

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL,

Monday, 25th November 2019 at 10.00am

- 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, 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, 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
Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services
Ms. F. Mitchell, Staff Officer
Ms. S. Elwood, Clerical Officer
Ms. C. Walsh, Clerical Officer

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir

Cllr. McClearn condemned the sinister threats received by Cllrs. Heterich Quinn and Cronnelly together with two Oireachtas Members through correspondence. He said that this was a cowardly act which was both unhelpful and unwelcome. Members who have a democratic mandate work tirelessly to ensure the best outcomes for their communities. The matter is the subject of a Garda investigation, and therefore would not be subject to further discussion.

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

(a) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 21st October 2019 **3519**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st October 2019 were **AGREED**.

Matters Arising

No discussion took place.

ITEM NO. 2 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO ADOPT THE DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2020 – 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **3520**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade the Draft Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 was **ADOPTED**.

Cllr. Hoade thanked the Executive Team for organising the Workshop on the Draft Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 and said that it was a worthwhile exercise focusing on the direction of the Council for the next 5 years.

ITEM NO. 3 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE ADOPT A STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME, 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) **3521**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the Strategic Policy Committee scheme, 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) was **ADOPTED**.

Ms. Delaney advised Members that one late submission was received on the 7th November 2019, from the Environmental Pillar. She outlined the main points of the submission and provided a response.

She recommended the adoption of the Draft SPC Scheme.

ITEM NO. 4 - TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE APPROVE A LOAN FACILITY OF €10 MILLION FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR SOCIAL & AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **3522**

Mr. Owens referred to report dated 21st November 2019 regarding the approval of a loan facility of €10m for land acquisition for the provision of social and affordable housing. He advised that Galway County Council's primary housing land holdings comprise of approximately 38.64 ha with 71% of the lands currently under construction, in the approval process or subject of a development proposal. The development potential of the remaining primary holdings is constrained by sustainable communities' criteria, housing need, current land use zoning and/or the availability of services. The current landbank will enable Galway County Council meet its build target under Rebuilding Ireland. However, to ensure that the Council retains the ability to deliver a build programme of appropriate scale, the acquisition of additional lands is a key priority to support the delivery of housing via direct build from 2022 onwards. Subject to the required approvals, it is intended to drawdown loan finance of €10 million on a phased basis, as lands are required, at the interest rate applicable as of the date of drawdown, from the Housing Finance Agency or other lender. Mr. Owens also stated that it is anticipated that the Affordable Housing Scheme will become operable in 2020.

In relation to the Loan Approval for Land Acquisition for Social & Affordable Housing, Members raised a number of issues including; the amount of money tied up in Social Housing developments and the ability to draw down this finance; if introduced will the

Affordable Housing Scheme be a cost neutral scenario or will it be supported by subsidies; the number of houses built on publicly owned lands in the last year; if there is a conflict of interest between private developers and Local Authorities when planning permission is granted to private developers for housing developments and the Local Authority subsequently purchases these units; the requirement for affordable, social and private housing to be provided in a cluster; if there has been any advancement since the presentation to the Ballinasloe Municipal District Members in July in relation to the O'Cualáin estate; if there is any advancement on the East Galway Waste Water Treatment plant by Irish Water; the role of Galway County Council regarding estate management and whether long term tenants of social houses will get the opportunity to purchase their houses; and if it is more cost effective to purchase land and build houses than purchasing Part V's;

Cllr. Thomas advised the meeting that he would not be supporting this item, due to the current proposal by Galway County Council to provide social housing in Moycullen.

Mr. Owens stated that the loan approval is required to allow for the acquisition of lands for direct builds for social and affordable housing as the Local Authority is unable to fund the investment from their own resources and advised that the €10m is deemed an appropriate amount which will be dealt with through the Capital Account. On completion of housing units, the money is recouped from the department for social housing and through the sale price for affordable housing. He stated that the Affordable Housing Scheme will become operable in 2020, however, full details of the scheme are currently not available. He confirmed that details of the scheme will be brought to the Housing SPC. He confirmed that Galway County Council does not have any land available at present for this scheme. In relation to the Council's build programme, he stated that 61 units have been completed in Gilmartin Road, Esker Fields and Garbally Road and six single rural houses. He stated that it is anticipated that Galway County Council will deliver 600 units by the end of 2021. With regard to the Council's landbank in Poolboy, Mr. Owens confirmed that since the presentation to the Ballinasloe Municipal District Members in July, an architect has been engaged and it is intended to engage in public consultation. He stated that one third of the Council's housing need is currently registered in the Athenry area. With regard to estate management, he said that there is an anti-social behaviour policy in place and

that the Housing department works closely with An Garda Síochána. He said that the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme introduced in 2016 is a national scheme and there are restrictions on who can avail of the scheme. He said that the current land bank allows Galway County Council to deal with housing demands up to 2021, however, from 2022 onwards the current land bank will be insufficient. He advised that as the delivery programme progresses the focus will change from acquisitions to builds, thus creating a greater demand for land.

Mr. Cullen in response to queries regarding the East Galway Waste Water Treatment Plant, confirmed that Galway County Council continue to engage with Irish Water regarding this and other Waste Water Treatment Plants.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney it was proposed to approve a loan facility of €10 million for Land Acquisition for Social & Affordable Housing in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). This was **NOT AGREED**, and this Item was put to a Vote.

Motion A (Item No. 4) "To consider and if deemed appropriate approve a loan facility of €10 million for Land Acquisition for Social & Affordable Housing in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)"

Yes (Vote: 30)

Cllr. Aisling Dolan	Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Cllr. Colm Keaveney	Cllr. David Collins
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Cllr. Donagh Killilea	Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty
Cllr. Ivan Canning	Cllr. James Charity	Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Cllr. Joe Byrne	Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Cllr. Mary Hoade	Cllr. Michael Maher
Cllr. PJ Murphy	Cllr. Peter Roche	Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Shane Curley	Cllr. Thomas Welby	Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	Comh. Padraig Mac an Iomaire	Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin

No (Vote: 3)

Cllr. Gerry King	Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	Cllr. Noel Thomas
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Abstain (Vote: 0)

The Cathaoirleach declared that the vote was carried.

ITEM NO. 5 - FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

3523

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Hoade and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty that Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn be appointed to the Road Safety Committee.

ITEM NO. 6 - 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)

3524

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Members **AGREED** to authorise the attendance of the following Members at the AILG Module 5 Training - Climate Change and the Regional Climate Change Offices (Retrospective Approval) at the assigned location in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone on 21st November:

Cllrs. Ó Curraóin, Sheridan and Welby.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Members **AGREED** to authorise the attendance of the following Member at the AILG Module 5 Training - Climate Change and the Regional Climate Change Offices (Retrospective Approval) at the alternative location in the Radisson Blu, Little Island, Cork on Saturday, 23rd November, 2019:

Cllr. Roche

ITEM NO. 7 – TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)

3525

Cllrs. Maher, Curley and McClearn welcomed the funding from Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for Loughrea Town Hall paying tribute to the people who put the application together including LARK. He thanked Mr. Alan Farrell and the team for their hard work.

With regard to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government granting stage 1 – 4 approval for Galway County Council to acquire 31 social houses at Garrai Mhic Aodha, Gort through a turnkey arrangement, Cllr. Finnerty enquired about the stage of acquisition of these houses and Cllr. Cuddy asked if it would be more cost effective for Galway County Council to build these houses as opposed to acquire same.

In response, Mr. Owens stated that the 31 social houses were approved by the Department, an acquisition sum was agreed, a capital appraisal was carried out and the Contractor is on site. It is anticipated that these houses will be delivered by December 2020, however, this is subject to change in the work programme.

Members raised a number of issues including concerns surrounding the inflated price of these houses which might affect the overall market, whether the Council is now forced to buy all the phases of this development; that there are too many social houses in one development; that elected representatives are not made aware of the prices of housing units until they are purchased; if this deal was initiated by Galway County Council or the Department; the mix of units within this development.

Members also welcomed the housing development comments that people occupying social houses are not working people, but they are and that the occupants of social houses play a huge part in contributing to the local community.

Mr. Owens clarified that the social houses in Garrai Mhic Aodha comprises of 14 three bedroom units and 17 two bedroom units. He said the process for Turnkey developments is that a Capital Appraisal is carried out by the Local Authority in conjunction with the Department guidelines and this is then submitted to the Department for approval. He stated that the developer submits their proposal in accordance with the invitation for expressions of interest as published on the website. The Council then engages the services of a Quantity Surveyor and a valuation is carried out. The appraisal is then submitted to the Department and in this instance the Department approved the scheme. This development will be built in accordance with the planning permission.

Mr. Owens confirmed that the developer submits the Turnkey proposal to the local authority and following submission to the Department for consideration it is either accepted or rejected. The cost paid is determined by the market value of the land and the build cost of the units and on that basis it represents value for money.

ITEM NO. 8 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE 3526

No discussion took place.

ITEM NO. 9 - CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS 3527

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraóin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €200.00 from Comh. Ó Curraóin's 2019 Training and Conference fund to purchase the DOT Peen marking machine.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraóin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €500 from Comh. Ó Curraóin's 2019 Training and Conference Fund to Furbo Tidy Towns.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Comh. Ó Curraóin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Comh. Ó Curraóin's 2019 training and conference allocation in the sum of €416.02 to Bearna Co-Op.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Curley's 2019 Training and Conference fund in the sum of €1042.21 to Leitrim/Ballydugan Community Centre for the development of a new gym.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keaveney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Keaveney's 2019 Training & Conference Fund in the sum of €822.09 to Tuam Celtic CCTV Measures at their pitches at Tuam.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €1200.00 from Cllr. Finnerty's 2019 Training and Conference fund to Christmas Lights in Gort.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sheridan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. King, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Sheridan's 2019 Training and Conference fund in the sum of €1391.86 to the Buladh Bós Project at Milltown Community Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. King, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Hoade, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €100.00 of Cllr. King's 2019 Training and Conference allocations to Leenane Development Association, €100.00 to Recess Sheep Show, €100.00 to Cashel Pony Show and the balance of his 2019 Training and Conference allocations in the sum of €684.10 to Clifden Christmas lights.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Donohue's 2019 Training and Conference funds in the sum of €930.30 to Gort Community School – Climate Action Project.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Albert Dolan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Curley, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €250.00 from Cllr. Dolan's 2019 Training and Conference funds to Monivea Abbey GAA Football Club, €250.00 to Abbeyknockmoy Hurling Club, €250.00 to Monivea Community Alert, €250.00 to Monivea Tidy Towns, €100.00 to Athenry Soccer Club, €100.00 to Turloughmore GAA Club, €150.00 to Killimordaly GAA Club, €100.00 to LCDPM Community Alert.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Canning, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €300 from Cllr. Heterich Quinn's 2019 Training and Conference fund to Athenry Christmas Lights Group.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac an Iomaire, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €1,000 from Cllr. Mannion's 2019 Training and Conference Fund to Oughterard Soccer Club towards the purchase of a defibrillator.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mannion, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €1000.00 from Cllr. Mannion's 2019 Training and Conference Fund to Connemara Chamber of Commerce for Christmas Lights.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Collins, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €200.00 from Cllr. Collins' 2019 Training and Conference funds to Turloughmore First Responder Group, €200.00 to Lackagh Men's shed, €300.00 to Abbeyknockmoy Parish Development Committee and €200 to Laraghmore defib Association.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €1000.00 of Cllr. Carroll's 2019 Training and Conference fund to the Oranmore Community Development Clg (a company limited by guarantee with charitable status) towards the installation of a community defibrillator in Oranmore Village

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Connolly, **SECONDED** by Comh. Ó Curraóin, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €350.00 of Cllr. D. Connolly's 2019 Training and Conference Fund to Ballinasloe Town Band and €1400.00 to Scoil Naomh Transna, Killure.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Roche, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Roche's 2019 Training and Conference Funds in the sum of €1652.24 to the Abbeyknockmoy Parish Society Limited.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €500.00 of Cllr. Canning's 2019 Training

and Conference funds to Portumna Chamber of Commerce for Christmas lights and €500.00 to Gortanumera National School.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €700.00 from Cllr. Kinane's 2019 Training and Conference fund to Bridge That Gap (Community Group).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity, **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh Farag, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €1000.00 from Cllr. Charity's 2019 Training and Conference fund to Corrib Celtic F.C and the balance of this Training and Conference fund in the sum of €750.00 to Annaghdown Parish Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Murphy, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Roche, the Members **AGREED** to transfer the balance of Cllr. Murphy's 2019 Training and Conference fund in the sum of €673.00 to the Ardrahan and Labane Tidy Towns Association.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Broderick, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €122.17 from Cllr. Welby's 2019 Training and Conference Fund for the purchase of a Dot Peen Marking Machine.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Geraghty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Connolly, the Members **AGREED** to transfer an amount of €300.00 from Cllr. Geraghty's 2019 Training and Conference fund to Glynsk Community Council and the balance of his Training & Conference Fund in the sum of €153.63 to Williamstown Development Company.

Cllr. Killilea asked if there was a facility with Irish Water for a Group Scheme to recoup the cost incurred by them, for provision of water samples for testing. Mr. Cullen stated Group Water Schemes are entitled to a subsidy which covers the operation and maintenance costs including water sampling.

Comh. Mac Ionamaire enquired about a report on the bridges in Lettermore and Mr. Cullen advised that the Conamara Councillors would be briefed on it at the next Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Maher asked about the water treatment plant in Loughrea and the question of it closing down. He asked if the roads in the area are going to be reinstated by Irish Water due to the bad condition at present. Mr. Cullen advised that the water supply extension to Loughrea was part of a rationalisation of water supplies by Irish Water to move towards a smaller number of large water treatment plants to enable a focus on the highest quality standards.

Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Hoade enquired about road reinstatement on the N84 following broadband works and to continuing illegal dumping there. Cllr. Charity referred to the traffic volumes on the N84 and stated there was a need for a major upgrade to that route. Mr. Cullen advised that the Council would be insisting on proper road reinstatement whether roads were opened for Broadband, Water or other utilities. With regards to the illegal dumping along the N84, he acknowledged that this is a recurring problem and Galway County Council continue to respond and take all actions possible. Mr. Cullen advised this road needs to be upgraded, as it has such a large volume of traffic travelling on it. He said the TII are currently engaging with the Council's Road Design Office on this matter.

Referring to the proposed Galway City Ring Road he advised the members that An Bord Pleanála has asked Galway County Council to further publish Notice in newspapers, regarding the Further Information reply for the Galway City Ring Road. It is expected that the Oral Hearing should take place in the first quarter of 2020.

Cllr. Roche asked for an update on Flood Mitigation schemes and Mr. Cullen advised that an update would be provided at the next meeting of the Tuam Municipal District for the relevant works in that area.

Cllr. Murphy enquired if there were plans for a Sewerage Treatment Plant for Craughwell. Cllr. Thomas referred to the high population in the South Conamara area and suggested that pressurised sewerage treatment systems be introduced. Mr.

Cullen advised that Irish Water consider all available technologies when considering the appropriate wastewater treatment solution for any location. He also advised that while the Council had proposals in the past for Craughwell that those proposals had not progressed largely due to ecological issues.

Irish Water was now the relevant statutory body for the delivery of new sewerage schemes but he did not believe Craughwell formed part of the current capital investment programme.

Cllr. Cronnelly referred to health concerns that were circulating in relation to 5G and whether the Council could get some firm information in relation to that and advise the council at the next meeting. He also referred to the plans for the roll out of 4G and 5G broadband, stating that there are parts of County Galway that are very rural. Mr. Cullen stated that he had raised this issue with the Department and that it had also been raised by other local authorities. He could not confirm but would try to have information at the next meeting. He advised that the Broadband Officer would update the next meeting on Broadband roll out but could not say to what extent he could deal with the health issues around 5G.

Cllr. Byrne advised that Failte Ireland are rolling out their Burren Discovery Trail and that a Part 8 is required to be submitted by Galway County Council. Mr. Farrell advised that Galway County Council are currently working with Failte Ireland and that the work on the Part 8 is ongoing.

Cllr. Geraghty asked can the two lanes be open again on the N83 at Twenty-Minute Hill. Mr. Cullen advised that negotiations were taking place with the relevant landowners to acquire the necessary lands.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to Roscommon County Council's Notice of Motion regarding the River Suck and he asked that the Council endorse this Notice of Motion.

Cllr. Killilea advised that a decision was taken at the Tuam Municipal District to have free parking in Tuam from Black Friday until Christmas. Cllr. Aisling Dolan asked the Director of Services to clarify what was agreed in relation to free parking for Christmas in our Public carparks.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Aisling Dolan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue, the following Motion was submitted; *"I propose that Christmas parking will be free in all towns at all times for the month of December 2019"*.

Cllr. Byrne raised his concerns on this matter, stating that workers in the towns were using the free parking spaces or some people parked their cars free of charge in the towns and used public transport to go into cities.

Cllr. Killilea advised Members that Tuam Municipal District have already an agreement in place with business owners that there would be free parking from 11.00am on Friday, 29th November, 2019, in the town of Tuam and stated that he did not want this Notice of Motion to affect the decision the Tuam Municipal District made for Free Christmas Parking. On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Sheridan, the following counter proposal was submitted; *"I want to Counter propose that GCC exclude Tuam from parking by-laws changes and for Tuam town implement free parking from 29th November to end of December from 11.00am. This was the agreement of Tuam Municipal District at its October meeting"*.

Mr. Kelly advised that there is no power within the Municipal District to make decisions regarding parking. He confirmed that such a decision needs to be made at plenary level and it is only at plenary level that a decision can have effect. He suggested that as additional powers are devolved to Municipal Districts that care was needed to ensure that Motions were not proposed that were beyond the powers of the Municipal Districts.

Following discussion, Mr. Cullen advised that the system that has been in place for the last number of years has worked effectively and he recommended that the same arrangement should apply for this year and that Friday 29th November could be included this year also.

Cllr. McClearn suggested that Friday 29th November 2019, should be included in the Motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher, the following Motion was **AGREED**; "Proposed free Xmas Parking in Public Car Parks, Friday 29th November from 11.00am, Saturday 30th November, from 11.00am, Saturday 7th December from 11.00am, Saturday 14th December from 11.00am and from Monday 16th from 11.00am.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that it would not be desirable to have different parking arrangements in place in the various towns and it ought to be consistent throughout the County. Cllr. Maher stated that if Tuam were proposing a special arrangement then that should apply elsewhere also.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Aisling Dolan and **AGREED** "that there would be free on and off-street parking from 11.00am on the 29th and 30th November and from 11.00am each day for the month of December".

It was **AGREED**, that the next Monthly Council Meeting, will be held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 11.00am.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Curley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Albert Dolan, it was **AGREED** "that the Council hold a Civic Reception to honor the victorious Galway Senior Camogie Team".

This Notice of Motion is referred to the CPG.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Byrne, it was **AGREED** "that a qualified person give a briefing on 4G and 5G coverage coming down the line on health and safety issues at the next plenary meeting".

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Aisling Dolan, it was **AGREED** "that Galway County Council issues an invitation to Mr. Tony Canavan, Ms. Ann Cosgrove and Dr. Pat Nash of the Saolta University Health Care Group to give a presentation to the Executive and members on the "Options Appraisal for Saolta Model 4 Hospital Services in Galway" together with details of the "Regional Elective Hospital Scoping Study". The above-mentioned are key members of the Steering Group Committee and I propose that they be invited to the earliest possible Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council in 2020.

This Notice of Motion is referred to the CPG.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Welby, the Members **AGREED** *“that a climate action subcode be added to each directorate budget from 2021 onwards”*.

A decision to insert a climate action sub code to each directorate budget from 2021 onwards would have to be considered at the 2021 budget meeting and would be contingent on the necessary funding being made available at that time.

ITEM NO. 10 - VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS

3528

Resolutions of Sympathy

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:

Marcus McDonagh, Ballyconlaught, Headford, Co. Galway
Jackie Dillon Corranenna, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Teresa Moylan, Liss, Headford, Co. Galway
Mrs. Cooney, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Cooney Family, Coorbaun, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Jean De Pleir, Poureen, Inverin, Co. Galway
Siobhan O'Shaughnessy, Mirah, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
Mrs. Fallon, Monard, Turloughmore, Co. Galway
Jim McGovern, Cahernlea, Turloughmore, Co. Galway

Resolutions of Congratulations

A resolution of congratulations was extended to the following:

Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin & Mary on their recent marriage.
St. Thomas Hurling Club on winning the 2019 Galway Senior Hurling Championship.
Corofin GAA on winning the 2019 Connacht Club Senior Football Championship.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 11 - Cllr. Sheridan

3529

Cllr. Sheridan made the following proposal: *“that in an effort to enhance and fast-track the allocation for smaller works for all constituents within the county of Galway, I propose that we as local Councillors endorse a fiscal target to get the Notice of Motion monies increased by a minimum of 20% each year over the current 5-year period. This is to ensure that those smaller jobs get done for the people and communities that we all serve. I propose a minimum of €3,999 increment per NOM budget allocation to be approved for the year ahead as a start to that end.”*

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Sheridan:

“From the budget allocation for local road maintenance an amount of €18,500 is assigned to each councillor for notice of motion money for use on road works.

Any increases in the Notice of Motion allocation would have to be agreed as part of the annual budget process and have regard to resources available for the operation and maintenance of the regional and local road network.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 12 - Cllr. McKinstry

3530

Cllr. McKinstry made the following proposal: *“that Galway County Council will immediately identify a pipeline of cycling projects with a view to committing 10% of total transport funding (via NTA, DTTAS and own resources) to cycling infrastructure from 2021 onwards.”*

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. McKinstry:

“The Council is committed to the provision of cycling facilities at appropriate locations throughout the county and in conjunction with the Dept. of Tourism Transport and Sport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland has sought to include segregated facilities where possible. While it is not open to the council to dedicate 10% of funding, particularly grant related funding, to the provision of cycling infrastructure, the council will continue to engage with the funding bodies for the inclusion of appropriate cycling infrastructure where possible.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 13 - Cllr. Ivan Canning

3531

Cllr. Canning made the following proposal: *"that commercial rates are paid on the basis of a percentage of the profitability of the business and not square footage of a building. This will ensure that businesses pay what they can afford. Businesses that are struggling to pay rates on buildings will be paying rates relative to their income, and equally larger businesses who are making more will be paying more. This system will ensure that it will all level out.*

The following written reply was issued to Cllr. Canning:

"I wish to advise that the current legal basis for the calculation of commercial rates is the rateable valuation of the property as determined by the Valuation Office multiplied by the annual rate on valuation (ARV) as determined by the elected members by resolution at the Annual Budget Meeting.

I would note that the Commissioner of Valuation, has made Valuation Orders on the 4th November, under section 19 of the Valuation Act 2001 as amended by section 7 of the Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015 for the rating authority areas of Clare, Donegal, Galway, Kerry and Mayo County Councils and Galway City Council. These orders signal the formal commencement of the revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties for rating purposes in these rating authority areas.

The revaluations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Valuation Acts 2001-2015 and are part of the national programme to modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property in Ireland. The revaluation will take account of contemporary rental levels in the respective rating authority areas and will result in a more equitable distribution of commercial rates among ratepayers."

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted Signed and Approved:

Cathaoirleach:



Date:

17/12/19