

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 08th May 2026 at 11.00pm at the Station House Hotel, Clifden

I LATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. G King

BAILL: Cllr. E. Mannion, Cllr M. Leainde, Comh P. Mac An Iomaire, Cllr M Lee, Cllr S. Walsh.

OIFIGH: D.O.S. Uinsinn Finn, S.E Tom Prentergast, S.E Conrad Harley, A.O. Meetings Administrator Ita Martyn, S.E Sean Devaney, E.E Naoise O'Conaola, E.E Andrew O'Halloran, A.S.O Sally Casey.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Welby
Comh O'Curraoin

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held on Friday 10th April 2026:

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Lee and **Seconded** Comh. Mac An Iomaire the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Conamara MD held on Friday 10th April 2026 were agreed.



2. Update N59

S.E Sean Devaney gave all present an update on the N59.

He informed members that The Maam Cross to Oughterard Development Consent Application was published in October 2012 and approved by An Comisiun Pleanála in November 2013.

Phase 1 is divided into two sections:

- **Section 1:** Bunnakill to Claremount (10 km)
- **Section 2:** Maam Cross to Bunnakill (5 km)

For **Section 1**, Galway County Council obtained approvals from NPWS and Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to construction-stage method statements and the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Tenders are currently being progressed for advance works, including archaeological, geotechnical, and topographical investigations.

Section 2 was substantially completed in July 2021.

For Phase 2 (Clifden to Maam Cross), a development application submitted in June 2014 was not approved. Funding has now been secured from TII to recommence the scheme in 2026, with Galway County Council currently undertaking the Strategic Assessment phase and preparing tender documentation.

The N59 Oughterard Footbridge, designed to improve safety at the Owenriff River crossing, was approved on 5 February 2026. Advance works are underway, with the main construction contract to be tendered in July 2026.

He updated members on the N6 Galway City Ring Road, which was approved by An Comisiun Pleanála on 7 April 2026. Statutory notices were published on 23 April 2026, initiating an 8-week judicial review period. Galway County Council will issue further notices from 15 May 2026, including confirmation when the scheme becomes operative. Detailed design and procurement are now progressing.

The Galway to Oughterard Greenway will be approximately 30 km, linking with the Oughterard to Clifden Greenway to form an 80 km route from Galway City to Clifden.

AECOM is currently preparing the EIAR and CPO documentation, with publication planned for Q3 2026.

An Comisiun Pleanála approved the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway in March 2013. TII is now progressing the scheme in two phases: Clifden to Recess and Recess to Oughterard, with over 21 km completed to date.

Initial works on the Derrygimlagh to Kylemore section have commenced, and Galway County Council needs to advance this section further.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cllr. Mannion noted that no significant progress has been made on the Maam to Clifden scheme over the past ten years, highlighting concerns that the route selection process has been overly restrictive, though she expressed hope that the project will now advance.

Cathoirleach King welcomed the update, noting that the proposed works should improve travel efficiency for those travelling to and from Clifden and Galway.

Cllr. Walsh acknowledged and thanked the NRPO for their continued work and commitment to progressing these projects.

3. Municipal District of Conamara Director's Business:

Mr. Prendergast provided an update provided an update on the Inis Oírr Pier Redevelopment Project:

All key construction plant has been mobilised, including jack-up barges, cranes for rock armour and pier extension works, and dredging equipment.

Importation of stone fill for breakwater construction is underway; this currently uses the road between the slipway and pier but will transition to sea-based delivery within 4–6 weeks.

Dredging operations are imminent, with approvals secured for temporary Aids to Navigation. Blasting required for dredging is planned for later in the summer, with extensive stakeholder engagement undertaken.

Traffic management arrangements on the island are in place and operating effectively.

Casting of rock armour units is approximately 70% complete, while pier extension units are progressing in line with programme.

Overall, the project remains on schedule for the targeted construction milestone by the end of summer, although fuel price volatility continues to be monitored as a potential risk.

Ongoing co-ordination with pier users and island residents remains a key aspect of project delivery.

Matters Arising and Responses:

Cathaoirleach King welcomed the progress made on the project and expressed his satisfaction with the works to date.

Cllr. Mannion enquired about the appointment of a Harbour Master.

Mr. Prendergast confirmed that the position has been offered and that a response from the candidate is awaited, with the appointment expected to be finalised within the next six weeks.

Comh Mac An Iomaire queried whether a Harbour Master has also been appointed for Inis Mór.

Mr. Prendergast advised that this position has been offered and is expected to be filled within the same timeframe of 6 weeks, facilitating the introduction of a new operational regime on Inis Mór.

Cllr. Lee commended all involved for their work and welcomed the anticipated appointment of both Harbour Masters.

4. Municipal District of Conamara Cathaoirleach's Business:

Cathaoirleach King queried whether additional lifeguards could be recruited, or coverage extended, ahead of the upcoming season.

Mr. Finn advised that this matter had been discussed at plenary level. Lifeguard services are scheduled to commence in June on a weekends-only basis, with flexibility to adjust

depending on weather conditions. If favourable weather arises earlier, as experienced last May, efforts may be made to begin in May, although this can be challenging due to the availability of student lifeguards during exam periods.

Cllr. Lee enquired about the opening of the public toilets at Trá an Dóilín?

Mr. Finn confirmed that their opening is linked to the lifeguard season, though some flexibility may be applied depending on weather conditions.

5. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

There was nothing to add to this item.

6. A.O.B:

Cllr. Walsh raised concerns on behalf of the residents in the Maam area regarding the Connemarathon, noting that road closures from 10:30am to 5:30pm effectively confine residents to their homes. He stated that residents are seeking improved arrangements, including measures to facilitate local access during the event and procedures to minimise disruption to the village.

Mr. Finn responded that road closure notices and related details were publicised in advance through local media to inform the public. He suggested that affected residents submit submissions to the Council in advance of next year's event.

Cllr. Mannion emphasised the ongoing concerns regarding Kylemore Bridge and requested that the matter remain on the agenda. She also proposed that councillors convene a dedicated meeting to discuss the issue further.

Cathaoirleach King **proposed** the next meeting which is to be the Annual Conamara Meeting to take place **on 5th June 2026 at 10am** and this was agreed by all members.

Cathaoirleach King thanked all attendees for travelling to Clifden and then concluded the meeting.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed: _____

Ray Mac Co Lane

Date: _____

24/7/2026

