

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 02ND JUNE 2010, IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

ILÁTHAIR:-

Baill:

Comh. S. Ó Cuaig, Cathaoirleach
Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg
Comh. T. Ó Curraoin
Cllr. T. Welby
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. S. Kyne

Oifigigh:

Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. F. Gilmore, Director of Services, Roads and
Transportation and Housing
Mr. E. Molloy, S.E. West
Mr. M. Dolly, S.E. Water Services
Mr. T. Kelly, S.E.E, Conamara Area
Mr. F. McGillycuddy, E.E. Oughterard
Mr. T.J. Redmond, A/E.E. Clifden
Mr. D. Mitchell, E.E. An Cheathrú Rua
Ms. N. Heffernan, A. O. Finance Unit

1. Minutes of the previous meeting 10th March 2010

On the proposal of Cllr Kyne, seconded by Cllr Welby the minutes of the meeting of 10th March 2010 were approved.

2. Carraroe Sewerage

Mr Dolly advised the meeting that notification had been received from the Department regarding the Water Service Investment Programme for 2010 – 2012. He said that the Carraroe Sewerage Scheme had not been included in the programme.

As the scheme was not included Galway County Council is not currently in a position to proceed to Part 8 planning for the scheme, but he has requested approval from the Department to proceed to planning stage with the scheme. If Departmental approval is granted, a presentation will be made to the Councillors on the proposal.

Cllr Welby suggested that the Council look at a different method of treating the waste, as the proposed location for the treatment plant was a highly scenic area. In response to a query from Comh Ó Curraoin, Mr Dolly said that the

site selection process had been completed and that alternative sites would not be looked at again.

3. Traffic Management Plans Update

The situation regarding traffic management at various locations was discussed:

- **Roundstone**

Mr Molloy said that discussions had been held with the local community regarding a traffic management proposal for Roundstone. Galway County Council is currently awaiting a response from the local community to the proposal.

- **Clonbur**

Mr Molloy said that Galway County Council is currently working on regularising the traffic in Clonbur.

- **Kilronan Harbour**

Mr Molloy said that a Traffic Management Plan would be required to regulate traffic on the new pier at Kilronan. The Council has not yet succeeded in purchasing/leasing land to provide parking facilities in the area.

- **Carraroe**

Mr Molloy stated that there was no public pressure from the people of Carraroe to bring forward a Traffic Management Plan for the area.

- **Clifden**

There is a Traffic Management Plan in place in Clifden, but Mr Molloy advised that extra work is required on it, particularly with reference to the Beach Road area.

- **Cleggan**

Mr Molloy confirmed that a Parking Management Plan is required for Cleggan but that to date the Council has made limited progress, due to the inability to acquire land by leasing or purchasing, to provide car parking facilities. Cllr Mannion asked what could be done to regulate the parking situation on Cleggan Harbour. Mr Molloy said that it was necessary to bring forward Harbour Bye-Laws in conjunction with a Traffic Management Plan for the area but reiterated that the Council had so far failed to acquire the necessary land in the area.

- **Barna**

In response to a query from Comh. Ó Tuarisg Mr Molloy said it was necessary to adopt bye-laws for the Barna Pier to regulate the situation there. He said that Mr McGillicuddy would investigate boxes left at entrances to properties which were causing an obstruction.

- **Moycullen**

Mr Molloy confirmed to Cllr Kyne that he would progress the Traffic Management Plan for Moycullen and that it would involve looking for an alternative location for the bus stop.

- **Oughterard**

Mr Molloy confirmed to Cllr Welby that the Traffic Management Plan for Oughterard was being reviewed with the local community.

4. Conamara Fire Service

Comh Ó Cuaig expressed his concern that the Chief Fire Officer was not available to attend the Conamara Area Meeting. Mr Gilmore said that Mr Raftery was on leave but that he would deal with any queries or issues raised regarding the Fire Service.

Mr Gilmore said that a study would be carried out shortly on the various factors that would determine the best possible location for a fire station for Galway City and County. He said that an independent audit would also be carried out on the results of the study. The Council is currently waiting on approval from the Department to set up this study group and to appoint an independent auditor. He confirmed that he would expect a report back within three to four months. There is a delay at the moment as the Council is waiting on standards to be established for the fire service in Ireland. Comh Ó Cuaig said that the view locally in Conamara, was that a station should be set up in the most suitable location, and that it is not the case that there is pressure to have it located in any particular place. Comh Ó Curraoin asked that the group appointed to made aware of the span to be covered by the Fire Service from Clifden to Galway.

5. National Route Allocations

Mr Molloy presented the list of final supplementary funding provided for pavement improvement. The funding is concentrated in the area from Clifden to the Mayo border due to damage caused by adverse weather.

6. Aon Ghnó Eile

a) Pier at Pointe, An Cheathrú Rua

Comh Ó Tuairisg asked that the Council take in charge the road to Pointe Pier. Mr Molloy said that its width did not meet the minimum statutory requirements for taking in charge. He said that efforts had been made with the landowner to acquire the necessary width, but that these efforts had failed to date. Comh. Ó Cuaig said that the Council should acquire the land by Compulsory Purchase Order. Mr. Molloy said that objections could be raised if a CPO was initiated and that a CPO may not be the correct way to proceed with the matter.

b) Update on R336

Mr Gilmore said that a submission had been prepared for a route for the new R336, half of which is within an SAC and half outside the SAC area. This has been prepared and submitted to the Department of the Environment to get a response from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to having a route through an SAC. It is not intended that this will be the final route selected. It is anticipated that a meeting will be held around the 15th June 2010 with the Department to discuss the matter.

Mr Gilmore confirmed that the Galway City Outer Bypass case was ongoing in the Supreme Court this week and next week. The result of this case should give an indication of how the R336 will progress, as it also affects an SAC.

Comh Ó Tuairisg referred to planning applications which were held up on the basis of a firm decision for a preferred route. Mr Gilmore said that it would be another month or two before it would be possible to remove that block on planning permissions surrounding all three route options.

c) Leader funding for footpaths

Mr Molloy confirmed that the County Manager is organizing a meeting between representatives from Roinn na Gaeltachta and each Leader group in County Galway to clarify and if possible to modify the restrictions on the scheme. Mr Molloy said that the matching funding required from the Council, towards the scheme, would be available, if the scheme went ahead.

d) Graveyards

Mr Molloy said that no progress had been made to date on acquiring land to extend Moyrus graveyard.

Mr Kelly said that he had spoken to the Environment Section and that very limited funding is available for the upkeep of graveyards and that no funds were available for the extension of them. Mr Mullarkey agreed to discuss the matter further with the Environment Section.

e) Memorial stone at Tourneey

Comh Ó Tuairisg advised that he had received a letter from Conamara Sinn Féin enquiring if the Conamara Councillors had any objection to the erection of a memorial stone at Tourneey. Mr Molloy said that the details should be sent to the local area engineer, Mr TJ Redmond for his approval before any monument was erected.

f) Recess road

Comh Ó Cuaig referred to the state of the road at the Recess crossroads, and asked what proposal was in place to improve its condition. Mr Molloy said that a Low Cost Accident Scheme application had been applied for, for that area, but no allocation had been made yet by the Department.

g) Preplanning Meetings

Comh Ó Cuaig said that a member of the public had been advised that there were no vacancies for pre-planning meetings until 22nd September 2010 for the Conamara area, which is unsatisfactory. Mr Mullarkey said that he would speak to the relevant Director for Planning and Development, Mr Kelly and revert to Comh Ó Cuaig.

h) Rural Houses and Housing Aid for the Elderly

In response to Comh Ó Cuaig, Mr Mullarkey said that he would establish with Mr Gilmore what plans Galway County Council had to build one-off rural houses in 2010 and also if there were going to be housing aid for elderly allocations this year.

i) An Caladh Mór

Mr Molloy outlined that the contract for An Caladh Mór was completed and that Galway County Council was currently in a conciliation process with the contractor as regards a claim for additional costs.

j) Flooding at Noonans on N59

In response to an enquiry from Cllr Kyne, it was confirmed that works to alleviate flooding at Noonans on the N59 would be completed as part of the programme of works during the summer this year.

k) Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 06th July 2010 at 10.30a.m.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin.