

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON FRIDAY 10th MAY AT 11.00am**

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 S.E, Mr. S. Devaney A/S.E, Mr. T.J. Redmond SEE, Mr. N. O' Conaola EE, Ms. I. Martyn, Meetings Administrator and A.O. Ms. R. Dooley C.O.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 12th April 2024. CMD 21149

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

Matters Arising CMD 21150

Cllr. Mannion requested an update on her request to arrange a meeting with Uisce Éireann.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire expressed his concerns with the water supply in south Connemara as the Gaeltacht students will be arriving for the summer.

Comh. Ó Cualáin joined with the Members expressing his concerns over the lack of engagement from Uisce Éireann as this is a serious issue.

Mr. Owens informed the members that the request was acknowledged by Uisce Éireann but a notification of a meeting has not been received.

Cllr. McKinstry requested a further update on EV Chargers as there are no charging points along the route between Galway and Clifden.

Cllr. Mannion described the poor roll-out of charging points as a disgrace with the busy summer tourist season.

Comh. Ó Curraoin stated that the infrastructure should have been put in place prior to the manufacture of the vehicles.

A discussion took place regarding various issues with electric vehicles.

Comh. Ó Cualáin requested an update on the Causeways.

Ms. Lowe responded that surveys are being carried out and a more detailed report will issue when the surveys are completed.

2. Update on N59 Projects

CMD 21151

Mr. Devaney gave an update on the N59 Projects. N59 Moycullen Bypass, N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard, N59 Bunnakill to Claremount and Clifden to Oughterard Greenway and Galway to Oughterard Greenway. Regarding the Greenway he advised that 13kms of the Oughterard to Clifden section was completed and consultations with landowners is ongoing on the Galway to Oughterard section to finalise the route.

The Members thanked Mr. Devaney for the update.

Cllr. Thomas queried the following:

- Moycullen Bypass safety audits
- Funding for by-roads
- Cloonabinna Junction
- Slip roads on the Moycullen bypass.

Cllr. Welby enquired if it was a commitment by GCC to work with NPWS or a condition of Planning?

- Funding for Dangerous Junctions at Laghtgannon and Maherbeg.
- Bus shelters – space for buses to set down.
- Public consultations for the footbridge.

Cllr. King referred to the hedge growth along the N59 being a safety issue with poor visibility.

Cllr. Mannion queried the following:

- Road safety issue Maam Cross – Clifden
- Derrylea – Clifden Speed limit needs to be reduced – No Lighting or Footpaths
- Traffic calming Leenane & Letterfrack villages.
- More consultation with the landowners regarding the Greenway.

Cllr. McKinstry queried Connectivity between the Greenway, Slip road and Community Centre and a timeline for the Greenway.

Comh. Ó Cualáin enquired regarding progress on the Galway City Ring Road.

Comh Mac An Iomaire advised that the Spiddal to Moycullen Road is in urgent need of improvement.

Mr. Devaney responded as follows:

- No additional funding for side roads or side road upgrading.
- Cloonabinnia Junction – identified – substandard - rolling inspections Safety audit has been carried out and a second audit will be finalised.
- Workshop will be set up in NRPO Office
- Greenway March 2025 – more consultation with landowners
- Moycullen slipway is a separate project – no entrance or exit planned on route.
- Footbridge – will see options for public consultation.
- NTA bus stop workshop planned. TII working on strategy.
- Derrylea section - Active Travel scheme would require 80mph – land take would result in CPO. Signage can be put in place.
- GCC to propose safety schemes if any section of road deemed dangerous. Must apply to TII for safety schemes.
- Galway City Ring Road – December 2023 ABP requested Further Information regarding the Climate Action Plan and the Galway City Development Plan and the information will be available by September 2024.

3. Progress Report on the Roads Programme 2024

CMD 21152

Mr. O' Conaola updated the Members on the Roads Programme 2024.

The Members joined in thanking Mr. Conaola for the update and complimented the works that have been carried out.

Ms. Lowe informed the meeting that a request has been sent to the department to increase funding for Galway County Council to allow for damage caused by the severe weather to the roads.

4. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business

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

5. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business

CMD 21153

Cllr. Thomas acknowledged that this was his last meeting as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District and he wished all his colleagues well in the upcoming elections.

He thanked Mr. Owens Director of Service, Ms. Martyn, Meetings Administrator and Ms. Dooley, for their dedication and assistance during the year. He thanked the roads staff and area office staff for their hard work and support and he thanked the media for their attendance.

Mr. Owens on his own behalf and that of the staff in County Hall and the Area Office in acknowledging Cllr. Thomas final meeting thanked him for his support and the courtesy he displayed in his role.

He wished all the members well in the upcoming elections. He highlighted that there were significant achievements by the Municipal District in the last five years across various service areas as documented in the monthly Management Reports.

6. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

No votes of sympathy or congratulations were proposed at the meeting.

7. A.O.B.

CMD 21154

Cllr. King requested an update on the Summer Ready Programme and enquired regarding increased numbers of outdoor staff.

Comh. Ó Curraoin expressed his concern with a housing development in Bearna where the residents are experiencing difficulties. He recommended that Galway County Council investigate the issues of concern.

The Members joined in expressing their concerns regarding the development which appears to have run into difficulty and the works have ceased causing a serious health and safety issue.

Ms. Lowe responded that the roads section is aware of the issues, that a planning condition is effective in relation to the road and the situation will be monitored.

Comh. Ó Cualáin expressed his concern with the timeframe for the Summer Ready Programme and he requested that it should be implemented immediately as there is no plan for set down areas for camper vans.

Cllr. Welby joined in expressing his concerns as the signage in place restricting parking is not being adhered to.

Comh. Mac Iomaire advised that a set down area is required and it is very important for tourism in the area.

Comh Ó Curraoin raised his concerns regarding a dangerous bend on the N59 road at Killeen near the Glenlo Abbey Hotel.

Ms. Lowe stated that the issue of Camper Vans should be raised at the roads SPC.

She thanked the Members and everyone for their engagement over the years and wished them well.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th June at 10.00 a.m.

Signed: L. Weller
Cathaoirleach

Date: 25/6/2024
