

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LOUGHREA REGIONAL OFFICES ON MONDAY, 15TH MARCH 2010

LLATHAIR

Baill:

Cllr. M. Maher, Chairperson
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. M. Fahy
Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. B. Willers
Cllr. G. Finnerty

Oifigigh:

Mr. J. Cullen, D.O.S., Environment & Water Services Unit
Mr. M. Lavelle, S.E., Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. A. Raftery, E.E., Loughrea Engineering Area
Mr. C. Mitchell, E.E., Portumna Engineering Area
Mr. J. Costello, E.E., Gort Engineering Area
Ms. A. Power, S.S.O., Loughrea Regional Offices

RITH 2010

Cllr. Maher informed the Meeting that Rith 2010 was a festival taking place between 9th and 17th March 2010 and was one of the main events of Seachtain na Gaeilge. He said that it was a 1600km course laid out for a massive relay-race fun, from Belfast to Galway and the race was coming through Loughrea Town and would be stopping outside the Council Offices and all Members were welcome to view same.

MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2010

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Willers, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 1st February 2010 were confirmed.

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

Matters Arising from Minutes:

Traffic Lights at Westbridge

Cllr. Maher stated at the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum Meeting a query was raised as to whether the proposed Traffic Lights at Westbridge would go ahead until the outcome of the Loughrea Smarter Travel Bid was known and asked for clarification on same. Mr. Lavelle stated that his opinion would be that it should be put on hold until the Bid was prepared by the Consultants as the control systems may be different and may have to be changed again. In reply to Cllr. Willers, Mr. Breathnach stated that the Bid had to be complete and with the Department by the end of May. Cllr. Willers asked if the works for the proposed traffic lights in Gort could go ahead instead. Mr. Lavelle informed the Meeting that additional funding of €650,000 was being made available by the N.R.A. for Main Street, Gort in addition to the allocation given previously and a submission had to be made before final approval and as such works could not commence on the traffic lights. In relation to the laying of the water main, Mr. Cullen stated that the contract documents were ready to be signed off and it was hoped to commence same in early April. Referring to the proposed traffic lights for Westbridge, Mr. Cullen stated that this issue had been raised at the March Meeting of Loughrea Town Council and they requested clarity on what was happening. He stated that the Smart Travel Bid may have some bearing on the lights sequence but he said there was no certainty that agreement would be reached as to what would be included and there was no certainty that it would be accepted as a bid. He said in the meantime the civil works could proceed. Cllr. McClearn stated that as a local authority it was unfair to the public to hold off doing these very necessary works. Cllr. Hynes stated that it is very important that this matter be addressed immediately as it was a very dangerous junction. Mr. Lavelle explained that the submission for the Smarter Travel Bid had to be made by 30th April and suggested it would be better to wait until the Consultants have prepared the design before proceeding.

Potholes

Cllr. Finnerty queried if there was any funding to repair bad potholes on the N66. Mr. Breathnach stated that €100,000 had been allocated for repair of the bad patches. Cllr. Finnerty referred to Castledaly and Kilchreest Village which was particularly affected by bad potholes and asked if these could be attended to also.

MINUTES OF LOUGHREA AREA MEETING HELD ON 8th FEBRUARY 2010

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the Minutes of the Loughrea Area Meeting held on 8th February 2010 were confirmed.

Matters Arising from Minutes:

Road near Cregclare Crossroads, Ardrahan

Cllr. Fahy referred to road near Cregclare Crossroads which was affected during the bad flooding. The Council raised the road as a temporary measure to allow people to be able to travel that road and he asked for an update on same. Mr. Costello stated that he was asked by the Group dealing with flooding to make contact with the landowners and to prepare an estimate on the accommodation works to keep the road in place. Cllr. Fahy stated that if the road goes back to the original levels, flooding would be liable to happen at this location again. Cllr. Feeney stated that he hoped and expected that the landowners affected would be reasonable with their demands as it was an awful waste of money otherwise. Mr. Lavelle explained that the road was raised to facilitate the locals and their demands needed to be reasonable. He said that it was up to the landowners to reach agreement but it should be at a minimum cost to the Council.

REVISION OF RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANTS & SURFACE DRESSING PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS FOR 2010

The Members went through the proposed submissions that had been circulated to each Member:

2010 Road Restoration Proposals - Loughrea Engineering Area

Cllr. Feeney stated that these proposals were completely different to what had been approved previously. He referred to the proposed allocation of €7,000 towards Athenry Town and said that it was totally inadequate. Mr. Raftery explained that in the initial proposals approved in November 2009, the R437 Tuam Road, Athenry with an allocation of €162,159 had been included in the Programme. However, following the extreme flooding and extended period of frost, the programme had to be changed to deal with the roads severely affected. That coupled with the fact that the allocation had been reduced by €300,000 from last year meant that difficult choices had to be made. He explained that the Cosmona road had not been in the original allocation but had to be included owing to the damage caused to it. He said that if he was to include this and the Tuam Road, Athenry it would have meant that the half the entire budget would have been expended on just two sections of road. He said that they tried to put the monies to the worst affected roads. He explained that he had travelled all the damaged roads in the area and these were the proposals he considered most serious and damage arising out of serious weather conditions determined how the programme went. Cllr. Feeney stated that this road was on the list for some time but had never been done. He said that this was a disproportionate cut and that Athenry was a similar sized town to Loughrea and the allocation for this town was totally inadequate. Cllr. McClearn referred to the L8700 Lissalumma Road which was also on the original programme but has since been removed. He stated that this road was in very poor condition prior to the bad weather and that it was unimaginable that this

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

road was not included in the new proposals. Mr. Raftery explained that the proposals he was putting forward was basically patching of the worst affected areas. Cllr. McClearn queried if this road could be included in the surface dressing programme. Mr. Raftery advised that surface dressing would not be sufficient for this work as this road needs to be reconstructed. Cllr. Willers queried in what order were the proposed works being carried out. Mr. Lavelle stated that a commitment was given at the last Council Meeting that the Council would notify the Members what works were going on the following week and the Members would be notified on a weekly basis of the programme of works for that particular week. In relation to No. 32 on the list, L 8250 Castleboy, Cllr. Willers stated that she wished to allocate €5,000 of her Notice of Motion Monies towards this project. Mr. Lavelle stated that the monies allocated were inadequate but they had to work within the budget they were granted. He explained that the monies allocated were down on last year and the monies allocated in each area were based on the percentage of roads in each area. He stated that changes could be made to the proposals presented to the Members, but if they wanted to add in locations they had to be willing to remove proposals also. Cllr. Hynes queried what would happen in relation to the bad potholes on Local roads that were not included in the list. Mr. Lavelle stated that the Director of Services had given a reply to the effect that the Council did not have the resources to repair all the roads that were affected.

Cllr. Feeney queried why the Senior Engineer from Ballinasloe was not present at the Meeting as this had been requested at the last meeting. He said that owing to the proposed boundary changes, part of Ballinasloe was now in Loughrea Electoral Area and the Roads Engineer covering that area should be available to answer queries on same. Mr. Lavelle stated that Mr. Finn was invited to the Meeting but he advised that his attendance was not required. Cllr. Feeney stated that they now represented part of the Ballinsloe Area and that he should be in attendance at the Loughrea Area Meetings today and for future meetings. Mr. Lavelle stated that the reorganisation at engineering level has not taken place as yet. Cllr. Hynes asked that a map of the electoral area would be circulated to each Member indicating the road numbers would make it easier when making representations in relation to indicating the respective roads.

Cllr. Feeney stated that he would not be supporting the Road Restoration Programme Proposals as presented. Mr. Cullen stated that €744,000 was not enough to prevent things from getting worse and next year's allocation was probably accounted for already. He said that the Engineers have a responsibility, they had travelled the roads and put forward the list in terms of priority and that they were given an impossible task. Mr. Raftery suggested that they could look for extra funding for damage caused on the haul routes for the R347 in Athenry through the NRDO Office. Cllr. Willers asked that funding also be sought for the Roxboro Road off the N66 which has been done a few times. Mr. Raftery stated that he will compile a list and would include those in that list.

A vote was taken on the Road Restoration Proposals for 2010 for Loughrea Engineering Area :

For: Cllrs. Fahy, Willers, Finnerty & Hynes (4)
Against: Cllr. McClearn, Feeney & Maher (3)

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

As the number in favour of the proposals was greater than those against, the proposals as presented were agreed.

Road No.	Townland Name	Length (m)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
R-350	Cosmona	470	3,266.5	€120,000.00
R-350	Benmore	336	1848	€73,920.00
R-446	Newgrove/Kilmeen/ Craughwell	150	462.5	€14,300.00
R-351	Knockanima, Long Point, Grallagh, Kylebrack	70	464	€11,600.00
L8219	Ballyknock	830	2490	€45,000.00
L7182	Kilarriv-Kiltullagh	450	1800	€55,000.00
L71821	Kilarriv	730	2555	€80,000.00
L4300	Mullagh-Kilreekil	200	500	€16,500.00
L7212	Kincullia	140	518	€9,000.00
L7214	Moyleen-Lisduff	100	280	€7,645.40
L8243	Carra	150	450	€11,250.00
L7208	Glennaskehy	50	150	€3,750.00
L4220	Ballymanagh-Ballymannin	280	1048	€26,200.00
	Mays Boreen, Loughrea Town	65	390	€17,550.00
L7216	Raruddy Road, Loughrea	100	600	€30,000.00
L7155	Rahard-Gloves	790	3160	€86,900.00
L8224	Dalystown	123.33	370	€9,250.00
L8222	Dalystown	190	536.5	€13,412.50
L4213	Rafarn	60	120	€4,000.00
R347	Athenry Town	100	200	€7,000.00
L3112	Carnakelly	100	200	€6,000.00
L3114	Carrabane-Kiltullagh	75	187.5	€7,000.00
L3112	Kingsland	100	400	€12,000.00
	* Patching Various Locations		Listed Below	€25,000.00
L8224	Aille-Glennaslat	120	576	€14,400.00
L4219	Ballymanagh-Roo	50	150	€3,750.00
	Lecarrow & Lickerrig	12	70	€1,750.00
L42182	Ballynacurragh & Gorteananillaun	200	600	€15,500.00
L31131	Ganty (Gardiners) Road	50	150	€3,750
L4210	Loughrea-Tynagh at Carrowmore	50	200	€5,000.00
L71621	Pollnabanny	20	150	€3,750.00
L8250	Castleboy	75	200	€5,000.00

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

*** Velocity Patcher Proposals:**

L7216 Raruddy Road; L4211 Killeen-Carrowkeel; L4219 Ballymanagh-Roo; L32012 Turoe; Off R348 Cloran; R349 Carrabane-Dunsandle; L7179 Raheen; L7160 Mulpit; L3105 Raheen; L82153 Kylebrack East; L4210 Loughrea-Tynagh Road; L42111 Annaghbride; L7183 Raford-Hardys Cross; L7123 Moanbaun; Off R348 Knockatogher; L7168 Raford-Killimor; L8246 Tonarosty; L8216 Lisheenaclara-Bellelegau; L7206 Galboley; & R351 Kylebrack

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the following Surface Dressing Proposals for 2010 for Loughrea Engineering Area were agreed by the Members:-

Road No.	Townland Name	Length of Road (M)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
L82404	Ballyfintan	1773	4875.75	€19,503.00
	Hartes Road Moyode	1000	3100	€13,950.00
L8215	Ballinlawless	2000	7500	€30,000.00
L31041	Greethill	1260	4032	€16,330.00
L7162	Caheracrin	1996	6866.24	€27,465.00
L71561	Backpark	830	2490	€11,205.00
L32005	Derryhoyle	832	2662.4	€11,981.00
L8255	Ballymoneen	1000	3700	€16,650.00
L82481	Caheracrin/Ballinagreeve	1524	4724.4	€18,898.00
L82482	Caheracrin/Ballinagreeve	310	992	€4,464.00
L42191	Creggymulgreny	1433	4299	€17,196.00
L3200	Derryhoyle	3732	15301.2	€65,030.00
L7165	Creggatlough	850	2567	€11,552.00
L3104	Derrydonnell	600	3060	€13,158.00
L8265	Tullagh Hill	465	2464.5	€11,337.00
L31138	Laughil	1299	3897	€16,519.00
L8248	Caheracrin	800	2560	€11,264.00

2010 Road Restoration Proposals - Portumna Engineering Area

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the following Road Restoration Proposals for 2010 for Portumna Engineering Area were agreed by the Members:-

Road No.	Townland Name	Length of Road (M)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
L8795	Srah Cloonoon	1000	3500	€52,500.00
L8797	Rossmore	700	3150	€47,250.00
R353	Ballynakill/Abbey/Kylemore	2060	12360	€247,200.00

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

L8210	Acres Moyglass	1581	5217.3	€78,259.50
L8800	Slaughty	1148	4018	€60,270.00
L8801	Slaughty	797	2789.5	€41,842.50
L8229	Derrygarriff	1200	4200	€63,000.00
L42001	Derrygoolin South	247	741	€11,115.00
L4309	Mullagh	544	1632	€24,480.00
L4208	Drumkeary West	756	2268	€34,020.00
L4322	Eskerboy (Salmons Shop)	314	1632.8	€24,492.00
R351	Curra & Ballinagar	156	936	€14,040.00
L8805	Gortnacooheen Lecarrow	1174	4109	€61,635.00

2010 Surface Dressing Proposals – Portumna Engineering Area

On the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the following Surface Dressing Proposals for 2010 for Portumna Engineering Area were agreed by the Members:-

Road No.	Townland Name	Length of Road (M)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
L8782	Killeen North	1000	5000	€27,500.00
L4322	Killimor Oxgrove	1000	5750	€31,625.00
L88062	Shanbally Stoneyisland	691	2418.5	€13,301.75
L8751	Abbeygormacan	1500	5250	€28,875.00
L8787	Coolfin	1000	3500	€19,250.00
LS43134-0	Attigara Portumna	1214	4249	€23,369.50
LT43135-0	Attigara Portumna	164	574	€3,157.00
R351	Curra	1000	6000	€33,000.00
R353	Cartron/Marblehill	2200	13200	€72,600.00
R352	Oghilly	2132	12792	€70,356.00

2010 Road Restoration Proposals – Gort Engineering Area

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the following Road Restoration Proposals for 2010 for Gort Engineering Area were agreed by the Members:-

Road No.	Townland Name	Length of Road (M)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
R353	Derrybrien	2000	10,000	€200,000.00
LP4508/07	Tiernevin/Killina	2000	9000	€90,000.00
LP4520	Labane Cregclare	2000	10,000	€120,000.00
LS8525	Castletown	2000	10,000	€160,000.00
LS8542	Golf Course Gort	2000	7,500	€75,000.00
LS8581	Shanbally, Craughwell	2500	9000	€90,000.00

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

LS8539	Ballyglass	1000	4200	€42,445.00
LS8536	Isserkelly/Kimona	1000	3600	€36,000.00

2010 Surface Dressing Proposals – Gort Engineering Area

On the proposal of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the following Surface Dressing Proposals for 2010 for Gort Engineering Area were agreed by the Members:-

Gort

Road No.	Townland Name	Length of Road (M)	Total Area of Road (Sq M)	Estimated cost of Work
L8539	Ballyglass/Emlagh	1600	7200	€36,000.00
L8580	Roveagh	1600	7200	€36,000.00
L8588	Moy	1600	7200	€36,000.00
L4516	Lough Cutra Drive	1600	7200	€36,000.00
L8532	Lisatunny	1600	7200	€36,000.00
L45122	Rathbane	1000	3000	€15,000.00
L8567	Lavally Connor	1000	3000	€15,000.00
Various Roads	Raised during flooding	5000 (approx 5)	24676	€135,718.00

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flooding at House on Bride Street

Cllr. Maher asked was there any update from the OPW in relation to the list of schemes (which included works to alleviate flooding to a house on Bride Street) sent forward for approval. Mr. Lavelle stated that they were hoping to get a positive outcome for some of these schemes identified but they hadn't received a reply as yet. However, he said they were working on it and hoped to hear from them in the near future. Cllr. Maher asked that Mr. Lavelle raise that particular issue on Bride Street with the OPW.

Water in Gort

Mr. Cullen stated that the Boil Water Notice in Gort, which came into effect on 8th March, will continue during the course of the upgrading works at Gort Water Treatment Plan, which will take approx. three months to complete. He explained that the boil notice is being put into operation purely as a precautionary measure. During the period of the notice, the water supply in the area will be maintained and will continue to be treated with filtration and chlorination. He said that when the works are complete, the Council will issue a further notice and the precautionary boil water notice will be lifted.

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

Backlawn Car-Park

Cllr. Feeney queried if there was any update on when the Backlawn Car-Park would be commencing. Mr. Lavelle stated he would not be able to give a reply on this until the next Council Meeting. He said they were currently looking at the situation of reduced budgets and trying to keep the existing workforce employed. He said that they had only recently received the roads allocations and they were not yet in a position to see if they could carry out the works themselves or let it out to contract. Cllr. Feeney stated that they had allowed Pay & Display to be introduced in advance of the public car-park being built and it had gone on too long now and the car-park needed to be constructed as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Finnerty asked for a break-down of income generated from pay and display for each town to be made available for the next meeting.

Public Lighting in Housing Estate in Ardrahan

Cllr. Willers queried why the public lights in the Housing Estate in Ardrahan were not working. Mr. Lavelle stated that he would have the matter examined.

Litter in Loughrea Town

Cllr. Willers referred to the worsening litter situation in Loughrea Town. She referred to the dirt on the streets and to a number of overflowing bins around the town and especially at Corry's Field and the Long Point. Mr. Lavelle explained that the budget allocated for town maintenance was not adequate. He said that they would have to provide an adequate budget that would maintain the towns correctly in terms of litter, etc. He said there were staff difficulties in Loughrea of a significant level and they were being looked at presently. Cllr. Finnerty suggested that the litter issue can only succeed with voluntary effort and the only way to bring it under control was through community effort. He suggested that the issue of Tidy Towns should be put on the agenda for the next Area Meeting. Mr. Lavelle stated that if they could set an example of one town winning a tidy town village in Galway, maybe the example could spread to other towns. Cllr. McClearn suggested that the Council carry out spot-checks and write out seeking information as to their arrangements for waste disposal. He said it would only take a few spot-checks to be carried out for word-of-mouth to spread and for it to take effect. Mr. Cullen stated that the Council had powers under the Waste Management Acts to selectively issue Section 18 notices under the Waste Management Act.

Criteria for Parking Permit

Cllr. Willers referred to a recent Court case which was highlighted in the local newspapers in relation to a parking ticket that was issued in Athenry Town. It was highlighted in the Court Case that the applicant had applied for a parking permit for a small commercial van but was refused on the basis that the van was taxed commercially. Cllr. Willers stated that she had raised this issue on behalf of an individual in Loughrea Town whose only mode of transport was a small commercial van. She suggested that the bye-laws should be

Loughrea Area Meeting held on 15th March 2010

amended to allow for these circumstances as there were only a few individuals that have small vans for their own private use. Cllr. Feeney asked for the bye-laws to be changed to allow for small goods vehicles to be exempt from the bye-laws. Mr. Cullen stated that it was a fair concern and stated that this issue would be looked at.

Lighting on Ennis Bridge

Cllr. Feeney queried why the lighting column was omitted from the recent works done on the Ennis Road Bridge. Mr. Lavelle stated he would investigate this in advance of the next meeting.

Raheen Link Road

Cllr. Feeney queried why the lanterns were not installed on the lighting columns outside Byrnemech on the Station Road link. Mr. Lavelle stated he would investigate this in advance of the next meeting.

Loughrea Smarter Travel Update

A brief update on the preparation of the Stage II Bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town for the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas was circulated to each Member.

Chrochnaigh an Cruinniú ansin