

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach *Municipal District of LOUGHREA*

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held
remotely via Microsoft teams on 20th September 2021 @ 11 am.**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. G. Donohue

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer;
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. N. Kennedy, Executive Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. B. McDonagh, Executive Engineer;
Mr A. Cunningham, Staff Officer;
Ms. A. Quinn, Senior Staff Officer;
Ms. G. Quirke, Staff Officer;
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Cllr Maher who was not in attendance.

Cllr Donohue expressed sympathies on behalf of the Members to Cllr Maher and his family on the death of his brother in law, Mr Des Coen. Sympathies were also conveyed by the members of the Municipal District to the Kilboy and Cleary families on the passing of Mrs Chris Kilboy, Funeral Director in Loughrea.

Cllr Donohoe welcomed Mr. Niall Kennedy, Executive Engineer to the Loughrea Municipal District who has taken over from Feidhlim McGillycuddy in the Gort area Office.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on
12th July 2021** **LMD 2138**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 12th July 2021 were proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr McClearn and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes, Ms Ruane agreed to provide an update to the members regarding the Town Hall and Kilmeen Cross at the request of Cllr McClearn.

Flooding Update

LMD 2139

Mr Gallagher updated the meeting as follows: -

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – The Environmental Consultant has commenced baseline surveys to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Many of the surveys have already commenced and will be completed by early 2022. The wintering birds' surveys will run from Oct 2021 to March 2022. The EIAR is scheduled to be completed in June 2022.

The Engineering Consultants are reviewing submissions made during the recent public consultation. In some cases, this has involved additional hydraulic modelling. Findings from some of the environmental surveys are required before certain engineering proposals can be finalised.

Providing the scheme remains environmentally acceptable and cost beneficial, it is currently scheduled to go to Exhibition in Q3 of 2022.

Road raising works identified as part of the scheme, at Owenbristy, are scheduled to commence next week and will take nearly a month to complete.

Cllr Byrne requested that a programme be provided for the full scheme up to the completion of works and asked that it is provided to both local representatives and members of the SGFRC.

Cllr Murphy asked that the historically significant milestone and horse watering trough at Owenbristy be protected during the upcoming road raising works

Dunkellin – The OPW have completed all works on the Dunkellin River and Aggard Stream flood relief scheme. The OPW are currently vacating their depot in Craughwell. Landowner compensation payments are progressing on the scheme with most claims expected to be settled before the end of this year.

Cllr Kinnane requested a description of how claims were dealt with on the scheme. Mr Gallagher outlined the main headings under which compensation was paid, how both claimants and the Council had separate valuers acting on their behalf and how claims were submitted to the Council when all works were finished on a landowner holding.

Cllrs Byrne and Murphy indicated they were not satisfied with the contents of the Tobin report on Ballyboy. Mr Gallagher requested that any requests for clarifications are submitted to him by email in the near future, as Tobin's contract with GCC will cease in a few months' time, with the wind up of the main Dunkellin Project.

Kinvara Floodgate Scheme: -

Mr. McDonagh updated the meeting on the Kinvara Floodgate scheme – The installation works had commenced on the 12th July, and 95% of the work has now been completed. One barrier is to be installed along with minor snags on the week beginning the 4th October.

Portumna Floodgate scheme: -

At the June meeting of the Loughrea MD there was a request from the members that a formal letter be sent to the OPW requesting confirmation on the financing of tranche 2 CFRAMS projects which Portumna is part of. Mr. McDonagh confirmed that this letter had been sent in July and that communication had been received back from the OPW last week advising that the timeframe for tranche 2 funding is being reviewed internally in the OPW.

The letter also requested confirmation that parts of the Portumna Flood Relief Scheme be carried out on a minor works application/feasibility report. A response to this request has yet to be received from the OPW.

Mr. McDonagh added that there had been a recent meeting with the OPW Hydrometric Station Section to review a newly installed hydrometric gauge at the river Corrib with a view to preparing a formal request to the OPW to install a gauge at Portumna bridge.

Taking in Charge of Bruach an Chaladh, Portumna**LMD 2140**

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Bruach an Chaladh estate has gone through the TIC process and they had assessed all the snags that needed to be carried out to bring the estate to a suitable standard for taking in charge. He added that Irish Water had been engaged with in relation to the aspects that will be transferring to them and they are satisfied with same, therefore the Council were able to recommend the taking in charge of the estate based on the works that are outstanding by the TIC section.

Cllr McClearn and Cllr Hynes welcomed that another estate within the Municipal District was in a position to be taken in charge and that great credit was due to the TIC team in the Council for their work in the progressing such projects for the benefit of the residents of such estates.

The taking in charge of the Bruach an Chaladh estate, Portumna was proposed by Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr McClearn and agreed by the members. Details as follows: -

Point A-B on TIC Map

Road commencing at its junction with L4332 in the townland of Portumna and extending South East for a distance of 50m, changing to a North Easterly direction for a distance of 23m to Point B and ending outside house No 1 in the townland of Portumna.

Cathaoirleach's Business**LMD 2141**

It was proposed by Cllr Donohue and agreed by the Members to issue a letter from Loughrea MD to Inter County Hurler Joe Canning wishing him well on his retirement and express thanks and appreciation for his many successful years on the hurling field representing Galway.

On behalf of Cllr Maher, Cllr McClearn requested the postponement of Cllr Curley's motion regarding the Garden of Remembrance for discussion until the October meeting. All members agreed.

Cllr Byrne commented that while he agreed with the content of the Cllr Donohoe's notice of motion in regard to the necessary repair of a road, he questioned if it was appropriate to submit a motion in regard to such an issue and suggested the matter should be dealt with through the Area Office directly. Cllr Donohue clarified that it was a particular section of the road she was referring to that was in very poor condition and needed actioning following numerous representations that she had received regarding it. Mr Mitchell stated that there was 2,000 kms of road in the Loughrea Municipal District to maintain and the area office staff are doing an excellent job on carrying out repair work done that is brought to their attention. He also stated that the Multi Annual Programme was currently being prepared and submissions were requested from Members by the end of September 2021.

A.O.B.

LMD 2142

Cllr Murphy expressed his concerns regarding the implementation of the Pollinator Plan over the summer and felt that the desired environmental and biodiversity benefits had not been achieved. Mr Mitchell stated that it was a work in progress and was the first year of its operation. He acknowledged that it was difficult to find the balance regarding those that felt that the Council were cutting sufficiently or too much. He said there would be a review of the Pollinator Plan between now and Christmas in each of the Municipal Districts and would look to refining the plans for 2022. Cllr Byrne asked that the area offices employ additional resources for a short period of time to get hedgecutting done as quickly as possible. He felt that there were some roads within the district that could not afford to wait 2-3 months to get hedgecutting done on. Cllr Byrne also welcomed the recent grant of planning permission for the Riverwalk footbridge in Gort. Cllr Kinane asked that the issue of hedgecutting be prioritised and that the members consider a full discussion on the matter and questioned if the allocation of NOM monies could assist with alleviating the issues that have been experienced. Gerard Haugh confirmed for the members that there were separate contractors employed to cut verges/hedges for National and Regional Roads and Local Roads. He also clarified that Landowners were primarily responsible for the cutting of hedges on their land. Mr Mitchell stated that there were 7000km of road in the County, 2000 km of which are in the Loughrea MD and more funding is required for the considerable costs involved in hedgecutting of these roads. Cllr Donohue agreed to bring the issue of funding up at the next SPC meeting.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Byrne that there were delays with the Contractor carrying out the work at Hennelly's Cross, Gort and Ennis Road but it was hoped to commence work in approximately 4 weeks. Cllr McClearn commented that Contractors that are not capable of getting the work done in a reasonable time frame should not be requested to quote for future work. Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Byrne that the tendering process was ongoing about the Transportation Plan for Kinvara and Oranmore. Funding for same was coming through the Active Travel measures. In regard to the issue of a provision of a carpark in Kinvara as part of the Transportation Plan for Kinvara, Mr Mitchell stated that there has been a site identified and they have spoken to local landowners recently who have requested time to consider. He

added that the final location of any carpark in Kinvara would be dependent and contingent on the Transportation Plan.

Cllr Curley asked for an update on the skate ramp in Loughrea playground following the discussion at the July meeting. Cllr Donohoe read out a response received from Noel Costello in Corporate Services in regard to this matter which confirmed that a quote had been received for the repairs to one piece of equipment but that there may be a need to replace or repair the other pieces of equipment in the skatepark, due to wear and tear. Corporate Services would need to look at other sources of funding for these repairs as the playground maintenance budget could not be used for these repairs. The issue of the skate park would be raised further with Michaels Owens, Director of Services. Cllr Donohoe added that she had asked for further information in regard to the cost of the repairs needed to repair the ramp in the park. In response to Cllr Curley's query, Mr. Haugh stated that it would not be appropriate to use NOM towards the skate park.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Canning that his request for a footpath from the Marina in Portumna to the Castle Gate could be progressed through funding that could become available and agreed that connectivity to the Marina was important.

Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Curley to submit a request to Corporate Services about the provision of a wheelchair Swing for the Loughrea Playground. Cllr Curley's request for a reduced speed limit at Kilcooley N.S. would be referred to TII as this matter related to a National Route and the prior written consent of TII must be obtained prior to proposing Special Speed Limit Byelaws relating to national roads.

Cllr Kinane requested that Clarinbridge Oyster Themed Experience be put on the Agenda for the October MD Meeting. Mr Mitchell also confirmed for Cllr Kinane that the Cycle Way from Kilcolgan to Clarenbridge would be a matter for TII to progress as this location formed part of the N67 national road.

In the absence of Cllr Maher, Cllr Donohoe informed the members on his behalf of his request to the members that the public convenience at the Long Point swimming facilities remain open during the winter season to facilitate year-round swimmers. Mr Haugh confirmed that the Disabled Toilet only would be kept open on a trial basis.

The next meeting of the Loughrea MD will take place on the 11th October 2021 at 11 am.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN


CLLR GERALDINE DONOHOE DONOHOE
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD