

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL**  
**Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

- CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Collins  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway
- I LATHAIR FREISIN:**
- Baill:** Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Kelly, P. Killilea, G. King, M. Lee, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, M. McNamara, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.
- Baill ar líne:** Comh. /Cllr. I. Canning, J. Charity, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Leainde, P. Mac An Iomaire, S. McHugh Ryan, E. F. Parsons.
- Oifigh:** Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. U. Ni Eidhin, Administrative Officer, Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. S. Elwood, Staff Officer.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

The Cathaoirleach and Elected Members paid tribute to the late Dolores Keane and Michael Lyster. They were described as proud Galwegians and legends in their respective crafts. Sympathies were extended to both their families. The Cathaoirleach informed the Members that Books of Condolences had been opened in County Hall. Condolences were also extended to Cllr. Gerry King on the recent passing of his sister and Cllr. Declan Geraghty on the passing of his aunt. Sympathies were also conveyed to the families of the late Niamh Kavanagh of Claregalway and Alan McDonagh, Headford.

**ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

**4692**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. P. Killilea the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 were **AGREED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraoín **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** **4693**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were **NOTED**.

**Cllrs. Donohue & McNamara raised the following points and queries:**

- The authority of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) to remove Notices of Motions from plenary agendas, was queried.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Lee **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh the minutes of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cunniffe the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO.3 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY & HERITAGE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.** 4694

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to appoint Mr. Michael Haverty as the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) sectoral representative to the Climate Action Biodiversity & Heritage Strategic Policy Committee.

**ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS REGULATING PROCEEDINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL.** 4695

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published to the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to adopt the Standing Orders Regulating proceedings and meetings of the Plenary Council.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens reminded the Members that at the November 2025 plenary meeting, there was unanimous support to amend the Standing Orders in relation to the Presidential nomination process. The proposed amendments have been discussed at Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

The proposed new Standing Order number 76, states that potential Presidential candidates must obtain the support of at least 10% of the Elected Members of the Council, which is currently 4 Elected Members, to attend and present at the Special Council Meeting convened to consider the nominations for the Presidential Election. Furthermore, only candidates who attend the meeting in person will be eligible to be nominated by the Council.

**Comh. / Cllrs. Welby, Cunniffe, Regan, McHugh Farag, M. Connolly, Kelly & O Curraoin raised the following points and queries:**

- The Council should not make the process for potential Presidential election candidates more difficult. Nominations should not be restricted to party candidates.
- The requirement of approval of 10% of the Elected Members was deemed to be fair. A mechanism is required to safeguard the integrity of the Office of President.
- Providing a remote attendance option should be considered to ensure potential candidates are not disadvantaged by clashes with special Local Authority meetings.
- The County and City Management Association (CCMA) should consider expanding the meeting timeframe so that sessions can be staggered across multiple days, helping to eliminate overlapping meeting times.
- The President of Ireland should be the President of the 32 counties.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:**

- As the enabling resolution was adopted within the previous 6 months, it was necessary that any amendment adhere to the terms of the enabling resolution. Therefore, an amendment to allow for remote attendance was not possible at this time, however, it was open to the Members to reconsider provision for remote attendance at a later date following the expiry of the 6 months.

**ITEM NO. 5. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE GALWAY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2026, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

4696

*Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the Galway County Council Annual Service Plan 2026, in accordance with section 134(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **AGREED**.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens informed the Members that the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 had been considered at CPG, where it was recommended for approval by the Members at plenary level. The Plan sets out the principal services to be provided by the Council to the public and is consistent with the adopted Budget for 2026. The Plan is based on Strategic Goals and Supporting Strategies as outlined in the Corporate Plan and sets out the actions which the Council intends to take in 2026. Operational updates will continue to be provided through the regular monthly Management Reports to the Elected Council. In addition, quarterly progress reports will be made available, the first of which will be before the Members at the May plenary meeting.

**Cllr. Parsons raised the following points and queries:**

- Concern that there is no alignment to national zero tolerance policy relating to domestic violence measures.
- It was asked that the National Zero Tolerance Policy be incorporated in further iterations of the Annual Service Delivery Plan.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:**

- The policy is in alignment as detailed in the Corporate Plan. He referred to page 36 of the Plan which references support to allocate 2 properties for provision of

supported medium-term housing, timelines and performance indicators in relation to this.

- In addition, there will be quarterly updates and engagement with the Elected Members.

**ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES 2026 PROPOSED LIST OF APPROVALS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 67 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED.**

4697

*Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet and circulated at the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion the Galway County Council Community Support Schemes 2026 proposed list of approvals, in accordance with the performance of its functions under 67 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **AGREED**.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens informed the Members that it was proposed to allocate €424,182 under the Community Support Schemes 2026 to different groups across the county. The funding complements and supplements the other significant work programmes that the Council undertakes at local level, as well as investment through various other Department funding schemes. He highlighted the new Environment and Sports Support Schemes made possible by means of the additional funding allocated by the Members through the budget process for 2026. He asked that the Members consider and adopt the scheme, following which the successful groups will be communicated with. The unsuccessful groups will be guided on how to improve their application for future applications.

**Cllrs. Hoade & Mannion raised the following points and queries**

- The staff were thanked for the preparatory work carried out in advance of applications being received, by running webinars and information sessions.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE OF FUNCTIONS FOR 2025, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 128B (1) (I) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014.**

4698

*Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report on performance of functions for 2025, in accordance with Section 128B (1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 was **NOTED**.

Director of Services, Mr. Owens outlined the contents of the Annual Report. It outlines the membership and administration and work of the LCDC in 2025, the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030 and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. Galway County LCDC received an allocation of €213,600 under The Local Enhancement Programme 2025, he outlined some of the projects that benefitted from this funding.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of the LCDC and community groups, which he has seen firsthand during his time as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. M. Connolly acknowledged the fantastic work that voluntary groups carry out and the role of Galway Rural Development in Ballinasloe. Both Cllr. M. Connolly and Comh. Mac An Iomaire acknowledged the great work carried out by community groups and the committee.

**ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** **4699**

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. Regan, & Welby to attend AILG February Training Module 'From Policy to Practice; What Local Authorities in Ireland can offer to support disabled people and an ageing population" at Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Comh. O Curraoín it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Regan, to attend Association of Irish Regions Training Seminar 2026 at Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. L. Harney, Cllr. King & Cllr Mc Clearn, to attend AILG Elected Members Training Programme March 2026 Module 2 – "Overview of New Housing for all Action Plan and Tenancy Rights Implications for Local Authorities and Councillors" at Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Hoade, to attend AILG Elected Members Training Programme March 2026 Module 2 – "Overview of New Housing for all Action Plan and Tenancy Rights Implications for Local Authorities and Councillors" at Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. L. Harney it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. L. Harney to attend AILG-UCC Climate Crises and Local Government Certificate – Blended delivery – online and in-person classes. UCC Cork & On-line. 12 week course

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. King & Mc Clearn to attend AILG Annual Training Conference 2026 at Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026.

**ITEM NO. 9. TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, MEETINGS OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** **4700**

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Regan it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. Reddington to attend Local Community Partnership Chairpersons Meeting, at The Atrium, Department of Justice, St. Stephens Green, Dublin on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

**ITEM NO. 10 TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING OF CONFERENCE ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** **4701**

*Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. L. Harney the Summary of Proceedings at conferences attended were **NOTED**.

**ITEM NO. 11. TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MARCH 2026 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).** **4702**

*Report was published to the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Management Report – March 2025, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (As Amended) was **NOTED**.

**Cllrs. Maher, A. Harney, Mannion, McHugh Ryan & Lee raised the following points and queries:**

- The progress on the new Loughrea Fire Station was welcomed.
- The Arts Office were thanked for organising the recent consultation sessions.
- The Ahascragh Streetscape Scheme Launch was welcomed.
- It was asked when the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) would be in operation in County Galway.
- The EV Charging Infrastructure (ZEVI) plans to expand charging points was welcomed.
- Information on the 'Vacant above the Shop' grant was requested.
- The information sessions that were held on Local Authority Home Loans was praised.
- It was asked that Local Authority Home Loan information sessions be held in An Cheathrú Rua and Clifden.
- Congratulations were extended to Tuam Leisure centre on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and on the Action Tuam digital event that was held last month.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:**

- 5 sites have been identified for the installation of CCTV, they will be up and running in the next couple of weeks.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Mitchell:**

- The Council are awaiting information on the Vacant above the Shop Grant.
- He clarified that that commercial unit must remain commercial to qualify.
- The amount of grant that will be received will be dependent on the number of units.
- Information will be circulated to the Members once it is received.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- Local Authority Home Loan information sessions will be held in each Municipal District.

**Cllrs. Hoade, McNamara, McHugh Farag, Donohue & Welby raised the following points and queries:**

- The recent Galway County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme and the work of the Local Enterprise Office were highly praised.
- The design by the Regeneration Team for the potential redevelopment of the Local Area Office site in Athenry was welcomed.
- Clarification was sought on the discussions that are being held with Iarnród Éireann regarding the dis-used level crossing in Caheroyan, Athenry.
- Reform was sought in relation to the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and Croí Cónaithe grants, as the absence of bridging finance is preventing many people from availing of these supports.
- It was queried why applicants are not drawing down the full value of the available grants.
- An update was sought on the EV Charging Points regional strategy being led by Donegal County Council.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:**

- The discussions on the level crossing at Caheroyan, Athenry related to the required investigative upgrade works for the Western Rail Corridor.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Mitchell:**

- Changes have been made to the Local Authority Home Loan to address the shortfalls.
- In his opinion, he does not think that stage payments will be introduced for the Croí Cónaithe grants.
- He commended the team for the volume of work that has been carried out in the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. For which 685 applications have been submitted, 486 have received initial approval and 127 have been paid.
- Each application is assessed at site visit. A top up grant for properties with structural issues is available. If no structural issues exist, then this portion of the grant cannot be availed of.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Finn**

- Responsibility for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure is moving from the Department of Transport to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
- He confirmed that the Council are part of a regional strategy, of which Donegal County Council are the lead authority.
- Updates will be provided through the SPC, Management Report and Municipal Districts (MDs).

**ITEM 12. TO CONSIDER THE SUMMER READY REPORT**

**4703**

*Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. King the Summer Ready Report was **AGREED**.

Following the playing of a promotion video, Director of Services, Mr. Owens outlined the contents of the Summer Ready Report. The first part of which contains the attractions that Galway has to offer, the next section includes festivals and events that are held around the county, and the final section of the document is the Summer Ready Report. The full report was before the Members for their consideration and noting.

**Comh./Cllrs. Mannion, McHugh Farag, A. Harney, Regan, Mac An Iomaire and Hoade raised the following points and queries:**

- It was asked if this material is circulated to hotels.
- Lack of parking facilities at beaches was raised.
- Gurteen Bay beach is the only beach with a lifeguard in Connemara.
- Issues regarding camper vans at beaches needs to be addressed.
- Disappointment was expressed at the absence of the Tuam area in the promotional video.
- All areas of the county should be showcased.
- It was requested that the opening hours of the Aghrim Interpretative Centre be extended and that it be opened beyond the months of May to September.
- The provision of lifeguards at Banagher Shannon Bank Park was raised.
- Lifeguards should be in place earlier than June.
- Public toilets in beach areas should be open from May.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Owens:**

- Confirmed that the material will be made available to hotels.
- The season for the Aghrim Interpretative Centre has been extended by 2 weeks. The completion of the feasibility report will inform the approach taken going forward.
- The video shown was a collage of various videos as a sample, he assured the Members that promotional content for Tuam will be developed.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Ms. Ruane:**

- Extending the provision of lifeguards is budget dependent.
- Many of the lifeguards are students and are not available in May.
- A commitment was made in the budget to examine the provision of lifeguards at Shannon Bank Park.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- This is the first version of the new format for the Summer Ready Report. It is also an information piece for the County's tourism destinations and the services that County Galway provides. The promotional material will be balanced to reflect each Municipal District.

**ITEM 13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.**

**4704**

The following items of correspondence which were published on the extranet prior to the meeting were **NOTED**:

- Letter dated 25.06.2025 from Galway County Council to Department of Education and Youth – Resolution – Guidelines for Bus Drivers.
- Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 from Niamh Kelly, School Transport Section Department of Education and Youth – Reply to Resolution letter dated 25.06.25.
- Email dated 05.02.2026 from Galway County Council to Niamh Kelly, School Transport Section, Department of Education – follow up to Resolution letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- Letter dated 04.03.26 from Ann Marie Howard – School Transport Section, Department of Education and Youth – reply to follow up email dated 05.02.26.
- Letter dated 26.11.2025 from Galway County Council to Department of Transport – Resolution letter – Traffic Calming Speed Ramps.
- Email dated 24.02.26 from Amanda Corley, Private Secretary to Minister O'Brien, Department of Transport – Reply to Resolution letter dated 26.11.2025.
- Letter dated 16.12.2025 from Galway County Council to Commission for Communication Regulation – Resolution Letter – Issues with Mobile Phone Coverage.
- Letter dated 30.01.2026 from Garrett Blaney, Chairperson Commission for Communication Regulation – Reply to Resolution letter dated 16.12.2025.
- Letter dated 04.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Commission for Communication Regulation – follow up query to Letter dated 30.01.2026.

- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Colette Andrews Personal Assistant to the Commission for Communications Regulation – Acknowledgement to letter dated 04.03.2026.
- Letter dated 03.02.2026 from Galway County Council to Rural Water Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution Letter – Extend deadline in Measure A8 Demonstration Projects.
- Email date 09.03.2026 from Jack Savage, Private Secretary to Minister Browne, Reply to Resolution letter dated 03.02.2026.
- Letter dated 03.02.2026 from Galway County Council to Mr. James Browne Minister for Housing Local Government & Heritage – Resolution – Increase in Additional Needs Payment.
- Email dated 05.03.2026 from Jack Savage Private Secretary to Minister Browne, reply to Resolution dated 03.02.2026 – Increase in Additional Needs Payment.
- Letter dated 18.02.2026 from Westmeath County Council – Resolution Letter – Income Thresholds for Social Housing and HAP.
- Letter dated 02.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Maritime Area Regulatory Authority – Resolution – Licences to remove seaweed from shored on the coast of Co. Galway.
- Letter dated 10.03.2026 from Laura Brien, Chief Executive Officer, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.03.2026.
- Letter dated 02.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister James Browne, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution letter – Modular Housing Guidelines.
- Letter dated 02.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister James Browne, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution letter – Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme.
- Letter dated 04.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Taoiseach Michéal Martin – Resolution – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Department of the Taoiseach – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026.

- Email dated 06.03.2026 to department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht – Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in Irish Medium Education circulated to Minister for the Gaeltacht.
- Email date 06.03.2026 from Noeleen Fagan, Secretary to Dara Calleary, Minister for the Gaeltacht, acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 06.03.2026 – Increase in Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister for Education – Circulation of Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Customer Support Unit, Department of Education and Youth – Acknowledgement of receiving Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 10.03.2026 to all Oireachtas Members in this Constituency – Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in Provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Maria Burke on behalf of Noel Grealish TD – Acknowledgement of receiving Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Sean Canney, Minister of State – Acknowledgement of receiving Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Mairéad Farrell, TD – Acknowledgement of receiving Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Increase in provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Email dated 10.03.2026 from Galway County Council to all Local Authorities – Circulation of Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Provision of Irish Medium Education.
- Letter dated 05.03.2026 from Sligo County Council – Resolution Letter - Mother and Baby homes.
- Letter dated 05.03.2026 from Leitrim County Council – Resolution Letter – Implement revised EU Anti – Trafficking Directive.
- Letter dated 05.03.2026 from Leitrim County Council – Resolution Letter – TII to set up separate funding streams.

- Letter dated 04.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Taoiseach Michéal Martin – Resolution letter – Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 to all Oireachtas Members – Circulation of Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026 – Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Senator Aubrey McCarthy – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Matt McCarthy TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Ciaran Ahern TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Jennifer Whitmore TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Barry Heneghan TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Hazel O Grady TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from James Lawless TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Tom Brabazon TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Jen Cummins TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Eoin Hayes TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from office of Senator Dee Ryan – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Holly Cairns TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Shane Moynihan TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Paul Lawless TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Office of The Tánaiste & Minister for Finance – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from office of Mary Lou McDonald TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 07.03.2026 from Martin Diver, Office of Pat the Cope Gallagher – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 09.03.2026 from Padraig Rice TD – Reply Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 09.03.2026 from Niamh Fitzpatrick office of Senator Mary Fitzpatrick – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 09.03.2026 from Edel, Pa to Cathal Crowe TD – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- Email dated 10.03.2026 from Evan Barry, Leinster House office Administrator – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 10.03.2026 from Adam, office of Richard Boyd Barrett TD – Reply to Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 10.03.2026 from Marie Henry, office of Marian Harkin TD – Reply to Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 06.03.2026 from Joe Cooney TD – reply to Resolution letter dated 03.03.2026 Amend Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Letter date 10.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Marting Heydon, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marie – Resolution Urgent Meeting to instigate dialogue.
- Letter dated 10.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Bord Bia – Resolution Urgent Meeting to instigate dialogue.
- Letter dated 10.03.2026 from Clare County Council – Resolution – Emergency cost of disability payment.
- Letter dated 12.03.2026 form Longford County Council – Resolution – Emergency payment for disabled people.

**ITEM 14. QUESTION**

**4705**

**Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Question prior to the meeting:**

*'To ask the Chief Executive is Galway County Council liable for public safety at Dungalire Castle given that it states the following on the website "**Dungalire Castle means Dungalire Castle and Galway County Council**" [Dungalire Castle | Things to do in Galway](#) | [Castles in Ireland](#) | [Book Now](#) | [Dungalire Castle.](#)'*

**The following reply issued:**

Dunguaire Castle remains in the ownership of The Shannon Airport Group and accordingly, responsibility for public liability and insurance rests with The Shannon Airport Group as property owner.

The references to Galway County Council that previously appeared on the Dunguaire Castle website related to an earlier operational period when booking information was shared with Galway County Council in anticipation of potential future arrangements. These references have now been removed, and the website has been updated accordingly.

Galway County Council has no operational role in the Castle at present and is not responsible for insurance or liability matters.

Cllr. Donohue was happy to hear that the reference to Galway County Council has been removed from the website. She urged that the castle be reopened as soon as possible and stressed that revenue is being lost from its closure.

**ITEM 15. QUESTION**

**4706**

**Cllr. Mc Namara submitted the following Question prior to the meeting:**

*'In recent correspondence with representatives of AMASS, Galway County Council stated that it was unable to identify or locate records detailing the data, methodology, or analytical process used in the preparation of the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) maps, including the solar opportunity and constraint mapping.*

*Can the Chief Executive explain why Galway County Council is unable to identify or produce records showing:*

*the datasets used, the methodology applied, the weighting of factors, or the alternatives considered in the preparation of these maps?*

*In the absence of such records, how can the Council be satisfied that the LARES maps are sufficiently robust, evidence-based and compliant with national guidance and environmental assessment requirements to be relied upon in forward planning and development management decisions?*

*Given that these maps have been treated as a material consideration in assessing renewable energy developments, does the Chief Executive consider it appropriate to continue relying on them until a fully documented and transparent evidential basis is available?'*

**The following reply issued:**

I wish to advise that Cllr McNamara's question is in relation to a submitted AIE ((Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011, S.I. 615 of 2014 and S.I. No. 309 of 2018).

An appropriate response was issued to the individual as outlined below:

LARES forms part of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The County Development Plan was prepared by the Forward Planning Unit under the direction of the Chief Executive and ultimately adopted through the County Development Plan process and the Elected Members.

I wish to confirm that there were no internal datasets, layers, sources or reports produced for the LARES that were not already in the public domain.

All maps and datasets within the LARES are credited within the LARES itself. For example: Figure 1: All Island Generation Capacity Statement 2019-2028.

All maps, tables etc published in the LARES were not primary research, the combination of data and maps that are within the Strategy were prepared taking account of relevant European, national, regional and local planning frameworks and guidelines. These include maps and documents produced for the National Planning

Framework, the Northern & Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Galway County Development Plan.

In conclusion, Galway County Council was able to show the records required to produce the LARES as part of the County Development Plan and Galway County Council consider them appropriate and robust in order to assess planning applications.

Cllr. McNamara informed the meeting that this motion originated with affected community groups. He looked for an explanation as to the identity of the source of the data sets. He asked how he can trust the guidance when the data source is unknown

Director of Services, Mr. Hanrahan responded that the requested data and its source has been provided. While the Council itself did not produce the raw data, it came from national documents which informed the County Development Plan. He assured Cllr. McNamara that that data is accurate and up to date.

**ITEM 16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4707**

**Cllr. Jimmy McClearn submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council will Compulsory Purchase the Derelict building Formerly known as the Shannon Oaks Hotel. This building has remained in a derelict condition for fifteen years with the owners making no attempt to refurbish it.*

*There are apartments at the rear of this building which are not in compliance with planning permission and therefore are unauthorised.'*

**The following reply issued:**

Previous engagement has taken place with the owners regarding potential Planning applications for the redevelopment of the site.

For a CPO process to commence on any property the Council must have the relevant policy platform in the County Development Plan. It is not a current policy objective in the County Development Plan to acquire hotel properties in private ownership.

The Local Authority has engaged with the property owners regarding the derelict sites notice issued and the owners continue to engage with the Council on this issue. A number of the measures within the derelict site notice issued have been completed by the owners to date in respect of the repair and replacement of damaged perimeter hoarding around the site and removal of waste that was present around the property. Additional height has also been added to sections of the fence line which had been identified as most likely areas of trespass, and a boundary gate has been secured on site with gate locking system replaced. New CCTV has been installed to help deal with vandalism and trespass on site.

Cllr. McClearn spoke on his motion, he said that while it is not current policy in the County Development Plan (CDP) to acquire private hotels, the Shannon Oaks cannot be defined as a hotel, as it has been a derelict building for 15 years. The lack of hotel is a significant loss to Portumna. He proposed that the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is let proceed to arbitration, to ascertain the value of the site alone, as the building itself will need to be removed. He also said that the illegal occupation of the long-term apartments must be addressed.

