

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF THE TUAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON Wednesday February 6th 2008

I LATHAIR:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. F. Gilmore, Director of Service Housing, Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer, Mr. J Leahy, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P Gavin, Executive Engineer, Mr. John Flesk, Executive Engineer, Mr. Liam Gavin, Senior Engineer, Mr. P Ridge, Director of Services Planning, Ms. C O'Connell, Senior Planner, Ms. Maura McGrath, SSO Planning, Ms. C McQuillan, SO Housing, Ms. M Cunningham, A/SO Housing.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27th November 2007 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. S Canney and seconded by Cllr. T Reilly.

1. Deputation: A deputation from the Dunmore / Glenamaddy area attended the meeting and outlined their concerns in relation to the main Dunmore / Glenamaddy Road. Sean Maloney, Ger Brennan and Pat Connolly were looking for an update on the upgrade and maintenance of 2 particular sections of this road, it was agreed by all Councillors present that this situation was urgent as this is a particularly dangerous stretch of road. It was suggested that a council official should contact the land owner with a view to reaching agreement to acquiring the section of land needed to remedy the situation, and failing this negotiation the Compulsory Purchase Order should be pursued. Mr. Dolly confirmed that this road programme was not included in the 2008 Grants programme and that the acquisition of land will be necessary in order to apply for grant aid under the 2009 Road Grants. Mr. Gilmore will prepare a full report on this Road issue and return to the committee within 4-5 weeks.

2. Tuam Water Services Investment Programme

Mr. Liam Gavin presented a report on the proposed Tuam Water Services Investment Programme and outlined a number of key points. The tender documents are currently being assessed and it is hoped that the works will commence at the end of March / early April 2008. A PR consultant will be appointed to liaise with the business community and the residents in the areas concerned. It is planned that the main services will be provided i.e. ESB / Bord Gais and Fibre Broadband; however negotiations are still ongoing with Bord Gais as they are not on-board yet with this project. It is expected that the project will take 2 years to complete and night work will be part of the project.

The Councillors raised concerns and requested a full schedule / report on the project to be presented within the next 4 weeks. Cllr. Tom McHugh proposed that a further meeting is held in the next 2-3, this was seconded by Cllr. C Keaveney. Liam Gavin will return to the committee with this report / schedule as further detailed discussion is required on this.

3. Consideration of the Draft County Development Plan

Mr. P. Ridge described the Draft County Development Plan as a being a review of the old County Development Plan as opposed to a completely new plan for the County. He went on to highlight what was new in the Draft plan and this includes Strategic Environmental Assessments, Rural Development, Settlement Strategies the County Spatial Strategy and Ardaun.

Catherine O'Connell explained that a lot of the current plan is working well and has focused on issues that are important nationally. Settlement Centers with low levels of activity have been reviewed and will be excluded from the new plan. Cllrs can make a case (within the statutory timeframe) for new settlement centers to be included and can also make their own individual submissions on the Draft plan.

The Cllrs. outlined their own reasons as to why some settlement centers hadn't reached their full potential. It was agreed that there had to be economic incentives for development but also their differencing capacities have to be realistically acknowledged. The centers will continue to be assessed on their capacity / connectivity and character. Planning applications will not be disregarded due to an area not being listed as a settlement center.

In relation to the Housing Strategy the draft will be completed within 2 weeks and will also be circulated in conjunction with the County Development Plan.

Cllrs. will consider the Draft County Development Plan up to March 18th 2008 and this will then go on public display on April 1st 2008. Mr. F Gilmore suggested that a joint submission, which focuses on strategic issues and economic development, is prepared for the Tuam Electoral Area and this was seconded by Cllr. T McHugh. It was agreed that this item would be further discussed and a joint submission prepared at the next Tuam Area committee meeting.

Mr. P. Ridge discussed the possibility of Roads being included as a sub-heading in the current Development Contribution Scheme and this money being used to support and fund local road projects where there is a shortfall in national funding. Approximately €4,000 per house was suggested. The Cllrs. requested a report outlining what was collected for the Tuam Area in 2006/2007 and how this money was spent and they want this report before they consider the possibility of levying a new charge.

4. AOB

Mr. M Dolly circulated a report on Road Reconstruction for the Tuam Area in 2008 (also showing early starts for the area).

Cllr. S Canney wanted an update on progress for the Taxi Rank in Tuam, Mr. F Gilmore will reply on this.

Cllr. M Connolly looked for an update on taking in charge the Meadow Court estate in Moylough, Mr. F Gilmore will follow up with the Planning Department and advise the Cllrs at the next meeting.

Cllr. S Canney also enquired about a number of estates in Tuam and the taking in charge of same, Mr. F Gilmore will reply on this.

Cllr. T. Walsh requested warning signs re: Deer crossing to be erected around the Moneen – Derryvode area, this was seconded by Cllr. S Canney.

Cllr. C Keaveney requested that tactil paving be put in place outside the FAS office in Tuam and that a review of all road crossing is undertaken.

Cllr. T Walsh requested that one hour be provided at the next Tuam Area meeting to discuss local problems.

Cllr. T Reilly requested that safety barriers be erected on the Athenry Road; this was seconded by Cllr. M Connolly. Mr. M Dolly said that this had been put forward under low cost safety measures and will be looked at.

Cllr. T Reilly reported that he had received a lot of calls in relation to illegal dumping on Friars Walk and was looking for an update on this and what could be done, Mr. F Gilmore will reply on this.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin