

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024 AT 3.30p.m.**

CATHAORILEACH: Cllr. N. Thomas

I LATHAIR FREISIN: Comh. D. Ó Cualáin, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Cllr. G. King, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr. A. McKinstry, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. T. Welby, Comh. Mac An Iomaire

OIFIGH: Mr. M. Owens DOS, Ms. R. Lowe SE, Mr. T Prendergast, S.E. Mr. T.J. Redmond SEE, Mr. N. O' Conaola EE, Mr. L Tierney E. Technician, Ms. I. Martyn AO. Ms. G Byrne A.O. Ms. S. Duffy ASO.

- 1. To consider and adopt the 2024 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of Maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Connemara Municipal District (to include the Roads Programme 2024)**

CMD 21128

Ms. Lowe gave a presentation to the members on the Schedule of Works 2024 for the Connemara Municipal District and the Roads Programme 2024 and Mr. Redmond provided a map which gave an overview of the proposed roadworks.

The Members thanked the staff for the preparation of the Roads Programme. They acknowledged that while progress has been made, there is still a significant shortfall of funding.

Cllr. King requested details of the upgrade works to be carried out with the allocation of €500,000 funding for the N59 Bunnakill to Claremount.

Cllr. Mannion requested an update on the planning process for the N59 from Maam Cross to Clifden section and she recommended that an application for funding should be sent to the TII. She expressed her concerns with the surface on the N59 especially from Derrynea to Clifden and she welcomed the funding for the Letterfrack pedestrian crossing.

Cllr. McKinstry noted that the bus stops for Moycullen were not yet built. He queried if any of the €3 million funding earmarked for the Ring Road was transferable.

Comh. O'Curraoin stated that all the recent rain was having a detrimental effect on the roads. Roadside drains were not made anymore, and the water has no place to run off. He said that the materials used to resurface the roads will have to be considered with regard to the weather conditions.

Comh. Mac an Iomaire said that there were two sections of the R336 resurfaced, but it would be necessary to use black top. He noted that Heavy Goods Vehicles that were drawing stones for the Rossaveal Pier development had damaged the road. He queried if there was any response from the Department regarding funding for these repairs.

Cllr. Welby queried the current position in relation to 30km speed limits for Claremount and Sruthain an Chláir housing estates in Oughterard. He expressed his concern regarding the road crossing at Canower and enquired if maintenance funding can be used to improve the crossing. He asked for an update from the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the Bunnakill to Oughterard section of the N59 and he requested that they should attend a meeting of the Connemara Municipal District. Cllr. Welby proposed that a cross party meeting be requested with Minister Darragh O'Brien in relation to the upgrade of the N59 from Bunnakill to Oughterard and Cllr. Mannion seconded the proposal.

Comh. Ó Cualáin asked for clarification in relation to a Feasibility Study for the R336. He stated that he would be unable to support the Roadworks Programme if this was not included. He noted that there was inadequate funding for bridges and he said that Cuan Na Loinge Bridge is an emergency situation.

Cllr. Walsh raised the matter of the condition of the Pier Road adjacent to the Rugby Club. Planning permission was refused due to the condition of the road, and the club are unable to apply for any grants for the facility. He asked that €50,000 funding be made available this year for this important infrastructure to facilitate a major amenity in the town of Oughterard. He also requested an update on the current position of the Bunnakill to Oughterard Road.

Cllr. Thomas welcomed the funding for the greenway and queried the €250,000 funding for the N59 Pedestrian Bridge in Oughterard. He enquired as to the status of the Part 8 for the pedestrian lights and he advised that the N59 through Moycullen village be brought up to a high standard before it is handed over. He stated that drainage works are required on the N59 from Killanan to Oughterard, as this is a serious accident location.

Ms. R. Lowe, SE, replied to the queries raised as follows:

- the €5000 funding for Letterfrack is to assess the need for a controlled crossing at this location, in accordance with TII specifications.
- The funding of €3 million for the Galway City Ring Road is not transferable. There is a commitment to this project by Government. Further information has been sought by An Bord Pleanála and it is hoped to have this information compiled and returned by Quarter 3 this year.
- It is hoped to appoint Consultants for Stage 1-4 Concept stage for the N59 Clifden to Maam Cross.
- It was noted that the provision of bus stops would be progressed under the Active Travel Programme. Ms. Lowe said that Ms. Gibbons, E.E. would attend the next meeting of the MD to make a presentation on the Bus Shelters Programme.
- In relation to drainage issues on the roads, Ms. Lowe said that the Department takes this issue very seriously and has given a specific allocation for drainage. Mr. Redmond SEE confirmed that it is hoped to carry out 10km of drainage works this year and hopefully more funding will be secured.
- She confirmed that a submission has been made to the Department for funding to deliver the final stage of the project at Cuan Na Loinge.
- The redesignation of the old road in Moycullen is at an advanced stage and will be completed in the near future.
- The Marine Section have been contacted with regard to the impact of the HGVs on the Lettermullen Road.
- With regard to surface dressing the Council have to work with the resources that are available to them and it does give skid and water resistance.
- In reply to queries regarding the Feasibility Study for R336 Ms. Lowe confirmed that there is a commitment to this Study but she could not confirm a timescale.
- The €500,000 funding for the Bunnakill to Claremount road would be used for advance works and site investigations with a view to preparing contract documents.
- In relation to the Pier Road Ms. Lowe gave an undertaking to an on-site meeting with Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. Welby to see what could be done to advance improvement works on this section of roadway.
- advised that additional monies will be received during the year and this project will be placed as a top priority. It was agreed that an on-site meeting would be arranged with Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. Welby.

The 2024 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of Maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Connemara Municipal District (to include the Roads Programme 2024) was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Welby with Comh Ó Cualáin recording his opposition.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 12th January, 2024 CMD 21129

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 12th January, 2024 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. McKinstry and seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin.

Matters Arising

CMD 21130

Cllr. McKinstry noted in relation to the item on the Active Travel Programme for the MD of Conamara – Update, that the target of 25% reduction in car mileage by 2030, should read 20%.

3. To adopt the Draft Annual Report 2023 CMD 21131

The Draft Annual Report 2023 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. McKinstry and seconded by Cllr. King.

3. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business

No items were raised for discussion under Director's Business.

4. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business CMD 21132

It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Comh O Curraoin and agreed that Galway County Council put in a request to TII to carry out a road safety/accessibility audit on the Bearna road junction with the N59.

5. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations CMD 21133

Cllr. Walsh proposed a vote of sympathy on the sudden passing of Pat Hynes retired Cllr. to his partner Ann and the extended Hynes Family. He said he was a great politician who had a long connection with the Conamara Area. Cllr. Welby, Cllr. Mannion and Cllr. McKinstry also expressed their sympathy to Pat's partner Anne, and the extended Hynes family.

Comh. Mac an Iomaire proposed a vote of sympathy on the passing of Maura Hernon, Lettermullen. She was a lifetime member of the Fine Gael party. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís. Cllr. Mannion and Cllr. Thomas also wished to be associated with this vote.

Comh O'Cualáin wished to congratulate the C.S. MacDara Boys Soccer Team under 12 League Champions.

6. A.O.B.

Comh O'Cualáin noted the funding of €36,500 for Burial Grounds in Conamara. He enquired if there was additional funding for a boundary wall on Muiris Burial Ground. Mr. Owens confirmed that this funding was for the Revenue Budget for Graveyards and there was a separate Capital provision of funding for Burial Grounds works.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire complimented Ceantar an Oileain for the work they were doing in relation to an extension to the graveyard at Lettermore, which is currently being assessed by the HSE. He noted that no extension had been secured for the graveyard at Inverin.

Cllr. Welby queried an update on the Bus Park in Oughterard. Mr. Redmond advised that a Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audit had identified 7 items. Measures to address these items had been approved, and the Consultant was now finalising the Road Safety Audit.

Cllr. Mannion thanked Water Services staff for their work during the water outage in Clifden. A temporary pipe was installed but a more permanent solution was required to secure a water supply in Clifden.

Cllr. Mannion advised that there was a public meeting being held in Clifden Town Hall on Monday 11th March, 2024, at 6p.m. to discuss the Clifden District Hospital. The Hospital was closed recently for a short term due to staff shortages, and it is important that the matter is kept on the Agenda.

Comh Ó Cualáin noted there was an issue with dog fouling on the new walkway at An Spidéal and asked that the matter be referred to the Community Wardens.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 12th April, 2024 at 10.00a.m.

Signed: Neil Thomas
Cathaoirleach

Date: 12/4/24
