

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF THE TUAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON Wednesday May 21st 2008

I LATHAIR:

Baill: Cllr. T. McHugh, Chairman.
Cllr. T. Reilly, Cllr. C. Keaveney, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. M
Connolly, Cllr. S. Canney

Oifigigh: Mr. F. Gilmore, Director of Services Housing, Mr. M. Dolly,
Senior Engineer, Mr. J Leahy, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. J.
Flesk, Executive Engineer, Mr. J. Eising, Senior Engineer, Mr. T.
Collins, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Ita Martyn, S.O, Ms.
Mairead O'Malley, A/S.O., Ms. M. Cunningham, A/S.O..

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th March 2008 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. T. Reilly and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

1. Briefing for Elected Members on five route corridors for Tuam-Claremorris Road Scheme.

Mr. Eamon Daly from Halcrow Barry Consultants gave a presentation on the five route corridor options for the N17 Tuam to Claremorris Road Scheme. These corridors will be developed further in order to bring forward a proposal for a Preferred Route Corridor, taking into account the impacts and effects of each corridor.

Cllr Canney and Cllr Connolly expressed the view that a dual carriageway was necessary on the route. Mr Collins replied that traffic surveys will be carried out to determine volumes of traffic which would assist in the selection of road type. Cllr. Connolly stated that traffic counts are not a true reflection of road usage. Cllr. Canney asked what effect the scheme would have on the progress of the Tuam Bypass. Mr. Eising replied that the N17 Tuam Bypass and this scheme will be linked together as a non-tolled Public Private Partnership project which would thus bring forward the Galway to Tuam N17 section, which is now hoped to start in 2011. Cllr. Canney asked if it was possible that the scheme be progressed in three phases, with the Tuam Bypass as the first phase. Mr. Eising replied that it was not the intention of the N.R.A. to progress the scheme in that manner.

Cllr. Keaveney asked if the figure put forward of €125 million was a budget figure. Mr. Ryan replied that this was an approximate construction cost. Cllr. Keaveney asked for an assurance

that there wouldn't be an indirect levy on the County and that it wouldn't become a current cost to the Council. Mr. Eising replied that funding would come from the N.R.A, however as this is to be a Public Private Partnership Project it is not possible to say what fraction of the cost would come from public or private as this would have to be negotiated. Cllr. McHugh asked for the current costing of the Tuam Bypass. Mr. Eising replied that it was €25 million approximately. Cllr. McHugh stated that this was a small amount of funding in national terms and asked for an elaboration on private funding options. Mr. Eising replied that there would be no tolls on this scheme and funding would likely be either a fixed annual payment from the NRA or through shadow tolling which would be a payment by the NRA based on the number of cars using the road.

Cllr. Reilly enquired as to whether compensation would be interfered with and stated that there shouldn't be an interpretation that money for compensation would not be available.

The Members felt that it would not be acceptable if the Tuam Bypass was delayed as a result of the scheme and that a start date of 2011 was not acceptable. Cllr Canney stated that one of the reasons the Hub Committee was set up in Tuam was to prevent non delivery on projects such as the Tuam Bypass. Mr.Gilmore stated that it was apparent that the Tuam Bypass would be delayed dramatically by this scheme and that there was no reason why the scheme couldn't be done on a phased basis. Mr. Gilmore said that it would be remiss of the committee to accept the completion date of 2013 and that representation should be made to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Members agreed that a joint meeting with the NRA and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government should be arranged as soon as possible. Mr.Gilmore said that he would set up such a meeting and stated that it should be impressed on the Department that delays to the progress of the Bypass were not acceptable for a Hub Town.

2. Tuam Taxi Stands

Cllr. Reilly proposed that the Galway County Council Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Tuam Bye-Laws 2008 be accepted as presented. Cllr. Canny seconded that proposal. Mr. Gilmore stated that the Bye-Laws would be brought before the full Council and the proposed start date would be the 16th of June 2008.

3. Any Other Business

Cllr. Connolly asked for an update as to why Meadow Court housing estate had not been taken in charge. Mr. Leahy replied that all documentation had been completed and that the taking in charge was imminent.

Cllr. Canney enquired as to whether Cedar Court and Trinity Court housing estates in Tuam had been taken in charge. Mr. Leahy replied that the process was advanced and should be completed within a month. Mr. Leahy listed the housing estates that were to be taken in charge.

Cllr. Reilly asked whether there had been any contact with the contractors for Ballygaddy road, as the road has subsided and is very dangerous. Mr. Gilmore replied that he would enquire into the matter.

Cllr. Walsh asked what was being done about the flooding at Cloonfashnagh in Glinsk. He also requested an update on the Dunmore Esker Road. Cllr. Walsh requested that a sign warning of a dangerous road be erected at Skehard in Creggs. Mr. Leahy replied that the Dunmore Esker road improvements were progressing well. The design has been modified and the land maps produced. Cllr. McHugh asked how it was being funded. Mr. Leahy replied that there was a small allocation for that section.

Cllr. McHugh asked for an update on the Tuam Water Services Investment Programme. Mr. Gilmore replied that tenders were still being evaluated. Mr. Gilmore said that he would ensure that the documents go to the Department as quickly as possible.

Cllr. Reilly asked about the progress on the R332 Kilbannon to Kilconly Route which had received a €300,000 allocation. Mr. Gavin replied that the land required is being valued and it is progressing well.

Cllr. Connolly enquired regarding the role of the Planning Section in ensuring that drains were not blocked when new houses were being built. Mr. Leahy replied that the issue had been raised with the Planning section. Cllr McHugh asked whether there was a condition put in place in planning permission to prevent this. Mr. Leahy said that the condition was not put in consistently. Mr. Gilmore said that he would notify the Planning Section of the Members' concerns.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin