

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Acting Chairperson)
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Gerry King
Cllr. Declan Kelly
Mr. Kenny Deery
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Mr. John Finn

Oifigi: Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer
Mr. Kurt Lydon, Senior Executive Technician
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Roche (Chairperson)
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation

Absent: Mr. Tom Madden

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 6th July 2022.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Albert Dolan and **Seconded** by Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 6th July 2022 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Donohue referred to Item No. 2, paragraph no. 3 and sought clarity in relation to zoned lands. Mr. Pender clarified that there are no zoned lands outside local area plan boundaries.

ITEM NO. 3 – UPDATE ON PIERS & HARBOURS

Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on Piers and Harbours.

Cllr. King requested a list of all slipways in County Galway. He addressed the issue of the cleaning of slipways. He advised that the local fisherman in these areas are willing to clean the slipways if the Council provided the cleaning agents.

Mr. Prendergast advised he would forward a list of what is proposed are the busiest areas and what is a realistic regime/timescale for cleaning of the slipways. He acknowledged Cllrs. Kings' points raised are valid.

Mr. Kelly referred to the issue of funding and was there plans to increase drawdown of funding. He highlighted that there are issues at Kinvara Pier. He outlined that the fishing industry has collapsed over the last few years and that the Council needed to be making piers more user friendly to include toilets, parking etc.

Mr. Prendergast acknowledged Mr. Kelly's comments and replied that a strategic approach is needed, and funding needs to be integrated with active travel and other sources of funding. He advised there is a second call for funding under BALAMI and they would be applying for same and outlined that the Council are restricted by timeframes in what can be delivered. He said that a commitment of funding and staff resources is required.

Cllr. Donohue looked for clarity in relation to the following: the process for selecting the piers to receive funding; liability in relation to accidents on piers and liability issues if the fishermen were to clean the slipways. She looked for an update on the proposed master plan for Rinville Pier and an update on the issue of boats parked near public roads and the erection of a fence.

Mr. Prendergast advised that the selection of piers is based on a master list, which is compiled through the Council carrying out surveys and inspections of the piers. Piers are then selected from this list that fit within the criteria of Balami Funding. With regards the issue of liability this issue needs to be looked at.

Mr. Pender advised that a master plan for Rinville Pier needs to be referred to the Forward Planning Section as its outside the scope of this SPC and the issues with the fence and parking of boats is been dealt with by Planning Enforcement Section.

ITEM NO. 4 – UPDATE ON BRIDGES

Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer presented and outlined to the committee members an update on works programme for bridges.

A discussion arose where Cllr. Donohue raised issues/concerns in relation to works that had been carried out a number of bridges in her MD area recently. She advised that she had given Notice of Motion money for the erection of a railing at one of the bridges.

Mr. Prendergast acknowledged Cllr. Donohue's concerns/comments. He advised that all works carried out include engagement with the Heritage Officer to ensure that the most appropriate materials are used.

ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE ON THE CONNEMARA GREENWAY

Mr. Kurt Lydon, Senior Executive Technician presented and outlined to the committee members an update on the Connemara Greenway.

Mr. Finn commented that it was great to see that voluntary acquisition worked well on this greenway project. He queried will people be able to gain access along the routes for cycling. Mr. Lydon replied that is the intention to have multiple access points along the route, as well as carparking.

Cllr. Donohue queried had engagement taken place with all landowners along the proposed route. Mr. Pender advised that engagement is ongoing with all landowners between Recess and Clifden.

Mr. Kelly queried did the residents of the area have any other engagement other than public consultation and will there be opportunities for small businesses to service the greenway route.

Mr. Lydon confirmed that all landowners were engaged with at the time, and it is hoped that there will be services along the routes when the greenway is completed.

Mr. Deery looked for timeline for completion of the project. Mr. Pender advised that there is a long process involved and he estimates at least 3 or 4 years before completion.

ITEM NO. 6 – ISSUE WITH SIGNAGE FOR BAILE CHLÁIR/CLAREGALWAY

A reply was received from the Minister for Sport and an Ghaeltacht in relation to this issue on the 9th August 2022 and was circulated to the committee members.

Cllr. Cuddy outlined he was completely dissatisfied with the Ministers reply as the issues raised in letter sent 1st November 2021 had not been addressed.

A discussion arose and it was agreed that the suggestion made in the Ministers reply that the signage could be changed to read "Baile Chláir na Gaillimhe" be looked into and see can the motorway signage be changed as per Ministers correspondence.

Mr. Kelly proposed the idea of erecting a brown tourist fingerpost information sign highlighting the exit for Claregalway Castle.

ITEM NO. 7 – AGENDA FOR NEXT SPC & SCHEDULE A DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

It was agreed to hold the December meeting on Thursday 8th December 2022 at 10.00am.

ITEM NO 8. – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Donohue raised the issue of engagement with landowners over the planned Greenway between Galway and Athlone. She outlined how the landowners wished to be engaged with as a group rather than individually.

Mr. Finn concurred with Cllr. Donohue's comments and as a representative for the IFA he is aware that farmers are confused as to the route of the proposed Greenway and that more emphasis needs to be given to talking to individual landowners.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &
Approved by:**

áchtug



Cllr. Peter Roche

Cathaoirleach

Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.

Date: *8/12/22*