

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 08TH JULY, 2010
IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

I LÁTHAIR:-

- Baill:** Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, Cathaoirleach
Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Cllr. T. Welby
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. S. Kyne
Cllr. S. Walsh
- Oifigh:** Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. J. Eising, Senior Engineer, NRDO
Mr. L. Gavin, Senior Engineer, Water Services
Mr. F. McEvoy, Project Engineer. Road Design
Mr. F. McGillicuddy, E.E. Oughterard
Mr. D. Mitchell, E.E. An Cheathrú Rua
Mr. M. Owens, S.E.O. Roads & Transportation
Ms. E. Dolan, A.O. Community & Enterprise
Ms. N. Heffernan, A. O. Finance Unit
- Other:** Mr. M. Keaveney, Roscommon NRDO
An t-Uasal C. Ó Murchú, Bohoona, An Spidéal

1. Election of Cathaoirleach – Conamara Electoral Area Committee

Comh. Ó Curraoin was elected Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Welby and seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

2. Election of Leas Cathaoirleach – Conamara Electoral Area Committee

Cllr. Walsh was elected Leas Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Comh. Ó Cuaig and seconded by Comh. Ó Tuairisg.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 10th March 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Kyne, seconded by Comh Ó Cuaig the minutes of the meeting of 02nd June 2010 were adopted.

4. Presentation regarding N59 Clifden to Oughterard Road Scheme

Mr. Eising introduced Mr. Keaveney who presented the proposal under an NRA pilot scheme to upgrade the N59 Clifden to Oughterard Road. Mr. Keaveney circulated a copy of his presentation. He said that the NRDO office in Roscommon was currently working on a pilot project on behalf of the NRA on low-volume secondary routes. He confirmed that work had just commenced on the design and that no definite alignment had yet been finalised for the route.

Cllr Mannion asked if there would be lay-bys and viewing areas provided on the road. Mr. Keaveney said that consideration was being given to including some viewing areas. He said that pull-in areas would be provided on long straight stretches of the road if possible. Cllr. Mannion queried why a survey was being carried out on the old railway, alongside the road. Mr. Keaveney said that it was being looked at as an option for providing a cycle lane. Cllr. Mannion and Cllr. Welby said that the locals are in favour of walkways rather than cycle lanes on the old Galway-Clifden railway line.

In response to a query from Cllr. Welby, Mr. Keaveney said that the amount of land take could not be firmly established until the design had been further developed.

Mr. Eising confirmed that a bypass for the village of Oughterard is beyond the scope of this scheme, but that the matter would be discussed with the NRA.

Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. Welby stated that 2 junctions at Drimnaheen and Moyvoon should be improved, as there are currently no sight distance at them.

Comh. Ó Cuaig said that a plan should be put in place for a new road to be ready for when money became available again.

Mr. Eising said that there was a Special Area of Conservation on each side of the proposed road but that he didn't anticipate the same level of environmental concerns as on other schemes such as the Galway City Outer Bypass.

Mr. Eising confirmed that the NRDO office plan to bring the project to the Compulsory Purchase Order stage, but that the CPO would not commence until there was a commitment to funding for the project from the NRA.

In response to a query from Mr Kyne, Mr. Keaveney said that overtaking opportunities would be provided where possible, where sections of the road are not going through an SAC.

Mr. Eising said that the delay in the progression of the Galway City Outer Bypass or this new proposal should not have any affect on the progression of the Moycullen Bypass.

5. Toscaireacht Ó Coiste Uisce, Bóthar Bohoona, An Spidéal

Cormac Ó Murchú was welcomed to the meeting as a representative of An Coiste Uisce, Bóthar Bohoona, An Spidéal.

An t-Uasal Ó Murchú said that the main water pipe which serves the area from Furbo to Ros-a-Mhíl had to be replaced recently. The number of failures on the pipe in Bohoona has increased significantly since the replacement of the main pipe. He stated that there was a failure approximately once a week during the Summer time and dirt was getting into the water as a result of all the necessary repairs.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg said that he had met with the local engineer who had confirmed that there was significant water loss on this scheme. Mr. Gavin said that the 3kms of water main were in poor condition when taken in charge. He confirmed that Galway County Council do not have funding available to carry out a replacement of this pipe.

He advised that there is a water mains replacement programme in place but that the first allocation was already accounted for. He said that this water scheme would be included in the next replacement programme but that that would not commence for a few years. Comh. Ó Tuairisg asked that palliative measures be put in place such as air and sluice valves and Mr. Gavin agreed to look into it. In response to Cllr. Kyne, Mr. Gavin said that it would be 3 to 4 years before would become available for replacement of the pipe. He said that it was not possible to change the priorities on the water investment programme as it had been set out by the Department. He agreed to ask the Department if this scheme could be progressed as a matter of urgency.

6. Aon Ghnó Eile

a. Pier at Pointe, An Cheathrú Rua

Cllr Walsh said that he had checked and confirmed that the boundary wall around the property on the pier at Pointe had been moved. He said that he wanted the rights of the locals to use the pier, as they had for many years, to be reinstated. Comh Ó Tuairisg asked that the Council staff approach the landowner on the other side of the roadway if she would be willing to move back her boundary wall to acquire the necessary width. Mr Mitchell said that the matter was being investigated by the Enforcement staff in the Planning Section and he would check the status of the investigation.

Comh Ó Cuaig said that he was in agreement with Cllr Walsh that a public right-of-way should be formally declared and the necessary action taken to achieve the required width. Cllr Walsh asked that the Law Agent be consulted as to the requirements for taking-in-charge, if a minimum width was required. He asked that maps for a right-of-way be prepared and discussed at the next meeting.

b. Recess Road Crossroads

Mr Eising confirmed that he would be meeting Mr Noel Grealish, T.D., to look at the Recess Road crossroads to establish what improvements were required.

c. Graveyard at Moyrus

It was stated that there is land available at a cost of €35,000 to facilitate an extension to the graveyard at Moyrus. Mr Mullarkey said that the Environment Section are to review the graveyards and requirements in the Conamara Area.

d. Pre-planning meetings

Mr Mullarkey said that Mr Kelly, Director of Services Planning, was reviewing the status of requests for pre-planning meetings and the time it takes to get an appointment in the Conamara area.

e. An Caladh Mór

Mr Mullarkey agreed to get an update on the ongoing conciliation process regarding An Caladh Mór.

f. R336

Comh Ó Cuaig said that planning permission was still being restricted on the original 3 possible routes for the new R336, which were now removed from the proposal. Mr McEvoy agreed to meet Comh Ó Cuaig to discuss the matter.

Mr Gilmore confirmed that a meeting had been requested with the administrative head of the NPWS and the Department of Transport regarding the proposed R336, part of which is to go through an SAC. He advised that it was intended to present a proposal to the Councillors in the next month or so.

Mr Gilmore agreed to provide a map of County Galway showing the road network only to the Councillors.

g. Bridge at Poll na gCloch

In response to a query from Cllr Walsh Mr MacGillycuddy said that there was currently no funding available to do improvement works on the bridge at Poll na gCloch. He said that he was hopeful that there would be some residual funding available when the current Barna-Moycullen roadworks in the area were complete.

h. Road at Ballindine

Mr Gilmore said that Galway County Council were preparing a low cost accident reduction scheme for Ballindine which will be implemented. He also stated that the NRA have developed proposals to construct a Claremorris to Tuam bypass which will bypass this area.

i. Inis Meáin Water Scheme

Comh Ó Tuairisg enquired if Galway County Council would take the Group Water Scheme in Inis Meáin in charge. Mr Gavin said that the local Comharchumann have a legal contract with TSSL to supply water to the network, and that there is no legal entity in existence to apply to Galway County Council to take the scheme in charge. He also advised that there would be significant cost implications if Galway County Council took it over.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.