

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH, 2009, IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

ILÁTHAIR:-

Baill: Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. J. Conneely
Cllr. S. Kyne
Cllr. T. Welby
Comh. C. Ní Fhatharta
Comh. S. Ó Cuaig

Oifigigh: Mr. J. Morgan, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. M. Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. S. Groarke, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. P. Carroll, Administrative Officer, Environment & Water Services Unit
Mr. F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer, Oughterard
Mr. K. Finn, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. T. J. Redmond, A/Executive Engineer, Clifden
Mr. R. Mannion, Assistant Engineer, An Cheathrú Rua
Mr. A. Brogan, Technician, Roads & Transportation Unit
Ms. S. Slattery, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Ms. F. Miskell, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit

Toscaireachtaí: Baile na Cille Graveyard Committee
Ros an Mhíl Community Council
An Tulaigh Community Council

Comh. Ó Tuairisg welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1. Toscaireacht ó Baile na Cille Graveyard Committee

Graveyard:

The deputation from Baile na Cille Graveyard Committee spoke about the issues relating to the graveyard in Ballinafad. Their main concern is the lack of space and wish to get an extension to the Westside of the Graveyard. Ms. Karen Mannion circulated a submission including maps and photographs of the area and confirmed that the Committee are willing to liaise with the landowners in conjunction with the Council.

In reply to Comh. Ó Tuairisg, Ms. Karen Mannion stated that there are seven landowners and while they have received positive feedback from them she could not confirm if they would be willing to provide the land required free of charge.

Mr. Carroll stated that the budget for graveyards in 2009 is limited, but that he would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss the relevant issues.

The deputation also raised the issue of a walkway in the Recess/ Ballinafad area. Mr. Brendan Joyce confirmed that they wished to extend these walkways. Mr. Morgan confirmed that the Council fully supported the development of walkways in the Conamara Area and advised the deputation to contact Ms. Eimear Dolan, Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise Department with a view to advancing the matter.

The Baile na Cille Graveyard Committee thanked the members for their time.

2. Toscaireacht ó Ros an Mhíl Community Council

The Chairman advised that the deputation from Ros an Mhíl Community Council decided not to attend as their concerns had been articulated previously and the members were familiar with same.

3. Toscaireacht ó An Tulaigh Community Council

Footpath on the R336 at TG4:

The deputation from An Tulaigh Community Council spoke about their concerns regarding the footpath on the R336 from TG4 to the new Supermarket at Tearman Eanan. Mr. T. Ó Neachtain confirmed that they had made an application last month under the 2009 Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme and were hopeful that this would be considered.

Mr. Groarke advised that the closing date for receipt of applications for the 2009 Scheme was November 2008. A proposal that the Roads & Transportation Unit reconsider allowing the application to be included in the 2009 Scheme was proposed by Comh. Ní Fhatharta and seconded by Cllr. Walsh. In reply to this, Mr. Groarke confirmed that the applications received before the closing date had been processed and monies allocated to successful applicants. Cllr. Walsh suggested that if any successful applicant decided not to take up the offer maybe this allocation could be considered.

Mr. T. Ó Neachtain confirmed that the landowner is willing to give the land without charge and that the Rural Social Scheme is available to build the wall. Mr. C. Ó Neachtain stated that Mr. Pat Clarke, Executive Engineer, An Cheathrú Rua had previously inspected the location and the local community had compiled a petition, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting.

It was agreed, following discussion, that the Council would facilitate the marking of a line to facilitate the work and that if an application was submitted by the Community Council to avail of the 2010 Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme such an application would be looked upon favourably by the Council.

Travelling Community and Lands at TG4:

Mr. T. Ó Neachtain outlined an on-going problem with members of the Travelling Community parking on land in the vicinity of TG4 and the associated difficulties in relation to illegally dumping and the potential traffic hazard.

It was noted that Comh. Ní Fhatharta provided Notice of Motion funding to facilitate works in the area but that any additional works of this nature, whilst it would prove beneficial, requires the approval of the relevant landowner.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that the Council were aware of the issue but that while parked on private lands it was an issue to be addressed by the landowner and the legislative provisions available to the Roads & Transportation Unit where applicable only in instances where the caravans were parked on the public road.

Cloch Mór Cemetery:

The deputation also raised the issue of the Cemetery in Cloch Mór and requested an update on the outcome of the trial holes, Mr. Carroll undertook to follow up on the matter and revert to the deputation.

Playground:

Mr. T. Ó Neachtain stated that they were hoping to organise a small play area for children, that they have identified a site and that the landowner was willing to provide the land without charge. It was noted that they have applied for funding and it was suggested that they follow up on the project proposal with the relevant LEADER companies and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Drainage at Community Centre:

Mr. J. Feeney stated that due to works that were carried out previously issues had arisen in relation to drainage from the public road in the vicinity of the community centre, it was agreed that the area engineer would investigate the matter.

2. Draft Roads Programme 2009

Mr. Morgan presented the Draft Roads Programme 2009, a copy of the Draft Programme having been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr. Morgan advised that the significant funding received from the National Roads Authority reflected the substantial progress being made in regard to the planning and construction of the Major Inter Urban Routes.

The meeting was advised that the funding for the NP and NS Pavement and Minor Improvement works was significantly lower than in previous years. Mr. Morgan stated that the contract for the N59 Derrylea Re-alignment was signed on the 19th March, 2009 and that the works on both the N59 Roscahill Re-alignment and the Leenane Bridge were being completed.

In response to Cllr. Welby, Mr. Morgan confirmed that the allocation of €300,000 for the Moycullen Bypass was to facilitate design/route evaluation and that such work was to be managed by the Roscommon National Road Design Office. Mr. Morgan confirmed that while the previous work undertaken on the project in terms of route identification would be considered, it would also involve consideration of alternative route options.

It was noted that the funding received from the Department of Transport in regard to the Regional and Local Roads represented an increase of 6% on the initial 2008 grant allocation.

The Committee welcomed the funding of €1,500,000 provided as an SNNR Grant for the Conamara Access Road (Bearna to Ros an Mhil). Mr. Morgan advised the meeting that the NRA had agreed to fund route evaluation for an alternative western section of the N6 Galway City Outer Bypass. A discussion then took place in regard to possible termination points for the R336.

The Committee noted that €2,200,000 was provided for the Conamara Electoral Area under the Specific Improvement Grant allocation in regard to 8 schemes. The Committee noted that there was a considerable reduction in the funding provided by the Council for Local Roads in comparison with 2008. It was anticipated that the funding for the Gaeltacht and Clár programmes would also be significantly reduced.

The Committee then discussed the funding of the Road Reconstruction and Surface Restoration Schemes. Mr. Kelly outlined the 2 recommended changes to the Clifden Area. He recommended that “Bunowen” be replaced by the L1106 Ballyconneely Golf Club (Part 2) and that the “L1104 Sky Road” be replaced by the “L1109 Beach Road off Sky Road”.

The adoption of the Roads Programme with the recommended amendments was proposed by Councillor Josie Conneely, seconded by Councillor Seamus Walsh and agreed.

3. Bye-Laws for the Regulation of Harbours

The Committee considered the Draft Bye-laws for the Regulation of Cleggan and Inishboffin Harbours and it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Conneely that the Draft Bye-Laws be considered by the Islands Committee prior to being presented to Council.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.