

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2009, IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

ILÁTHAIR:-

- Baill:** Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, Cathaoirleach
Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg
Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. T. Welby
Cllr. E. Mannion
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Cllr. S. Kyne
- Oifigigh:** Mr. E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. M. Owens, Senior Executive Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. T. Kelly, S.E.E. Conamara Area
Mr. F. McGillicuddy, Executive Engineer, Oughterard
Mr. T. J. Redmond, A/Executive Engineer, Clifden Area
Mr. D. Mitchell, Executive Engineer, An Cheathrú Rua
Ms. D. Caulfield, Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit
- Toscaireact:** Mr. Justin Keogh, Chairperson, Oughterard Business Association
Mr. Deidre Ford, Vice Chairperson, Oughterard Tourist & Development Association
Mr. Eoin Bresnihan, Vice Chairperson, Oughterard Community Council

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 29th July, 2009

On the proposal of Cllr. Walsh, seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th July, 2009, were approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- (a) N59 Speed Limit at Rosscahill

On the proposal of Cllr. Kyne and seconded by Cllr. Walsh, a submission was made to have the proposed speed limit area on the N59 extended to include the Ross Demense Road Junction.

- (b) Gortacleva Road

On the proposal of Cllr. Kyne and seconded by Cllr. Walsh, a submission was made to extend the speed limit area on the Gortacleva Road from its proposed locations to include the area as far as the Gortacleva side road junction.

- (c) R336 Bearná to Scríb Project

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the routes identified for the R336 Bearná to Scríb Project and to feedback on the ground in relation to the proposed routes.

It was proposed by Comh. Ó Cuaig and seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg to invite Minister Eamon Ó Cuív to the next Conamara Electoral Area Meeting to discuss the project.

2. Toscaireacht/ Deputation – Oughterard Business Association

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Keogh, Ms. Ford and Mr. Bresnihan to the meeting.

Mr. Keogh addressed the meeting on the following issues:

- Traffic Management Review – he advised that there was a need for coach parking in the Oughterard village; recommended the introduction of a Pay & Display System; sought a Taxi rank for the 4 registered taxis in operation in the village and decrease the usage times of loading bays, e.g. from 6pm to 3pm.
- Sewerage Treatment Facility – support was sought from Councillors and officials for the new sewerage treatment facility.

Ms. Ford addressed the meeting on the following issues:

- Street Cleaning – the meeting was advised that litter was a major issue, particularly, after weekends and sought restoration of a full street cleaning service. This was also reflected in the Tidy Towns Report. The deputation sought a discussion at area level, on this matter.
- Village Renewal Scheme – it was requested that Oughterard be included in the Village Renewal Schemes and liase with Forum for funding, with particular reference to the restoration of the Courthouse and the Library building.
- Pier Road – the meeting was advised that the surface of the Pier Road was in a poor condition and that the reduced speed limit area should extend for the full length of the road.

All Councillors supported the issues raised by the Deputation.

In relation to a query from Cllr. Welby regarding the extent of the Pier Road in charge, Mr. Molloy confirmed that the Council was in charge of the majority of the road and agreed to examine this and that a submission should be made in relation to the speed limit.

In relation to a query from Comh. Ó Cuaig in relation to Forum funding, Mr. Molloy advised that the Council currently do not have monies but that groups should continue to work on their applications and submission of same.

Mr. McGillicuddy welcomed a review of traffic management in the Oughterard village and Mr. Molloy advised that interaction with the Development Association would be useful in this regard.

Mr. Molloy advised in relation to street cleaning, that it was a funding matter and the Council had no control over this. It was agreed that the Council would examine the Courthouse building basement which was previously used as a store.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Deputation for their attendance.

3. Scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Proposals for Funding in 2010

Mr. Molloy referred to the Report dated 22nd September, '09, in relation to Proposals for Funding in 2010 for the Scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads, which was circulated prior to the meeting and outlined the contents of same.

Mr. Molloy advised that the total for the Conamara Area will not exceed €1,098,000 and that the Department of Transport advised local authorities to complete all projects by 2010. Mr. Molloy confirmed that the Department will advise in early 2010 of the exact funding to be provided to the Council.

Comh. Ó Curraoin referred to signage at the bridge on the Moycullen/ Bearna Road (passed the Golf Course) and Mr. Molloy agreed to examine this and that the grass may need to be cut also. Cllr. Kyne stated that Pollnaclough Road and Drom Road (Paddy's Crossroads) needed attention. Comh. Ó Cuaig referred to the Atry to Carna road and enquired if the Department of the Gaeltacht ceased funding, how would these projects in Conamara be funded in the future. Mr. Molloy stated that major improvement works would not take place and possibly only minor works would be done.

On the proposal of Cllr. Welby and seconded by Cllr. Mannion, the proposals for funding in 2010 were agreed.

4. Aon Ghnó Eile

(a) Footpaths at Rosscahill

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to a map he received from the Rosscahill Paths Committee in relation to proposed footpaths in the Rosscahill Area and enquired if the Council would assist with this through CIS, CES FÁS Schemes or Forum. Mr. Molloy stated that funds were low but that the matter would be examined.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin