

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHONAMARA

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONMARA HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON

FRIDAY 11th January 2024 AT 10.00 a.m.

CATHAORILEACH: Cllr. N. Thomas
I LATHAIR FREISIN:

BAILL: 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.J.
Redmond SEE, Mr. N. O' Conaola EE, Ms. P. Higgins SEE,
Ms. I. Martyn AO & Meetings Administrator & Ms. R.
Dooley CO.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of
Conamara held on Friday 08th December 2023**

CMD 21120

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 08th December 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Comh T. Ó Curraoin and seconded by Comh D. Ó Cualáin.

Matters Arising

CMD 21121

Cllr. Mannion expressed her concern with frost on the roads in Connemara and requested that extra funding be provided to include more roads in the winter maintenance programme during periods of severe weather.

Cllr. King said that during periods of extreme weather some students could not attend school as the busses were unable to travel on the icy roads and asked if these roads will be included in the winter maintenance plan. Comh Mac An Iomaire said that the road from Sheannapheasteen to Oughterard could be lethal in harsh weather conditions. Comh. Ó Curraoin said that shaded footpaths were extremely dangerous for pedestrians in frosty conditions. Cllr. McKinstry requested that the Rosmuc area be included in the gritting programme. Ms. Lowe responded that the national routes were prioritised for treatment during cold spells and other roads would be included where resources were available.

Mr. Redmond in reply to Cllr. King confirmed that signage to advise as to the potential for deer crossing is in place on the N59. Comh. Mac An Iomaire stated that there was an accident with a deer on the road between Maam Cross and Screebe and the car was a write off. He requested that signage be erected along this route. Mr. O' Conaola expressed his regret that this incident had occurred and stated that signage will be placed at the areas of concern.

Proposed Upgrade of the N59 Bunnakill to Oughterard – Update

CMD 21122

An update on the proposed upgrade of the N59 Bunnakill to Oughterard section of road was circulated to the members. Cllr. Mannion said the same information was circulated previously and it is disappointing that no progress has been made. She questioned the delay in progress.

Cllr. Welby said that this project was granted planning permission and it was agreed to commence work but it is at a standstill. Cllr. King requested a timeframe for completion. Comh. Ó Curraoin concurred and expressed his frustration that even the smallest jobs are proving difficult to complete due to constraints. Cllr. Thomas said that the Claremount to Bunnakill road upgrade project was essential for the people of Connemara and why such an important infrastructural project is the subject of such hold-ups.

Active Travel Programme for the MD of Conamara – Update

CMD 21123

Ms. Higgins gave a presentation detailing the Active Travel Programme for Conamara. The members thanked Ms. Higgins for the detailed presentation and the following issues were raised.

Cllr. King queried the outcome of the Community Transport Studies and surveys.

Ms. Higgins responded that the Community Transport Studies will aim to determine how people are travelling, where they are going and why, from this information walking/cycling routes can be identified and developed.

Cllr. McKinstry asked if local representatives can be consulted during the process. He was concerned that Moycullen is not included on the list of projects and he stated that the Greenway and Active Travel plans need to be connected. He questioned if the Active Travel plans will meet the target of a 25% reduction in car mileage by 2030.

Comh. Ó Curraoin highlighted that lower speed limits near schools and increased public lighting on footpaths should be a priority.

Cllr. Welby enquired if the Roscahill Community Group would qualify for public lighting, 50km speed limit and a footbridge at St. Annes school Roscahill.

Cllr. Mannion asked if schemes are being delivered fast enough, new footpaths and pedestrian crossings are required and schools should be a priority for any Active Travel plans.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire complimented the works carried out in Carraroe and he queried when the works would be completed at Scoil Sailearna, Inverin and Furbo National School.

Cllr. Thomas acknowledged the work being done in Moycullen village and he queried if a traffic management plan will be carried out in Moycullen.

Ms. Higgins replied to queries raised and updated the members that a Safe Route to School (SRTS) Programme was actively being worked on for Furbo National School and Scoil Sailearna, Inverin. There is no current specific funding provision for stand alone public lighting under NTA funded Active Travel. However, the requests will be noted for any future potential opportunities.

A request for lighting / footpaths on the N59 at Roscahill was noted and an update will be requested from TII.

The Active Travel team is actively working with the Greenway Team for all Active Travel related projects along the N59.

In regard to the Oughterard Footbridge talks are ongoing with the TII and the procurement process has started for a design consultant.

Active Travel Plans will be sent to groups and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

In response to Cllr. McKinstry query on the 25% reduction, the NTA can model reduced carbon emissions to assist in determining the reduction.

In regards to a Community Transport Study for Moycullen, this is due to take place in the second quarter of this year.

Cllr. Thomas stated that the Active Travel Team has the full support of the members.

Provision of Bus Shelters on the N59

CMD 21124

Ms. Lowe informed the meeting that an additional member of staff has joined the roads department and has been assigned to the provision of bus shelters. Ms. Lowe assured the members that the provision of bus shelters is an on-going programme and updates will be provided.

In response to Cllr. McKinstry, Ms. Lowe advised that a proposal to provide electronic timers on bus shelters would need to be raised with the National Transport Authority.

In reply to Comh. Mac An Iomaire, Ms. Lowe confirmed that the provision of bus shelters in An Spidéal is a priority and a further update will issue.

Ms. Lowe in reply to Cllr. Mannion confirmed that a case is being made to the TII for a pedestrian crossing in Letterfrack.

Comh. Ó Curraoin complimented the works that have taken place and highlighted that a bus shelter is required for Bearna village.

Cllr. Welby thanked Ms. Lowe for the works to date and highlighted that a pedestrian crossing is required in the village of Cornamona as there is a high volume of traffic travelling this road.

Ms. Lowe responded to Comh. Ó Curraoin and agreed that all areas need to be serviced and the provision of a bus shelter in Bearna is a priority.

Mr. Redmond informed the meeting that no decision had been reached for Safety Improvement works and usually a decision on funding is made in February or March.

Bus Parking Oughterard - Update

CMD 21125

Mr. Redmond informed the meeting that a road safety audit took place and the consultants are reviewing same.

Proposal for a Bus Corridor on the N59 between Moycullen and Galway City

CMD 21126

Ms. Lowe in reply to a query from Cllr. Thomas whether an update on a bus corridor from Moycullen to Galway City had been received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as there are long tailbacks on the route, advised that she is awaiting an update from the Director of Service.

In reply to Cllr. McKinstry, Ms. Lowe advised that the provision of a Park & Ride facility in Dangan would be an issue for the National Transport Authority.

Any Other Business

CMD 21127

Cllr. Welby highlighted the poor quality of the road at Roscahill West and the number of pot holes as a tarmacadam finish was not carried out by the contractors. Mr. O'Conaola confirmed that the contractors will rectify same and updates will be provided.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire thanked the staff for the works carried out following the collapse of the road in Lettermullen and he advised that regular meetings will be held regarding the progress of the urgent repair works.

Comh. Ó Curraoin added that urgent repair is required on this road, and it should not be an environmental issue.

Ms. Lowe stated that they are engaging with the TII regarding funding and commented that they must comply with legislation when carrying out works.

Cllr. Mannion expressed her concern at the reduced bus service in some rural areas, City Link buses are not an option for all as they are not accessible.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr. Welby a motion was passed to write to Transport For Ireland highlighting concerns in regard to the recent changes in the bus service in Connemara North.

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Conamara Municipal District would be agreed with the Cathaoirleach based on the availability of the 2024 Roads Programme.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN



Cathaoirleach

Date: 5/3/24