

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held virtually on 11th April 2022 @ 11.00 am

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. G. Donohue

Baill:

Cllr's. P.J. Murphy, D. Kelly, J. Byrne, M. Kinane,
I. Canning, J. McClearn, S. Curley, G Finnerty, M.
Maher

Oifigigh:

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services
Ms. R. Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. J. Coyle, Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff officer
Ms. S. Cleary, Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer and Mr. John Coyle, Executive Engineer to the Loughrea Municipal District and extended their thanks and recognition to Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer for his work in the Loughrea Municipal District upon his transfer from the Roads Department to the Housing Unit.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held
virtually on 14th March 2022** **LMD2215**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 14th March 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Maher and were seconded by Cllr. Curley, they were agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Byrne referred to the previous minutes and to an undertaking given by Mr. Derek Pender, Director of Services for an onsite meeting with a member of TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) regarding road safety concerns at Ballinderreen National School, Cllr. Byrne stated the requirement to have a member of An Garda Síochána present at Ballinderreen school every morning. Mr. Haugh stated that Mr. Kennedy had earlier that day provided an update

on the driver feedback signage, and he confirmed that he will provide an update regarding the requested meeting in the coming days.

In response to Cllr. Curley's question regarding the provision of additional bus stops in the Loughrea Area, Mr. Haugh confirmed that the provision of any additional Bus Stops would only be progressed in consultation with the NTA.

In response to Cllr. Donohue's enquiry regarding the upgrading of skateparks, Ms. Finn confirmed that she has received confirmation from the Corporate Services Department that construction should commence on the installation of the upgraded skatepark in Loughrea within 4 or 5 weeks, and the installation period will be 3 or 4 days.

Flooding Update LMDM 11th April 2022

LMD2216

Mr. Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows:-

Dunkellin FRS – Two additional landowner compensation payments have been made since the last MD meeting. There are currently six outstanding claims remaining on the scheme, from a total of more than thirty. All six outstanding claims are in advanced stages of talks, and it is hoped to have all claims paid by June 2022.

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – The Environmental Consultant continues to undertake baseline surveys to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). These works include salt marsh surveys on the N67 in Kinvarra, Caherawoneen Fen ecological and hydrological surveys, wintering / breeding bird surveys and bat surveys. The Marine Institute is advancing the 3D salinity modelling of Kinvarra Bay.

The Engineering Consultants continue to examine local hydraulic models and the results from the ground investigation contract. Option assessments (including multi-criteria analysis) are being carried out on all areas with the scheme, for example the proposed bypass road at Caherglassaun and the bypass channel at Caherawoneen. The Consultants are also examining detailed design issues including the disposal of 300,000m³ of excavated material, landowner access roads over channels and various fencing requirements of landowners which complement the scheme requirements.

Ballyboy – Meetings have been held with all effected landowners and issues of concern are being discussed. Contract documents are being prepared, the road closure will be advertised within a month and an AA screening will be procured in the near future. The works are being planned for the summer months when the local school is closed.

Cllr. Murphy requested that the cleaning of the swallow hole at Ballyboy be considered during the proposed works. Cllr. Murphy to forward details.

Cllr. Maher was informed that the continuation of the Dunkellin DD works upstream of Craughwell was an issue for the area office and funding for this year would be discussed with the new Senior Engineer (Tom Prendergast) soon.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed to Cllr Finnerty that the concerns of all landowners at Caherglassaun would be fully considered during the Options Assessment process.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed to Cllr Byrne that the channel bypass at Caherawoneen was no longer the preferred engineering option and that the preferred option at present was to allow all flows through the existing fen. These proposals were still being developed and would not be finalised until the Options Assessment has been completed, when final decisions on scheme proposals would be made. Cllr Byrne is to forward details on a query relating to the Lavally area of the Clarinbridge river.

Declaration of a Road to a Public Road – Caiseal Riada, Clarinbridge

LMD2217

The Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road was proposed by Councillor Kinane and Seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed by the Members.

Details as follows:-

Road commencing at its junction with L-41024 in the townland of Stradbally North and extending North West for a distance of 280m ending in the townland of Stradbally North.
Road commencing at point B in the Townland of Stradbally North and extending North for a distance of 338m, ending at point D in the Townland of Stradbally North. Road commencing at its junction with B-D in the Townland of Stradbally North and extending East for a distance of 23m, ending at point E in the Townland of Stradbally North.

Councillor Kinane enquired if the speed limit of 30kph will be imposed and expressed her concern at the speed at which cars travel on the road, Ms. Lowe advised that it is intended that this will be facilitated in the next review of speed limit byelaws, expected to take place later in 2022.

A discussion took place regarding the duration of time and volume of work involved in the Taking in Charge (TIC) process, and regarding the issuing of communications to residents of estates to be taken in charge. It was decided that communications would not issue to individual residents providing an update on the TIC progress. Councillor McClearn referred to conditions imposed by the planning process where Management Companies were required to maintain Housing Estates. He stated that Management Companies issued invoices to residents in respect of this service and that on occasions the monies sought were quite significant. Councillor Byrne stated that where estates are completed on a phased basis, they should be reviewed by the TIC section at the conclusion of each phase and suggested that the process be reviewed, and this matter warrants a further discussion. Ms. Lowe advised that it was her understanding that Developers are generally required to establish Management Companies under the Multi-Unit Development Act, 2011 and that Management Companies are generally controlled by the property owners.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD2218

In relation to the Greenway, Cllr. Donohue stated that 5 landowners in the Kilcolgan area have requested to meet with TII collectively but not on an individual basis. Cllr. Donohue stated that she, like all Councillors, is happy to meet with Landowners to help answer queries. Cllr. Kinane stated that she would like to be included in the meetings with landowners. The date for a meeting is to be agreed and the matter was proposed by Cllr. Kinane and seconded by Cllr. Donohue.

Cllr. McClearn stated his understanding that the issue of Greenways was to be included on the agenda going forward, and that clarification from the Consultants on progress of the Greenway is required, he asked if Consultants should attend the next meeting. He stated it would be helpful to meet owners of lands along the Greenway and that people have an entitlement to be against the Greenway if their lands are affected. Cllr. Canning stated that a member of staff from Mr. Pender's area should arrange for letters to issue to owners of lands on the preferred A and B routes of the Greenway inviting them to attend a meeting, this suggestion was supported by Cllr. Kelly and Cllr. Donohue. Ms. Ruane stated that she will discuss with Mr. Pender the matters raised and regarding the Greenway being a Standing Item on the agenda. Ms. Finn clarified that it was agreed the Greenway would be included on the agenda bi-monthly, she advised the matter will be included in next month's agenda.

Cllr. Byrne raised a concern regarding a complaint he received from a member of staff stating that he (Cllr. Byrne), as a Representative, is responsible for the operation and direction of the Fire Service in Galway County Council. He sought clarification on this matter from Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Services. Cllr. Finnerty requested that the Chief Fire Officer should be present at the next meeting of the Plenary Council to clarify issues raised regarding the service and stated that he wants a written reply regarding concerns raised. Cllr. Byrne agreed to forward the communication from the person to the HR Department and Ms. Ruane.

Cllr. Maher advised that he is aware that Loughrea Fire Service does not possess a chainsaw and in the event of a fallen tree, the Fire Services are required to contact roads staff members to have this matter dealt with.

Following the discussion, Ms. Ruane explained the distinction between reserved and executive functions of the Council, she advised Cllr. Byrne that if a staff member contacts a Councillor regarding a HR matter, the matter should be referred to the relevant Line Manager or the HR Department. Ms. Ruane clarified the mobilisation process of Fire Service. She stressed the importance to note the role of the Fire Services is not a medical service but, advised, the service has responded to medical services requests. She stated that a broadening of the Fire Services role is being discussed nationally, and that she will contact the Chief Fire Officer to ask him to speak to the members if necessary.

Cllr. Maher stated that he has been contacted by a person willing to provide an area of land to accommodate a Civic Amenity Site within walking distance from Loughrea town which should assist in reducing illegal dumping. He said he has contacted the Environment Section

who have endorsed it as a significant opportunity for a Civic Amenity Site. Cllr. Donohue stated that this would be very welcome in Loughrea.

Any Other Business

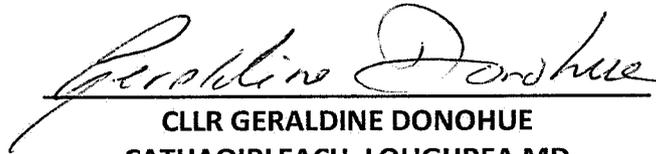
LMD2219

Councillor Canning stated that he welcomed the funding of €6,500 for the Portumna playground.

In response to Cllr. Canning queries as to the accuracy of Eircode's in the South area of Galway and to the timing on the review of speed limits, Ms. Ruane stated that she will follow up on same. Cllr. Murphy wanted it on the record regarding his thanks to Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer for the work he has done, he welcomed Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer and John Coyle, Executive Engineer to the Loughrea Municipal District.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 9th May 2022 at 11.00 am in **(tbc)**.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN



CLLR GERALDINE DONOHUE

CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD

Deputation by Aisling Donnellan and Helen Bullock, Parents Committee, Gaelscoil Riabhach, Loughrea

Ashling Donnellan addressed the members regarding road safety concerns of the Parents Committee, Gaelscoil Riabhach.

Ms. Donnellan stated that there is unsafe parking both sides of the busy road at peak school times. She also raised a concern regarding the footpath which is discontinued and is required to provide a safe walking route and alleviate traffic.

Ms. Donnellan stated that there is a need for a pedestrian road crossing from the site of the new Plaza to the school side of the road, which should link the existing pedestrian route at St. Laurence's Fields. Ms. Donnellan added that Heavy Goods Vehicles are using the road as a shortcut which is adding to road safety issues, and stated consideration needs to be given regarding school signage, lights not working, road marking and the provision of protective barriers.

Following a discussion on Ms. Donnellan's presentation, Cllr. McClearn stated that the responsibility for parking at schools lies with the Department of Education. Cllr. Kinane supported Cllr. McClearn's comment stating that the Council should contact Minister Norma Foley regarding school traffic management in the Galway area. Such issues she stated should be considered in advance of planning applications and the Department should work closely with the Council in this regard, she further stated that this matter should be brought to the main Council Chamber, but the Loughrea MD could review its own area.

Mr. Haugh confirmed that the Driver Feedback Signage would be repaired but that he wasn't aware that this matter had been reported to the Loughrea Office. He stated that the road surface would benefit from being resurfaced in the coming years and that he will review the situation regarding the current footpath. Ms. Lowe noted that Gaelscoil Riabhach had submitted a Mobility Management Plan as part of their planning application which was very comprehensive and included a commitment to appoint a mobility plan co-ordinator.

Deputation by Mr. David Murray, Gort River Walk Development Group

Mr. David Murray addressed the members on behalf of the Gort River Walk Development Group and explained the aim is to extend the Gort River Walk South by 1.3 km South of Gort Bridge, develop a linear Park and amenities close to Georges Street, restore the pedestrian bridge and convent paths, link up the proposed paths in the new Gort an Rí estate, link with Cannon Quinn Park and provide new parking spaces. Mr. Murray stated that to progress this project it is critical to acquire lands along Georges Street as soon as possible, as the lands are currently for sale.