

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON
TUESDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 2009**

ILATHAIR

Bail:

Cllr. B. Willers, Chairperson
Cllr. W. Burke
Cllr. M. Regan
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. M. Fahy
Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. M. Maher

Cllr. G. Burke, Mayor of Loughrea Town Council

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, D.O.S., Environment & Water Services Unit
Mr. S. Breathnach, S.E.E., Loughrea Electoral Area
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area
Mr. C. Mitchell, E.E., Portumna Engineering Area
Mr. J. Costello, E.E., Gort Engineering Area
Ms. A. Power, S.S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

Cllr. Willers stated that the reason for this Special Meeting was to discuss proposed alterations to the Road Restoration Improvement Programme for 2009 and also proposals for Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) for 2009 for Loughrea Electoral Area. She asked the Engineers to go through the proposals for their respective areas and a discussion would take place afterwards.

PROPOSALS FOR RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (SURFACE DRESSING) FOR 2009 FOR LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA

Mr. Raftery went through the proposals for the Loughrea Engineering Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Kiltullagh-Attymon	€50,635	L-3115

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2	Derrydonnell County Road	€46,173	L-3104
3	Dunsandle Cross – Bookeen South	€65,666	L-7178
4	Blean Stop End Road	€19,023	----
5	Caherhenryhoe Stop End Road	€28,274	L-72031
6	Colesgrove – Moycola Road	€51,405	L-8254
7	Old Galway Road	€108,048	L-4221
8	Roo Stop End Road	€26,877	L-42196
9	Kilcooly – Clogharoasty Road	€51,913	L-8242
10	Annaghbride – Shangarry Road	€83,751	L-8241
	Overall Cost	€531,765	

Mr. Raftery explained that in selecting the proposed roads, he tried to make sure that there was no impact on these roads from N6 Haul routes. In reply to Cllr. Hynes, Mr. Raftery stated that the surface dressing would be carried out in May/June, depending on weather conditions.

Mr. Costello went through the proposals for the Gort Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Northhampton Demesne	€13,500	L-45092
2	Ballyglass/Fiddaun	€68,800	L-8539
3	Knocknaoura	€13,500	L-85192
4	Beagh	€31,500	L-8510
5	Drummin/Derreem	€64,000	L-8514/15
6	Tyrone	€64,800	L-8563
7	Fahymactibbot/Killeeneen	€43,200	L-8572/45011
8	Spatters Cross, Hollymount	€47,250	L-8518/19
9	Funshin	€71,000	L-4507
10	Derryowen	€13,500	L-45151
	Overall Cost	€432,050	

In relation to the Gort proposals, Cllr. Feeney stated that the road at Ballyanneen was in a very poor state. He stated that the trucks for the new N18 have started to dig up local roads at Beagh and the same problems that have occurred on some of the roads in Athenry were happening again. Mr. Costello advised that a pre-condition survey had been done for these roads and had been passed on to the N.R.A. for their attention. Cllr. Fahy stated that there were huge potholes on the Coxtown Road, in particular outside Michael Dermody's house. Mr. Costello advised that this would be checked out.

After discussion it was agreed the No. 2, Ballyglass/Fiddaun would be removed and replaced with Skehanna (L8534) (€19,305) and Ballyanneen (L8527) (€49,495).

Mr. Mitchell went through the proposals for the Portumna Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Gorteeny-Drumminnamuckla Sough	€90,750	R-352

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2	Woodford-Loughrea	€27,500	R-351
3	Allendara East	€17,483	L-42014-0
4	Rathmore	€10,360	L-8754-29
5	Looscaun	€11,848	L-8808-0
6	Rathmore	€44,000	L-8754-6
7	Boleynanollag	€23,333	L-8799-0-4
8	Drumeyer	€62,760	L-8753-0
9	Acres	€11,323	L-82101-0
10	Lurgan More	€53,080	L-8753-31
11	Acres	€27,668	L-8210-0
12	Raheen/Lisduff	€47,273	L-8770-56-51
13	Clonmoylan	€13,860	L-87953-0-6
14	Kill	€2,700	L-87581-0
15	Ballydonagh	€14,760	L-8775-18-21
16	Graigueakilleen	€29,900	L-4313-0-23
	Overall Cost	€488,598	

In relation to the proposals for the Portumna Engineering Area, Cllr. W. Burke stated that he was unhappy to have not received the proposals in advance of the Meeting. He also queried why road no. L-8805 (Green Door to Gortanumera Road) was not included in the Programme. Mr. Mitchell explained that this may be included in the Road Restoration Programme. He also queried why the Lecarrow Road (outside Killeens house) was omitted. He requested that the Clonakilla Road (L87581) be included in the Surface Dressing Programme. Mr. Mitchell advised that that road was included in the Programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan the Members agreed to the proposals for Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) and the alterations as outlined above.

ALTERATIONS TO 2009 ROAD RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA

Mr. Raftery stated that some of the changes proposed were to allow for roads currently affected by N6 construction and possible watermains to be removed from the current programme and be replaced with roads which do not fall into either of those categories. He stated that the roads that were being substituted into the Programme were ones which were in very poor condition. He then outlined the proposed alterations for the Loughrea Engineering Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Tullagh Hill	€76,379	L-8265
2	Curhoor-Ballyknock	€121,973	L-8219
3	Gloves South	€27,324	L-71582
4	Laughil	€56,161	L-31138

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5	Carrowmore – Ranamacken	€120,741	L-8236/7
6	Cloonlee – Carrowcreevagh	€102,837	L-8234/5
7	Tonaroasty Road	€65,650	L-8246
8	Curhoor – Bookeen	€51,919	L-8221
9	Lisheenaclara – Bellalegaun	€53,786	L-8216
10	Killora Cemetery Road	€36,119	L-42198
11	Kilquain Road, Craughwell	€36,551	L-42195
12	Roo Tertiary Road	€25,709	L-42197
13	Derryhoyle – Saint Clerans	€82,457	L-3200
14	Garracloon Road	€65,374	L-7165
15	Kiltullagh Cemetery Road	€47,415	L-71822
16	Templemartin	€25,927	L-71622
17	Carrownaglogh, Raford	€20,497	L-71831
18	Craughwell – Ganty	€202,680	L-3113
19	Bullaun – Brackloonbeg	€304,697	R-350
20	Tallyho Cross – Rathgorgin	€252,023	R-348
21	Lissalumma	€143,491	L-8700
22	Killascaul	€122,783	L-7156
23	Kilreekil-Ballyhogan	€102,472	L-4300

Mr. Raftery explained that Nos. 1 – 4 were roads to remain in the 2009 Programme as previously approved. Nos. 5 – 18 was roads to be introduced into the 2009 Programme. And Nos. 19 – 23 was the roads to be removed from the 2009 Programme. Mr. Raftery explained to the Members the reasons for the proposed changes.

Cllr. Hynes stated that the road up by Kilchreest Church and up by the School was in a very dangerous condition and queried if this could be included in the proposals. Mr. Raftery explained that were plans to lay a water main in Kilchreest Village and he would not be recommending any proposals for this section until that work has been carried out. He advised that routine maintenance would be carried out in the mean-time. Cllr. Fahy referred to the section on the N66 at the Fish Pond Junction which was in a very poor condition. Mr. Raftery advised that this road has been submitted to the N.R.A. for reconstruction.

Mr. Mitchell went through the proposed alterations for the Portumna Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Nutgrove-Clooncona	€92,113	LP4314
2	Gortymadden-Foxhall-Mullaghmore	€193,444	LP4309
3	Corbally More	€120,759	LP4303
4	Eaglehill-Knockaun	€169,627	LP4206
5	Flesk	€48,922	LS8802-0
6	Derrycrag-Woodford	€126,558	LS8204
7	Creggeen	€77,259	LP4313
8	Claggernagh West – Ballyshrule	€299,376	R352

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9	Ballynakill	€256,964	R353
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Mr. Mitchell explained that Nos. 1 – 7 were the roads to remain in the 2009 Programme as previously approved. He proposed that No. 8 be introduced into the 2009 Programme and that No. 9 be transferred from the 2009 Programme into the 2010 Programme.

After discussion it was agreed that Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 would remain as is, No. 9 (Ballinakill) would go forward to the 2010 Programme and the following amendments were agreed:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
2	Gortymadden-Foxhall	€97,007	LP4909-0-19
3	Corballymore	€60,557	LP4303-40-35
9	Gortnacooheen-Lecarrow-Cooldarragha	€57,750	LS8805-0-14-24
10	Drumkeary West	€77,000	LP4208
11	Barratoor	€21,749	LS42083-0

Mr. Costello then went through the proposed alterations to Road Restoration Improvement Programme 2009 for Gort Engineering Area as follows:

No.	Project	Budget	Road No.
1	Tulla	€171,270	R462
2	Derrybrien Road	€185,625	R353
3	Kilcolgan-Mannion	€117,612	LP4502
4	Kilcolgan-Craughwell	€117,612	LP4501
5	Lavally-Shanbally	€122,364	LS8572
6	Isserkelly/Grannagh	€160,411	LS8537/6
7	Ballyglass	€106,951	LS8539
8	Moy	€106,920	LS8588

He advised that the only change was in No. 7, where the Ballyglass road was brought forward from the 2010 Programme and replaces the Moy Road (No. 8) which is being transferred into the 2010 Programme.

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Regan the above alterations to the 2009 Roads Programme were agreed by the Members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hedgecutting

Cllr. Fahy queried whether any hedgecutting had taken place in the Loughrea Electoral Area to-date. Mr. Raftery stated that they had carried out some on the N6 and that they were currently out in the Ranamacken and Kilcrickle areas. In relation to Portumna, Mr. Mitchell stated that they hadn't commenced in their area as yet. Cllr. Willers queried if

they would they be cutting in areas where they did not get to last year. Mr. Mitchell stated that they would be carrying out hedge-cutting on the basis of status of the road and stated that junctions would get priority as well. In Gort Mr. Costello stated they had carried out some works on the N66 and on the N18. Cllr. W. Burke suggested that the hedge-cutting be carried out in the areas on a need by need basis. He suggested that requests that are made by public representatives to the Area Offices on behalf of the public should be taken into account and addressed at that stage. He requested that this policy be adopted for the engineering areas.

Flooding on N65 Road

Cllr. W. Burke circulated to the Meeting photographs of a location where a flooding problem occurs on the N65 road at Thornfield on the approach road into Portumna. Mr. Mitchell stated that there was a river coming down from Gortanumera going through an underground culvert and the drain was unable to take the excess water in heavy rainfall. He stated that a stretch of the river needed to be cleaned and that the land-owner had since confirmed that he would allow these works to be done. Cllr. W. Burke requested that this issue would be addressed. Cllr. Regan stated that there should be funding made available for these type of emergency works as this was a main route. He suggested that the N.R.A. be written to requesting emergency funding to alleviate this problem immediately.

Manholes at Woodpark, Portumna

Cllr. W. Burke circulated to the Meeting photographs of manholes that were now in a dangerous state at Woodpark, Portumna as a result of works that were carried out by contractors to connect up to the sewerage plant in Portumna. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Water Services Section was pursuing the Contractor on this issue.

Traffic Lights – Westbridge

Cllr. Regan queried the up-to-date position in relation to the proposed traffic lights for Westbridge. Mr. Breathnach informed the Meeting that Personnel from the Road Design Section had recently met with the Traffic Lights Contractor. He advised that he would have more details for the next meeting.

Waste Oil Depot, Kinvara

Cllr. Fahy stated that outrage was expressed to him by the people in Kinvara at the proposed location of an oil waste depot at the Pier in Kinvara. Cllr. Feeney stated that the base was in place and that it was an eye-sore on the Pier Head. The Members requested that it be moved to a more suitable and more appropriate location. Mr. Cullen stated that he would have the matter checked out.

Country Market, Kinvara

Cllr. W. Burke queried the up-to-date position in relation to the location of the country market in Kinvara. Cllr. Willers stated that it had been brought up at an SPC Meeting and

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was being further investigated and the matter would be coming up again at a further SPC Meeting.

Main Street, Loughrea

Cllr. Maher requested that Mr. Lavelle, S.E. would attend the next Area Meeting to discuss outstanding issues regarding the works on Main Street.

Mr. Breathnach referred to correspondence received from Mr. Christopher Talbot, Subway, Loughrea in relation to the proposed relocation of the Bus Stop from Main Street to Station Road. He advised that he had met with Mr. Talbot and the submission had been forwarded it on to the Road Design Section for consideration when reviewing the Traffic Management Plan. In reply to Cllr. Maher's query, Mr. Breathnach stated Mr. Talbot had informed him that he had scheduled a meeting with C.I.E. on the matter.

Dumping

Cllr. Willers stated that the amount of dumping that was taking place in the County had increased dramatically. She stated that Galway County Council's policy in relation to anti-dumping was inadequate and the funding for tackling the problem was insufficient. She made particular reference to a number of black spots in the Loughrea Electoral Area which included the Bottle Banks. After discussion it was agreed by the Members that the issue of illegal dumping would be included as an item on a future Council agenda.

Athenry Town

Cllr. Feeney requested that an Engineer would be in place in the Athenry Council Offices and would be available to meet local representatives and the public on at least one or two set days per week. He stated that he had been requesting this for some time and would like something in place as soon as possible. Mr. Cullen stated that when Athenry was an engineering area, there was a full-time engineer in place but this changed when Athenry became part of Loughrea Engineering Area in 2002. He explained that the complement of staff was down and was unlikely to be filled in the current times. Mr. Breathnach stated that while he appreciated Cllr. Feeney's comments, the Engineers in Loughrea were under immense pressure with their day to day work and he couldn't commit to having them available as requested by Cllr. Feeney. However, he would discuss the matter further with Mr. Dolly, S.E. Cllr. Feeney requested that they would come back to the next meeting with a proposal on this issue.

Chríochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin