

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

## Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

## Municipal District of Conamara

Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Meeting held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.

**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 Cllr. G.  
King

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

**I LATHAIR:**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKinstry and seconded by Cllr. Walsh a minute's silence  
was held for the people affected by the conflict in Israel/Gaza.

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 21111

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Comh O Curraoin and **AGREED**.

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr. McKinstry requested a correction of the Minutes dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. He said it was important to look back at historical records and look forward using climate change projections when examining the changes that may cause an increase in the risk of flooding.

Cllr. King told the meeting that the N59 is a national route which is now in a very dangerous condition for all road users. He said the barrier and broken yellow lines along the roadside are not visible due to hedge growth. He enquired regarding the plan in place and the responses being received from TII.

Cllr. Mannion requested an update on the traffic management plan for Letterfrack.

Comh. Ó Cualáin said that the hedge cutting always starts from the city outwards and suggested that this be alternated every second year with the work starting in the west and moving in to the city. He expressed his concern that there may not be sufficient funding to cover hedge cutting in all areas.

Cllr. Welby referenced that Mr. Owens stated at a previous meeting that funds had been secured to purchase lands for car parking spaces on popular beaches. He advised that the Council owns the land at Lettergesh Beach, and it is possible for proposed works on the provision of car parking to proceed.

Mr. Redmond in response to Cllr. Kings query said that TII provide funding to Galway County Council for hedge trimming and a contractor is being appointed.

Referring to Comh Ó' Cualain's query he said that all areas would receive some funding for verge-trimming and work is already underway on some routes.

In response to Cllr. Mannion's query the pedestrian crossing will be followed up with the National Roads Project Office.

Mr. Pender added that the barrier along the N59 will be visible when the hedge trimming has been carried out.

### **Part VIII Pedestrian Bridge Oughterard**

**CMD 21112**

Mr. Pender clarified that the Part VIII Pedestrian Bridge, Oughterard listed as an item on the agenda is to allow for an information/update only and a vote will not be taken at today's meeting.

Mr. Devaney gave a detailed description of the proposed works, and he advised that a workshop will be arranged for the Municipal District Members. He advised that there is a health and safety issue with the bridge currently as there are two schools on one side and there are high numbers of pedestrians crossing the bridge. The main reason for having lights is the potential risk to children crossing the road to get to school and as the construction of this bridge will be in a number of years pedestrian lights are required at this time.

He said there is no space for a dedicated footpath on the bridge and traffic lights will give sufficient time to cross at busy school times. Traffic Lights to let people cross will lead to delay but an acceptable amount of delay for the safety of children to cross the road.

Mr. Pender said that in parallel with the proposals on the lights that plans for the new pedestrian bridge were being drawn up by the consultant. However, he added that with currently no pedestrian facilities on the bridge a safe mechanism needed to be put in place for people to cross. He envisages the lights will help alleviate the congestion on the bridge as parents may not drive their children to school if they have a safe crossing.

Cllr. Welby questioned the progress of the Part VII planning application and stated that there was no technical report on display. He requested a technical report detailing the sequence of the lights as he was advised that the lights will remain red for six minutes.

Mr. Pender said that the sequence of the lights can be changed and adapted using a trial and error type process. He said that a non-technical report will be

presented at a workshop to the members before the next meeting. He said that a Part VII planning application in relation to the lights would be presented to the MD in the next number of weeks.

Cllr. Mannion said the most important issue is the safety of children and everyone wants the pedestrian bridge constructed as soon as possible.

Cllr. King requested a timescale for the construction of the bridge.

Comh Mac An Iomaire said that there were fears it could be another ten years before the bridge is built.

Mr. Devaney replied that the proposed bridge could take two to three years from date of commencement and two previous attempts failed due to environmental constraints. He said that it would take approximately one year before the new pedestrian bridge options were chosen.

Mr. Pender said that the Council had absolutely no problem with the National Parks & Wildlife who had been proactively involved with the project.

Cllr. Thomas said that the people of Oughterard had lost confidence in the process.

Mr. Pender in relation to a question from Cllr Walsh as regards the possibility of losing funding if the new footbridge was moved away from the existing structure advised that the funding would not be lost regardless of the location.

Cllr. Walsh and Comh Ó Curraoin enquired where responsibility lies in relation to road accidents.

Cllr. Mc Kinstry said the responsibility is on the Council if we know something to be unsafe it must be revisited in order to be deemed safe this responsibility lies with all of us.

Mr. Pender replied that traffic accidents on the road would be a matter for An Garda Síochána and added that he could not comment on legal or liability issues.

The Cathaoirleach suspended the meeting for ten minutes following an exchange between Cllr. Welby and Cllr. Walsh over the proposed Oughterard traffic lights

and bridge proposals which impeded the orderly transaction of business of the meeting.

On the resumption of the meeting, Comh. Mac An Iomaire and Cllr. Walsh enquired regarding a time frame for the traffic lights.

Comh O'Curraoin stated that a road, drain or bridge cannot be built in Connamara without getting permission from Europe or central government. He said the people of Ireland were being denied what the 1916 Proclamation stood for.

Mr. Pender in response to Comh Mac An Iomaire and Cllr. Walsh said that this is dependent on the time scale for the footbridge.

In reply to Cllr. Welby he said an update on the Part VII planning application will be provided at the workshop prior to the next meeting.

#### **Re-allocation of €10,000 funds to Oughterard Playground    CMD 21113**

Cllr. Walsh wished to re-allocate funding in amount of €10,000 to the Oughterard playground. He said he was contacted by the members of the community seeking funding for a new zip wire and foam ground for the playground.

Cllr. Welby advised that he is chair of the Corribdale Park and he confirmed that the funding is not required. He enquired if the funding could be used for payment of an ESB bill in amount of €2,500.

Following the contribution from Cllr. Welby, the Cathaoirleach advised that Cllr. Welby may wish to consider the potential for a conflict of interest. Cllr. Welby acknowledged a potential conflict of interest due to his involvement with Corribdale Park, apologised and withdrew from the meeting for the remainder of the consideration of the item.

Mr. Owens stated that the allocation of funding was given to each Municipal District for capital investment. He advised that the €10,000 reallocation of funding is being made available by Cllr. Walsh and should be used for enhancement works and that it would not be appropriate to avail of the funding for payment of an electricity bill.

Following discussion, it was agreed to defer further consideration of the matter to the next meeting.

**Bus Parking Oughterard**

**CMD 21114**

Mr. Redmond gave an update on Bus Parking in Oughterard. He advised that a consultant was appointed to complete Stage 1 and Stage 2.

**Pedestrian Crossing Cornamona**

**CMD 21115**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Welby and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mannion it was agreed that a pedestrian crossing be provided in the village of Cornamona as the schools are on one side and the playground is on the other and a lot of children are in the area in summertime attending Irish College.

Cllr. Mannion advised that Traffic calming measures are required in Clonbur and Roundstone.

Mr. Redmond replied that he would provide an update for the next meeting.

Cllr. Thomas expressed his concern with the speed of traffic in the Homefarm area of Moycullen and requested that a pedestrian footpath be provided in this area.

Cllr. McKinstry also asked that the provision of separate cycle lanes be provided on the Homefarm road and bypass route. He said that under the Active Travel initiative linking up this area in Moycullen with the Connemara Greenway, should be considered.

Mr. Redmond replied that no definite linkups with the Greenway could be planned for until the exact route of the facility was finalised.

**Municipal District of Conamara Cathaorileach's Business**

**CMD 21116**

Cllr. Thomas expressed his concern with the gullies and kerbing along the approach road to Moycullen village as the town is losing points in the tidy towns competition.

Comh. Ó Curraion said it is a problem everywhere and he has noticed it in Galway city. He said the old system was much better as the gullies could be easily cleaned which prevented overgrowth.

**Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

**CMD 21117**

Cllr. King wished to convey his congratulations to the Grainne Mhaols Junior Ladies Football Team on winning the All-Ireland Junior Cycle and he wished them luck playing in the County Final this weekend.

**A.O.B.**

**CMD 21118**

Comh. Mac An Iomaire welcomed the bus shelters in Seipeal an Chnoic and Cashla but expressed disappointment that there was no mention of bus shelters being provided in Bearna & An Spidéal which are busy locations and need to be included in any future plans. He requested an update on the €20,000 funding provided.

Cllr. Mannion requested an update on the flooding at Kylemore Bridge for the next meeting.

Comh. Ó Curraion questioned the commitment of Bus Eireann in the provision of bus shelters in areas such as Bearna and An Spidéal.

Mr. Ó'Conghaile responded that it should be possible to include plans for bus shelters in Bearna and An Spidéal.

Cllr. Mc Kinstry requested a meeting with Active Travel regarding the Greenway in Moycullen.

Mr. Redmond responded that the preferred route will have to be selected first then plans can be made for the greenway in Moycullen.

Cllr. Thomas concluded the meeting and arranged the next meeting for the 10th of November following the Budget Meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Conamara MD would take place on 10th November 2023 at 10.00am

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Signed: *Paul Thomas*

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

