

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 29th November 2025 at 10.00pm in the Western Hotel.**

I LATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. G King

Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr M. Leainde, Cllr M Lee, Cllr N Thomas, Cllr S Walsh, Cllr T. Welby.

U. Finn Director of Services, I. Martyn A.O. Meetings Administrator, T. Prendergast S.E, D. Troy S.E, M. Bradshaw E.E, N. O'Conaola E.E, L. Tierney E.T, A. O'Halloran E.E, S. Casey A.S.O

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 10th Oct 2025:

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Mannion and **Seconded** by Comh Leainde the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Conamara MD held on Friday 10th October 2025 were agreed.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Lee and **Seconded** by Comh O' Curraoin the Minutes of the Draft Budget Meeting of MD Conamara held on Friday 10th October 2025 were agreed

Cathaoirleach King welcomed Andrew O'Halloran, Executive Engineer to the Conamara Area.

Cathaoirleach King expressed his gratitude to Martin Joyce on his retirement from the Clifden Area Office, noting that he will be a significant loss to the area. This sentiment was echoed by Cllr Mannion and Cllr. Walsh.

2. Update Piers & Harbours Works:

Mr. Bradshaw reported that 2025 was a productive year for piers and harbours, with significant benefits for Conamara. Key points:

- 80 piers in Conemara and several slipways in East Galway surveyed for required works.
- Power points installed at Kilkerrin Pier, Kilkronan (Aran Islands), and Inishbofin; Inis Meáin scheduled next.
- Numerous slipways along the western seaboard upgraded.
- Major works at Rusheennamanagh Pier, Carna, including a new deck and public lighting, well received locally.

Piers and Harbour Maintenance – Budget and Works Update Annual Maintenance Budget

- 2023: €403,500
- 2024: €503,500
- 2025: €584,000
- Kilronan Harbour: €200,000 (Annual Allocation)

Key Maintenance Activities:

- Minor structural improvement works
- Safety works: concrete repairs, toe rails, ladders, safety rails, signage
- Slipway Maintenance Programme:
 - GCC: 30 locations
 - Contractor: 15 locations
- Aids to Navigation (AtoN)
- Temporary moorings
- Installation of power points on piers

External Funding:

Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine

- BALAMI Funding 2022: €420,000
- BALAMI Funding 2023: €900,000
- LAMIS Funding 2025: €477,000

Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (Completed)

- Aill An Eachrais – €120,000: Concrete deck, quay wall, ladders, edge protection, public lighting.
- Seanché Spidéal – €50,000: Slipway structural upgrade, ladder, davit crane, mooring bollards.
- Rosroe – €90,000: Pier wall upgrade, ladders, lighting, edge protection, widened access for commercial vehicles.
- Kilkieran – €20,000: Edge protection
- Derryinver – €40,000: Ladders, davit crane, slipway fenders, GRP plating.
- Ard Thiar (West) – €40,000: Concrete deck, davit crane, edge protection, guardrails.
- Gurteen – €35,000: Concrete capping, storm wall pointing.
- Poll Ui Mhuirín – €20,000: Edge protection, guardrails
- Leck – €12,000: Edge protection
- Choradh Chiola – €25,000: Edge protection, ladder.
- Clifden Quay – €25,000: Ladder, quay wall repairs, mooring rings.

Minor Island Capital Works 2025 (Completed)

- Cleggan Storage Building – €66,000: Refurbishment.
- Cleggan Cargo Pier – €17,000: Concrete infill, edge protection.
- Inisbofin Piers – €72,806: D-wing fenders, slipway pillar, edge protection.

- South Road (Inisbofin) – €5,000: Coastal wall repairs.
- Kilronan & Killeany – €8,500: Handrail & guardrail upgrades.
- Killeany Beacons – €3,850: Cementitious pointing.

Pipeline Developments & Constraints:

MAC – Maritime Area of Consent

- Droim Pier Extension & Slipway (Part 10 Planning)
- Kilronan Harbour Pontoon Extension
- Kilkieran Pier Dredging Project
- Inis Meáin Slipway Extension

Proposed for 2026 (External Funding)

- Rosroe Pier – Replacement of quay wall
- Bunowen Pier – Structural repairs to pier head (currently closed)
- Clifden Beach – Gabion basket replacement
- Roundstone Piers – Facilities improvement

Following the presentation, Mr. Bradshaw invited questions.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cathaoirleach King thanked Mr. Bradshaw for his work throughout the year, noting that the investment represented good value for money.

Cllr. Welby raised concerns regarding Bunowen Pier, highlighting multiple voids and suggesting that the deck should be removed and filled. He also requested that the Council inspect a section of road in Claddaghduff.

Mr. Bradshaw acknowledged both issues, confirming that Bunowen Pier is a safety concern, and that the section of road is not Taken in Charge.

Comh. O'Curraoin commended the works completed and expressed hope that funding for pier and harbour maintenance would continue.

Cllr. Lee emphasized the importance of the works for the area and praised the achievements. He enquired about updates on a pier in Drum.

Mr. Bradshaw advised Cllr. Lee that the application for the pier at Drum is currently within a 90-day assessment period, with a decision expected by March or April. Following this, approval will be sought before a formal response is issued.

Cllr. Mannion commended the extensive works completed with limited resources and queried whether assistance could be provided regarding the pontoon at Clifden Beach, which was damaged during recent storms.

Mr. Bradshaw noted that the pontoon is believed to be privately owned but indicated he would be willing to engage with the owner if support was required.

Mr. Bradshaw concluded by inviting councillors to contact him directly with any issues relating to piers and harbours. This ended the update on this agenda item.

3. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business:

Mr. Finn, D.O.S. confirmed he had nothing further to add.

4. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business:

Cathaoirleach King welcomed progress on the N59, noting that while there were challenges, the project is moving in the right direction. He highlighted that planning has evolved with three agencies now collaborating and stressed the need for completion given the duration of works. He also noted that the Maam Cross to Clifden section remains at pre-planning stage under the National Development Plan.

Mr. Finn advised that a presentation on upcoming works in Conamara will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Cllr. Welby expressed satisfaction that the National Parks is now involved.

Cllr. Mannion sought further updates.

Mr. Finn confirmed that the grant application for the N59 has been submitted, and all relevant agencies are awaiting a decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála. While no definitive update is available, he welcomed the inclusion of the N59 in the National Development Plan.

Cathaoirleach King enquired about staff shortages in Conemara due to retirements and asked if positions have been or will be filled.

Mr. Finn advised he would request a report on staff numbers in the area and liaise with HR regarding replacements.

Mr. Finn then introduced Mr. Ó'Conaola to provide an update on road works in Conamara.

Mr. Ó Conaola updated members on road works completed in the Conamara area during 2025 and noted that he is looking forward to implementing the new Roads Programme for 2026. He advised that while plans may change, all members and staff will be informed of any amendments.

Roads Programme 2025

- **RI (Overlays):** 48 of 50 jobs completed (96%)
- **RM (Surface Dressing):** 28 jobs completed (100%)
- **Projects:**
 1. Ardnagreevagh, Renvyle – Works ongoing
 2. Crumlin, Cornamona – Completed
 3. Clancy's Wall – Completed
 4. Moycullen SW – Tender evaluation complete, contractor appointed

Climate Change & Adaptation (CCAR):

- R345 Maumeen – Completed
- Na Forbacha – LOI
- An Tulach – LOI

Low-Cost Safety & Community Involvement Schemes:

- 2 projects completed

Local Improvement Schemes:

- 8 of 9 projects completed (89%) – Round 2

Roads Programme 2026

- **Programme Applications:** Finalised February 2026
- **Three-Year Programme:** Review Q4 2025 / Q1 2026
- **Annual Programme 2026:** RI (Overlays) & RM (Surface Dressing) finalised February 2026
- **Climate Change:** 16 projects for Conamara MD submitted to DoT (Nov 2025)
- **Low-Cost Safety:** 10 projects submitted to DoT (Oct 2025)

- **Strategic Rehabilitation:** N59 through Maigh Cuilinn – Technical assessment completed, projects costed and uploaded to PMS
 - **Community Involvement Schemes:** Prioritised list of 71 projects in Conamara MD + 7 on Aran Islands (ringfenced funding)
 - **Local Improvement Scheme 2025:** SIG – Cuan na Loinge, revised budget submitted Nov 2025; ACP decision due 6 Jan 2026
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Emergency Works – Severe Weather

- Storm Amy (3rd October):
L-1301 Road, Na Gringeacha, Maum Valley
Various locations along R336 in Muintir Eoghain



MD Activities Update
December 2025.pdf

Verge Maintenance

- N59 Junctions – Completed October 2025
- P&D Lydon commenced linear verge trimming on the N59 at Leenaun week ending 21st November. They employ 3 tractors in convoy, with an instruction given to trim continuously from one end of the MD to the other, as far as the boundary with the City Council area.
- Verge trimming on Regional and Local Primary roads commenced in the Conamara North Eng Area in November and are ongoing in the Conamara South area.
- Water Table clearance works were undertaken by Colas Contracting week ending 21st November between Glenlo Abbey and the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass. Similar works are planned for the Conamara North Engineering area early in the new year.

After this detailed presentation Mr O'Conaola invited questions from the members.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cathaoirleach King acknowledged the significant works completed and queried whether Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) operate on a two-year cycle.

Comh. Leainde expressed appreciation for hedge cutting, noting improved safety.

Cllr. Welby also welcomed the hedge cutting and raised concerns about flooding in Moycullen, particularly near the playground. He further asked if the 71 LIS projects cover both North and South Conamara.

Mr. Ó Conaola confirmed that flooding in Moycullen requires attention and that the 71 LIS projects will be split equally between North and South Conamara. He also agreed to examine flooding near Moycullen Golf Club wall, described as extremely dangerous.

Cllr. Mannion thanked Mr. Ó Conaola for his efforts and noted complaints about the hedge cutting, stating that while necessary but the finish was not great.

Comh. O'Curraoin thanked Mr. Ó Conaola for the update on LIS and road works. He noted that while LIS is a valuable scheme, maintenance remains an issue when roads are not taken over by the Council. He queried who would be responsible for hedge cutting and how costs would be allocated. He also asked how the hedge-cutting budget would be divided between North and South Conamara, suggesting that councillors might consider a motion on this.

Comh. O'Curraoin further commented on Government funding for bus bypasses, expressing concern about the proposed route, which involves significant property demolition. He suggested that funds could be better directed toward road improvements.

Cllr. Lee asked about the backlog of LIS projects in Conamara.

Mr. Ó Conaola responded that 12–13 projects were completed this year, with approximately 30 remaining.

Cathaoirleach King commended the high standard of work delivered under the LIS scheme, describing it as an excellent initiative. He suggested that, going forward, consideration should be given to having the Council assume responsibility for its maintenance.

5. Vote of Sympathy / Congratulations:

Cllr. Mannion extended her condolences to the Keogh family on the passing of Ethel Keogh.

Cllr. Welby also joined in offering sympathies to the Keogh family and noted that Ethel was a highly regarded businesswoman.

Cllr Leainde expressed his condolences to the family of Patricia Mhic Dhonnacha on her recent passing, and to the family of Philomena Hernon, sister of MEP Seán Ó Neachtain. Cllr. Welby also associated himself with these sympathies.

Comh O'Curraoin wished to be associated with the condolences.

Cllr. Lee likewise expressed his sympathies on the passing of Patricia Mhic Dhonnacha.

6. AOB:

Cathaoirleach King enquired if there was any update regarding the pedestrian crossing at Clifden National School.

Mr. Finn advised that the project has gone to tender.

Cllr. Welby enquired if a draft proposal was available for the road works.

Mr. Troy responded that tenders will be issued early, following the successful process used last year to secure the best price.

Cathaoirleach King **Proposed** the next Conamara MD meeting to take place on Friday 23rd January 2026 at 10.00am

Cathaoirleach King concluded the meeting by thanking all Galway County Council staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and looked forward to another productive year of working together to reach goals. The meeting was then formally adjourned.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Serry King
23/1/2026