

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara **Municipal District of Conamara**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Conamara held in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway on the 17th November 2016 @ 3.00 p.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

Cllr. N. Thomas Cathaoirleach,
S. Walsh, E. Mannion, S. Ó Cualáin,
T Ó Cuarraoin, T. Healy, N. Byrne.

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer Roads
P. Breathnach, S.E.E Conamara
T.J Redmond, Area Engineer, N. Conamara
J. Coyle, Area Engineer, S. Conamara
M. McGann, Meetings Administrator

Apologies:

Cllr. S. O'Tuairisg
Cllr. T. Welby
Mr. L. Gavin

1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 6-9-2016 CMD 16049

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th September 2016 were proposed by Cllr. N. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 16050

Update on N59

Comh. S. O'Cualain enquired if there was any progress in securing agreement on the method statements for the N59 and Cllr. S. Walsh requested clarification on whether method statements were being re-done for the section from Maam - Bunakill, as well as for the section from Bunakill – Oughterard, which was the main problem. Cllr. E. Mannion confirmed that she was at the meeting with TII and clarified that the Maam – Bunakill section was under discussion between the Council and Jacobs Consultants to advice on the preparation of method statements for the Ground Investigation. The section from Oughterard – Bunakill would then be overlaid and this was very welcome as it was in bad condition. D. Mitchell confirmed that the recent meeting with TII had resulted in changes

and solutions for progressing the overall scheme, and he will issue clarification to all Members regarding what was agreed.

Road Accident Statistics:

Cllr. N. Byrne stated that she had previously requested detailed figures for road accidents on the N59 and D. Mitchell confirmed that he would provide these statistics.

3. Casla Regional Water Supply Scheme

CMD 16051

It was agreed by the Members that this item be deferred for discussion at the next meeting of the Municipal District.

4. Hedge Cutting

CMD 16052

Cllr. N. Thomas enquired if there was an overall plan for Hedge Cutting in Conamara as it appeared to be very dependent on Notice of Motion funding at present, and queried the basis of payment for contractors. In response, T.J. Redmond confirmed that the contractor was paid by km cut by them, rather than by length of road. J. Coyle stated that hedge-cutting would be carried out as part of the contract for lights and signage. In response to concerns raised by Comh. O’Cualain regarding the level of supervision of hedge-cutting, D. Mitchell stated that resources were not available to provide constant supervision, however, the General Services Supervisor met with the contractor to set out areas of work and routinely supervised the works, and all contractor appointments were made in accordance with health & safety criteria.

Comh. T. O’Curraoin stated that generally hedge-cutting works were carried out well, however there were places where it may need to be higher to allow for buses and trucks, and in addition, there were areas where trees and hedging were inside fences on private lands, and he felt letters should be drafted to these owners to ensure action was taken to improve line of sight. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that she had complaints from bus drivers regarding the hedge-cutting being done at a low level only, and at the recent Joint Policing Committee meeting, the Superintendent had stated that he had been in contact with the Council regarding this issue and the associated problem of obstructed signage.

Cllr. N. Thomas requested clarification on the breakdown of responsibility between the Council and landowners and how landowner responsibility was enforced. Comh. T. O’Curraoin added that there were similar problems when landowners fail to properly drain their land which causes flooding on public roads. D. Mitchell clarified that the Council could release flooding on roads onto land by agreement with the landowner, and confirmed that he would follow up on clarifying the procedure for enforcing landowner responsibility in relation to hedge-cutting.

Cllr. T. Healy stated that there was a lack of public awareness regarding the timing of hedge-cutting works and use of all communication media such as twitter should be maximized, and following discussion, D. Mitchell agreed that communication of overall timeframes would be possible.

5. Date & Venue for Next Meeting

CMD 16053

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in February 2017, on a date to be agreed following finalization of the Roads Programme.

6. Cathaoirleach's Business

CMD 16054

Cllr. N. Thomas, on behalf of the Municipal District of Conamara, welcomed M. McGann to the meeting and wished S. Groarke a speedy recovery.

Cllr. Thomas enquired regarding the switching on of lights near the Church in Tully, and was advised by P. Breathnach that ESB had finalized works and the lights were expected to be switched on in the immediate future.

Cllr. Thomas also sought clarification on whether funds were allocated for work beside the school for a pulling-in area, as agreement had been reached with the landowner for the lands to be provided for this purpose. J. Coyle confirmed that the works on lighting had gone over-budget and remaining works would have to be re-assessed in this regard.

Cllr. Thomas stated that he was awaiting a proposal from L. Gavin regarding road safety at Tooreeny and requested that the Council Engineers examine options for a car park or other parking facilities or other options such as flashing lights.

7. Any Other Business

CMD 16055

Cllr. T. Healy stated that there was severe water ingress in some areas of the N59 outside Clifden, especially from Recess Village to the quarry, and there was a risk of aquaplaning or dangers of drivers swerving dangerously due to excess water on the road surface. In response, J. Coyle stated that the TII have given funding for the Pilot Maintenance Project and additional funding for pavement defects and drainage and this contact should start in a few weeks. Some parts of the road cannot be done until resurfacing works are completed however, the Council is aware of the situation and trying to utilize all available sources of funding.

Cllr. N. Byrne also raised the issue of surface water at a number of locations, i.e. at Doon Bridge, Drimcong, a dip the Galway side of the Golf Course, and on the corner of the N59 / Barna Road junction. In particular, she expressed disappointment that there was surface water on a recently resurfaced portion of water at Bailedoite. Cllr. Byrne requested clarification on unauthorized signage and the conditions under which temporary signage was allowed. D. Mitchell confirmed that there was a planning process for signage and the Community Warden should be notified of any information signage which was left on an ongoing basis. Cllr. Byrne requested an update on the provision of a box junction at the head of the Clooniffe Road following re-alignment works, and also at Cloonabinna Road, and D. Mitchell confirmed that the Clooniffe plans were sent to the Regional Road Safety Officer for comment. In relation to the preparation of a further Local Area Plan for Oughterard,

she requested clarification on whether this would have to wait until a new Sewerage Treatment Plant was in place.

Comh. S. O’Cualain also raised the issue of surface water at Furbo possibly due to a blocked gully. J. Coyle acknowledged that there was surface water near Padraicins in Furbo and that the issue of blocked drains will be examined as part of contract works to start in the next few weeks.

Cllr. E. Mannion asked for clarification on when works at the mudslide location on N59 would start and if there were funds for the Flood Dam between Maam and Recess.

J. Coyle confirmed that the corner of Barna Rd/N59 junction was subsiding and works were being considered for this location. D. Mitchell confirmed that issues regarding surface water on roads could be brought to the attention of the local Council Engineers.

In response to a query from Cllr. T. Healy regarding the provision of LED public lighting, D. Mitchell confirmed that the public lighting programme allows for some upgrading to LED lighting.

Cllr. N. Thomas clarified that his query regarding the Quality Audit for the Moycullen By-Pass was specific to the landscaping part of the process.

Cllr. N. Thomas requested clarification on whether the Councillors can make a decision now on their route preferences for the R336 or reduce the number of routes as some were clearly not feasible, and it would be better to examine proposals for the R336 now in conjunction with the current plans for the Ring Road. Cllr. Thomas stressed the need to free up land areas and Cllr. T. Healy stated that the constitutional rights of people were being compromised in this regard. Comh. T. O’Curraoin stated that a compromise was now required between progress and environmental concerns, but a situation couldn’t be allowed where residents houses were knocked when alternative routes were available. D. Mitchell stated that the Council must wait for the Ring Road to be finalized and the R336 would then be re-assessed in Quarter 2 of 2017 in conjunction with the Ring Road. This process could only be undertaken by the Consultants who were experts in this regard, and there would be consultation with the Elected Members at that stage.

Cllr. Mannion stated that there were a lot of recent positive developments in the Conamara area in Leenane, Oughterard, Rosmuc and Clifden.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN