

## **COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

### **Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara** **Municipal District of Conamara**

#### **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on Friday the 18th of December 2020 @ 2.00 p.m**

#### **LLATHAIR:**

##### **Baill:**

Cllr. G. King Cathaoirleach, S. Walsh, T. O'Curraoin, T. Welby, D. Ó' Cualáin, P. Mac An Iomaire. A. McKinstry

##### **Oifigigh:**

A. Farrell, Director of Service  
J. Cullen, Director of Services  
D. Mitchell, S.E Infrastructure-Operations  
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator

##### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. N. Thomas & E. Mannion

#### **1. R-336 Bearná to Ros a Mhíl Road**

**CMD 20052**

Mr. Cullen advised that he had addressed the issue at previous Conamara Municipal District meetings held in September 2018 and February 2019. In February 2019 the M.D had decided to request the removal of the route corridors from the County Development Plan due to the negative impact they were having on landowners seeking planning permission. That decision followed consideration of the fact that the scheme had not progressed due to the level of opposition to the routes proposed. Also, the passage of time since the surveys and studies had been undertaken meant that that work would have to be redone if it were intended to go forward to planning. He referred also to the fact that the project work was undertaken with the intention of tying into the GCOB which ultimately did not get approval. It would be necessary for any alternative route to be planned having regard to the Galway City Ring Road

proposal which is different than the GCOB and which is now awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. O’Cualáin stated that the Council should not have to wait for An Bord Pleanála to make a decision on the GCRR and should be proceeding now with the preparatory work for a new scheme. He said that there were likely to be legal challenges even if the Bord made a favorable decision and that would delay the R336 even further.

Cllr McKinstry agreed there was likely to be a multiple year delay before there was a final decision on the GCRR and that it was almost certain there would be one or more legal challenges if it gets the go ahead from An Bord Pleanála. He said the impact of climate change would be a factor not just for the R336 but also for the communities north and south of the proposed road.

Cllr. O’Curraoin said he wasn’t in favour at the time because nobody should have to lose their home to facilitate a road whether it was for the GCOB or the R336 and that the Government had the power to change designations so that a route could be found that wouldn’t impact on people’s homes.

Cllr Mac An Iomaire said that the R336 was a very dangerous road and needed to be improved for safety reasons. But he said it was also vital for employment and economic development to have a road that provided proper, safe and efficient transport access to that part of Conamara.

Cllr. Welby asked if the Department were concerned about the possibility of project splitting having regard to the GCRR and the R336 and would that be a reason they wouldn’t be supportive of the R336 at this time.

Cllr. Walsh said that he had expected to see maps with routes at the meeting and was disappointed that’s not what they got. He said it didn’t need a big process and the Department shouldn’t be telling the Council what it can and can’t do.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the members for their contributions and said that for his own part he wanted to see the R336 proceed. He acknowledged that it may take time and that the right process will have to be followed or we will get nowhere. He said that if the Councilors and officials work constructively together in a positive way that will give it the best chance to get it back on the Departments agenda.

Responding to the various queries raised Mr. Cullen advised that the Council had written to the Department about the R336 and received a reply on the 15-9-2020 to the effect that the Council would have to wait until the outcome of the GCRR was finally decided before the R336 would be considered. Mr. Mitchell read the text of the correspondence to the meeting. Mr. Cullen stated also that it wasn’t simply a matter of the Council undertaking preparatory work itself in the meantime. He said there was a process to be undertaken involving strategic assessment, feasibility constraints, traffic modelling, ecology, route selection and so on. While past work undertaken would be of value, it was nonetheless dated and new issues seek as legislation changes, the GCRR and climate change will all have to be factored in. That could only be done with the approval of the Department and procurement of consulting services. In relation to the project splitting, he said he didn’t think that was a concern. He acknowledged the possibility of legal challenge and delay to any positive An Bord Pleanála

decision but said he felt that the Council would be in a very strong position to go back to the Department if the Board had issued a decision even if these were a legal challenge.

It was proposed by Comh Daithí O’Cualáin, seconded by Cllr. Alastair McKinsty and agreed to write again to the Department and request approval and funding to commence the strategic assessment for the R-336.

**2. Declaration of Road as a Public Road- Section 11 Roads Act 1993 **CMD 20053****

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Comh D. O’Cualain the road at L-52055 Lochán Beag, Indreabhán was declared to be a public road.

***CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN***