

# 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 County Hall, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 @ 11 am.

#### I LATHAIR:

**Cathaoirleach**

**Cllr M Maher**

**Ball:**

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

**Oifigigh:**

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services;  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer  
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;  
Mr. F. Magillicuddy, Executive Engineer;  
Ms. A. Quinn, Meetings Administrator;  
Ms P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer;  
Ms A. Dolan, Executive Scientist.

Apologies from Cllr Finnerty who was unable to attend.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Ruane, as the new D.O.S. for the Loughrea MD. He thanked Mr Cullen for all his work for the past 19 years in the Loughrea MD and his sentiments were agreed by the Members.

#### **Confirmation of Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**LMD 20027**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting for Loughrea MD held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr Byrne and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

#### **Confirmation of Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Loughrea MD held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**LMD 20028**

Arising from the Minutes and in response to Cllr Byrne, Ms Dolan stated that the waste presentation bylaws roll out was being developed at a regional level and by September procedures should be in place for same. In response to a query in relation to the Section 254 licence applications for outdoor tables and chairs Ms. Ruane confirmed that she was not aware of an issue regarding same and would follow up with the Senior Planner.

~~Mr Haugh stated for Cllr McClearn that the issue with surface drainage following a minor works scheme last year on the Tynagh Road has been inspected and further works are required and are being actioned as resources allow. Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr McClearn that the changing of criteria for the LIS applicants was a national decision and all applicants have been contacted and given additional time as funding going forward must meet the new criteria. In response to Cllr Byrne, Mr Mitchell stated that he has been in consultation with the Department for a more flexible approach to deadlines but he was confident that the Roads Programme and LIS's would be completed.~~

Cllr Donohue acknowledged responses from Ms. Dolan to her query on costings for illegal dumping and requested more details in regard to anti-dumping costs.

Cllr Canning queried if Waterways Ireland were contributing to the cost of waste disposal at the Marina in Portumna from Camper Vans and Boats. He also suggested that in future, the provision/maintenance of bins should be taken out of Town/Village renewal scheme funding.

### **Flooding Update**

**LMD 20029**

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follow:-

**South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS** - Mr Gallagher circulated and presented a report on the works currently being undertaken by the two Consultants and TCD on the project. The report also included a comprehensive list of benefits that the scheme will bring to the South Galway area, including a reduction in stress and anxiety suffered by locals during the prolonged flood events. He highlighted the introduction of new legislation in December 2019 that deals with the environmental reports (EIARs) submitted to the Minister during the confirmation process. Feedback from reviews of recent submissions are being considered in terms of the South Galway project. Feasibility findings are to be announced in late August. Mr Gallagher confirmed for Cllrs Byrne and Kinane that a revised programme will also be available in late August.

**Dunkellin** – The OPW are back on site since the end of May 2020. Works from Killeely to Dunkellin Bridges are now nearly completed. Works are underway on the 200m section upstream of Dunkellin Bridge. Following representation from Cllr Kinane, Mr Gallagher undertook to forward details of the cladding design proposals for Dunkellin Bridge to the Members. In the next month the dam will be removed just upstream of Craughwell Village and works will be finished on the Pedestrian Bridge in Craughwell. All works on this project are scheduled to be completed in 2020. Mr Gallagher highlighted to the Members the level of support that this project has received from the OPW, both monetary and direct labour.

### **Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 20030**

In response to Cllr Donohue's request, Mr Mitchell stated that he would seek a report from Ms Fiona Holland S.E. on the bylaws at Rinville Pier for the next meeting. Mr Haugh stated for Cllr Murphy that the problem with the gulleys on the road leading to Cannon Concrete at Tonroe and Creganna would be investigated. Mr Haugh stated for Cllr Curley that he would bring the alleged issue of incorrect line marking at Kilmeen junction to the attention of the

Resident Engineer. The flooding issue at Earlspeak would be reviewed again but it didn't qualify under an OPW funding Scheme and any proposed road raising would require an Appropriate Assessment screening. Cllr McClearn proposed and Cllr Curley agreed that the National Park and Wildlife Department be contacted with a view to resolving this issue.

Cllr Byrne requested that the proposed carpark in Kinvarra remain on the Agenda. He also requested an update on the footpath in Craughwell for the next meeting. He also requested that the junction in Clarenbridge L4102 and N67 at the Reservoir be put back on the Agenda due to dangerous sight lines. In response to Cllr Byrne's query regarding a bus stop on the Ennis Road, Gort to facilitate the housing estates in the area, Mr Mitchell agreed to contact the NTA regarding funding for same. Mr Mitchell also confirmed for Cllr Byrne that funding for signage for Cyclists would be sought from the T.I.I. when requested. Mr Mitchell also confirmed that NOM moneys could be used to change speed limit signs in local roads.

Ms. Ruane confirmed for Cllr Canning that a report from the Chief Fire Officer on the Portumna Life Boat would be available for the September meeting of the LMD. Cllr Canning also requested that funding be requested from the T.I.I. for remedial works on the hardshoulder between Woodpark Estate and Portumna town on the N65 as it was not surfaced and pedestrians have to walk on the main road.

Cllr McClearn requested that GCC make contact with the NTA regarding the Local Link Bus from Portumna to Ballinasloe and request that the bus divert off R355 to Eyrecourt to facilitate locals as there is no other public bus service available.

It was proposed by Cllr Kinane and seconded by Cllr Donohue that "the Loughrea MD write to TII seeking the re-instatement of the right hand arrow marking at the junction of the Creganna Road L8106. This is a busy junction off the N67, the rationale of the removal of the right hand arrows is in my view a serious mistake and more importantly increases the danger of exiting off N67 and has caused great concern to all road users".

Mr Haugh stated that this matter was already brought to the attention of the TII who were satisfied that it is in line with national policy at similar junctions but undertook to once again bring this matter to their attention.

Cllr Maher asked that an update from Irish Water be sought with a date for resurfacing of road at Craughwell. He also stated the importance of the Greenway and that it is essential for local business that it comes through South Galway and serves all the towns therein. Mr Maher also requested for the September meeting that a costing for a re-cycling centre in Loughrea be prepared. He also requested the presence of a member from the NTA to attend a future meeting of the Loughrea MD to clarify issues regarding the placing of current bus shelters in the town. Cllr Maher also requested costings of a possible camping facility at the Long Point. He requested that the rat infestation of houses on the Gort Road, one of which is a Council house be addressed and action taken to rectify the rodent problem.

Cllr McClearn requested an update on the Roads Programme for the September meeting.

### **Cave Village Proposal**

Cllr Kinane presented to the Members the Cave Village Proposal which had been distributed to the Members prior to the meeting. The main issue with the Cave area is the blocking of access in and out of the village due to tidal surges and the damage caused to the road infrastructure as a result.

It was proposed by Cllr Kinane and seconded by Cllr Byrne that:-

"Galway County Council undertake a complete assessment of tidal surges and meet with Representatives of the Cave Community Association on site to review the issues affecting access and undertake a preliminary engineering assessment – to ensure that any priority recommendations can be implemented before the Winter in 2020"

Mr Mitchell confirmed that an assessment of the site would be carried out and Mr Haugh agreed to meet on site with the representatives of the Cave Community Association.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea MD would take place in County Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 2 pm

**CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN**

  
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CLLR MICHAEL MAHER  
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD