

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach
Municipal District of LOUGHREA

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea
held in the Loughrea Council Chamber on 11th July 2022@ 11.00 am**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. P.J. Murphy

Baill:

Cllr's. G. Donohue, D. Kelly, J. Byrne, M. Kinane,
I. Canning, J. McClearn, 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. N. Kennedy, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer
Ms. S. Cleary, Staff Officer
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Cllr. Curley and Cllr. Finnerty who were unable to attend.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held in
the Loughrea Chamber on 13th June 2022** **LMD 2235**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th June 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Maher and were seconded by Cllr. Canning, they were agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Kinane requested two minor changes to the Minutes of the Loughrea Municipal District Meeting of 13th June 2022, she wants it to be put on record (insert)" if" the junction (insert) " is" unsafe. Her second amendment was as follows "that many landowners have concerns regarding splitting of (insert) "their" lands and the (insert) "section of road along the N67 between" Kilcolgan and Clarinbridge should be facilitated to progress the cycleway."

Cllr. Kinane thanked Mr. Haugh and Mr. Kennedy for their engagement with the Stage 3 Audit and she welcomed the opportunity to meet with the local transport companies, businesses, and members of the public to discuss issues of concern. Cllr. Kinane stated that

she is working with the NRPO regarding the installation of a footpath and cycle lane at the location which will make the junction safer to use at Clarenbridge village.

In response to Cllr. Canning's query on speeding on the main street and on the Woodford Road in Portumna, Mr. Haugh advised that a consultant has been appointed and that a traffic speed and volume survey would be carried out in due course under that appointment, possibly within the next four to six weeks.

Cllr. Byrne advised the meeting that house to house inspections were carried out in Gort recently by Community Wardens on the issue of waste disposal, he advised that notifications would issue to residents who did not provide evidence of appropriate waste disposal services. Cllr. Kinane stated that she welcomed the door-to-door inspections. Cllr. Maher raised a concern regarding the illegal disposal of domestic waste in public bins, Cllr. Kinane agreed, advising she is aware that this is taking place resulting in a lack of bins for public use. Cllr. Maher informed those present that some Supermarkets are planning to provide waste disposal facilities and charge €1 for the disposal of a bag of rubbish, he advised that this disposal system is not regulated. Ms. Ruane advised Cllr. Maher that she will liaise with Ms. Ann Dolan, Environment Unit regarding Waste Byelaws.

Cllr. Maher advised the meeting that Minister Heather Humphries will officially visit the walks next week and requested the Council repair damage caused to the walks in advance of the Minister's visit. Cllr. Maher thanked the Council for works completed on footpaths in Loughrea and advised that there are a few footpaths in Loughrea in need of repair and improvement.

Cllr. Byrne raised a concern regarding the boil water notice which is still in place in Gort after 5 months and requested Galway County Council to contact Irish Water to question the cause of the problem and how and when it will be resolved. He requested Galway County Council to enquire from Irish Water if they will compensate people for 5 months of inconvenience for the purchase and boiling of water. Cllr. Murphy expressed agreement with Cllr. Byrne and stated Irish Water should respond regarding the insufficiency. Cllr. Donohue advised that where a boil notice issues, written notification should be sent to each household advising of requirement to boil water, she stated notification issued to Councillors in Gort and on social media, but not all people are on social media and not everybody effected received the communication.

Cllr. Byrne advised that he had requested the Council to issue written communication to Irish Water regarding the Boil Water Notice in Gort and asked if a copy can be provided to the Members. Cllr. Byrne proposed the issuing of a communication to Irish Water in this regard, this was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Ms. Finn advised the meeting that a database has been created to track issues requiring action which are raised at the Loughrea Municipal District Meetings.

Proposed Taking in Charge – Sliabh Carron Estate, Gort

LMD2236

The taking in charge of the road at Sliabh Carron, Cloonnahaha, Gort was proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed by the Members.

Road commencing at its junction with R-458 in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending west for a distance of 295m to point Q and turning south a distance 86m ending at point R in the townland of Cloonnahaha. Point A-B-D-E-G-K-Q-R on TIC Map dated February 2022.

Road commencing at its junction with A-D in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending North for a distance of 45m ending at the point C in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with A-E in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending North for a distance of 65m and turning west for a distance of 69m ending at the point H in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with D-G in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending south for a distance of 49m and turning east for a distance of 27m and extending north for a distance of 37m ending at the point F in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with E-K in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending north for a distance of 68m and turning west for a distance of 75m and ending at the point J in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with G-Q in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending south for a distance of 80m and ending at the point M in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with K-M in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending east for a distance of 31m and turning south for a distance of 25m ending at the point O in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with L-O in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending north for a distance of 45m and ending at the point P in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Road commencing at its junction with K-R in the townland of Cloonnahaha and extending north for a distance of 60m and ending at the point S in the townland of Cloonnahaha.

Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road – The Punchbowl, Gort

LMD2237

The Declaration of a Road at The Punchbowl, Gort to be a public road was proposed by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor Donohue and agreed by the Members.

Road commencing at its junction with R-458 in the townland of Rindifin and extending east for a distance of 83m and turning south a distance 78m and turning east a distance of 137m turning south a distance 17m ending at point F in the townland of Rindifin.

Road commencing at its junction with A-E in the townland of Rindifin and extending east for a distance of 148m turning north for a distance of 20m ending at the point D in the townland of Rindifin.

Road commencing at its junction with B-D in the townland of Rindifin and extending south for a distance of 83m ending at the point E in the townland of Rindifin.

Cllr Byrne welcomed the taking in charge of The Punchbowl, Gort and Sliabh Carron Estate, Gort and thanked the staff of Galway County Council for their work, Cllr. Donohue expressed her agreement. Cllr. Murphy stated that there are still a few smaller estates which he hoped would be taken in charge also.

Cllr. McClearn requested an update on estates which are yet to be taken in charge and stated that there are a few estates in Portumna yet to be taken in charge. He suggested that the members should discuss what should be done to progress TICs.

Cllr. Maher advised the meeting that Danesfort in Loughrea is not yet taken in charge.

Cllr. Murphy suggested that Ms. Edel Hourigan, TIC, should be invited to attend the next Loughrea Municipal District meeting, Cllr. McClearn suggested it would be helpful to get a written update of estates yet to be taken in charge.

Flooding Update

LMD2238

Mr. Enda Gallagher's apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were noted.

Ms. Lowe updated the meeting on behalf of Mr. Gallagher as follows: -

Carra Plant Hire has been appointed to undertake the bridge and wall raising works at Ballyboy, Ardrahan and are scheduled to commence the works during the week commencing 18th July. As indicated at the previous meeting, the road raising aspect of the works will not be carried out at this time and additional funding for these works is being actively sought.

Mr. Gallagher will present an update on consultants' progress at the next Loughrea MD meeting.

The Members expressed their appreciation towards Mr. Gallagher for providing a Flooding Update.

Greenway Update

LMD2239

Cllr. Murphy stated that it was intended to have an update on the Greenway, but the Greenway update can be provided on another date when Mr. Pender is present. Ms. Lowe advised the meeting that the Director will prepare an updated summary of matters for circulation to the Councillors. Cllr. Maher requested the update to be circulated in advance of the Plenary meeting.

Cllr. McClearn stated that at a previous meeting he proposed a hybrid system to progress the Greenway and the proposal was seconded. Cllr. McClearn was advised that this

proposal could proceed to the Plenary Meeting under one name, although, it was a unanimous decision.

Ms. Finn advised the meeting that she had contacted the Corporate Services Section of Galway County Council regarding Cllr. McClearn's submission and she was referred to Standing Order No. 22.

Cllr. Maher and Ms. Finn advised that a draft of Plenary Meetings Standing Orders is being updated by the Corporate Policy Group and will issue to Members. Ms. Finn advised that an item cannot be submitted for inclusion on the Agenda of a Plenary Meeting as a separate motion if previously discussed at MD level. Cllr. Maher advised that an item cannot be brought forward to the Plenary Meeting unless it is discussed at MD level.

Cllr. McClearn stated that the Loughrea Municipal District should be able to send forward a Motion as they are familiar with local issues, he stated that the proposal has been put forward for the July Plenary Meeting. Cllr. McClearn and Cllr. Maher expressed their opinion that the Greenway as it stands will not happen. Cllr. Maher stated that it will be two months before they can provide landowners with an update. Cllr. Canning agreed with Cllr. Byrne who stated that one of the issues for discussion is the requirement for improved communication to landowners to mitigate issues and that concerns are addressed. Cllr. Canning asked if it is possible to have one team appointed to the Greenway Scheme from its commencement to completion and stated it is necessary to meet landowners one on one to resolve issues.

Cllr. Murphy sought clarification on whether it is possible for Members to have the opportunity to use the MD meetings as a forum for discussion, with subsequent submission of items to the Plenary Council. Cllr. Maher advised that matters were previously discussed at Municipal District Level prior to submission. Cllr. Murphy asked if it is necessary to take action to put a matter on the agenda of the Plenary Meeting, Cllr. Canning requested clarification on the matter also. Ms. Finn provided clarification to the Meeting.

Cllr. Maher referred to a meeting that took place recently in Gort on the Greenway, Cllr. Byrne clarified that the meeting addressed issues raised by landowners in the Gort Area. Cllr. Kinane advised the meeting that the Cllrs. were surprised by how people felt, some people felt upset and under pressure and that they were being railroaded. One of the major concerns she stated, was not to split their lands but to go along the verge of the N67. She stated that an answer had to be provided on this matter.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD2240

Cllr. McClearn enquired regarding hedge trimming particularly on the R446 at Cappataggle, Mr. Haugh advised the meeting that an email issued to all Loughrea MD Councillors last week detailing regulations surrounding hedge cutting. Cllr. Murphy referred to a request for funding towards the cutting of hedges and asked if the service will be reduced in comparison to previous years, Mr. Haugh responded that it is intended to provide a similar level of service to that which has been provided in previous years but that NOM funding contributions from all Councillors will be required to support same.

Mr. Haugh, in response to Cllr. Byrne's query advised that failure to remove dog fouling signage at Omev beach would appear to be an oversight and he has brought this matter to the attention of the Environment Section.

Cllr. Byrne referred to the purchase of 91 houses in Gort by Galway County Council and proposed that the Council engage with relevant groups to progress this matter. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Donohue. Cllr. Murphy stated that the Housing and Planning Sections of Galway County Council should work closely together to reduce delays in progressing housing developments.

Cllr. Kinane expressed her congratulations to the Galway Minors on their All Ireland win last week in Roscommon.

Any Other Business

LMD2241

Mr. Haugh in response to Cllr. Canning's query on waste disposal units advised that facilities at the Marina in Portumna are well managed for campervans and boats visiting the area. Cllr. Canning also enquired regarding the electrical supply for boat users over the winter period being cut off. Mr. Haugh clarified he had sought a response from Waterways Ireland on this matter and they had confirmed that turning off the power is consistent with their approach across all other similar Waterways Ireland managed sites.

Cllr. Canning referred to a dangerous stretch of road on the N65 where there is a series of bends and where adequate road signage is required, he stated a number of accidents have occurred on this stretch and have been reported to An Garda Síochána. He proposed that the Council contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland to carry out a safety inspection of the section of road and he proposed the speed limited at this location be reduced to 80kph. Cllr. McClearn seconded this proposal. Cllr. McClearn advised that a section of the road has been realigned and that road users travel from a good section of roadway to a bad section without any warning. Cllr. Byrne highlighted that upgrading roads can encourage speeding, he advised the meeting that there is a lot of speeding between Clarinbridge and Ballinderreen and stated the additional road signage should be considered. Cllr. Murphy advised that Google GPS directs tourists through Killeenavarragh Cross, Ballinderreen, he said that this is a very dangerous junction and may require additional signage 40/50 yards before the junction to warn road users of the dangerous junction ahead and that road markings should be refreshed/enhanced. Cllr. Byrne advised that the sign directing people to keep left is no longer at the junction. Mr. Haugh advised he will arrange for an inspection of the locations highlighted and the replacement of the sign.

Cllr. Maher advised the meeting that some people are getting confused on entering Caheronaun Estate and drive on the footpath, he asked if signage or a flowerbox could be placed in the area to avoid an accident. Mr. Haugh advised that John Coyle, Executive Engineer will assess the estate regarding this concern.

Cllr. Donohue enquired if deputations are reviewed and referred to the deputation given at the Meeting of 13th June 2022 by Martyn Moran and Pete Gohery on accessibility. Ms.

Ruane advised that the issues raised in deputations are referred to the relevant Section in Galway County Council.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN

P.J. Murphy.

CLLR P.J. MURPHY

CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD

