

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 the 21st of February 2020 @ 10.00 a.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance.
D. Mitchell, S.E Infrastructure-Operations
F. Holland, S.E Infrastructure-Operations
P. Breathnach S.E.E Infrastructure-Operations
N. O'Canola, Area Engineer South Conamara
T. J Redmond, Area Engineer North Conamara
E. Curran, A.O Infrastructure-Operations
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator.
B. Dunne, Assistant Planner

Apologies:

1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 16-12-2019. CMD 20001

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings held on the 16-12-2019 was proposed by Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. G. King

2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 20002

Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the reference to Drum Pier, Lettermore on page 3 refers to the fact that the barriers are down and in a dangerous state- they should be put in place and made

safe. F. Holland stated that she will look into this. Cllr. G. King enquired about funding for the R-340 for 2020 and was advised by D. Mitchell that the Roads Program lists works for sections of this road -which is included on the multi-annual program and he is hopeful for increased funding in 2021. Comh. T. O’Curraoin refers to a phone call from Michael Gill from Inishmore whose deputation cannot attend the meeting due to the bad weather. He wished to raise the matter concerning the pontoons for Inishmore Harbour and the damage to the pier on Inishere. F. Holland advised that the pontoons were placed there on a temporary basis a number of years ago and she will examine the position under the FLAGS funding mechanism. She explained that a structural assessment has to be undertaken for the pier at Inishere when the weather improves. In regard to the Caladh Mór works she advised that the Council has not received formal approval for the re-appraisal and the Council referred it to the National Maritime College in Cork. She advised that she will follow up on this.

3. Declaration of Road as a Public Road- Section 11 Roads Act 1993 CMD 20003

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby, seconded by Cllr. A. McKinstry the Public Road at L-13023 Tóin le Gaoith, An Fhairche was declared to be abandoned.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh the road at L-1302 Tóin le Gaoith, An Fhairce was declared to be a public road.

The meeting was advised by D. Mitchell that the landowners adjacent to the road had agreed to this and no submissions were received in regard to the public notices advertised by the Council in the Connacht Tribune on the 17-12-2019.

4. Briefing-Upcoming Review Galway County Development Plan 2021-2027 CMD 20004

B. Dunne gave the following presentation: The County Development Plan process will begin shortly. The Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy has come into effect on the 24th January 2020- legislation outlines that the Plan must be started within 3 months of this. It is expected that an Issues Paper will be published by the 23rd of April 2020. This Issues Paper will be a high- level document requesting people/interested bodies to submit submissions on what they would like to see in the new Galway County Development Plan. There was a seminar held in July of last year where there was a presentation for new Members and returning Members. The National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy have now all come into effect and as a result the new County Development Plan will be in accordance with same. It is envisaged that the new plan would include some topics currently in the County Development Plan and some new topics. The process to complete the County Development Plan takes 99 weeks and the Planning Unit will be engaging with the public and Elected Members as much as possible during this time. This will include workshops throughout the County and we would welcome any suggestions from members on how best to do this.

At present there is preliminary background information completed in terms of gathering data etc, but the first real gathering of data will be from the submissions received on the Issues Paper. At this time and as outlined in our presentation last July it is considered that there will

be 14 settlement areas within the County Development Plan. The settlements are all serviced and can accommodate planned growth. The settlements proposed to be included are a number of existing Local Area Plans and some new settlement areas that previously had Plans in situ but have since expired i.e: Oughterard and Kinvara. In the Tuam Electoral Area it is envisaged that Headford and Dunmore will be included in the new County Plan. For settlements that we are not including in the County Plan there will be policies and objectives in the new plan to address these villages. The existing Local Area Plans that are remaining in situ are set out below. These will be reviewed once the Galway County Development Plan is adopted in late 2021/early 2022.

- Tuam,
- Ballinasloe,
- Oranmore,
- Loughrea,
- Athenry
- Gort

In addition to the preparation of the County Development Plan there will also be a review and update on the Landscape Character Assessment and also the Wind Energy Guidelines will be reviewed and will form part of the new Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy(LARES).

It is also envisaged that there will be workshops with the Elected Members when the Development Plan process begins in earnest. Unfortunately -due to our requirement to be at the Oral Hearing for the N6GCRR we are unable to present this to you, but we are available via email to arrange a meeting if you would like to clarify any issue or we will be in the office next week based on the Agenda for the Oral Hearing. However- after next week, the week beginning 3rd March 2020 we will predominately be in attendance at the Oral Hearing until it closes expected late March/early April.

Our email addresses and contact numbers are listed below:

Valarie Loughnane (Senior Planner)-vlough@galwaycoco.ie 091 509216
Brendan Dunne (Executive Planner) bdunne@galwaycoco.ie 091 509382
Brian Corcoran (Assistant Planner) bcorcoran@galwaycoco.ie 091 509311
Fiona Glynn (Assistant Planner) fglynn@galwaycoco.ie 091 509533

The elected members requested clarification in regard to the making of submissions and if the Local Area Plans will be incorporated into the County Development Plan.

5. Roads Program- 2020 & Municipal District Schedule of Works CMD 20005

D. Mitchell gave a presentation on the Roads Program 2020 which included the Municipal District of Conamara Schedule of Works. He outlined the funding for roads and bridges in Conamara as follows:

- N59 Clifden-Oughterard NS -€1 million

- N59 Moycullen Bypass NS- €1 million
- N59 Maam Cross-Bunnakill NS- €10 million
- N59 West of Letterfrack Widening NS- €1.3 million
- N59 Recess NS- €900,000
- N59 Currywongaun (East of Letterfrack) €490,000
- N59 Gowlan West Pavement- €360,000
- N59 Moyard Pavement- €240,000
- N59 Kentfield- €100,000
- Conamara Greenway-€2.6 million Clifden-Recess
- National Secondary Maintenance Conamara-€134,808.
- Restoration Improvement Grant-€3,840,133
- Restoration maintenance Grant-€721,381
- Discretionary Grant-Regional Roads Mntce-€441,000
- Discretionary Grant-Local Roads Mntce-€413,323
- Discretionary Grant-Tertiary Roads Mntce-€269,059
- Bridge Rehabilitation-€190,000
- Bridge Repairs-€90,000
- Safety Improvements R343-Carraroe-€50,000
- Safety Improvements R336-Tiernakill-€18,000
- Specific Improvement Grant-Derrartha Road -€250,000
- Drainage Works-€294,463
- Local Road Maintenance Council Funds-€320,153

The elected members welcomed the additional funding and acknowledged the work of Council staff especially those who have to work outdoors in the bad weather. The following matters were raised during the discussion on the Roads Program for 2020.

- Priority requested for a dangerous stretch of road between Derrylea and Clifden.
- Dangerous stretches on the N59 Clifden-Streamstown.
- Progress on current works on the N59 welcomed as well as the commencement of the Oral Hearing on the Galway Ring Road by An Bord Pleanála.
- Special scheme required for improvements for access roads to burial grounds -in order to be taken in charge.
- Request for Councillors to have access to the Pavement Condition Survey.
- More public lighting needed in certain areas in Conamara.
- Request that the R-336 planning process be activated again as the existing road is not fit for purpose.
- No funding for the bridges at Ceantar na n-Oileáin.
- Safety works at Carraroe welcomed.
- Request that the Council put up additional signs at the speed limit zones.

- Drainage grant welcomed-water courses on the N59 should be opened up to relieve water. There should be a budget for drainage each year to facilitate ongoing works on the main drains and rivers which are full of silt. Drains which are blocked need to be cleared.
- Lack of progress on the Moycullen Bypass-query as to what the €1 million grant is for.
- €2.6 million grant and progress on the Conamara Greenway welcomed.
- Lack of funding means that Local Roads which were repaired only a few years ago require attention again. Comment that the length of Irish roads per capita of 21.5 km is well above the European average of 9 km and therefore this impacts on funding requirements.
- Confusion in regard to the operation of the LIS scheme by the Department of Rural & Community Development. Query as to what level of funding is required by the Council to process outstanding LIS applications.
- Request that the Councillors receive the Roads Program Report well in advance of the meeting as well as the Pavement Condition index details.
- Discussion needed in regard to the details of the preparations being made by the Council in regard to flooding.
- Comment made on the €20,000 allocation for invasive species- a small change in temperature causes rapid growth of this -expansion of giant rhubarb is an example of this.
- Reference made to the proposed Barna Greenway and its inclusion in the application made by the Council to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.
- Bridge needs to be widened on the R-336 Rossaveal-Derrow.
- Comment that the R-336 needed to be resurfaced from Barna back towards the west.
- Comment that the Council needs a better method of repairing potholes -similar to what is undertaken by Eircom & Irish Water by digging them out as a square and utilise blacktop and a whacker machine. The pothole situation is bad as some are being filled 3 times a year as the work using the patching unit is only effective for a few weeks- the Council needs an ongoing program/schedule to deal with them.
- Comment that the Council should have a program whereby a few roads can be taken in charge each year and public rights of way are needed for the access roads to graveyards. Some of the non-public roads are used for the harvesting of seaweed.
- Concern in regard to the funding for the roads on the islands.

D. Mitchell advised that it a matter for T.I.I to sanction and provide funding for the works required for the N59 -which they did as regards the improvements at Derrylea. He explained that access roads into graveyards will qualify under the LIS. In regard to Public Lighting -he referred to the application in regard to the energy efficiency project where Mayo County Council is the lead Council. He stated that the re-activation of the planning process for the R-336 largely depends on the outcome of the Oral Hearing for the Galway Ring Road. He

advised that the Council applied for funding for the bridges/causeway at Ceantar na nOileáin but was unsuccessful- it will put up more signs and apply again for funding. He referred to the speed zones and advised that the Council will examine the requirements for signs. He explained that the grants for drainage works have only been provided during the past 2 years and more funding is required to address the problem of blocked drains-the drainage grant covers Regional & Local roads. He advised that documents are being prepared in regard to the tender process for the Moycullen Bypass. He stated that another stream of Gaeltacht grants such as Bóthar Aithse is needed for the roads in Conamara and the islands. He explained that the Council sent out the Road Program in advance of the meeting and a multi-annual program is placed before the elected members for their approval each year-the Council also makes submissions for additional funding. He referred to the 2 maps provided which shows an even spread of projects throughout Conamara. He explained that he agreed with the comment concerning the best methodology for the repair of potholes and the current use of DBM-he advised of a current training program in regard to road reinstatement. He explained that construction works are increasing in cost all the time and the Council is not able to fund all the current demands with the resources available to it.

The adoption of the Municipal District Schedule of Works including the Roads Program 2020 & the Environment, Housing, Recreation & Amenity Schedules of Repair and Maintenance was agreed by the elected members.

6. Provision of Burial Grounds for Conamara

CMD 20006

Comh. T. O'Curraoin Cathaoirleach advised that this item will be deferred to the next meeting as the S.E in Environment was not available to attend the meeting.

7. AOB

CMD 20007

Cllr. N. Thomas explained that Moycullen Village has a serious flooding problem due to the piping infrastructure and inadequate drainage system that requires investigation and a solution -a new drainage system and a permanent resolution is required as the village is expanding. He advised that there are a number of claims against the Council in regard to this. He also referred to the flooding at the second nursing home on the Ballinachalla-Moycullen Road as the gullies are full of silt and a work crew is required to clear them again. He enquired as to what can be done with the piping infrastructure as the staff are limited as to what they can do. N. O'Canaola advised that he is currently looking into this matter and advised that the existing piping network is deficient and part of it extends into private lands-a new design is required. D. Mitchell explained that a hydrological survey is needed for the drainage network in Moycullen and there is probably a blockage in the piping.

Comh. D. O'Cualáin referred to the 80km/h speed limit at Rossaveal School and whether it could be amended in regard to safety. He also referred to the abandonment of EIR poles close to public roads such as at Inverin. D. Mitchell explained that the speed limit at Rossaveal will be examined at the next speed limit review and that the setting back of poles is a matter for EIR who operate as a private company-they should be contacted in regard to this. He explained that the requirement to set back EIR poles to boundary walls does feature in planning conditions but EIR charge up to €3,000 for this. Cllr. N. Thomas enquired

if the Council is collecting the maintenance fees in regard to Kilronan Pier. G. Mullarkey advised that the ferry companies are being billed for this but have stopped paying and legal letters have been issued to them. Comh. T. O'Curraoin referred to the problem with horses at Dún Aenghus and D. Mitchell advised that the Council contacted the OPW in regard to this.

8. Date & Venue for Next Meeting

MD 2008

Comh. T. O'Curraoin Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Friday 24-4-2020 at 10.00 a.m at the Council Chamber and this was agreed. Some of the Councillors requested that the next meeting after this be held at a venue in Conamara. F. Holland advised that she will consider the holding of a meeting for the Islands Committee.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN