

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON Monday, 27th of June 2011 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE.

I Láthair:

Baill Comh Tomás Ó'Curraoin, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Seosamh O'Laoi
Cllr. Sean O'Tuairisg
Cllr. Seosamh O'Cuaig
Cllr. Seamus Walsh

Oifigh: Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. Frank Gilmore, Director of Services
Mr. Evan Molloy, Senior Engineer, Conamara
Mr. Tony Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, Conamara
Mr. Kevin Finn E.E Roads & Transportation
Mr T.J Redmond E.E North Conamara
Mr. Fran McEvoy, E.E Road Design.
Mr. Rory Timlin S.E.E NRDO Galway
Mr. Mark Keaveney, NRDO Roscommon.
Mr. Seán Groarke, Administrative Officer, Finance

1. Toscaireacht ó Fóram do Phobal Iorras Aithneach Carna

Comh. T. O'Curraoin welcomed on behalf of the committee the delegation from Carna which consisted of Ciarán O'Moyláin and Padraig O'Naoí. The delegation outlined the concerns of their community in regard to the following:

The development of the R340. The delegation presented a map of the R340 to the meeting and complained about the very poor condition of this road. The map outlined sections of this road between Rosmuc-Carna and Glinsk-Recess that required improvement. They enquired about the availability of funding to repair/improve this road. Mr. E Molloy advised that funding was very limited for 2011 as regards the R340. The 2011 allocation was €72,500 in regard to the Inver-Gortmore section. There was no funding for the rest. He stated that certain sections of the R340 required immediate improvement –but the level of special grants for Road Improvement schemes had dropped substantially during the past few years. He advised the delegation that the Council would continue to raise the matter with the Department of Transport and the NRA. Comh T. O'Curraoin proposed that a significant amount of the Motor Tax income should be retained by the Council for the repair of roads.

R336-Conamara Access Road The delegation advised the meeting that the Carna community was in favour of the “ Brown Route “ as the best option for the proposed R-336 Conamara Access Route. They were advised that this was also the preferred route of the Conamara Electoral Area Committee.

The N59 and local roads in the Carna Area: The delegation enquired about proposed works on the N59 and the plan for gritting the local roads in the Carna area in case of another severe winter. Mr E Molloy outlined the current proposals to upgrade the existing N59 Oughterard –Clifden route which would be similar to the works undertaken on the N59 at Derrylea. He advised that it was proceeding to the CPO and EIS stage. He also outlined the proposals for the junction at Carna. He advised that the Council was undertaking a review of last winters road maintenance programme in order to reassess the priorities.

Upgrading of Carna Village: The delegation enquired about the proposed footpath for Carna village. Mr E Molloy advised that Forám had provided a plan based on the Village Renewal Scheme and it was anticipated that a small section of the path would be completed in 2011.

Carna/Kilkieran RWSS-Additional Water Source: The delegation enquired about the feasibility of using an additional lake as a source. Mr E Molloy replied that the Consultants had examined the third source option but did not deem it necessary. The overall capacity of the pumps at the intake had been substantially increased. They recommended instead an increase in the pumping capacity by increasing the size of the pumps.

Carna/Kilkieran Sewerage Scheme: The delegation requested clarification on the status of this proposed scheme. Mr E Molloy advised that the proposals were currently with the Department of the Environment and a decision was awaited but that the schemes were unlikely to proceed.

Moyrus Burial Ground The delegation was advised that the Council had secured agreement with the landowner for the purchase of the required land.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 17-6-2011

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr.T Welby and seconded by Cllr. S O’Tuairisg.

3. Old Industrial School -Clifden

Cllr E Mannion enquired about the process required to de-list the Old Industrial School at Clifden from the List of Protected Structures. Ms M Doddy presented a report undertaken by the NBA on the structure in 2005 and advised that the procedure to delist it was in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act 2000. Mr E Molloy advised that details of the procedure would be provided to the elected members.

4. Errisbeg Water Scheme

Mr T Kelly advised that a new pumphouse and the installation of new pumps is required in order to increase the pumping capacity of this scheme. Negotiations are ongoing with a landowner for the purchase of a site for the pumphouse.

5. Finney Bridge

Mr E Molloy advised that Finney Bridge and its access road require upgrading. The bridge spans the border between Galway & Mayo and there is a weight restriction on it. He stated that the access road to the bridge on the Galway side was not in the charge of the Council. He advised that he would contact Mayo County Council about a co-funding option and would revert back to the committee.

6. Kilronan Harbour-Update

Mr E Molloy advised that the Law Agent had contacted the Principal Office in the Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine in regard to the legal challenge to the charges for Rossaveal Harbour. The advice received was that the legal challenge to the Rossaveal charges was a specific issue which should not deter the Council from adopting the proposed bye-laws for Kilronan Harbour. Mr K Finn advised that he has sent correspondence to the elected members in regard to the revised draft of the bye-laws. He stated that this included a proposed annual permit of €100 for local fishermen. (Charge no 6). Mr E Molloy advised that he met Paddy O'Brien, the ferry operator but the charges remain a contentious issue. The proposed charges were required to fund the operation and maintenance of the harbour including the cost of the harbourmaster. It was the Council's intention to issue permits to all buses and vessels as a control element. He requested the committee to approve the revised draft of the bye-laws. The committee discussed aspects of the proposed bye-laws including concessions for the islanders, discounts for regular users, the increase of the charges in the future, the methodology of charging in accordance to weight/ numbers of users and a proposal to hold a meeting with the fishermen.

The councillors decided to hold a meeting among themselves in regard to the revised draft bye-laws before the July meeting of the Council.

7. R336- Conamara Access Road-Update

Mr F McEvoy gave a presentation to the committee in regard to the R336-Conamara Access Road. He advised that a meeting was held in Brussels on the 11-5-2011 between representatives from Galway County Council, RPS Consulting Engineers, the NPWS and the EU Commission in regard to the IROPI option. As a result of this meeting an assessment is currently being undertaken to refine the number of route options to two in addition to the option of the online upgrade of the existing R336. He advised that a further presentation would be made to the Conamara Area Committee in the Autumn and it is intended to hold a further public consultation on the scheme. It is proposed to remove the planning restrictions from the eliminated route corridors following the public consultation process. The Councillors expressed their view that the Brown route or nearest it was preferable and that the existing route should be removed as an option. They also expressed the view that the current SAC restrictions should be revised to allow for a corridor for the development of utilities in Conamara.

Mr F Gilmore advised that consultants were currently assessing the western link of the Galway City Outer Bypass and the connection to the N59. He proposed to present a report at a later date.

8. Cleggan Car Park

Mr T Kelly advised that negotiations were ongoing in regard to the purchase of a site for the car park.

9. Presentation on the N59 -Moycullen Bypass

The presentation was given by Mr R Timlin of the Galway NRDO and Mr Mark Keaveney of the Roscommon NRDO. They advised that the scheme was at the preliminary design stage and that it was intended to publish the CPO within the next few months. It was planned to hold the public consultation meetings in Moycullen commencing on the 5-7-2011. The committee was provided with a copy of the presentation document.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin.