CEANTAR BARDASACH BHAILE LOCHA RIACH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGREA

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices Loughrea, on 11th May 2026

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. P. Killilea
Baill:	Cllrs. I. Canning, G. Donohue, L. Harney, G. Finnerty (online), D. Kelly, M. Kinane (online), M. Maher, J. McClearn (online), M. Regan.
Oifigigh:	Ms. E. Ruane Director of Services (Online), Mr. C. Harley Senior Engineer, Mr. G. Haugh Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Kennedy Executive Engineer, Ms. M. McGann Meetings Administrator, Ms. O. Cloonan Staff Officer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA HELD ON 31st MARCH 2026. LMD2481

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 31st March 2026 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Kelly and **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Regan.

Matters arising from the Minutes:
Cllr. Kelly enquired if a flashing light would be provided at the new pedestrian crossing in Portumna and in response, Mr. Haugh confirmed that it would.

Cllr. Regan sought an update on the lights at Westbridge, Loughrea, and a discussion took place regarding issues with the lights and proposed solutions. Mr. Haugh stated that options such as a compact roundabout and mini roundabout had been assessed and removed from consideration on the grounds that they would be unsafe for vehicles and pedestrians, therefore, efforts were now focusing on optimising the effectiveness and reliability of the existing traffic lights. Mr. Haugh advised that an independent review of the traffic lights focusing on the controls and electronic aspects of the lights had taken place recently which highlighted two options available to the Council, namely: a) a regular servicing contract executed quarterly, monthly or perhaps bi-monthly and/or b) a remote monitoring contract. In response to a query from Cllr. Regan, Mr. Haugh confirmed there was no servicing contract in place at the moment. Mr. Haugh's opinion was that the remote monitoring option was unlikely to deliver improvements in isolation, and the likely first step was to arrange regular servicing of the lights to minimise periods of under-performance with unidentified faults.

He further stated that the only infrastructural work identified of benefit was to resurface Main St. and the Old Galway Road adjacent to the junction and replace the ground detection loops which were of concern, however, there was a significant cost of approximately €60,000 associated with these works and these works would not be possible without specific financial support.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA MEETING HELD ON 13th APRIL 2026. LMD2482

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th April 2026 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Maher and **SECONDED** by Cllr. I. Canning.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. Maher requested an update on his proposal for a boardwalk along Loughrea Lake and enquired if Local Property Tax (LPT) funding could be used to carry out initial feasibility costings and stated that this would be a sustainable use for LPT Discretionary Funding. Mr. Harley advised that there was no update at present as technical resources are currently limited. Mr. Haugh also noted the limited staffing within the Municipal District relative to the significant volume of proposed projects and advised that it was not possible to focus on every potential project and proposals had to be prioritised. He further advised that the team is at capacity with the Roads Programme, that project delivery has increased by approximately 40% since 2020, and that significant work continues in the background in relation to Health and Safety, procurement, and contract management.

Cllr. Regan sought an update on the recruitment of outdoor staff, and Mr. Harley advised that discussions were ongoing to address short-term vacancies, and he would provide an update to the Members once matters were progressed.

Cllr. Canning thanked the Loughrea Roads Staff for arranging to have the lights at Finn's repaired and noted there was a need for a permanent repair as the lights had to be repaired a number of times recently. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that the lights, similar to the vast majority in the District, were likely installed over 20 years ago and significant costs are associated with maintaining this infrastructure, with a recent full upgrade in the Gort Area costing over €60,000.

Cllr. Kelly enquired whether any update was available regarding the proposed upgrades to pedestrian lights following a presentation some months ago, and whether the related costings had issued to Members. Mr. Haugh advised that a response had previously issued on this matter, but he would recirculate after the meeting.

Cllr. Regan requested an update on the Part 10 proposal at Longpoint, Loughrea. Ms. Ruane advised that the Regeneration Unit contacted An Coimisiún Pleanála last Friday and that a decision is awaited.

3. PROPOSED LAND DISPOSALS IN THE GORT / KINVARA AREA. LMD2483

Mr. Haugh advised that the item was included on the agenda at the request of Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services, to allow Members to consider the background in advance of any Section 183 decision at the next Plenary Meeting.

In relation to Thoor Ballylee, Mr. Haugh advised that a mapping discrepancy has been identified, and both parties are agreeable to resolve it through boundary rectifications by aligning the folio boundaries with the developed car park to address the anomalies across both folios.

In relation to Raheen Demesne, Mr. Haugh advised that access to private lands is currently via an accommodation route from the L-4506 across Galway County Council lands and the landowner has requested that Galway County Council consider an adjustment to the folio boundary by way of sale or transfer of land. Galway County Council has no objection in principle, subject to the following conditions:

- A Right-of-Way in favour of Galway County Council to facilitate maintenance of the L-4506 and associated infrastructure.
- Any new folios shall not prejudice, extinguish, vary, or otherwise affect any existing Rights-of-Way or easements registered on, or benefiting, neighbouring folios.

Both proposed land disposals were noted by the Members with agreement to progress to the Galway County Council's Law Agent for detailed terms and conditions of any sale/transfer of land.

4. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS LMD2484

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on access arrangements at Dunguaire Castle, Kinvara, noting that visitors are arriving to find the castle closed. Ms. Ruane advised that she will request Mr. Owens, Director of Services, to provide an update to each Member.

Cllr. Killilea and Cllr. Kinane requested an update on Tawin Island Bridge noting that it is the only access point for people living in the area. Mr. Harley advised that Mr. T. Prendergast is working with the University of Galway on the assessment of the bridge and advised that an update will issue regarding the structural condition once further information is available.

Cllr. Kinane enquired as to the typical timeframe for the repair of a reported pothole. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that there is no location bias in relation to pothole repairs and that, in some instances, repairs may take 3–4 weeks, depending on the location of the Velocity Patcher. He noted that two units are available to the Loughrea Municipal District and are shared between Loughrea, Gort, and Portumna. Availability may also be affected by staff shortages and breakdowns. Mr. Haugh further advised that the Municipal District hopes to avail of a hotbox machine; however, this would require four members of staff, whereas the Velocity Patcher requires two.

Cllr. Kinane expressed disappointment regarding the way the provisional timeline for the Clarinbridge Road Safety Project has been moved out, noting that the scale of the project

would necessitate that works be undertaken during the school holidays. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that the timeframe was as advised by the NRPO as they are currently prioritising high-collision locations, however he would revert to the NRPO regarding the timeframe for the Clarinbridge project.

Cllr. Kinane requested an update in relation to Rinville Point. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that he is awaiting an update from Mr. U. Finn, Director of Services. He noted that the proposed walkway remains under review, having regard to the complexity of the project, the associated costs, and the long-term maintenance implications. He noted that the matter is not straightforward and that all relevant considerations are being taken into account.

Cllr. Donohue enquired about works at Cappataggle, as recently raised by the Cappataggle Group at the Municipal District meeting. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that an email had issued to Members on 12th February 2026 in relation to Cappataggle Junction. He further advised that the application under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme had been unsuccessful. The estimated cost of the scheme is €30,000, with resurfacing works on the southern approach estimated at approximately €18,000. Mr. Haugh noted that NOM support for the Southern approach had been sought from the Loughrea MD Members.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS LMD2485

Cllr. Harney enquired whether Galway County Council could provide local groups with materials to carry out pothole repairs and in response, Mr. Haugh advised that local community groups were restricted to specific works within 50km/h speed limits for insurance purposes. Mr. Haugh further advised that repairs carried out using the Velocity Patcher are more robust than manual repairs and noted that January and February are peak periods for pothole repairs and with the recent improvement in weather conditions, repairs carried out at this time of year are likely to be more durable.

Cllr. Harney expressed concern regarding the road between Ardrahan and Labane, noting that local children using this route have no protection from traffic, and in response, Mr. Haugh advised that he would engage further with Cllr. Harney.

Cllr. Harney enquired whether bollards could be installed on either side of the level crossing in Craughwell, noting that pedestrians are currently required to step onto the carriageway, and indicated that he would be willing to allocate NOM or LPT funding towards the works. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that the matter could be reviewed but would be subject to the agreement of Iarnród Éireann. Mr. Harley added that he is engaging with Iarnród Éireann in relation to a similar matter at another location and will try to progress a solution.

Cllr. Canning raised the matter of the illegal encampment in Portumna and requested that Galway County Council contact the OPW to ensure that the issue is being addressed, as the encampment is obstructing tourists visiting the RV park and affecting local businesses. In response, Ms. Ruane advised that she would raise the matter with the Director of Services for Housing.

Cllr. Canning requested details of the cost of the refurbishment works at Capira Hardstand, noting his understanding that substantial expenditure had been invested in recent years to bring the facility up to standard, but that it is now vacant.

Cllr. Kelly complimented the Engineers and Roads staff on the widening of the pinch point at Ballinlug, noting the works were badly needed and expressed his appreciation that they had been carried out.

Mr. Haugh advised Members that remedial works to Ballyshrule Bridge, which had recently been damaged, would commence the following day, and indicated that any NOM funding Members may be in a position to provide, would be greatly appreciated for safety works not covered by Departmental funding. In response, Cllr. Canning indicated his agreement to provide NOM funding towards the works.

Mr. Harley advised Members that the Active Travel Unit is currently engaging with TII in relation to the Kinvara Pedestrian Crossing and expects to submit a feasibility and options report later this month. He further advised that, subject to TII approval of the proposals and the availability of funding, works may commence this year; however, it is more likely that the project will not proceed until next year.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN.

Cathaoirleach:

08/06/2026

Date: