

## 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 Galway Council Chamber on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 11.00 am

#### I LATHAIR:

**Cathaoirleach**

Cllr. P.J. Murphy,

**Baill:**

Cllr's. G. Donohue, M. Kinane, I. Canning, J. McClearn, G Finnerty, D. Kelly

**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  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. M. Flynn, Administrative Officer  
Ms. S. Cleary, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Shane Curley, Moegie Maher and Joe Byrne.

Cllr. McClearn extended congratulations to Ms. Maria Flynn on the occasion of her marriage.

Cllr. Murphy clarified, with respect to the delegation held at the Municipal District meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, that he had received two emails from Ms. Angela Quinn. He advised that the Agenda circulated to all Members which included notification of the delegation was correct and responsibility for missing the deputation rested solely with the Councillors.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held in the Loughrea Chamber on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022** **LMD2252**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Donohue and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Donohue stated that the Greenway is very much still on the agenda and advised that a further meeting between the Director of Services, Project Team and Members has been arranged. She advised that a further meeting has been held in Ballinderreen and stated that

Cllr. Byrne has a motion going to the Plenary Council regarding communications to homeowners and landowners along the route and how their queries will be dealt with.

Cllr. Kinane stated expressed that she was happy with the Greenway meeting held with Mr. Pender and the Project Team. She stated that she put down a motion to see if the project team will meet with homeowners and landowners. She stated that she hopes at the meeting in December a lot of issues will be dealt with.

Cllr. Murphy enquired if there has been any progress regarding the extension of the footpath in Ardrahan and asked if it can be considered through a NOM (Notice of Motion).

He also enquired if there was any feedback regarding the building of 10 housing units in Ardrahan. Ms. Finn stated that she would follow up on this matter and revert.

### **Flooding Update**

**LMD2253**

Mr. Enda Gallagher updated the meeting as follows: -

**South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS** – The Engineering consultant is advancing design proposals for the N67 culvert at Dungaire and recently submitted detailed design proposals to Irish Rail. Last week the consultant met with Clare County Council to discuss the road raising and culvert works that have been identified in County Clare. Construction methodologies are being prepared for the EIAR. Irish Drilling are back on site at present, in Kiltartan and Caherglassaun completing the last of the Ground Investigation works.

The Environmental Consultants is examining the last of the feedback from the site visits undertaken by the project agronomist. The second winter birds survey is in progress. Baseline noise surveys are scheduled to commence in the coming weeks. Habitat mapping, which will inform the requirement or otherwise for weirs on the scheme, is currently being finalised.

Following on for a request for a programme update at the last MD meeting, Mr. Gallagher advised that the CBA for the scheme will be reviewed in March, the Options Assessment Report will be completed in April and the EIAR is scheduled to be completed in July. Exhibition is currently programmed for July 2023.

Mr. Gallagher outlined to the meeting that there are third party programme risks to the project (Irish Rail, TII & NRPO). There are still very real environmental and cost benefit risks to the project as a whole.

**Ballyboy** – Mr Gallagher confirmed that overlay works on the Ballyboy road are to commence next week and will last for 3-4 days. He confirmed to Cllr Murphy that the option of cladding the concrete blocks will be reviewed when the overlay works have been completed.

**CFRAM Progress Report** – Mr Gallagher confirmed that the OPW had responded to his request for an update and confirmed that:

*'In due course and when resources allow, a brief will be developed to progress a Flood Relief Scheme for Portumna, including environmental assessment and further public consultation, for refinement and preparation for planning / exhibition and if appropriate, implementation of a Flood Relief Scheme'.*

Mr Gallagher told the meeting that the OPW had informed LA staff involved in flood relief schemes that there was no funding issue with progressing Tranche 2 CFRAM schemes. At a national level there are capacity issues with the OPW, LA's, consultants and contractors being able to deliver this ambitious programme. The limited resources are currently engaged in the Tranche 1 schemes. The OPW delivered thirty ADA schemes between 1995 and 2018. Under CFRAM they are to deliver ninety schemes in ten years.

Cllr. McClearn stated his concern regarding a lack of progress in the Ballinasloe area with respect to flooding, as he stated that the Shannon is rising quickly. Cllr. Finnerty stated that in South Galway the water levels are very high and that flooding can become a problem if storms are experienced.

Cllr. Kinane stated that she didn't realise cleaning of water gullies was not contained in the Winter Service Plan and asked if this is something that can be looked at.

Ms. Lowe confirmed that the Department of Transport operate a special scheme to help assist with flooding issues; the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Scheme. In 2022 Galway County Council received approximately €1 million in funding. The Local Authority may submit a list of proposals of various types eg, raising roads, improving drainage systems, unsplicing pipes etc.

Ms. Lowe extended her thanks to the Loughrea MD engineering staff for their comprehensive report of schemes to address specific items and she advised that the Department will decide on the schemes which will have funding allocated to them. She advised Councillors that there is also a general drainage maintenance scheme allowing monies to be used for gullies, drains, etc

Cllr. Canning advised that the OPW are carrying out works in the Portumna Area and requested the team to go to the area to see the works, he stated that the Shannon is very high at the minute and there is a lot of concern regarding flooding as there is nowhere for the water to go. Mr. Gallagher agreed to visit the area.

**Proposed Taking in Charge – The Cloisters, Loughrea, Co. Galway**

**LMD2254**

The taking in charge of the road at The Cloisters, Loughrea, Co. Galway was proposed by Cllr. Finnerty and seconded by Cllr. Canning and agreed by the Members.

Road commencing at its junction with L-4199 in the townland of Caherwalter and extending north for 57m ending at Point B in the townland of Caherwalter.

**Proposed Taking in Charge – The Maltings, Loughrea, Co. Galway**

**LMD2255**

The taking in charge of the road at The Maltings, Loughrea, County Galway was proposed by Cllr. McClearn and Seconded by Cllr. Donohue. Point A-B-C on TIC Map, Road commencing at it's junction with R-380 in the townland of Cosmona and extending north for 77m and extending east 37m to point B and turning north a distance 70m ending at point C in the townland of Cosmona.

Road commencing at it's junction with A-C in the townland of Cosmona and extending south for 79m ending at point C in the townland of Cosmona.

Cllr. McClearn enquired if consideration can be given to the Council taking in charge lights in housing estates as, he said, it can be complicated for residents to arrange for engaging a contractor to maintain public lights in an estate. Ms. Lowe responded by advising that the costs involved are significantly high and due to bond matters it may not be feasible to decouple this from the other assets to be taken in charge, as may have been done in the past. She advised that she will follow up with a formal response.

### **Cathaoirleach's Business**

**LMD2256**

Cllr. McClearn stated that when Galway County Council entered a contract with Electric Skyline faults when reported were dealt with within 10 working days, he stated that this does not appear to be the case now and enquired of the duration of time remaining in the contract. Ms. Lowe responded that it is disappointing to hear of a decline in service and she will ensure contact is made with Electric Skyline regarding service delivery.

In response to Cllr. Kinane query on the Climate Change Adaptation Scheme, Ms. Lowe advised that she would circulate an outline of the scheme to the Members. Cllr. Kinane stated she is aware of areas prone to flooding and would like them to be included.

Cllr. Kinane stated that she is aware that hedge cutting is completed by contractors and enquired if the Council is getting the best value in the timeframe that's required, she highlighted that hedge cutting has not been done to date in Maree or the hinterlands. She said that the Council is promoting active travel and children walking or cycling to school but is aware that some footpaths are impassable due to overgrown hedges causing children to walk or cycle onto the road. She stated that she allocated NOM funding to hedge cutting and is willing to make a further allocation if necessary and she stated that hedge cutting at the beginning of December is too late. Ms. Lowe advised that the level of funding available to the Council for cutting hedges does not facilitate all hedges to be cut and the MDs have to complete works as the funding allows. Mr. Haugh further advised that hedge cutting starts at one of the Engineering Area and proceeds across that area until works are complete, e.g. from South to North. This has been the practise for several years and the pattern is reversed eachyear e.g. to commence in the North side of the area working towards the South..

In response to Cllr. Kinane's query regarding the possibility for the road sweeper to enter all estates which the Council have taken in charge, Mr. Haugh advised that funding has only been made available for the road sweeper to maintain the main streets in towns and villages in the Municipal District.

### **Any Other Business**

**LMD2257**

Cllr. Canning referred to the condition of the Newline-Carra-Ballinakill road which he stated is flooded, has a number of potholes and has deteriorated over the last twelve months and requires attention. Mr. Haugh advised that Mr. John Coyle, Executive Engineer would review this area.

Cllr. Canning also advised the meeting that the hedging inside the old school wall in Portumna is badly overgrown and is causing people to walk on the road.

Cllr. Canning stated that there is still a problem with the Eircode in the Coos area as it registered on Google as a Clare or Limerick address resulting in deliveries not being made, Ms. Finn advised that the matter had been queried with An Post who stated the matter has been resolved but that she will follow up further on same. Cllr. McClearn advised that he has been made aware of similar issues regarding the Eircode for the Coos area.

Cllr. Murphy sought clarification in relation to the response times for attendance in Gort Town in the event of a flooding event.. Mr. Haugh advised that there is an Emergency Flood Plan in place for the Gort area and an annual review of this plan is carried out.

Cllr. Kelly enquired if the Municipal District was aware of the Minister's visit to Portumna Castle, he stated, a very important opportunity for Councillors to meet with a sitting Minister was missed it and further stated all Councillors should be notified of such visits. He advised that he has an interest in heritage and was disappointed to have missed the opportunity, he stated that he welcomed the visit of any sitting Minister at any heritage site. Cllr. McClearn advised that he was advised of the visit by Fine Gael organiser and understood the visit was arranged by the OPW. He stated a similar visit took place previously with Waterways Ireland but Galway County Council had no involvement which was disappointing. Cllr. McClearn requested Ms. Flynn to correspond with Waterways Ireland in this regard and to ensure that the Members of Galway County Council were notified of upcoming similar events. Cllr. Murphy stated that when the Craughwell flood relief scheme was opened by the Minister, the Loughrea MD members were invited. Cllr. Kelly stated that he will be issuing a press release in respect of the matter he raised.

Cllr. Kinane stated that she was not advised of the extension of time for the submission of proposals regarding Beach Byelaws and as a result had given inaccurate information to a member of the public, she advised it is hugely important that accurate information is circulated to Members. Ms. Ruane advised that the members should have been notified and she will follow up on this matter. Cllr. Kinane advised that there are six thousand submissions at present, Ms. Ruane clarified for Cllr. Murphy that the Members will have an opportunity to discuss same.

In response to Cllr. Murphy's request, Ms. Lowe stated that she will liaise with the staff involved in preparing the list of LIS Schemes and will revert with an update..

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**CLLR P.J. MURPHY**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**