**Comh./Cllrs. Kelly, McHugh Farag, O Curraoín, Keane, Regan, Donohue, Parsons, M. Connolly, McClearn, Welby and King raised the following points and queries:**

- It is unacceptable that the hotel is left dormant and its absence is a huge loss to the area.
- It was asked if the Council have the legal power to issue a CPO and if the Council have the budget available to proceed with one.
- If this approach is followed through it will set a precedent for other properties across the county.

- The best way to find a solution is through dialogue and engagement with the developers.
- No monies have been collected via the derelict site tax in relation to the site.
- The County Development Plan allows for the purchase of derelict sites. The only value to be considered is the value of the site. This will represent a short-term expense due to the demand for this site.
- Queries were raised in relation to the status of the Corrib Hotel in Oughterard.
- It was asked if the NOM could be deferred until legal clarity is received.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:**

- There are several steps involved in acquisitions under the CPO process, one of which includes engagement with the Derelict Sites Register.
- This engagement is taking place and improvements have been carried out on the site.
- CPO is the last stage of this process. CPO occurs within the court system, where a high burden of proof is required. This site is to be dealt with under Derelict Sites legislation.
- There was a Vacant Homes notice placed on the Corrib Hotel in Oughterard. The owners engaged with the vacant homes team.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- The process under Derelict Sites legislation is in place and notices have been served. He outlined that this process must be completed before any CPO process is considered.
- He stated that there is a budgetary implication associated with CPOs that will need to be considered by the Members.

**Comh./Cllrs. Maher, McHugh Farag, McClearn, Keane, Canning, Donohue and Feeney raised the following points and queries:**

- Concern was raised regarding the open swimming pool on the site of the Shannon Oaks Hotel.
- It was suggested that this item be placed on the plenary agenda every quarter to keep the Members updated.
- The legislation to deal with these situations must be re-examined.
- The situation will continue indefinitely if not addressed now.
- It was asked what percentage of derelict sites are paying levies.
- Fines should be imposed on the owners of the hotel instead of a CPO.
- As of June 2025, there were only 5 properties on the Derelict Sites Register and no monies recouped from them.
- Revenue is tasked with recouping the monies. It was asked where the recouped monies are allocated to and if it is the responsibility of the Council to chase previous outstanding fines.
- Could notice be issued to the owners to inform them that the Council will initiate the legal process under the Derelict Sites legislation.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- Additional staff resources have been allocated to address derelict sites. He committed to completing the existing derelict sites enforcement process as quickly as possible. He outlined that there are ongoing negotiations with the owners.
- A review will be carried out on the monies collected from derelict sites and a report will be made to Members.
- Prior to commencement of any CPO process, it is important that the CPO has a solid planning policy platform and that the Council exhausts current notices processes. He stated that he would advise Council to seek legal advice first.

The Members agreed that legal advice be sought on the matter. Cllr. McClearn also requested legal advice be sought on the planning situation regarding the long term rented accommodation units on the site.

**ITEM 17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4708**

**Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council Chief Executive and Director of Services provide confirmation that the Councils owned pothole patching machines are in perfect working order in the 5 Municipal Districts.'*

**The following reply issued:**

I refer and reply to your Motion relating to Patching Units.

*'Galway County Council currently own and operate 4 no. Patching Units, they are deployed across the Municipal Districts based on need.'*

*All of the units are roadworthy and have passed their annual inspections. It is the intention that 2 no. of the units will be replaced in 2026 – the units to be replaced are approaching end of life. Financial provision has been made in this regard with a Department of Transport grant available to help defray the cost.'*

Cllr. Donohue asked which Municipal District (MD) did not own a Patching Unit.

Director of Services, Mr. Finn informed her that several lorries in the fleet have been upgraded. The Patching Units are not allocated to a specific area but shared between each MD. He added that it is intended to further upgrade the fleet, subject to financial considerations.

**ITEM 18. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4709**

**PROPOSED SECONDED**

**Cllr. Regan submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council make contact with Coillte to make a financial contribution towards the local roads they are using.'*

*These roads were never built to carry the weight of these trucks and trailers and are doing untold damage to our local roads.'*

Cllr. Regan spoke on his motion; he expanded that the Council are seeking extra funding to repair local roads. There is no available budget to repair footpaths and the cost of compensation paid by the Council was between €150-200,000 last year. Due to the weight and number of Coillte vehicles, he is calling for them to make a financial contribution towards the upkeep of the roads that they use. Cllr. McNamara criticised the lack of response from Coillte on other matters and indicated that he was happy to support the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. McNamara the above motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 19. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4710**

**Cllr. Regan submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council build more one-off houses in rural areas. It's very important to build a supply of one-off houses for applicants that have their own site, keeping the people in their own area, from where they came from, also helping our rural areas, schools and parishes that are in decline.'*

**The following reply issued:**

The Housing Capital Team predominantly delivers multi-unit developments to address housing demand in our housing applicants specified areas of choice. However, any proposed single rural house site location and its proximity to other social housing developments, the applicant's area of choice, and the future use of the proposed dwelling are all considered. The Housing Section also delivers a program of Single Rural Houses, prioritising demand for specific categories, such as disability, that have a necessity to be close to support networks.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Regan **SECONDED** by Cllr. Lee the above motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 20. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4711**

**Cllr. Donohue submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council Chief Executive and Director of Services provide confirmation that Galway County Council test and sample the material used in the resurfacing the County Roads and the Roads Programme.'*

**The following reply issued:**

Galway County Council are in compliance with the "Memorandum on Grants for regional and local roads" and with all the associated Specifications. This is managed under a number of different processes.

- Procurement
  - All competitions ran for the supply and lay of roads materials include adherence to all the required specifications where the tenders must include copies of the relevant materials testing results. For the supply of surface dressing chips, suppliers must submit recent, separate and independently accredited Laboratory Test Results for several material characteristics e.g. High Polished Stone Value (HPSV), Dust Content, Grading, Flakiness Index and Aggregate Abrasion Value. Only contractors who have materials in compliance qualify.
  - Suppliers must provide the following for aggregates for bituminous mixtures and surface treatments for roads as required under the Construction Products Regulations:
    - A certificate of conformity of the Factory Production Control (FPC).

- Declaration of Performance.
  - CE Certification to I.S. EN 13043: 2013.
  - The notified certification body in these instances is generally the (NSAI) who will have performed the initial inspection of the manufacturing plant and of factory production control and undertake continuous surveillance, assessment and evaluation.
- 
- Construction
    - Independent testing is arranged if deemed appropriate and random sampling is also carried out to ensure compliance with the standards.
    - Contractors are also obliged to carry out quality control testing as works progress and they are assessed as and when required.
  - Post -Construction
    - If there is any doubt in the quality of workmanship or materials further independent testing may be carried out.

Cllr. Donohue acknowledged the detailed response to her Notice of Motion. She questioned how the Council could verify if they were receiving value for money without carrying out testing. Cllr. McHugh Farag added that testing should be carried out continuously.

#### **ITEM 21. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4712**

**Cllr. Michael Leainde submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council discuss the recently proposed regulations relating to self-catering accommodation and the potential negative impact these measures may have on tourism and on the local economy.'*

*Furthermore, that Galway County Council submit an application to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment seeking that the Galway Islands be granted an exemption from these proposed regulations. This request is made in recognition of the challenges facing the islands, including limited employment opportunities and ongoing population decline, and the vital role that self-catering accommodation plays in supporting tourism, sustaining small businesses and maintaining the viability of Island communities.'*

**The following reply issued:**

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) is drafting Short-Term Letting and Tourism (STLT) legislation to align with the STR Regulation, which is expected to be published within the coming weeks and enacted in the coming months, with the aim of having the provisions in place by 20 May 2026.

The introduction of the STLT legislation will provide a legal and administrative framework to regulate short-term lettings, by providing the statutory basis for the establishment of a register for short-term lets.

**Comh./ Cllrs. Leainde and Thomas, raised the following points and queries:**

- The islands should be exempt from these regulations due to the short-term nature of the tourism season and the limited options of places to stay on the islands.
- It was asked if the wording of motion could be amended.
- Accommodation that does not comply with these regulations will be removed from the Air BnB database by 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:**

- The legislation has not yet been published.
- It will only apply to accommodation in areas of populations over 20,000.

**Comh. /Cllrs. Thomas, Mannion, Welby and Leainde raised the following points and queries:**

- Accommodation in areas of population less than 20,000 will have to meet the requirements, but will be given 2 years to meet them.
- Clarity is required on the matter.
- The islands are a good test case to examine housing assessment numbers alongside the number of short-term lettings.
- There is a shortage of hotel rooms.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- He indicated that Galway County Council are awaiting the relevant legislation from the Department/Government.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Leainde the following amended motion was **PROPOSED**.

I propose that we write to the minister for housing, Local Government and Heritage Minister James Browne and ask him to contact and instruct Fáilte Ireland to allow short term lettings to continue without planning in towns where the population is less than 20,000 people and to instruct Airbnb to keep these premises on their Callander's also until such time as the government put the final policy in place in relation to the short term letting. The reason for this is that even if someone was to apply for planning now they would not be able to get the planning until after the cut off date on May 20th and with no clear policy in place it is impossible for a local authority to even grant a permission for short term letting.

There should also be an exemption of planning for all existing short term letting premises in all areas under the above populations. But they should be subject to building or fire safety compliance.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- Legislation will need to include provisions granting current users a grace period to meet the new requirements.

**Cllrs. Welby, Mannion and Thomas raised the following points and queries:**

- An engineer's report is currently sufficient for short-term let properties. However, the proposed change may lead to some properties exiting the short-term letting market without becoming available for long-term rental.
- It was enquired if any applications have been received by the planning department.
- It was stated that Galway City Council have received applications in this regard.
- Concern was raised that Air BnB will remove properties from their sites that do not comply from 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Hanrahan:**

- Confirmed that applications cannot be accepted as the scheme is not yet approved.
- Applications lodged now would be considered under retention of planning permission.
- Galway City have a population of over 20,000, there are no settlements in the County area of that size.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Leainde the amended motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 22. CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**4713**

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that the April Plenary meeting will commence at 1pm due to the holding of a Civic Reception after the meeting, at 6pm.

The Cathaoirleach outlined the programme of functions and events attended by himself and the Chief Executive during their recent visit to Boston and New York. In Boston, they met with the Irish Cultural Centre to strengthen Galway Diaspora connections that will support Galway LEO companies seeking to expand into the United States. Meetings were also held with the IDA in both Boston and New York, as well as with Enterprise Ireland, to discuss Galway's strong economic performance and its significant emerging opportunities. Potential avenues for future inward investment were explored. The delegation also met with the Galway Association of New York and participated in St. Patrick's Day events in the City. A full account of the visit is provided in the Management Report. The Cathaoirleach informed Members of the Social Economic Profile of Galway presented during the trip and requested that it be circulated to all Members. He complimented the Executive for the preparation of the report.

The Chief Executive highlighted the value of Galway's connections in Boston and New York, emphasising their importance in supporting and advancing Galway businesses and keeping vital connections with the Galway & Irish Diaspora living in the USA.

The Cathaoirleach informed the Members that nominations for the Cathaoirleach Awards that will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May are open. He thanked Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hoade for deputising for him while he was out of the country.

**Cllrs. Regan, Keane, Welby and Mannion raised the following points and queries:**

- It was proposed that in relation to new planning exemptions, the size allowable should be increased to 54m<sup>2</sup> which would accommodate 2 bedrooms. The Council should write to the Minister before it is written into legislation.
- It was asked if plenary meetings could commence at 10am.
- The Members were informed and encouraged to sign a petition opposing proposed mineral prospecting licences in the Maam area.

**Members Queries were responded to as follows by the Chief Executive:**

- He stated that the proposed legislation has not yet been issued by the Department/Government.
- Proposals to amend Standing Orders and in particular meeting start times, should be made in writing to the County Secretary for consideration at CPG in the first instance.

**ITEM 23. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS.**

**4714**

**A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:**

- Kathleen Griffin, Main Street, Clifden, Co. Galway
- Jane Rothwell, Dunlo hill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Tara Keane, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway
- Barbara Kavanagh, Suaimhneas, Killgill, Claregalway, Co. Galway
- Pdraig Lohan, Claggernagh East, Portumna, Co. Galway
- Maura Bleakley, Fortland Meadows, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Angela Bane & Family, Fahy Gardens, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Aisling Maher, Kincullia, Loughrea, Co. Galway County
- Mary Jo Kelly & Family, Abbey Street, Portumna, Co. Galway
- Maria Flynn, Limehill, Tynagh, Co. Galway
- Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown, via Castlerea, Co. Galway
- Family of Ronnie & Joan Delaney, Carrickmines, Dublin
- Family of Maureen Folan, Dóirín Darach, Lettermore, Co. Galway
- Family of the Michael Lyster, Cabinteely, Dublin
- Family of Alan McDonagh, Headford.

**Congratulations were extended to the following:**

- Kieran Molloy who won the IBF European Welterweight Boxing Championship.

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach:** Mary Hoede

**Date:** 27/4/2026

