

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Ballinasloe Area Committee held at the Civic Offices, Ballinasloe on Thursday 11th December 2008.

I Láthair:

Báill: Cllr. M. Finnerty, Chairman
Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr T. Mannion
Cllr. M. Mullins

Oifigigh: Mr. K. Kelly, Director of Services, Corporate & Cultural Affairs Unit
Mr. P. Ridge, Director of Services, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit
Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner
Mr. A. Headd, Executive Engineer
Mr. Enda Mulryan, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Gilchrist, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. J. Joyce
Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer
Mr. U. Finn, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. A. Farrell, Senior Executive Officer

Deputations: Caltra N. S. Group

The Deputation consisting of Mr. Tommy Keane, Ms. Marie Crehan & Ms. Claudine Higgins requested funding for provision of a car park at the school and stated planning permission has been granted for same. Pupil numbers have increased at the school and the Dept. of Education has indicated that a proposed extension will not be granted unless a car park is provided. Vehicles currently must park on the footpath and at a continuous white line.

The Deputation was informed that council funds cannot be provided for a private car park. The project would not meet the terms of reference for funding under the Greenstar Landfill Liaison Committee. It was agreed that Mr. Kelly would raise the possibility of allocating N.O.M. funding for the project with the Director of Services for Roads & Transportation.

1. Consideration and adoption of minutes of Meeting held on 24th October, 2008.

Minutes of Meeting held on 24th October 2008 were proposed by Cllr. Mullins and seconded by Cllr. Connolly with the following amendment to Item 4 on Garda Boundaries:

In reply to Cllr. Mannion Mr. Kelly stated that the review of Garda Boundaries is on-going and the Joint Policing Committee provides a platform for such discussion.

Matters Arising from Minutes

Meeting with Mr. F. Gilmore Director of Services

The meeting was informed that Mr. Gilmore has agreed to meet Councillors and T.D's from the Electoral Area to discuss anti-social behaviour at the Council's housing estate in Eyrecourt. It was decided to hold the meeting on Monday 12th January, 2009.

Bus Stop at Cappataggle

Cllr. Connolly again raised the need for a Bus Stop at Cappataggle. Mr. Headd agreed to investigate the location and discuss supply of shelter with advertising company.

2. Creagh N. S. Update

Mr. Headd informed the meeting that work is on-going at the Pedestrian Crossing at Creagh.

3. Speed Limits that Pertain to Local Roads

Cllr. Connolly stated that it would be desirable to have a general provision in the scheme for Speed Limits on Local Roads to facilitate a reduction from 80 Km per hour in certain cases.

4. Consideration of the Managers report on the submissions received on the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 under Section 12(5) (a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Mr. Ridge briefed the meeting on Ardaun stating that this proposed development would be a means towards growth in the City and the County. Maps showing 2006 Census Data were circulated in support of his recommendation of the importance of the City to the County in terms of employment opportunities etc. He suggested that the Council would reach a decision by 15th January and advised members that by remaining in the process they would have a say in the shape of Ardaun which will be decided by a Local Area Plan. He stated that the development of Gurrane would be the preferred option of Galway County Council and that developers are showing more interest in Gurrane than Ardaun but suggested that Members support the concept of Ardaun and adopt a united approach and work to achieve "conditional and ring-fenced funding".

Ms. McConnell referred to the Manager's Report on submissions received on the Draft County Development Plan issued today. The document contains a summary of submissions received and the response to same. There are omissions and additions to the Plan which will come before the Members for decision at a meeting on 12th January 2009 and the purpose of today's meeting is to familiarise Members with proposed amendments.

Items discussed included:

- Inclusion of an objective to review the Galway Transportation & Land Use Study within the lifetime of the Plan subject to funding
- Strengthening commitment to support the N.S.S. with improved connectivity between the Gateway and Hub to enhance development
- Amendment of the objective regarding development of the strategic economic corridor
- Development to be appropriate & sustainable
- A substantial submission was received from the Department in relation to Settlement Strategy and a number of requests were received for inclusion in same
- Towns on the rail line e.g. Ballinasloe are considered to be on strategic routes
- The current Settlement Strategy is having a negative impact with people within the identified circle holding onto property
- Retail Strategy to encourage & promote appropriate types and patterns of retail development that would support the vitality of existing town centres
- Rural Enterprise Centres to be encouraged in conjunction with County Enterprise Board to encourage appropriate industry
- Possible relocation of existing marts to more appropriate out-of-town locations
- Include an objective that a new joint Retail Strategy for Galway City & County be examined
- Proposed to amend the Policy for Extractive Industries to consider temporary “borrow pits” for materials if this would eliminate long haulage on public roads
- Submissions received to promote agri-tourism projects
- Rural Housing Guidelines to broadly continue and many submissions received encouraging the Council to be pro-active in the provision of Housing for the Elderly, Voluntary Housing, Affordable Housing etc.
- Suitable re-use for Protected Structures etc.
- Promote the development of a sustainable transport system providing a range of transport options
- Safeguard of significant investment made in strategic economic infrastructure and recommendation of a new Policy to achieve same
- Important to recognise the N.R.A.’s policies on prolonging the lifespan of the National Roads network
- A requirement of Road Safety Audits for certain types of development
- Focus on getting lands reserved for inner relief roads
- Inclusion of a new objective to reserve corridors for the provision of necessary electrical supply
- New Policies for the promotion of wind energy
- New Policies for provision of Creche and Childcare facilities, Community facilities and walking and cycling routes throughout the County
- Possible development of Allotments
- Possible inclusion of an objective to co-operate with neighbouring Local Authorities regarding protection of Heritage Sites

- Flood Risk Management & Assessment Objectives –Dept. Guidelines issued recently place onus on the L.A. to produce maps on flood risk – O.P.W. involvement
- The Plan must have regard to the provisions of the Water Framework Directive
- Co-operation with Ballinasloe Town Council on Garbally College, St. Joseph’s etc.
- Geological importance of Eskers in the East of the County
- Suitable hedgerows as an alternative to stone walls in rural areas
- Sludge Management

Ms. McConnell stated that she would be available for further discussion at Area Level if required on the proposed amendments.

5. Any Other Business

Good Wishes

Members and Staff wished Cllr. Joyce a speedy recovery.

Road at Derrymullen

It was proposed by Cllr. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that the Area Engineer will investigate sight distance and road surface at the entrance to the Brothers of Charity building at Derrymullen.

Criochnaigh an Chrinniu ansin