

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Held at CLAREGALWAY HOTEL, CLAREGALWAY, CO. GALWAY**  
**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Collins  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Comh. /Cllr. S. Broderick, I. Canning, J. Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, S. Cunniffe, T. Ó Curraoin, G. Donohue, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, D. Geraghty, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Kelly, D. Killilea, M. Kinane, M. Lee, P. Mac An Iomaire, M. Maher, E. Mannion, J. McClearn, K. McHugh Farag, S. McHugh Ryan, M. McNamara, E. F. Parsons, A. Reddington, M. Regan, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

**Baill ar líne:**

**Oifigh:** Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. K. O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr. T. Prendergast, Senior Engineer, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. U. Ni Eidhin, Administrative Officer, Ms. H. Riordan, Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. T. Costello, Assistant Staff Officer.

**Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.**

Expressions of sympathy were expressed to Cllr. Geraghty on the loss of his mother in law Mary Smyth and to Comh. Mac an Iomaire on the loss of his sister-in-law Barbara Joyce and to Cllr. King on the loss of his brother-in-law George Yelvington. The Cathaoirleach, the Elected Members and the Chief Executive congratulated Councillors Thomas, Keane and Welby on contesting the recent bye-election and extended their congratulations to newly elected TD Sean Kyne.

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

**4734**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Lee **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were **AGREED**.

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

**4735**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Grealish the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were **NOTED**.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Cllr. Geraghty It was **AGREED**, as per recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) that Galway County Council would hold a Civic Reception to honour Glenamaddy Players, All Ireland Confined Drama Winners.

**ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO DISPOSE OF 0.05067 HECTARES OF LAND AT PARKMORE, TUAM, CO. GALWAY.**

**4736**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Mr. Prendergast, Senior Engineer, informed the Members that the section 183 refers to a small piece of land at Parkmore that was owned by Galway County Council and was transferred to Uisce Éireann. A further transfer of land is now required to facilitate essential upgrade works that are required to enhance the reliability, efficiency and operational capacity of the wastewater pump station. This is to ensure that it meets existing demand and projected future population growth. It was recommended that the Elected Members approve the proposed disposal of land under Section 183.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh Farag it was **AGREED** to dispose of 0.05067 hectares of land at Parkmore, Tuam, Co. Galway in accordance with the Statutory Notice dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

**ITEM NO.4 TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO DISPOSE OF 1,149 (m<sup>2</sup>) OF LAND AT RAHEEN DEMESNE, GORT, CO. GALWAY.** **4737**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Mr. Prendergast, Senior Engineer, informed the Members that the Section 183 concerns boundary rectification. There is no objection in principle to the proposed disposal from an engineering perspective, subject to the following; reservation of appropriate Rights of Way in favour of the Council, the protection of all existing Rights of Way and easements, the creation of any new folios not prejudicing adjoining or neighbouring lands and all legal, mapping and boundary matters being agreed in consultation with the Council's Law Agent. It was recommended that the Elected Members approve the proposed disposal of land under Section 183.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. L. Harney **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty it was **AGREED** to dispose of 1,149 m<sup>2</sup> of land at Raheen Demesne, Gort, Co. Galway.

**ITEM NO. 5. TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 TO DISPOSE OF 798 (m<sup>2</sup>) OF LAND AT THOOR, BALLYLEE, CO. GALWAY.** **4738**

*Statutory Notice issued in accordance with Section 183(1)(b) and report dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

Mr. Prendergast, Senior Engineer, explained that the purpose of this Section 183 is to rectify a long-standing discrepancy between registered titles and the physical layout of the lands. There are no operational issues preventing the correction and it was therefore recommended that the Elected Members approve under Section 183 the proposed Rectification by Agreement to regularise the titles of the folios and to formally correct the Council's registered interest in the Thoor Ballylee car park.

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

- Clarification was sought regarding the ownership of, and responsibility for maintaining, the Ballylee car park, which is currently in very poor condition.

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

- The office of Public Works (OPW) own the carpark.

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

- The Council's Regeneration Team are working with the OPW and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on Thoor Ballylee and Coole Park and he committed to discussing this matter with them.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Finnerty **SECONDED** by Cllr. L. Harney it was **AGREED** to dispose of 798 m<sup>2</sup> of land at Thoor, Ballylee, Co. Galway.

**ITEM NO. 6 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC).** 4739

*Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Connolly **SECONDED** by Comh. Mac An Iomaire it was **AGREED** to appoint Ms. Margaret Fitzpatrick to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Cllr. Michael Connolly thanked outgoing member Mr. Donal Walsh for his work on the LCDC.

**ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPROATE, APPROVE HOUSING BORROWING REQUIREMENTS.** 4740

*Report dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting*

Director of Services, Mr Mitchell, provided Members with background to the request for their consideration. He noted that approval was granted by the Elected Members by way of formal resolution in November 2024, to proceed with borrowing of up to €25 million to support and accelerate the delivery of affordable purchase housing in Galway. Approval is now being sought for an increase of €10 million to the previously sanctioned borrowing, bringing the total authorised borrowing ceiling to €35 million. This additional funding will support the expanded programme, address inflationary cost pressures and ensure the continued delivery of local authority own-build affordable housing schemes. He drew attention to the fact that there are no projects identified for the Ballinasloe area in the report, as only projects located on lands under the control of Galway County Council are currently included. However, he reassured Members that locations within Ballinasloe will be considered in future reports

The programme of affordable housing that is being proposed consists of the following:

1. Claregalway (Droim na Gaoithe) 66

2. Loughrea, Cosmona – Phase 1	44
3. Loughrea, Cosmona – Phase 2	18
4. Athenry, Raheen	28
5. Tuam, Sun Street	62
6. Bearnna, Tobar Na Luarcha	20
7. Oughterard, Station Road	70
8. Loughrea, Cosmona – Phase 3	50
9. Athenry, Pairc na hAbhain	16
10. Portumna, St. Joseph's Road	12

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn it was **AGREED** to approve an increase of €10 million to the previously sanctioned borrowing, bringing the total authorised borrowing ceiling to €35million, to enable the delivery of Affordable Housing Purchase, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

**Cllrs. / Comh. Maher, McClearn, Regan, D. Connolly, Hoade, Cunniffe, Welby, Canning, Geraghty, A. Harney, McHugh Farag, Reddington, L. Harney, O Curraoín, Kinane, Lee, M. Connolly & McNamara raised the following points and queries:**

- This funding will allow for the delivery of affordable housing schemes in each Municipal District (MD).
- The housing borrowing requirements have been discussed extensively at Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).
- The demand for affordable housing is exceptionally high.
- The affordable housing plans were warmly welcomed and the housing staff were complimented for their work.
- There must be a balance between social, affordable and cost rental housing.
- Houses which cost between €425,000 and €475,000 are not affordable houses.
- The government are moving in the right direction with the upcoming Critical Infrastructure Bill.

- There is also a clear need for affordable housing in outlying areas of the county.
- Provision of social housing places a significant financial strain on local authorities.
- The government subsidy provided for affordable housing is inadequate.
- The government subsidy has not made allowances for increases in inflation. The 2021 Statutory Instrument governing this is outdated.
- Has there been any indication from Government that the Affordable Housing Scheme will be reviewed.
- Is the same scheme in operation in every local authority.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Executive for incorporating a diverse mix of housing types in Portumna.
- Building specifications are overly prescriptive, this increases construction costs and, in turn, makes homes less affordable.
- A request was made for the delivery of a scheme in Ballinasloe at the earliest opportunity. Affordable housing is also needed in rural towns and villages where schools and services have capacity, in contrast to urban areas where such services are under pressure. It was emphasised that supporting people to live within their own communities is essential.
- It was noted that the Affordable Housing policy requires review, as current asking prices are not considered affordable. Concerns were also raised that deferred payment arrangements may result in higher overall costs.
- Is there provision for the Council to construct homes for applicants on their own sites?
- It was asked if water services will be provided in Craughwell, Clarinbridge and Ardahan. Serviced sites are required to build houses.
- To allow the proposed wastewater plant to proceed in Clarenbridge and Craughwell, the Council are required to provide €2.6 funding.
- A water treatment plant is required in South Connemara.
- The Council are underfunded.
- The cost of materials has increased.
- Galway Roscommon Education Training Board (GRETB) need to support apprenticeships.

- Clarity was sought on the definitions of 'bridging loan' and 'overdraft' used in the meeting documentation.
- The Council should be looking for increased funding from government to fund these schemes and not applying for loans to provide affordable housing.

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

- The Council work within the parameters of the subsidies provided in the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- The Council may construct housing on land owned by social housing applicants in certain circumstances. Approval is contingent on the suitability of existing social housing in the area and the intended long-term use of the dwelling. Applicants also have the option to apply for a Local Authority Home Loan.
- Uisce Éireann are introducing a policy document on Developer Led Infrastructure.
- There are currently no plans for treatment plants in An Spidéal or Lettermullen. The existing private schemes will be evaluated to assess their capacity for potential use to advance schemes.
- The Department have shown some flexibility in the Affordable Housing Scheme and assess each proposal on a case-by-case basis.

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

- Committed to providing affordable housing in each of the 5 MDs.
- The council are currently seeking to acquire sites and are working with developers in each MD.

**ITEM NO. 8 UPDATE TO PLENARY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025-2029.** **4741**

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

Director of Services Mr. Owens introduced the quarter one progress report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029, as progressed through the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP). The report sets out the strategic goals, supporting actions, timelines, National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) performance indicators, goals, KPI targets and quarter 1 status updates. The report was considered at Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Killilea **SECONDED** by Cllr. Finnerty the update on the Implementation of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029 was **NOTED**.

**Cllrs. / Comh. D. Killilea, D. Connolly, Maher, Geraghty, Parsons, Finnerty & A. Harney raised the following points and queries:**

- It was asked that the contract for the Council Out of Hours call answering service be reviewed.
- Are the Council out of hours staff fully trained.
- Homeless accommodation is required in County towns. The Council should not be reliant on services provided by COPE.
- It is not suitable for homeless families to be referred to Galway City, when their family supports and schools are located in the county.
- The units to shelter the homeless on Vicar Street, Tuam are being progressed.
- St. Brigid's Hospital in Ballinasloe should be acquired to provide homeless services.
- There needs to be a broad discussion around homelessness as it is a complex issue with many contributing factors.
- A wide range of accommodation options are required.

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

- There has been an increase in homelessness. COPE which operates the homeless services for Galway County Council is at capacity.

- Homeless people tend to migrate to larger urban areas where they can avail of back up services.
- Back up facilities will be required for the facility in Vicar Street, Tuam.
- The Council are looking to provide services in Oranmore and Ballinasloe. He welcomed suggestions of locations from the Elected Members.
- He would welcome a representative from COPE to make a presentation to the Housing SPC Members.
- The out of hours service will be assessed.

**Cllrs. / Comh. D. Killilea, Parsons, Donohue, Cunniffe & McHugh Farag raised the following points and queries:**

- It was asked what Elected Members and the Council can do to assist COPE in their work.
- That supporting actions for homeless services be included in the Annual Service Delivery Plan.
- It was asked if COPE could make a presentation to the full Council at plenary.
- COPE provided Domestic Abuse training recently to Members, it was encouraged that all Members should undertake the training.
- It was asked if non-SPC members can attend SPC meetings as a guest.
- Elected Members may attend an SPC they are not a member of, where they are bringing a motion to that SPC; however, they cannot vote at meetings.

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

- Homeless services are a complex issue as additional wrap around services are required in addition to food and shelter.
- The current Out of Hours service will be reviewed.
- The purpose of SPCs is to gather information and data, which is used to inform policy.
- If the Members wish to undertake COPE training this will be facilitated.
- Workshops can also be arranged if the Members wish.

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

- The Annual Service Delivery Plan can be supplemented by way of supporting actions, if agreed at SPC.
- Confirmed that Elected Members where they are bringing a motion to a SPC that they were not a member of, they could attend for that purpose however, they cannot vote at these meetings.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that it was agreed that COPE will be invited to attend the Housing SPC and that the provision of a workshop can be discussed at the Housing SPC.

**ITEM NO. 9 TO FIX A DATE AND TIME FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PLENARY COUNCIL.** **4742**

It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Áras an Chontae at 2.30pm.

**ITEM NO. 10 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).** **4743**

Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> May was published to the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn **SECONDED** by Cllr. Maher it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. M. Hoade to attend AILG Women's Regional Caucus Network at Tipperary County Council Office, Nenagh on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Retrospective approval.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Maher **SECONDED** by Cllr. McHugh Ryan it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. J. Mc Clearn, Cllr. S. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. G. King, Cllr. M. Hoade & Cllr. M. Kinane to attend AILG Elected Member Training Programme May 2026 – Module 3 - "Supporting Councillors: Responding to Mental Health, Suicide

and Addiction Issues" in Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026. Retrospective approval.

**ITEM 11. TO NOTE THE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES ATTENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5F) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

**4744**

*Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

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

**ITEM 12. TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – MAY 2026 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED).**

**4745**

*Report dated May 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.*

The Management Report – May 2026, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) was **NOTED**.

**Cllrs. McHugh Ryan, Kinane, McHugh Farag, Mannion, D. Connolly, Reddington, Lee & Grealish raised the following points and queries:**

- The Tuam Women's Shed was praised for the positive impact that they have had in their community and were congratulated on their 'Inclusive Communities' award at the Cathaoirleach Awards.
- The recent community event at the Palace Grounds, Tuam opening the Michael McGrath Sensory Garden, new basketball courts and the raising of the Green and Green Heritage Site Flag by Tuam MD Cathaoirleach Cllr. McHugh Farag was congratulated.
- Play equipment in Palace Grounds, Tuam requires upgrading.
- The commencement of works on a section of new footpaths connecting Tuam Rugby Club was warmly welcomed.

- The provision of playground Inspector Training was welcomed.
- Capital funding under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation to support works at Renville playground was welcomed.
- Feedback was sought following a recent meeting with members of the Oireachtas on the Craughwell-Clarinbridge wastewater scheme. The Council must provide the €2.6m match funding for the scheme to proceed.
- The approval of the Clifden Part 10 planning application was welcomed.
- A session of the Local Community Safety Partnership public consultation should also be held in Clifden.
- Are the provisions for the Summer Ready programme in place in advance of the bank holiday weekend. Has engagement taken place with the Gardai regards parking at beaches.
- There should be a dedicated budget for works to footpath.
- It was asked if the Council's anti-dumping initiatives are adequately resourced.
- The Cathaoirleach was complimented on the recent Cathaoirleach Awards and praised for the presentation of the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award which was awarded posthumously to Mr. Damien Delaney.
- Delays in payments of Croí Cónaithe were highlighted. It was asked if bridging loans could be provided for applicants.
- The solar panels provided in Leitir Meallain and Pobal Tír Fhia Community Centres were welcomed.
- Works on the pedestrian crossing at An Spidéal National School was welcomed.

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

- A report on the Wastewater Treatment for Craughwell and Clarinbridge will be presented to the Members.
- Illegal dumping remains a significant challenge, and we are applying all available mechanisms and resources to address it.
- Acknowledged that payments under the Croí Cónaithe should be processed promptly.

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

- There is currently no dedicated budget code for footpath works. These works are delivered through the roads programme, encompassing maintenance, upgrades, safety improvement schemes, and active travel initiatives.
- If the Members have specific areas of concern, he invited them to contact the specific MD.
- The Summer Ready programme will be operational.

**Cllrs. Regan, D. Connolly, Keane, Cunniffe & Lee raised the following points and queries:**

- €200,000 should be allocated every year per MD for footpath works.
- A budget code for footpath works should be included in the 2027 budget.
- The completion of the Section 38 consultation for Oranmore Train Station Active Travel Scheme was welcomed. An update on the timeline for completion of the project was requested.
- It was asked that the Athenry/Oranmore MD Members be updated on the Loughrea MD flood reviews that relate to Oranmore.
- The Craughwell–Clarinbridge wastewater treatment plant should have been developed when costs were lower. It was queried that, should the Council be required to provide match funding for the project, which service areas would be impacted. The current situation, whereby wastewater from Clarinbridge is being discharged to the sea, is not acceptable.
- The Council does not receive an equitable share of the Equalisation Fund.
- The announcement of funding for piers in Connemara and the work of Council staff in securing it was acknowledged.

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

- The Section 38s in Oranmore for bus shelters are going to tender shortly, the MDs will be updated.

- RPS are preparing an interim report on the flooding review. The final report will be completed in the next few months and the MDs will be updated.

**ITEM 13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.** 4746

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

- Letter dated 26.11.2025 from Galway County Council to Department of Transport – Resolution letter – Traffic Calming Speed Ramps.
- Email dated 07.05.2026 from Amanda Corley Private Secretary to Minister O'Brien TD – Reply to Resolution letter dated 26.11.2025.
- Letter dated 02.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister James Browne, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution letter – Modular Housing Guidelines.
- Letter dated 01.05.2026 from Eoin Colleary, Private Secretary to Minister of State John Cummins – Reply to Resolution letter dated 02.03.2026.
- Letter dated 04.03.2026 from Galway County Council to Department of An Taoiseach – Resolution letter – Increase provision of Irish Medium Education – circulated to Minister for Education.
- Letter dated 21.04.2026 from Hildegard Naughton, Minister for Education and Youth – Reply to Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026.
- Letter issued post Council Meeting of 09.04.2026 in Waterford City & County Council – Resolution – Disability Act 2025.
- Letter dated 16.04.2026 from Waterford City & County Council – Resolution – Expressway Services.
- Letter dated 20.04.2026 from Carlow County Council – Resolution Letter – Dedicated Local Representative Service from ESB.
- Letter dated 21.04.2026 from Monaghan County Council – Resolution Letter – Business Grant for Rate Payers in Monaghan.
- Letter dated 24.04.2026 from South Dublin County Council – Resolution Letter – Bessborough Mother and Baby home.

- Letter dated 30.04.2026 from Michael McCarthy Chair, National Oversight and Audit Commission – NOAC Annual Report.
- Letter dated 05.05.2026 from Roscommon County Council – Resolution letter – Independent Commission for Validation of Planning objections.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution Letter – Grants for domestic Waste Water Treatment.
- Email dated 13.05.2026 from Megan Woods Private Secretary to Minister Browne – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 11.05.2026.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to National Transport Authority – Resolution Letter – Additional Services on 424 Route.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform & Digitalisation – Resolution Letter- Critical Infrastructure Development.
- Email dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Local Authorities in the wider West/North West Region – Circulation of Resolution letter dated 11.05.2026.
- Email dated 13.05.2026 from Corporate Services Section Sligo County Council – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 11.05.2026.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Corofin Set Dancers – Congratulations on winning All Ireland Senior Scór in Set Dancing.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Seán O Tuairisg – Congratulations on work contributed to Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark Status.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Maire Mannion, Heritage Officer - Congratulations on work contributed to Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark Status.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark Project - Congratulations on work contributed to Joyce Country Western Lakes Geopark Status.
- Letter dated 12.05.2026 from Clare County Council – Resolution – Cost of living measures.

- Email dated 14.05.2026 from Cavan County Council – Resolution – Awareness campaign on Sepsis.
- Letter dated 18.05.2026 from Longford County Council – Resolution letter – Just Transition Tourism Activators

The Chief Executive informed Members that a Training session will be delivered on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 in respect of Public Sector Duty & Members Conference/Training Expenses.

**ITEM 14. QUESTION Cllr. Geraldine Donohue**

**4747**

**Cllr. Donohue submitted the following question to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council Chief Executive and Director of Services provide confirmation how much has Galway County Council written off on Derelict Sites Levies in the last 10 years'*

**The following reply issued:**

I can confirm that Galway County Council has not written off any Derelict Sites levies in the last 10 years.

**ITEM 15 QUESTION Cllr. Andrew Reddington**

**4748**

**Cllr. Andrew Reddington submitted the following question to the meeting:**

*"How many streetlamps there are in Galway County Council's administrative area?  
How many streetlamps have been replaced with modern LED lamps to date?  
What plan Galway County Council has to replace the remaining lamps?"*

**The following reply issued:**

I refer and reply to your Motion relating to Public Lighting infrastructure in the Galway County Council administrative area.

It is confirmed that there are a total of 13,116 public lighting lanterns in the Galway County Council administrative area.

Of these it is confirmed that 12,553 are LED lanterns. This represents 95.71% of the public lighting system.

The remaining 563 non-LED lights will be replaced through the existing Public Lighting Maintenance contract. It is projected that the majority of these lights will be replaced within the next three years.

The Chief Executive spoke on the motion and emphasised that meeting carbon thresholds is an important element in Our Climate Action Plan. Work is ongoing in this area to reach 100% completion.

**ITEM 16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4749**

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

*"This Council agrees that the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) providing additional rights to multinational corporations to sue the state outside of ordinary legal systems we currently have will undermine EU social, health and environmental standards. This Council acknowledges that many of the trade elements are already in place and does not need the addition of corporations being able to sue the Irish government through the Investor Court System (ICS) when any new laws affect their profits. This council stands against the Investor Court System (ICS) and calls this constituency a CETA-Free Zone.*

*This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Trade, the Minister for Local government and the Taoiseach to outline this position. It further resolves to publicise the council's concerns about CETA and to circulate this motion with other Councils as correspondence for consideration".*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby **SECONDED** by Cllr. Grealish the above motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4750**

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

*'That we write to electric Skyline, to clarify the lights they have replaced on all poles within the County, are of what wattage.*

*It appears all these new light LED fittings are not throwing out the same light as the old light fitting.*

*In between poles there is a huge black spot, dark area which means they need to put in a stronger light fitting, if not we would have to look at putting in a new pole and light between existing poles, as its extremely dangerous for all pedestrians'.*

**The following reply issued:**

I refer and reply to your Motion relating to the Public Lighting LED Retrofit Programme.

With regard to the concern that the new LED fittings do not appear to provide the same level of lighting as the previous lanterns, it is important to note that the earlier LED retrofit designs were developed to provide compliant lighting levels while also improving energy efficiency, reducing maintenance requirements, reducing upward light spill and sky glow, and supporting climate action and biodiversity objectives.

The designs across the Galway County Council area have been carried out in accordance with the relevant public lighting standards, including IS EN 13201-2:2015 and BS 5489-1:2020.

In some very limited locations, achieving ideal lighting uniformity can be challenging within the constraints of the existing public lighting infrastructure. As a result, some areas may appear darker between columns following the LED upgrade works.

Where specific locations requiring additional attention were identified, these were reviewed and addressed on a case-by-case basis where feasible.

If there are specific locations which members consider to have inadequate lighting levels or to present a potential safety concern for pedestrians or road users, details can be forwarded to the Roads Section for inspection and further assessment.

In relation to the query regarding wattage, replacement LED fittings are selected on a design basis having regard to the applicable lighting standards and the requirements of each individual location, including road classification, column spacing and mounting height. In general, the LED wattages installed across the public lighting network range from approximately 8 watts to 137 watts.

Cllr. Regan asked for further information on the locations of the different watt bulbs.

Mr. Prendergast, Senior Engineer clarified that the response should have stated 18 watt and not 8 watt. He added that the wattage of bulb used is determined by the area that the light has to cover. By design, LEDs have less spillage of light than conventional bulbs, as they are more focused, they are also more efficient. Dark spots occur where the lighting is situated on network poles. The Council is addressing this as part of the retrofit process, which is subject to available budget. He asked that he be informed if the Members have any areas of particular concern.

**Cllrs. McClearn, McHugh Ryan, Hoade, Regan, M. Connolly & Keane raised the following points and queries:**

- The concentration of light from the LED bulbs is creating blackspots, the fitting and design needs to be examined. Local roads are not suitable for these types of lights.
- Sensor lights only come on once you have passed the area. Lighting is vital for women to feel safe.
- Repairs to lights are not being carried out.
- There is an issue of lights being erected but not connected for a year or more, which is not acceptable.
- An enquiry was made regarding the timeframe for repairing lights.

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

- 18 watt bulbs are used in housing estates. Where a larger area requires lighting, a taller column and higher wattage bulb is used. Further detail can be provided if required by the Member.
- In the opinion of the Council the contractor is fulfilling their responsibilities.
- Older cabling is in place. It is not the responsibility of Skyline, engagement with ESB is required.

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

**ITEM 18. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4751**

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

*'Based on the attached February 2026 Plenary reply to my question, can Galway County Council Chief Executive and Director of Services provide an update on the funding requests to Central Government required for the re-opening of Dunguaire Castle and status of same. If no response has been forthcoming can Galway County Council write to relevant depts in Central Government seeking an update on the urgent funding required to have this important domestic and international tourist attraction re-opened'.*

**The following reply issued:**

The Council continues to actively engage with relevant State bodies in relation to the transfer of ownership of Dunguaire Castle, recognising its importance as both a significant heritage asset and a key domestic and international tourism attraction.

Arising from the matters referenced in the February 2026 plenary response, a meeting has been scheduled with the Director General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the newly appointed CEO of Shannon Airport Group. In addition,

dates are currently being explored for a meeting with the Assistant Secretary General of the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The Council has pursued all appropriate and recommended avenues in seeking to advance this matter, including formal engagement with central government departments and agencies. However, it is important to note that formal requests to secure capital funding have not been successful to date, with both the OPW and NPWS currently indicating that they are not in a position to provide funding of this nature.

Notwithstanding this, the Council remains committed to working collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to identify viable pathways. Engagement is ongoing, and opportunities for further advancement will continue to be explored.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that there has been advancement on this issue since the reply to the motion was issued to Cllr. Donohue.

#### **ITEM 19. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4752**

**Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council writes to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, and any other relevant Government Ministers, requesting an urgent review and amendment of current maternity, paternity and parental leave legislation to provide additional supports for families following childbirth recovery.*

*In particular, this Council calls on the Government to introduce provisions whereby:*

- 1. A parent availing of the current two-week Paternity Leave entitlement would automatically qualify for the immediate usage of four weeks of Parent's Leave where their partner has undergone a Caesarean section birth, recognising the medical recommendation of a minimum six-week recovery period following major abdominal surgery. Should they wish to do so.*

2. *A parent availing of Paternity Leave in cases of natural birth would qualify for an additional two weeks of Parent's Leave immediately following the initial two-week leave period, in recognition that recovery from labour and childbirth complications frequently extends beyond two weeks. Should they wish to do so.*

*The purpose of these measures is to ensure that mothers recovering from childbirth, particularly following Caesarean delivery, have adequate support during the critical postnatal recovery period, including assistance with attending medical appointments, caring for newborns and other children, and managing day-to-day activities where medical restrictions may apply.*

*This motion is also being brought forward in recognition of the fact that many partners currently only avail of the initial two weeks of Paternity Leave, while some employers do not facilitate or accept the immediate use of additional Parent's Leave directly following paternity leave period. As a result, many fathers and partners defer or do not avail of their Parent's Leave entitlement during the first two years of a child's life, despite the clear need for support in the immediate postnatal period. This issue has also been highlighted in recent Government awareness campaigns encouraging greater uptake of Parent's Leave by partners and fathers.*

*Galway County Council further recognises the significant positive impact that extended parental support can have on maternal recovery, family wellbeing, and early childhood care, and requests that the Government give this matter urgent consideration.'*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the above motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM 20. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**4753**

**Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:**

*'That Galway County Council writes to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Social Protection, the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, and any other*

*relevant Government Ministers, requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of a statutory annual medical appointment leave entitlement for individuals registered under the Long-Term Illness (LTI) Scheme.*

*In particular, this Council calls on the Government to introduce a provision whereby individuals in full-time or part-time employment who are approved under the Long-Term Illness Scheme would be entitled to an allowance of 2–3 paid days per annum for the purpose of attending necessary scheduled medical appointments, treatments, consultations, or preventative care related to their condition.*

*This motion is being brought forward in recognition of the fact that many individuals living with long-term illnesses are currently unable to attend all recommended medical appointments due to financial pressures, workplace constraints, or an inability to take unpaid leave from employment. As a result, some patients delay or miss essential preventative and ongoing care appointments, which can negatively impact health outcomes and quality of life.*

*Galway County Council further recognises that missed medical appointments place a significant financial burden on the HSE each year and can contribute to increased long-term healthcare costs arising from delayed diagnosis, avoidable complications, and the progression of treatable conditions.*

*This Council believes that providing a limited and protected medical appointment leave entitlement for those living with long-term illnesses would support preventative healthcare, improve patient outcomes, reduce avoidable pressures on the healthcare system, and promote a more compassionate and inclusive working environment for individuals managing chronic health conditions.*

*Galway County Council therefore requests that the Government urgently review this matter and consider the implementation of such a support measure.'*

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McHugh Farag **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donohue the above motion was **AGREED**.

**ITEM NO. 21 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**4754**

**Cllrs. Maher, Welby, Cunniffe, Keane, Kinane, Kelly, M. Connolly, D. Connolly & Grealish, raised the following points and queries:**

- An enquiry was made regarding the provision of facilities at Long Point, Loughrea.
- All staff involved in the recent National Famine Commemoration held in Portumna were commended, notably Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer.
- A discussion took place regarding meetings of the Irish Republican Brotherhood that were held Oughterard.
- Reference was made to the Occupied Territories Bill that is to be discussed in the Dáil. It was asked if a reply was received to recent correspondence that was issued to An Taoiseach.
- Government were called on to enact legislation to govern illegal campsites.

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

- The National Famine Commemoration was a fitting commemoration and a proud day for County Galway.
- Galway County Council is the only democratically elected local authority for County Galway and the Chief Executive reports to this Council only.
- Issues relating to illegal camping are addressed through the court system, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána and the courts.
- The Executive did not receive a response to the correspondence issued to the Office of An Taoiseach on the Occupied Territories Bill.

**Cllrs. McHugh Farag, Donoghue, Regan & Finnerty, raised the following points and queries:**

- Israel is the second largest export market for Ireland. Peace should be given higher priority than profit.
- An update was requested on the targeted leaflet drop relating to Ash Die Back that was previously requested.

- Information was requested regarding the timeline for advertising commercial opportunities at Long Point, Loughrea.
- Clarification was sought on which local authority owns a particular parcel of land near the M18 Gort to Ennis motorway.

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

- A response was received from An Coimisiún Pleanála on Friday regarding the Long Point, Loughrea, she will liaise with Director of Services, Mr. Finn.

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

- Mr. Finn, Director of Services will contact Cllr. Finnerty regarding the query on the M18 lands.

**ITEM NO. 22 VOTES OF SYMPATHY / CONGRATULATIONS.**

**4755**

- Alex and Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown, Co. Galway
- The Downey Family, Athenry Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Carmel Burke, Crossford, Gort, Co. Galway
- Tony O'Rourke, Curra, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Pat Deely, Ballyboy, Gort, Co. Galway
- P.J. Joyce, Criminagh, Leitir Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- Cllr. Gerry King, Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway

**Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Submitted, Signed and Approved**

**Cathaoirleach:**

  
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**Date:**

  
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