

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 @ 11 am.

#### LATHAIR:

**Cathaoirleach**

Cllr. G. Donohue

**Bail:**

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

**Oifigigh:**

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer  
Mr. N. Kennedy, Executive Engineer  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer  
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

**Leithscéalta:**

Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer

The Members extended sympathies to Cllr Canning on the death of his mother Mrs Josephine Canning, RIP and his Aunt Maura Walker, RIP.

Sympathies were also extended to Brendan Sheehy, AE on the death of his mother Lynette Sheehy, RIP, the Fallon Family on the death of Mrs Helen Fallon, RIP the Treacy family on the death of former Cllr, TD and Junior Minister Noel Treacy, RIP and the Kitt family on the death of Mrs Bridie Kitt, RIP. Sympathies were expressed by Cllr. Donohue to Cllr. Kelly and his partner Aisling on the death of Aisling sister Catherine Sheehy, Cormican, Kilchreest.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2022** **LMD 2204**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were proposed by Cllr Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Kinane and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes, Ms Ruane confirmed for Cllr Curley that funding in the region of €10,000 for the repair of the Skatepark in the Loughrea Playground was now in place and Mr Haugh would update the Members regarding the schedule of repairs.

Cllr Kinane thanked Ms Finn for organising a meeting with the Economic Unit regarding an update on walking trails in Kilcornan and Cow Park. The issues around the lighting of walking trails for the safety of the public has been referred to Derek Pender, Director. Cllr Kinane also stated we should examine the Outdoor Recreation Funding for lighting on trails

#### **Flooding Update**

**LMD 2205**

Mr. Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows: -

**South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS** – The Environmental Consultant continues to undertake baseline surveys to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The Marine Institute has commenced the 3D salinity modelling of Kinvara Bay.

The Engineering Consultants continue to examine local hydraulic models. Results from the ground investigation contract are being examined on an ongoing basis. The four road closures scheduled to be undertaken between 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March have been granted.

Cllr Finnerty requested that a meeting be held between the project team and some local representatives from Termon that had been in contact with him recently. Cllr Finnerty is to forward details. Mr Gallagher outlined that Termon is a location where no houses flood and the benefit of works are marginal. The solution at this location will not bring flood waters directly to sea by means of improved channels.

#### **Kinvara Pier Survey**

**LMD 2206**

Cllr Byrne expressed his concerns regarding the current condition of the Pier at Kinvara and requested an update following the Richard Browne report received last year. He requested that Galway County Council seek funding for structural repair work and prevention on the Pier. Mr Mitchell confirmed that he would refer the matter for report to Ms Fiona Holland. Cllrs Murphy and Kinane also requested a report on the Black Wire Pier as there were outstanding repairs due to the crack in the pier wall. Mr Mitchell stated that he would bring the matter to Ms Hollands attention.

#### **Traffic Lights at Hennelly's Corner, Gort**

**LMD 2207**

Mr Mitchell outlined for the Members the layout of the new Pedestrian Crossing at Hennelly's Corner. He confirmed that the crossing was in accordance with the guidelines and design regulations and acknowledged the Members concerns. A Road Safety Audit in its current new format will be undertaken but he requested a period of 2 to 3 weeks observation at the junction before removing the crossing in order that road users and pedestrians adjust to the new layout. He also stated that traffic lights at this junction would cause further delays than the pedestrian crossing installed.

#### **Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD 2208**

Cllr Donohue requested that repairs be carried out to the 7 Eye Bridge on R380, following damage from an accident at the weekend. Cllr McClearn requested an update for the next meeting on the Kilmeen junction as there are still safety issues at this junction. Mr Mitchell agreed to have the signage at Powers Cross, R352 investigated following a serious accident at this location.

All Members expressed concern regarding the non-engagement with landowners from the Greenway Team and requested face to face meetings with the Design Team to allay the fears of the concerned landowners.

Ms Ruane confirmed that she would request Mr Melody to email drawings of the Gort Civic Amenity Park to the Members.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Byrne that he would contact Corporate Services and request an update regarding his proposal for the development of playing pitches at Station Road, Gort.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Murphy that he would investigate the matter of new footpaths for the Railway Stations at Craughwell and Ardahan.

Cllr Curley thanked Ms Fiona Holland for the Temporary Speed Limit Sign for Kilcooley N.S. He also requested that the issue of Dog Fouling on the streets be highlighted, and an Awareness campaign be pursued. Ms. Ruane states that she is part of the sub-committee formed by the LGMA to examine various approaches to tackle dog fouling and make recommendations to CCMA what resources are needs. Environment Section will be doing its own Dog Fouling Campaign.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Finnerty that he would investigate his concerns regarding the supervision of the Contractor working on the opening of water tables on Regional Roads. Cllr Finnerty also requested that Irish Rail be contacted about proper signage on the Castletown Bridge. Mr Mitchell stated that he would contact the Area Office and revert to him regarding commencement of work at Carheeney, Ennis Road, Gort.

Ms Ruane stated for Cllr Canning that she would follow up with Mike Melody, his request to investigate the possibility of an extension in Ballinakill Graveyard and the securing of land for same. It was proposed by Cllr Curley and seconded by Cllr Donohue to have this matter on the agenda for discussion at the next Loughrea MD Meeting

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Canning that he would follow up with the Area Office the removal of trees overhanging the footpath on the approach road to Portumna Church. Mr Mitchell will also contact the OPW regarding Cllr Cannings complaint concerning the switching off the power at the Portumna Marina for boat users at certain times of the year.

Cllr Kinane stated that she would welcome a meeting with Galway County Council and Kilcolgan Community Development Association to discuss a pedestrian crossing for Kilcolgan and other road safety issues. She also sought update on Clarinbridge pedestrian crossing. Mr Mitchell will request an update from the T.I.I

Cllr Maher expressed his disappointment that he had not received any communication to his proposal at previous meetings that Loughrea would be a spur off the Greenway Route, and he requested a meeting with the Team to discuss this and the need for better communication with landowners on this route.

Ms Ruane agreed to resolve the issue of all Cllrs gaining admission to every department in County Hall with the fobs allocated to them.

Cllr Maher also requested that the next meeting which would include the Roads Programme for 2022 be held in person in County Hall. Cllr Curley requested that he be facilitated with online access to this meeting if it took place while he would be out of the country.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Donohue that additional bins for Gort were on order. He would bring her request for additional public lighting to the Area Engineer.

Ms Ruane also confirmed for Cllr Donohue that she would have an update on Loughrea Town Hall for the next meeting.

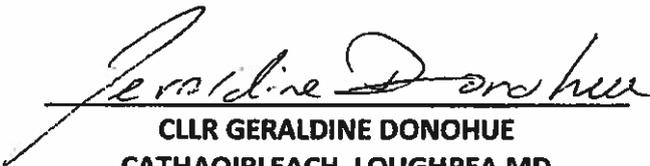
**A.O.B.**

**LMD 2209**

Mr Mitchell stated for the Members that until notice from the Department is received regarding the Roads Allocation, a date cannot be set for the next meeting.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Kinane that he would investigate the deterioration of the Stradbally East Road following works last year.

**CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN**

  
**CLLR GERALDINE DONOHUE**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**