

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL,

Monday, 23rd September 2019 at 11.00am

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

I LATHAIR FREISIN: Comh./Cllr. T. Broderick, J. Byrne, I. Canning, L. Carroll, J. Charity, D. Collins, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, G. Cronnelly, D. Ó Cualáin, J. Cuddy, S. Curley, T. Ó Curraoin, Aisling Dolan, Albert Dolan, G. Donuhue, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, S. Herterich Quinn, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, G. King, P. Mac an Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, K. McHugh Farag, A. McKinstry, P. Murphy, A. Reddington, P. Roche, J. Sheridan, N. Thomas, S. Walsh, T. Welby

Baill:

Oifigh: Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive (Interim)
Ms. C. Delaney, Acting County Secretary
Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services
Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services
Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services
Ms. J. Brann, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. A. Dolan, Executive Scientist
Mr. R. Conway, Assistant Engineer
Ms. U. Ní Eithín, Oifigeach Gaeilge
Ms. F. Mitchell, Staff Officer
Ms. S. Elwood, Clerical Officer
Ms. C. Walsh, Clerical Officer

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir

Cllrs. Roche, Hoade, Ó Curraóin, Killilea, Hynes and Cuddy conveyed their sympathies to Cllr. David Collins and his family on the death of his sister Nuala Lane.

Cllr. Cuddy conveyed his sympathy to P.J. McGovern, former Galway City Council employee on the death of his wife Sarah.

Mr. Kelly on behalf of the Management and staff expressed sympathies to all the families.

Cllr. McClearn adjourned the Meeting for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to Ms. Nuala Lane, sister of Cllr. Collins.

Resolutions of Sympathy

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

The Grealish Family, Carnmore Cross, Co. Galway

Lucy McCormack, Cahercrea, Loughrea, Co. Galway

Kenneth Lane & Family, Chapel Road, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway

Peggy Monaghan, Boula Road, Portumna, Co. Galway

John & Linda Walsh, Lydican, Oranmore, Co. Galway

Ted Duffy, 5 Lorro Gate, Prospect, Athenry, Co. Galway

Mary Frost, Shantallow, Monivea, Co. Galway

Martin Conroy, Teach an tSagairt, Inis Mór, Árainn, Co. na Gaillimhe

Mary Ann McDonagh, Knock, Lettermullen, Co. Galway

John McElroy, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Martin Dempsey, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Gerry Noone, 109 Parkmore Estate, Tuam, Co. Galway

Bridie & Maria Hynes, Bermingham Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

P.J. McGovern, Carnmore, Oranmore, Co. Galway

ITEM NO. 1 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 22nd July 2019.

3471

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22nd July 2019 were **AGREED**.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Cuddy asked if a meeting was organised with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. In response, Mr. Kelly confirmed that a meeting had not been organised to date.

Cllr. Killilea queried if any correspondence was received from Irish Rail in relation to the removal of gates/barriers erected in Tuam.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Connolly, it was **AGREED** that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow Item No. 12 – Presentation from Tuam Mother and Bay Homes Alliance to take place.

ITEM NO. 12 - PRESENTATION FROM TUAM MOTHER AND BABY HOME ALLIANCE

3472

Cllr. McClearn welcomed the Tuam Mother and Baby Home Alliance and informed Members that a request was received from them to address the Members of Galway County Council. He said four speakers will tell their story and asked Members to listen to the people's stories and asked that comments be confined to the leaders of the parties.

The four speakers are: Michael O'Flaherty, Dr. Emer Quirke, Liam Tansey and Breeda Murphy.

Mr. Michael O'Flaherty, Chairman of the group, thanked the Members for affording them the opportunity to tell their stories. He said that he was born in the home in 1948, he left the home before he was five years old to go to school but he had very little memory of this time in the home. At the age of 15 he was sent to a foster home where he was not treated well, they never allowed him to sleep or eat with the rest of family and they treated him differently. He left them a few years later to join the Army. Joining the Army was the first time he felt part of a family, it became his family. He subsequently meet his wife Anne and they now have their own family, a son and

daughter and grandchildren. Despite being told by the Bon Secours nuns that his mother was gone, Mr. O'Flaherty revealed that in 1999 he finally got to meet her in Manchester and that this was a very proud day for him. He told the members that as survivors they wanted their stories told to ensure that these events are never forgotten.

Dr. Emer Quirke told Members that she was born in the mother and baby home in Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea but was adopted after a few months despite her birth being unregistered and therefore was denied the right to medical records. Despite this she succeeded in meeting her mother against all odds. Her cousin is a Tuam home survivor. She spoke of infant mortality rates and at the Tuam institution they were up to five times higher than those across the general population. In 1943 fifty babies died which equates to one a week. In the general population, child mortality rates reduced in the 1940's, however, in the Tuam Mother and Baby home, this reduction did not occur until the 1950's. She would like to dispel myths that it was due to better medicine and health care as antibiotics etc. did not generally become available until later. She said that a HSE report concluded that child trafficking had taken place from Tuam to the USA. She spoke about daily life in the home and how many children were left with significant health issues including hearing problems. In 1952 the death rate dropped significantly, a period which coincided with the introduction of the Adoption Act 1952. These children were under the care of the state and now need help and support as survivors. She suggested that they were the lucky ones to get out alive.

Mr. Liam Tansey, said that in 1925 the Bishop's lobbied politicians about the huge amounts of money it cost to look after children and a decision was made to establish workhouses. In Galway, they were located in Letterfrack, Salthill and Tuam. These workhouses contributed to the cause of deaths of children. Girls in general were denied education, they had to look after the toddlers. In his profession as a Social Worker, he cited one recollection that all the women shared of the Tuam home, it was the silence of the day room. Children as young as one year old were silenced by the nun's due to fear. Victims carried this silence in their lives. In the last few years survivors have drawn strength to speak out, the survivors have started the process to break through this silence. He outlined the health difficulties faced by the survivors as a result of their time in the home. He expressed gratification to the council officials who have been so helpful and also that the Council have now taken over the maintenance

of the grounds in Tuam. Mr. Tansey called on Councillors to support the deferral of a contribution by survivors when applying for home improvement grants until after the Commission had delivered its full report. He also sought a special Medical card to be made available to survivors many of whom suffer from hearing defects and other illnesses. He suggested that the Commission established to enquire into homes run by religious orders had found that Galway County Council had not co-operated with them.

Ms. Breda Murphy also a member of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home Alliance, said that today was an emotional day for her, to be able to speak on behalf of the survivors, some of whom made it and some didn't make it out alive. She said that their goal is to achieve truth, transparency and accountability. Six decades later, she said that they are still searching for justice. She told the members that the survivors are people who have voted for them to be public representatives and that their mothers would have originally come from their parishes. She said in the past our state called these children illegitimate and that these children were treated differently, they had to cycle separately to school, play separately in the playgrounds, and wear special uniforms. It was only in 1973 that survivors received state support. She complimented the great support received from the staff of Galway County Council, especially Mary Quinn, Michael Owens, and also Noel Grealish, T.D. for his support. She acknowledged the great empathy and support received from the local people in Tuam with particular mention for The Corralea Court Hotel, who provide them with a meeting room to use free of charge where they can have meetings, celebrate birthdays and mark events in survivors' lives. She explained that survivors tell her that their experience of the abuse is still very much in their memories and the hurt never goes away. She urged the members to lobby against the Retention of Records Bill.

Following the conclusion of each speaker's presentation there was a round of applause from all present in the chamber.

Cllr. McClearn commended the four speakers for telling their story, remarking on their harrowing stories. It is a dark period in history, and the human cost associated is a blight on the church, state and society. He said it is important for us all to remember

that this period is a dark chapter in our country, certain questions have been raised and need to be answered.

On behalf of Fine Gael, Cllr. Roche thanked the speakers for presenting their graphic and detailed stories. He said that he lives just six miles from the Tuam home and was acutely aware of the events. He remarked on Michael O'Flaherty's description of the bad years and the sadness that resonated around the community. He referred to how Dr. Emer Quirke described the hurt that goes with living in an institution and that Councillors needed to be reminded of this as civic leaders. He said that Ms. Breeda Murphy described today as an emotional day and he said that it is also very emotional for all listening in the chamber. He mentioned Mr. Liam Tansey's reference to politics and how it can affect change, he assured the Alliance that when it comes to representing their views and opinions Fine Gael would not be found wanting and will provide support in every possible way.

Cllr. McHugh Farag spoke on behalf of the Independents, stating that she grew up in close proximity to the Tuam Mother and Baby Home, and was very aware of the stories about the home. She stated that these children were stigmatised and treated badly in schools. We have all read the reports and today we hear the stories from the survivors. She thanked the speakers for telling their personal story. She said it is a time in our history that we should be ashamed off.

On behalf of Fianna Fáil, Cllr. Hoade praised the four speakers for their presentations. She stressed the importance of supporting the Commission and reassured the Alliance of their full support and commitment.

Mr. Kelly said that this is a moment in the Council Chamber that will be remembered remarking on how eloquent and moving the four speakers told their story. He said it has always been a pleasure meeting the survivors and he and the Council has always been conscious not to say or do anything that would cause any further upset to the survivors. He said that he was heartened by the comments made in recognition of the work of staff of Galway County Council by the Alliance. He confirmed that the Commission have clearly acknowledged that Galway County Council has provided full

co-operation. He noted the issues raised by the Speakers and these would be given further consideration.

He confirmed that as Chief Executive he will continue to work with the survivors and congratulated the speakers on their powerful and moving contribution.

Cllr. D. Connolly described the presentations as being very powerful and that it informs them as public representatives, so that they assist and help the survivors. He thanked the speakers stating that lessons have been learned and action needs to be taken.

Cllr. McClearn thanked the four speakers and all others present who were part of the Alliance. He confirmed that the issues raised in the presentations will be dealt with where possible, and while some are outside the remit of Galway County Council, the survivors will be supported. He said that it was very important for this group to be given the opportunity to address the council and wished them well in the future.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, it was **AGREED** that the Standing Orders be suspended and that Item 10 and Item 11 be brought forward to facilitate Cllr. Collins leaving the meeting early for personal reasons.

ITEM NO. 10 - TO CONSIDER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) AND GUIDELINES ISSUED UNDER SECTION 54(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME 3473

Ms. Delaney confirmed that the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was circulated to Members and discussed at Corporate Policy Group. She advised that there is a sixth SPC added to the Scheme i.e. Climate Change and Biodiversity and that Agriculture has been incorporated into SPC number three, now called Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services. She stated that if the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme is Agreed by the Members, it would then go on public display and subsequently be put to the Public Participation Network to seek representational membership. She confirmed that representatives from the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA), Irish

Cooperative Organisation Society and Macra Na Feirme can be sought under the National Pillars.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the incorporation of Agriculture as part of SPC Number three, however, raised his concern that it was an unwise decision not to have a stand-alone SPC for Agriculture in light of recent events in the Agriculture sector. In relation to the National Pillars he enquired if the Beef Plan Movement can be added to this list for inclusion for representation on the Planning, Environment, Agriculture and Emergency SPC which was supported by Cllrs. Charity and Byrne. In response, Ms. Delaney said that she would make enquiries with the Department.

The Draft Strategic Policy Scheme was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 11 - APPOINTMENT OF 1 CHAIR (DESIGNATE) OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE **3474**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr. Roche be appointed Chair (Designate) of a Strategic Policy Committee.

A query was raised in relation to the nominations of Chairs to SPC's by Cllr. D. Connolly and Cllr. Kinane requesting that a group be set up before appointing a Chair. Ms. Delaney responded that the item on the Agenda was for the appointment of a sixth Chair and did not require re-visiting the Chairs of the other SPC's.

ITEM NO. 2 - CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: **3475**

- a) Minutes of Housing, Corporate & Recreation SPC meeting held on 6th December 2018.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, the Minutes of Housing, Corporate & Recreation SPC meeting held on 6th December 2018, were **AGREED**.

- b) Minutes of Housing, Corporate & Recreation SPC meeting held on 14th February 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hynes, the Minutes of Housing, Corporate & Recreation SPC meeting held on 14th February 2019 were **AGREED**.

c) Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19th July 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, the Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19th July 2019 were **AGREED**.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 19th July, 2019, stating that no reference was made in relation to correspondence with Ernst & Young and enquired if this matter was considered by the CPG. He enquired about the status of the correspondence from the Chief Executive.

In response, Mr. Kelly stated that there are two issues; the role of the elected members and the content of the submission. He advised that the legislative framework does not list the making of submissions as a reserved function and therefore, this is an Executive Function. In terms of content of submissions, the Executive make submissions all the time, without bringing the submissions before the members. He advised that with regard to the Greenway in Athenry, a strong submission was made in respect of the feasibility study funding and this was acknowledged in the Chamber and a strong submission was made in respect of the rail corridor in line with the current County Development Plan. He advised that in all the discussions that had previously taken place in the Chamber in relation to the Tuam/Athenry railway line, there was never a case of one option over the other and this is very clear from the Motions considered when this issue was discussed which referred to the greenway as a complementary use of the disused railway alignment which would in no way compromise the future provision of a railway service. He advised that the submission is valid and an outcome is awaited.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to the Road Network heading in the submission and said that the word Greenway was omitted.

Mr. Kelly responded stating that this was not intended and an amendment to the submission would be made by inputting the word Greenway.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keaveney **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh Farag, it was **AGREED** that word Greenway be re-inserted.

ITEM NO. 3 - TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.775622 HECTARES OF LAND AT CULLAIRBAUN AND PARK, ATHENRY **3476**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, the disposal of 0.775622 Hectares of land at Cullairbaun and Park, Athenry was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 4 - TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.508 HECTARES OF LAND AT KILSKEAGH, ATHENRY **3477**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the disposal of 0.508 Hectares of land at Kilskeagh, Athenry was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 5 - TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0388 HECTARES OF LAND AT GREENEENAGH, LOUGHREA **3478**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn, the disposal of 0.0388 Hectares of land at Greeneenagh, Loughrea was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 6 - TO CONSIDER VARYING THE BASIC RATE OF THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX (LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR) REGULATIONS 2014 **3479**

Mr. Kelly advised Members that the report shows a gap between Income and Expenditure of €1.25m. He explained that this figure was at this stage of the budget and the gap was likely to increase as the budget process advanced. In order to bridge

this gap, the options are to increase Local Property Tax (LPT), reduce expenditure or increase Commercial Rates.

Cllr. Kinane **PROPOSED** that there would be no increase in Local Property Tax for 2020.

Cllr. Byrne stated that the LPT was discussed at CPG and that the CPG do not recommend an increase in LPT. He stated that since 2015, there are 5,000 newly constructed houses, that are currently not paying property tax. However, if they were to pay the average LPT charge, this would net an amount of €1.4 million to Galway County Council. He stated that it would not be fair to increase tax on existing households. Cllr. Byrne **SECONDED** Cllr. Kinane's proposal to not increase the LPT.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the lack of funding from the equalisation fund to Galway County Council and the status of the LPT Review.

It was unanimously **AGREED** not to increase the basic rate of the Local Property Tax for 2020.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was **AGREED** that a meeting be arranged with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding the issue of underfunding in Galway County Council.

ITEM NO. 7 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT, THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF BOTH THE CLIMATE ACTION AND LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT ACT 2015 AND THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK, 2018

3480

Ms. Ruane advised Members that Galway County Council has prepared a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 which sets out how the Local Authority intend on making Galway County more resilient to the impacts of climate change by identifying the risks, challenges and opportunities associated with climate

change and to take coherent coordinated adaptive actions. Public consultation took place over a four-week period from the 19th August to 16th September, 2019, with a total of 10 submissions received. She confirmed that a Public Consultation Report was prepared in response to the submissions received, which were supportive of the need to take action.

There is also a need for the development of a Climate Mitigation Strategy to fulfill obligations under the Governments Climate Action Plan. However, this will be addressed separately as part of the terms of reference of a newly formed Climate & Biodiversity SPC and in line with national guidance and direction. She stated that Galway County Council has over the past decade engaged in a significant number of climate mitigation projects and is the first and only Local Authority to date to establish a dedicated Climate Action Support Scheme for communities to access funding for local climate action measures in their own towns and villages. She advised the Members that she strongly recommends them supporting this Draft Change Adaption Strategy.

A number of Members welcomes the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and recommended its adoption. Weaknesses have been identified such as a lack of resources and Mitigation measures being relegated. However, such issues can be addressed at SPC level. Questions were raised on the effect that the Low Carbon Development Act will have on Local Authorities.

It was proposed that Galway County Council becomes a partner of The All Ireland Pollinator Plan which was established as one third of bees are threatned with extension from Ireland. It was suggested that two to three acres could be allocated in Renville Park to setting up a wild plant.

In response to the Members queries, Ms. Ruane stated that resources are required to carry out what is required under the plan. She confirmed that there has been no formal announcement regarding funding, but it is key that adequate resources are secured. She advised that Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, is currently doing work with regard to the Pollinator Plan.

Mr. Conway informed Members that Galway County Council are currently checking out Renville Park as a location for inclusion of wild plants.

A submission was made regarding an amendment of the wording on the Strategy to change "Steering group" to SPC.

A suggestion made by Members included the benefit of engaging with Tidy Towns Committees around the county in relation to the Pollinator Plan.

In reply, Ms. Ruane confirmed that formal consultation took place and ten submissions were received. She advised that this is a dynamic document and the Environment Department will be rolling out training programmes across the county and intend to engage with schools and citizens during the period of the plan. She informed Members that Peat Extraction will be dealt with in the Mitigation Strategy.

Ms. Ruane thanked the staff of the Environment Section who worked on the Draft Climate Change Adaption Strategy and wish to acknowledge all their work.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Galway County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was **ADOPTED**.

ITEM NO. 8 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT, THE REPORT UNDER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL (SEGREGATION, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL WASTE) BYE-LAWS, 2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 35 OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT 1996 AND SECTION 199 (1) AND (2) AND PART 19 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

3481

Cllr. Killilea advised that he wished to exclude himself from consideration of this item to avoid any possible conflict of interest. He left the Chamber.

Ms. Ruane informed Members that Galway County Council have prepared Waste Segregation, Storage and Presentation Bye-Laws in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2001, for the purpose of the proper management of waste and for the prevention or control of environmental

pollution. The Bye-Laws include for segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste. She confirmed that the Draft Bye Laws went on public display on 17th May 2019, for one month and a further two-week period was allowed for receipt of any submissions. No submissions were received following public consultation and Ms. Ruane recommended adoption.

The Members welcomed the Bye-Laws and the following issues were raised by individual members; Enforcement of the Bye-Laws, lack of human and financial resources, difficulties encountered with the use of CCTV footage, lack of facilities for the disposal of old paint tins, absence of a bottle bank in Claregalway, responsibility for the provision and service of bottle banks, Kerbside collection - areas in the county particularly in Conamara not serviced by waste collectors, frequency and opening times of Recycling centres, "Name and shame" offenders for illegal dumping, methods to encourage proper waste disposal, issues surrounding severe littering in Housing estates, waste collectors, a need to encourage them to assist the public and facilitate the maximum amount of collection of waste, The N84 the main gateway to Connemara has ongoing illegal dumping problems, importance of encouraging the public to come forward and report illegal dumping, operation of bogus waste collectors operating in the county is posing a problem, emptying of bottle banks, Community Wardens working outside office hours to try and deal with illegal dumping, the amount of revenue collected in respect of illegal dumping fines.

Ms. Ruane informed Members that dealing with the scourge of illegal dumping is very resource intensive, particularly in a county with the size and geographical traits of County Galway. She further advised that she has applied to the Department for an uplift in the grant funding to increase resources in this area.

In relation to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Galway County Council is obliged to comply with these regulations, and the Environment Section, and the Council generally, are currently working with the Data Commissioner with respect to the use of CCTV.

With regards to comments regarding "naming and shaming", this matter is under discussion through the Regional Waste Enforcement structures. She confirmed that all civic amenity sites facilitate the taking of used paint tins.

Ms. Dolan informed Members that significant work has been carried out by the Environment Section in rolling out anti-dumping initiatives and received funding of €250,000 from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for same. One such initiative included the Bulky Goods Collection Service. She confirmed that if Bye-Laws are adopted by Members, individuals if required will be obliged to furnish a receipt within seven days showing evidence of how they disposed of their waste. She pointed out that in relation to CCTV footage, it is not always possible to have cameras in every location and they may not always be pointing in the right direction which can impede prosecutions. There is currently an audit underway by the Data Protection Commission and the outcome of this Audit is awaited. With regard to the comments of bags left on the side of the roads, there is an issue with trucks not being able to drive up certain roads, as they will not be able to turn the trucks on these roads. She advised that if there is no bin service provided in an area, individuals can use bags and the waste disposal is the individuals own responsibility. In relation to the N84, she confirmed that this area was cleaned up a few weeks ago, however, the Enforcement Officer informed the Environment department that the illegal dumping has occurred again. Regarding the Community Wardens working outside normal working times, that is being discussed at present. Regarding the amount of money received from fines, she stated she is not aware of this figure. She advised that their policy is rather to prevent instead of prosecuting as going to court does not always solve the problem. Many members raised issues relating to bottle banks and dumping at these locations and the use of CCTV. Members who raised the issue of waste trucks not being able to access some roads and also issues relating to bulky goods disposal.

Cllr. Donohue thanked the staff of the Environment Section for all their work. She advised she has made a submission regarding the Draft Litter Plan. She suggested running a big media campaign, with possible tag line "Dumping is not Cool". Ms. Ruane advised that there is an Awareness Campaign in place ready to go once the Bye Laws are adopted.

Cllr. Reddington asked if the Bulk Goods Collection Service could be extended around the county.

Cllr. Murphy asked about providing a Recycling Centre for Gort which would help in alleviating illegal dumping.

Comh. Ó Cualáin said it was said that a Civic Amenity Centre was going to be provided for in the Costello area, he asked was this still going ahead.

Cllr. Cronnelly complimented the staff of the Environment Section. He said how he has been a member of this SPC. He asked what can be done about the issue of dumping of grass on the roadside in rural areas. This is an issue, resulting in drains being blocked.

Comh. Ó Curraóin said that he has sat on the SPC for five years and he acknowledged the wonderful work done by tidy towns and voluntary groups.

Ms. Dolan replied that at the moment the Environment Section is under Audit by the Data Commission, in six weeks they will have their final report. At this stage, they will begin works on the bottle banks and CCTV, they are very aware it is needed, it is a huge cost to provide. Regarding the comments relating to the disposal of paint tins and having a more regular collection, she advised that they would look at the idea of doing something with Galway City Council. With regard to providing a Recycling Centre in Cashla, it is a resources problem, they would like to provide same. With regards the dumping of grass cutting, this is something that is very hard to prosecute. With regards the maximum of four items for bulky goods collection service, this happened as in previous collection days, but she advised that nobody was turned away on the day.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye Laws were **ADOPTED**.

ITEM NO. 9 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT, THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019 – 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOUSING (TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION) ACT, 1998 3482

Ms. Brann outlined the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024 to the Members as per letter to the Members dated 17th September 2019. She advised the members that the Housing Section had met and exceeded their targets. This documented was presented to the SPC and the Traveller Accommodation Committee. She advised that the review date will be no late than 21st December 2021.

Cllr. McClearn advised the members that they are all aware of the challenges faced around the issue of traveller accommodation.

Cllr. Maher **PROPOSED** adopting this programme, remarking that Galway County Council are ahead of our targets.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked if the budget was underspent.

Cllr. Keaveney agreed with Cllr. Maher's comments and **SECONDED** the adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024. Cllr. Keaveney asked if there are any plans to replace the Senior Social Worker who had recently retired.

Cllr. Charity raised concerns regarding Carrabrown stating that it should have been closed a few years ago, this is now in breach of planning laws, while situated in the county it is operated by the City Council. An Bord Pleanála directed that this site be closed, and it has still not happened. With regard to enforcement, we are the authority who have to take action against Galway City Council. It is now intended to close in 2024.

Ms. Brann replied that yes there was an underspend, the allocation from the Department is Capital Funding, it was not possible to avail of all of this funding for a few specific projects. Regarding a new Senior Social Worker, she understands that the HR Department are progressing this matter.

Regarding the Carrabrowne site, the City Council are actively trying to sort alternative accommodation for the families living in this site at present.

Members raised other issues including a possible site at Oranmore, also the prevalence of property being damaged and destroyed beyond repair at locations with an occurrence in one case for the fourth time in ten years.

Cllr. Killilea said that a site near the roundabout in Oranmore next to the IDA units, is not the way forward.

Cllr. Maher wished Mary Forde a long and happy retirement.

Ms. Brann advised that there are challenges and that the Housing Section is committed to finding solutions. There are fire safety aspects that have to be considered and Anti-Social Policies also need to be adhered to. She thanked Mary Forde for all the work she did and wished her a happy retirement.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 was **ADOPTED**.

ITEM NO. 13 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT, THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS REGULATING PROCEEDINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL **3483**

Ms. Delaney outlined to Members that the Standing Orders were reviewed by the CPG and the following are the proposed amendments;

Standing Order Item No.1- Meetings of the Council

The recommendation is to change the Plenary Meetings from monthly to bi-monthly.

Following discussion on the time and frequency of the Plenary meetings there was overall agreement that the existing arrangement remain in place.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Hoade, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, it was **AGREED** that the monthly Plenary Meetings would remain with a start time of 11.00am. This was **AGREED**.

Cllr. Killilea asked if this matter could be reviewed in the middle of next year.

Standing Order Item No.5 - Hour of Meeting

Cllr. McHugh Farag addressed point number five on the draft Standing Orders, "Where standing orders are suspended to allow the time for the meeting to be extended for the purpose of transacting statutory items they shall be suspended for a defined period and shall only be suspended once", she proposed to remove this from the draft and revert back to original Standing Orders.

Ms. Delaney clarified that this refers to the extension of statutory items only.

Mr. Kelly stated that the reason for this amendment was due to Members expressing dissatisfaction that there are on occasions insufficient numbers of Members remaining in the Chamber in the evening of a Plenary Council to discuss statutory items.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said that it is the responsibility of each Member to wait in the evenings if items are on the Agenda that still need to be discussed.

Cllr. McClearn said that this situation has happened in the past and the intent here was to try and solve this problem.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh Farag, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, the following proposal was **AGREED**; "I propose that "for the purpose of transacting statutory items" be removed from the standing orders of the Plenary Council Draft Document".

Standing Order Item No.13 - Order of Business

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion, the Order of Business of the Draft Standing Orders was **AGREED**.

Following discussion and suggestions from Cllrs. Byrne, Roche, Killilea, Albert Dolan and M. Connolly regarding the running order of the items under Order of Business the following was **AGREED**:

- (i) Confirmation of Minutes
- (ii) Consideration of matters arising from the Minutes
- (iii) Consideration of Reports and Recommendations
- (iv) Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council for transaction at such meeting
- (v) Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting
- (vi) Chief Executive Business and Correspondence
- (vii) Cathaoirleach's Business
- (viii) Notices of Motion
- (ix) Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Standing Order Item No.14 - Confirmation of Minutes

This was **AGREED**.

Standing Order Item No.18 - Motions to Amend or Revoke Resolutions

Ms. Delaney advised that the proposed amendment is not less than 20 members.

Cllr. Killilea rejected this proposal on the basis that it should be the majority of members present who vote that applies.

Ms. Delaney pointed out that this is the position in relation to most Motions, however, in respect of this item, the legislation clearly states under section Section 16,(1), (2), (4d) Schedule 10 of Local Government Act 2001 that at least one half of the total members of the local authority vote in favour in the case of amendment or revocation.

This was **AGREED**.

Standing Order Item No. 20 - Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business

This was **AGREED**.

Standing Order Item No. 22 - Motions and Amendments

This was **AGREED**

Standing Order Item No 63. - Casual Vacancy

Ms. Delaney advised that the insertion of this provision is to ensure that a casual vacancy may be filled by the council in the event of a vacancy arising. This relates specifically to Non-party members. In the event that a vacancy occurs and a substitute is either not nominated or that nominee is no longer available, the council can proceed to fill the vacancy.

This was **AGREED**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, the Draft Standing Orders regulating proceedings and Meetings of the Plenary Council was **ADOPTED**.

ITEM NO. 14 - TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT STANDING ORDERS REGULATING PROCEEDINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS **3484**

Ms. Delaney advised the Members this Item was for their consideration only and must be adopted at each Municipal District (MD). She pointed out that the Municipal District Standing Orders are presented to display the consistent approach being taken in respect of all Standing Orders, both Plenary and Municipal District with a view to accommodating additional functions at MD level.

The proposed amendments of the Municipal District Standing Orders are:

MD Standing Orders Item No. 1 – Meetings of the MD Members:

To be agreed at MD.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 5 - Hour of Meeting:

To be agreed at MD.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 6 – Place of Meeting:

To be agreed at MD.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 13 – Order of Business:

Consistent with Plenary.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 14 – Confirmation of Minutes:

Consistent with Plenary.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 22 - Motions and Amendments:

Consistent with Plenary.

MD Standing Orders Item No. 51 – Deputations:

Discussed and recommended at CPG, Agreed at Plenary.

ITEM NO. 15 - TO CONSIDER FUNCTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT **3485**

Mr. Kelly outlined to Members that this item outlines the functions to be performed by the Elected Members at Municipal District level. He stated that the Members of the CPG following discussion agreed that a phased approach to the transfer of functions to Municipal Districts may work best and therefore as a first step the following functions would be carried out at Municipal District Level:

- A decision in relation to the making, amendment or revocation of a Local Area Plan within the meaning of the Act of 2000.
- Deciding to vary or modify a proposed Local Authority own development, or deciding not to proceed with the development.

The functions being transferred to the Municipal Districts are significant statutory functions and the transfer of further functions to Municipal District level will be considered in the coming months have regard to the experience gained in this first phase.

Members asked if it is possible explore the approval of Members Training and Conferences attendance at Municipal District level and also the attendance by the Press at Deputations arranged by the Municipal District.

In response Mr. Kelly stated that what the CPG has outlined is that the above are direct functions that will be carried out by the Municipal Districts and additional functions could be added on a rolling basis. He raised concerns regarding the attendance of the Press at Deputations due to the sometimes-sensitive nature of what is being discussed. He pointed out that the press would be in attendance for any discussion on the issues raised by the deputation at the meeting.

Cllr. McClearn said that his only concern would be that a Member of the Deputation could say something libelous on the day and the person it might relate to, might not be there to defend themselves, there are two sides to every argument.

Cllr Killilea stated that in other local authorities, there is a chain of office for each Municipal District and this should be afforded consideration.

Other suggestions put forward was the duration of the Municipal District Meetings be kept within three hours. Cllr. Mc Clearn clarified that this is a decision to be taken at Municipal District level.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the consideration of functions to be undertaken by each Municipal District was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 16 - TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE EXTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AUDIT COMMITTEE) REGULATIONS SI 244 OF 2014 UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014 **3486**

Mr. Farrell advised that a report dated 17th September 2019, on the External Audit Committee Membership was circulated to Members. He confirmed that the Committee comprises of two elected Members i.e. Cllrs. Charity and Carroll and three external members. Mr. Farrell recommended that the three existing external Members, Mr.

Des Mahon, Mr. Seamus Duffy and Ms. Sarah Roarty remain on the External Audit Committee.

Cllr. Albert Dolan expressed dissatisfaction with the Audit Committee Reports. He stated that the Audit Committee is the single most important exercise in Local Government. He urged Members to reject the re-appointment of the three external Members and to return the issue to the CPG for consideration stating that "familiarity leads to complacency".

Cllr. Carroll who was a Member of the Audit Committee from 2014-2019 stated that he refuted the comments made by Cllr. Albert Dolan stating that all Members of the Committee were very committed to their role and carried out their duties very responsibly.

In response, Cllr. Albert Dolan said that he appreciated the work carried out by the Audit Committee Members but change was necessary. He stated that the reports issued to Members were insufficient and it is very important that the public get value for money.

Mr. Farrell acknowledged the importance of strong governance stating that the External Audit Committee is very robust and fully accountable, which works closely with the Internal Auditor and deals with any matters of concern. He stated that although this is a matter for the Members to consider, he recommended that the three existing Members to continue as members on this committee.

Cllr. Keaveney stated that Cllr. Albert Dolan's views are the valid concerns of an accountant. He asked for details on the frequency of the Committee meetings and how much Members are paid.

Cllr. Broderick stated the Committee is robust, and asks questions. He said it is not who you have on a Committee, it is how it works and cannot see any concerns with it.

Mr. Kelly said Members can refer this back to the CPG, however, he stressed the difficulty in replacing external members.

Cllr. Cuddy commented that he previously was a Member of the Audit Committee. He said this committee is very upfront and that they do ask the hard questions. Such reports are presented in the Chamber for consideration and Members have the opportunity to comment on same.

Cllr. Carroll replied to Cllr. Keaveney's request for details on expenses paid to this committee. He said he never received any money for his work on this committee. Outside expertise is brought in and this is very valuable to the External Audit Committee.

Cllr. Albert Dolan reiterated that he was not questioning any individual's integrity who worked on this committee but he felt that the reports lacked substance.

Mr. Farrell confirmed that external members are paid around €600 a meeting. He also advised the members that NOAC also have a role in this committee.

Cllr. Byrne confirmed that the CPG recommended that the three existing Committee Members remain in situ for the forthcoming term.

Cllr. Albert Dolan submitted the following Motion (Motion A); "we propose that GCC proceed with advertising to seek public interests of expressions to source External Audit Committee Members". This was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney.

Motion A was put to a Vote:

Yes (Vote: 15)

Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Donagh Killilea
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan
Cllr. Noel Thomas
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn

Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Cllr. Gerry King
Cllr. Martina Kinane
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Comh. Dáithi O Cualáin

Cllr. Dermot Connolly
Cllr. Ivan Canning
Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Shane Curley
Comh. T. Ó Curraóin

No (Vote: 21)

Cllr. Aisling Dolan
Reddington

Cllr. Eileen Mannion

Cllr. James Charity

Cllr. Joe Byrne

Cllr. Mary Hoade

Cllr. Pat Hynes

Cllr. Thomas Welby

lomaire

Cllr. Alistair McKinstry

Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag

Cllr. Michael Maher

Cllr. Peter Keaveney

Cllr. Tim Broderick

Cllr.

Andrew

Cllr. Geraldine Donohue

Cllr. Jimmy McClearn

Cllr. Liam Carroll

Cllr. P.J. Murphy

Cllr. Peter Roche

Comh. P. Mac an

Abstain (Vote: 1)

Cllr. Declan Geraghty

The Cathaoirleach declared that the vote was defeated

ITEM NO. 17 - TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP OF GALWAY COUNTY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 128C OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014

3487

Mr. Farrell advised that a report on the Filling of Vacancies on Local Development Boards was circulated to Members. He advised ratifying membership of same as proposed in the report.

He thanked Members of the Committee for their dedication and hard work.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Thomas, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the Membership of Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was **AGREED**.

ITEM NO. 18 - TO CONSIDER FILLING OF VACANCIES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES

3488

Cllr. Welby advised that despite receiving correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in 2014, recommending that there is no requirement on Local Authorities to make nominations to the boards of Local Development Companies (LDC's). He said it was important that Elected Members

have membership same. He recommended the rejection of the Department's recommendation and this was **AGREED** by all Members.

ITEM NO. 19 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **3489**

- (a) On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Members **AGREED** to authorise the attendance of the following Members at LAMA Autumn Training Seminar 2019 in the assigned location of The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare on the 17th, 18th & 19th October, 2019;

Cllrs. Welby, Herterich Quinn, Kinane, Mac An Iomaire, Donohue, Ó Curraóin, Hynes, M. Connolly and Hoade.

- (b) On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Members **AGREED** to authorise the attendance of the following Members at AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2019 (Retrospective) in the assigned location of The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on the 11th & 12th September, 2019;

Cllrs. Roche, Ó Curraóin, McKinsty, Murphy and Hoade

ITEM NO. 20 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **3490**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly, the Members **AGREED** to authorise the attendance of the following Member at the Energy in Agriculture 2019 (Retrospective) Conference in the Gurteen College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the 20th August, 2019.

Cllr. M. Connolly

ITEM NO. 21 - TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142 (5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) 3491

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, the Members **AGREED** to note the Summary of Proceedings of the following Conference:

Energy in Agriculture 2019, held on the 20th August, 2019, in the Gurteen Collge, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, submitted by Cllr. M. Connolly.

ITEM NO. 22 - TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) 3492

Cllr. Mannion welcomed the CLÁR funding.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea, the Members **AGREED** to note the management Report, September, 2019.

ITEM NO. 23 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE 3493

No discussion took place.

ITEM NO. 24 - CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS 3494

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning it was **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. Walsh to attend AILG Autumn Training (Retrospective) in The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, on the 11th & 12th September, 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly it was **AGREED** to nominate Comh. Ó Curraóin to attend AILG Autumn Training (Retrospective) in The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, on the 11th & 12th September, 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Cualáin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade it was **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. C. Keaveney to attend LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, on the 17th, 18th and 19th October, 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Roche **SECONDED** by Cllr. Murphy it was **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. Roche to attend the LAMA Autumn Training Seminar in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare on the 17th, 18th and 19th October, 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning, it was **AGREED** to nominate Cllr. Walsh to attend the LAMA Autumn Training Seminar in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare on the 17th, 18th and 19th October, 2019.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Aisling Dolan, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €350.00 from Cllr. Donohue's Conference fund to the Telesis Marking System Purchase by Independent Councillors.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €300.00 from Cllr. Geraghty's Training Fund to the Telesis Marking System Purchase by Independent Councillors.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €400.00 from Cllr. Cronnelly's Training Fund to the purchase of a Dot Peen Marking Machine (Telesis Marking System).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Aisling Dolan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €300.00 from Cllr. Aisling Dolan's Conference Fund to the Property Marking Machine.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €150.00 from Cllr. Byrne's Training and Conference Fund to Coole (Park) Parkrun.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mc Clearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €700.00 from Cllr. Mc Clearn's Conference Fund to Kiltormer/Eyrecourt Karate Club to help send athletes to the World Under 21 Championship in Santiago, Chile.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €750.00 from Cllr. Mc Canning's Conference and Training Fund to the Irish workhouse in Portumna, Co. Galway.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Connolly, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €500.00 from Cllr. Geraghty's Training Fund to Creggs Tidy Towns, Co. Galway.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Collins, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €800.00 from Cllr. Collins Training and Conference funds to the Turloughmore Community Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €350.00 from Cllr. Curley's Conference and Training funds to Kilrickle Tidy Villages group.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Reddington, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €750.00 from Cllr. Reddington's Conference and Training funds to Claran Development Association.

Cllr. Curley made the following **PROPOSAL**; "that Galway Co. Co. pass a motion in support of Dublin City Council unanimously supported motion to call for exhumation from Kilmainham ground and burial in Glasnevin Cemetery of 5 Fenian Invincibles: Joseph Brady, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey, Timothy Kelly and Daniel Curley (Galway Native)

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hynes, and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Killilea made the following **PROPOSAL**; " to add to Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, to amend the reference of Climate Steer Group to "SPC on Climate Change" and that we do not want any commercial peat extraction to any group over harvesting peat on over 5 ha unless required for the generation of electricity. This would not affect the private use of turf cutters for personal use".

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, and **WITHDRAWN**.

Cllr. Killilea made the following **PROPOSAL**; "that Galway County Council write to the Minister for Transport and Irish Rail to ask why no response was sent/returned regarding my proposal for the taking down of the steel gates at the line in Tuam town (refer to letter). I also propose that we demand an informed response".

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Killilea made the following **PROPOSAL**; "that Galway Co Co submit an objection to the upgrading of Tuam Waste Water Treatment Plant as a Sludge Hub. Grounds to be confirmed by TMD at a Special Meeting if required before the submission closing date".

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag made the following **PROPOSAL**; "that "for the purpose of transacting statutory items" be removed from the standing orders of the Plenary Council Draft document".

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, and **AGREED**.

Mr. Farrell advised that the Members should be aware that when the matter of the Dot Peen Machine was originally raised in 2018, his advice at that time was that it would not be appropriate to purchase it without due consideration as there were operational

issues to consider. He advised that there are still concerns with regard to management/operation of the machine and that he understood this has been the experience in other Local Authorities. While Members have allocated funding, further consideration needs to be given to this and that if it is not feasible the members allocations may have to be revisited.

Mr. Kelly advised Members that it is intended to bring a proposal to the CPG to discuss transferring Members Training and Conference monies at the Budget Meeting only, as had now become common current practice. At present, it appears that Members are using the money that was meant for one purpose by transferring it to another.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 25– Cllr. Sheridan

3495

Cllr. Sheridan made the following proposal; “that the forward Planning Section of GCC, update the LAP for MILLTOWN for inclusion in the impending County Development Plan 21-27”.

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Sheridan;

“The Forward Planning Section are currently engaging in preparatory work for the New County Development Plan 2021-2027. Milltown had a population of 207 persons in the 2016 census. The new county development plan will not contain land use zoning plans for settlements with similar populations to that of Milltown. The Galway County Development Plan 2021-2027 will contain policies and objectives that will enable development to be carried out in a planned and co-ordinated manner in villages such as Milltown”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 26 – Cllr. Sheridan

3496

Cllr. Sheridan made the following proposal; “that the forward planning Section of GCC, update the LAP of Dunmore (Dockery & Assoc) for inclusion in the impending County Development Plan”.

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Sheridan;

“The Forward Planning Section are currently engaging in preparatory work for the New County Development Plan 2021-2027. Dunmore had a population of 600 persons in the 2016 census. At this time, we envisage that a new settlement plan for Dunmore would form part of the new County Plan. However, it would not be a continuance of the previously expired plan”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 27 – Cllr. Charity

3497

Cllr. Charity made the following proposal; “that Galway County Council call upon the Government to immediately establish the office of an Insurance Regulator in light of the recent revelation that non-life insurance company profits rose by 1,318% at a time when motor insurance premium increases of 70% were also applied by the same insurers (and despite motor insurer profits for the same period of over €125 million being disclosed). The Insurance Regulator should oversee all aspects of the insurance market including the level of premiums and charges by insurance companies operating in the Irish market and impose caps on annual premium increases”.

This **PROPOSAL** was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag and **AGREED**.

No response to date.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 28 – Cllr. Donohue

3498

Cllr. Donohue made the following proposal; “that Galway County Council supports the campaign of the Beef Farmers in their endeavor to secure higher prices for their produce, and in line with the Food and Innovation Hub Mellows Campus Athenry local producers are also included”.

This **PROPOSAL** was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly and **AGREED**.

Response available in the Correspondence section of the Extranet.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 29 – Cllr. Reddington

3499

Cllr. Reddington made the following proposal; “That Galway County Council identify suitable locations for e CHARGING points for electric cars in the principal streets of

County Galway with a design plan and outline budget requirements for the next Budget Cycle where possible including the installation in planned street upgrades”.

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Reddington;

“The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has announced funding to support the rollout by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles over the next 5 years.

Capital supports of 75% of the cost up to maximum of 5,000 euro per charge point will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street charge points per annum (across the whole local authority sector not per individual local authority). The Local Authorities will operate the charge points subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, who will manage the scheme, and the Department are currently finalising the terms and conditions that will apply. Charge points may be located where public parking is provided on-street or in Local Authority car parks. On-street charge points may also be integrated with street lighting in a single lamppost as has been trialled in the Dublin Local Authorities.

In addition, under the first call for applications from the Climate Action Fund, approved funding of up to €10 million has been allocated to ESB eCars to develop a nationwide, state-of-the-art electric vehicle fast charging network.

The project includes the installation of 90 high-power chargers each of which will be capable of charging two vehicles simultaneously, upgrading 50 existing standard chargers to fast chargers and replacing over 500 existing charge points with next generation high reliability models. There is no current information available in respect of proposed locations in County Galway.

Galway County Council is currently reviewing the current network of existing charge points throughout the County to determine the most suitable potential locations on our own lands. The most appropriate business model for the roll out of any such network is also being considered having regard to the upfront capital investment and long-term maintenance that will be required. There are also additional issues which require further analysis including fee structure, contractual arrangements with ESB and the potential ramifications of being considered an “energy supplier”.

It is anticipated that the newly formed Strategic Policy Committee will consider this matter in due course once the terms and conditions of the scheme become available and in the context of budgetary constraints moving into 2020”.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 30 - Cllr. Kinane

3500

Cllr. Kinane made the following proposal; “that in the interest of “safe passage” of all children/teenagers attending National & Secondary School in our County and around the County that Galway County Council write to the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport; Shane Ross seeking for “the introduction of a mandatory speed limit zone of no higher than 50Km at all locations”.

Cllr. Kinane submitted an Amendment to Notice of Motion No. 30:

“that in the interest of “safe passage” of all children/teenagers attending National & Secondary schools in our county that Galway County Council write to the Minister of Transport, Tourism & Sport Shane Ross seeking for the installation of periodic speed limit signage at all locations where currently none exist or where no special speed limit exist. The cost of these works should be recouped from relevant Departments (Dept.Transport Tourism & Sport or Department of Education & Skills)”.

This **PROPOSAL** was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn and **AGREED**

Response available in the Correspondence section of the Extranet.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO.31 - Cllr. Charity

3501

Cllr. Charity made the following proposal; “that Galway County Council recognise that people with disabilities have the same right to use and enjoy public spaces that we all share. Acknowledge the obstacles which people with disabilities face in their daily lives, including badly parked vehicles and bicycles, billboards, over-grown hedges and other ill-placed hazards.

-Understanding that most obstacles are caused by genuine lack of awareness.

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Charity;

“The Disability Act (2005) requires public bodies to ensure over time, that buildings and services are accessible to people with disabilities. It places an obligation on Local Authorities to integrate Disability Service provision with mainstream services. The Sectoral Plan of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, set out the National Objectives and Guidelines for Local Authorities.

Regarding the specific matters raised, the Infrastructure & Operations department ensure that all footway remedial works, pedestrian crossings etc. incorporate disability access in accordance with current design standards and any issues/obstacles that are brought to their attention that affect people with disabilities will be addressed subject to available funding. Traffic Management Plans have been introduced to many towns across the county and our team of Community Wardens take an active role in ensuring that the traffic/parking restrictions are adhered to.

For your information, Galway County Council's Disability Action Plan 2007-2015 was developed in line with the Disability Act and Sectoral Plan. This Plan, co-funded by Department Grants Schemes, delivered in consultation with the Council's Customer Services Officers Group; access improvements at Áras an Chontae, at public buildings, and libraries as well as sixteen of our towns and villages.

Galway County Council commissioned comprehensive Access Audits in 16 Town and Villages in County Galway which informed significant programme of Capital Works under the Disability Action Plan 2007-2015. A disability steering group convened by Galway County Council provided direct input into the agreed actions and were advised on the Audit outcomes and works. These works contributed to upgrades of parking, footpaths, lighting, and access in 16 towns and villages. The capital investment programme which followed and was coordinated by Galway County Council, contributed to creating significant awareness and capacity among both technical and administrative staff about access needs in line with the National Disability Authority – 'Building for Everyone' standards and Universal Design Principles.

The adopted Local Economic and Community Plan for the County 2016-2022, comprises actions under 10 themes, of which a number incorporate actions addressing needs of people with disabilities and commitments to reduce inequalities and improve access to services. This plan is currently being implemented, and a process of evaluating the impact of its actions on specific target groups, including

people with disabilities, will be part of the overall proofing process and impact evaluation of the plan which will be reported on to the LCDC on a regular basis.

Galway County Council's Disability Action Plan, continues to provide a framework for our actions and the principles and priority areas continue to inform our Annual Service Delivery Plans and Budget Submissions. The principles in the Disability Action Plan have been integrated into our policy and practices and have informed the Strategic Priorities of the Corporate Plan 2014-2019 and will be included for consideration in the preparation of the new Corporate Plan 2019-2024".

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 32 - Cllr. Charity

3502

Cllr. Charity made the following proposal; "that Galway County Council adopt the following motion:-

- Supports the establishment of an annual "Make Way Day" taking place on 26th September in 2019.
- Will write to An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD, and to each individual Minister and Minister of State, calling on them to support, establish, fund and resource an annual national "Make Way Day" which would be localised in each region.
- Will annually support and promote a local #MakeWayGalwayCounty Campaign as part of a wider "Make Way Day".

This **PROPOSAL** was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag and **AGREED**.

Responses available in the Correspondence section of the Extranet.

Matters Arising

A number of Members expressed concern about some of the speed limit reductions on certain National Roads. Mr. Cullen said the Review of the Speed Limits went through a detailed statutory process involving consultation with An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the public prior to adoption of the Bye-Laws.

In relation to National routes, Galway County Council cannot make speed limit byelaws other than with the consent of the TII and the speed limits included in the byelaws were based on the TII recommendations.

Cllr. Killilea said he was totally opposed to Irish Water's application to the upgrading of Tuam Waste Water treatment plant as sludge hub. This could result in Tuam storing an extra 50,000 tonnes of sludge over the next ten years. He asked that a follow up letter be issued to Irish Rail and Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the removal of gates/barriers erected to Vicar Street and Milltown Road. He acknowledged the hard work of retired Galway County Council Social Worker Mary Forde and recommended that Threshold be asked to make a presentation to Members at the October Plenary Meeting detailing their functions/operations and pressures put on the service by Councillors by referring people to them.

Response from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport available in Correspondence section of Extranet. No response to date from Iarnród Éireann.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted Signed and Approved:

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

