

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 11th November, 2009

I LATHAIR:-

Baill: Cllr. J. Cuddy (Chairperson)
Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Noone

Oifigigh:- Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. D. Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Liadhan Keady, Assistant Staff Officer, Planning & Sustainable Development

1. Minutes of Meeting dated 29th October 2009

The Chairman opened the meeting and informed the members that Cllr. McDonagh would be a few minutes late but that the meeting would continue.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th October 2009 were proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Noone.

2. Regional & Local Roads Restoration Improvement Programme 2010

The Chairman called on Mr. Croghan to present the proposed Regional & Local Roads Restoration Improvement Programme 2010. Mr. Croghan informed the members that the Department sent a circular regarding this programme in which they stated that the submission from Galway County Council should be 130% of what was originally allocated in 2009. He also informed the meeting that while last year in 2009 Galway County Council made a submission for approximately €941,000, only €640,000 was granted and therefore the submission for 2010 is 30% greater i.e. €881,000. Mr. Croghan also stated that it was important for the members to realise that under last years programme the Oranmore Area was bigger but due to the redrawing of Electoral Areas its size (road network) had dropped by 28%. The figure of €881,000 was what Galway County Council would be putting forward for the new Oranmore Area.

A brief discussion took place regarding the new role of the NRA vis-a-vie these programmes and the effect of same on the county roads.

Mr. Croghan then called on Mr. Gallagher to present the exact figures and roads to be considered under the programme. Mr. Gallagher provided the meeting with a handout
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that included a breakdown of the monies and a map identifying the roads to be included in the submission. Mr. Gallagher stated that 2010 had originally been included in the 3 year programme put forward previously but that based on the survey he carried out a lot of the roads identified in the 3 year programme already had or was having works carried out to them and therefore new roads had been identified for the purpose of this submission. He stated that the red lines as seen on the map indicated that these roads were being put forward for Road Restoration, which was a larger grant, while the blue lines indicated Surface Restoration works. He proceeded to give a brief overview as to the works required on each road and stated while there were other roads in need of improvements they would hope to include these under the Surface Dressing Programme in 2010. Mr. Gallagher then called for a proposer and seconder of the submission as presented. Cllr. Carroll proposed the submission and Cllr. Noone seconded it.

The Chairman asked when we would know the final figure allocated under the Restoration Programme. In reply, Mr. Croghan stated that it would be February 2010.

The Chairman enquired as to whether a proposal had been put forward to the Council for the Taking in Charge of the private road at Palmerstown. In reply, Mr. Gallagher informed the meeting that no proposal had ever been received from the residents.

3. AOB

A brief discussion took place around the subject of the approach roads to Galway which are within the Oranmore Area and the level of funding provided for the area which is based on a system of road mileage. The chairman put forward a view that he felt it should be based on road usage considering that most of the approach roads to Galway come through the Oranmore Area. In reply, Mr. Lavelle stated that you must consider all areas on a balance and that Oranmore was receiving huge capital investment by way of the M6, M17 & M18, which should take large volumes of traffic off the regional roads, while other areas were receiving no capital investment and if monies were to be given based on usage and not mileage certain areas would be deprived completely and quality of life would be further reduced.

Cllr. Noone stated that he had received numerous calls from people regarding the narrow bridge on the Curraghline which had a dip in it and was a safety hazard. In reply, Mr. Gallagher said he would investigate same.

The Chairman reiterated his concern over the situation on the road which was sinking in Claregalway at the traffic lights outside Hughes Supermarket. In response, Mr. Croghan stated that the works needed at this location would be carried out shortly as a contractor had been engaged. He further stated that if there was any scope the other side of this road would be dealt with also.

Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that it was proposed to place 'Cats Eyes' through the village of Claregalway and on the length of the Quality Bus Corridor so as to improve safety. He also stated that if funds are available the hard shoulder at Cregmore will be done.

Cllr. McDonagh requested to know when exactly the allocated Notice of Motions Monies for 2009 would be spent and the works completed. In response, Mr. Croghan stated that realistically it would run into February 2010.

Cllr. McDonagh enquired about Hedge Trimming on the roads. In response, Mr. Gallagher stated that currently 3 Hedge Trimmers were on the roads, Coolarne today and moving to Kiniska/Claregalway on Friday, with approximately 40% of the Oranmore Area complete and the remainder being done by early December.

The Chairman expressed concern regarding the resurfacing works carried out on the Lydican Road and stated that he had submitted the names of the people that had been affected by flooding from road run off. In response, Mr. Gallagher stated that the problem would be rectified but he had to inspect it to see how long the works would take and that this would decide when it could be done.

Cllr. Carroll enquired as to whether Mr. Lavelle had time to review the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan as discussed at the last meeting. In response, Mr. Lavelle stated he had not.

Cllr. McDonagh requested an update on the current position of the Claregalway By-Pass. In response, Mr. Lavelle stated that the EIS will be available by December and after that we have to go back to An Bord Pleanála with a CPO. He stated that the cost of the By-Pass would be approximately €20m. He informed the meeting that Galway County Council hoped to put a roundabout at the N63, while bringing the Corrandulla road up to the roundabout and closing off the junction at the Garda Station. He also stated that funding for the roundabout would come from the NRA while funding for the Park & Ride would be from the Department of Transport and therefore they would not run in tandem with each other.

Cllr. Noone enquired as to whether there had been any decision regarding the provision of bus shelters along the Bus Corridor in Claregalway. Mr. Gallagher stated that a proposal had been put forward to the Council for a shelter across from the Arches in Claregalway and had been sent to Mr. Lavelle. In response, Mr. Lavelle stated that he needed to wait for the EIS of the By-Pass to be received before deciding on this particular location for a bus shelter as it might be needed for same. The Chairperson enquired as to whether it would be possible to provide a Temporary Permission for this site. In reply, Mr. Lavelle stated he would discuss same with the Planning Department.

Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin