and improve coverage across the country. Given how widespread the problem has become, I believe a clear explanation and corrective action are urgently needed'.

After a discussion where it was pointed out that ComReg had previously refused an invitation to address the Council, it was decided that the motion should also be sent to the Minister for Communications.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the above motion was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 15 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

4655

The following motion was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keane:

'I propose that Galway County Council's Active Travel Project Team immediately consult directly with residents of Beech Grove and Beech Park Estate Oranmore, and fully address residents' concerns regarding the Safe Routes to School works that have recently commenced in these areas.

These works have had adverse effects on entrance to residents' homes and were initiated without direct consultation with affected residents. Furthermore, no briefing was provided to the elected members of the Gort-Kinvara Municipal District, who represent this area, in contrast to the briefings that were provided to Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District councillors.

I also seek a commitment that, where any similar Active Travel works are proposed within the Gort-Kinvara Municipal District, the relevant area engineers and elected members will be consulted in advance.'

Cllr. Kinane emphasised the urgency of her motion, noting that the Active Travel works are restricting residents' ability to leave their homes and have made the area increasingly hazardous. She expressed concern over the lack of communication with affected residents and Members of the Gort-Kinvara MD, where the works are taking place. She requested that residents be consulted by the following day

Following discussion, the Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Members were agreeable to the taking of the Motion.

Director of Services, Mr. Finn assured Cllrs. Kinane and Keane that the Active Travel team will follow up with the residents. He added that the works were not advertised in the newspaper but via Consult.ie

Cllrs. Kinane, Keane and Thomas raised the following points and queries:

- Information on works of this nature should be distributed via a letter drop or local public signage.
- Frustration was expressed that the area is split between 2 Municipal Districts.
- Active Travel works on the Ballybane Road were referenced.

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

- The Active Travel works were undertaken to address safety issues at the school and the works comply with the approved design.
- It was acknowledged that Oranmore is situated on the boundary of two Municipal Districts.
- He will discuss the issue with Cllr. Kinane following the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keane the above motion was **AGREED**.

The Cathaoirleach invited the Members to watch a short film 'Mise Éire', made in collaboration with Gaelscoil Riada. The Irish Officer, Mr. O'Donnchadha, introduced the film and thanked the producer Mr. Colm Ó Foghlú Galway County Council partnered with Gaelscoil Riada to produce Mise Éire for Scoil an Phiarsaigh 2025. Premiered on Day 1 and presented to the Cathaoirleach, the film captures youth perspectives on climate action and sustainability, creating a lasting cultural archive. By investing in local talent and fostering collaboration, the Council has strengthened Irish language networks and showcased its commitment to cultural renewal. This reimagined two-day programme blends heritage with innovation, aligning with national policy and promoting inclusivity, creativity, and community engagement.

Cllrs. McHugh Farag, D. Killilea, Cunniffe, Grealish, Geraghty, Keaveney, M. Connolly, McClearn, Feeney, O Curraoín raised the following points and queries:

- Acknowledged the powerful message of the video which echoed her sentiments on the item earlier in the meeting, regarding the admittance of under 16 year olds to public libraries.
- The Members were encouraged to inform constituents of the importance and benefits of applying for the European Health Insurance Card from the HSE.
- Disappointment that the Ladies All-Ireland Senior Club final was not shown on television.
- Disappointment that GAA matches are scheduled to conflict with ladies Football and camogie final matches.
- That Kilkerrin Clonberne be invited into County Hall for a civic reception to be held in their honour.
- It was asked that the proposed expansion to the Ballymoneen solar farm be halted due to concerns of public safety. Decisions should not be made until guidelines are received from the Government.

The Cathaoirleach asked that the civic reception request be submitted to CPG for consideration.

The Chief Executive assured the Members that the Council is winter ready. The proposed solar energy farm in Ballymoneen is at the pre-planning stage. All renewable energy applications of this nature are dealt with in a comprehensive, impartial and balanced manner. Kilkerrin Clonberne and Athenry teams are examples for us all. He thanked the Elected Members, Executive and staff for the huge works efforts and progress made in 2025 and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the January plenary meeting will commence at 1pm, due to a civic reception that will follow the meeting in honour of the Galway Senior All Ireland Camogie Champions 2025, Galway U16 All Ireland Camogie Champions

2025 and James & Conor Canavan All Ireland Fleadh Champions 2025. He thanked everyone for their assistance during the first 6 months of his term as Cathaoirleach and reminded everyone that Christmas lunch is to follow the meeting.

ITEM NO. 16 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

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Congratulations were expressed to the Kilkerrin-Clonberne All Ireland Senior Club Ladies Football team on winning their 5th All-Ireland Club title in a row.

Athenry Senior Camogie team were praised for their comeback in the All-Ireland Final.

Caltra Cuans were congratulated on reaching the All-Ireland Intermediate Club football Final.

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Maura and Michael Flannery and Family, Ballybaun, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Martin Farragher and Family, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Rose O Reilly and Family, Chapel Road, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
- Marie Greaney & Family, Sycamore Lodge, Lissavally, Tuam, Co. Galway.
- Erris D'Alton, Clonfert Avenue, Portumna, Co. Galway.
- The Ryan Family, Moate, Moylough, Co. Galway.
- Richard Glynn and the Glynn Family, Springfield, Williamstown, Co. Galway.
- Marie Lynch and Family, Tomany, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
- Margaret Whiriskey and Family, Fiddane, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.
- Joe Madden, Coose, Whitegate, Co. Galway.
- The Conroy Family, Woodford, Co. Galway.
- Margaret Keane & Family, Gortawillaun, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
- The Bruton Family, Drim, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway.
- Michael Roughan, Crushoa, Kinvara, Co. Galway.
- Noel Joyce, Stradbally North, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
- Rosaleen Murphy, Gortard, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway

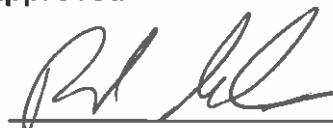
- Owen Cunniffe, Gurteen, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Brídín Bean Uí Chonaire, Corr na Rón Lár, Indreabhán, Co na Gaillimhe.
- Ann Fahy, Fiddane, Gort, Co. Galway
- Bernie and Tom Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway.

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Pádraic Ó Conaire, John Glynn and Kay Sweeney RIP.

Chrionchaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:



Date:



