

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHONAMARA

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONMARA HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON FRIDAY 08<sup>th</sup> of DECEMBER 2023 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  
*Apologies: Comh. Mac An Iomaire*

**OIFIGH:** Mr. M. Owens DoS, Ms. R. Dooley CO, Ms. R. Lowe SE, Mr. T.J. Redmond SEE, Mr. N. O' Conaola EE, Ms. S. Duffy SEE, Ms. A. Spelman AO

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**CMD 21119**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Comh T. Ó Curraion and seconded by Cllr. G. King.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**CMD 21120**

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Comh T. Ó Curraion and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh.

**Matters Arising**

**CMD 21121**

Cllr. T. Welby sought a clarification of the minutes to reflect that he did not request a non-technical report in relation to the proposal for traffic lights at Oughterard Bridge.

Cllr. G. King queried if it is possible to cut back 2 to 3 meters of hedges on the N59. Cllr. G. King highlighted that three cuts are required, and that National Routes need to be prioritised. Cllr. G. King requested an update on the N59 Leenane to Ballina stretch. In response to Cllr. King, Ms. R. Lowe confirmed that the company Colas have the contract for signage on the N59.

Cllr. A. McKinstry requested an update on the Active Travel Programme. In response Ms. R. Lowe confirmed that Ms. P. Higgins will give a presentation and highlighted that the Active Travel Programme is separate to the Greenway Project.

Cllr. E. Mannion requested a traffic management plan for Letterfrack. That both Letterfrack and Clonbur are very busy. Cllr. T. Welby concurred and highlighted that a crossing is required in Clonbur. In response Ms. R. Lowe said that there currently is no funding in place for a traffic management plan in Letterfrack.

Cllr. S. Walsh queried the signage at Bunakill where there is a sign to turn right although Bunakill also on the left.

Cllr. T. Welby concurred with Cllr. G. King regarding the hedge cutting and expressed concern that the hedge trimming being carried out is not efficient that a deeper cut is required; the local roads are becoming tunnels of vegetation, he queried is it the landowner's responsibility to cut the hedges?

Cllr. Thomas stated that if buses, trucks, and other large vehicles are damaged then the landowner is liable. He also stated that this issue is advertised on an annual basis.

Cllr. E. Mannion suggested that a more vigorous campaign be rolled out to create awareness.

Comh. T. Ó Curraoin stated that the gorse and furze grow quickly and perhaps that landowners are not aware of their responsibilities; and that perhaps a deeper cut is required.

Ms. R. Lowe responded that hedge cutting is carried out as a safety measure, the public is informed regarding responsibilities by way of media notifications and the landowner is ultimately responsible for hedge cutting on their land.

**Declaration of a Road to be a public road: Bun Na hAbhann, Contae na Gaillimhe**

**CMD 21122**

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed that the road commencing at junction with R-340-479 (481,353,740583) in the townland of Bun na hAbhann and extending East for a distance of 146m in the townland of Bun na hAbhann and finishing at (481485, 740559) in the townland of Bun na hAbhann be declared a public road, the statutory process having been complied with.

**Declaration of a Road to be a public road: Pier Road, Oughterard**

**CMD 21123**

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby, seconded by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed that the continuation of existing local road LT53342 (E513, 432; N743,741) in the townland of Lemonfield and extending South for a distance of 50m in the townland of Lemonfield and finishing at (E513437; 743694) in the townland of Lemonfield, be declared a public road, the statutory process having been complied with.

**Kylemore Bridge Works – Update**

**CMD 21124**

Ms. S. Duffy S.E.E. provided an update to the Councillors regarding Kylemore Bridge Works; She stated that a flood warning system has been installed to inform road users. Cllr. E. Mannion requested an update regarding a more permanent solution following on from the summer 2022 emergency works. Ms. S. Duffy confirmed that tender has been progressed for technical advice on the project to achieve a long-term solution. Cllr. A. McKinstry queried if environmental concerns are being addressed; Ms. S. Duffy confirmed that environmental

issues are included in the tendering process. Cllr. King expressed his gratitude for the works carried out as they have made peoples lives easier.

**Municipal Districts Allocation – To re-allocate a €10,000 allocation towards the Community Playground Oughterard (Corribdale Park)**

**CMD 21125**

Cllr. T. Welby withdrew from the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

The motion to allocated €10,000 towards the Community Playground in Corribdale Park was proposed by Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion and agreed. Mr. Owens clarified with the agreement of the Members that the funding subject to all necessary requirements being met would be payable to Corribdale Grounds CLG.

Cllr. T. Welby rejoined the meeting.

**Bus Parking Oughterard**

**CMD 21126**

Mr. T.J. Redmond informed the meeting that a Road Safety Audit is currently in progress in relating to the junction with the N59. Cllr. T. Welby welcomed the update and requested that this item to be discussed at every meeting to receive updates.

**Update on hedgecutting/gorse clearing programme for the N59**

**CMD 21127**

Cllr. N. Thomas stated this item was adequately discussed earlier in the meeting and agreed by all to move to the next item on the agenda.

**Deer Crossing Signage on the N59**

**CMD 21128**

Cllr. G. King said the population of deer has grown significantly and more signage is required not only on the N59, but accidents are also accruing on other roads. The Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue has recently confirmed the deer culling is planned across the country.

Cllr. E. Mannion welcomed this recommendation and suggested Galway County Council write to the Minister to ensure Connemara is included as a priority due to level of accidents occurring. Cllr. E. Mannion referred to wild goats being a danger and a nuisance on our roads.

Cllr. T. Welby concurred with comments made by other members. Since upgrade of the N59 more signage is urgently required.

Cllr. A. McKinstry enquired if it is possible to deliberately plan around migration routes of the deer. If we are aware of locations of issue signage should be placed in these areas.

Cllr. S. Walsh agreed with Cllr. King and is aware of accidents happening, deer being killed. Cllr. A. McKinstry is correct in his suggestion to place signage in hot spot areas and areas where accidents have previously occurred.

Cllr. E. Mannion queried if anyone had heard of a solar deer repellent device?

Cllr. N. Thomas confirmed he knows of the device which submits a sound to deter deer, however its effectiveness is not guaranteed.

Comh. T. Ó Curraion stated that the deer are more present during Winter months and queried whether they can be fenced in in some way during this time.

Cllr. G. King stated that more signage is required at hot spots.

In response Ms. R. Lowe stated that fencing may not be covered by funding and may not be effective given the height deer can jump, however Mr. T.J. Redmond has placed an order for more signage this should be in place by Christmas.

Cllr. N. Thomas asked that members inform Ms. R. Lowe of any areas of concern that requires signage.

### **Accessing Canals and Blueways**

CMD 21129

Cllr. A. McKinstry spoke about access and parking available at Blueways and the lack of same and the need to provide parking.

Cllr. N. Thomas agreed with Cllr. A. McKinstry and added we have areas of great interest and facilities need to be improved for the public's ease of use. Mr. N. O' Conaola agreed to meet on site with Cllr. N. Thomas and Cllr. A. McKinstry to discuss further.

### Cathaoirleach's Business

CMD 21130

Cllr. N. Thomas expressed his gratitude for the recent works carried out on the new road - Moycullen bypass. In relation to the new road from Homefarm to Tullykyne Cllr. N. Thomas expressed his concern about poor visibility on the road and requested if anything can be done for example cats' eyes, reflectors to distinguish between verge and road.

Cllr. N. Thomas queried if the road through Moycullen will still be considered under the Winter Maintenance plan as it will no longer be a national road as the Bypass is opening on Monday.

In response to Cllr. Thomas first query Ms. Lowe agreed to liaise with the NRDO and arrange for an audit to be carried out to improve visibility on the road. In response to Cllr. Thomas second query Ms. Lowe will follow up with Mr. Prendergast for an update.

### Any Other Business

CMD 21131

Cllr. E. Mannion asked that a review take place of the routes that are prioritized on the Winter Maintenance Programme. Cllr. E. Mannion highlighted that City Link announced extra services in the Conamara area and queried the installation of bus shelters along the routes.

Cllr. S. Walsh mentioned that the Glynsk Road from Cashel to Carna was in a dangerous state and asked that the Engineer for the area review the issues. Cllr. S. Walsh said that there were many potholes along the N59 near Loughannon.

Cllr. T. Welby requested an update on the provision of a bus shelter in Oughterard. He welcomed the Moycullen By-pass as the largest infrastructure project in the M.D. He stated that a complete up grade of the N59 from Powers Quarry to the Gateway Hotel was required and could this be brought to the attention of the TII.

Cllr. G. King mentioned that the R340 road needs attention, he also queried whether the Cleggan junction, Ballyconneely and Roundstone roads could be added the Winter Maintenance Programme.

Comh. T. Ó Curraion stated the city bus service should be extended to Barna and that bus shelters are required.

Cllr. N. Thomas concurred with the comments made by members in relation to the bus shelters. And emphasised the necessity to progress on this issue due to the increase in demand on public transport.

Comh. D. Ó Cualáin welcomed the 424-bus service which is operated on an hourly basis to Carraroe. However, he queried if this was sufficient. Comh. D. Ó Cualáin stated that bus shelters in Inverin and Costello are welcomed, which was progress with funding provided by Comh. D. Ó Cualáin and Comh. Mac An Iomaire. Comh. D. Ó Cualáin requested an update on the Safe Routes to School Programme for Furbo and Salerno. He also enquired about the viability of a salt depot location in Connemara rather than the city.

Cllr. A. McKinstry concurred with the other members in relation to the necessity for bus shelters. Cllr. A. McKinstry stated that the Loughrea M.D. are using allocations to fund salting/gritting bins and queried if that is possible in Conamara M.D. Cllr. E. Mannion commended the imminent opening of the Moycullen By-pass and commended Senator Sean

Kyne and being an advocate for the project. Cllr. E. Mannion requested an update on bus shelters for January.

Cllr. N. Thomas raised concerns of tailbacks on N59 and queried if it was possible to implement a bus corridor along N59, that a pinch point exists at Killeen House and could this be placed on next agenda for discussion.

Cllr S. Walsh agreed with Cllr. N. Thomas regarding the implementation of a bus corridor. It was agreed to include the matter as an agenda item for the January meeting to allow for further consideration.

In response to the queries raised by the Cllrs. Ms R Lowe stated that Cllrs can allocate a sum of money from notice of motion monies for salt bins and salt – she confirmed that a follow-up information email would be sent to Cllrs. regarding this and that the cost was approximately €1,150 for the bin, salt, and installation. Ms. R Lowe asked the members to make known to Mr. T Prendergast the problematic areas that require salting however to be cognisant that the route selection under the Winter Maintenance programme is designed to optimise use of the equipment, and that cost determines the extent of the programme. Ms. R. Lowe went on to confirm that the priority locations are being identified for bus shelters. However, issues can arise with space and position in relation to the NTA standards, the more readily identifiable locations will be progressed in the first instance and welcomed Cllrs to make location suggestions.

Mr. T.J. Redmond stated that the R340 is not neglected and that issues will be addressed.

Mr. N. O' Conaola stated that the feedback has been provided from the Carraroe office in relation to the Safe Routes to School Programme and that collaboration is taking place with the schools. Ms. R. Lowe added that the Cllrs will be informed when a draft Safe Routes to School proposal is in place.

Cllr E. Mannion proposed 'that Connemara M.D. write to the Minister Eamon Ryan and ask that he publicly support Galway Ring Road as he did for the Adare By-Pass. The delays in the delivery of the ring road are hindering the development of Galway City and Connemara'.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. T. Welby and agreed to write to the Minister as outlined.

Cllr. Mannion requested that an update on the proposed upgrade of the N59 Bunakill to Oughterard be included on the agenda for the January meeting.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach)

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(Date)

