

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH 2010, IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

ILÁTHAIR:-

Baill:

Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, Cathaoirleach
Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg
Cllr. S. Walsh
Cllr. T. Welby
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. S. Kyne

Oifigigh:

Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. E. Molloy, S.E. West
Mr. T. Kelly, S.E.E, Conamara Area
Mr. F. McGillicuddy, E.E. Oughterard
Mr. T.J. Redmond, A/E.E. Clifden
Mr. D. Mitchell, E.E. An Cheathrú Rua
Ms. M. Ní Chionna, S.E. Environment & Water Services
Unit
Mr M Owens, S.E.O. Roads and Transportation Unit
Ms. N. Heffernan, A. O. Finance Unit

1. Minutes of the previous meeting 17th November 2009

On the proposal of Cllr Kyne, seconded by Cllr Walsh the minutes of the meeting of 16th February 2010 were approved.

2. Presentation regarding Western River Basin District Management Plan

Ms. Ní Chionna, S.E. Environment & Water Services Unit made a presentation on the Draft Western River Basin District Management Plan. She said that the Plan is being compiled as a result of the requirement under the Water Framework Directive to establish an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters. She said that it is intended to introduce measures to protect and prevent deterioration of our waters. All the measures are to be in place by 2015.

In response to a query from Comh Ó Tuairisg regarding the problem with pond weed in Lough Corrib, Ms. Ní Chionna confirmed that there is a four year project to address alien species in the lake.

Cllr Welby queried the quality of water in Oughterard. Ms. Ní Chionna said that the water quality downstream of the discharge pipe was not significantly different but that the discharge does not meet urban waste water standard and will have to be upgraded.

Comh Ó Cuaig enquired as to the effect of the sewerage being discharged into the sea at An Cheathrú Rua. Ms Ní Chionna said that there is no difficulty with regards to sea life but that there is an issue with regards to number of pathogens for bathing areas.

Ms. Ní Chionna said that the Western River Basin District Management Plan would be presented to the Council meeting on 22nd March 2010, with a recommendation that it be adopted. She advised the Councillors that if the Plan was not adopted that it would become an executive function of the Manager to adopt it.

3. Roadworks Programme 2010

Mr Molloy advised that there was no complete Roadworks Programme for 2010 available yet, as he was awaiting clarification from the Department on how to manage allocations. He presented a list of proposed works in the Conamara area for the approval of the Councillors. He said that the original proposed list of works had been amended to take cognizance of the roads that were destroyed as a result of the extreme weather conditions during Winter.

He stated that the overall funding cut for the Roadworks Programme in 2010 was €1.2million. He confirmed that there would be no Strategic Roads funding available from An Roinn Tuaithe, Gnóthaí agus Gaeltachta in 2010, and only a small allocation for the Bóithre Áise Programme. The NRA have advised that they will provide extra funding and have given a small allocation for flood damage repair works.

Comh Ó Cuaig said that a specific grant had been campaigned for by the people of Carna and that it was needed for the area. He said that the Carna area should not suffer the consequences of the needs in the Clifden area.

Cllr Mannion confirmed that the roads in the Clifden area are in an appalling condition and that Councillors had agreed previously that funding should be allocated on a needs basis. Mr Molloy, in response to a query from Cllr Mannion, confirmed that there were currently safety issues with the Roundstone to Canal Stage Road which needed to be addressed.

Mr Molloy said that he had contacted the Department to seek more funding, and had been advised that there was no further funding available.

It was proposed by Comh Ó Tuairisg, seconded by Cllr Walsh that the funding be split 50/50 between the Carna road and the Roundstone/Canal Stage Road.

It was proposed by Cllr Mannion, seconded by Cllr Welby that the funding be allocated in its entirety to the Roundstone to Canal Stage road on a needs basis.

As agreement was not reached in this regard a vote was taken on each proposal.

Voting on Comh Ó Tuairisgs proposal was as follows:

AR SON: Comh Ó Tuairisg, Comh Ó Cuaig and Cllr Walsh. (3)

IN AGHAIDH: Cllr Mannion, Cllr, Welby and Cllr Kyne. (3)

Voting on Cllr Mannions proposal was as follows:

AR SON: Cllr Mannion, Cllr Welby and Cllr Kyne (3)

IN AGHAIDH: Comh Ó Tuairisg, Comh Ó Cuaig, Cllr Walsh. (3)

The voting resulted in a tie and An Cathaoirleach exercised his casting vote in favour of Comh Ó Tuairisgs proposal and Comh Ó Tuairisgs proposal was carried.

Cllr Welby asked if it was the intention of the Council to use DBM in the construction works. Mr Molloy said that tar and chips would be used in the surface dressing.

Cllr Welby asked that Mr Redmond would take a look the Emlough Road , towards the quarry direction, with a view to carry out remedial works. Cllr Welby asked that repairs be carried out on the road at Roscahill school. Mr Molloy said that it would be looked at. Mr Molloy also agreed to investigate if remedial works could be done on the Renvyle-Cashlaun Road from the graveyard to the t-junction.

Mr Molloy outlined the Bridges programme for the Councillors. Of a total budget of €800,000, €285,000 was being allocated to the Conamara area, for 3 specific bridges – Cahir Bridge, Sean a Pheisitín Bridge and the bridge near Toureeney school. He confirmed that there would be no change in the Notice of Motion allocations for Councillors.

4. Smarter Travel – Update

Mr Owens outlined the background to the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas and in particular the joint bid being submitted with Galway City Council. He requested that any proposals or suggestions be submitted to him. He said that a proposal for a cycle track from Oranmore to Barna as identified in the programme for Government would be identified and costed under this competition.

5. Any Other Business

a) Update on proposed route for new R336

Mr Molloy confirmed that there was no update on a proposed new route in Conamara as the Council were awaiting a legal assessment of building a route through a Special Area of Conservation.

b) Pier at Pointe, An Cheathrú Rua

Cllr Walsh referred to the recent construction of a wall on the access road to the pier at Pointe, An Cheathrú Rua. He proposed that the Council take the access in charge, and acquire land if necessary by CPO to increase the width to the standard required for taking in charge.

c) New Oughterard-Recess-Clifden route

Mr Molloy said that there was ongoing surveying of the railway line alongside the N59 and the land alongside it, in addition to consultation with local landowners regarding the proposed pilot development of the N59. He said that it was not necessary to develop the cycle track as part of the development of the new N59. He confirmed that agreement had been reached with nearly all the landowners in the area regarding the provision of land for a walking track but not for a cycle track.

d) Fire Service

Cllr Welby advised that Mr Raftery, the Chief Fire Officer, had given a report to the Special Policy Committee regarding the development of the fire service in County Galway. He said that it was intended to make a presentation to the full Council meeting shortly. Comh Ó Cuaig requested that the local Community group from An Cheathrú Rua be invited to attend a Conamara Area meeting with the Chief Fire Officer to discuss the Fire Service in the area. Cllr Walsh suggested that they should wait until the after the next Council meeting, if Mr Raftery was presenting a report at it. Comh Ó Cuaig requested that the Fire Service for County Galway be included on the agenda for the next Conamara Area meeting.

e) Footpaths

Mr Molloy referred to funding that is available to Leader groups which is to be part co-funded by Galway County Council and local communities for the construction of footpaths. He said that he had clarified with An Roinn Tuaithe, Gnóthaí Pobail agus Gaeltachta that it was not possible for Galway County Council to apply directly for the funding or to carry out the works. Comh Ó Tuairisg said that he would contact An t-Aire Ó Cuiv to request a meeting to establish the requirements for the scheme.

f) Graveyards

Comh Ó Cuaig referred to Moyrus graveyard and said that it needed to be extended urgently. Mr Molloy said that he would investigate the matter.

It was reiterated that Mr Kelly had requested that Councillors submit names to him of graveyards that required additional space for further investigation.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.