

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara**

**Municipal District of Conamara**

---

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara**

**held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 03.00pm in the Council Chamber.**

---

**I LATHAIR:**

**CATHAORILEACH:** Cllr. G King

Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr M. Leainde, Cllr Martin Lee, Cllr. Welby

**OIFIGH:** U. Finn Director of Services, I. Martyn A.O. Meetings, N. O'Conaola E.E, L. Tierney E.T, B. McDonagh E.E, S. Casey A.S.O

**APOLOGIES:** Comh Mac An Iomaire, Cllr. Walsh, Cllr. Thomas

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025:**

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Lee and **Seconded** by Cllr. Mannion the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Conamara Municipal District held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were agreed.

**2. Declaration of road to be make a public road:**

Road commencing at junction with L-52163 (53.24924, -9.60042) in the townland of An Caorán Beag and extending South for a distance of 340 metres in the townland of An Caorán Beag and finishing at (53.24627, -9.59946) in the townland of An Caorán Beag.

On the **Proposal of** Cllr Lee and **Seconded** by Cllr Mannion.

### **3. Update Clifden Flood Relief Scheme:**

Mr. McDonagh, presented an update on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme, highlighting key developments since the last briefing.

Galway County Council submitted correspondence to the OPW in late July 2025 advising that Stage 1 of the scheme is substantially completed. The remaining item for Stage 1 completion is the second public information day.

- GCC will continue to engage with the OPW regarding the viability of a flood relief scheme given the cost – benefit ratio of the linear defence option being proposed by the designers.
- The OPW has completed their review of the final options report for the scheme and is currently considering the next steps for Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.

#### **Project Background**

- *Client:* Galway County Council
- *Funding Agency:* OPW
- *Funding Amount to GCC:* €530,000
- *Engineering & Environmental Consultants:* Jacobs Engineering Ireland (JEI) Consulting Engineers appointed in October 2021 by GCC.
- *Construction Cost Estimate:* €5m

GCC is continuing discussions with OPW about whether the proposed flood defence is worth pursuing, based on cost versus benefit. OPW has reviewed the final options report and is now considering the next steps for the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.

#### **Look Ahead:**

- If approval to move forward is granted, GCC will prepare for the second public information day where the proposed solutions to the flooding risks will be presented to all stakeholders and the public.
- GCC continuing to monitor heavy rainfall events in terms of the overall design for the scheme.

The OPW provides funding, technical guidance, and oversight for flood relief schemes across Ireland. Galway County Council acts as the lead local authority, managing the planning, design, and delivery of these schemes within the county. Both agencies work together to identify areas at risk of flooding and carry out flood risk assessments and environmental studies, engage with communities through public consultations and design and implement flood defence solutions.

---

He concluded his brief by explaining to members that if the project gets approval, Galway County Council will hold another public information day to share the proposed flood solutions and heavy rainfall will be monitored to help improve the design of the scheme.

#### **Matters Arising and Responses:**

Cllr. Mannion expressed relief that homes in Clifden were not damaged during the recent floods. However, she voiced concern that although the flood relief scheme was initiated in 2021, the local community has yet to see its benefits. She highlighted the ongoing hardship caused by extreme weather and stressed the urgent need to progress the scheme. She thanked Galway County Council staff on their responses during the unexpected floods.

Mr. McDonagh acknowledged Cllr Mannion's concerns and assured that he would convey the feedback to the OPW. He explained that consultants were appointed in 2021 with an 18-month timeline, but this was underestimated due to the complexity of the project. He emphasised that Stage 1 involves many detailed assessments, and taking the time to collate accurate information now will benefit the scheme in the long run. Getting Stage 1 right is crucial, as it will influence all future stages of the project.

#### **4. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business:**

Cathaoirleach King expressed he had nothing to add.

#### **5. Municipal District of Conamara Directors Business:**

Mr. Finn acknowledged the concerns raised by members regarding the recent flooding and noted that Mr. McDonagh's presentation provided valuable insights. He emphasised

the importance of continued consultation throughout the development of the flood relief scheme.

While a wind warning had been issued for Storm Amy, Mr. Finn highlighted that flooding was the more significant issue on this occasion. He stressed that with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, it is essential to examine these matters in detail. The recent flooding was not predicted and caused widespread disruption to roads.

---

Mr. Finn concluded by stating that while there may not be simple solutions to the challenges posed by flooding, it is fundamentally a climate change issue. He noted that funding would be available through the Climate Change and Emergencies Service budget to support efforts in addressing these problems.

He emphasised that significant environmental constraints have made it challenging for the roads section to carry out all the desired works. He noted that while some work has been completed in Clifden, it was met with objections, highlighting the importance of ensuring that any future works are fully compliant with planning and environmental regulations. He stressed that all proposed works must go through the appropriate agencies, such as An Coimisiún Pleanála, to ensure proper oversight and approval.

#### **Matters Arising and Responses:**

Comh. Ó Curraoin thanked Mr. Finn for sharing the information and agreed that environmental constraints are making it increasingly difficult to carry out necessary works in response to extreme weather events. He expressed concern that external authorities are imposing rules and regulations that may not fully consider Ireland's unique landscape and feared this could jeopardise the country's ability to manage future flooding effectively. He stressed the need for a more informed and locally sensitive approach to flood management and climate resilience.

Cllr. Mannion sought clarification on whether ongoing High Court proceedings were preventing Galway County Council from carrying out emergency flood relief works. She questioned if legal actions had created limitations that now restrict the Council's ability to respond promptly to flooding events.

Cllr. Leainde expressed full agreement with the concerns raised by Comh Ó Curraoin, stating that the current environmental regulations are having a significantly negative impact on the Conamara region especially. He emphasised that the area is suffering

greatly because of these rules, which he believes are hindering necessary works and contributing to ongoing challenges in managing extreme weather events in the area.

Cllr. Welby highlighted that the Kylemore area was significantly impacted by the recent severe weather events and he requested information regarding the plans for addressing the situation. He also raised concerns about Leenane Bridge, noting it is another location vulnerable to flooding and in need of attention.

---

Mr. Finn clarified that any works undertaken by the Council must follow the appropriate procedures, including necessary assessments and formal applications. He noted that distinguishing between routine maintenance and emergency works is often complex and not easily defined.

He emphasised that these challenges must be considered carefully moving forward. As an example, he pointed out that streams are not the responsibility of the Council, highlighting the need for Local Authorities to clearly understand and define their remit in such areas.

Cllr. Lee sought clarification regarding responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of streams. He noted that in many cases, streams overflow from roads into residential properties, causing damage, and stressed the importance of identifying the responsible authority to prevent such occurrences.

Mr. Finn explained that there are three categories of drainage responsibilities. The Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for certain rivers, while general streams are typically managed by the Local Authority with support from local contributions, such as those from farmers. He noted that although there is a small allocation in the Council's budget for this work, most drains and streams fall under the responsibility of individual landowners.

He further clarified that, in relation to flooding, the OPW is the primary liaison. The Local Authority acts as an agent for OPW-led works, and this partnership is funded by the OPW. Mr. Finn also stressed that any works undertaken must go through the correct channels, including assessments and formal applications. He acknowledged that distinguishing between routine maintenance and emergency works is challenging, but these issues must be considered carefully going forward.

Cllr. Leainde sought clarification regarding responsibility for maintaining a drain that runs through private lands and flows into a river.

Cllr. Welby raised a concern regarding the culvert in Leenane and questioned whether its maintenance is the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Comh Ó Curraoin sought clarification on the responsibility for a river that originates from a Loch and flows into the sea, asking whether this falls under the remit of the OPW.

---

In response to Cllr Welby's query regarding the culvert in Leenane, Mr. Finn stated that he would follow up directly with Cllr. Welby to discuss any planned works related to the site. He acknowledged the concern and indicated a willingness to engage further on the matter.

#### **6. Vote of Sympathy / Congratulations:**

Cllr. Leainde and Comh Ó Curraoin offered their condolences on the recent bereavement of Tom Donoghue, Cor Na Rón.

Cathoirleach King sympathised with the Kyne family in Tullycross on the recent bereavement of Noel Kyne.

#### **7. AOB:**

##### **Motion 1:**

*On the **Proposal** of Cllr Mannion, and **Seconded** by Cllr. Lee that Galway County Council proceed with the purchase of houses in Rossaveal and Eanach Mheáin.*

##### **Motion 2:**

*On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Welby and **Seconded** by Cllr. Mannion that Galway County Council undertake a study/report on the possibility of installing a speed ramp on the road (L-1302-55) at Scoil Naomh Padraig, An Clock Breac.*

##### **Motion 3:**

*On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Mannion and **Seconded** by Cllr. Welby that Conamara M.D. write to the National Directorate of Fire Emergency and Management to seek payment for emergency works carried out after Storm Eowyn.*

Mr. Finn told the meeting that a report regarding some of the issues raised would be circulated to the members prior to the next Conamara Municipal District meeting.

Comh Ó Curraoin requested an update on the R336, specifically regarding progress and the timeline for the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

---

Cllr. Lee requested an update on the foul odour reported in the Carraroe area, which he had previously raised at the July meeting.

Mr. Finn responded to councillors' queries by stating that there was no current update on the R336 but confirmed that the Active Travel team is actively working on the pedestrian crossing. Regarding the foul odour issue in Carraroe, he noted that he would follow up directly with Cllr. Lee to review the details.

He also announced that a new Executive Engineer would be taking up a post in Clifden Area Office in November which is a welcome development for the area.

Cathairleach King **Proposed** the next Conamara MD to take place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am**

Cathaoirleach King concluded the meeting by thanking all Galway County Council staff for their dedication and hard work in responding to the challenges posed by Storm Amy.

**Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gary King*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*28/11/25*