

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

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held in Áras
an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, on 14th September 2026**

I LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. G. Donohue

Baill: Cllrs. I. Canning, G. Finnerty (Online), L. Harney, D. Kelly,
M. Maher, J. McClearn, P. Killilea, M. Regan.

Oifigigh: Mr. C. Harley SE, Mr. G. Haugh SEE, Mr. T.J. Redmond SEE,
Mr. N. Kennedy EE, Mr. D. O'Loughlin EE, Ms. K. Garvey EE,
Ms. M. McGann Meeting Administrator, Ms. O. Cloonan Staff
Officer.

Baill As Láthair: Cllrs. M. Kinane

Oifigigh As Láthair: Ms. E. Ruane DOS.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
LOUGHREA HELD ON 13th JULY 2026. LMD2502**

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

Matters arising from the minutes:

No matters were raised.

**2. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PART 8 PLANNING PERMISSION FOR TYNAGH BURIAL
GROUND EXTENSION. LMD2503**

Mr. Melody presented details of the proposed Part 8 planning application for the extension of Tynagh Burial Ground, noting that the existing burial ground was nearing capacity. Mr. Melody referenced the Planning Report and advised that the proposal involves developing a five-acre site owned by Galway County Council to provide 326 burial plots and 12 urn plots, and incorporate an extended access road, drainage works, and a boundary wall. On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McClearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Regan, the Part 8 proposal for Tynagh Burial Ground extension was agreed by the Members.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DECLARATION OF A ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD AT FISHERMANS WHARF, PORTUMNA.

LMD2504

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kelly, the Members approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993:

Road commencing at its junction with the N65 in the townland of Portumna, and continuing east for a distance of 36m, continuing north for a distance of 167m in a clockwise direction, continuing southwest for a distance of 36m.

Cllr. McClearn requested that Members be provided with an outline of the estates within the Loughrea MD that had not been taken in charge to date.

4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DECLARATION OF A ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD AT YEOMANS MEADOW, ST. BRENDAN'S ROAD, PORTUMNA.

LMD2505

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Canning, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kelly, the Members approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993:

Road commencing at its junction with the N65 in the townland of Portumna, continuing East for a distance of 95m.

5. LOUGHREA ACTIVE TRAVEL – NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

LMD2506

Ms. Garvey and Niall Madden of AECOM presented details of the Loughrea Active Travel Scheme's non-statutory public consultation, which will be open from 18th September to 2nd October 2026. The Active Travel Scheme will run 2.1km in total along Bride Street, Danesfort Road and Bohercom.

Cllr. Maher welcomed the proposals, noting they would improve route safety and were well thought out, but highlighted issues such as demand for on-street parking by school students, additional parking at Loughrea GAA Club, and the need for a GATSO at the Gort Road in consultation with An Garda Síochána. Cllr. Kelly welcomed the proposals noting the importance of Active Travel initiatives to help pedestrians and cyclists to feel safer and suggested that similar measures were needed on the Lake Road and Gort Road to protect cyclists, including additional ramps and speed cameras. Cllr. McClearn welcomed the proposal but noted they included a Safe Route to School initiative on only one side of the town and queried whether it was financial considerations which excluded large parts of the town with a lot of housing estates and raised the issue of parking spaces at Loughrea GAA Pitch. Cllr. Regan welcomed the consultation and the introduction of ramps and queried why the Gort Road was not covered in the proposals, and why proposals were not extended to the end of certain roads or junctions, and the loss of parking spaces at Loughrea GAA Club. Cllr. Donohue highlighted speeding concerns on the Gort Road, and the need to factor in parking for school students and improvement in public transport options for school traffic in conjunction with Active Travel solutions. Cllr. Canning welcomed the proposals and queried

whether pedestrian crossings would incorporate raised ramps to slow traffic and suggested that parking arrangements outside the GAA grounds be reconsidered. Cllr. Harney welcomed the proposals for Loughrea and asked when routes serving Craughwell National School and Gort National School would be progressed.

Ms. Garvey advised the Members that the selected routes had been carefully designed and were identified in line with the NTA priority objectives and subject to limits on the length of the scheme. She explained that this was the first Active Travel route for Loughrea and would provide a basis for future projects and the non-statutory public consultation would help refine the scheme using local knowledge. Regarding parking at Loughrea GAA Grounds, Ms. Garvey advised there was narrower available road space at this location and the scheme had maximised parking while addressing pedestrian safety, safe crossing, and speeding concerns. The proposed layout was the optimal design for the location and alternative parking was available on Bride Street where there were wide verges on both sides of the road. Responding to queries about student parking, Ms. Garvey advised that spaces along part of Bride Street remained unused during the day and were more suitable as parking at Bohercom hinders delivery and large vehicles. Ms. Garvey advised that the principles of the Active Travel scheme were to link schools, businesses, and communities, through linked routes rather than being focused at roundabouts, and further advised that all narrowing of carriageways and ramps complied with the NTA's standard design. Ms. Garvey advised that submissions to the non-statutory public consultation were welcome and outlined how submissions could be made. In response to requests from the Members for an in-person consultation session, Ms. Garvey stated that this will be considered but advised that previous in-person sessions received very few attendees, therefore the focus was on widespread sharing on social media, and sharing through Elected Members, leaflet drops and posters at local level.

Mr. Harley thanked the Active Travel Team for their continued hard work in bringing the scheme to fruition and welcomed the strong commitment from the NTA to continue funding for Active Travel schemes. Mr. Harley further advised that the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Scheme is a national programme led by An Taisce and Schools must have expressed an interest when applications were invited, with projects progressed through active rounds on a rolling basis.

6. MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

LMD2507

No matters were raised.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LMD2508

Mr. Redmond provided an update on the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) Bye Laws 2026 in relation to schools and noted that 11 schools were being included across the county. In relation to Loughrea Municipal District, he advised that 50 km/h periodic speed limits would be introduced on both approaches to Killeeneen NS on the L4501 in Craughwell and Killeen NS on the L8782 in Killeen South.

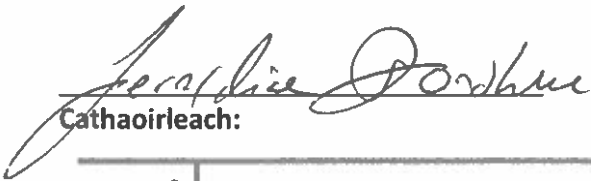
Cllr. Harney noted that the periodic signs at Coldwood and Kiltartan National Schools were highly effective, and in response, Mr. Harley advised that signs for schools outside urban areas would be addressed under Phase 4 of the Speed Limit Review, whereas it was currently Phase 2 that was being rolled out. In relation to a query regarding timescales, Mr. Harley advised that he anticipated Phase 2 being implemented from March 2027, Phase 3 in early 2028, and the Council should get further information on Phase 4 from the Department of Transport.

Cllr. Donohue commended staff and contractors for the recent hedge cutting work in the Gort area and highlighted the need for an ongoing public awareness campaign on hedge cutting, ash dieback, Japanese knotweed, and the responsibility of landowners and occupiers to ensure that trees, ditches, hedges and other vegetation on their land did not endanger road users or workers. In that regard, Cllr. Donohue welcomed the information leaflet which had been developed by the Roads staff in this regard. Mr. Harley advised that the leaflet would be promoted through the Council's social media channels and distributed to all Municipal Districts and libraries, and it was hoped that it would build awareness. In response to a suggestion from Cllr. Regan that every landowner should receive a copy, Mr. Harley advised that it would be distributed to landowners on foot of queries and circulated through a letter drop by An Post if deemed necessary.

Cllr. McClearn highlighted the ongoing road safety issues at Gurtymadden and the need to carry out improvement works in areas where issues were identified. Cllr. McClearn also referenced the request for a deputation at the next meeting of the Municipal District regarding road safety issues. In response, Mr. Haugh advised that additional signs had been ordered for Gurtymadden and minor alterations to existing signage was being arranged for the junction, however, it was not possible to further improve visibility at the junction due to the existing properties. Cllr. Regan proposed that funding be allocated in the next budget for the installation of ramps on the Gort Road to reduce speeding and this was supported by Cllr. Kelly, and in response, Mr. Haugh advised that an application would shortly be made under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme and the Gort Road would likely be included. However, he noted annually only 3 or 4 schemes are funded and several other locations are being prioritised above the Gort Rd. proposal, based on objective vehicle speed data and the Departments's Regional and Local Road Network Safety Analysis. Cllr. Harney enquired about flashing warning signs at Casey's Cross, Clarinbridge, and other locations. Mr. Haugh advised that in relation to Casey's Cross, the Council are engaging with a consultant to develop a revised junction design and that works relating to the other three Low-Cost Safety Improvement schemes funded in 2026 were progressing with signage being ordered and Road Safety Audits complete.

Cllr. McClearn requested an updated list of Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) and Community Improvement Schemes (CIS) applications and the number of applications approved, completed, and on a backlog list. Mr. Harley advised that these schemes were well over-subscribed and would endeavour to get an indication of the status on numbers of applications.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN.


Cathaoirleach:

12-10-2026
Date: