

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLMHE**

**Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara**

**Municipal District of Conamara**

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Meeting held on Thursday  
24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at 10a.m.**

**ILATHAIR:**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Seamus Walsh.

**BAILL:** Comh D. O'Cualain, Cllr. G. King, Cllr. E. Mannion,  
Comh P. Mac An Iomaire, Cllr. A. McKinstry,  
Comh T. Ó Curraoin.

**OIFIGH:** M. Owens, Director of Services, Derek Pender,  
A/Director of Services, D. Mitchell, Senior  
Engineer, T.J. Redmond, Executive Engineer,  
D. Ó Droighneain, Technician, B. McDonagh,  
A/Executive Engineer, I. Martyn, Administrative,  
Officer/Meetings Administrator,

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of  
Conamara held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.** **CMD21076**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. King **SECONDED** by Cllr. McKinstry and **AGREED**.

**2. To consider and adopt the 2022 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Connemara Municipal District**

**CMD21077**

Mr. Pender presented the National Roads Programme. He thanked Ms. Curran for the preparation of the Programme for the Connemara Municipal District.

He informed the meeting that a huge volume of work was delivered in 2021 and 2022 would be a challenging year. He advised that the Budget for 2022 was €39m a €10m increase on the 2021 allocation with Improvement Works just over 35m and the Greenway Project over €3m.

He outlined that the funding for N59 Clifden to Oughterard was €700,000, Moycullen Bypass 23m, N59 Bunnakill to Claremount €1m and Maam Cross to Bunnakill €100,000. Road Maintenance National Primary/Secondary Road €132,712.

He advised that Transport Infrastructure Ireland approved funding for a Greenway Team consisting of a Senior Executive Engineer, Two Executive Engineers and a Technician and the Team will be in place in 4 – 6 weeks.

He thanked Mr. Lydon for his work on progressing the Greenway Project and he said he would be part of the Greenway Team.

Mr. Mitchell went through the Regional and Local Roads Work Programme in detail.

He thanked the outside staff for their work over the weekend in relation to the storm event.

Cllr. King enquired in relation to projects under the Community Involvement Scheme and L.I.S. Scheme.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the projects included improvement works at junctions and set back of walls. He said there was no confirmation regarding funding for the L.I.S. Scheme but there are 180 Schemes on file.

Cllr. McKinstry enquired regarding footpaths being re-built with the huge investment under Active Travel Grants.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the 7.8m funding under Active Travel is not all about footpaths as it includes minor repairs, traffic management and improvement works to footpaths in towns and villages and the funding was welcome to address many issues in our towns and villages.

Cllr. McKinstry enquired regarding the Section 85 with Galway City Council in progressing the Salthill Greenway. He said that the cycleway from Salthill to Bearna needs to be progressed including hiring consultants to do a scope and go to public consultation.

Mr. Pender responded that the Section 85 with Galway City Council was to progress the Salthill to Bearna Greenway and the Department of Transport had given a list of schemes to Transport Infrastructure Ireland but it was not included. He advised that he would contact Galway City Council for an update.

Cllr. McKinstry enquired regarding Climate Change and if G.I.S records of the surface water network and capacity is being recorded.

Mr. Mitchell replied that each scheme has a suite of documents with details of what it is going into the ground and he would look at uploading same to G.I.S.

Comh Ó Curraoin thanked the staff for the Roads Programme and he was pleased to see funding for Derrartha Road and footpath and for the Greenway. He advised that consultation with landowners is very important including contacting the landowners and holding public meetings. He said that Greenways are necessary but the Salthill Greenway was in the wrong location. He suggested that other routes should have been selected and he advised that landowners are willing to give 15m of their land from Mags Boreen to Bearna Pier. He expressed his disappointment with the Notice of Motion Monies but hoped it would be back next year.

Cllr. Mannion thanked the Director of Service and staff of the Roads Section and outside workers for a very positive programme. She expressed her disappointment with the challenge to the decision in relation to the Galway City Ring Road and enquired if the funding from the Ring Road could be re-allocated. She acknowledged the €150,000 funding for the Causeways and she enquired regarding works. She thanked Mr. Lydon for his work on the Greenway. She expressed her concern regarding the erection of Cycle Safe Passing signs as the roads were not wide enough and she said the Active Travel funding was very positive.

Cllr. Mannion advised that she had a meeting with the Local Community Group regarding flooding of the N.59 and she enquired about Pedestrian Crossings at Maam Cross and Letterfrack Village.

Mr. Pender replied that the funding for the Ring Road could not be re-allocated as there were legal costs and other costs involved.

He advised that Maam Cross was taken off the Transport Infrastructure Ireland programme and a final decision will be made regarding the funding of €150,000 for

Oughterard Bridge. He said that correspondence had been received in relation to flooding in the vicinity of Kylemore Bridge and a meeting would be facilitated regarding same.

In relation to a pedestrian crossing in Letterfrack, Traffic Surveys and Pedestrian Surveys will have to be carried out and a request for funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Cllr. Mac An Iomaire complimented the roads staff for the presentation and the staff in the Connemara Area. He enquired about funding for Cuan Na Loinge as it is very dangerous in high tide and he questioned the decrease in funding for Lettermore Causeways from €400,000 to €300,000.

Mr. Mitchell confirmed that an application for funding for Cuan Na Loinge was made under the Climate Action Grant but it was not successful. He advised that funding would be provided to carry out the works on the Lettermore Causeways.

Comh. Ó Cualainn welcomed the €10m increase in funding. He expressed his concern with the erection of cycleway signage and said the R336 road was too narrow and drivers will be unable to overtake cyclists.

He questioned the reduction of funding of €750,000 for the strategic grant and he stated that the pedestrian crossing at Furbo National School should be considered.

Comh Ó Cualainn told the meeting that he was unsure about the decrease in funding for the causeways and he requested details of expenditure. He recommended a public consultation should be held to inform people regarding the work programme.

Mr. Mitchell advised regarding the Cycleway signage that there were very few locations where the signage would be erected. He advised that the strategic grant allocation funding had been decreased by €750,00 to €250,000 and this funding would be allocated to the Athenry Ring Road.

In relation to Furbo National School he stated that the National Transport Authority contacted every school regarding the Safe to School Programme and two schools were selected in the Connemara M.D. and Furbo National School was not included for funding.

He advised that signage and lighting were not included in the Active Travel projects and safety for children regarding the set-down area was a matter for the school as facilities have been provided by the Department of Education.

Regarding the reduction of funding for the Lettermore Causways he stated that works would be carried out on a phased basis and there was no alternative as a report has

been received regarding the safety issues and the funding is not available to construct another bridge. He advised that a one-way system with traffic activated lights was the only solution.

**Item 2. To consider and adopt the 2022 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Connamara Municipal District.**

**CMD21078**

On the proposal of Comh T. Ó Curraoin and Seconded by Cllr. Gerry King the 2022 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Connemara Municipal District was agreed.

**Item 3. Municipal Districts Allocation – To re-allocate a €10,000 contribution towards the provision of bus-parking in Oughterard to the Rosscahill/Killanin Footpath/Cycleway Doon East Enhancement Scheme**

**CMD21079**

On the proposal of Cllr. Mannion and seconded by Cllr. McKinstry it was agreed to re-allocate a €10,000 contribution towards the provision of bus-parking in Oughterard to the Rosscahill/Killanin Footpath Cycleway Doon East Enhancement Scheme.

**Item 4. Directors Busines**

**CMD21080**

Mr. McDonagh gave an update on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme on the progress to date, proposed works and the revised programme.

Cllr. Mannion thanked Mr. McDonagh for the update and she expressed relief that progress was being made.

Mr. McDonagh in reply to Cllr. King advised that the Environmental Assessments was part of the scope for the Environmental Consultants.

Cllr. McKinstry thanked Mr. McDonagh and he referenced the submission of comments on-line following the first Public Consultation.

Cllr. Walsh thanked Mr. McDonagh for the report.

**A.O.B.**

**CMD21081**

Comh. Ó Curraoin raised the issue of safety of outdoor staff during severe weather events and he referred to the tragic case of an outdoor worker with Wexford County Council who lost his life during storm Eunice. He recommended that trees along the roadway should be cut-down or trimmed back.

Cllr. King questioned if outdoor staff should go out in Yellow and Orange warning signals. He raised the issue of the number of deers in the Letterfrack/Maam Cross area and recommended that signage be erected to raise awareness.

Cllr. Walsh stated that a number of accidents had been caused by deers jumping on to the road.

Cllr. Mannion referenced a similar issue with wild goats.

Mr. Pender replied that he would consider the erection of signage to raise awareness of Deers in the Letterfrack area.

Comh O'Cualainn questioned if the members of the Fire Service were expected to go out in severe weather events and if the retained Fire Service were expected to go in ahead. He raised the issue of Carraroe Fire Station being a one pump station and he questioned if a second pump would be installed as it is the third busiest station in the County.

He raised the issue of a number of public lights not working in the area and he expressed his concern regarding the public light in the Pier which was not working for a number of months despite repeated calls and emails to Electric Sky Line.

He queried the plan for summer 2022 and he questioned if the lifeguard hours on Inis Oir would be increased to a daily service. He said that having lifeguards on Inis Oir for weekends only was not sufficient and local people were concerned.

He expressed his concern regarding the condition of the public toilets in Spiddal and Trá Mór and questioned if there was funding available to improve the facilities.

Mr. Owens replied that the Summer Ready Report would be on the Agenda for the April Plenary Meeting with an outline of the service levels to be provided and that the budget for 2022 retained some of the additional funding provided for enhanced service levels during Summer 2021.

Regarding water safety he stated that the additional hours will be maintained but it would not be possible to provide a lifeguard on Inis Oir on a daily basis within the level of funding allocation in the budget and therefore it would be necessary for the service to remain a weekend service.

In relation to the Fire Service he advised that he would invite the Chief Fire Officer to attend a meeting of the Municipal District.

Mr. Mitchell responded regarding the public lighting that usually lights are replaced quickly and he would follow-up with Ms. Holland in the roads section.

Cllr. Mac An Iomaire enquired in relation to the provision of Bus Shelters.

Mr. Pender replied that there was a Bus Shelter Programme and it was difficult to find locations along the N59 route as an area of 6m of land is required to erect a bus shelter. He advised that submissions for funding had been made to the National Transport Authority and approval is awaited. He added that the Bus Shelter in Rosmuc will be funded from our own resources.

Cllr. Mannion suggested that the Summer Ready Programme should be considered at the Municipal District Meeting.

Mr. Owens replied that the plan will reflect the full service levels to be delivered in 2022. He said that work had commenced in the developing the 2022 report and it is intended to present the plan to the April Meeting of Pleanary Council.

### CHRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach:

Date:

Seamus Walsh  
1/4/2022

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