

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held online via Microsoft Teams on 13th December 2021 @ 2.30 pm

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. G. Donohue

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Ms Ruane, DOS who was not in attendance.

Cllr Donohue welcomed Cllr Kelly, who replaced Cllr Hynes following his retirement from Galway County Council after many years serving as an elected member. All Members wished Cllr Kelly success in his new role and acknowledged Cllr Hynes long service to the Local Authority.

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 1st November 2021 LMD 2153

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 1st November 2021 were proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Kinane, and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes and in reply to Cllr Curley, Mr Haugh stated that there is no separate budget allocation for the existing Skate Park in the Loughrea playground, but he would refer the matter to Corporate Services for consideration. Cllr. Donohue supported Cllr. Curley. Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Byrne that the sequencing of the roads proposed under the 3 Year Multi-Annual Road Programme that he had brought to their attention will be considered further when preparing the 2022 Roads Programme.

Cllr. Byrne to forward on details of road to be taken in charge in Kinvara to Gerard Haugh and Niall Kennedy.

Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road in the townland of Kilcornan

LMD 2154

The Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road was proposed by Cllr Kinane, seconded by Cllr Donohue and agreed by the Members. Details as follows: -

Road continuation of L-41027 (541466, 720302) in the townland of Kilcornan and extending East for 32m, ending opposite start of Palisade fencing (541497, 720301) in the townland of Kilcornan.

Flooding

LMD 2155

Mr. Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follow: -

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – The Environmental Consultant continues to undertake baseline surveys for the production of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Several specialist consultants have been employed to complete technical chapters for the EIAR and NIS, it is anticipated that other service providers will be procured before the end of the year.

The Engineering Consultants continue to examine specific issues that were raised during the course of the Public Consultation. They are also dealing with additional queries from landowners that have arisen during the site investigation works. The Irish Drilling contract is progressing well and on schedule to be completed in February 2022. The results from ground investigation and ground water monitoring will further inform engineering design.

Works on road raising at Owenbristy are well advanced with the 800m of wall construction being completed last week. The construction of the wall took considerably longer than anticipated due to the confined nature of the site. Paving and blacktopping of the road is scheduled to be completed this week. The contractor is on site at present.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed that the issue of a programme had been raised at the last project steering group meeting and a programme was being drafted. It will be circulated to the members via Maria Finn when finalised.

It was confirmed at the meeting that the issue of preparing for winter flooding and emergency events was an issue for the area offices involved. The project team would assist if an event does occur by providing all technical information requested but is not directly involved any preparations or on-site works.

Mr. Gallagher joined members in expressing sympathies at the recent untimely passing of PJ Mahony, who provided the project team with valuable flood information and insights as well as assisting with flood alleviation efforts in Labane over the last number of years.

Staff – Loughrea Municipal District

LMD 2156

Mr Pender confirmed that Mr John Coyle, Senior Executive Engineer would be taking up the position of Loughrea/Portumna Area Engineer in January 2022. He also confirmed that there was a plan in place to identify the staffing needs over the entire County and it is hoped, subject to receipt of funding, to have additional Outdoor staff in each Municipal District over the next 12 to 18 months. Cllr McClearn welcomed the replacement of the Loughrea/Portumna Area Engineer but pointed out that the Loughrea MD had more roads than the entire roads in Oranmore and Tuam MD's together but had far less Outdoor Staff. Cllr. Byrne, Cllr. Donohue, and Cllr. Finnerty also welcome the news.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 2157

It was proposed by Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Curley that the progression of a Link Cycleway from Woodford to Loughrea under the approved Red Route Corridor Cycleway be commenced as soon as possible. Mr Pender stated that the Greenway and Active Travel Team would consider this, and other routes and he also confirmed that bi-monthly updates would be provided to the Members on its progress. Cllr. Kinane commended Mr Pender on the excellent work that was been done with the Greenway and she supported Cllr Murphy request for the bi-monthly updates on the Greenway. Mr Pender also confirmed for Cllr McClearn that a Protocol Document was close to a resolution, it is not intended to sever any farm holdings, but go around the boundaries instead. He also confirmed for Cllr Byrne that he was aware of the land for sale between Dun Guaire Castle and Kinvara. He did not have an update on the handover of Dun Guaire Castle from Shannon Heritage. Mr Pender said he would make enquires re the handover to OPW and Galway County Council.

Mr Pender also stated that it was hoped to establish a new Active Travel and Greenway Team early in 2022. Project Liaison Officers will continue be active early in the New Year on the Athlone to Galway Greenway Route 5. Due to better engagement with the Landowners, a lot of CPO fears have been allayed.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Maher that the Consultant's detailed design on a solution to alleviate flooding on the Dublin Road is expected this week. He would discuss the issues highlighted relating to parking issues, location of pedestrian crossing and associated public lighting at Bride Street and Bohercom during school drop off and collection times directly with him after the meeting.

In response to Cllr Byrne, Mr Haugh stated that work on the Pedestrian Lights in Gort is ongoing. Mr Pender stated that he will enquire further for Cllr Byrne regarding his query on delays in connections by Irish Water due to procurement processes.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Murphy that the road markings in place on the R446 (Ballymana Junction) are consistent with the requirements of the Traffic Signs Manual that would have been current at the time of their installation. This is a former National Route and traffic volumes would have decreased in recent years A review of this location had also been undertaken in previous years. He also confirmed for Cllr Donohue that, in line with previous years, work is progressing on hedge-cutting in the Municipal District.

Cllr Donohue wished all a very Happy Christmas and thanked all the staff for their co-operation throughout the year.

It was proposed that the next meeting of the Loughrea Municipal District would take place on Monday 24th January 2022 at 2.30 pm.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN


CLLR GERALDINE DONOHUE
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD

Deputation by Dr Robert Newett on Road Safety in Loughrea

Dr Robert Newett addressed the members regarding his concerns for Road Safety in Loughrea, particularly on the Old Galway Road and the Gort Road.

He stated that due to Speeding, On Street Parking, Large Traffic Volumes and Pedestrians that Traffic Calming Measures are required. In order to reduce the risk to the community living on the Old Galway Road, he requests that ramps and traffic calming measures to reduce speed and ensure overall safety. He also requests that consideration be given to improved public lighting on the Old Galway Road.

Following a discussion on Dr Newett's presentation, Mr Haugh agreed that a Traffic and Speed Survey will be carried out but the ultimate responsibility for speed control rested with the Gardai.