COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Held at ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL

Monday, 22nd June 2026

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Andrew Reddington
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, T. Grealish, A. Harney, L. Harney, M. Hoade, C. Keane, D. Kelly, , Killilea, M. Kinane, M. Lee, P. Mac An Iomaire, M. Maher, J. McClearn, , S. McHugh Ryan, M. McNamara, E. F. Parsons, M. Regan, N. Thomas, O. Turner, S. Walsh and T. Welby.

Baill ar líne: Comh. /Cllr. M. Leainde, D. Geraghty, G. Finnerty, K. McHugh Farag, P. Keaveney, D. Killilea, D. Collins, G. King and E. Mannion.

Oifigh: Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive, Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Owens, Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services, Ms. K O'Connor, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Services, Ms. J. Brann Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Keady, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. S. Elwood, Staff Officer, Ms. L. O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

ITEM NO.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

PL.06.2026.01

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Regan SECONDED** by Cllr. McClearn the minutes of the Monthly Plenary Meeting held on 25th May were **AGREED.**

ITEM NO.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PL.06.2026.02

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. M. Connolly SECONDED** by **Cllr. Canning** the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on 18th May 2026 were **NOTED.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Harney SECONDED** by **Cllr. Canning** the minutes of the Climate, Heritage & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee held on 26th November 2025 were **NOTED.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Kelly SECONDED** by **Cllr. Cunniffe** the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee held on 19th February 2026 were **NOTED.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Walsh SECONDED** by **Comh. Lee** the minutes of the Community, Irish Language, Gaeltacht, Tourism & Integration Strategic Policy Committee held on 20th February 2026 were **NOTED.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Comh. Ó Curraoin SECONDED** by **Cllr. Broderick** the minutes of the Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 26th March 2026 were **NOTED.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Keane** SECONDED by **Cllr. Canning** the minutes of the Environmental Protection & Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee held on 23rd April 2026 were **NOTED.**

It was agreed by the Members, following a recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) that Galway County Council would hold a Civic Reception to honour the following:

- Aistear – First place winners of the Siansa Geal Linn music competition 2026.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Kinnane** SECONDED by **Cllr. Feeney** it was **AGREED** that a Civic Reception will be held.

ITEM NO.3 TO CONSIDER FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON FORUM CONNEMARA CLG **PL.06.2026.03**

Report dated 20th May 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. McClearn SECONDED** by **Comh. Mac An Iomaire** it was AGREED to appoint **Cllr. Mannion** to Forum Connemara CLG.

The **Chief Executive** stated that it is very important for Elected Members to be part of these groups and to report on this work back into the Council.

ITEM NO.4 FILLING OF A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF GALWAY ROSCOMMON EDUCATION TRAINING BOARD (GRETB)

PL.06.2026.04

Report dated 16th June 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Walsh SECONDED** by **Cllr. Geraghty** it was **AGREED** to appoint **Cllr. Kelly** to the membership of Galway Roscommon Education Training Board (GRETB).

ITEM NO. 5 REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION OF BODIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 141 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED BY SECTION 53 OF THE 2014 ACT). **PL.06.2026.05**

Report dated 15th June 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Feeney SECONDED** by **Cllr. Hoade** it was **AGREED** to approve reports on the activities and operation of the following bodies in accordance with section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 Act (as amended by section 53 of the 2014 act) for the period June 2025 to May 2026 inclusive:

(a) Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
(b) Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd.
(c) Association of Irish Local Government
(d) Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.
(e) Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)
(f) Western Inter-County Rail Committee
(g) Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board Committee
(h) Regional Health Forum Representation, West
(i) Galway Rural Development Company
(j) Comhar na nOileán Teoranta
(k) Údarás na Gaeltachta

ITEM NO. 6 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMNET ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED) **PL.06.2026.06**

Report dated 15th June 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. McHugh SECONDED** by **Comh. Lee** it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. M Maher to attend AILG Elected Member Training Programme May 2026 – Module 3 – "Supporting Councillors: Responding to Mental Health, Suicide and Addiction Issues" at Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on 21st May 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Hoade SECONDED** by **Cllr. Grealish** it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. M Hoade to attend AILG Northern and Western Women's Caucus at the Radisson Hotel, Galway on 17th June 2026 (Retrospective Approval).

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Comh. Ó Curraoin SECONDED** by **Comh. Lee** it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllrs. M. Maher, T Ó Curraoin, G. Finnerty, G. King, & M. Hoade to attend "OPR - AILG Councillors Planning Training at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Westmeath on 20th June 2026 (Retrospective Approval).

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO AUTHORISE THE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, MEETINGS, OTHER EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 142(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **PL.06.2026.07**

Report dated 15th June 2026 was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Canning SECONDED** by **Comh. Ó Curraoin** it was **AGREED** to authorise Cllr. A. Harney to attend IPB Insurance's Centenary AGM at The Mansion House, Dublin on 1st May 2026. (Retrospective Approval).

ITEM NO. 8 TO CONSIDER AND IF DEEMEND APPROPRIATE APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY 2026-2031, AS APPROVED BY THE HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 35 OF HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2009. **PL.06.2026.08**

Report was published on the Extranet prior to the meeting.

Mr. D. Mitchell, Director of Service gave a presentation on the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2026-2031. He advised that this Draft Strategy has also been brought to the Housing SPC and CPG members for their consideration.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. McClearn SECONDED** by **Cllr. Canning** it was **AGREED** to approve the adoption of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2026-2031, as approved by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and prepared in accordance with section 35 of housing (miscellaneous provisions) act 2009.

Cllrs. D. Connolly, Donohue, Harney, Geraghty, M. Connolly, Parsons & Mannion raised the following points and queries:

- It is very important that we have this document and that it can reviewed and that it is fit for purpose.
- Queried the part which relates to the confidentiality of the complainant. Concerns raised that going forward people will be afraid to make a complaint.
- If a Tenant is brave enough to provide the Council with information, their name needs to be protected.
- Zero tolerance can be dependent on resources, and we need to ensure we have the necessary resources.
- In previous strategy located on our website, it states that "The Anti-Social Behaviour Policy is underpinned by the Tenancy Agreement signed by the Tenant and Galway County Council in accordance with the Housing Acts 1966 to 2014". Queried does this still form part of tenancy agreements? Queried does the local authority have specific powers to evict tenants in relation to issues with drugs, to include violent threats as wasn't obvious in the document.
- Action needs to be taken where tenants are in breach of their tenancy agreement.
- Clarification sought on who insures the property, is it the tenant or the local authority?
- Properties are very expensive to repair and do up.
- In the event of an eviction of a tenant, is there correlation between local authorities for those involved in anti-social behaviour.
- CCTV needs to be put in place, when will this happen?
- Noted there is a funding allocation of €40,000 for CCTV, can it be rolled out in other areas.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. D. Mitchell & E. Ruane:

- Resources and confidentiality of the complainant will be dealt with on an individual basis. Information sharing is subject to GDPR.
- Report clearly states graduated approach. Section D of the tenancy agreement clearly outlines the procedure which forms part of this document.
- The properties are ileansured by Galway County Council.
- You cannot be on more than one housing list and a reference would not be provided if a tenant is evicted.
- Currently awaiting Gardaí protocol in relation to CCTV.
- Funding allocation of €40,000 for CCTV is already allocated to Illegal Dumping Initiative's. There are specific projects already identified and this funding will allow the purchase of necessary equipment.

ITEM NO. 9 TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT REPORT – JUNE 2026 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 136(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED). **PL.06.2026.09**

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

The Management Report – June 2026 in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2021 (as amended) was **NOTED.**

There were no matters arising.

ITEM NO. 10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT IN REGARD TO THE A8 RURAL WATER MEASURE – WASTEWATER TREATMENT FOR CRAUGHWELL AND CLARINBRIDGE. **PL.06.2026.10**

Mr. U. Finn, Director of Service gave an update report in regard to the A8 Rural Water Measure – Wastewater Treatment for Craughwell and Clarinbridge.

Cllr. Kinnane raised the following points and queries:

- Very important and detailed report which lays out exactly what is happening.
- Important message is that Galway County Council is not blocking the development.
- Lack of confidence in the Government in relation to the other 7 settlements.

- Cannot accept the additional conditions, particularly when this function was transferred to Uisce Eireann.

Cllr. Kinane requested to submit an amended Notice of Motion – Item No. 15.

ITEM NO. 11 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.
PL.06.2026.11

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

- Letter dated 02.03.2026 – Resolution Letter from Galway County Council to Minister James Browne, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution Letter -Croí Cónaithe (Towns)Fund Scheme.
- Email dated 22.05.2026 from Megan Woods, Private Secretary to Minister Browne – reply to Resolution Letter dated 02.03.2026.
- Letter dated 04.03.2026 from Galway County Council to An Taoiseach Michéal Martin – Resolution letter – Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Email dated 03.06.2026 from Galway County Council to An Taoiseach – Follow up email to Resolution letter dated 04.03.2026.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to National Transport Authority – Resolution Letter – Additional Services on 424 Route.
- Email dated 11.06.2026 from Jeremy Ryan, Director of Public Transport Services, National Transport Authority – Reply to Resolution letter dated 11.05.2026.
- Letter dated 11.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution – Grants for Domestic Waste-Water Treatment.
- Email dated 04.06.2026 from Megan Woods, Private Secretary to Minister Browne – Reply to letter dated 11.05.2026.
- Letter dated 27.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Minister for Health – Resolution – Statutory Medical Appointment Leave.

- Email dated 29.05.2026 from Joann Lynch, Private Secretary to Minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 27.05.2026.
- Email dated 12.06.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister@welfare.ie - forwarded Resolution letter to section recommended by office of Minister for Health.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Peter Burke, Resolution letter – Statutory Medical Appointment Leave.
- Email dated 03.06.2026 from Kevin Lowney, office of the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 28.05.2026.
- Email dated 03.06.2026 from Carl Keating, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment – advising email has been forwarded.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Dara Calleary, Minister for Social Protection Resolution Letter – Statutory Medical Appointment Leave.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Electric Skyline – Resolution Letter – Lights on Poles within County Galway.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister for Health Helen McEntee – Resolution Letter – CETA Trade Agreement.
- Email dated 29.05.2026 from Paul Gibbons Private Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 29.05.2026.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to An Taoiseach Michéal Martin – Resolution letter – CETA Trade Agreement.
- Letter dated 02.06.2026 from Ciara Mahon, Department of the Taoiseach – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 28.05.2026.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Mr. James Browne, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage – Resolution CETA Trade Agreement.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Norma Foley – Resolution Letter – Urgent Review of Maternity, Paternity & Parental Leave.

- Email dated 29.05.2026 from Office of the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality – Acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 28.05.2026.
- Letter dated 28.05.2026 from Galway County Council to Minister Peter Burke, Minister for Enterprise, Tourism & Employment – Resolution Urgent review of Maternity, Paternity & Parental Leave.
- Email dated 03.06.2026 from Kevin Lowney, office of the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment – acknowledgement of Resolution letter dated 28.05.2026.
- Email dated 29.05.2026 – Circulation to Local Authorities of Resolution letters for item 16 on May Agenda – Resolution letter – CETA Trade Agreement.
- Email dated 29.05.2026 from South Dublin County Council – Acknowledgement of email with Resolution letters on CETA Trade Agreement.
- Email dated 29.05.2026 from Sligo County Council – Acknowledgement of email with Resolution letters on CETA Trade Agreement.
- Email dated 29.05.2026 from Fingal County Council – Acknowledgement of email with Resolution letters on CETA Trade Agreement.
- Letter dated 03.06.2026 from Limerick City & County Council – Resolution letter – Personal Taxes and Universal Charge.
- Letter dated 11.06.2026 from Wexford County Council – Resolution letter – abolition of Universal social Charge.

There were no matters arising.

ITEM NO. 11(a) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE.

PL.06.2026.11a

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

- Report from Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services on Galway to Athlone Greenway Project

Mr. U. Finn, Director of Service gave an overview of report outlining that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has approved the progression of the Galway to Athlone Greenway project. The project will advance in phases commencing with **Section1:** Athlone to Shannonbridge (27km).

Cllrs. Harney, McHugh Farag, McClearn, Parsons, Donohue, Ó Curraoin, Kelly, Kinnane, Feeney, Geraghty, M. Connolly and Regan raised the following points and queries:

- Would like to see initial phase extended to Ballinasloe, it would make more sense to continue through state owned lands as far as Ballinasloe.
- What Local Authority is taking the lead in the next Phase? Westmeath was the previous lead.
- The project has been ongoing for several years and not much progression.
- Significant taxpayers money has already been spent on this project with little progress to show for it. There are many other pressing funding requirements across other service areas, including footpath improvements and Safe Routes to School initiatives, it is difficult to justify continuing with this project.
- RPS highlighted before they pulled out of this project that it was undeliverable.
- Hugely disappointing Phase for Ballinasloe, A&B has now been broken into 5 phases.
- National Greenway Action Association have done great work. They presented to members of the Oireachtas on behalf of farmers, landowners.
- Is the previous Section 85, is redundant?
- CPO process results in farms being segregated.
- Roads & footpaths in Gort area not maintained, hedges overgrown.
- Footpath that the Council constructed near Hennellys, Gort. The Area Office has advised that it will not be responsible for the maintenance of this footpath.
- Better planning should have been undertaken, and the Motorway should have been incorporated into the project at the time to ensure a more coordinated approach.
- Since 2007 Kilmeen Junction has not changed and is a real issue. Dangerous junction that needs to be realigned and lit up. TII have not given the go ahead for these works.

- Large part of project enters Maree, Middle Third. Commitments have been given to residents that they will be kept informed at every stage of the project. Will this commitment continue, and will all relevant information be communicated to them?

- Clarification on proposal to advance the Athlone to Shannonbridge phase sought.

- Is there a need for this project? Who is going to maintain it? Should be listed as an Agenda item for further discussion.

Members Queries were responded to as follows by The Chief Executive:

The Chief Executive outlined that he would revert to the Members with regard to the amount of funding spent on the project to date.
He stated that Galway County Council will act as the lead authority in respect of sections of the Greenway that goes through County Galway and where any section of the project extends into another local authority area, an appropriate arrangement will be put in place with the relevant local authority.

He clarified that he has no control over funding allocations to Greenway & Active Travel Projects and that this is a direct function of TII and NTA. This project is important for County Galway and will have significant economic benefits for the County. Any part of the project located within our area will not require a new Section 85 Agreement.
He indicated that he would convey to TII the concerns raised by Elected Members.

ITEM 12. QUESTION Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe **PL.06.2026.12**

Cllr. Cunniffe submitted the following question to the meeting:

'To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the proposed new building /extension discussed at previous plenary meeting. In particular, the likely cost and how it could

be paid for. Could the Chief Executive also inform me on where this proposal is within the decision-making process of the council and the next formal interaction with Councillors for consideration of this proposal'.

The following reply issued:

In September 2025, following detailed consideration of a report on a proposal for the consolidation of office accommodation on the Prospect Hill site, it was unanimously agreed by plenary council to mobilise project governance and proceed with the procurement process and appointments of a combined Independent Project Manager and Cost Manager and the appointment of an Integrated Design Team under a single commission. This was to enable the project to move to the next stage, design, costings and planning.

As outlined in the update provided in the April Management Report, the procurement process for the appointment of both the Independent Project Manager and Cost Manager and the appointment of an Integrated Design Team are progressing. It is anticipated that the appointment of the Independent Project Manager and Cost Manager will be finalised in June 2026 with the appointment of the Integrated Design Team to follow in July/August 2026.

The cost estimate for the project was detailed at the workshop held with the Members in September 2025. The brief for the Independent Project Manager and Cost Manager includes exploring all potential funding options for the project. All possible revenue funding streams for the project will be explored, grants, national funding, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants. Engagement has and will continue to take place with the Housing Finance Agency to explore the potential to draw down capital funding, associated interest rates and terms. This will be brought before the Members in due course as a Reserved Function.

A staff oversight committee has been established, initial engagement with trade unions has taken place and consultation and engagement with Members, staff and relevant stakeholder will remain an integral element of the project. The Members will continue to have a key decision-making role in the project. A further update will be provided to the Members following the conclusion of the current procurement process.

Cllr. Cunniffe raised the following points and queries:

- How is the project to be funded and queried whether financing would be obtained through a loan? Will it disrupt services going forward? Would like to see a more detailed report. What is the anticipated timeframe for delivery of the build? What is the latest estimate of costs and the preferred option?

Cllr. Cunniffe queries were responded to as follows by Mr. M. Owens:

- The details of this project were outlined at the September 2025 meeting and received the unanimous approval of the Members to proceed to the next stage which included design, costings and planning.
- An update on the Office Accommodation Project was provided in the April 2026 Management Report detailing the procurement process for the Independent Project and Cost Manager and the Integrated Design Team.
- An Independent Project and Cost Manager will be appointed to the Office Accommodation Project in June 2026.
- The Independent Project and Cost Manager will review and explore all funding and grant opportunities.
- The final decision regarding the project and any associated borrowing requirements is a Reserved Function of the Council.
- Elected Members will be kept informed as the project progresses, as it is still at a very early stage of development.

ITEM 13. QUESTION Cllr. Geraldine Donohue **PL.06.2026.13**

Cllr. Geraldine Donohue submitted the question to the meeting:

"To ask the Director of Services what is the update on the targeted approach of identifying the road side hedges and dangerous ash dieback affected trees that are a matter of public safety"

The following reply issued:

The Motion agreed by the Members requested that an information flyer be developed setting out the responsibilities of landowners, homeowners and property owners in relation to roadside hedges and roadside trees, particularly where there is a public safety issue.

The Council is progressing this on a targeted basis through the Municipal District offices and Roads staff. The focus is on locations where overgrown hedges, roadside vegetation or trees are affecting road safety, including sightlines, junction visibility, road signage, public lighting, footpaths, school routes, bends and narrow sections of road.

It remains the responsibility of the landowner or occupier to ensure that trees, hedges and other vegetation on their lands do not interfere with the safe use or maintenance of the public road. Where an issue is identified, the Council may first seek voluntary compliance by contacting the landowner. Where necessary, formal notices may issue under the Roads Act 1993 requiring cutting, trimming, felling or removal of the relevant hedge, tree or vegetation.

The information flyer will be used to support this targeted approach. It sets out the responsibilities of landowners and property owners, explains the road safety issues arising from overgrown hedges and roadside trees, and advises that the Council may take further action where necessary. It is intended to use the flyer in areas where particular problems have been identified. Copies will be on display in the Municipal District offices and copies will also be provided to each Councillor for their reference.

Cllr. Donohue raised the following points and queries:

- It was noted that this is a positive step.
- Requested a copy of the Information Flyer that is to be distributed.
- Suggested that progress and feedback be monitored.

ITEM 14. RECOMMENDATION FROM TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

PL.06.2026.14

The following recommendation was submitted prior to the meeting:

That in light of Galway LGFA's communications with Councillors explaining the urgent need to secure land to develop a Centre of Excellence for the promotion of Ladies Football in Galway, that we support Galway LGFA's request that circa 25 acres of the publicly owned Galway Airport Site be allocated for Community & Sporting purposes and allocated to Galway LGFA as a community dividend.

They currently own no land or premises and this is making the management and promotion of Ladies Football practically impossible, we wish to support their invaluable work that has such a positive effect on girls and ladies throughout Galway.

The following reply issued:

On 13th May 2026, the Secretary of Galway LGFA emailed the Chief Executive seeking 20–30 acres of the site for a Centre of Excellence for Galway LGFA.
A previous letter was sent in 2024 by Galway GAA/LGFA seeking the site for Galway GAA, and a response was issued at that time.
The below outlines the position of Galway County Council and this was sent to the Galway LGFA on the 15th of May 2026 and there has been no subsequent correspondence.
The issue of auxiliary uses of the site at the former Galway Airport is one that was previously discussed by Councillors and Management.
Agreement was reached that the primary use of the site as set out in Chapter 5 in the Galway County Development Plan is for economic growth and employment creation, the inclusion of uses such as recreation and open space development will be part of future proposals for the site but again will be ancillary to the primary economic use.
Galway County Council and Galway City Council sought expressions of interest via a publicly advertised process last year.
These bids were reviewed and interviewed over the last few weeks and the report from that process is being compiled by the expert group appointed. When the report is complete, the elected members will be notified of the contents and outcome.
I would also advise that the site is an earmarked site under national, regional and local planning policy as a strategic site for economic development. In summary, the

development of a specific venue for one sporting organisation is not in keeping with the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Cunniffe raised the following points and queries in relation to reply he received:

- Acknowledged his error in raising this item at Tuam MD and noted that it is a matter for Athenry-Oranmore MD, as the airport is located in that Municipal District.
- Expressed his disagreement that the site would be used for industrial purposes and that it was not appropriate for the development to proceed without delivering a community dividend or benefit to the local area.

Cllr. McClearn, Keane, Feeney, Grealish and Charity raised the following points and queries:

- How many Expressions of Interests were received?
- Concern is that people who made expressions of interest have gone to expense and that all such submissions should be considered.
- If the Terms of Reference were changed at this stage, the matter could ultimately end up before the courts.
- Has legal advice been sought in relation to this matter.
- Process should now continue to proceed, and that it would not be appropriate to go back and change it at this stage.
- Joint decision for the Elected Members of Galway County and Galway City Council's and site cannot be sold until agreement is reached.
- Sporting organisations do not have the financial funds to acquire lands themselves and if the Council doesn't take action to support them and fight on their behalf there may be no provision for future sporting facilities in the area.
- Requested a copy of Tender Advert and clarity sought on the closing date.

Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. L. Hanrahan:

- Expressions of interest documents were circulated to all Elected Members.
- Copy of Tender Advert was emailed to all Elected Members and publicly advertised on our website and newspapers.

- Six Applications went through the process and a Review Report will be provided. Report will be considered by the CPG and will subsequently be brought before the Plenary Council for consideration in due course.
- There will be an appropriate recreational element included as part of this site in line with the current County Development Plan objectives.

ITEM 15. NOTICE OF MOTION **PL.06.2026.15**

Cllr. Martina Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

I, Cllr Martina Kinane, propose that Galway County Council approve the securing of a loan of €2.6 million to provide the necessary match funding required to progress the Clarinbridge & Craughwell Wastewater Schemes.

This will enable the Council to draw down the approved departmental funding and proceed with the delivery of this vital infrastructure project.

Background to Motion:

The Government approved increased funding in November 2025 under the Rural Water Programme for the Clarinbridge & Craughwell Wastewater Schemes.

- *Revised total project cost: €29.9 million*
- *Departmental funding: €27.3 million*
- *Galway County Council co-funding: €2.6 million*

The advancement of this scheme is contingent on the availability of 8% (€2.6 million) match funding from Galway County Council. In this context, it is proposed that Galway County Council secure a loan of €2.6 million to meet the required contribution and unlock the progression of the project.

This investment is essential to advance critical wastewater infrastructure in Clarinbridge & Craughwell, facilitating sustainable development, protecting

environmental standards, and ensuring that Galway County Council meets its obligations under planning and environmental legislation.

Cllr. Kinane requested to submit an amended Notice of Motion

I, Cllr Martina Kinane, propose that Galway County Council approve the securing of a loan of €2.6 million to provide the necessary match funding required to progress the Clarinbridge & Craughwell Wastewater Schemes.

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This investment is essential to advance critical wastewater infrastructure in Clarinbridge & Craughwell, facilitating sustainable development, protecting environmental standards, and ensuring that Galway County Council meets its obligations under planning and environmental legislation.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. Kinane SECONDED** by **Cllr. Canning** the above motion was **AGREED.**

ITEM 16. NOTICE OF MOTION **PL.06.2026.16**

Cllr. Evelyn Francis Parsons submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

That Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Finance and the Government to set out a clear pathway towards the phased abolition of the Universal Social Charge (USC), commencing from January 2027, recognising that the USC was introduced as a temporary emergency measure during the financial crisis and continues to place a disproportionate burden on workers and families amid ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

The Council further calls on Government to ensure that any reform or abolition of the USC is implemented in a fair, balanced and fiscally sustainable manner, avoiding increases in Income Tax or PRSI and safeguarding essential frontline public services.

Context

The USC was introduced at a time of exceptional national financial difficulty and was presented as a temporary measure. More than fifteen years later, many workers continue to face significant pressures arising from housing costs, childcare, insurance, energy bills and the general cost of living, while also experiencing substantial deductions from earnings once Income Tax, PRSI and USC are combined.

There is huge concern that the USC disproportionately impacts ordinary workers and acts as a disincentive to additional work and overtime at a time when Ireland is seeking to retain skilled workers, support families and address wider affordability pressures.

This motion does not seek to undermine the funding of essential public services, but rather calls for a fairer and more proportionate long-term taxation model that reflects current economic conditions rather than emergency-era measures.

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

Cllr. Parsons raised the following points and queries in relation to reply he received:

- There is a cost of living crisis and we need to support the workers; they should not be still paying this Universal Social Charge.
- There needs to be a fairer, balanced approach.

Cllr. Donohue, McClearn, D. Connolly raised the following points and queries:

- If this charge is abolished, what assurances can be provided that it will not be replaced by another form of taxation or levy?
- If you take away one form of tax, something else will be introduced to replace it.
- Understand that families are under pressure, but the government are now reliant on this tax and there will be a shortfall.
- It was suggested that consideration be given by the Government to introducing a wealth tax in the next budget.

ITEM 17. NOTICE OF MOTION **PL.06.2026.17**

Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

That Galway County Council Recognises that Oshi Software Limited, trading as Tickets.ie, ceased trading in early June 2026 and has moved to enter liquidation;

Notes that Tickets.ie was one of largest independent ticketing platforms operating in the State, that its services were significantly relied upon by non-profit, community, sporting and independent festivals and events, and that its sudden collapse has left organisers across the country unable to recover ticket revenues already collected on their behalf — with affected festivals, including the Rory Gallagher International Festival, Rockathon and Cowboys and Heroes, reported to be collectively owed in the region of €580,000;

Acknowledges that many of these events operate on tight or voluntary margins and fall during the summer season now under way, such that the loss of these funds

threatens the viability of events with genuine cultural, social and economic value to communities in this county and nationwide;

Notes with concern that there is currently no specific regulatory regime requiring primary ticketing agents to ring-fence or protect monies held on behalf of event promoters and ticket-buyers — protections that exist in comparable sectors;

Resolves to write to the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke TD, and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, to:

(i) *request their intervention on behalf of the festival and event organisers affected by the cessation of trading by Tickets.ie;*

(ii) *call for the introduction, as a matter of priority, of regulation of the ticketing sector — including measures to safeguard funds held on behalf of promoters and consumers — so as to prevent a recurrence of these difficulties; and*

(iii) *request that available supports and funding within their Departments be mobilised to assist the events and organisers affected;*

And further resolves to forward a copy of this motion to the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and to neighbouring local authorities, with a request that they adopt a similar position.

Cllr. Cunniffe and Thomas raised the following points:

- We need to ringfence money for this issue.
- Information should be sought from the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Cllr. Thomas questioned whether could this Notice of Motion could be amended to remove Section 1 of the Notice of Motion.

The **Chief Executive** advised the Elected Members that no decision should be taken on this Notice of Motion. He advised that comments and concerns could be raised and noted, but that no further action should be taken at this stage.

The Elected Members noted the advice of The Chief Executive in relation to this Notice of Motion.

ITEM 18. NOTICE OF MOTION **PL.06.2026.18**

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

"That the Director of Services provide a statement on the 2023 funding in the amount of €50,000 for Design Measures for Kilmeen Cross for the putting in place a roundabout and lights on the N65 Galway Site and timelines on the delivery of same at this very dangerous junction".

The following reply issued:

The Emerging Preferred Option for the N65 Kilmeen Cross minor improvement scheme was identified in 2022. Galway County Council confirms that TII grant funding of €50,000 was allocated in 2023 in respect of design measures for Kilmeen Cross on the N65.
This allocation was for the progression of design and assessment work in relation to potential improvement measures at the junction. It was not a construction allocation for the delivery of a roundabout, traffic lights or public lighting works.
In 2023 tenders were sought for Technical Consultancy Services to progress this project through the design, environmental assessments, and statutory processes however the tendered amounts received were considered prohibitively high. It was then agreed with Transport Infrastructure Ireland that the project would be designed by Galway County Council Road Design Section. A preliminary design was completed in 2024. The project will be progress through the Roads Design Office.

Cllr. Donohue raised the following points and queries:

- Noted that the Roads Design Office will now be progressing the project. She queried the Chief Executive regarding his confidence in the Roads Design Office team to successfully deliver the project and the anticipated timelines for its completion.

The Chief Executive replied as follows:

He advised Cllr. Donohue that he has the utmost confidence in the Road Design Team in delivering this project. He indicated that he would request Mr. Sean Devaney, Senior Engineer to provide an update on this Project at the next Municipal District meeting.

ITEM 19. NOTICE OF MOTION **PL.06.2026.19**

Cllr. Evelyn Francis Parsons submitted the following Notice of Motion prior to the meeting:

"Housing Options for Older People

I will propose:

That, in view of Census data demonstrating a substantial increase in the number of people aged 65 years and over in County Galway, together with projections showing continued population ageing in the years ahead, and recognising the importance of enabling older people to live independently, safely and with dignity within their own communities for as long as possible in accordance with the objectives of the Galway City and County Age Friendly Strategy,

Galway County Council recognises the need to plan proactively for a broad range of housing options for older people and requests the Chief Executive to bring forward a report on the potential role of retirement villages, as well as downsizing and rightsizing opportunities, age-friendly housing developments and other appropriate housing models in meeting the current and future housing needs of older people in the county.

The following reply issued:

Galway County Council have and continued to provide Age Friendly Housing as outlined in our Housing Delivery Action Plan associated with the Dept of Housing action plan "Housing for All".

A new Housing Delivery Action Plan associated with the Dept of Housing plan "Delivering Homes, Building, Communities "has just commenced and Age friendly housing will be included in this plan

Galway County Council will share this report on its completion and will address all available options to address the needs of older people in the county.

On the **PROPOSAL** of **Cllr. E. Parsons SECONDED** by **Cllr. D. Connolly** the above motion was **AGREED.**

Cllr. Parsons, D. Connolly, D. Collins, Donohue and Hoade raised the following points and queries:

- Have been contacted by older persons in Ballinasloe in relation to their concerns about the future of services in the area.
- Need to be designing for the future as there is a higher than average older population living in Ballinasloe area and need to identify sites to provide the services they need.
- Need to support right sizing in housing allocation policy and tenant owned homes.
- There are 26,000 aged over 66 in County Galway, national trends show increasing to 52,000 by 2040.
- We need to create Retirement Villages.

Queries were responded to as follows by Mr. D. Mitchell:

- Proactively dealing with Age Friendly Housing.
- New Housing Plan has particular emphasis on the need for Age Friendly Housing.
- Housing Delivery Action Plan to be delivered over next few months which considers all the issues outlined in relation to an ageing population. Once complete it will be an Agenda Item for consideration by elected members.
- Acknowledge comments regarding right sizing and will take them into account.
- Voids turnover time is an issue for the Council, and the Department has acknowledged same.

- The provision of Retirement Villages will also be considered as part of the housing delivery action plan.

ITEM NO. 20 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS **PL.06.2026.20**

Comh/Cllrs. Ó Curraoin, Feeney, Killilea and Regan raised the following raised the following points and queries:

- Highlighted the significant increase in train passenger numbers, noting that it is very encouraging to see the growing use of rail services. They also noted the progress being made on works on the service Athenry - Claremorris and welcomed the substantial investment and effort being undertaken to improve rail services as part of the Western Rail Corridor. Members acknowledged the excellent work being carried out and the positive benefits it will bring to the region.

- Complemented Housing and Roads on their great success in receiving funding under the Housing Activation Fund, resulting in serious investment coming into the County. Next Phase is the Athenry Northern Relief Road / Northern Ring Road project. The project is intended to unlock land for housing.
- Raised the issue of Kilbannon Group Water Scheme. He advised that Group Scheme are spending a huge amount of money fixing leaks and they are running out of money.
- Requested to receive an update on the Taking in Charge application.
- Looked for an update on the camera located at by-pass in Tuam. Heavy goods vehicles are driving through the town.
- Complemented the outdoor workers the excellent service they provide. Since 2021 the budget has increased by 40%. He asked what plans are in place to recruit more outdoor workers. He outlined that he had submitted notice of motion money for the repair of footpaths, and he was advised that this work could not be carried out until September.

The Chief Executive replied as follows:

The Chief Executive outlined that Irish Rail and Galway County Council have done exceptional work in relation to the Western Rail Corridor project delivery. He stated that double tracking is required between Athenry and Ceannt Station which will facilitate an hourly service between Galway and Dublin and that he would continue to lobby for same. He outlined that funding has been received from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for Phase 1 – Athenry to Claremorris and that construction works will be carried out by Irish Rail.

Galway County Council were successful in receiving funding for 6 Capital Projects as part of the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund and he complemented Mr. L. Hanrahan & Mr. D. Mitchell, Directors of Service and their teams for all their work in this area.

In relation to the Outdoor Staff there are provisions in the Workforce Plan to increase the outdoor staff numbers. The Road's budget has also increased and where Galway County Council doesn't have the capacity to carry out the works themselves contractors will be employed.

Mr. U. Finn replied as follows:

He advised that the issue with Kilbannon GWS had being raised with Uisce Eireann and that Galway County Council are also working with the Group Water Scheme in relation to same. He advised that he would provide an update to Elected Members in relation to this issue.

He advised that he is not aware of the camera that is located on the Tuam Bypass, but that he would check same with the Tuam MD and revert to the Elected Members.

Cllrs. McHugh, M. Connolly, Killilea, McHugh, Harney, Geraghty, King, Mannion, Turner, Parsons, Hoade, Regan raised the following raised the following points and queries:

- Outlined that here is huge frustration in relation to the issues with Kilbannon GWS. They are looking for an opportunity to sit down with a member of staff and have a discussion on same.
- CCTV cameras are badly needed at Tuam Coral Leisure. Illegal dumping is a huge issue.
- Identified direct points of contact to be put in place within Uisce Éireann, as correspondence seems to be going into a black hole. He looked for
- Updates requested in relation to: Affordable Housing Scheme for Ballinasloe, Rail services from Ballinasloe, dual tracking is essential, Woodlawn new platform is required and need to roll out a second platform.
- As it is Rally season we need to do something about the dangerous junction, there are also overgrown hedges, vehicle mirrors getting damaged, need to bring the hedge cutting season forward.
- Issue of the parking arrangements for parking in Galway City and the requirement now that you have to use an App to pay, pay machines no longer in use. He advised this new system is causing distress to older people especially to those who are not used to using this kind of technology and they are receiving parking fines now because of the new system in place to pay for your parking.
- Issue of water supply in rural areas where people are not on a public supply. There needs to be a financial investment in this area, and we need to raise this issue with the Department.
- In relation to summer ready there is a real issue with parking at beaches. There is concern that, in the event of an emergency, an ambulance may be unable to access the area due to road congestion caused by parked vehicles.
- Urged the members to support Milltown Railway Station; there is a double track at this location.
- Illegal dumping at clothes banks. Can these banks be emptied more frequently as the Tidy Towns Committee have requested that this happen.
- Can hedge cutting commence on the Primary and National roads and clarification sought if exceptional circumstances applies only to minor roads?
- Can CCTV be installed at the bring banks

- In relation to hedge cutting, it was acknowledged that not all junctions can be addressed at this time of year. However, it was emphasised that hedge cutting should be carried out where there are visibility issues at dangerous junctions, as this is a road safety matter and could potentially result in serious accidents or fatalities if not addressed.
- Update requested on when the audio system will be upgraded in the Council Chamber.

The Chief Executive noted the sentiments expressed in relation to parking in Galway City. He advised that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Chief Executive of Galway City Council.

Mr. U. Finn replied as follows:
He outlined that Uisce Éireann, are responsible for water and wastewater connections.

In relation to hedge cutting additional funding is required. There are restrictions in place in relation to carrying out this service during bird nesting season.

Ms. E. Ruane replied as follows:
In relation to CCTV at bring banks, an agreed approach is in place with our ICT Department.

There may be a possibility to increase frequency of collection service for clothes banks.

There are plans to re-introduce CCTV at Mountbellew as soon as possible.

Ms. D. Mitchell replied as follows:
In relation to Affordable Housing in Ballinasloe, discussions are still ongoing and that there are 2 schemes being considered at the moment.

Ms. K. O'Connor replied as follows:

It is planned to do this audio upgrade work in the Chamber in August.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting and requested that, at future meetings, Elected Members focus on discussing issues relevant to the Plenary meeting and that discussions relating specifically to individual Municipal Districts should, where appropriate, be raised and considered at Municipal District level.

ITEM NO. 21 VOTES OF SYMPTAHY/CONGRATULATIONS. **PL.06.2026.21**

- Mike Sheil, Clonlee, Duniry, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Annie Shaughnessy, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Teresa Pierce, Tomany, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Gerry Lawless, Duniry, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Mark Lynch, Caheronaun Park, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Tony McKeogh & Family, Raheen, Kilchreest, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Christina Duane & Family, Gortroe, Ardrahan, Co. Galway
- Maggie Murray & Family, Earlspark, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Elected Members wished to extend their congratulations to **Harry Lloyd** on his achievement in winning Gold at the Special Olympics Ireland Summer Games 2026.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:

Date: 21/July/2026