

## **COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

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

#### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on Friday the 20th of November 2020 @ 10.00 a.m**

#### **ILATHAIR:**

##### **Baill:**

Cllr. G. King Cathaoirleach, N. Thomas,  
S. Walsh, T. O'Curraoin, T. Welby, E.  
Mannion, D. Ó'Cuailáin, A. McKinstry

##### **Oifigigh:**

A. Farrell, Director of Service  
D. Mitchell, S.E Infrastructure-Operations  
P. Breathnach S.E.E Infrastructure-Operations  
T.J Redmond, Area Engineer, N. Conamara  
N. O' Canola, Area Engineer, S. Conamara  
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator

##### **Apologies:**

P. Mac An Iomaire

#### **1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 23-10-2020. CMD 20043**

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23-10-2020 was proposed by Comh. T. O'Curraoin and seconded by Comh. D. O'Cuailáin.

#### **2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 20044**

Comh. D. O'Cuailáin referred to the special meeting in regard to the reactivation of the planning process for the R-336 Bearnna-Ros a Mhíl road requested by the members 2 months ago which has yet to take place. He requested the Executive to organize it and request Department officials to attend it in order to provide clarification as regards the relevant groundwork to be done- he queried as to why the Strategic Assessment Report has to be done

again. He referred to the inclusion of the R336 in the new County Development Plan and whether part of the €600m allocation for the Ring Road could be used for the R336 if does not go ahead. Cllr. S. Walsh recommended that the 9 members have a meeting with the relevant Council engineering and administration staff to discuss the range of possibilities in regard to the planning process. Com. T. O’Curraoin advised that this discussion should include the feasibility regarding the back road route leading from the Distributor Road-Golf Club Road to the Spiddal-Moycullen Road.

### **3. Flooding at the Kylemore Bridge**

**CMD 20045**

The meeting was advised of the recurring flooding at the Kylemore Bridge on the N59 which is potentially dangerous for motorists especially at night-the members are receiving a lot of enquiries about it. The flooded road is a major safety concern following heavy rainfall and safety measures such as warning flashing lights should be installed by the Council. A discussion took place concerning the fact that the Kylemore River contains pearl mussels and therefore the Council faces major restrictions as regards remedial measures such as raising the level of a section of the road- it was suggested that the problem lies upstream with bank erosion and that landowners are not permitted to undertake drainage works on their lands. P. Breathnach advised that he had meetings with NPWS and a hydrologist concerning their opinions on a possible solution to the problem- he explained that a number of measures may be required- but the pearl mussel habitat obviously imposes constraints.

### **4. Bóthar Doire Fhearta**

**CMD 20046**

The meeting was advised that while it is acknowledged that good work has been undertaken by the Council on the remediation of the Doire Fhearta Road at An Cheathrú Rua- the local community wishes to have the remaining 300m completed and the members enquired if the Council will submit an application for funding. D. Mitchell explained the difficulty in securing funding for Specific Improvement Grants based on the analysis and criteria conducted by the Department of Transport- but he advised that the Council will submit an application for this in due course.

### **5. Ceantar na N-Oileáin**

**CMD 20047**

Cllr. D. O’Cualáin requested confirmation in regard to queries he submitted by e-mail to D. Mitchell in regard to Ceantar na n-Oileáin. These related to the application for Capital funding and the decision notified to the Council on this, the discussions concerning safety measures, the 1 way traffic system which is causing concern for the community, the other options recommended by the Consultants and the results of the testing on the samples. In response D. Mitchell advised that there has been regular correspondence with the Department on this matter and the Council has submitted a number of reports including Structural Engineering and Remedial Works and Cost Benefit Analysis outlining the various options/recommendations and constraints. The Council made an application for funding for the remediations of the causeways and bridges -but was not successful. He advised that the Council has a legal obligation to undertake safety measures including vehicle activated signals and a one- way traffic system -which is a system used throughout the County. He explained that that the signal lights change when there is vehicles on one side only to keep delays at a minimum. He stated that it is extremely difficult to get approval from the

Department for Strategic Improvement Grants. He advised that the Council will undertake remedial measures in regard to the cracks on the Bridges and apply for funding for works on the footpaths- he explained that the parapets have heritage status. Cllr. Walsh advised that the Council should consider the remediation of one bridge at a time as it may have a better chance for funding approval. He recommended that it should apply for a €1m grant for the bridge in most need of repair and consider using previous designs to lessen the costs.

## **6. Cathaoirleach's Business**

**CMD 20048**

Cllr. G. King advised that he has no items for this.

## **7. Director's Business**

**CMD 20049**

A.Farrell advised that he has no items for this

## **8. AOB**

**CMD 20050**

A discussion took place in regard to the policy implemented by the Council for the taking in charge of non-public roads. Cllr. T. Welby referred to the fact that he has an application outstanding for the past 2 years which he recently discussed with D. Mitchell and his colleagues- the matter was also raised at a Plenary Council meeting. The members referred to the fact that the Executive are being selective and are imposing restrictions on the approval of applications for taking in charge- they wish to have the current system in place adhered to as the policy is not being implemented -even though the declaration of the roads is a reserved function. The criteria for taking in charge of a non-public road includes the fact that it must be 3.3m or 10ft. wide and be of general public utility i.e must serve a minimum of 1 residence or a public facility e.g burial ground- an estimate of the cost is provided by the Area Engineer and a job code set up to be funded from NOM money. D. Mitchell advised that he understood the concerns of the Councillors- but the legislation does specify that the Council has to consider the financial implications of the proposed declaration. He explained that the funding for road maintenance is totally insufficient to fund the maintenance cycle requirements and the Council has to examine proposals on a case by case basis- issues such as the public benefit, improvements to sightlines and safety features have to be considered. He explained that the NOM allocation is funded from the road maintenance budget. He advised that anyone who constructs a house on a private road is aware that it is not in charge of the Council. A recommendation was made that the Council implements a program of works for the taking in charge of roads in the long term- it was stated that LIS funding is wasted if the roads cannot be maintained and as residents pay the LPT they cannot understand why the Council cannot maintain their roads. A. Farrell advised that the matter could be referred to the Roads SPC for consideration. D. Mitchell advised that he will re-consider the application which Cllr. Welby referred to.

## **9. Date & Venue for next Meeting**

**MD 20051**

It was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara will be held in 2021 as it is proposed to hold a special meeting to discuss the R336 in December 2020.

**CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**