

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 on 8 March 2021 @ 10am.

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. M Maher

Baill:

Cllr's. G. Donohue, PJ Murphy,
J. Byrne, M. Kinane, I. Canning, J. McClearn,
S. Curley.

Oifigigh:

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services;
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer;
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer;
Mr. F. McGillicuddy, Area Engineer;
Mr. B. Sheehy, Assistant Engineer;
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer;
Ms C. Ryan, Assistant Scientist;
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer;
Ms. A Quinn, Senior Staff Officer;
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies from Cllr Finnerty who was unable to attend.

Cllr Maher welcomed all to the first remotely held Municipal District meeting on International Women's Day.

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 15th February 2021

LMD 2108

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Loughrea MD held on 15th February 2021 were proposed by Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Donohue and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes, Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr Byrne that the work on the 'cat' eyes on the R446 would be completed after the permanent re-instatement works which were commencing shortly were carried out. Mr Mitchell clarified for Cllr Byrne that a budget of €30,000 for the municipal district for footpath renewal/repair was approved for 2021. Ms. Ruane stated that she would arrange for the Tourism Officer to attend the next meeting of the LMD. Cllr McClearn expressed his concerns regarding the division of €150,000 between

the municipal districts and as Loughrea is the largest municipal district, he felt they were losing out on funding. Cllr Maher agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting.

Flooding Update

LMD 2109

Mr. Gallagher updated the meeting as follow: -

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – the Options Public Consultation commenced on the 26th February and there has already been good engagement from the public. The engagement will be open until the 3rd April. Telephone calls and emails are being responded to within a week of receipt, the project team are happy to communicate by telephone, email or by post with contact details prominently displayed on the webpage.

Due to current Covid restrictions, site meetings with the public will be severely restricted. Mr Gallagher will refer back to Cllrs Murphy and Byrne with regards to their specific requests for same.

Dunkellin – OPW staff returned to site late last week. Two culverts on the Aggard Stream and the remaining fish counter works downstream of Rinn bridge are the only substantial works remaining on the scheme. The OPW are currently undertaking landowner accommodation works. All outstanding works and compensation payments associated with the scheme will be finalised before the end of this year. Mr Gallagher confirmed for Cllr Donohue that people could write in, contact the office by telephone or email the Council.

Coillte Ireland

LMD 2110

Ms Finn advised that Mr Donlon, Coillte Representative was unavailable for today's meeting and Ms Finn gave the following update: *"Coillte are not currently considering a car park at this location. We are currently awaiting the outcome of a planning application for approval to develop the walks in this area by linking our existing forest roads and tracks to proposed new paths through the Brothers of Charity lands and the Car park which is owned by Galway County Council. This facility if approved would have the benefit of parking at a minimum of four locations and would spread the footfall over a much wider area.*

Due to Covid 19 we have found that usage of Coillte sites is much increased, but we feel that this will reduce somewhat when other facilities re-open as the risk from the disease recedes hopefully in the fairly near future."

Ms Finn agreed to forward Mr. Donlon's contact details to all the Members.

Taking in Charge Abbeyfields Estate, Loughrea, Co. Galway

LMD 2111

The Declaration of a road to be a public road was proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr Donohue and agreed as follows: -

Abbeyfields Estate, Loughrea

Point A-B-C-D-E-F on TIC Map:

- Road commencing at its junction with L-4228 (Formerly R350) in the townland of Cosmona and extending West for a distance of 243m and turning North for a distance of 96m and ending at point F in the townland of Cosmona.

Point B-G on TIC Map:

- Road commencing at its junction with A-C in the Townland of Cosmona and extending South for a distance of 23m, ending outside house No. 4 in the townland of Cosmona.

Point C-H on TIC Map:

- Road commencing at its junction with B-D in the Townland of Cosmona and extending South for a distance of 23m, ending outside house No. 8 in the townland of Cosmona.

Point D-I on TIC Map:

- Road commencing at its junction with C-E in the Townland of Cosmona and extending South for a distance of 23m, ending outside house No. 10 in the townland of Cosmona.

Point E-J on TIC Map:

Road commencing at its junction with D-F in the Townland of Cosmona and extending North-West for a distance of 12m, ending at point J in the townland of Cosmona/Abbeyfields Estate, Loughrea

Point A-B-C-D-E-F on TIC Map.

Mr Mitchell advised the meeting that it was developer driven and not Council driven. Cllr McClearn expressed concern that it is now a public road, and this raised a question about the new proposed development (Cosmona) using the road as an outlet. Ms Ruane agreed to forward Cllr McClearn's concerns regarding the development adjoining Abbeyfields Estate to the Senior Planner when she is considering the development application.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 2112

Cllr Kinane's motion for the Water Safety Officer to investigate a safe location at Rinville Pier for swimming in order that a lifeguard can be appointed was discussed. Cllr Kinane expressed her concerns regarding the Risk Assessment and wanted a review to be undertaken to reach a solution that people could swim safely. The Rinville Pier Users Group have identified a bathing area which is past the entrance to the Galway Bay Sailing Club. There is more than 100 people swimming there daily.

Cllr Donohue requested clarity regarding ownership of the pier. Both Cllr Kinane and Donohue raised the issue of the signage that was taken down. Ms Ruane confirmed for Cllr Donohue that she would investigate the issue of ownership of the Pier. At the request of Cllrs

Kinane and Cllr Donohue, Ms Ruane would also bring to the attention of the Water Safety Officer the matter of signage which had been removed.

Cllr Maher welcomed Ms Ryan to the meeting and requested clarification regarding the Risk Assessment findings for Rinville Pier.

Ms Ryan advised that meeting that Galway County Council currently monitor 26 bathing areas in the county and the water quality information in relation to these locations is available at www.beaches.ie. Thirteen of these beaches are designated under the Bathing Water Regulations, 2008. Under these regulations, local authorities are required to facilitate public participation in the identification of new bathing waters. The EPA have prepared a guidance document for the public entitled "*Public Advice on the Identification of New Bathing Waters*". This includes a template for submission of information in relation to proposed new bathing areas. The information to be submitted includes surveys of the number of bathers and details in relation to facilities and access.

Local authorities are obliged to maintain records of public participation in relation to bathing areas. To date, Ms Ryan has received written queries from three members of the public in relation to the designation of Rinville Pier as an official bathing area. In response, a copy of the EPA guidance document was sent out and advised that they make a submission on the template provided. As part of the Council's response, Ms Ryan advised that our monitoring budget is very limited but that any submission received would be reviewed. She was informed that a local community group are preparing a submission but to date it has not been received.

The EPA have also provided a guidance document for local authorities for use when reviewing submissions. It is noted in the guidance document that safety is a key consideration and local authorities are advised to obtain and consider any risk assessment carried out by Irish Water Safety when considering designation of a bathing water. It is Ms Ryan's understanding that an audit has been carried out by Irish Water Safety for Rinville Pier and that the assessor advised that it was unsafe for swimming.

In response to the Motion, Ms Ryan would advise the community to make a submission for the location they propose to put forward as a bathing area as a first step. Ms Ryan will circulate the EPA guidance document to Cllr Kinane.

To conclude, there are two issues – Water Safety and Water Quality.

Ms Ryan confirmed for Cllr Byrne that regarding the monitoring of water quality at Kinvara and other locations after heavy rain, wastewater discharge doesn't have full U.V. treatment.

Ms Ruane thanked Ms Ryan for her report. Ms Ruane stated that a Risk Assessment had been undertaken and there was no safe area to swim. Therefore, we have a duty of care to abide by the Risk Assessment. She will discuss with Mr Farrell and Mr Coogan and will revert.

Cllr Curley's motion that Galway County Council's Housing Department endeavour to install community CCTV in Fahy Gardens, St Laurence's Fields and Carraig Alainn estates was discussed. Residents of the estate are willing to contribute money towards the community scheme, which is 40%. Cllr Curley asked how much the scheme would cost the residents.

Cllr Byrne expressed his concerns at the costings of this scheme, and it would be unfair to expect the residents to pay for it. Cllr Mc Clearn also raised concerns and asked the question why Galway County Council's Housing Section could not apply for the funding as the Council has a duty of care to its Tenants. In response Ms. Ruane advised if there is any incidence of Anti-Social Behaviour, it is the role of the Housing Liaison Officer to deal with same. She agreed that Ms Finn will circulate to the members details of the scheme and notice of motion re same.

Cllr Maher agreed that it was very costly to install the CCTV camera and the Council does not have the funding for this. He also highlighted the issue surrounding GDPR and the use of CCTV for illegal dumping.

Cllr Curley did not think it was a waste of money and that the residents need support and costs should not be a barrier.

Ms Ruane advised Cllr McClearn regarding his motion to employ a Conservation Architect on a pilot basis that, even though the motion had great merit, Galway County Council do not have the funds for such a scheme, however the Council's reply to motion was highlighting the funding options that were available.

Cllr's Canning and McClearn requested the figures for work carried out on the refurbishment of 3 houses in Killimor from the Housing Department. Mr Haugh confirmed for Cllr McClearn that funding for the flooding issue at East Point had been sought with a view to carrying out work at the end of the year. Mr Mitchell agreed to discuss the issue of speeding in estates in Portumna with Cllr McClearn.

Mr Mitchell confirmed for Cllr Byrne that the appointment of a technical person for the Municipal District and outdoor staff was progressing.

Ms Ruane stated in response to Cllr Byrne's query that there is a working group in place for the roll out of the 2019 Waste Presentation byelaws. Work will commence on the Section 34C Register when the IT system is in place to map out all information received from the Waste Collectors. She also advised that there will be an action plan setting out the details. Cllr. Byrne requested that this plan be presented at the next meeting. Interviews for Waste Enforcement Officers is taking place shortly

The development of the bill to enable Local Authorities to use CCTV footage for waste prosecutions is ongoing in the Department.

In response to Cllr Maher, Mr Mitchell stated that due to current Level 5 restrictions, the public were discouraged from collecting litter but arrangements for collection points once lockdown was lifted would be made. In response to Cllr Kinane, Ms Ruane advised that the Council under Level 5 restrictions are not encouraging groups to collect waste and drop off at an agreed collection point.

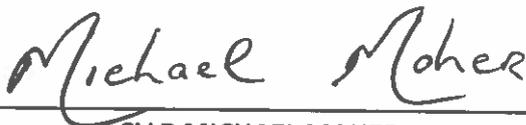
In response to Cllr Byrne's query in relation to the dumping at Courtney's Lane, Ms Ruane will talk to Ms Dolan and revert to directly.

In response to Cllr Murphy, Mr Mitchell advised him to contact Corporate Services for a list of Council Owned lands in the Gort / South Galway region.

Cllr Kinane expressed her thanks to Ms Ruane and Mr N. Madden, Broadband Officer for their assistance in the Clarinbridge Care Centre being selected as a broadband connection point.

The next meeting of the Loughrea MD was set for 12th April 2021 at 10.30 am.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN



**CLLR MICHAEL MAHER
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**