

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 28th April, 2008

I LATHAIR:-

Baill: Cllr. J. Cuddy, Chairman.
Cllr. M. Hoade.
Cllr. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Carey

Oifigigh:- Mr. P. Ridge, DOS Planning & Sustainable Development Unit
Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer
Mr. D. Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads &
Transportation
Mr. E. Gallagher, Executive Engineer Roads & Transportation
Ms P. Kemple, A.S.O., Planning & Sustainable Dev. Unit

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th March, 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Carey, the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th March, 2008 were agreed and adopted.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Carey enquired about the Headford Road Junction and N84.

2. Development Contribution Levies – comparing to other county councils

Mr. Ridge updated the Committee on the current project ongoing in the Planning Department which involved going through the planning applications, seeing if Development Contribution was paid and what's due and also checking where development has commenced without a Commencement Notice. He explained that 9000 files had been assessed and another 5000 was outstanding. It was hoped that this project would be completed by the end of June.

Cllr. Cuddy asked about a breakdown for each Electoral Area, Mr. Ridge responded that the current system does not record this. Cllr. Cuddy enquired about a timescale for when development contribution fall due, Mr. Ridge responded that they were always due, that some times a Developer agreed a phased payment for a large development. Cllr. Hoade asked if the contribution was due before the planning permission expired, Mr. Ridge responded that the contribution should be paid before the house is sold as certification that the development contribution is paid is often required for compliance purposes. Mr. Ridge went on to say that there are a number of weaknesses in the current system that it was hoped would be rectified, that this was a key objective in the Planning Department this year. He also talked about availing of the use of aerial photos and An Post's geo directory which has the county mapped in order to track outstanding contributions.

Cllr. Cuddy asked about billing before the Commencement Notice was received. Mr. Ridge responded that the Commencement Notice was a statement of intent to do works, that this could not be submitted in arrears, that it was not a planning requirement but a Building Control issue.

The issue of paying the development contribution at a later stage was also discussed. Mr. Ridge responded that retention fees are costly and unpaid fees that were being paid at a later date could be charged at current rates which might be substantially higher.

Mr. Ridge then went on to discuss comparing Galway County Council with other counties as regards Development Contribution levies. He read from a Chambers Ireland document and said it was difficult to make a comparison as each local authority approached this in a different manner. Cllr. Cuddy asked what counties have provision in their development contribution levies for road maintenance. Mr. Ridge responded that the Department had been written to in this regard but to date no response had been received, that it was not easy to compare as there was no consistency.

3. Oranmore Draft Traffic Management Plan

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his and the residents' concern on the traffic situation in Oranmore especially with the potential traffic that the White Cedar development would have on the town. Cllr. Hoade asked about Pay and Display in Oranmore town. Mr. Lavelle responded that the White Cedar development would bring 600 car spaces, that staff were working on other projects, there was a staff embargo, that people were parking illegally and the issue of traffic wardens being shared with other towns. Cllr. Hoade asked if anything could be done in the interim? Mr. Lavelle responded that Pay and Display was a lot of work. Cllr. Cuddy asked for a schedule of the Traffic Management Plan. Mr. Gallagher responded that the plan didn't address all issues such as a lack of lines of the road. Mr. Lavelle added that there were 2 roundabouts planned and it was hoped that this would alleviate some of the traffic but there was a list of Schemes being dealt with. He also added that construction development was not put in the Traffic Management Plan. Mr. Ridge enquired as to how frequently the Traffic Wardens were covering Oranmore. Mr. Croghan responded that one or two hours a day was the norm coverage for Oranmore. Cllr. Carey expressed concern that there were similar problems with Headford. Both Mr. Lavelle and Mr. Ridge again reiterated that the White Cedar development with its provision of 600 car spaces would have a big impact on relieving traffic in Oranmore. Cllr. Cuddy agreed to look at getting more An Gardaí enforcement.

4. Update on Oranmore Wetlands and flooding

Mr. Ridge explained that from a planning point of view, they looked at all applications granted within that vicinity and that they would be writing to the Developers asking if all surface water was dealt with in accordance with planning permission granted. He went on to say that no one had a right to create flooding, that the OPW were preparing a flood report and they were looking at the design for the channel which needed to be cleaned and that it needed to be ascertained whose responsibility this would be in the future. Cllr. Carey asked if it would be the landowners responsibly, Mr. Ridge responded that this issue would be re-visited when the reports come back.

5. Public Lighting

Cllr. McDonagh enquired if there was any updates on monies allocated for public lighting. Mr. Gallagher responded that they have a request with the ESB but no response yet. Cllr. Cuddy asked about one off lights, Mr. Gallagher responded that a

scheme of lighting was preferable. Cllr. McDonagh referred to one off lighting being the old policy. Cllr. Cuddy enquired about lighting for Cregcarragh village, Mr. Gallagher responded that no monies had been allocated. Mr. Croghan confirmed that Notice of Motion monies could be transferred to Roads. Cllr. Carey asked if these Notice of Motion lights could be transferred to next year. Mr. Ridge responded that revenue monies must be spend in the year that they were raised.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

Cllr. McDonagh asked for an update and if there were any monies available. Mr. Croghan said he had spoken to Sean Gaughran, he had a figure of €928,000 but that there was a delay in making an application and getting funding, that a list was being compiled, that there was about 6 projects for Oranmore which were ready to go but not signed off on yet.

7. Any Other Business

Stranded Poles

Mr. Lavelle wanted to bring the issue of stranded poles to the Committees attention. In particular where the telecom poles need to be set back from the boundary, he advised members not to request Telecom to have these moved but instead to take photos sent them to Telecom, notify them of the location in question as currently the responsibility rests with the landowner and Telecom not the County Council.

Cllr. Cuddy asked about vandalism issues at the bottle bank at Cregmore. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that they had been on to An Gardai about this.

Cllr. Hoade enquired about an application for EU co-financing monies. Mr. Croghan confirmed that there was no request for next year but monies were allocated for this year. Cllr. McDonagh asked if a proposal could be made now for 2009. Mr. Croghan responded that proposals could be submitted.

Cllr. Cuddy enquired about Community Alert Signs, that four Cregmore Area signs were ready to be erected. Mr. Croghan confirmed that the Council will put these up. Cllr. Hoade enquired about Corrandulla Community Alert signage, Mr. Croghan advised her to write to Mr. Gallagher who agreed to liaise with her.

Cllr. Cuddy asked about litter on the Airport Road to Galway City. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that there was a lack of manpower issue, that it does get cleaned up but is a recurring problem. Cllr. McDonagh enquired about the skip at Lackagh Old Cemetery. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that this was on the list for clean up.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday 23rd June, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin