

**MINUTES OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2006, AT 11.00 a.m.**

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The Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Cribbin, was in the Chair.

The other Councillors present were:-

Cllrs. M. Mulherin, J. Munnelly, Johnnie O'Malley, A.M. Reape, E. Staunton, S. Weir, P. O'Brien, D. Ryan, H. Walsh, G. Coyle, M. Holmes, M. McNamara, T. Quinn, C. Burke, H. Kenny, A. McDonnell, P. McGuinness, J. Mee, M. Carty, T. Connolly, P. McHugh, E. Lavin, J. Maloney, J. Mellett, G. Murray, M. Adams, F. Chambers, A.F. O'Malley, John O'Malley.

The Council Staff in attendance were:-

Mr. D. Mahon, Co. Manager, Mr. J. Beirne, Deputy Co. Manager, Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, Mr. J. Condon, Meetings Administrator, Mr. P. Hynes, Dir. of Services, Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, Mr. J. Coll, Dir., Community & Enterprise, Mr. R. Norton, Dir. of Services, Mr. P. Duggan, Head of Finance, Ms. T. McGee, Financial Accountant, Mr. S. Murphy, Chief Fire Officer, Mr. I. Douglas, Sen. Planner, Ms. K. O'Malley-Harlow, Sen. Ex. Planner, Mr. P. Burke, Sen. Engineer, Mr. M. Keating, Sen. Ex. Officer, Mr. P. Flanagan, Sen. Ex. Officer, Mr. A. Vaughan, County Librarian, Ms. A. McCarthy, Arts Officer, Ms. D. Cunningham, Heritage Officer, Mr. J. Moran, Sen. Staff Officer, Ms. C. Kenny, Asst. Staff Officer.

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Discussion continued on the Annual Budget for Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006.

**ITEM NO. 1.**

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- TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2006, AND
  - TO ADOPT THE SAID BUDGET WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT;
  - TO DETERMINE BY RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SAID BUDGET AS ADOPTED THE ANNUAL RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE PURPOSES SET OUT IN TABLE B OF THE SAID BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2006, AND
  - TO DETERMINE BY RESOLUTION THE CHARGES TO BE MADE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN RESPECT OF DOMESTIC FIRE BRIGADE SERVICE.
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Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness

Seconded by Cllr. A. McDonnell

Resolved:-

"That discussion on the Annual Budget 2006 continue until 1.00 p.m., and then adjourn until 3.00 p.m.".

## **PROGRAMME GROUP 1 - HOUSING AND BUILDING.**

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**Mr. P. Hynes, Dir. of Services, gave a Presentation and outlined details of Programme Group 1 – Housing and Building.**

**A detailed discussion took place on the Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- **Planned Maintenance Programme;**
- **Traveller Accommodation Programme;**
- **Local Authority Tenants Handbook;**
- **Assessment of Needs 2002 – 2006;**
- **Disabled Persons Grants and Essential Repairs Grants;**
- **Rental Accommodation Scheme;**
- **The success of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee;**
- **The delay in re-letting vacant Local Authority Houses;**
- **Anti-social behaviour in Housing Estates;**
- **The problem of homelessness in the County;**
- **Affordable and Part V Housing;**
- **The provision of accommodation for separated Fathers.**

**Mr. P. Hynes, Dir. of Services and Mr. M. Keating, Sen. Ex. Officer, replied to queries raised by the Members under this Programme Group.**

**It was decided to deal with Programme Group 3 at this stage.**

## **PROGRAMME GROUP 3 - WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.**

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**Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, gave a Presentation and outlined details of Programme Group 3 – Water Supply and Sewerage.**

**A detailed discussion took place on this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- Harvesting of raw water;
- The provision of Sewerage Schemes for Murrisk and Lecanvey and the extension of Louisburgh Water Supply Scheme;
- Grants for the provision of a water supply to individual houses;
- The provision of 100% funding to upgrade septic tanks in houses built in the 1950's and 1960's;
- Foxford and Kiltimagh Sewerage Schemes;
- Taking over of Group Water Schemes;
- Wastage of water;
- Extension of Lough Mask Water Supply Scheme to Kiltimagh;
- The poor quality of water in Kiltimagh;
- Polluter Pays Principle;
- Newport Sewerage Scheme;
- Sludge Hub Centre;
- Kilmovee Sewerage Scheme, Mulranny Sewerage Scheme – Extension to Murrivaugh, Dugort Sewerage Scheme and Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme.

Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services and Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, replied to queries raised by the Members under this Programme Group.

The time being 2.15 p.m., the Meeting adjourned.

The Meeting re-convened at 3.00 p.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. H. Kenny, was in the Chair.

#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 2 - ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY.**

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Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, outlined details of Programme Group 2 – Road Transportation and Safety.

**A detailed discussion ensued under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- **The proposed commencement of the Charlestown By-Pass;**
- **The appointment of Mr. Noel Gibbons as Road Safety Officer;**
- **The provision of special funding for hedge cutting / verge trimming;**
- **Delegation to the National Roads Authority regarding the condition of roads in the County;**
- **The poor condition of sections of the N17 from Sligo to Galway;**
- **Public Lighting;**
- **The upgrading of the Balla to Claremorris Road to National Primary status;**
- **The dangerous condition of Bridges on the Kiltimagh / Claremorris Road;**
- **The delay in commencement of Phase 2 of the N26;**
- **Dangerous Bridge at River, Keel, Achill;**
- **The poor condition of the Bellacorick / Belmullet Road;**
- **The provision of a By-Pass for Ballinrobe Town;**
- **The provision of Motor Tax facilities in Ballinrobe;**
- **The issue of the completion of the N5;**
- **Dangerous sections of the N59;**
- **The success of the CLÁR Programme:**
- **The success of the Motor Tax Office in Ballina;**
- **The provision of Motor Tax facilities in Swinford.**

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Mulherin  
Seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien  
Resolved:-**

**“That a Delegation consisting of the Cathaoirleach, the Members of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and Cllr. Margaret Adams meet with the National Roads Authority regarding the condition of the Roads in County Mayo”.**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh**

**Resolved:-**

**“That the National Roads Authority be required to fund Public Lighting on National Roads”.**

**Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, and the County Manager replied to queries raised under this Programme Group.**

#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 4 - DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS.**

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**Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, and Mr. J. Coll, Dir., Community and Enterprise, outlined details of Programme Group 4 – Development Incentives and Controls. Mr. I. Douglas, Sen. Planner, gave a Presentation under this Programme Group.**

**A detailed discussion took place under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- **The review of the County Development Plan;**
- **The importance of Planning in the County;**
- **The provision of additional funding for Forward Planning;**
- **The County Development Board;**
- **The Mayo County Heritage Plan;**
- **The re-instatement of the Social and Economic Fund;**
- **Broadband;**
- **The Council’s Enforcement Unit;**
- **The success of the Planning Clinics;**
- **Policy on Wind Energy.**

**Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, replied to queries raised by the Members under Programme Group 4 – Development Incentives and Controls.**

The time being 6.05 p.m., it was -

**Proposed by Cllr. H. Kenny**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Resolved:-**

**“That the Meeting adjourn for half an hour”.**

**The Meeting re-convened at 6.35 p.m.**

#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

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**Mr. R. Norton, Dir. of Services, Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services and Mr. S. Murphy, Chief Fire Officer, outlined details of Programme Group 5 – Environmental Protection.**

**A lengthy and detailed discussion ensued under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- **Rathroeen and Derrinumera Landfill Sites;**
- **The current position regarding the Refuse Collection Service;**
- **Problems arising from recycling;**
- **The Environmental Awareness Campaign;**
- **Maintenance of Burial Grounds particularly older Burial Grounds;**
- **The success of the Civic Amenity Sites;**
- **The success of the Litter Action League;**
- **Westport and Achill Fire Stations;**
- **The review of the Connaught Waste Management Plan;**
- **Litter Control;**
- **Blue Flag Beaches;**
- **The provision of additional toilet facilities at Beaches throughout the County;**
- **The success of the Cleaner Community Campaign;**
- **Coastal protection.**

The time being 8.00 p.m., it was -

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh**

**Resolved:-**

**“That “Standing Orders” be suspended in order to allow the Meeting to continue”.**

**A detailed discussion took place on the proposed privatisation of the Refuse Collection Service.**

**Mr. R. Norton, Dir. of Services and the County Manager replied to queries raised by the Members under this Programme Group.**

#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 6 - RECREATION AND AMENITY.**

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**The County Manager outlined details of Programme Group 6 – Recreation and Amenity.**

**A discussion took place under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-**

- **The excellent work being carried out by the Arts Service and the Library Service;**
- **The success of the Summer Music Series;**
- **The payment of a contribution to the Mayo Peace Park Project;**
- **The appointment of a Youth Officer in the County;**
- **The insufficient funding provided in the Budget for Walking Routes;**
- **The provision of public art in Housing Estates.**

**The Council then considered Programme Groups 7 and 8.**

#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 7 - AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE.**

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#### **PROGRAMME GROUP 8 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.**

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**The County Manager outlined details of Programme Groups 7 and 8.**

A discussion took place under these Programme Groups during which reference was made to the following:-

- The Michael Davitt Centenary Celebrations in 2006;
- The need to increase funding for Agricultural Shows;
- The need for a second Dog Warden in the County;
- The condition of Piers and Harbours in the County;
- The need for additional funding for coastal erosion;
- Coroner's Fees;
- Excellence Through People Award;
- Agri Tourism.

The County Manager replied to queries raised under Programme Groups 7 and 8.

The time being 10.35 p.m., it was agreed to adjourn for 5 minutes.

The Meeting re-convened at 10.40 p.m.

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness

Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh

Resolved:-

"That having considered the County Manager's Annual Budget for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006, together with his Report, the Council hereby amend the said Annual Budget as follows:-

**Programme Group 2 – Road Transportation and Safety:-**  
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That Local Roads – Rates be increased by €100,000 to allow for verge trimming / hedge cutting

**Programme Group 5 – Environmental Protection:-**  
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That Landfill charges be increased by €135,000;

That Landfill levy be increased by €15,000;

That Loan charges on Landfill be reduced by €34,000



**Programme Group 6 – Recreation and Amenity:-**  
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**That a provision of €25,000 be made for Mayo Peace Park Project**

**Programme Group 8 – Miscellaneous Services:-**  
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**That Overdraft Interest be reduced by €11,000**

**Programme Group 9 – Support Services:-**  
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**That Postage be reduced by €30,000”.**

**Proposed by Cllr. G. Murray**

**“That the Council amend the Budget to provide for the continuation of a Refuse Collection Service to be funded by reducing by 50% the allocation for the Social and Employment Fund and by increasing the charge for a standard bin by €20.00”.**

**As there was no seconder for this proposal, it was declared lost.**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh**

**Resolved:-**

**“That the County Council of the County of Mayo hereby adopt the said Annual Budget for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006, as set out in Tables A and B, as amended”.**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh**

**Resolved:-**

**“That the County Council of the County of Mayo hereby determine, in accordance with the Annual Budget, as adopted, for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006, the rate set out in Table B to be €65.97”.**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. McGuinness**

**Seconded by Cllr. P. McHugh**

**Resolved:-**

**“That in accordance with Section 2 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) (No. 2) Act, 1983 (No. 21 of 1983), the Council hereby make a charge of €100.00 payable on receipt of demand from the County Council for attendance of the Fire Brigade at a domestic premises for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2006”.**

**The Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. P. McGuinness and P. McHugh thanked all the Members of the Council for their co-operation in the adoption of the Budget and the County Manager and Staff for their work in the preparation of the Budget.**

**The County Manager thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members of the Council for their co-operation in the adoption of the Budget. He also thanked his Staff for their work in the preparation of the Budget.**

**The Meeting concluded at 11.00 p.m.**