

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

I Láthair:

Baill Comh. T. Ó'Curraoin, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. S. Walsh, Leas Cathaoirleach
Comh. S. Ó'Cuaig,
Cllr. T. Welby
Cllr. E. Mannion
Cllr. S. Kyne
Comh. S. Ó Tuairisg

Oifigh: Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
Mr. Tony Kelly, S.E.E. Oughterard
Mr. Kevin Kelly, Director of Services, Planning &
Mr. Anton Martens, Executive Planner, Forward Planning Unit
Mr. T.J. Redmond, A/Executive Engineer, Clifden
Mr. Sean Groarke, A.O. Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. Michael Owens, S.E.O. Roads & Transportation Unit
Mr. Kevin Finn, Executive Engineer, Road Design

Other: Delegation – Ashford Road Committee

1. Toscaireacht Ashford Road Committee.

Comh. S. Ó'Tuairisg, welcomed Mr. Frank Murphy, Mr. Michael Walsh and Mr. John Joe McGrath, representatives of the Ashford Road Committee. Mr. Michael Walsh presented a map of Cong outlining the road in question at Ashford Castle to the meeting. He stated that the committee wished to make Galway County Council aware of a right of way issue at Ashford Castle and added that the Committee would like the Council's view on it, as it was similar to the situation at Lissadell House in Sligo. He stated that locals always had a right of way access from Ashford Castle through to Cong village via this road, which had two half gates which were permanently open.

He stated that the owner had now put motorised gadgets on the half gates, and that residents believed that it was the owner's long term intention to close the gates at night and they feared that efforts were being made to privatise the estate. He stated that it was not clear what the owner's long term plans were, but that it was important that a precedent was not set of closing the gates at night. Comh. S. Ó'Cuaig asked if it could be established whether the road was a public road and Cllr. S. Kyne asked if the road could be taken in charge and requested that advice be sought from the Council's Law Agent. Cllr. T. Welby asked if there was a reason why the gates had

been closed and he stated that it could have an affect on boating and fishing rights being impeded in future.

Cllr. E. Mannion asked if there had been trouble on the grounds, she added that she had spoken with the owner, who stated that he had concerns in relation to the safety of his property, which he needed to protect by closing the gates at night. Mr. T. Kelly stated he would check if the Council had any documentation in relation to the road and the right of way. Mr. T. Kelly noted that rights of way were a complex area and agreed to discuss the issue with the Council's Law Agent. The delegation then left.

Minutes of meeting held on 8th July, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. S. Kyne, the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th July, 2010 were adopted.

Matters Arising:

Comh Ó'Cuaig raised the issue of graveyards and stated that Moyrus Graveyard was full as were many others in Conamara. He stated that there was suitable land available for an extension at a cost of €35,000.00 and asked if the Council had €35,000.00 available. Mr. T. Kelly stated that he had spoken with the Environment Section and that there was very limited funding available for the provision or extension of graveyards. Mr. G. Mullarkey stated that the Environment SPC was working on a Plan for Graveyards for the full County and that the intention was to bring it before the Council at the October meeting. Comh Ó'Cuaig stated that it was hard to ask for land for free for Graveyards when people saw the amount of money being paid for roads.

Cllr. S. Walsh agreed and stated that it was a serious situation that the people of Carna could not get €35,000 to bury their people. Comh. T. Ó'Curraoin asked what the position was in relation to Health and Safety and added that Furbo was the only graveyard where space was available. Cllr. Ó'Cuaig stated that there was land available near Lettermore and Beal an Daingean, however, money would have to be made available for fill for these lands. Cllr. Walsh stated that planning permission was required and that it would be better to extend the graveyards instead. He also suggested that consideration should be given to a reduction in the arts budgets and same be allocated towards graveyard provision. Cllr. E. Mannion added that cremation may be the option for the future and Comh. Ó'Tuairisg replied that many people would not want this.

Pier at Pointe An Cheathru Rua.

Cllr. S. Walsh asked Mr. K. Finn what the up to date position was regarding the wall at Pointe. Mr. K. Finn stated that a survey had been carried out by EDM, however, it was not substantive enough to proceed to Court. Mr. K. Finn stated that the Council had been in a position to sign a tender to undertake work on the pier in order to avail of a grant from Roinn na Gaeltachta, however the right of way issue meant the grant could not be availed of. Cllr. Walsh suggested that the piece of ground needed to provide this access, be acquired by CPO or that it be declared a public right of way, so that work on the pier could be undertaken.

On the proposal of Comh. T.Ó. Curraoin and seconded by Cllr. Walsh, it was agreed that items 5 & 6 be discussed together.

5. Draft Bye-Laws for the regulation of Cill Ronain Harbour and Cill Einne Harbour.

6. Draft Cill Ronain Traffic Management Plan.

Mr. K. Finn presented the Draft Bye-Laws for the Regulation of Cill Ronain Harbour and Cill Einne Harbour and the Draft Cill Ronain Traffic Management Plan to the meeting. He stated that work on the Harbour was 85% completed and added that work on the new pier would be completed by the end of the year or early next year. He stated that a public meeting would be held on the island on 14th September, 2010 from 7pm – 9pm and that the Draft-Bye laws would then go on Public Display, for public consultation.

He stated that the traffic bye-laws were designed to help regulate tour buses and jarvey’s operating within the harbour, he added that permits would also be issued for a nominal fee. Cllr. S. Walsh stated that Bye-Laws would have to be strictly enforced. Comh. S. Ó’Cuaig stated that a plan or code of conduct would need to be put in place to prevent people drifting out to the middle of the road. Comh S. Ó’Cuaig asked if a rota could be established to manage buses and Jarvey’s, allowing a set amount to stay within a selected area and suggested that this be discussed at the meeting.

Comh. S. Ó’Tuairisg questioned the use of bollards and the gate as outlined in the Draft Cill Ronain Traffic Management Plan. Mr. K. Finn stated that these could be removed as the plan was in Draft Form.

3. 2011 – 2013 Draft Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme
4. Specific Improvement Grant, 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh and seconded by Comh S. Ó’Cuaig it was agreed that items 3 & 4 be taken together.

Mr. T. Kelly presented the 2011 - 2013 Draft Multi-Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme and the Draft Scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads to the meeting.

It was proposed by Comh Ó’Cuaig and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed to approve the 2011 – 2013 Draft Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme, subject to the following amendments to the Draft Programme as presented:

2011 – 2013 Draft Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme (as presented):

R	374	Leitir Mor	Carraroe	RR	2011	1,000	6,250	€137,500
R	340	Cill Chiarain - Carna	Carraroe	RR	2012	1,000	6,250	€137,500
LS	5342	Maghera	Oughterard	RR	2012	1,700	6,800	€108,800
LT	53514	Birchall	Oughterard	RR	2013	750	3,000	€45,000

2011 – 2013 Draft Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme (as approved):

R	374	Leitir Mor	Carraroe	RR	2012	1,000	6,250	€137,500
R	340	Cill Chiarain - Carna	Carraroe	RR	2011	1,000	6,250	€137,500
LS	5342	Maghera	Oughterard	RR	2012	1,700	6,800	€63,800
LS	5342	Maghera	Oughterard	RR	2013			€45,000
LT	53514	Birchall	Oughterard	RR	2012	750	3,000	€45,000

Mr. T. Kelly stated that the budget for Specific Improvements had been reduced and noted that the areas deemed to be most in need were those proposed.

On the proposal of Comh. S. Ó'Cuaig and Seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh, the scheme of Grants for Specific Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads – Draft Proposals for funding in 2011 were approved as amended.

Comh. S. Ó'Cuaig, stated that there appeared to be a problem with the road surface on the R340 from Turlough – Inver on the corner just past Pierce's Cottage, where cars had come off the road and asked if the Area Engineer could investigate same. Mr. T. Kelly stated that this section of the road could be included in the surface dressing programme for 2011.

Mr. K. Kelly informed the meeting of the Council's intention to develop a site and provide office accommodation on a leasehold basis at Clifden, located beside the Fire station. He stated that it was the Council's intention to place an advertisement in newspapers to invite expressions of interest on the site.

Item No: 7: Draft Development Contribution Scheme.

Mr. K. Kelly presented the details of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48, Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended to the meeting. He stated that the scheme was necessary to regularise and give statutory footing to what was agreed in the Barna Plan, by including it in the Draft Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48, for consideration by the members. He also outlined that the draft scheme proposed a reduction in the recreation and amenity contribution for residential development as well as a reduction in the charge for Commercial development.

Mr. K. Kelly noted that the structure of the Barna Plan was different to other plans which had defined residential zoning and that the current proposal was clarifying the monetary amount of the contribution due under the recreation and amenity charge. Comh. S. Ó'Tuairisg stated that when the Barna Plan was adopted, it was not envisaged that such provision would apply to single one off houses but added that it was a great scheme for the provision of land for amenities. Cllr. S. Walsh agreed and stated that it was never envisaged that the scheme would apply to the single one off house and noted that a single house could potentially be charged up to €27,000.00.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby and seconded by Cllr. S. Kyne it was agreed that the new Recreation and Amenity charge proposed for Barna under the General Development Contribution Scheme would not apply to single houses where local need has been proven.

Mr. K. Kelly stated that the Draft Development Scheme would go before each area meeting prior to going before the full Council. The Draft would then go on public display for submissions. It would then be presented to the full council for final adoption.

Aon Ghno Eile:

Comh T. Ó'Curráoin raised the issue of a pool used in the past by locals for swimming which was located near Rosmuc. He stated that it had now become unusable and overgrown and that a damaged valve appeared to be causing the problem. He asked if the Council could investigate same. Mr. T. Kelly stated that he would carry out an inspection, but added that ownership of same would also need to be determined.

Comh. T. Ó'Curráoin stated that he had received complaints of a camera, chains and bollards placed along the edge of the public road at Baill an tSagart which appeared to be on Council property. Mr. T. Kelly stated that it would be a matter for the Planning Enforcement Section to investigate, if the camera was situated on public property and added that he would contact the Community Warden for that area to investigate same.

Cllr. S. Kyne requested that the Council investigate a drain/Culvert located at Drum East where reconstruction work had been carried out previously and asked if the Council could investigate same.

Comh S. Ó'Tuairisg asked what the up to date position was relating to of MFG/Forum Schemes. Mr. T. Kelly stated that at present there were two schemes involved and that planning permission had been approved for Roundstone. He stated that a request would be submitted for towns where contribution money had not been finalised as yet, such as Spiddle and Roscahill, to be included as part of the estimates for next year. Cllr. S. Kyne added that the application for planning permission would have to be undertaken by the Community and not by the Council as it was part of EU Funding.

Cllr. S. Ó'Cuaig, expressed a motion of good luck for Mr. Colm Wallace on his recent retirement, Cllr. S. Walsh and Comh. T. Ó'Curraoin wished to be associated with this.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 18th October, 2010 at 10am.

Chriochnaigh an Cruinniu ansin.

