

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 6th November 2017 @ 1.00 p.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

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

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
M. Timmins, A/DOS Roads & Transportation
D. Mitchell, S.E Roads & Transportation
P. Breathnach, S.E.E Conamara
E. Lydon, Area Engineer, S. Conamara
A. Mallagan, Rapid Co-ordinator
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator

Apologies:

Cllr. S. O'Tuairisg

1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 11-9-2017 CMD 17042

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11-9-2017 was proposed by Comh. Tomás O'Curraoin and seconded by Comh. Seosamh O'Cualáin.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 17043

Comh. S. O'Cualáin referred to the funding allocated by the Department for works on piers and enquired if interviews were held for Engineers and appointments made to ensure that the works can go ahead. He also clarified the minutes in regard to the road and bridge (Orrid) at Recess- by confirming that the €35,000 funding was allocated for works on the road at Recess which did not go ahead due to the condition of the bridge. He enquired if the bridge will be repaired by the Council in 2018. D. Mitchell advised that Orrid bridge will be included on the Bridge Program for funding in 2018. M. Timmins advised that he anticipated

that more Engineers will be assigned to the Roads Department by means of staff transfers in the coming weeks. Cllr. N. Thomas referred to the bumps on parts of the N59 and welcomed the fact that the contractor was engaged on the work. He advised that there was still 1 serious dip left untreated near Clydagh on the left hand side of the road and there is another large dip at the junction of the Barna road which trucks have to avoid. D. Mitchell advised that both of these were referred to T.I.I and it appears that the contractor has moved to another location- he will clarify the position with T.I.I Cllr. N. Thomas also referred to the section in the minutes concerning the use of the Part 8 procedure to progress sections of the N59 and the recommendation of the executive to await the assessment of T.I.I on the matter. Cllr. T. Healy enquired about the Ground Investigation contract for the Maam Cross-Bunnakill road and was advised by M. Timmins that it will be signed on the 13-11-2017.

3. Community Facilities Scheme-2017

CMD 17044

A.Mallagan advised that the CFS is a small scale capital funding scheme launched by the Department of Communities and Rural Affairs in April 2017 to be rolled out by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) to community and voluntary groups within their areas. The total amount allocated to each LCDC is €64,500 with a maximum grant indicated for each project of €1,000. She stated that the LCDC recommended that as this scheme is for relatively small amounts of funding –it wished to prioritize applications which focused on meeting the aims and objectives of the health and wellbeing goal of the Local Economic & Community Plan. It was agreed that this would enable the LCDC to see some local impact focused on one of the LCDC goals in this funding round. She advised that it was anticipated that there is likely to be further funding rounds of this nature and the LCDC would look at prioritizing other goals within the LECP for future funding rounds. The deadline for receipt of applications was the 30-6-2017 and 138 were received applying for a total amount of €134,278. These were reviewed and appraised and recommendations as to funding was submitted to the LCDC for endorsement prior to being submitted to each MD for final approval. The groups will not receive formal approval/rejection of their applications until all 5 MDs have approved the grants. She confirmed that out of the 138 applications received-a total of 83 is recommended for approval with 55 unsuccessful. Cllr. N. Thomas welcomed the funding for the community groups and the fact that there were not many restrictions including the production of receipts to enable drawdown. Cllr. N. Byrne thanked Ann Mallagan for the report and welcomed the €23,000 allocation for Conamara. She advised that she had interacted with some of the groups. Approval to the Community Facilities Scheme was proposed by Cllr.N. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. T. Healy.

4. Bus Facilities in Conamara

CMD 17045

D. Mitchell advised that the Council is still engaged in ongoing consultation with the NTA as regards the feasibility of the designs and site selection of the proposed bus stop facilities at Moycullen, Oughterard and Spiddal. Cllr. N. Byrne stated that this was a priority for the Municipal District of Conamara as members of the community have to stand at the bus stops in cold wet weather. She acknowledged that due process has to take place between the Council and the NTA. Cllr. N. Thomas advised that there is a need for bus stop facilities on either side of the road in every town and village.

Cllr. N. Byrne advised that in her role as Cathaoirleach of the M.D of Conamara she wants to keep the proposed footbridge for Oughterard as an item on the Agenda and referred to the €250,000 allocation provided on the Council's Town & Village Improvement scheme in 2019. She requested an update on progress and the timeframe when it is likely to proceed. Cllr. N. Thomas enquired if the €250,000 could be affected by the proposed budget cuts. G. Mullarkey advised that work on the budget is still ongoing and it may be included in the proposals as regards budget cuts- he advised that the matter will be discussed by the Finance Committee tomorrow and by the Corporate Policy Group at a later date. M. Timmins advised that due to the fact that the bridge is on a National route the Council has to obtain approval and funding from T.I.I in regard to this. The €250,000 will be required to supplement funding sought from T.I.I. He stated that consultations are still ongoing with T.I.I in regard to the both the proposal for a footbridge and a new road bridge. He explained that once approval is given by T.I.I the design and an environmental assessments will have to be completed and consultations with NPWS finalized in regard to this. The Council can then proceed to the Part 8 procedure in regard to footbridge. Cllr. S. Walsh enquired as regards the planning problems which are causing the holdup and whether consultations have been completed with NPWS. He referred to the fact that the Council is the Planning authority and advised that the Council should proceed with the Part 8 as the elected members will pass it. M. Timmins advised that there are a number of hurdles in regard to the planning process and environmental impact requirements to be addressed before the Council can proceed to the Part 8- there is still no formal signoff from NPWS. He advised that the Council is also in consultation with T.I.I as regards the road bridge and advised that the planning decision on the N59 highlighted the problems associated with SAC environmental designations and habitats such as the pearl mussel. Cllr. T. Healy advised that a pre-constructed steel bridge could minimize the environmental impact and enquired as to what can be done now to initiate the planning process. Comh. S. O'Curraoin stated that NPWS appear to apply different rules to hinder works and this is a health & safety issue-they should be held responsible for any accidents. Cllr. S. Walsh advised that it appears that the Council cannot provide a bridge even though works can proceed on wind turbines in Conamara. Cllr. T. Welby referred to the fact that some of the windfarms are located on Coillte lands which were not designated as SACs. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that it was vital that the footbridge should go ahead in 2019 and the Council should seek to progress on the road bridge in the long term.

6. AOB**MD 17047**

Comh. S. O'Cualáin welcomed the LIS program and stated that he wished to see it continue- he enquired in regard to the criteria used by which the decisions were made on the allocations. He also enquired if the consultants previously engaged on the R-336 project could come before the Councillors. M. Timmins advised that the Council is seeking funding from the Department of Transport in order to engage the Consultants again. He also stated that the Council is also in contact with the Department as regards progress on Inishere harbour. D. Mitchell advised that 115 applications were received by the Council in regard to the LIS in 2017- details of these were sent to the Department. The closing date for the receipt of the applications was in September and the Council prioritized 58 of these for funding – a total of €1.37 million was received from the Department. He advised that LIS schemes were approved for each Municipal District and that Conamara has done well in accordance with the ranking system. He stated that the Council was still taking applications which along with those not approved for funding in 2017 are been kept on file –as it is envisaged that there will

be more funding allocated by the Department in 2018 for LIS. Comh. S. O’Cualáin advised that the application process involved a very tight time frame and that the Engineers required time to inspect the roads. Cllr. E. Mannion stated that even though it was oversubscribed-it appears that the Council will not lose out on funding. Cllr. T. Welby enquired in regard to the local contribution required for LIS schemes and whether the Department has any maintenance fund to for the upkeep of LIS roads. D. Mitchell confirmed that the local contribution required is 15% of the cost of the works in regard to an LIS scheme which benefits 5 houses or more and 10% if less than 5 houses. He stated that there is no funding to maintain these and the Council should not take them in charge as they are private roads. Cllr. E. Mannion state that the Council should let the LIS applicants know that they are not Council roads and will not be taken in charge. Cllr.T. Healy enquired about coastal flooding allocations for Ardmore East and the East Wall Inishboffin and whether these schemes can be progressed. He also enquired about the footpath from the Old Town to the New Town school in Moycullen and that T.I.I may require documentation on this. D.Mitchell advised that some of the applications made for coastal flooding funding were not successful and he will check these. In regard to the footpath for the Old Town/New Town school –he advised that the design criteria was sent to Eamon O’Cuiv T.D Cllr. E. Mannion requested updates on the following.

- a. Pedestrian Crossing for Letterfrack.
- b. Inishere Pier-Byelaws
- c. Warning signage at the dangerous junction on the Galway-Lettermullen Road.

D. Mitchell advised that he will check these matters. Cllr. T. Welby requested clarification on whether NOM money is lost if not allocated within the year. G. Mullarkey advised that the Roads SPC have agreed that once the NOM money is allocated it can be carried forward. D. Mitchell stated that they should try and spend it within the same calendar year. Cllr. N. Thomas enquired how the spraying program for the invasive weeds went and was advised by P. Breathnach that the weather got bad in October and they did as much as they could. He also referred to an issues raised in the newspapers in regard to CIS schemes. D. Mithchell advised that one of the schemes had to be stopped on health and safety grounds.

6. Declaration of Road to be a Public Road-Section 11 Roads Act 1993 MD 17048

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. T. Healy the Shanakeever Road, Clifden was declared to be a public road.

10. Date & Venue for Next Meeting MD 17049

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held commencing at 1.00 p.m on Monday 12-2-2018 in the Council Chamber.

CROCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN