

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**  
**MINUTES OF ORANMORE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2008 IN ROOM G01**

***I LÁTHAIR***

**Baill**            Cllr J Cuddy    Chairman  
                     Cllr M Carey  
                     Cllr M Hoade

**Oifigigh**

Mr A Comer Senior Executive Officer  
Mr M.Lavelle Senior Engineer  
Mr D Croghan Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr E Gallagher Executive Engineer

**Item No 2 Deputation:**

A deputation from the Claregalway National School attended the meeting, Mr P Coen Mrs Ann Boyd and Mr Michael Hannon. They outlined the concerns of the Claregalway School Community and the serious concerns for public safety in the general vicinity of Claregalway NS at the N17/N18 junction and sought urgent intervention by Galway County Council.

It was outlined that the Schools Board of Management commissioned a road safety audit for the area in February 2007 which was presented to the meeting. It was also stated that they applied for funding from the Department of Education for funding in December 2007 under the School 'Summer Works Scheme for 2008, but that the scheme was abolished this year.

They outlined their immediate needs to the meeting, public footpaths outside the school, resurfacing of road ( road resurfaced from Lydican up to the school boundary),pick up-drop off facility, traffic calming, staff parking (to be accommodated on school land by moving the boundary wall) and traffic lights.

A drawing (Option B proposals) was presented to the meeting drawn up with the Claregalway Community Development Association outlining their solution to traffic hazard at the school. Reference was also made to Section 3.2.6 of the Galway County Development Plan re Traffic Management.

It was agreed by all Councillors present that this situation was urgent

Mr. M.Lavelle stated that the Department of Education was the authority responsibility for the safety of schools and not Galway County Council. He added that Galway County Council is subject to defined functions and budgets. He state that before Christmas the Council was 17M in debt providing the services that it is obliged to provide such as Planning, Roads, Sewage, Public Lighting, Housing, Water Supply, Libraries and Fire Services etc. If monies were provided for schools by the Council then one of the above services would be terminated. The priorities of the Council were already determined as were the roles and functions by Government. Monies cannot not be interchanged or transferred from one job to another. He added also that the NRA monies are for specific NRA jobs.

He stated that there are no budgets for schools and added that the Department of Education and Science in association with the Board of Management is responsible.

Mr Lavelle referred to Guidance Documents which are available on the Department of Education and Science's website which included guidelines for Traffic management, (Technical Guidance Document TGD-020) Site suitability,, (Technical Guidance Document TGD-025) Health and Safety, (Design Team Procedures) and also recommendation regarding issues raised by Galway County Council in a Commission on School Accommodation by the Dept of Education and Science. He explained that from these documents that it is clear that the Dept of Education and Science is responsible for school safety and that there are budgets available.

The Deputation then left the meeting.

## **Item No 2**

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008.**

#### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Hoade referred to the situation in relation to the Consultants Report on Ardaun and asked if the Council have signed off with the City Council. Cllr Cuddy asked what happens if the Elected Members don't sign off on Ardaun.

Cllr Hoade also queried the situation regarding the Gateway Initiative Funding, if the Council do not agree to Ardaun.

Mr Comer stated that Ardaun cannot proceed if the Elected Members do not sign off on it and the funding anticipated from the Gateway Initiative Funding would probably be lost if Ardaun does not go ahead.

***On the proposal of Cllr Hoade, seconded by Cllr Carey the minutes of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were confirmed.***

## **Item No 3 Development Contributions Scheme**

Mr Comer stated that work on the scheme was on going by the Director and that it should be finalised shortly.

Cllr Cuddy requested details on Development Contributions for Roads from other Local Authorities.

Mr Lavelle explained that funding was required to facilitate the development of Non-National priority roads so as to develop the towns and villages and he estimated an amount of €4,000-€5,000 as a development levy per planning application.

Cllr Hoade stated that she could not agree with this.

Mr Comer outlined the process for making a Development Contribution Scheme.

## **Item No 4 Local Flooding.**

Cllr Cuddy referred to flooding on the roads and the lack of resources to clear this

Mr Lavelle stated that there was inadequate funding available to deal with this problem.

Cllr Cuddy asked were the Council not responsible for causing the flooding due to raising the road levels when resurfacing causing excess water flowing into people's driveways.

Mr Croghan stated that the lodging of water on the roads is caused by people preventing the flow of water into their properties by building up their parking areas. He added that this was illegal.

Mr Comer stated that most planning permissions have a condition stating that surface water generated by the development shall be disposed of within the site and shall not be discharged onto the road or adjoining property.

#### **Item No 5 Oranmore Traffic Management Plan**

Mr Lavelle stated that there was a Government embargo on staff recruitment which has prevented the provision of non priority activities. The Oranmore Traffic Management Plan is classed as non priority and will not be dealt with until the review of the Oranmore Local Area Plan 2006-2012.

#### **Item No 6 Public Lighting.**

Cllr Hoade requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting

#### **Item No 7 Claregalway By Pass.**

Cllr Hoade stated that she was of the understanding that a letter had been received by Galway County Council from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in relation to the bypass for Claregalway regarding the cost and what funding was being put in place. She added that the DOEHLG were still waiting on a response from Galway County Council. She also queried where the project was positioned on the strategic primary roads programme and also the situation with funding.

Mr Lavelle stated that funding will have to come from Development Contributions and that the Development Contribution Scheme was being prepared to cover this and when finalised, a response would then issue to the DOEHLG.

Cllr Hoade asked if it were not possible to respond to the DOEHLG outlining to them that a contribution scheme was been prepared.

Mr Lavelle stated that this was difficult because as yet we do not have confirmation from the Elected Members regarding the Development Contributions Scheme for the Claregalway By pass.

Cllr Hoade asked if the draft scheme will be prepared for the next Council Meeting, Mr Comer stated that it may not be ready for the next meeting.

He stated that the Development Contributions Scheme process takes about 16 weeks.

#### **Item No 8 Current Status of the N84 from Headford to Galway.**

Cllr Carey asked if any improvement would be carried out on the N 84 road.

Mr Lavelle stated that there was no funding allocated for improvement to the road but that they would continue to buy lands along the route.

#### **Item No 9 Community Signs Funding**

Cllr Carey asked if the Council was responsible for putting up community signs.

Mr Croghan stated that he was of the understanding that the Community Group sought the agreement from the area engineer as to where the sign should be located but that it was the Community Group that provided and erected the signs. He stated that he would seek clarification on this. He added however, that signs will be erected for the Community Groups that have already got agreements from the area office.

#### **Item No 10 Local Improvements Schemes.**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next area committee meeting

**Item No 11 AOB**

Mr Comer stated that an area committee meeting will be required next week for the presentation of the Draft Roads Works Programme 2008.

It was agreed by the Members that the next Oranmore Area Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 3pm.**

It was also agreed to put the items deferred today onto the agenda for the next meeting.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin*