

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### MINUTES OF THE TUAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2009

#### I LATHAIR:

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

**Oifigigh:** Mr. F. Gilmore, Director of Services, Mr. J. Morgan, Director of Services, Mr. T. Collins, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. J. Eising Senior Engineer. Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer, Mr. M. Flesk, Executive Engineer, Ms. M. O Malley, A/Staff Officer, Ms. I. Martyn, Staff Officer Ms. M. Cunningham, Staff Officer.

The minutes of the last meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 were proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

#### **1. Part 8 Planning Application for the Tuam Bypass.**

The meeting was attended by representatives from Ryan Hanley Consultants, Ms Sharon Connolly, Project Manager and Mr. Steven Everard. Mr. Collins stated that the purpose of the meeting was to outline changes to the original N17 Tuam Bypass scheme which went through Part 8 Planning in September 2005 and was approved by An Bord Pleanála in August 2006.

Mr. Collins stated that the 3 main changes were to be as follows:

- The cross section of the road to be changed to a 2 + 2 (Type 2) Dual Carriageway
- An underbridge structure to be provided at Weir Road
- A compact grade separated junction to be provided at Ballygaddy Road

Cllr. Reilly asked whether this plan reflected connectivity as regards the Tuam to Claremorris Scheme. Mr. Collins stated that initially it was planned that the Tuam Bypass would be built as part of the M17 Tuam to Claremorris Scheme. However, due to a recent NRA initiative to progress the M18 Oranmore to Gort and M17 Galway to Tuam as a PPP scheme, it was now proposed to combine the M18 Oranmore to Gort, M17 Galway to Tuam and the M17 Tuam Bypass into one PPP Scheme, which the NRA intended to fast track. The NRA have advised GCC that they

envisage the PPP scheme going to construction in late 2010, provided all of the necessary approvals, including the Part 8 are in place.

The members all expressed concern that the industrial park in Weir Road was not being accommodated by the scheme and asked whether there could be access to the Bypass from Weir Road. Mr. Morgan stated that currently there were investigations into improving the junction on the N17 and that when the Bypass opens there will be reduced traffic on the N17. Cllr. Canney asked whether the road from the industrial park will be upgraded as part of the works on the junction. Mr. Morgan replied that it would not as the road was currently in a satisfactory condition.

Ms. Connolly explained that if a junction was put on the Weir Road it would actually be attracting more traffic and by not providing the junction, traffic flows would be reduced. Ms. Connolly stated that it was not feasible to provide access from the Bypass on to Weir Road as the distance between Weir Road and Ballygaddy Road was not enough to meet minimum safety requirements.

Cllr. Canney enquired as to how the Tuam Inner Relief road fitted in to this plan. Mr. Collins stated that a map could be produced for the Cllr. Canney's information.

Cllr. McHugh asked whether there would be a public footpath. Ms. Connolly stated that there would and that there would also be a footbridge at Kilmore on the N17.

Mr. Collins stated that the purpose of the meeting was not for the members to sign off on the Scheme, but that it will go on public display and any submissions made, including those made by the Members would have to be considered. In the final instance Galway County Council will be asked to grant Part 8 approval for the Tuam Bypass which will complete the statutory approval for the revised scheme and enable the NRA to keep the Tuam Bypass within the PPP scheme.

Cllr. Canney asked how the proposed upgrade of the junction on Weir Road would be funded. Mr. Morgan stated that this would have to be agreed with the NRA. Mr. Collins said that the NRA had already paid for a survey and a review of the capacity.

Cllr. Reilly asked whether any land had been acquired for the junction. Mr. Morgan stated that there were currently negotiations ongoing with landowners.

Cllr. McHugh asked what percentage of land for the bypass had been bought and paid for. Mr. Collins stated that so far in 2009 over two million euro had been spent on land acquisition.

## **2. Road Works Programme 2009**

Mr. P. Gavin presented 6 Early Starts Roads Projects for Tuam West to the meeting. Mr. J. Flesk presented 6 Early Starts Projects for Tuam East. These were accepted.

Mr. J Leahy presented the Members with the Road Works Programme for Tuam West. The Programme was proposed as accepted by Cllr. Canney and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

Mr. J. Flesk presented the Members with the Road Works Programme, with some changes from the Multi Annual Roadworks programme, for Tuam East. The Programme was proposed as accepted by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Reilly.

Cllr. McHugh asked what the situation would be with any roads in disrepair that were not shown on the programmes. Mr. Leahy said that the budget for maintenance would be used for those roads but that the maintenance budget had been cut.

### **3. Commemoration of the 1916 Rising**

It was agreed by the Member that this item would be discussed at a later date.

### **4. A.O.B**

Cllr. Connolly requested that the matter of the Planning Section looking favourably on cases where developments had no history of planning and landowners were seeking to regularize the situation. The Members asked that it be put on the agenda for the next area meeting.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin*