

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 15th September, 2008

I LATHAIR:-

Baill: Cllr. J. Cuddy,
Cllr. M. Hoade.
Cllr. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Carey (Chairman)

Oifigigh:- Mr. P. Ridge, DOS Planning & Sustainable Development
Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr M Dolly, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. G. Clerkin, A.A.S.O. Planning & Sustainable Development

Apologies Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer Roads & Transportation
Mr.D.Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th July, 2008.

The minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2008 were proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed.

Matters arising

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh and seconded by Cllr. Cuddy, it was agreed that Cllr. Hoade would be Vice Chairperson of the Oranmore Area Committee for the year ahead.

2. Deputation from representatives of the Kiniska Road, Claregalway

A deputation from the representatives of the Kiniska Road, Claregalway attended the meeting, Mr. Liam O'Connor, Mrs Maura Green and Mrs. Marie McDwyer. They outlined the concerns of the Kiniska Community which was one of road safety and relates to the proposed new bus lane on the Tuam side of Claregalway Village on the N17. Their main concern is that the existing safety lane for right-turning traffic, maybe removed as part of the installation of the Quality Bus Corridor, thus creating a very dangerous situation for all who use the road.

The safety lane was installed approximately two years ago to address road safety. Their concern is that if the safety lane is removed, then traffic turning right will stop the flow of outgoing traffic on the N17 and also that you would need to negotiate across two lanes of traffic to turn right. The wish of the deputation is to develop the Quality Bus Corridor while retaining the current safety lane. A petition containing 250 names were presented to the members.

Mr. Dolly responded to the deputation by saying that Roads Department proposed to extend the existing 50km/h speed limits to 200m beyond Loughgeorge Junction (N63) to North of Claregalway and to 200m beyond Cregboy Junction South of Claregalway. Mr. Dolly also stated that the Road Design Office was making a detailed investigation on the Quality Bus Corridor and a report in relation to same would be prepared.

The Deputation then left the meeting.

3. Lighting at Cregmore Cross Area & the N18 at Cregboy

Cregmore

Cllr. Cuddy outlined the need for lighting at Cregmore Cross.

Mr. Dolly stated that other villages were in more need under the Public Lighting Scheme and that the Local Authority didn't allow single lights in rural areas for safety reasons.

Mr. Dolly stated that the Local Authority was advising against single lights and that they were not recommended in rural areas.

It was agreed by all members that policy needs to be adopted in relation to public lighting. It was noted that in recent years it was set about to review and adopt policy on public lighting, it went to area committee's and SPC's but not full council. It was stated that the matter would have to go back to SPC to have it debated and discussed and brought then to full council.

N18 at Cregboy

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his concerns at this area. It was stated that the situation had been assessed and that it would cost in the region of €30,000 – €50,000 to put a lighting system in place. A submission was made for funding to the NRA but was refused as it is not a priority. It was stated that a further submission will be made to the NRA in 2009 for funding.

4. Rural Housing Design

Cllr. Carey stated that the design guidelines in place were being ignored and that applications are being submitted that are not acceptable in relation to house design.

In reply to the query if a recommended list of agents/engineers could be drawn up for applicants Mr. Ridge stated that the Planning Authority couldn't take the responsibility of signing off on agents/engineers.

Cllr. Carey questioned if the pre-planning meetings could be curtailed as some agents were making money out of clients bringing them in to pre-planning meeting that there is no need for.

Mr. Ridge stated in the near future it was hoped to introduce a pre-qualification of application under housing need. A list of what is required for the pre-qualification will have to be compiled and each application will have to adhere to same.

Cllr. Carey suggested that a seminar for young couples in relation to house design could be one way of tackling the problem and to inform people of what exactly is acceptable in relation to house design.

5. Scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Proposal for Funding 2009

Mr. Dolly stated that a circular from the Department of Transport RLR 17/2008 outlined that grant applications in 2009 for the county must not exceed 120% of the Specific Improvement Grant Allocation notified for 2008 in Circular RLS 3/2008.

Mr. Dolly stated that the 2009 cost of each project submitted must equal or exceed the amounts indicated below:

| Type of 2009 Project | Minimum 2009 Project Cost (€) |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Bridge Strengthening | €20,000 |
| Improvements of roads in Urban Areas (i.e. within 50km/h or 60km/h) | €100,000 |
| Improvements of roads in Rural Areas providing new or improved access to productive forests | €100,000 |
| Improvements of other roads in Rural Areas | €300,000 |

Mr. Dolly stated that all proposals put forward were considered but that choices had to be made in relation to what went forward for inclusion

The draft proposals under the Specific Improvement Grants 2009 (formerly the EU Co-Financed Grants) were presented to the members as follows:

| Road No. | Location | Description of Works | Estimate |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|
| R339 | Carnmore Cross- Monivea | Road Widening where required and Road Resurfacing | €400,000 |
| R334 | Headford – Cross (from Headford Square) | Road Improvements, Road Strengthening and Resurfacing | €300,000 |
| | | Total | €700,000 |

It was stated that all proposals put forward were considered but that choices had to be made. Cllr. Hoade stressed her extreme dissatisfaction that the road from Peggys bar to Corrandrum National School was excluded as she had been promoting this scheme for a number of years and that money was allocated each year for the last number of years to the Maree Road, and that she had asked for a number of years that this road be included.

Cllr. Hoade was disappointed that no funding came from the NRA for the improvement works on the streets in Headford.

Mr. Dolly agreed with Cllr. Hoade that the streets in Headford were in need of improvement but that the Local Authority's own resources were needed in order to get funding from the NRA to back it. It was estimated that 6 million would be needed to do a satisfactory job in the area, which would include resurfacing, footpath, lighting scheme, traffic lights etc.

Mr. Lavelle stated that the NRA give priority to high speed, high accident areas and that Headford didn't fall under that category.

On proposal by Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh the proposals for the Specific Improvement Grants 2009 were adopted.

6. Any other business

Maree Road Proposed Roundabout

It was stated that there were several concerns among land owners over the proposed roundabout. They propose that the roundabout be moved nearer to Oranmore so that it doesn't encroach on private gardens. It was noted that the residents were not opposed to the roundabout at Oranhill but to its proposed location.

Mr. Lavelle stated that the roundabout was designed in accordance with the Road Design Requirements and that if it was to be moved nearer Oranmore that it would encroach on a SAC which would be a serious concern for the NPWS.

Mr. Lavelle stated that if the residents could come up with a design that is acceptable that they could present it at the CPO for consideration.

Proposed Speed Limit Review 2008

The members were informed that the review of speed limits in the county would proceed on the basis of the towns and villages only being progressed at present. The members expressed disappointment at this as they were under the impression that all of the county was to proceed. It was explained that when costings were estimated for a county wide scheme, the funding was not going to be available and therefore the towns and villages would be progressed first.

The proposals were presented to the members with the following changes being requested:

| 2004 Schedule | Location | Proposed Changes | Requested Change |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 2 nd 43(b) | Headford | <u>Galway Road (N84)</u> Extend existing 50km/h speed limit 95m | <u>Galway Road (N84)</u> Extend existing 50km/h speed limit to Joyces Roundabout |
| New | Oranmore | <u>Limerick Road (N18)</u> New 60km speed limit between a point 50m south of Dublin Road Roundabout (OranBeg Roundabout) and a point 50m South of Oranhill Roundabout (New Roundabout) | <u>Limerick Road (N18)</u> New 60km speed limit between a point 120m south of Dublin Road Roundabout (OranBeg Roundabout) and a point 120m South of Oranhill Roundabout (New Roundabout) |
| 2 nd 52(a) | Lackagh | <u>Galway Road (N63)</u> Extend existing 50km/h speed limit 25m towards N17 | <u>Galway Road (N63)</u> Extend existing 50km/h speed limit 100m towards N17 |

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be on Monday 13th October 2008 at 10 a.m.

Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin