
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach
Municipal District of LOUGHREA**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held at
GMIT, 18th September 2020 @ 1.30 pm.**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M Maher

Baill:

Cllr's. G. Donohue, S. Curley, PJ Murphy,
J. Byrne, M. Kinane, I. Canning, J. McClearn,
P Hynes, G. Finnerty.

Oifigigh:

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services;
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer;
Ms. R. Lowe, Senior Engineer;
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. M. Melody, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. F. Magillycuddy, Executive Engineer;
Ms. A. Dolan, Executive Scientist;
Mr. A. O'Halloran, Assistant Engineer;
Ms. A. Quinn, Meetings Administrator;

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea
held on 13th July 2020**

LMD 20031

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Loughrea MD held on 13th July 2020 were proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Hynes and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the minutes and in response to Cllr Kinane, Mr Mitchell advised that he has had discussions with TII on this matter and that he had just received correspondence from TII which might facilitate progression of a solution to the concerns raised. However, several steps including a traffic counts and speed survey would be required to be completed at the junction of the L-4102 with the N67 at Clarinbridge.

In response to Cllr Byrne bus stop on the Ennis Road, Mr. Mitchell advised that the NTA scheme is for towns with a population in excess of 5000, so this stop was not considered for funding. The NTA will look at the bus shelter programme separately.

Cllr Canning asked if a request for funding was submitted for the Gurtymadden to Cappataggle road - there is a big volume of traffic on this road.

Mr Haugh advised that a recent Traffic Volume and Speed survey had not indicated that there was an excessive volume of HGV traffic using this particular road as opposed to other similar roads. Consideration of this road for restoration improvement or maintenance works could be considered for inclusion in the coming years within the adopted Roads Programme.

Cllr Murphy queried if the issue of gullies at Tonroe had been reviewed. Mr Haugh confirmed that this site had been inspected and that on completion of this year's Road Programme it was hoped to carry out improvements work at this location.

To consider the report under Part 8 of Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), proposal for the construction of 10 no. new dwelling houses at Cartron, Kinvarra (Kinvara), Co. Galway consisting of 2no. single storey two-bed dwellings, 4no. dormer two-bed dwellings, 4no. two-storey two-bed dwellings, estate access road, realignment of existing local road, signage, landscaping, connections to existing services and all ancillary site development works. – ref LA 0220

LMD 20032

Item 2 was postponed.

To consider under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993, proposals making an order extinguishing the public right of way as follows: a section of the L-8553 in the townland of Carton, Kinvarra (Kinvara), commencing at its junction with the L-4509 and continuing for a distance of 185m west of the junction.

LMD 20033

Ms. Lowe asked that the Members consider Under 73 of the Roads Act, 1993, an order to extinguish the public right of way as follows: a section of the L-8553 in the townland of Carton, Kinvarra (Kinvara), commencing at its junction with the L-4509 and continuing for a distance of 185m west of the junction (shown in the attached map SK-KINVARA-001), which extinguishment shall only take effect after the approval and construction of the Part 8 Housing Scheme (ref LA0220) and upon the date of the opening of the realigned section of local road to public traffic. It was proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Hynes and agreed.

It was agreed by all that this meeting will re sit for Item No 2 on the Agenda, on Monday 28th September at 10.00 am.

Presentation by Chief Fire Officer – Portumna Life Boat

LMD 20034

Mr. O'Malley gave a detailed presentation on the Portumna Life Boat. The Portumna Water Rescue Service was set up in 2006, which is a voluntary organisation with 3 trustees. A Redbay Stormforce 7.4m RIB was bought by the PWRS, and was comprehensively equipped incl VHF marine band radio. The boat is kept at the fire station but has been withdrawn from service since 2018. It is the property of the Community Group, costs are shared but the maintenance costs are incurred predominantly by the Fire Service. There is no formal agreement on cost sharing. Training costs are incurred totally by the GFRS.

The Fire Service has prepared a report on the current status of the boat. It is not a declared resource for the FS but needs to become a declared resource for the Coast Guard. Mr. O' Malley is proposing to meet the trustees and ask that they allow the FS to take over the boat. The boat needs upgrading and servicing and to be resourced through 999/112. Staff will need training. Policies / procedures will need to be developed and implemented and the FS will need to comply with the strict guidelines of the Coast Guard.

Cllr Maher thanked Mr O' Malley for the detailed presentation. Cllr Canning asked that the presentation be emailed to the members. He advised that €60,000 was raised by the community of Portumna to buy the boat and will assist Mr O' Malley with his proposal of asking the trustees to sign over the boat to the Fire Service. Mr O'Malley advised that the boat will not be on the water before Dec 2020 because of the strict Coast Guard guidelines that have to be adhered to and the training of staff will take some time.

Cllr Byrne expressed concern that it took 1 ½ years for this update on the Portumna Life Boat, which Mr. O Malley could not comment on as he joined the Fire Service in Feb 2020.

Flooding Update

LMD 20035

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follow:-

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – the Draft Feasibility Report was issued before the end of August to Galway County Council and the OPW. Feedback on this draft is due by 25th September. If a feasible scheme is identified, a brochure outlining the core finding of the report will be published in the first week of October and a public consultation on the options will be undertaken towards the very end of 2020. The full Feasibility Report will be published when it has been updated.

Works are now nearly 50% complete on the Cahermore channel.

Dunkellin – the two stage channel at Dunkellin bridge is nearing completion. The contractor is due back onsite next week to finish works on the bridge, the contractor is expected to be on site for one month. Works on the in-stream fish counter commenced today, this will be the last of the big civil works on the scheme. The scheme will be fully operational for this winter with only minor accommodation works and land owner compensation outstanding on the project.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed to Cllr Finnerty that OPW does administer a Minor Works Programme, to help alleviate flood risk to houses and private properties. Galway County Council are undertaking such works at present in the Kilchreest area.

Following a query from Cllr Byrne, Mr. Gallagher undertook to raise the issue of flood alleviation works at Mannin Cross and Ballyboy with the OPW. It was noted that there are severe environmental constraints to be considered when dealing with any proposals on the Aggard stream.

It was confirmed at the meeting that work on the flooding issues at Portumna, under CFRAM, are still scheduled to progress when the Ballinasloe and Clifden schemes have been sufficiently advanced.

Cllr Curley asked for a timeline for completion of the feasibility study for Earlsparck.

Mr Haugh confirmed that funding under the recent Climate Change allocations had been received and that a consultant has been procured to carry out an Appropriate Assessment Screening in the coming weeks.

In response to Cllr Donohue, Mr Haugh advised that there was a Gort Flood Emergency Response Plan. This was an internal operations document which was reviewed annually and which he considered to have worked well last year and earlier this year. This plan will be reviewed once again this year.

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne and seconded by Cllr Finnerty, Mr Gallagher is to present the findings of the feasibility study at the meeting on the 28th September 2020.

Directors Business

LMD 20036

Mr. Melody gave a brief presentation on the assessment of suitable sites for a Civic Amenity Site in South Galway.

In response to the Waste Management Objective 3 in the County Development Plan 2015-2021 :- *Provision of Recycling Centres, Strive to provide and maintain an equitable distribution of recycling centres throughout the County and support the provision of additional recycling centres in the South Conamara and south Galway areas of the County*, Galway County Council undertook to identify suitable sites for the South Galway Area in Loughrea and Gort.

Criteria that were considered during the evaluation included accessibility, ground conditions, proximity to services ie water, wastewater & electricity, zoning and ease of acquisition.

The Council focused on their own registered lands at Gorteenabohogy Loughrea; Station Road Loughrea; Bullaun Road Loughrea; Station Road Gort and Kinincha Road Gort.

Regarding the Loughrea Sites, a development was previously considered at the Gorteenabohogy site but did not proceed due in large to costs associated with servicing and

groundworks. The site on Station Road, is suitably located with adjacent services, however it is not sufficient in size at approx ½ of an acre. The site on Bullaun Road has good accessibility, however, there is a stream diving the land with is in a priority catchment area.

With regard to the Gort Sites, the site at the Station Road would require upgrading of the public road and substantial ground works. The site of ¾ acres on the Kinincha Road adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Plant was examined – this is similar in size to the CAS in Tuam. The site has adjacent services and suitable ground conditions. The site is c700m from the town square and is adjacent to regional road and motorway.

To develop and operate a CAS are site specific but the main areas of project phase headings include project development, Site Acquisition, Construction and Operation.

It is now proposed to progress the site in Kinincha Road Gort as it best fulfils the site evaluation criteria and costs involved. The Council will progress the planning process and will undertake an Appropriate Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment to support the application.

Cllrs Byrne, Murphy, Finnerty, Donohue and Kinane expressed their delight at this great news for South Galway. Cllr Maher also welcomed this news. He advised all that an Oireachtas meeting of the members was held on Monday last – illegal dumping has increased by 30% this year. As the DPC will not allow for the use of CCTV, the legislation needs to be changed, in order to deal with illegal dumping.

Cllr McClearn proposed that the bring banks in Portumna be moved from their existing location to the other side of the road, and was seconded by Cllr Canning.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 20037

Cllr Maher has requested that in future, members are to email him in advance of the meetings so that the relevant staff can be present to answer the queries raised.

Cllr Finnerty expressed his concerns with hedge cutting. It needs to be supervised. There is also an issue with flooding on Crowe Street. Mr Haugh responded to say that hedge cutting contracts were awarded following a competitive tender process and that contractors operated to very specific requirements. He stated that he was satisfied with the standard of workmanship being achieved by the various contractors operating on behalf of Galway County Council but that area staff would review any particular concern brought to their attention. Mr McGillicuddy undertook to review the issue raised relating to Crowe Street.

Cllr. Kinane also expressed concerns with hedge cutting. Bad bends need more attention. She also asked if a safety audit has been done on Renville Pier. €20,000 had been allocated to remove the silt. In response, Mr. Mitchell will ask Ms. Holland for an update on Renville Pier.

In response to Cllr Kinane's issue with the bring banks in Clarinbridge, Mr Melody advised that an additional bank is to be installed at this site

Cllr Canning advised that 4 trees fell since the last storm. He asked that the Council write to Coillte and request that every dangerous tree within 10m of the road be removed for safety. He also asked the Council to write to the OPW, as access to the Castle is not wheelchair friendly. An area to the back of the Council offices, called the Yew Walk, has been the subject of vandalism recently of it's new benches and fairy doors – can the Council install cameras here. In response to Cllr Canning's query on businesses located in Coose, Co Galway but with an address in County Clare, Mr. Mitchell advised that this be referred to Corporate Services.

In response to Cllr Donohue's update on the waste bye laws, Ms Dolan advised that a sub committee within WERLA had their meeting on Thursday last. The plan will be finalised by mid to late October and it is hoped that the implementation of the bye laws will commence in Q1 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr Curley and seconded by Cllr Murphy that Galway County Council write to Coillte to maintain their hedges along their property boundaries. Mr Haugh confirmed that he would write on behalf of Galway County Council and also raise the matter of dangerous trees in the Portumna area as raised by Cllr Canning.

Cllr. McClearn expressed his delight that the local bus from Portumna to Ballinasloe is now passing through Eyrecourt.

Councillors Notice of Motions

LMD 20038

Notice of Motion - Cllr Finnerty

The following reply was given

"The R353 is a Regional Road and TII have no responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Regional routes. This route has been surveyed and an appropriate PSCI (Pavement Surface Condition Index) rating applied. Several sections of the R353 have been included in the 2019-2021 Multi-annual Roads Programme"

Notice of Motion – Cllr Finnerty

The following reply was given

"Enforcement in relation to the breaching of the posted speed limit is a matter for An Garda Síochána to monitor. However, we can carry out a Traffic Volume and Speed survey subject to identification and availability of suitable locations"

Notice of Motion – Cllr Kinane

The following reply was given

“This has been referred to the TII for its consideration and their response states that the Regional Road Safety Engineer will visit the site and look at the proposal. There was no date given for the site visit.”

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place in County Hall on Tuesday 20th October 2020 following the Loughrea MD budget meeting at 2.30 pm.

It was also agreed that a meeting of the Loughrea MD to discuss item No 2 which was postponed in today’s meeting, would take place on Monday 28th September 2020 at 10.00 am. Venue to be confirmed.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN



**CLLR MICHAEL MAHER
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**