

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

### Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara *Municipal District of Conamara*

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held at the Old Courthouse Oughterard, Co Galway on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015 @2.30 p.m

#### ILATHAIR:

**Baill:** Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Welby, S. Ó Cualáin, T Ó  
Cuarraoin, T. Healy, N. Byrne.

**Oifigigh:** G.Mullarkey, Head of Finance.  
L. Gavin, Director of Services.  
E. Molloy, Senior Engineer, Roads  
K. Wynne, S.E.E, Roads  
P.Breathnach S.E.E Conamara  
K. Finn, E.E Conamara South  
S. Groarke, Meeting Administrator

#### Minutes of the MDC Meetings held on the 5-12-2014.

CMD 15001

On the proposal of Comh. S. O’Tuairisg, seconded by Comh. T. O’Curraoin the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5-12-2014 were adopted.

#### Matters Arising from the Minutes

Comh. S. O’Cualáin and Comh. S. O’Tuairisg enquired whether the balance of the funding provided by the various Government Departments for the repairs to the storm damage which occurred during the winter of 2013/2014 and not spent by the 31-12-2014 can be rolled over to 2015. They referred to the fact that no money was spent on repairing damage to roads which have a right of way but are considered by the Council to be private as they have not been taken in charge. E. Molloy advised that it appears that there will be a rollover of the funding for 2015 but the Council is prohibited from incurring expenditure on non-public property. He stated that the Council has sought more funding –but has not received a response yet. Comh. T. O’Curraoin raised the issue concerning funding for the repairs of storm damage to private property caused by debris which originated from public infrastructure-he cited as an example the road near Trábaun where the access is blocked.

The delegation consisted of Martin Gibbons, Chairman of the Oughterard branch of the I.F.A, Keith Geoghegan, John Geoghegan, Michael Burke and John McDonagh. They advised that they were representing the interests of the landowners following the recent public meeting in Oughterard concerning the proposed route for the Greenway between Galway-Oughterard –Clifden. They raised the following issues:

- They were not opposed in principle to the development of a Greenway for Conamara and thought it was a good idea –but were opposed to the current location of the route on the old railway line- which in their view is not feasible and the Council has not assessed other alternatives and has not listened to their views on the matter.
- The project has to be undertaken with the co-operation of the IFA and its members. Martin Gibbons advised that he represents a lot of farmers who have major issues with the proposed Greenway. He stated that there are 25 landowners names on the list. He felt that the consultation procedure undertaken by the Council was not adequate-there was a notice in the newspaper stating that the drawings could be viewed in the Library. They felt that Council officials had not listened to their views.
- They are firmly opposed to the Council using a CPO to acquire the land. They stated the fact that with small farms struggling to survive -the donation of a 3 metre corridor through their lands was a major problem for them.
- They advised that a viable alternative route would be to locate it parallel to the N59. They outlined the fact that the Greenway near Westport, Co. Mayo runs parallel to the road. In their view it did not make sense locating it away from where the community resides. By locating it parallel to the main road- children would have access to the schools by means of a safe route to cycle or walk.
- They stated that the Council could also get their consultants to assess other alternative routes as well such as commonage areas.
- They advised that the route did not need to be 3 metres wide-which is the size of a by-road. It should be wide enough for 2 people walking abreast.
- They raised the issue concerning the security of people’s property near the route and enquired whether the route would be open at night and the problems associated with trespass and people loitering in the area.
- They stressed the fact that any Greenway route proposed by the Council should have direct access to Oughterard & Moycullen to be beneficial to the community.
- They advised the Council to go back to the drawing board and assess other alternative routes. They stated that the NRA has a proposed cycle route for Claremount.

L. Gavin advised the delegation that the Council will listen to their views. He explained that the proposed Greenway started off as a community project for a walking route between Clifden-Recess but it required the involvement of the Council to act as the conduit for obtaining planning permission from Bord Pleanala and the receipt of funding from Failte

Ireland. He stated that the Council has permission from Bord Pleanála for the route between Oughterard to Clifden which basically follows the old railway line. He advised that in relation to placing the route parallel to the N59- that Bord Pleanála will not approve of cycle/walking routes being located beside national routes for safety reasons.

G. Mullarkey referred to the letter dated 12-2-2015 which was issued by K. Kelly, A/Chief Executive concerning Section 103 A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) which provides that a Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair be prepared for each Municipal District in every financial year. He advised that following discussion with the Corporate Policy Group it was decided to continue with the presentation of the long established format of the Roads Programme and in addition include the items of maintenance and repair arising from the revenue budget in respect of the other service areas. The combination of both will form the Schedule of Municipal Works. He stated that the Schedule is compiled on the basis of available resources and may be adopted by the elected members with or without amendment. However-in making amendments the members have to have due regard to the adopted budget of the Council. Cllr.T. Healy requested a breakdown of the €€294,000 allocated for the operation of the Civic Amenity Sites –which was provided by P. Carroll. Cllr. E. Mannion expressed her concern that the Civic Amenity site in Clifden was only open on a part time basis and not for the required 5-6 days a week- P. Carroll advised that he would raise the matter with Tony McInerney S.E.E and Barna Waste. The Councillors welcomed the new Village Upgrade Scheme –whereby an allocation of €500,000 will be provided each year for the next 5 years for the upgrade and renewal of roads in 10 villages in the County. This will enable works to be undertaken on 2 villages each year with a budget of €250,000 each- the proposed schemes for Conamara will be Cleggan and Oughterard. In response to a query from Cllr T. Welby –E .Molloy advised that it will take some time to initiate the schemes as the Part 8 Planning process has to be adhered to. He explained that the Council was allocating a total of €346,822 towards that Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme which is equivalent to the increase in the annual allocation for the Road Restoration & Improvement Grant from 2014 to 2015. He advised that the Council would advertise the scheme in March. In response to a query from Cllr. T. Welby concerning the local contribution -he advised that the Council could accept a land contribution in lieu of a financial contribution as in the past. He stated that the CIS scheme gave the Council an opportunity to improve sight distances on access roads and to set back boundaries. Cllr. E. Mannion enquired as to whether additional public lighting can be installed in some villages in Conamara-but was advised by E. Molloy that there was no funding for this as the Council was facing additional costs. He also stated that the public lighting contract was due for renewal in a few months time. In response to a query from Cllr. T Healy concerning the development of laybys as part of the Atlantic Way- L. Gavin advised that this work was ongoing and he would come back with details at a future date. Comh. S. O’Cualáin raised the issue concerning the damage to the road between Cill Chiaráin to Rosmuc caused by heavy vehicles transporting seaweed. Comh S. O’Tuairisg referred to the damage to the Sean a’Pheastín road caused by vehicles associated with the windfarm development. E. Molloy advised that the Council was involved in discussions with the

windfarm developer and had received guarantees as regards the reinstatement of the road. In response to a query from Cllr. E. Mannion concerning a Smarter Travel initiative for Letterfrack- E.Molloy advised that he was not certain whether this will be approved but there is funding for the Cleggan Traffic Management Plan. K. Finn advised the meeting of typo errors on page 25 where the L53521 Porridgetown €37,050 was included twice in error. He stated that the L53521 should read as the L1315 and the L13211 Cornelistrum should read as the L13123. The low cost safety measures for Tully were welcomed by the Councillors. E. Molloy advised that overall the level of funding for Conamara was similar to 2014 and he outlined the main funding items on the Draft Roads Programme. He referred to the road condition survey conducted by the Council whereby significant deterioration was caused by insufficient funding which resulted in a 23 year resurfacing cycle which is not sustainable. He stated that the Council had provided an overall budget of €750,000 for the repair to Tertiary roads in the County of which €157,500 was allocated to 14 schemes in Conamara. Cllr. S. Walsh then requested a proposal as regards the adoption of the Schedule of Works.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion which was seconded by Cllr. T. Healy the 2015 Schedule of Works for the MD of Conamara was agreed and adopted without amendment.

#### **Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads- Section 11 Roads Act 1993**

**CMD 15003**

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh the road commencing at the junction with local road L53283 (104450; 242410) in the Townland of An Léim Thoir and extending north/west for a distance of 180m finishing in the Townland of An Léim Thoir (104340; 242550) was declared to be a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. Welby seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh the road commencing with local road L1310-87 (112332; 242993 ) in the Townland of Fough East and extending east for a distance of 121m finishing in the Townland of Fough East (112406; 242941) was declared to be a public road under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

#### **Traffic Management Plan for Cleggan.**

**CMD 15004**

E. Molloy explained that the Draft plan will be advertised by the Council and placed on public display for 4 weeks- the public will then have an additional 2 weeks to make submissions on the matter. The Council will compile a report on the submissions received and place the plan before the Councillors again for adoption as it is a reserved function. He stated that work on the carpark will be finished in the near future and he proposed to have the matter finalised in May. Councillors Mannion & Healy welcomed the proposed works but expressed concern at the level of parking charges and recommended that they be kept at a minimum for 6 months a year. Cllr. Healy advised that more parking spaces can be created at the pier by altering the design to include demolition of the storage shed. The draft plan was agreed by the Councillors on the understanding that they will have to adopt it by resolution at a future date.

#### **Proposed Traffic Management Plan for Carraroe.**

**CMD 15005**

Comh. S. O’Tuairisg advised that this matter could be resolved without the need for a traffic management plan if a space was created for the buses to turn at the back of the secondary school and a second footpath was constructed. L. Gavin advised that the Council does not have funding for this at present.

**Remedial Works - R-336 between Spiddal & Ros a Mhíl**

**CMD 15006**

Comh. S. O’Tuairisg and Comh. S. O’Cualáin advised that parts of the R-336 required remediation – an example of this was the area west of Durcan’s shop where the road was cracked. L. Gavin replied that the Council will examine this matter and advised of the need for an alternative route to the R-336.

**Provision of a Carpark & turning area at Oughterard Pier**

**CMD 15007**

The requirement for a carpark at Oughterard Pier was proposed by Cllr. N. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh. L. Gavin advised that this Pier was in the charge of the Lough Corrib Navigation Trust and not the Council. Cllr. S. Walsh stated that he would refer the matter to them.

**Speed Limit/Warning Signs-Scoil Cholmáin, Tuairíní, Moycullen**

**CMD 15008**

The requirement for a reduction of the speed limit and provision of warning lights at Scoil Cholmáin , Tuairíní was outlined by Cllr. N. Byrne. Cllr. N. Thomas described the LED Flashing Light system being operated by other local authorities such as Kilkenny which is proving effective and advised that the Council should make provision in future budgets for same. E. Molloy advised that there are signs adjacent to Tuairíní but the Council does not have the funding to adequately provide/maintain the warning lights system for the 180 schools in its functional area. He advised that a new approach was required whereby a standardised speed limit/ warning light system should be implemented and the Department of Education should provide funding for same. He stated that he would raise the matter with the NRA. L. Gavin advised that the current speed limit signs at schools is proving ineffective as motorists tend to ignore them in the absence of enforcement. Cllr. S. Walsh advised that this matter should be raised with the local T.Ds

**Provision of Safety Measures at St. Annin’s N.S Roscahill**

**CMD 15009**

The requirement for safety measures including provision of a pedestrian crossing at St. Annin’s N.S Roscahill by proposed Cllr. N. Byrne & seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh. L. Gavin advised that the Council would discuss the matter with the NRA.

**Municipal District Director’s Business**

**CMD 15010**

G. Mullarkey advised the elected members of the closing date for the application for grants under the Council’s Community Support Scheme.

Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the local community was concerned regarding the safety of the bridge on the Barna Road and he proposed that the Council implement a CPO to progress the matter. Comh. T.O'Curraoin stated that the landowner wanted to meet an engineer in regard to this matter. Cllr. S. Walsh stated that he had previously met the landowner. K. Finn advised that he will make arrangements to discuss the matter with the landowner. Comh. S. O'Cualáin raised the requirement for a crash barrier to be provided at the bad corner adjacent to the South Quarry at Maam Cross and K. Finn advised that he would examine the matter. Cllr. N. Byrne raised the issue concerning the flooding on the Cloonabinna Road and K. Finn stated that he would examine the matter. Cllr. T. Healy raised the issue concerning the provision of free parking at Clifden and L. Gavin advised that he would examine the matter when the SPC meeting is arranged.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**