

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí

Municipal District of Athenry

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. P. Feeney (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. S. Broderick
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. T. Grealish
Cllr M. McNamara

Apologies Cllr C. Keane

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Ms. R. Lowe, S.E.
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.
Mr. P. Gavin, E.E.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Ms G. Cooley, ASO

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting and especially welcomed the new Members Cllr Broderick and Cllr McNamara. He said that the election of the Leas Cathaoirleach would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in the Bia Innovation Centre, Athenry on Tuesday 12th November, 2024. AMD 29

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Collins SECONDED by Cllr Charity the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 12th November 2024 were approved.

Declaration of Public Road to be a Public Road – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (report attached).

AMD 30

Details as follows;

Description:

Road pavement and footpath commencing at the end of L-81121-1 (E537744, N724129) Bluebell woods and extending North East for a distance of 70m to junction of Hazel Court estate road (E537782, N724184), all in the townland of Oranmore.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Charity SECONDED by Cllr Grealish the Members AGREED the declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 as outlined in the report.

Three Year Roads Programme including 2025 Annual Road Resurfacing Programme.

AMD 31

Ms Lowe presented the Three-Year Roads Programme. She said that the three-year Roads Programme covers the years 2025, 2026 and 2027. The programme is a requirement of the Department of Transport and only covers the Restoration Improvement works. She said that the programme is required to be drafted on the basis the financial allocation for the year 2024. The allocation for 2025 has not yet been received but the work schedule presented is based on the 2024 funding which was over €2M for the Athenry Municipal District. She said that the Department set the criteria on selecting the roads and it is mainly based on roads that require intervention. She said that the Department of Transport require the plan to be prepared in a strategic manner and this will be supplemented with grants that are announced throughout the year. Ms Lowe outlined the details of the programme to the members. She said that there are large volumes of traffic in local areas, and she also outlined the details of the pavement works.

Mr Whelan said that Members of the Athenry MD were consulted on the input and an effort was made to accommodate requests. He said that this document was an outline and if something arises and needs attention adjustments can be made.

Mr Gavin also explained that if a road was not listed on this document, it may yet be included subject to funding and possibly under another grant category depending on the level of work required.

Mr Whelan said that the Restoration Improvement works were the highest level of improvements and usually related to the busiest roads and the works involved planing off the top section of road and placing hot bitumen, restoration and chip is a layer over the road and he explained the different construction methods.

Cllr Charity thanked the roads Department and said that the three-year programme was a valuable piece of work and allows members to update constituents on their roads queries. He said that he would like to see more works west of the N83. Additional items will be included for Tertiary roads.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins if discretionary roads can be done under the tertiary funding Mr Gavin confirmed that they could and that approximately three or four are done each year.

Ms Lowe then presented a draft of the 2025 Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance (Surface dressing) programme. Again, based on 2024 allocations. Ms Lowe

advised that it was very early in the year to present this, in advance of the allocations being notified by the Dept of Transport, but the Roads Section want to get out earlier with tenders in the hope that gains on time and costs can be achieved. All local authorities tend to go out at the same time in March and April with their tenders and the end result is not always favourable in respect of cost. Contractors are also quieter this time of year and this may generate further interest.

Ms Lowe said that the 2025 actual allocations are expected from the Department at the end of February, and the finalised 2025 Roads Programme will formally be presented to the members at a meeting with the list of works from the other Directorates, probably in March. These items together comprise the Schedule of MD Works upon which the Councillors are requested to exercise their reserved function. What we are doing today is showing councillors a draft of the resurfacing programme, which will give Members a clear indication of the resurfacing in terms of the year ahead. When the full roads programme is presented to Councillors it will include the other grant categories such as Low Cost Safety schemes, Climate Change etc. With all Local Authority tendering at the same time, it is important to have a programme of works outlined early. This will allow works to commence at an early stage. She said that what was required was agreement in principle, taking lead from three-year programme. She advised that the Roads section was trying a slightly different approach this year, which may or may not deliver gains, but she felt that it was important to at least try to see if gains could be made.

On the Proposal of Cllr Charity, seconded by Cllr Collins the Members agreed in principle the draft Three year roads programme.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the plan and said that he was happy to see Moyville on the list as the road is in poor condition.

In reply to a query from Cllr Broderick Mr Gavin said that there is a geographical spread with funding, and it is based on the condition of the road. The funding allocation is limited so the aim is to do as much as possible.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

AMD 32

Mr Hanrahan said that there are 209 active enforcement files in the MD and they have been allocated to Enforcement Officers. He said that there is a period after a warning is issued before they go to enforcement and a further timeline to court proceedings.

The development management system shows 86% granting of permissions and 83% are being dealt with online. He said that preplanning meetings can be booked online.

The majority of major applications for developments are in Oranmore and Claregalway. URDF is progressing with Forward planning and Irish rail in Oranmore. The Regeneration Team are working on Part 8 for the properties in Athenry town centre

In reply to a query from Cllr Charity on an update on the works at Claregalway to prevent flooding, Ms Lowe said that she will arrange a response from the NRPO section for Members.

In reply to a query from Cllr McNamara on a pedestrian crossing close to Tesco supermarket, Mr Whelan said that a request was made for funding for a crossing at this location under active travel but was unsuccessful. Ms Lowe said that the location was challenging for a pedestrian crossing due to the speed limits on the road but the Roads unit will examine options.

Cllr Collins welcomed the salt bins that the local office provided during the bad weather conditions and said that they received good feedback from the community. He said that an extension of bins to other areas in the MD would be welcome next year.

Mr McNamara also thanked staff for their work during the recent bad weather and he highlighted the need for more staff to meet the demands.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

AMD 33

Cllr Collins welcomed the NTA creating a website to update members. He also said that there was a very positive reaction from the public on the salt bins and would welcome them in more areas.

Cllr Collins raised the need for the Claregalway by-pass and said that over the Christmas period he wrote to the newly elected TDs for the area about the need for the relief road for Claregalway be put on the agenda. He asked that the members of the MD do the same. He said that the area has been expanding over the last five years and that finance was allocated last year for a strategic assessment for the relief road. The members agreed and said that it was time to advance this project.


Any other business (AOB).

AMD 34

There were no items under this heading.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date: 11 / 3 / 25