

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Ballinasloe Electoral Area Committee held at the Civic Offices, Ballinasloe on Thursday 24th February 2011.

I Láthair:

Báil: Cllr. D. Connolly
Cllr. T. Mannion
Cllr. M. Mullins
Cllr. P. O'Sullivan, Mayor, Ballinasloe Town Council

Oifigigh: Mr. K. Kelly, Director of Services
Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer
Mr. U. Finn, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. M. O'Donnell A/Town Clerk
Mr. A. Headd, Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Mulryan, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Gilchrist, Staff Officer

Deputation – Residents of Ballyeigher/Ballinue

The Deputation, consisting of Mrs. Mary Hynes, Mr. Tommy Kelly and Mr. Mike Smyth outlined concerns of road users at the junction of the old N6 at Ballyeigher. The members of the deputation stated that traffic exits the M6 at Ballinasloe to avoid the toll. They also stated that this particular stretch of road is the only section where cars can overtake before Cappataggle. They requested a traffic island be put in place or increased road lining as an urgent minimum measure.

Ms. Hynes stated that a petition of 230 names was submitted previously. She also stated that additional land was purchased from Pauric Hession by the Council at the location. Cllr. Mannion referred to a previous Deputation from the locality in 2003 and to an email dated 15/11/2004 from the Council stating that following an inspection by the NRA the matter may be included in the following years Roads Programme.

In reply to Cllr. Mannion Mr. Lavelle stated that the NRA has responsibility for Regional Roads and funding for Low Cost Remedial Works at accident locations is sourced through them following audit of the design of the scheme.

Mr. Finn stated that a submission will be made to the Roads & Transportation Unit. It was proposed by Cllr. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Mullins to have the location prioritised for the 2012 Roads Programme. Cllr Dermot Connolly is to provide details of near misses incidents from the local residents.

1. Consideration and Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2011.

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2011 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

Matters Arising

Ballinasloe Regional Water Supply Scheme

In reply to Cllr. Connolly Mr. Headd stated that leak repairs continue and any long term proposals are a matter for the Water Services Department.

2. 2011 Roadworks Programme.

In his introduction to the presentation of the 2011 Roadworks Programme Mr. Lavelle referred to the division in services between water and roads with the introduction of the new dedicated Water Services Section. Cllr. Connolly expressed concern that local knowledge will be lost and Cllr. Mannion asked if staff have agreed to move and if so why is this not made public. Mr. Kelly stated that the two functions have been split leaving some staff with a reduced level of function but with an increased area. He stated that under the Croke Agreement certain procedures must be adhered to and it would be premature to distribute information on staff changes at this point in time.

Mr. Lavelle addressed the Roadworks Programme in detail and Mr. Headd and Mr. Mulryan distributed details of schemes pertaining to the Ballinasloe South and North Engineering Areas respectively with supporting maps. Mr. Lavelle stated that the terms of the Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads prohibit the carrying out of certain works which were allowed in previous years.

Cllr. Connolly referred to the absence of funding for Ballinasloe Town Maintenance for 2011. Mr. Kelly stated that responsibility for services in Ballinasloe Town e.g. street cleaning depends on the location of the road and costs are split between the two authorities in a mix of arrangements between workers and costs. Cllr. O'Sullivan also referred to the contribution made through the County Charge.

Under the Specific Improvement Section Cllr. Mannion expressed disappointment that the Killure Road was not high enough on the priority list to be included for 2011. Cllr. Mullins stated that all members of the Committee are puzzled as to why the Killure Road is not included. Cllr. Mannion stated that he felt decisions made at local level were being undermined. Mr. Finn stated that funding had been granted previously but it was pulled in the second Budget in 2008. Mr. Lavelle stated that there is some flexibility in the Restoration Maintenance Grant.

Cllr. Connolly referred to the Lisfinny Road and Mr. Headd stated that this road is included for the 2012 Programme and will be included in the schedule for pothole repairs in the meantime.

In reply to Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan stated that comprehensive repair works were carried out on the Shanvoley road in recent weeks.

The Programme with the exception of the Specific Improvements Section was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

3. Any Other Business

Staffing

Cllr. Connolly raised the issue of the moratorium on recruitment and how it has impacted on Roads front-line staff. Mr. Finn stated that there is no point in having additional staff without appropriate levels of funding. Staff costs amount to approximately 30 to 50% of any project and if there is not the balance to pay for plant and materials the staff cannot work efficiently. The LA also need to carry these costs through the winter when there are no grant jobs to pay the wages.

Good Wishes

Cllr. Mullins, Chairperson wished Cllrs. Broderick, Connaughton and Connolly well in the up-coming General Election.

Criochnaigh an Chrinniu ansin