

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Ballinasloe Area Committee held at the Civic Offices, Ballinasloe on Monday 16th March 2009.

I Láthair:

Báill: Cllr. M. Finnerty, Chairman
Cllr. J. Joyce
Cllr T. Mannion
Cllr. M. Mullins

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. U. Finn, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Gilchrist, Staff Officer

1. Draft Roads Programme - 2009

Details of Draft Road Reconstruction & Surface Restoration Programme for 2009 for the Ballinasloe Electoral Area were previously discussed and agreed at the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd March 2009.

Mr. Finn outlined the remaining outstanding items and following discussion under the headings outlined below the Draft Roads Programme 2009 was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Joyce.

Community Involvement Schemes

Cllr. Joyce proposed that Schemes which have been approved but not listed for funding for 2009 are placed on a “reserve list” in the event of some Schemes not going ahead. In reply to Cllr. Mannion, Mr. Finn stated that the contribution from the Community is generally funded by land dedication, disposal of materials etc.

Town & Village Improvement & Maintenance

Mr. Finn stated that there has been an increase under this heading for 2009. Cllr. Mannion highlighted a problem with weeds on the pavements/footpaths in Ahascragh in 2008 when a FÁS Scheme expired. Mr. Finn stated that the Council endeavours to do as much work as possible to keep the towns & villages tidy but funding under this heading is generally spent on street sweeping and emptying litter bins.

Local Road Maintenance

Mr. Finn stated that funding for Public Lighting is not being provided for 2009. The Local Road Maintenance budget for the Ballinasloe Electoral Area has dropped from approx. €716,000 in 2008 to €588,385 for 2009.

In reply to Cllr. Mannion Mr. Finn stated that achieving value-for-money is a priority. Some specialist type works are appropriate for contracting out while other works due to their nature are suitable for direct labour only. He agreed to inspect the bridge at Ballyforan.

Referring to potholes, Cllr. Mullins stated that efforts should be made to maximise works during the current dry spell.

In reply to Cllr. Finnerty Mr. Finn explained that verge trimming can only be carried out after 1st March for Road safety i.e. at junctions.

Cllr. Joyce stated that FÁS and Rural Social Schemes could be used to enhance Council initiatives but obtaining Risk Assessment Plans from outside consultants is costly. Cllr. Finnerty suggested raising the matter with the Senior Engineer at next Monday's meeting of the Council.

Specific Improvement Grants

Proposed funding of €200,000 for the R356 should refer to the Ballinasloe Electoral Area (Page 11 of Draft Programme). In reply to Cllr. Joyce Mr. Finn stated that Specific Improvement Works need to include road widening and Mr. Dolly will visit Eyrecourt prior to making a final decision on the location where this funding will be spent.

Revision of Engineering Area Boundaries

It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed that the local elected representatives have an input into the redrawing of the Engineering Areas.

Notice of Motion Funding

It was proposed by Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Mullins and agreed to seek clarification on the amount of N.O.M. funding for 2009. It was also agreed to request the Council to allow the current members allocate their total 2009 N.O.M. funding by June should they wish to do so.

Aachun Bridge

Cllr. Joyce asked whether works will commence on the above project as if not, the N.O.M. monies pledged will be re-allocated. Mr. Finn stated that Mr. Headd will consult with the members on the matter.

Timeframe for works

Mr. Finn informed members that in the current financial climate value for money must be achieved. The Council will be availing of as much direct labour as possible and it may be

difficult to include some projects within the limited timeframe prior to the Local Elections.

N.6 at Brackernagh

In reply to Cllr. Joyce, Mr. Finn stated that a submission was made for funding for the past two years for the N.6. at Brackernagh. He stated that reconstruction would be more favourable than surface dressing at this location. Members agreed to raise this matter at next Monday's meeting of the Council. Cllr. Joyce stated that the section of the R355 to Hill Crest is also in need of urgent repair.

In reply to Cllr. Finnerty Mr. Finn stated that there is an agreed snag list with Bord Gais and they have addressed subsidence in some locations in the town recently.

New N.6

Mr. Finn informed members that the N.6 Athlone to Ballinasloe is scheduled to open in Aug/Sept 2009 and Ballinasloe to Galway by mid 2010. A Traffic Calming Scheme proposed for the Shannonbridge Road has a series of speed ramps to assist in ensuring traffic uses the approved route.

Criochnaigh an Chrinniu ansin