**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council**

**Held on Monday 10th October, 2016,**

**at 4.00 p.m., in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

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**Presiding: Cllr. P. Flannery, Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway**

**Present: Councillors: B. Cameron, C. Ó Conchúir, P. Conneely, C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Crowe, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, M. Farrell, P. Keane, M. Lohan,**

**D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty and J. Walsh.**

**In Attendance: Mr. B. McGrath, Chief Executive**

**Mr. T. Connell, Director of Services**

**Mr. J. O’Neill, Director of Services**

**Ms. E. McCormack, Head of Finance / Director of Services**

**Ms. E. Ruane, A/Director of Services**

**Mr. D. Mahon, Meetings Administrator**

**Mr. J. Tansey, Senior Engineer**

**Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer**

**Mr. G. McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer**

**Ms. E. Verling, Director Galway City Museum**

**Ms. N. Moggan, Management Accountant**

**Ms. K. Lohan, Clerical Officer.**

**Apologies:**  **Cllr. N. Larkin, Mayor of the City of Galway**

Cllr. P. Flannery, Deputy Mayor of the City of Galway welcomed members to the Meeting and noted apologies from Mayor Larkin. It was agreed on the proposal of Deputy Mayor Flannery to take Items 2 (a) and 2(b) first on the agenda.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE

**(a) Filling of Casual Vacancy on Galway City Council S. 19(3)(a) Local Government Act, 2001 – report attached**

Filling of Casual Vacancy caused by the resignation of former Cllr. A. Marley (Sinn Féin)

Nomination for Co-option from Sinn Féin – Mr. Mark Lohan Menlo Galway

Deputy Mayor Flannery noted that the filling of Casual Vacancy on Galway City Council in accordance with S.19 (3)(a) 2001 Local Government Act, 2001 had arisen on the 1st September following the retirement of former Cllr. Ms. A. Marley. Deputy Mayor Flannery referred Councillors to the report issued and called for a proposer.

Mr. Mark Lohan was proposed for Co-option under the 2001 Act by Cllr. M. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir who both spoke about the qualities and attributes Mr. Lohan would bring to the Chamber in his capacity as Councillor for the Central Ward. Cllr. Farrell stated that Mr. Lohan was a capable and qualified person to represent the people of the Central Ward and noted his background on Trade Union issues. Both Councillors thanked former Cllr. Ms. A. Marley for her contribution to the Chamber over the past number of years and wished incoming Cllr. Lohan best wishes.

Deputy Mayor Flannery noted that the criteria for Co-option as a result of a Casual Vacancy had been met in accordance with S.19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and deemed Mr. Mark Lohan co-opted to Galway City Council.

Cllr. Lohan then assumed his seat and addressed the Chamber. Cllr. Lohan thanked his proposer and seconded and acknowledged the work and achievements of his predecessor Ms. A. Marley. Cllr. Lohan noted the attendance in the Chamber of family members and thanked them for all their support. Cllr. Lohan noted that he would adopt a positive and constructive approach in his workings with fellow elected members and the executive. He outlined a number of priority areas including Housing, inclusion of social clauses in public procurement and promotion of the living wage.

Deputy Mayor Flannery and other Councillors welcomed Cllr. Lohan to the Chamber in his capacity as elected representative for Galway City Council and wished him well over the term of the current Council. Councillors also acknowledged the work of former Cllr. Ms. A. Marley and acknowledged Cllr. Lohan’s wish to work together on a constructive basis in the Chamber for the people of the City. Chief Executive Mr. B. McGrath welcomed Cllr. Lohan to the Chamber on behalf of staff of Galway City Council and stated that the co-operation of the officials will be provided.

**(b) Consequential fillings of Vacancies Arising:**

Deputy Mayor Flannery referred to the report issued and noted the committees and bodies that required a consequential filling as a result of the Co-option of Cllr. Lohan. The following committees and bodies have a vacancy to be filled as a consequence of the filling of a Casual Vacancy under S.19 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (in accordance with SPC Scheme):

Cllr. M. Lohan was proposed by Cllr. M. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir. As no other candidate was proposed, Cllr. Lohan was deemed selected to fill the vacancy on the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

Housing Strategic Policy Committee (in accordance with SPC Scheme):

Cllr. M. Lohan was proposed by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir and seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell. As no other candidate was proposed, Cllr. Lohan was deemed selected to fill the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Galway City Joint Policing Committee:

Cllr. M. Lohan was proposed by Cllr. M. Farrell and seconded by Cllr. Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir. As no other candidate was proposed, Cllr. Lohan was deemed selected to fill the vacancy on the Galway City Joint Policing Committee.

Association of Irish Local Government:

Cllr. M. Lohan was proposed by Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir and seconded by Cllr. M. Farrell.

Cllr. B. Cameron was proposed by Cllr. N. McNelis and seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely.

Following discussion on the filling of vacancies arising as a result of a casual vacancy and contributions from a number of members a roll call vote was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. C. Connolly, Cllr. M. Farrell, Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir and Cllr. M. Lohan.

Votes in favour of each candidate:

Cllr. B. Cameron: 10 Cllrs. B. Cameron, P. Conneely, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, P. Flannery, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, T. O'Flaherty and J. Walsh.

Cllr. M Lohan: 7 Cllrs. C. Ó Conchúir, C. Connolly, M.J. Crowe, O. Crowe, M. Farrell, P. Keane and M. Lohan.

Absent: 1 Cllr. N. Larkin

**Cllr. B. Cameron was deemed elected to the Association of Irish Local Government by 10 votes to 7 with 17 Councillors present.**

**(c) Section 183 Local Government Act 2001 – Transfer of Lands to Kerril & Louise Burke at rear of 129 Villa Nova Mews, Salthill.**

Deferred to next Meeting on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy.

It was agreed on the proposal of Deputy Mayor Flannery to hear the presentation from the Office of Public Works and Item 4(a) *‘*Towards a New Tourism Strategy for Galway’ next on the agenda. It was also agreed that Item 4(e) ‘Quarterly Reports for Quarter Ending 30th September 2016’ would be deferred until the next Meeting.

**Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Corrib Catchment - Presentation from Office of Public Works**

Deputy Mayor Flannery welcomed Mr. M. Adamson from the Office of Public Works to the Meeting to provide an overview of the draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Corrib Catchment area. Mr. Adamson thanked the Deputy Mayor and elected members for the opportunity to present to the Chamber and noted the consultation process currently underway in Galway. Mr. Adamson outlined the purpose of the presentation, the Plan Structure and Content, Recommendations for Galway City, Consultation – Next Steps and Scheme Implementation. Mr. Adamson provided a detailed overview of the issues facing the City, prioritisation measures, funding available, eligible works, criteria for selection of schemes, purpose of environmental assessments and processes involved, importance of submissions from the Council, proposed protection schemes including proposals for Spanish Arch / Claddagh area and Salthill. Key outputs from the CFRAM Programme were noted and the importance of setting out a road map for flood risk management was noted.

Deputy Mayor Flannery thanked Mr. Adamson for the presentation and welcomed the study. Comments, queries and requests for clarifications were received from Cllrs. N. McNelis, D. Lyons, C. Ó Conchúir, B. Cameron, T. O’Flaherty, C. Connolly, F. Fahy and P. Flannery. Issues raised included preventative requirements for Toft Park Salthill, rock armour protection at Salthill, Southpark and elsewhere, erosion at Silverstrand and requirement for works, eligibility for funding and process for same, Menlo turlough, requirement to address blocked culverts in the city, coastal erosion issues, up-river silting and consequences for city canal network.

Mr. Adamson provided detailed replies to the queries raised and encouraged the Council to make a detailed submission as part of the consultation process. He also noted the consultation process underway with local residents and that projects that could be progressed would be, in advance of full completion of the study if needed. He noted that a national priority list was not yet determined and the merits of individual schemes would be considered based on their overall impact against cost. He noted that funding for schemes was increasing each year and that good co-operation existed between all key stakeholders. He clarified the submission process. Mr. J. Cooper from JBA Consulting also provided clarification on issues raised including those at Toft Park and eligibility of works under the minor relief schemes.

1. **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Galway City Council held on Monday 12th September 2016**

**(b) Minutes of Special Meeting of Galway City Council held on Tuesday 4th October 2016**

Item 1 (a) and 1 (b) Deferred to next Meeting.

**3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

No items.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF OFFICIALS**

**(a) *‘*Towards a New Tourism Strategy for Galway’**

Deputy Mayor Flannery welcomed Ms. T. O’Reilly Executive Planner Galway County Council to the

Chamber to provide details on *Towards a New Tourism Strategy for Galway.* Ms. O’Reilly provided a detailed overview of the proposals for Galway to 2025 – a new tourism strategy for Galway. During her presentation, Ms. O’Reilly provided detail on the key stakeholders in delivering and promoting tourism in Galway, the role of both local authorities, destination experiences and tourism performance, consultation and research conducted to date, joint strategy development proposals and next steps. The new and specific role of the local authority was further detailed, economic benefits and revenues generated outlined and the 6 key areas to be considered as part of the strategy were noted. The vision and aims of the strategy were stated and a key list of actions areas discussed.

Deputy Mayor Flannery thanked Ms. O’Reilly for the presentation and welcomed the report. Comments, queries and requests for clarifications were received from Cllrs. N. McNelis, D. Lyons,

C. Ó Conchúir, B. Cameron, T. O’Flaherty, C. Connolly, F. Fahy, M. Farrell, P. Conneely, M. Cubbard, O. Crowe, D. McDonnell, P. Keane and P. Flannery. Issues raised included request for information on

the membership of the group preparing the report and the consultation process, importance of engagement with local business groups, request for further detail on breakdown of revenue figures and bed nights, target measures to expand overseas visitors from non-traditional markets, initiatives to further develop sports tourism, importance for the city to remain competitive, importance to address blockages to further development of tourism opportunities including dealing with the city’s traffic problems including better coach parking facilities, importance of arts, culture and festivals to the city, importance of the Wild Atlantic Way brand for the city and county, requirement to develop Greenways and allocation of sufficient staff resources to lead out of the actions to be included in the Strategy.

The importance of attracting high spending tourists was noted, connectivity to Knock and Shannon airports, importance of the Marketing Fund to the city to attract visitor especially during off-peak times, importance of 2020 Capital of Culture to developing tourism product and potential, importance of retaining visitors in the city and enhancing bed nights. Councillors commented that the risks associated with Sterling fluctuations need to be managed.

Members noted that the vision and objectives outlined by Ms. O’Reilly were both attainable and achievable but that funding and support from external agencies and funders would be required. Members acknowledged that creating a good impression for visitors while in the city, encouraging them to stay longer and spend more could be achieved but it was important that the infrastructure was in place to support that, including enabling visitors to get in an out and across the city with greater ease. The branding and marketing of the city was noted as crucial and that value for money must be a consideration in attracting tourists to the city. Members further detailed requirements to provide enhanced facilities for coach tours and exploit the opportunities afforded by the Wild Atlantic Way. The importance of using technology to assist tourists, better signage and facilities for parking were noted. The importance of the Irish language to the city and bilingual status of Galway City needed to be exploited and enhanced.

Deputy Mayor Flannery thanked Ms. O’Reilly for the presentation and noted that while there are many issues to be addressed in the Strategy, many positives existed for Galway and these should be exploited. Ms. O’Reilly provided replies on the queries raised by the Members. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath also noted the new role for local government in promoting tourism and the economic dividend that would arise if a co-ordinated approach is taken with a clear vision and set of objectives. Mr. McGrath referred to the ‘journey’ to achieve Capital of Culture designation and the suite of strategies that were required. The inter-dependence between city and county to promote tourism was noted. A marketing and branding initiative for the city will be progressed and the challenges outlined by the members will be addressed.

Mr. McGrath referred to a number of plans and proposals to address some of the challenges including transport, planning and cultural infrastructure. The importance of tourism to the city was further noted and the importance of building key strategic partnerships to delivery on key challenges was outlined. Mr. McGrath stated that the local authorities would act as enablers and facilitators and that the draft strategy would come back before the members in Q1 2017 for consideration.

Deputy Mayor Flannery referred to Notice of Motion 21/16 on the Agenda and spoke in favour of its adoption. Clarification was sought and following discussion it was agreed to amend the wording of the Motion.

NOM 21/16 Proposed: Cllr. P. Flannery Seconded: Cllr. D. Lyons

“That Galway City Council contact Failte Ireland and request that they examine the formal designation of Salthill as the official mid-point on the Wild Atlantic Way”.

**In Favour: 16 Against: 0 Abstain: 1 Present: 17**

The Motion was carried.

It was agreed on the proposal of Deputy Mayor Flannery to take Item 4(f) next on the Agenda.

**(f) Macnas 30th Anniversary Parade**

Mr. G. McMahon A/ Senior Executive Officer referred Councillors to the report issued and noted that the largest single free event in the West of Ireland, the annual Macnas Parade would take place in Galway on Sunday 30th October 2016 at 5.30pm. Crowds of over 44,000 people have attended this spectacular event in recent years and similar numbers are expected to turn out in the city centre again this year.

Mr. McMahon stated that Macnas had received €24,000 towards its year-round operation in the city with a further €15,000 already committed from the Marketing Fund in 2016 specifically towards the parade. There are significant costs associated with the production of the parade which are met each year through a combination of grant aid from City Council and the Arts Council and sponsorship from private sources. Mr. McMahon stated that there will be more than 300 participants taking part in the parade who all perform for free on the day. There are 60 members in the Macnas young ensemble and the company is collaborating with local arts groups including Youth Ballet West, Galway Community Circus and other arts and community organisations.  The Macnas Parade at Halloween is now a significant draw bringing visitors into the city specifically for the event not just from the city and surrounds but also from around the region and further afield, all contributing to the local economy on this holiday weekend.

2016 will see a significant celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Macnas. With its roots on the streets of Galway, Macnas parades and outdoor shows are unashamedly aimed at a family audience and at making the theatrical experience exciting, inspiring and accessible. The Macnas Parade has become an iconic and unique event and is an intrinsic part of the culture of our city. Galway City Council has been a major supporter of the company over the last 30 years and this has and continues to be generously acknowledged by the company in its publicity and public relations. In celebrating its 30th anniversary, Galway City Council is requested to provide additional support of €15,000 towards this year’s parade. Mr. McMahon recommended that the members consider the allocation.

Contributions and comments were received from a number of members including Cllr. B. Cameron, P. Conneely, C. Ó Conchúir, D. Lyons, M.J Crowe, D. McDonnell, M. Lohan, T. O’Flaherty, N. McNelis, C. Connolly. J. Walsh, F. Fahy, M. Cubbard and P. Flannery. Congratulations were offered to Macnas on the occasion of their 30th birthday and all members acknowledged the significant contribution of Macnas to the city over the past thirty years. A vote of congratulations will be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting. Cllr. T. O’Flaherty proposed and seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron that consideration be given to acknowledging Macnas with a civic reception. Members noted the socially inclusive nature of the event and benefits to the city, the possibility of expanding Macnas involvement in the St. Patrick’s Day festival and parade was suggested. A number of queries and requests for clarification were sought and replies were provided by Mr. McMahon. Following discussion Members unanimously agreed to support the report’s recommendation to provide a further allocation of €15,000 to Macnas in 2016.

As the time was now 7.30 pm an extension of time was proposed by Cllr. D. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely. Cllr. P. Conneely also proposed that Standing Orders be suspended after consideration of Item 4 (b) to allow members consider the Report of the Galway Local Government Committee into Local Government Arrangements in Galway for one hour. Cllr. Conneely’s proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell.

**In Favour: 11 Against: 2 Abstain: 0 Present: 13**

The Proposal was agreed.

**(b) Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for the City Museum under Museum Standards Programme, Ireland (MSPI)**

Mr. G. McMahon A/ Senior Executive Officer referred Councillors to the report issued and outlined

the main issues for consideration. Ms. E. Verling Museum Director then provided Councillors with a

detailed overview of the report content and objectives.

Ms. Verling noted that as part of its participation within the Heritage Council Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI), Galway City Museum must prepare and submit periodic strategic management plans (SMPs). The preparation, approval and submission of a Strategic Management Plan for the Museum is one of the essential standards that museums must meet within the MSPI scheme. Following the drafting of the programme and its supplementary policies, plans and strategies, the SMP should be approved and adopted by the relevant SPC and by the full Council at its Ordinary Meeting.

Ms. Verling noted that in this overarching planning and development context, Galway City Council has prepared a revised and updated SMP, to take its work forward for the incoming five-year period, up to and including 2020. The Strategic Aims under the SMP for Galway City Museum for the coming five year were outlined as follows:

Strategic Aim 1: Extend and develop a sustainable Galway City Museum so as to realise its full community, cultural, social and economic potential

Strategic Aim 2: Manage and develop an effective communications platform to engage with all stakeholders, participants and audiences

Strategic Aim 3: Plan, manage and maintain a safe, healthy and secure museum environment for its staff, visitors and collections

Strategic Aim 4: Manage and develop a robust, sustainable, financial and resource framework

Ms. Verling advised the members that within this strategic context, Galway City Museum will address, subject to resources, the following issues in the coming five years:

Implementation of the 2015 staffing proposals; Increased opening hours (as a result of increased staffing); Improved Front-of-house and public profile; Collection Management - Documentation and disposal; Mitigation of problems with museum environment & museum storage; Acquisition of collections relevant to Galway; Development of an international profile; New capital works programme; Development of new galleries in the present building; Establishment craft ateliers in Merchants Road and significantly expanded story of medieval Galway’s extraordinary heritage.

Ms. Verling noted that Galway City Council is seeking Fáilte Ireland support with a series of developments and applied under Failte Ireland Large Grants Scheme for significant funding, matched by Galway City Council, to achieve this expansion of a significant attraction at the mid-point of the Wild Atlantic Way. For its part, Galway City Council’s Museum is committed, subject to the necessary and required resources, to deliver the following within the life of the SMP:

* Opening hours extended from 37 hours per week to approx. 50 hours per week (new opening on Mondays, longer hours every day, open late 1 evening per week), 362 days per year.
* Visitor numbers growing from 175,000 in 2015 to just under 388,000 by year 5 of operation.
* Visitor spend will rise to contribute to increased staffing costs and related overheads.
* Increased events and outreach programme will focus on growing visitor numbers in shoulder and off seasons
* The introduction of a retail space will generate employment opportunities for the external provider to whom the retail space will be outsourced.

The draft Strategic Management Plan & Annual Action Plan and the supplementary policies and plans including Mission Statement, Collection Policy, Disposal Policy, Loan Policy, Financial Plan / procedures & estimates, Disaster Plan, Care of Collections Strategy, Exhibition Policy and the Education Policy were considered by the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC at its most recent meeting on 26th September.

Ms. Verling stated that the SPC had agreed the submission to the Museums Standards Programme and recommended the adoption by Galway City Council of the programme prior to its submission to the Heritage Council, subject to the availability of resources.

Members welcomed and thanked Ms. Verling for the presentation and offered compliments to the staff of the Museum for services provided. Cllr. P. Conneely as chair of the SPC spoke in favour of adoption of the proposals and noted the importance of Fáilte Ireland in the achievement of objectives outlined.

Comments, queries and requests for clarification were received from a number of Councillors including Cllr. M. Cubbard, M. Lohan, O. Crowe, D. Lyons, N. McNelis, M. Farrell, D. McDonnell, F. Fahy, T. O’Flaherty, C. Connolly, C. Ó Conchúir, B. Cameron and P. Flannery. Issues raised by the members included staff resourcing, proposals for retail space and income generation, opening hours, accreditation outcomes, importance of development of overall cultural quarter and Spanish Arch area, environmental issues being addressed in the building, importance to retain free entry, potential space for expansion, car parking issues adjacent to Museum and potential for LE Ailsing as a tourism attraction alongside the city’s tourism infrastructure. Ms. Verling provided detailed replies to the queries raised and referred Councillors to recent report and feasibility report on expansion of Museum including proposals for Comerford House. Ms. Verling thanked the members for their compliments and advised she would advise staff of the Museum of same.

Ms. Verling advised that while issues required to be addressed in the building, the Museum was fit for purpose and an application to the Department had been submitted seeking financial support to address a number of issues including works required for the buildings windows. Ms. Verling noted the importance of developing funding streams if the visions outlined were to be achieved.

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath noted the issues outlined would require considerable funding into the future and advised Councillors that their support would be required to enable this funding be realised. Cllr. C. Connolly requested that car parking issues raised be dealt with.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Conneely and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Recommendation of the SPC to approve the suite of policies and plans to be submitted in support of the application for the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

In Favour: 15 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 15

The Motion was adopted

At 8.30 pm, the Motion to amend Standing Orders was invoked.

**Local Government Arrangements in Galway – Report of the Galway Local Government Committee**

Comments and observations on the report issued by the Local Government Committee on Local Government Arrangements in Galway were discussed, in particular the recommendation that Galway City and County Councils be merged into a unitary local authority to be called the ‘Greater Galway Authority’. Contributions were received from Cllr. P. Conneely, D. McDonnell, N. McNelis, D. Lyons, C. Ó Conchúir, O. Crowe, C. Connolly, M. Lohan, M. Cubbard, F. Fahy, M. Farrell, T. O’Flaherty, J. Walsh and P. Flannery.

All contributions expressed concern in relation to the recommendations contained in the report. A sample of the comments expressed included; that the recommendation would better serve the needs of the county over the requirements of the city, that its recommendations were unworkable and unmanageable, did not reflect the unique identify of each area and had no local political support. Councillors expressed concern that mergers in other areas in 2014 had not proved to be successful, had created unnecessary divides and divisions and did not enhance local democracy and accountability. Councillors stated that the requirements of the City were not adequately reflected in the report and every effort must be made to reject the recommendation.

A number of Councillors noted that some benefits may arise under expanded shared services agreements and this could be further explored. Councillors noted that any agreement to effect the changes proposed would require support from Oireachtas members. The recommendations were considered to be anti-democratic and flawed in the context of representation, accountability and transparency. Members considered how best to oppose the recommendations in the report and expressed concern that the City would be down-graded to that of Municipal District within a much larger County. The cons of amalgamation as noted in the report were referenced and Councillors agreed with same. Councillors considered whether a separate Special Meeting was required to consider the report in further detail. Chief Executive Mr. McGrath advised Councillors that as he had only received the report he had not had the opportunity to consider its findings in detail. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would consider the report and the matter could be revisited. Following further discussion members agreed to consider a Motion submitted.

Proposed: Cllr. P. Conneely Seconded: Cllr. D. Lyons

**“That Galway City Council reject the Report of the Galway Local Government Committee into Local Government Arrangements in Galway”**

In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12

The Motion was adopted.

**(c) Chief Executive’s Report for October 2016**

Deferred.

**(d) Traveller Accommodation Programme**

Deferred.

**(e) Quarterly Reports for Quarter Ending 30th September 2016**

Deferred.

(i) Transportation

(ii) Housing

(iii) Community, Culture & Economic Development

(iv) Environment

(v) Recreation & Amenity

**5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Motions submitted under Standing Order 22 were considered:

Proposed: Cllr. M. Cubbard

Seconded: Cllrs. F. Fahy, J. Walsh, D. McDonnell, P. Flannery, D. Lyons, T. O’Flaherty,

P. Conneely, N. McNelis and B. Cameron.

“Galway City Council call on Bus Eireann to commit to continuing existing services on the following routes until the end of the current school year, June 30th, 2017

Westside to Claddagh school (08.30 service)

Claddagh School to Westside (1.30 service)

Claddagh School to Westside via Salthill (2.30 service)

Scoil Einde to Seacrest (2.35 service)

I also propose that Galway City Council immediately write to Minister John Halligan T.D. in relation to these particular routes with a view to having them included under the terms of agreement the Department of Education have with Bus Eireann for the provision of school transport.”

**In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 12**

The Motion was adopted.

Proposer: Cllr. P. Flannery

Seconded: Cllrs. D. McDonnell, T. O’Flaherty, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, J. Walsh, N. McNelis, M. Cubbard, C. O Conchúir, M. Farrell.

“Galway City Council calls on the Government to implement its specific commitment to the Post Office network within the Programme for Government (P 48) by ring-fencing 75 million in the forthcoming budget to sustain the Post Office future viability. Ensure a five year sustainable strategy with An Post and implement a new Community Banking service based on the New Zealand model which will develop the Post Office Network in the future.”

**In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 11**

The Motion was adopted.

Cllr. D. Lyons noted a conflict of interest and absented himself from consideration of the Motion.

The following Motions on the agenda were not considered.

**Motion Submitted at Special Meeting 16th May 2016 and deferred to June Ordinary Meeting**

Proposed: Cllr. P. Conneely

Seconded: Cllr. P. Flannery

“Propose that legal costs in relation to consequential filling of vacancies on committees and other bodies airing from the co-option of a Councillor be paid by Cllr. Colette Connolly”.

NOM 03/16 Notice given by: Cllr. N. McNelis

Date Received: 30th March, 2016

“For the benefit of retailers in the city centre and for shoppers and visitors all pedestrian areas of the city centre are vehicle free from an earlier start of 9.00 am during the months of June, July and August”.

NOM 09/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Date Received: 11th April, 2016

“That GCC requests that the Government provide adequate funding to provide special housing units for victims of domestic violence”.

NOM 12/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Connolly

Date Received: 3rd May, 2016.

“That Galway City Council Transportation SPC calls on the Government to introduce a free school transport service for all children attending city schools.”

NOM 16/16 Notice given by: Cllr. C. Ó Conchúir

Date Received: 24th August, 2016.

“That this Council ask Sean Kyne T.D. and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to intervene in the ongoing dispute at Ros a Mhil Harbour between local fisherman and the harbour authorities”.

NOM 17/16 Notice given by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Date Received: 5th September 2016.

“Galway City Council calls on the Minister of Health to amend the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 and introduce additional legislation/regulations which would regulate the use of e-cigarettes similar to those which already apply to tobacco related activity”

NOM 18/16 Notice given by: Cllr. D. Lyons

Date Received: 5th September 2016.

“Galway City Council calls on the Industrial Development Authority and other state agencies to bring forward plans for the development of the industrial zoned lands on the west of Galway City.”

NOM 22/16 Notice given by: Cllr. T. O’Flaherty

Date Received: 2nd October, 2016

“I am calling on this Council to create an exit lane for right turning traffic exiting from the Martin Roundabout on the Dublin Road (R446) heading outbound to the Coolagh Roundabout to facilitate easy access to the Motorway. The grass margin along this stretch has ample room to facilitate a third exit”.

NOM 23/16 Notice given by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Date Received: 3rd October, 2016

“I call on the Chief Executive to earmark and designate the 1.4 acre site in the Westside as a Cultural and Artistic hub to cater for a mix of organisations specialising with Children and youth”.

**6. QUESTIONS**

Q 9/16 Notice given by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Date Received: 30th August, 2016.

With regard to the Galway City section of the Connemara Greenway, it has been stated in recent quarterly reports that the designs for this section of the route would be completed by Q4 2015. Has Galway City Council been updated by the County Council (Project Manager) as to the design? We are now in Q2 2016 have designs been received? When are the designs expected?

Reply circulated.

Q 10/16 Notice given by: Cllr. B. Cameron

Date Received: 3rd October, 2016

Representations were made recently regarding the surface of the children’s play area of the Millenium Park. Are works to ensue in order to upgrade the surface and when?

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

**8. ITEMS FOR COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION**

Noted.

**9. CONFERENCES**

Conferences and seminars were agreed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Conneely and seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

Title: Housing Conference 2016

Date: 25th November, 2016

Venue: Gibson Hotel, Dublin

The following Councillor was approved to attend: Cllr. C. Connolly.

Title: Rebuilding Ireland. Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness

Date: 4th and 5th November, 2016

Venue: Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford

The following Councillor was approved to attend: Cllr. C. Connolly.

Title: AILG Training Seminar

Date: 22nd October, 2016

Venue: Radisson Hotel, Sligo

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. O. Crowe, J. Walsh, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, D. Lyons, D. McDonnell and T. O’Flaherty.

Title: AILG Training Autumn Seminar 2016

Date: 13th and 14th October, 2016

Venue: Gorey, Co. Wexford.

The following Councillors were approved to attend: Cllrs. C. Connolly, B. Cameron, N. McNelis, O. Crwoe, J. Walsh, P. Conneely, F. Fahy, D. McDonnell and T. O’Flaherty.

**10. VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

Mr. D. Frain (R.I.P.)

**11. OTHER BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

None.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chief Executive Mr. McGrath advised Councillors that the Minutes of the Special Meetings to consider the Draft City Development Plan deferred for consideration at the September Ordinary Meeting would be listed for approval at the November Ordinary Meeting as it was important that the Minutes be approved in advance of the Special Meetings scheduled for late November / early December to further consider the draft Development Plan.

The Meeting ended at 9.25 pm.