

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### **Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2009**

#### **I LATHAIR:-**

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

**Oifigigh:-** Mr. P. Ridge, Director of Service, Planning & Sustainable  
Development  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer Roads & Transportation  
Mr.D.Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads &  
Transportation  
Mr. F. Hennigan, A/Senior Staff Officer, Planning & Sustainable  
Development

#### **2. Ballynamanagh East Safe Access For Everyone Delegation**

Mr. Paul Ridge welcomed the delegation, Paul O'Dowd, Cliona Kavanagh and David Mullins.

Mr. Paul O'Dowd outlined the groups goals of road improvement in the area. Their goal was a lighted footpath on one side of the road from the Parklands Estate to Clarinbridge Village. A video was shown and an outline of their presentation and photographs was presented to the meeting. They welcomed the provision of a new continuous white line on the road but the yellow marked walkway they felt was dangerous, they described it as really a hard shoulder and they spoke of two dangerous turns, lack of visibility, steep hill, potholes and the lodging of water.

Ms. Cliona Kavanagh spoke of cars driving on the walkway and the danger to pedestrians and the fear of a tragedy and referred to the letter from the headmaster of the local primary school.

Mr. David Mullins spoke of water lodging on the road and in potholes and lorries and commercial vehicles crossing over the yellow lines.

Mr. Paul O'Dowd spoke of the dangers of teenagers coming home in the dark and thanked us for listening.

Mr. Paul Ridge thanked the delegation and raised the question of the fundraising in order to help the financing of the footpath. They indicated that the view was that they had already paid their taxes.

Cllr. Hoade stated that there was others in the same situation and with the current financial situation they shouldn't have false hopes as for example there is no money for public lighting in the 2009 budget. Cllr. Cuddy stated their concerns would be taken on board and that the money wasn't there at present.

Mr, Paul O'Dowd asked would it be possible to put footpaths around the two bends. Mr, Croghan stated bollards were to be put up and are in stock. Mr. Ridge thanked them for their presentation, he said it was informative and asked them to withdraw and that he would then correspond with them in the future.

Cllr. Hoade asked if this project was to go ahead where would the money come from. Mr. Croghan stated either from the Discretionary Grant or Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme. He stated there was no budget yet for the Community Involvement Scheme and as the cost of the project is projected at €200,000 it is unlikely that a community of 30 houses approximately could raise the €100,000 matching funds.

Cllr. Cuddy asked is there a possibility of funds from Failte Ireland. It was felt that this was unlikely.

Mr. Gallagher spoke of a footpath at the two bends and a line of bollards for the rest but Mr. Ridge and Mr. Croghan felt either a raised footpath or kerb would be dangerous. Cllr. Mary Hoade wondered if the Oyster Festival could provide any money. It was agreed that the delegation should be made aware formally that there is no money available for lighting, funds are limited at the moment and that bollards will be provided and potholes repaired.

### **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 & continuation meeting held the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**

The minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 & continuation meeting held the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were proposed by Cllr. Cuddy, seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

### **3. Condition of Roads.**

Cllr. Cuddy stated that the watertables should be opened as water is lodging on roads. Pothole filling is not working and spoke of damage to cars.

Mr. Croghan stated that filling potholes in wet conditions is not ideal but is essential and he spoke of the velocity patcher the machine in question, he said the machine is being altered and the driver has received additional training and the situation is being monitored. Watertables are being opened but are hindered by man power and financial constraints.

Cllr. Hoade spoke of the general condition of the roads in the area and potholes thereon and she said Galway Bay FM are encouraging their listeners to take legal action against the Council.

Cllr. Cuddy stated that somebody must take responsibility for the damage to cars and has written to the Minister of Transport re the problem.

Mr. Ridge stated that the legal position was clear the Road Authority don't have responsibility, therefore, there is no liability therefore the question of insurance does not arise.

Mr. Croghan informed the meeting that the change in the electoral boundaries will effect the monies available to the Oranmore area and there will be less money available a drop in core funding of 28 % is envisaged. This will lead to less flexibility and the drop is disporotionate as the roads lost by Oranmore are in Headford etc, are less heavily trafficked and this is not recognised.

#### **4. Speed Limits**

Cllr. Cuddy asked what was the current position with speed limits.

Mr. Croghan stated that he had spoken to Mr. Michael Dolly, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation Unit and that the NRA are inspecting National Roads and as yet we have received no response. Non national roads we are awaiting a response from the Gardai and it is hoped to have a report prepared by May 2009. He stated the money was only available for towns and villages and county roads were not subject to this review.

Cllr. Cuddy spoke of speed limits on rat runs. Cllr. Hoade stated that as there is no finance available that we should be upfront and honest.

#### **5. Rural Housing Guidelines**

Cllr. Carey read a section of the Guidelines for Single Rural Houses written in architectural jargon and asked that they be simplified. Mr. Ridge stated they would investigate the simplification of the guidelines but they must be as inclusive as possible in order to encourage different types of houses suitable to the specific area. He stated there is a new trend due to costs that younger inexperienced agents are being employed due to costs and the designs can be unsuitable and unbuildable. Trying to persuade the public of the advantage of architectural design has proved unsuccessful and each case is different and what is acceptable in one area may not be in another area.

Cllr. Hoade requested that the minutes of the preplanning meetings be available to the applicant. Mr. Ridge stated that preplanning meetings for single rural houses will soon cease. There will be enough information available online in order to advance applications for single rural housing. Preplanning meetings will still be available for housing schemes etc and he felt that this will give a better return on limited resources. He stated that while applications are down there is an increase in the workload of the Enforcement and Contribution Sections.

The next meeting to be arranged when the Roads Work budget has been issued.

**Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin**