

**CEANTAR BARDASACH BHAILE LOCHA RIACH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGREA**

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices Loughrea, on 12th January 2026**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Killilea

Baill: Cllrs. I. Canning, G. Donohue, L. Harney, G. Finnerty (online), D. Kelly, M. Kinane, M. Maher (online), J. McClearn, M. Regan.

Oifigigh: Ms. E. Ruane Director of Services, Mr. D Troy A/Senior Engineer, Mr. G. Haugh Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Kennedy Executive Engineer, Mr. D. O'Loughlin Executive Engineer, Ms. M. McGann Meetings Administrator, Ms. O. Cloonan Staff Officer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA HELD ON 8th DECEMBER 2025 **LMD2464**

The Minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 8th December 2025 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. McClearn.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. McClearn referenced speed ramps he recently observed on the N55 in the village of Ballynagh, Co. Cavan and queried how such measures were permitted in Cavan while similar installations are not approved in Galway. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that, although there is no specific policy prohibiting traffic calming measures, any such interventions must be considered on a case-by-case basis. He noted that traffic calming ramps are not necessarily the starting point, and that it is generally preferable to implement horizontal realignment or other traffic calming measures at the entrance to a village or town, through landscaping or other visual measures so that drivers clearly recognise the change in environment. He further noted that the installation of speed ramps carries a significant financial cost, and any such interventions must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Cllr. McClearn expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of engagement from TII, noting that the issue on the N65 at Heathlawn has remained unresolved since September 2024. He stated that TII had been requested to attend the Loughrea MD meeting on two occasions but were unavailable on both, and if TII are unable to attend a meeting of the Municipal District, the Members may have to seek a meeting with them directly. He further stated that he does not intend to issue another request for TII to attend and suggested that a public

meeting be convened, and several Members indicated their support for this suggestion and the possibility of a delegation travelling to Dublin. In relation to the query regarding the N65 at Heathlawn, Mr. Haugh advised that the most recent update received from TII indicated that the project has progressed to the stage where the formal appointment of a consultant is imminent.

Cllr. Regan enquired about proposed services at Longpoint and the expected timeline for advertisement and in response, Ms. Ruane advised that clarification has been received confirming that a concession, rather than a Casual Trading Licence, is required and that this process is currently underway and will be examined in conjunction ~~with~~ maintenance and opening of the public toilets. Cllr. Kelly requested that, when the Concession for Longpoint is being prepared, the Council's social media platforms be used to publicise it and to highlight that the initiative was a decision of the Loughrea Municipal District Members.

Cllr. Harney requested an update on the request for attendance of the Superintendent of An Garda Siochana at the Loughrea MD Meeting, and in response, Ms. McGann advised that the request has been acknowledged and we are awaiting a formal response.

In response to enquiries from Cllr. Regan, Mr. Haugh agreed to distribute the results of the speed surveys previously undertaken at Craughwell and Kilreekil. Mr. Haugh noted that an application under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for works at Carrabane had been unsuccessful but had been resubmitted for both Kilreekil and Carrabane.

Cllr. Donohue conveyed concern regarding the proposed amendment to the Customer Services Action Plan which would require that children under the age of 16 to be accompanied by an adult at libraries. Ms. Ruane noted that a revision to the policy is currently under consideration and will be made available in due course.

2. PRESENTATION ON CIVIL DEFENCE –BRENDAN QUALTER, CIVIL DEFENCE OFFICER

LMD2465

Mr. Qualter gave a presentation on the core services of the Civil Defence Service in Galway City and County, confirming there were 5 operational units based across the City and County with core services as follows:

- Search & Rescue: assisting emergency services in searches of urban areas, open country, and water-based searches.
- Medical Response: training volunteers as first responders and emergency medical technicians and supporting the HSE ambulance services.
- Community Assistance: attending local community, cultural and sporting events to provide an voluntary first response service.
- Emergency Response: providing second line support to the Fire Service during emergency events and provide welfare services during emergency events.

