

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

Municipal District of Conamara

Minutes of the Municipal District of Conamara Meeting

**held on Thursday 18th May, 2023 at 11.00am, in the Seanscoil Sailearna,
Indreabhan.**

ILATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Comh. Dáithi Ó Cualáin

BAILL: Cllr. E. Mannion, Comh. T. Ó Curraoin, Comh. Mac An Iomaire, Cllr. N. Thomas, Cllr. A. Mc Kinstry, Cllr. G. King, Cllr. S. Walsh & Cllr. T. Welby.

OIFIGH: M. Owens, Director of Services, I. Martyn, Administrative Officer/Meetings Administrator, TJ, Redmond, Senior Executive Engineer, T. Prendergast, Senior Engineer, D. O'Droighneain, Executive Engineer, L O'Donnell, Assistant Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held 17th February 2023. **CMD 21147**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 17th February, 2023 were **PROPOSED** by Comh. T O'Curraoin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. G. King and **AGREED**.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on 2nd March 2023.

CMD 21148

The Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Thursday 2nd March, 2023 were **PROPOSED** by Comh. T O'Curraoin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. G. King and **AGREED**.

Matters Arising.

Cllr. E. Mannion advised that the Chamber of Commerce held a meeting regarding the Clifden Town Regeneration Project which was very positive.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire requested to have it noted that Comh O'Curraoin and Comh Mac An Iomaire had provided the funding for the Declaration of Roads to be public roads at An Cheathrú and Doiriú Theas.

Mr. Prendergast, in reply to Comh. Mac An Iomaire, advised that preparation is ongoing by way of the design team for Durrow Bridge.

Comh. O'Curraoin raised concerns regarding the progress of works on the bridges at Leitirmór. Mr. Redmond responded that the design of the scheme is currently with the contractors and the situation is complex owing to the protected status of the structures.

Comh. O' Curraoin stressed the importance of the public being consulted with in advance of any works or traffic lights being utilised. Comh. Mac An Iomaire echoed these sentiments. Mr. Redmond acknowledged that public consultation was necessary before any works were finalised.

Mr. Redmond in reply to Cllr. Welby confirmed that there was no update in relation to the proposal for traffic lights at Oughterard.

Comh. O' Curraoin highlighted the concerns of the local community regarding traffic lights at Oughterard and the width of the bridge.

Cllr. Mannion suggested that the traffic lights plan should be presented to the Municipal District prior to going on public display.

Cllr. Walsh referenced that a footbridge was proposed ten years ago but that NPWS requirements have delayed the advancement.

Cllr. King concurred with Cllr. Walsh in respect of the delays and agreed a footbridge is the only solution.

Cllr. Thomas reaffirmed the comments of Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. King in terms of a footbridge being the way forward and referenced the NPWS concerns regarding the Owenriff river.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. McKinstry, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh and **AGREED** that *“That the Municipal District of Conamara arrange a meeting with the National Parks and Wildlife Services on the issue of the Oughterard Pedestrian Bridge”.*

Mr. Prendergast stated that public engagement would be incorporated and central to the advance of the project by way of Part 8.

Cllr. Mannion recommended that the local community should have the opportunity to evaluate the project during public consultation.

3. Declaration of Road to be a public roads.

CMD 21149

Sceilig Ard (Skelligh Árd), An Fhairche, Contae na Gaillimhe.

Road pavement and footpath, commencing at public roads L-5306 and extending southwest for approximately 208m and ending at house No. 16 Sceilig Árd (Skellig Árd) (all in the townland of An Fhairche)

PROPOSED by Cllr. Walsh **SECONDED** by Cllr. King and **AGREED**.

Road pavement and footpath, commencing with house No.6 Sceilig Árd (Skellig Árd) and extending northwest for a distance of approximately 70m and ending at housing No.1 Sceilig Árd (Skellig Árd) (all in the townland of An Fhairche).

PROPOSED by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. King and **AGREED**.

Road commencing at junction with L-52049 (53.239593, -9.388646) in the townland of Na hAille and extending West for a distance of 175m in the townland of NahAille and finishing at (53.239290, -9.391180) in the townland of Na hAille.

PROPOSED by Cllr. Thomas **SECONDED** by Cllr. Walsh and **AGREED**.

4. Update on provision of Bus Shelters.

CMD 21150

In reply to Comh. O'Cuailáin, Mr. O' Droighneain informed the meeting that the provision of bus shelters at Casla and Inverin were at tender stage.

Mr. Redmond said that the Bearna and An Spidéal shelters were with the Active Travel Team /NTA and discussions are continuing with landowners in Bearna to accommodate same.

Comh. O' Cuailáin and Comh. Mac An Iomaire expressed concern that the members contributed NOM monies for the provision of four bus shelters but only two bus shelters were being provided. Mr. Redmond noted that every effort was made to get value for money.

In reply to Cllr. Thomas, Mr. Redmond confirmed that the Moycullen bus shelter is with the Active Travel Team pending the completion of the Moycullen bypass.

Cllr Mannion highlighted the Government policy on promoting public transport and enquired regarding the implementation of EV charging points in the area.

Cllr. Welby questioned the varying standards that are applicable at different locations and felt that the best location for Oughterard might be overlooked solely because it is not compliant with the TII guidelines.

Mr. Redmond explained that it is dependent on the road status, and as Oughterard is a National Road the TII guidelines apply. He advised that Casla and Indreabhain are not on a National Route and therefore not governed by TII guidelines and he confirmed that the Active Travel Team are examining bus shelters throughout the County.

5. Update on improvement works on R336

CMD 21151

Comh. Ó'Cualáin requested an update on the timeframe for the Feasibility Study to commence for the R336 as a timeframe of Quarter 2 was previously provided.

Mr. Prendergast updated the meeting that the position remains that there is a policy objective in the current County Development Plan per below and this is a commitment upon which the Council will follow through.

PRP 3 R 336 Bearnna -Scrib via Ros a Mhíl.

It is a policy objective of Galway County Council to support the preparation of a feasibility study in relation to the R336 within the lifetime of the plan.

Comh. Ó'Cualáin expressed concern and dissatisfaction with the reply and the current condition of the R336. He said there is a continuous white line and vehicles cannot overtake cyclists using this road. He questioned if any application for funding had been made.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire also highlighted the condition of this roadway and the continuous white line had deteriorated in sections and needed attention.

6. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business

CMD 21152

Mr. Owens informed the meeting that the Summer Ready Report would be circulated at the Plenary meeting as part of the Monthly Management Report. This will include the provision of toilets and/or refuse bins at a number of the most-visited beaches from 2nd June 2023 which will be fully detailed in the report.

Cllr. Thomas asked if the toilets and facilities at the beaches are connected to the main treatment system. He also asked if compostable toilets could be considered for use in the future.

Cllr. King highlighted that the toilets and rubbish bins at Killary need to be serviced regularly during the summer season and beyond and noted that tourists arrive to this area as early as St. Patricks weekend.

In reply to Cllrs. Mannion and Welby, Mr. Owens updated the meeting that following engagement by the SPC with a range of key stakeholders, it was decided to progress with an independent risk assessment of the 6 blue flag beaches. At present preliminary risk assessments have been undertaken on 4 of the 6 Blue Flag beaches with the 2 beaches on the islands remain to be completed. He also confirmed that the current Beach Bye-Laws will remain in situ until the adoption of the new Beach Bye-laws hopefully before the end of 2023. Mr. Owens confirmed that a full-time permanent Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer had been appointed by Galway County Council.

Cllr. King welcomed the appointment of the Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer. He stressed the importance of educating the public and creating awareness of the hazards associated with water.

Cllr. Thomas said he looked forward to the adoption of the new Beach Byelaws for the 6 Blue flag beaches.

Comh. O' Cuailáin queried if funding was sought for the upgrade of toilet facilities at Trá Doilín.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire expressed congratulations to Micheál Breathnach U15 Football Team on winning the County Féile.

9. AOB

CMD 21155

Cllr. Thomas expressed his concern regarding the road verges along the approach roads to Moycullen and enquired regarding maintenance of same.

Mr. Redmond indicated he would investigate the situation and noted that it will be addressed prior to the opening of the Moycullen bypass.

Cllr. Mannion requested an update on the N59 Bunnakill to Claremont and Clifden to Maam Cross sections of roadway for the next meeting. She also raised concerns over the installation of broadband services on Islands where there were no residents and stated that the mainland service should be the priority under the National Broadband Plan.

Cllr. King requested an update on Tourist Moorings at Killary and Roundstone. Mr. Prendergast confirmed that an inspection will be undertaken of all moorings under Galway County Council's control and repairs implemented thereafter.

Comh. O'Cuailáin enquired if there was any update on the filling of the vacancy of Area Engineer in An Cheathru Rua and the Community Warden. Mr. Prendergast indicated that interviews were being held this week and a panel would be formed for Executive Engineers. Mr. Redmond confirmed that a replacement would be sought for the community warden vacancy.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire raised concerns over the condition of the road at Seanafeistin and Derrynea following on from water upgrade works.

Mr. Redmond said that these roads works are subject to a road opening licence applications and the roads should be reinstated to their original condition.

Cllr. Mc Kinstry requested an update be sought from the Galway City Council on the progress of the Salthill to Bearna Greenway.

Dóilbhí ó cuoláin.

CHRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

