

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 16th March, 2009

I LATHAIR:-

Baill: Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Carey (Chairman)

Oifigigh:- Mr. P. Ridge, Director of Service, Planning & Sustainable
Development
Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer Roads & Transportation
Ms. L. Keady, Assistant Staff Officer, Planning & Sustainable
Development

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 26th January, 2009.

The minutes of the meeting held 26th January 2009 were proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

2. Draft Road Works Budget.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Cuddy stated that the Ballynahanagh residents, while improvements have been carried out, have made further representations to him for the provision of a footpath. Mr. Gallagher in response informed Cllr. Cuddy that barriers are in place along all straight stretches and that a small number of further barriers will be erected.

Cllr. Cuddy spoke of damage to cars due to potholes not being filled and stated he had sent a letter of complaint to the council regarding same.

Mr. Gallagher stated that when a letter of complaint is received an inspection is carried out and a report is compiled which is forwarded to Paul Duffy, Risk Control Officer.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that clarification is needed on who is responsible for damage to cars which occurs on the roads.

Cllr. Hoade added that claims are getting to Paul Duffy and wondered how much compensation the council is paying with respect to these claims and stated that instead of paying claims the council should be using the money to ensure there are no potholes. Mr. Lavelle stated that the Legal position is that if the council never carried or carry out works than they are not responsible, however if the council does then they are responsible.

Mr. Dolly added that under the current Customer Action Plan potholes were required to be fixed within the following time frames:

- National Roads – 2 days
- Non-national Roads – 14 days

In relation to the above Mr. Dolly said these time frames would have to change as the council's budget is down €9m so the scaling down of pothole repairs would have to take place.

Mr. Ridge explained that deciding responsibility involved 2 approaches; Malfeasance & Feasance, and that the council had to work within the funds available as passed by the members in the budgets and that the funds available are simply not enough to carry out all the works required.

Cllr. Cuddy raised the question, why do we pay road tax? Mr. Ridge stated that, that was a political question and needed to be addressed to Government. Cllr. Cuddy informed the meeting he had and was awaiting a response. Cllr. Cuddy went on to say that roads where pothole repairs had been carried out were back to the same situation within 2 weeks. Mr. Dolly stated that pothole repair was not the answer and that Surface Repairs were needed. Cllr. McDonagh enquired as to whether money can be transferred within the budgets to deal with pothole issues. Mr. Dolly informed the meeting that the Restoration Improvement Grants come from Central Government and money cannot be transferred into repairs.

Cllr. Cuddy outlined how the N6 Company are providing money to repair any roads damaged during the building the of the new N6, however he explained that Local people

were in favour of the money being given to the Council to carry out these works. Mr. Dolly stated he would be in favour of this.

Cllr. Cuddy proposed that it would be requested to have the money transferred to Galway County Council to carry out the repairs and Cllr. McDonagh seconded the motion.

Mr. Dolly then formally presented the Draft Roads Programme 2009 to the meeting. Mr. Dolly stated that National Roads Maintenance Works are down from €3.4m in 2008 to €2.8m in 2009. Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that the NRA budget had also fallen over the last 3 years from, €127m in 2007 to €100m in 2008 to just €27m for the current year 2009 and he also stated that of 76 Low Cost Remedial Scheme Works submitted only 3 were granted funding.

Cllr. Hoade enquired as to the status of the Moycullen by-pass. In reply Mr. Lavelle said that the NRA are at present looking at preliminary design works from the point of the Galway Outer By-Pass on the Galway side to Moycullen.

Mr. Dolly outlined the figures for Route Lighting and the Chairperson enquired as to whether the council could look into Lead Lighting. Mr. Dolly replied that the Council's Energy Officer at present was looking into this however it would be expensive to roll out and the challenge would be to find this money.

Cllr. McDonagh proposed that under the Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) programme that Road no. L-6195 would be split with €30,000 being allocated to Gardenham and €30,000 to Lisscanlon Road this was seconded by Cllr. Cuddy.

Mr. Dolly outlined the Discretionary Improvement Grant and informed the meeting that the Roads department has looked for Grants from the NRA for rehabilitation of roads but with no success to date. Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that the Traffic Lights in Headford will be up by Friday week. Mr. Dolly then informed the meeting that the money outlined in the Discretionary Improvement Grant was the final figure and there would be no further money available to be distributed through area level.

Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that a new circular in relation to bridges which we have 19 (9 to be out to tender by Friday week) was received from the department in March 2009 stating that we now have to send the design to the Department of Transport for approval and when approval is received the Tenders are to be sent to the Department of Finance for approval but that no timescale existed for responses from either. However the council's target date for all documents to be sent to the Departments is the 27th April.

Mr. Lavelle then went on to outline Council funding of Regional & Local Roads, which he stated was down €1.9m from 2008.

Cllr. Cuddy enquired as to whether Implementation of Speed Limit Bye-laws included provision of signage and would the figure cover the whole county. In response Mr. Dolly stated yes to both questions and informed the meeting a report would issue on same shortly as consultation with Gardaí had just been completed.

Cllr. McDonagh enquired about the figure for School Flashing Lights. Mr. Dolly stated that €35-€40k of the €41k available would be spent on maintenance of the Flashings already in place and stated that except for 1 or 2 schools most schools outside the speed limits had Flashing Lights in place. Cllr. McDonagh stressed his concern over the need for Flashing Lights at Coolaran School and committed €1,500 of his notice of motion money to same. In reply to Cllr. McDonagh, Mr. Dolly stated he would provide Flashing Lights at Coolaran School.

Mr. Dolly informed the meeting that a circular was received from the Department of Finance stating that all Capital Schemes have to be approved by them and that the council have written to the Department of Transport to clarify what are classified as Capital Schemes, the reply is yet to be received.

Mr. Lavelle requested that Local Improvement Scheme requests, for this year only, be lodged with the Roads Department sooner rather than later.

Cllr. Hoade proposed that all requests be lodged by 5th June 2009 and Cllr. Cuddy seconded this.

The passing of the Draft Roads Budget for 2009 was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by The Chairperson.

3. School Warning – Flashing Lights

This point was covered under the Draft Roads Budget 2009 see point 2 above.

4. Rural Housing Design Guidelines

Cllr. Hoade enquired as to whether or not there has been a drop in the number of applications received for Single Rural Houses due to the economic downturn. In reply, Mr. Ridge stated that there was a drop of 30% in the total number of applications received. Cllr. Hoade wondered if the money the council were receiving through the Development Contribution Scheme in relation to Recreation & Amenity should be increased due to the decrease in rural houses and requested figures to be provided so as to determine if this was needed. Mr. Ridge informed the meeting that a new computerized system regarding Development Contribution collection was being rolled out which in future would make it much easier to access this information but he would investigate providing the required figures.

5. Any other Business

Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that the Claregalway QVC will be finished by Friday and that the Minister will open same on the chosen date.

Mr. Lavelle also stated that, in conjunction with Iarnrod Eireann work to include full width barriers, would commence on the level crossing going into Oranmore.

Mr. Dolly informed the meeting that the Claregalway National School was to put forward a design to incorporate the Parochial house etc and that no correspondence has been received to date.

Mr. Dolly also stated that no further correspondence had been received from the Boys School in Oranmore regarding the link with the Church carpark and stated that provided lands are in place and the community contribute, that something could be possible as the Strategic Funding for Oranhill is in place.

The Chairperson then brought the meeting to a close.

Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin