

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara **Municipal District of Conamara**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on 6th November 2015 @ 3.00 p.m

I LATHAIR:

Baill:

Cllrs. E. Mannion Cathaoirleach ,S. Walsh, T. Welby, S. Ó Tuairisg, N. Thomas, S. Ó Cualáin, T Ó Cuarraoin, T. Healy, N. Byrne.

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance,
L. Gavin, Director of Services,
U. Finn, S.E.E Roads.
P.Breathnacht S.E.E Conamara
K. Finn, Area Engineer S. Conamara
T. J Redmond Area Engineer N. Conamara
S. Groarke, Meeting Administrator.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17-9-2015

CMD 15046

The adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17-9-2015 was proposed by Cllr. N. Byrne and seconded by Comh. T. O'Curraoin.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Comh. S. O'Tuairisg referred to the Seán O'Riordán seminar concerning the role of the Municipal Districts and the need for a review of same. Cllr. E. Mannion referred to the e-mails received from Michael Owens, County Secretary concerning a survey to be undertaken in regard to the role of the MDs. Comh. S. O'Tuairisg also referred to the report on the storm damage and flooding and cited areas such as Frenchman's Bay, Inishmore, Inishnee and Maimín Pier where there is an ongoing problem with flooding which results in some families being stranded. K. Finn advised that the flooding at Frenchman's Strand is a tidal issue and that a coastal protection wall was under construction. He stated that he discussed this with C. Wynne and it is proposed to send an application to the OPW. He explained that the situation at Maimín Pier was also a tidal issue and that he would arrange to meet Comh. O'Tuairisg at the site. Comh. O'Cualáin and O'Tuairisg also enquired about the risk assessment to be undertaken in regard to the delivery of petrol to the harbour at Kilronan

and the commencement of the hedge trimming for Conamara and whether the Council could utilize Community Employment Schemes in regard to this. K. Finn advised that the Council was in contact with a specialist concerning the risk assessment for the delivery of petrol and was liaising with the Harbour Master. He stated that the matter was being progressed but that it would not be finalized until 2016. He also confirmed that he expected the hedge trimming to commence next week. In regard to the Council utilizing CE schemes – he advised that there is a difficulty associated with Health & Safety Regulations in regard to this and also a requirement to indemnify the Council for insurance purposes. He stated that he will arrange a meeting with Udaras na Gaeltachta in regard to this.

Declaration of Road to be a Public Road-Section 11 Roads Act 1993

CMD 15047

On the proposal of Comh. O’Cualáin , seconded by Comh. O’Tuairisg the following roads were declared to be public roads:

- Road commencing at junction with local road L1268-0 (9,88413; 53,3387) in the townland of Dumhaigh Ithir and extending north for a distance of 445 meters in the townland of Dumhaigh Ithir and finishing in the townland of Dumhaigh Ithir.
- Road commencing at junction with local road L5323 (105,340; 251,870) in the townland of Dúros and extending south for a distance of 396 meters in the townland of Dúros and finishing in the townland of Dúros.
- Road commencing at junction with local road L12063-0 (53,32821; 9,84336) Letterdeskert in the townland of Letterdeskert and extending south for a distance of 330 meters in the townland of Letterdeskert.
- Road commencing at junction with local road L-5200-33 (53,12674;-9,67425) in the townland of Killeany and extending north for a distance of 68 meters and finishing at Killeany (53,12732; -9,67385).

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh , seconded by Comh. O’Tuairisg the following roads were declared to be public roads:

- Road commencing at junction with local road L-5200-0 (53,11484; -9,67626) in the townland of Killeany and extending west for a distance of 608 meters and finishing at Killeany (53,11667; -9,68435).
- Road commencing at junction with local road L-5200-0 (53,11575; -9,67895) in the townland of Killeany and extending west for a distance of 140 meters and finishing at Killeany (53,11693; -9,67839).
- Road commencing at junction with local road L-52002-0 (53,1206; -9,67091) in the townland of Killeany and extending north west for a distance of 55 meters and finishing at Killeany (53,1209; -9,67128).

On the proposal of Cllr. E.Mannion, seconded by Cllr. T. Healy the following roads were declared to be public roads:

- Road commencing at junction with regional road R336 (96,065; 253,366) in the townland of An Mám Thoir and extending north for a distance of 80 meters in the townland of An Mám Thoir (96,094; 253,438).
- Road commencing at junction with regional road R341 (74,070; 243,590) in the townland of Cushatrower and extending north east for a distance of 540 meters in the townland of Cushatrower and finishing at (74,500; 243,920) in the town land of Cushatrower

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby, seconded by Cllr. E. Mannion it was agreed to defer declaring the road commencing at local road L-12058-0 in the townland of Lettershinna to be a public road.

Proposed Revision of On-Street Parking Bye-Laws.

CMD 15048

To consider and if deemed appropriate approve the drafting of revised on-street parking Bye-Laws for the Municipal District, to facilitate implementation of the proposal, as approved by majority vote of the Plenary Council, as follows:

“ That all County Towns have a two-hours free parking where Council parking charges apply at any time during the day. I request that this be on an experimental basis for a period of time”

L. Gavin referred to the above proposal passed by the Plenary Council in regard to granting 2-hours free parking on an experimental basis for a period of time in the towns where parking charges apply. He advised that this motion stands and there is a requirement for each Municipal Council to consider it and if they approve it- the relevant parking bye-laws will have to be amended by January 2016. G. Mullarkey referred to the financial implications/impact on the budget for the Council if the motion was approved by each MD- the estimated total loss of revenue from parking charges would be in the region of €538,000 of which €98,000 appertained to Conamara. He advised that if there was no motion approved to change the bye-laws-then the €98,000 would be restored to the budget. Cllr. E. Mannion advised that paid parking only applies to Clifden in the Conamara MD- which has free parking in the morning. She advised that the Councillors should reject this motion as they would not want the loss of €98,000 revenue to the budget. Cllr. S. Walsh also advised that they should not approve this motion. On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. T. Welby it was agreed to reject the motion.

Road Traffic-Speed Limit Bye-Laws

CMD 15049

Uinsinn Finn referred to Circular RSD 01/2015 from the Dept of Transport which required Local Authorities to implement a review of the speed limits on a county wide basis before the deadline of April 2017. He stated that the Council is commencing this review and the first stage is to invite the elected members to make submissions in writing before Friday the 18-12-2015. He then referred to Circular R.W 12/2015 from the Dept of Transport which required the implementation on a phased basis of 30 km/hour special speed limits in suitable housing estates that are in the charge of the Council. He advised that this Department has provided funding to Local Authorities for the signage costs associated with this program in 2015 and based on the budget provided the Council intends to progress this in regard to the following residential housing estates.

- Paint Box Road-Barna.
- Tullyvoheen Estate-Clifden.
- Cregg na Coille, Oughterard.

Cllr. Welby advised that the residents of Cregg na Coille had placed unofficial 15 km/hour signs in the estate and queried if the Council was required to implement all the signs at 30 km/hour. U. Finn confirmed that 30 km/hour was the statutory limit. He also clarified the details for Comh O’Tuairig and O’Curraoin in regard to the concerns of the residents of the Paint Box Road, Barna in regard to excessive speed. Cllr. Healy suggested that the issue of the speed limits be brought before the Joint Policing Body –so that the matter could be discussed with the Gardai. Comh. O’Curraoin raised the matter concerning the inappropriate 80km/hour speed limits on the side roads especially along the R-336 and also recommended that the speed limit around TG4 be placed 500-600 yards further west for safety reasons. Comh. S. O’Tuairisg referred to the need to reduce the speed limit on the road to the airport on Aran. Uinsinn Finn advised that all the 80km/hour signs on side roads adjacent to national roads will be changed and the rural speed limit to be put in their place. He stated that the RSA have requested that inappropriate speed limits throughout the country be changed and that members of the public have made submissions even on speed limits that are considered too low. Comh. S. O’Tuairisg referred to the current speed limits along the R-336 which are considered unreasonable- he cited one area where there are 3 different speed limits in less than a mile. U. Finn requested the elected members to submit their written submissions on the speed limits by the 18-12-2015. Cllr. T. Healy suggested that the Council should widen the roads where the 80km/hour signs are located for safety reasons. Cllr. S. Walsh advised that the making of speed limit bye-laws was a reserved function of the Councillors and they should consult with the engineers and give the matter careful consideration- he stated that some of the speed limits on the R-336 were unreasonable. Cllr. T. Healy stated that it was difficult to know what the speed limit is when driving through sections of the R-336. Cllr. E. Mannion enquired about the procedure to change the speed limits on the N-59 and Uinsinn Finn confirmed that the consent of the NRA is required to change the speed limits on National Roads. He advised that a new guidance document had been issued by the NRA in regard to speed limits on National Roads. The motion to adopt the 30km/hour speed limits for the Paint Box Road-Barna, the Tullyvoheen Estate , Clifden and the Cregg na Coille Estate in Oughterard was proposed by Cllr. N. Byrne , seconded by Cllr. T. Healy and agreed.

Update on Ceibh Inis Oirr

CMD 15050

Comh. S. O’Tuairisg advised that he was seeking clarification in regard the €8 million funding proposed to develop the pier at Inis Oirr which indicated that €6 million would be spent in 2016 and €2 million in 2014. The existing pier was in a very dangerous condition with waves washing over the wall and its environs being silted up. L.Gavin advised that a new pier for Inis Oirr was included in the recent Capital Development Program announced by the Government. He stated that the Council was awaiting further clarification in regard to which Department would have responsibility for this – whether it would be the Dept of the Marine, the Dept of the Environment or Roinn na Gaeltachta. He explained that clarity was also required as to whether there would be a requirement on the Council to contribute 10% or €800,000 towards the cost of the project. He advised that the Council was still owed €8 million in regard to completed marine projects. Comh. O’Cualáin advised that the Council should resist having to pay 10% of the cost as the implication of this was that it would have to be funded from the roads budget.

Cllr T. Welby advised that the section of the N59 between Bunakill-Leam was in a very bad condition which imposed hardship on the local community and enquires as to the timeframe when it was last resurfaced by the Council. L. Gavin stated that it was last re-surfaced around 1997-98 and that the Council is currently in contact with the NRA concerning the re-alignment that is proposed to be undertaken. If the re-alignment does not take place –the Council will make a case to the NRA concerning the urgency with progressing with the required overlay for this section of the N59. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that this road was in a very dangerous condition and advised of the importance to have the overlay done if the proposed re-alignment was further delayed by the requirement to agree the method statements.

Municipal District Director’s Business**CMD 15052**

L. Gavin advised that the Oral Hearing to be conducted by Bord Pleanála in regard to the N59 Maam Cross-Clifden route is scheduled for Tuesday 10-11-2015 at the Station House in Clifden. He also explained that the Public Consultation process in regard to the Galway to Oughterard Greenway is has commenced and that members of the public are invited to view the plans and submit comments/observations via questionnaires and can also raise any concerns/views in regard to the scheme. The venues for the Public Consultations is the Forge in Moycullen from Monday 23rd to Tuesday the 24th of November and at Aras an Chontae from Wednesday the 25th of November to Friday the 27th of November 2015. He advised that the Council intended to submit the planning application to Bord Pleanala in January 2016. Cllr. T. Welby sought clarification in regard to the 400 registered letters sent to the landowners and the preferred route. L. Gavin confirmed that letters have been issued and that the route broadly consisted of the old railway line with some diversions. Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the benefits from the Greenway would be major but the permissive access system will not work and that compensation would have to be paid to the landowners–due to the fact that they can restrict access at any time. Comh. O’Curraoin explained that the Greenway near Westport was located adjacent to the main road and that he could not understand why it could not be done in Conamara. Cllr. T. Welby agreed that major benefits would accrue and that silent majority were in favour of the Greenway but the landowners need persuasion to buy into the project. Cllr. T. Healy enquired about the progress on the Greenway between Clifden-Oughterard. L. Gavin advised that the first section was completed and the Council was in consultation with the landowners in regard to the second section –but very little progress has been achieved. He stated that it required the support of the public representatives and the community to assist in its progress. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that the section of the Greenway between Clifden-Dooneen was very popular with the local community.

AOB**CMD 15053**

Cllr. N. Byrne advised that a deputation representing the residents of Oughterard wish to discuss their concerns about the dangerous situation for pedestrians crossing the bridge at Oughterard and it was agreed to receive the deputation at the next meeting. She also referred to the danger posed by the blind bend in the road near the church at Moycullen and requested the Council to place more warning signage there. Comh. S. O’Tuairisg requested the Council to undertake a review of the Traffic Management Plan for Spiddal- he referred to the fact that issues such as the location of bus stops should be re-assessed.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN