

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

Municipal District of Conamara

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 10th April 2026 at 10.00pm in the Council Chamber

I LATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. G King

BAILL: Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr M. Leainde, Comh P. Mac An Iomaire, Cllr M Lee, Cllr N. Thomas, Cllr S. Walsh, Cllr T. Welby.

OIFIGH: Uinsinn Finn Director of Services, Tom Prendergast S.E, Conrad Harley S.E, Martyn A.O. Meetings Administrator, N. O'Conaola S.E.E, Enda Gallagher S.E.E, A. O'Halloran E.E, S. Casey A.S.O

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 13th March 2026:

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Walsh and **Seconded** by Comh Leainde the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Conamara MD held on Friday 13th March 2026 were agreed.

2. Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road:

Road commencing at junction with L-5371 (53.342074, -9.158803) in the townland of Maigh Cuilinn and extending South for a distance of 320 metres in the townland of Maigh Cuilinn and finishing at (53.339640, -9.157440) in the townland of Maigh Cuilinn.

Proposed by: Cllr. Walsh and **Seconded by:** Cllr. Leainde.

Road commencing at junction with L-52031 (53.263446, -9.360996) in the townland of Coill Rua Thiar and extending North for a distance of 320 metres in the townland of Coill Rua Thiar and finishing at (53.265770, -9.358121) in the townland of Coill Rua Thiar.

Proposed by: Comh Mac An Iomaire and **Seconded by:** Cllr. Leainde.

Road commencing at junction with L-52010 (53.124049, -9.672300) in the townland of Cill Éinne and extending North for a distance of 73 metres in the townland of Cill Éinne and finishing at (53.124561, -9.672847) in the townland of Cill Éinne.

Proposed by: Comh Ó' Curraoin and **Seconded by:** Cllr. Mannion.

3. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business:

Mr. Prendergast provided an update on Kilronan Harbour. He advised that engagement had taken place with the bus drivers and the agreed changes would be incorporated into the Traffic Management Plan. He confirmed that two buses are permitted onto the pier for boat pick-ups, which is in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan that was implemented prior to the summer season.

Mr. Finn welcomed the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála granting approval for the Galway City Ring Road, noting that this is very positive for the City and County.

Cathaoirleach King, concurred and stated that it was the correct decision.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cllr. Walsh welcomed the approval of the Galway City Ring Road, noting that it represented a major undertaking and the culmination of significant work over many years. He congratulated all those involved, past and present, for their efforts and he highlighted that engagement with homeowners affected by the scheme is very important.

He queried the timescale from a tendering perspective and he noted strong local support for the project .

Comh. Ó Curraoin welcomed the clarification regarding the bus arrangements at Kilronan Pier but suggested that if only two buses are permitted on the pier at any one time, arrival times should be staggered and a rotation system implemented. He also welcomed the Ring Road approval but raised concerns regarding the impact on affected homeowners. He stated that around 50 homes would be affected and expressed the view that some demolitions were unnecessary, as alternative alignments could have avoided these impacts.

Cllr. Mannion said the decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála is very welcome but shared concerns for the homeowners affected, emphasising that they should be supported in every possible way. She highlighted the severity of traffic congestion in Galway City and urged the public to recognise the importance of the project in addressing this issue.

Cllr. Welby welcomed the decision, noting the lengthy process involved in reaching this point. He agreed that careful consideration should be given by anyone contemplating an appeal, given the negative impact of traffic congestion on the city. While acknowledging that an alternative corridor might have been delivered earlier with less impact on homes, he stated that the Ring Road is for the greater good. He stressed that those affected must be facilitated and supported, including consideration of relocation options close to their original homes. He also welcomed the granting of planning permission for the major redevelopment and expansion of the Galway Port which includes the reclamation of approximately 27 hectares to facilitate a deep-water docking facility, thereby removing tidal restrictions and enabling access for larger vessels.

Comh. Mac An Iomaire expressed delight with the approval of both the Galway Port expansion and the Ring Road project. He noted that the R336 is not fit for purpose and expressed hope that the Ring Road would bring significant benefits to Conamara. He expressed satisfaction and thanked staff for the work in relation to the management of the buses on Kilronan Pier.

Cllr. Thomas welcomed the approval as very positive news for the West and congratulated Galway County Council on the extensive work carried out to date, noting that all necessary requirements had been met to secure approval. He highlighted the anticipated relief of traffic congestion and the associated positive economic impact for the western region. He hoped that Údarás na Gaeltachta would engage with the project to support business and tourism development.

He acknowledged that affected homeowners would understandably be frustrated and distressed, particularly those unable to sell or renovate their homes due to prolonged

uncertainty and noted that many wished to remain in their local communities. He further raised concerns regarding environmental considerations and queried how invasive species would be addressed, stating that they pose significant environmental and structural risks during the planning, construction and operational phases of the project. He sought clarification on the term “treatment” of invasive species and questioned whether removal would be a more effective approach.

Cllr. Lee commended the work carried out in relation to the bus management at Kilronan Pier and expressed hope that the Ring Road project would progress without undue delay. He agreed that a good road connection to Conamara is required and he empathised with the homeowners who have to leave their properties, stating that the people affected should be facilitated and supported. He also welcomed the approval of the Port of Galway expansion and expressed hope that works at Ros a’ Mhíl Pier would also be progressed.

Cllr. Leainde stated that it is a very positive day for the County and stressed that care and consideration must be shown to homeowners affected by the project.

Mr. Finn thanked both the current team and former members for their extensive work on the Ring Road project, noting that it had encountered numerous setbacks over the years and required detailed and rigorous assessments. He emphasised that the disruption to homeowners affected by the project had always been acknowledged and would continue to be treated as a key priority. He advised that the Council will now move forward with the next stages, including planning, consultancy, assessments and detailed design. Mr. Finn confirmed that environmental considerations would play a significant role throughout the process and would be fully and thoroughly investigated. While a detailed review of the Inspector’s reports would be undertaken, he indicated that he did not anticipate any changes to the scheme’s specifications. He noted that a construction timeline of 2028 to 2031 was being targeted and reiterated that affected homeowners would remain the Council’s priority, with continued liaison and on-going engagement.

4. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach’s Business:

There was nothing to add to this item.

5. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

There was nothing to add to this item.

6. A.O.B:

Cllr. Welby raised queries in relation to the Safe Routes to School Scheme at Newtown, Moycullen, advising that parents were seeking clarity on whether works were planned, particularly in respect of footpaths and the footpath towards Moycullen village. He also queried the positioning of the flashing lights at Camus National School, asking whether they were located too far from the school to have a meaningful impact and if there was a standard distance requirement for their placement. He added that he had been in contact with Skyline regarding public lighting and noted a significant improvement in their service.

Cllr. Mannion informed the Council of heavy rainfall on Saturday, 4 April, which resulted in flooding in Clifden, with several properties affected. She requested that a detailed update on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme be provided at the next meeting.

7. Motion:

"I propose that we write to the NTA to request that a Local Link Bus Service be put in place to cater for people travelling to and from Inishbofin Island to connect with the bus service to Galway and Westport from Clifden."

Proposed: Cllr. Mannion and **Seconded by** Cllr Welby and **Agreed.**

The timetable for the Local Link should take into account the times of the ferry service departing and arriving at Cleggan Pier.

This service should also include the Claddaghduff, Cleggan area.

At present people travelling to and from Inishbofin Island have to rely on the Citylink Service which is not a direct service between Cleggan and Clifden and there are often long delays.

Cathaoirleach King **proposed** the next Conamara MD meeting to take place **on 8th May in Clifden in the Station House Hotel** and this was agreed by all members

Cathaoirleach King then concluded the meeting.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed: TADIAH Mac Gó Loide

Date: 24/7/2026

