

## **MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held in The Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10.00am**

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**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin  
Cllr. Declan Kelly  
Cllr. Jim Cuddy  
Cllr. Albert Dolan  
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly

**Oifigí:** Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services  
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer

**Apologies:** Cllr. Gerry King

**Absent:** Mr. Martin Gibbons  
Mr. Kenny Deery  
Mr. Tom Madden

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Cllr Roche commenced the meeting by passing a vote of sympathy to the family of Ms. Kate Moran, Athenry who died in a tragic sporting accident earlier this week.

All members of the SPC sympathised with the Moran family on their very sad loss.

Mr Pender acknowledged the work of Damien Mitchell SE, Fiona Holland A/SE and Eibhlin Curran AO who have transferred to other Depts within Galway County Council. He welcomed Rachel Lowe, S.E Tom Prendergast, S.E and Geraldine Byrne, A.O to the unit and wished them well.

Cllr Roche on behalf of the SPC commended the work by the previous staff members.

#### **ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021.**

Mr Pender drew the members attention to some amendments of the minutes from the previous meeting.

- Page 2 "He advised there is no mention of the East Galway WWTP in the current **National Development Plan**"

- Page 4 “Mr Pender advised the SPC that there is a dedicated team established within Galway County Council for the **Athlone to Galway Greenway project.**”
- “Mr Pender advised that a fence line would need to be erected **adjacent and parallel** to the railway line”

On **Proposal** of Cllr Tomas O Curraoin and **Seconded** by Cllr Jim Cuddy both the amendments and the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure were agreed and adopted

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Kelly raised a query on the Prohibition signs. Mr Pender advised that the signs have been reviewed, GCC are waiting until funding is drawn down and the signs will be scaled down in less obtrusive locations.

Cllr Cuddy raised the issue of the lack of a dedicated bathing area in Rinville

Cllr Roche enquired about an update from TII on the signage issues on the Motorway. Mr Pender informed the members that the status had not changed, and the same reply was received back from TII, that the issue did not meet the criteria. Mr Pender had carried out more research on the matter but to no avail. Cllr Cuddy informed the meeting that Ministerial intervention was required so that an amendment to the Roads Act could proceed. The local native Irish speakers are supportive of such a move.

Mr Pender advised that he had written to the Minister last December but to date has not received a reply on the matter. Minister Eamon Ryan has also not replied to GCC correspondence the X20 bus route.

### **ITEM NO. 2 – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM ELECTED MEMBERS IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT POLICY ON ROADSIDE MEMORIALS.**

Mr Pender would like to bring this policy to the May plenary meeting for review. Mr Pender referenced the meeting held in GMIT, June 2020 and reviewed submissions received. He referenced the suggested amendments on the document that he distributed to the meeting regarding changes to the policy document. A discussion arose on the use of the term next of kin and it was agreed that this would be amended to now read “loved ones or friend” in lieu of the term next of kin. All were mindful of the Health & Safety issues. Cllr Albert Dolan enquired as to how many councillors returned submissions of which Mr Pender advised him 6 submissions were received.

This was **Proposed** by Cllr Jim Cuddy and **Seconded** by Cllr Geraldine Donohue.

**ITEM NO. 3 – DISCUSSION ON THE POLICY FOR RINVILLE IN RELATION TO THE RED ROUTE FOR THE GALWAY TO ATHLONE GREENWAY BEEN SELECTED.**

Mr Pender informed the meeting that technically there is no Athlone to Galway Greenway chosen yet. The emerging preferred route shows connectivity to Rinville Park. He referenced An Bord Pleanála and the possibility of a judicial review that may arise once the route has been finalised.

Cllr Roche raised the issue of a CPO and Mr Pender re iterated both the Government and Galway County Council's stance on this issue, it was a mechanism to be used only as a last resort. Land acquisition by negotiation is the preferred option. Mr Pender will circulate the policy document which has been approved by the three largest farming organisations. Should Galway County Council be in a position where land acquisition is required, land value, disturbance monies and accommodation works will be reimbursed to the landowner. There will also be a second payment to landowners who agree to voluntary acquisition. This is called a Greenway Sustainability Payment. It is determined by the length of greenway on the landowners property. It will be paid in two instalments 50% when planning consent is approved and 50% when the greenway opens. So if someone was entitled to €20,000 as the Greenway Sustainability Payment, €10,000 would be paid when An Bord Pleanála approves the scheme and the balance of €10,000 would be paid when the greenway opens.

Cllr Donohue raised the issues surrounding Stoney Island and Kilcolgan and meeting the parties concerned on a collective basis. She also referenced routes going through land that is zoned agricultural not recreation and amenity.

Cllr Cuddy enquired if the route was going along the foreshore or through the park itself. Mr Pender replied in his opinion that the route would not proceed alongside the shore. He also clarified at this juncture, that it was a wide corridor not a chosen route.

Mr Pender was adamant it was Galway County Council's mantra to meet anyone, anywhere, anytime both individuals and concerned groups. Galway County Council has never refused to meet any relevant parties on any such matters. The project lead is awaiting the Directors approval to circulate the relevant documentation to all. Mr Pender will reach out next week to the relevant parties.

Cllr Donohue asked if she could assist in the process to which Mr Pender replied that he envisaged there would be a public representative in situ.

Cllr Roche queried staff meeting with some members of the public from the Loughrea Municipal District. Mr Pender advised him to contact Mr Fintan O Meara on the matter in Ballinasloe.

**ITEM NO. 4 – DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO RINVILLE PIER.**

Mr Pender informed the attendees that Galway County Council did not have the authority to designate an area for bathing purposes. He also told the meeting that it can take circa 3 to 4 years of sampling of waters for such a designation to take place. There are lots of stakeholders involved in these areas and all need to come together

in agreement to move the process forward which may take some time before unity is reached. Safety issues were raised by the members regarding swimmers and boat users in the region.

Diarmuid Kelly informed the group that the water quality was being affected by WW overflow in the Oranmore Bay and Ballyloughane. It will be challenging to address this issue.

Cllr Donohue queried the status regarding the upcoming RNL fundraiser in July. Mr Pender is awaiting correspondence on two issues, indemnity, and a Garda presence in the area on the day, once this has been clarified approval will follow.

**ITEM NO. 5 - NEAR HEALTH (Nature and Environment to Attain and Restore Health) REPORT - DISCUSSION ON HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO OUR GREEN AND BLUE SPACES THROUGH ACTIVE TRAVEL INITIATIVES AND BAR FUNDING TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT PIERS.**

Mr Diarmuid Kelly gave a presentation on the above which was highly commended by all and was very informative.

Cllr Roche queried the funding for BALAMI (Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure) to which Mr Pender informed the attendees that 9 applications to the value of €420,000 have been approved. Galway County Council have limited resources but the 2022 projects are being rolled out and the tender process has commenced. An update on progress can be provided later in the year. Diarmuid Kelly advised of a scoping study to be carried out to establish the status quo.

**ITEM NO. 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Donohue raised the issue of the Long-Term Impact charge for GWS schemes and Galway County Council has been identified with associated high charges. The Road opening scheme is centrally administered. Mr Pender will review and revert to Cllr Donohue on documentation provided.

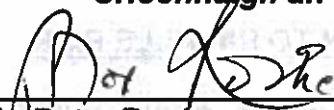
Mr Pender informed the meeting that An Bord Pleanála have given approval to confirm the CPO for the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment.

Updating the attendees, Mr Pender advised that the 2022 LIS funding of €960,000 has been approved, with the first list submitted to the Department.

Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach thanked the committee members for their attendance and concluded the meeting

*Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.*

**Signed &  
Approved by:**

  
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**Cllr. Peter Roche**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.**

**Date:** 6/1/2022