

**Adopted Minutes of the Galway City Council East Area Committee
Held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026
in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council and online.**

Presiding: Cllr. D. McDonnell,

Present: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty, Cllr. S. Forde, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Online: Cllr. H. Ogbu

Executive: Ms. E. Fanning, DOS, Mr. D. Pender, DOS (Online), Ms. O. Meaney (EE), Mr. S. Walsh (SEPS), Mr. C. Mitchell (SEE) (Online), Mr. F. McEvoy (SEE), Mr. P. Mac Giolla Bhríde (SE), Mr. C. Shaughnessy (SEE), Ms. S. Connolly (SE), Ms. L. Gaffney (SEE), Ms. M. Duddy (AO)(Online), Mr. M. Coleman (SSO), Ms. L. Russell (ASO), Mr. J. Russell (SP) (Online), Mr. J. Whelan (SEE) (Online), Mr. M. Cormican (SE), Ms. S. Carroll (SEO), Ms. S. Watson (AO), Ms. H. Martyn (AO) (Online), Mr. D. Healy (AO).

External Attendees: Mr. Declan Gorman, MKO

Apologies: Cllr. A. Burke

Agenda Item		Discussion	Action
1.	Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.	None	
2.	Draft Minutes of meeting held on 29 January 2026.	The Draft Minutes were Proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Seconded by Cllr. S. Forde and agreed.	Minutes agreed and adopted.
3.	Matters arising.	Cllr. S. Forde wished to apologise to Ms. L. Gaffney regarding previous comments he had made to her during previous meetings.	
4.	Local Improvement Scheme.	Ms. O. Meaney EE addressed queries raised by Councillors. Chair Cllr. D. McDonnell opened the floor to questions. Cllr. H. Ogbu wished to query the types of projects to be undertaken as part of the LIS and further queried if refuse bins could be included under the LIS, if not, could it be raised as part of a future SPC meeting.	

		Cllr. T. O'Flaherty stated that it was her understanding that LIS projects could be dealt with through the Environment Department. Chair, Cllr. D. McDonnell stated that he wished to thank the Parks Department team for the clean-up in Rian Luachra and further stated it was a wonderful improvement on the locality. Mr. F. McEvoy answered Cllr. H. Ogbu's query and stated that clarification would have to be sought. Chair D. McDonnell asked for the subject to be referred to Environment SPC and then, if possible, to be added as an Agenda item for a future Council Meeting.	
5.	Items/Questions & Updates by Directorate:		
	Project Development:		
(a).	Request for the active travel team to be present at the East Area Committee Meeting along with representatives of Atkins Realis to discuss Ballybane and the current Monivea Road scheme.	It was noted that this item would not be dealt with at the meeting. Instead, a workshop would be set up by Mr. D. Pender DOS for Councillors to attend.	D. Pender – set up workshop.
	Operational Development		
(a)	Presentation on the Renmore Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project.	Cllr. D. McDonnell welcomed Mr. Declan Gorman of MKO to the meeting. Mr. Gorman delivered a detailed presentation and invited questions from the members thereafter. Mr. S. Walsh outlined the consultation process timeline, stating that the website would go live on 9 April, followed by a public consultation event at the Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, on 20 April from 3.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. He also noted that Councillors would receive an invitation in due course. Cllr. McDonnell, thanked the presenters and opened the floor to questions.	

		Members commended the consultation process, noting its transparency and suggested that similar approaches be adopted across other Council Departments. Queries were raised regarding the project timeline, including when it would be shovel-ready, zoning of lands at Murrough, and the potential inclusion of a youth project. Members also sought clarification on resident notification in advance of Stage 3, the approach to planning applications, and requested an update on the proposed greenway along the railway line. Cllr. McDonnell suggested that the playground be prioritised and that consideration be given to extending the walkway from Liam Mellows to Ballyloughane Beach. Issues relating to rat-running in the Renmore area and inappropriate parking along Renmore Park were also raised. Both Mr. S. Walsh and Mr. D. Gorman answered Councillors queries. Ms. S. Connolly informed of the concepts of the Renmore Masterplan and stressed that changes will happen depending on feedback from members of the public. Chair Cllr. D. McDonnell thanked both Mr. S. Walsh And Mr. D. Gorman for their presentation and wished them well with the next phase.	
(b)	Update on Renmore Masterplan.	This item was cover under the presentation on the Renmore Neighbourhood Park and Public Urban Realm Project.	
(c)	Clarification sought regarding the names of roads in the East Area to be resurfaced in 2026.	Mr. F. McEvoy briefed members and clarified that Ballyloughane Road, Renmore Avenue, Renmore Park, Renmore Road and Rowan Avenue were on the list to be resurfaced. He also stated that significant works took place on Coast Road, Castlegar Road and Doughiska Road. Cllr. D. McDonnell queried the budget/source funding for the works.	

		Cllr. S. Forde noted that he had raised concerns regarding the condition of the surface on St. James' Road and indicated that it requires attention. Cllr. A. Cheevers concurred and suggested that Old Ballybrit Road also be considered for improvement works, with reference to traffic conditions in the area. The Chair agreed and requested that the roads adjacent to the Walter Macken Flats be included for consideration and queried whether the works could be addressed under the Active Travel programme.	Refer query to Active Travel.
(d)	Please provide an update regarding the costing of the proposed public toilets to be located in Ballyloughane.	As there was no member of the Environment team present to answer this query, it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.	
(e)	Could a possible future Farmers market – i.e. Ballyloughane in May as I have been approached by vendors with an interest in helping with the idea.	Cllr. S. Forde advised that he had received representations from a local vendor regarding the potential establishment of a farmers market at Ballyloughane and noted that it could be beneficial to the area. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty suggested the Murrough area to be considered as a possible location. Ms. S. Connolly outlined that the provision of appropriate infrastructure, including water supply, toilet facilities and power would be important considerations in the development of a farmers market. Cllr. S. Forde expressed the view that the proposal could be progressed.	
(f)	What action are the roads engineers taking to deal with the potholes particularly the ones in a number of roads in Renmore, Clarke Avenue, Mervue and other areas. Requiring proper reinstatement.	Cllr. D. McDonnell noted that this matter had been largely addressed earlier in the meeting under Item 4 (Local Improvement Scheme). Mr. F. McEvoy, SEE, advised that adverse weather conditions during the past winter had impacted on road maintenance works. He further noted that, given the extent of the road network in Galway City, the road improvement grant of €2.1m for resurfacing is limited and represents one of the lower allocations nationally.	

(g)	Consideration to be given to cut back part of the wide footpath to make spaces for at least 2 cars to park in Connolly Avenue, Mervue. There are 6 houses and 11 cars in this cul de sac and only 3 of the houses have open driveways. Due to lack of space in this area the residents have made repeated requests to have the wide footpath cut back to accommodate at least 2 which would help greatly with the congested parking which currently exists at this location.	Mr. F. McEvoy responded to a query from Cllr. T. O'Flaherty, advising that the situation remains unchanged from the previous year. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty noted concerns regarding the width of footpaths and the impact on residents ability to park in close proximity to their properties. Cllr. D. McDonnell also raised concerns in relation to conditions in the area, particularly at night. Mr. F. McEvoy advised that the matter has been reviewed and noted the constraints arising from the available road space and increased levels of vehicle ownership. Mr. McEvoy agreed to arrange a meeting with Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Cllr. D. McDonnell.	F. McEvoy – Meeting to be arranged with Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Cllr. D. McDonnell.
	NOM 20/2026 – Submitted by Cllr. A. Burke I propose that the Galway City Council look at conducting a Full Survey of Castlegar Village to look at a ban on HGV's through the village and also look at the resurfacing required throughout the village.	As Cllr. A. Burke was not present at the meeting, it was agreed to have the item deferred to the next East Area Committee Meeting.	Item to be placed on next Agenda.
Social Development			
(a)	Update requested on any progress on the cleaning and treatment of the exterior of the Walter Macken Flats.	Mr. C. Shaughnessy briefed the meeting regarding maintenance issues at Walter Macken Flats. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested that the timber boards on the St. James' Road side be inspected.	

		Mr. C. Shaughnessy stated that costs are adding up and that Walter Macken Flats and the maisonettes located on St. James Road would be dealt with separately. Chair Cllr. D. McDonnell thanked for the update. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested an update regarding the cladding on the exterior of the building and sought that a meeting be arranged in relation to the upkeep of the internal hallways. Ms. E. Fanning, DOS, provided an update in response. Cllr. S. Forde commended the work of the maintenance section and noted the importance of tenants adhering to the tenant handbook. He also queried whether maintenance works are carried out where tenants are in rent arrears. Ms. E. Fanning, DOS, clarified the position in relation to this query.	
Any Other Business: Cllr. S. Forde sought an update on bus stop enhancements and queried the status of funding drawdown. The Chair, Cllr. D. McDonnell queried the potential provision of bus stops along the Coast Road. Cllr. S. Forde requested an update on any feedback received from An Garda Síochána following attendance at the East Area Meeting last year. He also raised concerns regarding the misuse of yellow box junctions and its impact on traffic flow. Mr. D. Pender, DOS, responded to the matters raised in relation to bus stop provision and traffic management. Cllr. A. Cheevers requested an update on the termination of the contract with the initial contractor at Garraí Beag estate and queried the current Garda vetting process. Ms. E. Fanning (DoS) outlined the position in respect of these matters. Cllr. S. Forde queried the ownership of the laneway adjacent to Ashbrook estate and whether it could be considered for acquisition if not in Council ownership. Mr. F. McEvoy advised that ownership would be clarified. As there were no other AOB, Chairperson Cllr. D. McDonnell closed the meeting.			
Meeting Ended: The meeting concluded at 16.07p.m.			
Next Meeting: The next East Area Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 May 2026.			