



21st May 2021

To the Chair and each Member of the Housing & Social Inclusion Strategic Policy Committee

DRAFT GALWAY CITY COUNCIL (CONTROL OF HORSES) BYE-LAWS 2021

Under the Control of Horses Act 1996, local authorities may introduce Bye-Laws designating certain areas within their administrative areas as 'control areas' for horses. When the local authority is making such Bye-Laws, it must follow certain procedures, including public consultation.

The Housing Department has prepared draft Bye-Laws (attached). The following topics are covered: control area, licensing, exemptions, control of horses in public places, grazing in a public place, keeping of horses in a control area, prohibition of a horse in a dwelling, prohibition on racing horse drawn vehicles on public roads, seizure and detention, disposal of horses and offences. Forms and notices will be included in an accompanying schedule.

The draft Bye-Laws have been reviewed by the Council's legal team and initially considered by the Housing and Social Inclusion Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in 2020. Parallel to the development of Control of Horses Bye-Laws for Galway City Council, Galway County Council is also developing revised Bye-Laws for their functional area. Although separate documents, it is envisaged that the Bye-Laws will be similar in content, facilitating their implementation by the local authorities and by An Garda Síochána. The process to bring the draft Bye-Laws to this stage has included discussion with City Council at their Meeting of December 7th 2020 and noting of the Draft by Councillors at Council Meeting on Monday 8th March 2021, in advance of publication of the draft Bye-Laws for consultation. The draft City Council Bye-Laws were published and notice of same circulated as follows:

- Publication of Notice in the Galway Advertiser on Thursday March 25th 2021.
- Draft available for inspection From Friday March 26th to Friday April 23rd 2021, with final date for submissions on Friday April 30th 2021.
- Draft available to download on Galway City Website throughout the inspection period.
- Facility to make a submission on-line through Galway City Council's website up to April 30th 2021 and /or a written submission to Galway City Council , Housing Section.
- Promotion of the Draft Bye Laws through Social Media including Facebook and Twitter.
- Notification re Draft Bye Laws issued to all Council Members
- Notification to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Notification to the Superintendent Galway Garda Station
- Notification to Galway Traveller Movement.
- Notification to Galway County Council.

Eight on-line submissions were received from members of the public.	
Submission A	Marie Bartley
Submission B	Clodagh Stapleton
Submission C	Patrick Mulrooney
Submission D	Doreen Gurney
Submission E	Michelle Roche
Submission F	Neasa Bheilbigh
Submission G	Ciara Shanahan GTM
Submission H	Yolanda Mollahan
Two hard copy submissions were received within the prescribed period.	
Submission I	Galway Traveller Movement
Submission J	Galway SPCA

A review of the submissions received is attached with a recommendation as to whether the contents of the draft Bye-Laws should be amended or otherwise. A summary of the proposed amendments is noted below:

Bye Law	Proposed Amendment
12. Prohibition of Racing Horse Drawn Vehicles on Public Roads	Amend Section 12 (a) to read 'No person, either directly or indirectly, shall participate in or engage in a race of a horse drawn vehicle on a public road within the City of Galway'
5. Licence	Propose that a 3 month commencement date be agreed following adoption by Councillors
13. Seizure and Detention 13(iv) Fees	Amendment proposed to include the word 'working days' at S.13 (i) To be dealt with by way of a Schedule to be attached to the adopted Bye laws setting out applicable fees
13. Seizure and Detention Bye-Law 13(vii)	Include an amendment to permit an appeals mechanism in relation to Section 13 – seizure and detention

The report on submissions received will be subject to full assessment and consideration by all members of Galway City Council. While the SPC may make recommendations at this stage of the process, all submissions received to the 30th April must be individually considered by all elected members of Galway City Council.


 Dermot Mahon
 A/ Director of Services
 Housing & Social Inclusion