

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 June 2017 @ 11.30 a.m

ILATHAIR:

Baill:

Cllr. N. Byrne Cathaoirleach,
S. Walsh, S. O'Tuairisg, S. Ó Cualáin,
T. Ó Cuarraoin, N. Thomas, E. Mannion

Oifigigh:

G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance
D. Mitchell, S.E Roads & Transportation
P. Breathnach, S.E.E Conamara
J. Coyle, Area Engineer, S. Conamara
M. Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer, Roads
B. Dunne, Assistant Planner
S. Groarke, Meetings Administrator

Apologies:

Cllr. T. Welby Cllr. T. Healy

1. Minutes of the MD of Conamara Meeting held on the 21-4-2017 CMD 17024

The adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21-4-2017 was proposed by Comh. S. O'Tuairisg and seconded by Comh. S. O'Cualáin

2. Matters arising from the Minutes CMD 17025

Cllr. S. O'Tuairisg referred to the R-336 on page 3 and stated that it is vital that progress be made on this. He advised that the Ragoon to the Spiddal/Moycullen Road should be assessed as a possible viable alternative route and funding will have to be provided to engage RPS Consultants again. He referred to a meeting with members of the community from Spiddal and advised of the need for consultations with each landowner along possible viable routes in order to progress the matter and arrive at an emerging preferred one. The cycling track proposed by Galway Cycling Solutions Group could also be considered along with this. Comh. S. O'Cualáin agreed that an alternative route will have to be examined in regard to the R-336 and proposed that it be discussed at the next meeting. Comh. T.

O'Curraoin also agreed that the Ragoon-Golf Course-Spiddal/Moycullen route should be examined in regard to this. Cllr. N. Thomas referred to the proposed Greenway for Conamara on page 4 and advised of the need for proper negotiations/consultations with the landowners first in order to establish an acceptable viable route. He advised that money has probably been wasted on the EIS reports for the existing route chosen by the Council and these may have to be redone. He stated that the Councillors are aware of the concerns of the landowners and that funding for the proposed Greenway will be required from the Department. D. Mitchell advised of a recent meeting between Oireachtas members and Shane Ross T.D, Minister of Transport who were informed that the Department intends to draft a new protocol in regard to progressing the development of Greenways. He advised that the Council will have to await receipt of the protocol before progressing the matter any further. Cllr. N. Thomas stated that his e-mail correspondence with Shane Ross T.D Minister for Transport confirmed this. Cllr. N. Byrne stated that it appears that the Council cannot re-engage with the landowners until it receives the protocol that she will inform Galway Cycling Solutions Group of this. Cllr. E. Mannion requested an amendment to her comment on page 3 and also referred to page 11 in regard to a replacement for T. J Redmond the former Area Engineer who has been assigned to the NRDO. She also acknowledged the work of P. Breathnach & his staff on the Roads Program. D. Mitchell advised that a new Area Engineer will be appointed to the Clifden office next week. Cllr. N. Byrne referred to the request listed on page 11 she made in regard to the nomination of a staff member by the Executive to assist communities in regard to compiling applications under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. She stated that she received no response to this and enquired if a staff member can be made available to facilitate this. She referred to the fact that she had submitted an application herself in regard to this scheme. Comh. S. O' Cualáin enquired whether the Council engages with Udarás na Gaeltachta who are sponsors of CES schemes in regard to the provision of same for road related works such as hedge/tree cutting. D. Mitchell advised that the Council did engage with Udarás in the past in regard to this but explained the strict criteria which applies in regard to insurance cover, health & safety training, implementation of traffic management plans etc. He advised that the Council assesses applications from community groups and acts as sponsor in regard to viable CES schemes. Comh. T. O'Curraoin stated that the Council was losing outdoor and indoor staff who are not been replaced when they retire and something has to be done about it- he maintained that the funding it received from the Government is not adequate.

3. Update on the N59

CMD 17026

D. Mitchell advised that tenders for the overlay of the 6 km section of the Bunnakill-Claremount road have been received by the Council and a Contractor is about to be appointed. He envisaged that the work will commence on the first week in July and that the overlay for the second 4 km section would be done later. Cllr. N. Thomas enquired about the laybys and D. Mitchell stated he would need to check the contract documents in regard to this. Cllr. E. Mannion referred to the need for the Contractor to make an early start in the morning and enquired in regard to progress on the method statements. D. Mitchell advised that he would check this.

4. Declaration of Road to be a Public Road-Section 11 Roads Act 1993 CMD 17027

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Thomas, seconded by Comh. T. O'Curraoin, Bóthar an tSléibhe, Moycullen was declared to be a public road.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. N. Thomas, Abhainn Ruibhe Housing Estate, Camp Street, Oughterard was declared to be a public road.

5. Local Area Plan for Oughterard CMD 17028

B. Dunne advised that consideration may be given to the implementation of a Local Area Plan for Oughterard at the end of the year. He explained that there is currently an issue with resources and that the County Development Plan is due for review in 2019. Cllr. N. Byrne stated that she was disappointed to hear that lack of resources will hold this up.

6. Traffic Management Plan for Moycullen MD 17029

D. Mitchell advised that the preparation of the Traffic Management Plan for Moycullen is subject to resources and there is no plan to do so at present. Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the areas requiring attention are 1. The area adjacent to the playground requires a ramp/flashing lights 2. The area down by the school needs a raised pedestrian crossing. He also recommended that the installation of a few bollards would prevent parking at the N59 entrance to Pairc na Caor. Comh. S. O'Tuairisg stated that the Traffic Management Plan for Spiddal requires a review as there are parking issues and the bus stops are too narrow. D. Mitchell explained that there is a lack of resources at present and that the NTA (National Transport Authority) conducted an assessment of bus stop facilities at Spiddal, Moycullen and Oughterard and the Council hopes to get funding in regard to this. Cllr. N. Byrne stated that a Traffic Management Plan is a priority for Moycullen and would not involve a lot of work and that she does not accept lack of resources as a reason. She advised that the residents of Pairc na gCaor are affected by parking at the side of the road.

6. Speed Limit Review-2017 MD 17030

M. Ní Chionna advised that the Council has commenced a review of Speed Limits and that it is intended that these will be advertised for public consultation and the receipt of written submissions. She stated that she will deal with the proposals received from T.I.I in regard to the N-59 National Secondary Road today and would welcome feedback from the elected members. She informed the meeting that the Department of Transport has issued new guidelines to TII and Local Authorities in regard to the setting of speed limits and other engineering measures concerning roads. This included proposals to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km in regard to the following criteria: Carriageway Width (< 7 metres), Collision Rates and Sinuosity (Curves/Bends). She advised that T.I.I has identified locations along the N-59 for a reduction of the speed limits and this applied to rural areas as well as towns and villages. She explained that the blue arrows on the maps indicate the existing speed limits and the red arrows indicate the changes proposed by TII. She outlined the proposed speed limit changes on the maps provided by T.I.I in regard to the N-59 as follows.

- A. Map Reference 8030-N59-21. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km on both the Mayo side and the Letterfrack side of Leenaun. The 80km sign will

be placed closer to the village on the Mayo side and it is proposed to place F401 speed limit warning signs on both sides.

- B. Map Reference 8030-N59-24. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km at the Leenaun & Clifden sides of Letterfrack and to place F401 speed limit warning signs there as well.
- C. Map Reference 8030-N59-26. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km on the Letterfrack side of Clifden and to extend the 60km zone. Proposal to extend the 60km zone on the Galway side of Clifden. The 100km speed limit out to the Heritage Center at Lettershea remains the same.
- D. Map Reference 8030-N59-27. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km near the Heritage Center at Lettershea.
- E. Map Reference 8030-N59-29. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km at Recess and to reduce the existing 60km zone. Proposal to place a F401 speed limit warning sign here.
- F. Map Reference 8030-N59-32. M. Ni Chionna advised that representations were received in regard to Scoil Náisiúnta Doire Ghlinne and it is proposed to reduce the speed limit here from 80km to 60km-Periodic sign and back to 80km -even though it is not indicated on the map.
- G. Map Reference 8030-N59-33. Proposal to reduce the speed limits from 100km to 80km at both the Canrawer and Lemonfield sides of Oughterard. Proposal to move the 80km and the 60km signs nearer to the town on both sides. Proposal to reduce the 60km speed limit to 50km on the Canrawer side and to move the existing 50km sign nearer to the town on the Lemonfield side. Proposal to place an F401 speed warning sign at Canrawer.
- H. Map Reference 8030-N59-34. Proposal to reduce the speed limit from 100km to 80km on the Oughterard side of Rosscahill and to increase the existing 50km speed limits to 60km through the village. Proposal to install new 40km Periodic signs at Rosscahill National School. The 100km speed limit on the Moycullen side to remain the same.
- I. Map Reference 8030-N59-35. The 60km-Periodic speed limit at Newtown N.S to remain the same.
- J. Map Reference 8030-N59-36. The existing 50km speed limit to be increased to 60km and the 100km to be reduced to 80km on the Galway side of Moycullen. The 100km/80km sign to be extended further out at Clydagh.
- K. Map Reference 8030-N59-37. The existing 100km speed limit to be extended from Gortatleva back towards Kentfield and the existing 50km speed limit to be increased to 60km towards Newcastle.

Cllr. E. Mannion stated that it was a cheap solution for TII to reduce the speed limits rather than upgrade the N59 and widen the bends. She referred to the fact that a pedestrian crossing is required for Letterfrack and that the existing 50km-60km-100km speed limits were too close to each other on the approaches to Clifden. She also stated that a dangerous section of the N59 near the car park in the Recess area requires better markings. She

proposed the motion that TII undertake the necessary re-alignment and upgrade of the roads in the County rather than have a policy of speed limit reductions. This motion was seconded by Cllr. N. Thomas. Cllr. N. Byrne enquired if the criteria used by TII in its proposals to reduce the speed limits apply to all 3 of them together i.e carriageway width, collision rates and sinuosity or any single 1 of them. M. Ní Chionna advised that generally any 1 of the conditions applies and referred to the fact that TII want local information in regard to the National Roads but have to apply the guidelines as much as possible. Cllr. N. Byrne also expressed concern that the application of speed limit reductions on the N-59 would lessen the chances of TII providing funding for the upgrade. She also referred to the effect of speed limit reductions could have on planning applications. Cllr. N. Thomas advised that the Councillors should have flexibility as regard the speed limits and the guidelines should not be set in stone. He referred to map 33 and expressed his opinion that the speed limit from the ECL factory at Lemonfield outside Oughterard to Rosscahill should be kept to 100km. He stated that the Council should request TII to make the signs more visible when they change the speed limits. He also advised that in regard to map 35 Ross Demesne junction can be dangerous for overtaking and noted that on the Kylebroghlan side of Moycullen the 50km speed will increase to 60km. In regard to map 37 he advised of the dangerous corner at Gortatleva.

In regard to the R-336 Coast Road M. Ní Chionna advised that the Council would propose to generally have a 60km or 80km speed limit with 50km only at the towns/villages. Comh. S. O'Tuairisg stated that having an 80km speed limit at the intersection of the side roads with the R-336 where the speed limit is 50km does not make sense. Comh. T. O'Curraoin advised that the speed limits where the side roads intersect with the R-336 should be reduced from 80km to 50km as there are bad bends which are dangerous also to pedestrians. Comh. S. O'Cualáin stated that there are 3 different speed limits for the mile between the Poitín Still and Furbo – he advised that 80km and 50km can be kept but the 60km can be dropped. Cllr. N. Thomas stated that he had sent in a submission in regard to Tooreeny School and was advised by M. Ní Chionna that she will be assessing the submissions in due course. She advised that the proposed changes to the speed limits have to go to public display and consultation and the assessment of submissions received from the public. She advised that she will revert back to the Municipal Districts in due course with a full draft.

10. Date & Venue for Next Meeting

MD 17031

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held commencing at 2.00 p.m on Friday 8-9-2017 in the Council Chamber.

11. Any Other Business

CMD 17032

Cllr. E. Mannion and Comh. S. O'Cualáin acknowledged the works undertaken in regard to Fahy Pier at the Sky Road, Clifden and Dooneen Pier at Letterfrack. Comh. S. O'Cualáin referred to the 2 pedestrian crossings on the N59 at Oughterard which do not have clear black and white markings and have a reddish colour. D. Mitchell advised that they appear to have a different design.

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