

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

(GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL)

## MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2008, IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

### I LÁTHAIR:-

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. P. Ridge, Director of Services, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit  
Ms. C. McConnell, Senior Planner, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit  
Mr. D. Hurney, A/ Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit  
Ms. D. Caulfield, Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation Unit

### **1. To further consider the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015, as per Section 11 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended**

Ms. McConnell advised that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) affects the way the Planning Authority views the Plan and advised that a balanced approach must be taken.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg referred to Page 8 of the pre-draft County Development 2009-2015 and to the section beginning with 'key issues that emerge from a review of population trends include....' and proposed to omit the word 'encourage' from point 2'.

Comh. Ó Tuairisg stated that the creation of a critical mass should not be at the expense of the rural hinterland. It was also agreed to delete, 'desired critical mass', from point 2 and to insert 'rural areas' after the words, existing settlements, in point 3 of Section 2 on page 11.

It was agreed to omit the word 'single' from paragraph 5 on page 14 of the pre draft document. (Section 3.3), to read as follows: 'A considerable amount of the development pressure has arisen from demand for high numbers of dwellings, particularly within the commuting zone around the City'.

It was also suggested to include a paragraph on the importance of rural areas in Section 4 on page 17 of the pre draft document.

Policy 34 on page 35 was referred to and it was agreed to allow some moderate extension in the Class 5 Landscape Sensitivity rating areas.

It was agreed that development along the rail corridor would be desirable.

The feasibility of a rail link extension to Clifden / Moycullen was also referred to.

On Page 43 of the pre draft document it was agreed to include a policy to prioritise wastewater treatment in the environmentally and scenically sensitive areas.

In reference to Policy 85 on micro renewable energy sources, it was agreed to insert a statement stating that the Council would examine the possibility of introducing micro-renewables into schemes and facilities and also to encourage private micro-renewable schemes.

It was suggested to carry out a study of the potential of non-viable forestry areas for recreation and amenity areas.

It was also suggested that a study be carried out of the potential of the County for the development of wood energy.

It was suggested that Policy 180 could include reference to using disused railway lines for cycle/walking paths. There was also a reference to using the Tonabrocky old quarry site as recreational area.

Cllr. Welby referred to the Site Suitability Test and enquired if a procedure could be put in place to ensure that proper testing takes place. Ms. McConnell advised that this would not be dealt with in the context of the Plan but that this matter could be examined in the future.

Mr. Ridge advised that a Gaeltacht Area type Plan may be considered for other parts of Co. Galway, e.g. North East Galway. Comh. Ó Cuaig enquired of the possibility of have a North Conamara Plan and Mr. Ridge stated that this may be a possibility in the future.

Cllr. Kyne stated that Tullykyne Settlement Centre was not listed in the Plan and Ms. McConnell advised that she would examine this.

In relation to Policy 5, Pg 27, on derelict sites, Comh. Ní Fhatharta stated that more emphasis was required on the development of these sites. Ms. McConnell advised that she would omit the word 'statutory' in relation to derelict sites.

A discussion arose in relation to Farmers' Markets and Ms. McConnell agreed to make reference to potential locations for same into the Plan and that this matter was currently being examined by the Council's Veterinary Office.

In relation to quarries on Pg 35, McMcConnell is to reword this sentence.

In relation to Point 9, Pg 35, Comh. Ó Cuaig wished to have the name of the road re-worded to – 'Galway to Ros a Mhíl Road with extension to Scríob.'

In relation to Pg 65 and burial grounds, it was agreed that the Environment Department would be consulted regarding a Burial Ground Policy.

The Meeting was advised that the matters raised would be taken into consideration during the review process.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.*