

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### MINUTES OF THE TUAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

#### I LATHAIR:

**Baill:** Cllr. T. McHugh, Chairman.  
Cllr. T. Reilly, Cllr. C. Keaveney, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. S. Canney

**Oifigigh:** Mr. F. Gilmore, Director of Services Housing, Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer, Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. J. Flesk, Executive Engineer, Mr. L. Gavin, Senior Engineer, Mr. F. Dawson, Director of Services Community & Enterprise, Ms. M. Cunningham, A/S.O. Housing.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

#### **Tuam Water Services Investment Programme**

Mr. Colm Claffey from Ryan Hanley Consultants presented a report on the proposed Tuam Water Services Investment Programme and outlined a number of key points. The tender recommendation is currently in the Water Services Unit and will be forwarded to the Department of Environment for approval within the next two weeks. It is hoped that the works will commence at the end of March / early April 2008. A PR consultant will be appointed to liaise with the business community and the residents in the areas concerned. There will be a contact number running 18 hours per day. Information will be passed on by specific meetings with specific stakeholders – the Members can compile and submit to the consultant a list of such stakeholders.

The Members noted the benefits of the project but also raised concerns regarding residential parking in the town, traffic management, noise levels, emergency access and liaison with the community while the project was ongoing. They outlined their concerns regarding the contractor and Cllr. McHugh suggested that a representative of the committee should meet with the contractor.

Mr. Gavin said that the contractor will not be announced until the tender is approved by the Department. Mr. Gilmore pointed out that only the Project Manager will be dealing with the

contractor and that the contract cannot be altered once the project has been tendered. Mr. Colm Claffey confirmed that the contractor recommended had experience in complex projects and that a traffic management plan would be in place.

### **Tuam Taxi Rank**

Mr. Gilmore presented the Draft Bye-Laws for Appointed Stands (Taxis) for the town of Tuam. Cllr. Canney asked whether taxi drivers had been consulted. Mr. Gilmore replied that they had, as had the Gardaí and local traders. Cllr. Canney proposed that the Bye-Laws be brought before the full Council and this was seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

### **Tuam Hub Development Committee**

Mr. Dawson presented a report on the establishment of a Tuam Hub Development Committee. The committee will be a formal Sub Committee of Galway County Development Board and will be established under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001. Tuam is the only Hub Town in the County and will thus benefit from the funding to be made available for the development of Hub Towns. The membership of the Committee will be based on the County Development Board. He acknowledged there had been frustration with the roll out of the commitments made to Tuam.

It was proposed by Cllr. McHugh and seconded by Cllr. Reilly, that Cllr. Canney serve on Tuam Hub Development Committee as Mayor together with Cllr. McHugh, Chairman of Area Committee and Cllr. Connolly Vice Chairman of Area Committee. Mr. Dawson suggested that Mayor Canney would serve on the committee for a year to provide continuity and this was agreed. Cllr. Reilly expressed concern at not being able to attend the meetings. Mr. Dawson replied that feedback from the meetings would be given to the Members.

### **Draft Roads Programme 2008**

Mr. Dolly presented a report on the Draft Roads Programme for 2008 concentrating on the Tuam Area. Cllr Connolly enquired regarding the scope for safety measures at Annagh Cross. Mr. Dolly replied that the monies for ordinary maintenance were inadequate. He also outlined changes from last year's programme in that this year the NRA required that resurfacing be done on a needs basis. Cllr. Connolly enquired as to why development contributions couldn't be used for roads. Mr. Dolly replied that all of the pre 2004 contribution had already been used and that after 2004 contributions were not allowed to be used on roads.

Cllr. Connolly proposed that speed limits should only be reviewed where proposals come in from Councillors or the community. Mr. Dolly replied that this issue will be brought to the attention of the Elected Members at the next full Council meeting.

Cllr. Connolly queried as to why jobs had not been finished where Notice of Motion monies had been allocated. Mr. Leahy requested that the Area Offices be notified of any such jobs.

The issue of public lighting was also raised by the Members and it was suggested by Mr. Leahy that the members come together to agree a scheme of public lighting as this was more sustainable than one-off connections.

Mr. Dolly requested approval to bring the Draft Roads Programme forward to the Full Council. This was proposed by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

### **Midland Motor Club Rally.**

A report was circulated to the members in relation to the temporary closure of roads for the Midland Motor Club Rally. Cllr. Reilly queried what work was carried out to repair the roads after such rallies and whether it was adequate. Mr. Dolly replied that there were standard conditions to be adhered to and that a deposit was taken and this was generally adequate.

### **Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Walsh raised the issue of two dangerous parts of road at Esker and Littlecastle on the Dunmore Glenamaddy road and wanted an update on progress. Mr. Gilmore replied that the latest update indicated that there were insufficient funds for this. Mr. Leahy explained that the design in place for the Esker road would have to be modified. Mr. Dolly replied that neither road had been included in the 2008 Programme and that a C.P.O. would not proceed without money being there to fund it. He also stated that there was no design in place for the Littlecastle road. Cllr. Walsh requested that the landowner be approached and a design be put in place.

Cllr. Canney and Cllr. Connolly raised the issue of taking in charge a number of Estates in Moylough and Tuam and requested an update. Mr. Leahy replied that three estates in Moylough would be taken in charge and that a report was in place regarding three estates in Tuam West.

Cllr. Connolly requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he was opposed to the removal of some settlement centers from the Draft Development Plan. Cllr. Reilly also requested that his opposition be recorded. Cllr. McHugh requested that the issue be raised at a full Council Meeting.

Cllr. Keaveny requested an update on the issue of tactile paving being provided in Tuam, particularly in High Street, outside the FAS office. Cllr. Connolly supported this request.

Cllr. McHugh raised the issue of illegal dumping in Tuam and outlined his concerns about the role of the Community Warden in policing such dumping. He described an incident where a truck was to be removed without permission of the owner and proposed that Galway County Council needed to apologise to the owner and possibly compensate the individual concerned. Mr. Leahy replied that the Community Warden followed procedures correctly. Cllr. Keaveney requested a full review of the role of the Community Warden and whether the Community Wardens should be involved in the collection of monies from parking meters. Mr. Gilmore replied that he would get an update on whether the Wardens were to continue with the collection of the monies and suggested that the issue be raised at a full Council meeting as the issue is not particular to Tuam. Mr. Gilmore also outlined steps being taken by the Housing department to tackle issues of illegal dumping in Council estates. Cllr. Canney called for more publicity for any actions being taken by the Council. Mr. Gilmore replied that he would be raising the issue at the upcoming meeting of the Tuam Town Council.

Cllr. Reilly raised the issue of the condition of the Ballygaddy Road which he reported to be dangerous and subsiding. Mr. Leahy replied that the road was still under contract and at the end of the maintenance period the road would be inspected. He also pointed out that the contractors involved needed to be taken to task and that there had been problems with that particular contract. Cllr. Canney proposed that a letter be written to the contractors concerned and this was seconded by Cllr. Reilly. Mr. Gilmore undertook to organize the letter.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin*