

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

## Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

## Municipal District of Conamara

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Meeting held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
September 2023 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.**

**I LATHAIR:**

**CATHAORILEACH:** Cllr. N. Thomas

**BAILL:** Cllr. E. Mannion, Comh T. Ó Curraion, Comh Mac  
An Iomaire, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. A. Mc Kinstry,  
Comh Dáithi Ó Cualáin, & Cllr. T. Welby

**OIFIGH:** M. Owens, DOS, I. Martyn, A.O. Meetings  
Administrator, T.J Redmond A/SEE, N.  
O'Conaola, E.E., B. McDonagh E.E., L. Tierney  
E.Technician, R Dooley, C.O.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal  
District of Conamara held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023** **CMD 21178**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. S. Walsh, **SECONDED** by Comh Dáithi Ó Cualáin and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Mannion expressed her concerns with the crash barriers on the N59 she said that it is still very dangerous and more work needs to be carried out.

Comh O'Cualainn said that the reduced speed limits on the R336 is not working and now the speed limit is going to be reduced further.

Cllr. Thomas concurred that it will not work.

Cllr. Welby said that no thought had been put into the proposals on speed limit reduction.

Cllr. McKinstry said the proposed speed limit reductions were much the same as across Europe.

Cllr. Mannion enquired how the changes in the national speedlimit policy would impact on Galway County Council's plans.

Comh Mac An Iomaire added that on a recent trip from Dublin it took him 2 hrs to get to the east side of the city but another 2.5hrs to get to Rossaveal and this would affect jobs in the area.

Mr. Pendergast replied that the Department of Transport had been contacted seeking guidance regarding the speed limit issue.

**2. Update Clifden Flood Relief Scheme**

**CMD 21180**

Mr. McDonagh presented a brief update on the Flood Relief Scheme.

He advised that the next Public Consultation meeting would take place before the end of the year. He said that while there had been heavy rainfall events there had been no flooding issues in the area and he advised that regular updates have been given to residents and businesses.

Cllr. Mannion stressed the importance of ongoing consultation with local

residents.

Cllr. McKinstry said it was important to look back at historical records in relation to flooding in the Clifden area.

Comh Tomas O'Curraoin said that back through the decades the land drains in place were regularly maintained.

### 3. Update Pedestrian Bridge Oughterard

CMD 21180

Cllr. Walsh told the meeting that there was a lack of information with the NPWS regarding the bridge. He said a meeting needs to take place with the NPWS, Galway County Council and the Members.

Mr. Owens replied that there had been correspondence between the Council and NPWS regarding a meeting and the NPWS had indicated that they would meet with officers of Galway County Council.

Cllr. McKinstry said that the meeting should be held as soon as possible to establish their concerns with the proposed pedestrian bridge.

Cllr. Thomas said that worthwhile projects such as the Oughterard Pedestrian bridge were being crippled with restrictions.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McKinstry and **seconded** by Cllr. Walsh it was **agreed** to seek a meeting with the NPWS on the proposed footbridge for Oughterard.

### 4. Hedgetrimming

CMD 21181

Cllr. Thomas enquired regarding Galway County Council's policy on hedgetrimming.

Cllr. Mannion queried areas in which hedgetrimming is taking place and Galway County Council's plan for hedgetrimming.

Mr. Redmond replied that T.I.I. provide funding for the bus routes but there is no specific budget for hedgetrimming on secondary roads. He advised that the hedgetrimming will commence at the end of September and road junctions will be the priority.

Comh O'Cualainn expressed his concern that the landowners had responsibility for hedgetrimming.

Cllr. Welby stated that there should be a county wide policy on hedgetrimming and Cllr. McKinstry concurred.

Mr. Owens replied that the Infrastructure and Operations SPC would have to formulate a county wide policy.

He added that there is funding in the budget for NOM monies for maintenance/hedgetrimming.

5. **Municipal District of Connemara Director's Business** **CMD 21181**

Mr. Owens circulated an update from the National Roads Projects Office detailing progress on the different schemes.

**Summer Ready**

Mr. Owens advised that Galway County Council would be advancing a plan for the provision of more car parking spaces at key locations close to the popular tourist beaches. He said that funds have been made available for the purchase of such lands.

He said that the Council would be liaising with the Gardai regarding areas where there was congestion and parking issues and they would be looking at acquiring extra land at these locations.

He advised that a meeting was held with the Chamber of Commerce in Clifden regarding the Galway City Ring Road and Planning & Development.

Cllr. Mannion welcomed the proposals for the provision of more car-parking facilities and the support of the Gardai in a joined-up effort regarding the car-parking and congestion issues.

Comh Ó Cualáin expressed his concerns regarding the parking of campervans in An Spidéal.

Cllr. Mannion recommended a national policy for campervans.

Comh Mac An Iomaire suggested that the GAA pitches close to beaches should be used for car-parks.

Mr. Owens said that an update on the tourism strategy for the region would be provided for the next meeting and car-parking locations would be included in the strategy.

**6. Municipal District of Connemara Cathaoirleach's Business CMD 21182**

Cllr. Thomas enquired regarding safety issues at the junction at Homefarm on the Moycullen overpass.

He highlighted the works being carried out on the new bridges on the N59 and queried regarding the funding for same.

**7. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations CMD 21183**

Cllr. Welby wished to convey his sympathies to the family of Mick Molloy.

Mick was one of Ireland's greatest long-distance athletes, who held a track world record in 1974. He also represented Ireland in the Marathon at the 1968 Mexico Olympics and was a winner of 15 All-Ireland gold medals at various distances.

Cllr. Noel Thomas added his sympathies.

Cllr. Thomas wished to congratulate Fiona Murtagh on qualifying for the Paris Olympics after she finished second in the Women's Paris World Cup Championship semi-final in Belgrade on the 7th of September.

8. A.O.B

CMD 21184

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Mannion and **seconded** by Cllr. Welby it was **agreed** that a pedestrian crossing and bus shelter be provided in Letterfrack village.

Cllr. Welby requested an update on bus-parking in Oughterard for the next meeting.

Comh O'Cualainn queried in relation to Hanleys crossroads at Tir na Fhia Church.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Conamara MD would take place on 13th October 2023 at 10:00am.

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Signed: Neil Thomas

Date: 12/1/23