

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Report of Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held at Áras an Chontae on the 29th October, 2009

I LATHAIR:-

Baill: Cllr. J. Cuddy (Chairperson)
Cllr. L. Carroll
Cllr. J. McDonagh
Cllr. M. Noone

Oifigigh:- Mr. P. Ridge, Director of Service, Planning & Sustainable
Development
Ms. Catherine McConnell, Senior Planner, Planning & Sustainable
Development
Mr. M. Dolly, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. M. Lavelle, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. D. Croghan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads &
Transportation
Ms. Liadhan Keady, Assistant Staff Officer, Planning &
Sustainable Development

1. Deputation from Cregmore Area Residents Association

The Chairman welcomed the deputation of Liam Higgins, John Walsh, and Martin Burke from Cregmore and introduced the members of the meeting to them. He then called on the deputation to make their presentation to the meeting. Mr. Higgins provided a handout and made his presentation based on the points therein. The presentation identified issues and provided possible solutions to these which the Cregmore Residents Association in partnership with Galway County Council could achieve. The points raised included:

1. Cregmore Cross Roads Safety

- Issues: Speed Limit, White broken Line, Visibility
- Solutions: National programme to reduce speed, White Lines on approach to crossroads/national school, Review of Junction safety, increased signage, continue footpaths opposite school, stop route being used as a rat run

2. Cregmore Cross Flooding

- Issue: Safety issues for pedestrians
- Solution: Complete clear out of gullies

3. Cregmore Bridge

- Issues: Technically a single lane bridge, lack of signage on approach, heavy vehicles using it
- Solutions: Single Lane, Warning Signs on approach, Stop signs/traffic lights, consider weight limit

4. Bottle Bank

- Issues: Small plinth, close to pitch, delay in emptying, no camera
- Solutions: Extend Plinth, Camera, Regular emptying

5. River Bank

- Issues: Dumping
- Solution: Develop the river as a public amenity.

The Chairman thanked the deputation for their presentation. Cllr. McDonagh thanked the deputation also and confirmed that all the points raised were true safety issues and while the issues may seem minor the Residents Association had put in great work and he would like to see them helped.

The Chairman informed the deputation that a formal response to their presentation would issue and they then left the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting dated 24th September 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September 2009 were proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

3. Discussion & Endorsement of the Smarter Travel Joint City Council Submission

The Chairman then called on Ms. McConnell to make a presentation on the Smarter Travel Joint City and County Council Submission to the meeting. Ms. McConnell provided a handout to the group and informed the meeting that Local Groups have been consulted through the Oranmore Community Forum, regarding the bid. Ms. McConnell gave a brief overview of the Smarter Travel Competition outlining the different stages involved and the bid to be put forward for competition from the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area. She stated that the bid sets out clear targets of promoting and achieving the use of walking, cycling and use of public transport by 2012. Ms. McConnell provided an overview of the criteria for Stage 1 Selection which included Demonstrating Political Commitment provided by both the City and County Council, relevant Forums, Development Boards and Area Committees. Ms. McConnell proceeded to outline the High Level Objectives detailed in the bid which included:

- The rollout of 15km of new bus corridors incorporating bus priority measures
- Development of a new transport hub in Garraun, Oranmore
- Provision of 30km of premium greenways (cycle & walkway) infrastructure providing a link from East to West of the city and into the county
- Extension of the pedestrian realm in Galway City Centre by 7,500 sqm
- Reduction of speed limits to 30kph in key areas excluding critical public transport corridors
- Increased enforcement of existing traffic control measures

- Implementation of a new PR programme aimed at increasing cycling, walking and uptake of more sustainable methods of travel in Galway County Council
- Prioritisation of workplace planning and personalised travel planning i.e. going to larger employers like Boston Scientific and asking them to research where their workers are coming from and looking to put alternatives in place which could possibly reduce the number of cars travelling to that company by 10-15%
 - To reduce CO₂ emissions
 - To develop two new City Centre Bike Training Parks
 - To provide new programmes aimed at increasing driver and cyclist education
 - To induce a 100% increase in cycling by 2014
 - To increase walking as a key means of travel to 30% by 2014
 - To induce a 10% increase in public transport uptake.

Ms. McConnell informed the meeting that the high level objectives as listed above would be achieved through providing the necessary Infrastructure, seeking to achieve Modal Shift Targets, Behavioural Change and Workplace Targets. She informed the meeting that at present discussions were underway with Local Partners, such as NUIG for example, who could possibly provide a greenway through their property. She stated that a system of Matching Funding with respect to the bid was being explored by the City and County Councils but that this matching could be achieved through means other than monetary i.e. Lands and Facilities, Human Resources etc. Ms. McConnell then opened the floor to questions.

Cllr. Carroll enquired as to whether the project was being rolled out nationally or in 4 particular areas. In reply, Ms McConnell stated that it was being rolled out nationally (except for Dublin as they have their own funding for this), however the total funding available for the project was €50m and it was envisaged that due to this only 4 or 5 areas would be successful with their bid.

The Chairman asked whether the planning application for the Train Station at Garraun would be made to Galway County Council. In reply, Ms. McConnell said that the application would be made to Galway County Council and that it was envisaged to be a straight forward application to provide a platform, shelter, place to buy tickets etc.

Cllr. Carroll wondered whether it was planned to put a bus corridor on the Coast Road from Oranmore to Galway. In response, Ms. McConnell informed the meeting that the bus corridor was planned for the old N6 once the new M6 opened. Cllr. Carroll expressed concern that if the bus route was taken away from the Coast Road the people currently using the system would suffer. Ms. McConnell stated that the current service on the Coast Road could still operate but that the new bus corridor would be planned for the old N6.

Mr. Ridge stated that 7 different train station options were being examined between the city and Athenry with Garraun being the first (priority) with possibly another station in Oranmore and possibly another one at Curragen/Roscam in the next 10-15 years. He

stated that we must first put in place the physical structures so that people have alternatives and then we will try to change the behaviour. He stated that in his opinion if the Smarter Travel bid was successful he would like to see the County end pushed first through the development of Garraun as this would have a huge positive impact on the city in the long run. Ms. McConnell stated that the main focus of the County element of the joint bid was the creation of a multi-mode transport hub (park and ride concept) at Garraun which would ensure the development of the Eastern part of the County and bring it to the fore much quicker. Mr. Lavelle stated that buses would not carry enough passengers but the rail could and that is why the development of Garraun was so important.

Cllr. Carroll wondered whether it was practical to think that people would be boarding trains at Garraun in the next 18 months. In reply, Ms. McConnell informed the meeting that the purchase of the land has been secured by Mr. Ridge and that this would be finalised in the coming months, Iarnrod Eireann were committed to the project and Mr. Lavelle stated that the funding was already available through the Western Rail Corridor. Ms. McConnell informed the meeting that if everything went according to plan there would be no reason why Garraun would not be operational in 18-24 months.

The Chairman asked whether a bus corridor would run on the N17. In response, Mr. Lavelle stated that Galway County Council were in talks with the City council regarding the N17 as a traffic study had shown that the volume of traffic was too great for a bus corridor and they are looking at alternative solutions.

Ms. McConnell called for a proposer and seconder for the Smarter Travel Area Bid as presented. The Chairman proposed the bid and Cllr. McDonagh seconded it.

4. Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore

The chairman stated that the question of a traffic management plan for Oranmore had been brought up numerous times but that a huge problem still existed and a discussion took place on the matter. Cllr. Carroll proposed the placing of double yellow lines on one side of the village from the bridge just after the Orantown Centre down to the church on the opposite side of the village. Cllr. Noone seconded this proposal. Mr. Dolly stated he had no objection with the placing of double yellow lines as he felt a short term solution was needed in Oranmore. It was decided that Mr. Lavelle would assess the project and decide which side of the road was most feasible for the placement of the double yellow lines. The Chairman asked whether Bye-Laws would have to be made to allow for the lines. In reply, Mr. Lavelle stated that only amendments would be needed and these would be brought to the full council at the next meeting. Mr. Lavelle asked whether Cllr. Carroll had any Notice of Motion monies available to carry out the works and in reply Cllr. Carroll said he had no problem with his Notice of Motion monies being used to finance the provision of double yellow lines on one side of the street in Oranmore.

5. Suggested weight restrictions on Cregmore Bridge

Regarding this item, Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that the Road Safety Authority (RSA) produce maps showing all accidents in the country and based on this produce a Cluster Analysis across the country which they use to address the issues identified. To date the RSA are working on the 2006 Cluster Analysis. However, Galway County Council made a proposal regarding the Cregmore Bridge suggesting that traffic lights should be placed there and we are awaiting an outcome on same.

6. Speed limit for roads approaching Cregmore School

The Chairman made reference to the fact that the deputation from Cregmore had highlighted this issue. In response, Mr. Dolly stated that as outlined at the last Oranmore meeting the Council did not have the funds available to put periodic speed limits costing €40,000 at the school. The Chairman enquired as to whether it would be possible to improve signage to encourage drivers to slow down. Mr. Dolly stated that yes Galway County Council could provide road signage and markings and this would be undertaken in 2010. Cllr. Noone stated that if he had any Notice of Motion monies available he would put it forward to have the improvements in road signage and markings carried out in 2009. In response, Mr. Dolly stated that if Cllr. Noone's Notice of Motion money was available the job would be done.

Cllr. McDonagh enquired about the lights at Coolarne School where the poles had been put in place but the lights were not yet operational. In response, Mr. Croghan said he would look into the matter.

Cllr. McDonagh questioned as to why Notice of Motion monies allocated to works had not been spent and the works not carried out to date. In response, Mr. Croghan informed the meeting that due to Industrial Relation issues and the numbers of personnel being reduced it would be December or January before these works could be done. Mr. Dolly stated that at present staff were assigned to projects that were receiving grant monies and that the Notice of Motion monies would be spent after as these did not have a deadline with regard to when they could be spent whereas the grant works did.

7. Serious traffic danger at junction of Renville West & Maree Road

The Chairman expressed his concern over the fact that this junction was a serious traffic danger. Mr. Dolly stated that Galway County Council had no plans to improve the junction in this current year and that it had not been put forward under the Specific Improvement Grants either.

Mr. Lavelle stated that the proposed alignment for the Oranhill Action Area Plan Road would remove the bend at Dr Lydons. He further stated that this proposed Oranhill Road would be developer led in a similar manner to that provided by Cellaview, Duron, Cannon, and Winston developments at Oranhill.

He concluded by saying that it was previously proposed to close off the existing Maree

road at the junction at Dr. Lydon's and create a cul-de-sac between Dr Lydon's and the Bealnabradan junction into Oranhill but this was rejected by the residents.

The Chairman enquired as to whether it would be possible to put signage at the junction. Mr. Croghan stated that if any member had Notice of Motion monies available road markings would be placed on the road in question. The Chairman put forward his Notice of Motion monies to carry out the works and Cllr. Carroll stated that he had conference monies still available which he would be willing to allocate to the road markings at this junction also.

8. AOB

The Chairman enquired as to whether there was any progress on Corrandulla Cross. In reply, Mr. Croghan stated that yellow bars had been ordered and were expected to arrive shortly. Mr. Lavelle informed the meeting that Galway County Council had made a proposal to the NRA to change this junction by staggering it and he hoped this would be done in the next year.

Cllr. Carroll expressed concern over flooding that was occurring on the road at the Community Centre in Oranmore and Mr. Croghan said he would have a look at same.

Cllr. Carroll enquired as to whether there was any update on the site in Oranmore owned by Ronnie Green on which Planning Enforcement action was being taken. Mr. Ridge stated he was not aware of the site and would investigate same.

Cllr. Noone informed the meeting of the issue of subsidence at the Traffic Light junction in Claregalway at Hughes supermarket. In reply, Mr. Lavelle stated that this problem had been raised with the NRA.

Cllr. McDonagh requested that 2 old traffic signs posts which are broken be taken away from the Coolavin Crossroads on the N63 to Athenry. Mr. Croghan stated he would have this done.

The Chairman enquired as to what works exactly were taking place on the Castlelambert road at present. In reply, Mr. Dolly stated that at present drainage works were being carried out and Galway County Council were preparing contract documents for strengthening and overlaying of the road.

Mr. Dolly stated that a Speed Limit Review was underway and would be brought to the full council through the Managers Report at the next meeting.

The Chairman requested an update on the Lackagh Housing Estate with respect to the sewerage system. Mr. Ridge stated that these works were remedial and were a matter for the residents and the management company to resolve. Cllr. McDonagh enquired as to whether monies with respect to the Bond lodged could be used for this purpose. In reply, Mr. Ridge stated that the Bond deals with roads and paths which were all completed satisfactorily. He concluded by stating that the problem lies with the management company for not maintaining the system.

Mr. Dolly informed the meeting that proposals from Galway County Council were now due for the Regional & Local Roads Restoration Improvement Programme, 2010 and requested a meeting to discuss same. Monday the 9th of November at 10am was agreed for this meeting.

Criochnaigh an Chruinniu Ansin