Mr. Qualter outlined the training and equipment used in the provision of core services, and the range of communications systems to maintain operations.

Cllr. Killilea and the Members thanked Mr. Qualter for the informative presentation and the work carried out by Civil Defence services during COVID-19 and recent events such as Storm Eowyn and stressed the value of their work to communities across the County.

3. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS LMD2466

No matters arose.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS LMD2467

Cllr. Canning queried who is responsible for removing the reeds at Portumna Bathing Area, and Ms. Ruane confirmed that the Environment Department, Galway County Council, are taking the lead on this project as there is a risk to Blue Flag status.

Cllr. Canning highlighted the ongoing issue with the illegal encampment in Portumna and while he understands there is a court injunction being prepared, it needs to be highlighted that the regular campers are now avoiding the area.

Cllr. McClearn noted that faults reported to Electric Skyline three months ago remain unresolved and suggested that Galway County Council consider revoking the contract, citing the 10-working-day guarantee. Cllr. Kelly seconded the proposal, referencing Abbey Street. Mr. Troy advised that he will review the existing contract and contact Electric Skyline regarding the highlighted complaints, and report back at the next MD Meeting. He noted that delays may be possibly due to infrastructural improvement needed rather than direct replacement of bulbs, which was outside the control of Electric Skyline.

Cllr. Kinane thanked the Gort Area Office for the repair work carried out on the Boardwalk in the Cowpark Clarinbridge and enquired whether bollards will be installed indicating willingness to cover any associated costs through notice of motion monies.

Cllr. Kinane proposed that a motion be tabled at Municipal District or Plenary regarding the additional costs required to deliver the planned Wastewater Treatment Plant for Clarinbridge and Craughwell. Cllr. Killilea advised that the motion should be brought to the Plenary Meeting and Cllr. Kinane stated that support from Councillors at the Plenary Meeting would be appreciated.

Cllrs. Killilea and Harney raised concerns about traffic calming measures in Labane, noting the absence of lighting and damaged reflectors. Mr. Haugh advised that a survey has been arranged by Mr. O'Loughlin, with proposals to follow. If funding is required, Councillors will be contacted regarding Notice of Motion funding.

Cllr. Canning raised concerns about lack of reflection on M18 motorway signage when traveling from Shannon late at night recently. Mr. Troy noted he uses that route daily and will check the signage and seek a response from the Motorway Operators.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 12th January 2026

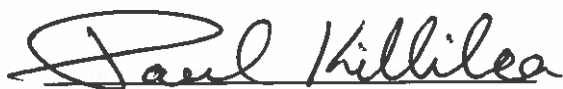
Cllr. Donohue highlighted the poor condition of footpaths on Georges Street, Gort, noting trip hazards, and suggesting the project for LPT funding. Cllr. Donohue also raised concerns about inadequate lighting on the same street under the bridge. Mr. Haugh advised that no funding is currently available, but LPT or Notice of Motion funding would be welcome.

Cllr. McClearn enquired about an update on the appointment of a Manager for Portumna Courthouse and Loughrea Town Hall and Ms. Ruane confirmed that an individual commenced employment last Tuesday.

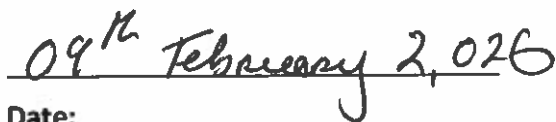
Cllr. Regan noted a reduced spread of light since the recent change of bulbs in street lighting and queried whether the wattage was strong enough in comparison with previous lighting. Mr. Troy advised he will seek clarification, but his understanding was that the bulbs were replaced like-for-like.

Ms. McGann reminded Members that the Community Support Schemes remain open until 23 January 2026 and confirmed that a new Community Support Scheme for Environmental Development encompassing funding for burial ground improvement works and anti-litter anti-graffiti measures was part of the Schemes this year.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN.



Cathaoirleach:



Date: