

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 11th March 2025.

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.
Mr. P. Gavin, E.E.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Mr. B. Mostert, Tourism First Officer

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 14th January 2025. AMD 35

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Collins SECONDED by Cllr Charity the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 14th January 2025 were approved.

Matters arising

In relation the Roads Programme Mr Whelan said that the Roads and Transportation Unit are awaiting the Funding details of the Roads Programme from the Department and a meeting will take place in April.

Cllr Collins asked for further clarification on the works in Claregalway. He requested details of funding from TII. He also said that businesses have been asking that the time for works be carried out between the hours 10.00 and 4.00. He said that workers were on site at 8.00 yesterday morning and this caused traffic delays. He asked that this message be relayed to the NRPO.

The Cathaoirleach said that details of the roads funding will be available at the April meeting.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

AMD 36

The Cathaoirleach called for nominations for the election of the Leas Cathaoirleach to replace the outgoing Member Albert Dolan.

Cillian Keane nominated Cllr Broderick.

There were no other nominations. On the proposal of Cllr Keane, seconded by Cllr McNamara Cllr Broderick was elected as the Leas Cathaoirleach to the Athenry MD.

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

AMD 37

Details as follows;

Description

Ceathru An Tobair – TIC – Schedule

Section A-B-C-D: Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction A with the L-4101-91, in the townland of Moneyduff and extending northeast for a distance of 206m ending at point D, all in the townland of Moneyduff.

Section C-E: Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction C, in the townland of Moneyduff and extending West for a distance of 30m ending at point E, all in the townland of Moneyduff.

Section B-F: Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction B, in the townland of Moneyduff and extending Northeast for a distance of 135m ending at point F, all in the townland of Moneyduff;

The Cathaoirleach explained that this item was for approval at the Loughrea MD meeting.

Athenry Regeneration Projects

AMD 38

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Brent Mostert who gave a presentation on the Athenry Regeneration Projects.

He outlined the details for the Athenry Community & Enterprise hub. He said that it was a €2M project and the design consultants are currently being appointed. He gave the following timelines for the project.

Detailed Design August 2025 – (4 months)

Tender Process January 2026 (4 Months)

Commencement Notice Construction June 2026 – 18 months

Completion November 2027

Mr Mostert said that the Council has recently acquired a property on Loughrea road and bridge street known as the OPW site. The development of this site will ease traffic congestion in this area.

He explained that he is the Towns Centre First Officer for GCC and has held the first consultation on the 4th March and further consultation will be held on the 20th March 2025. The details are available on the Councils website. Ms Melia is leading the town centre first project and information is currently being gathered on the project. The community will be consulted in relation to key objectives and an advertisement will be placed in the Connacht Tribune.

Mr Hanrahan said that the Town Centre First Plan is an ongoing process. The Town Teams Committee takes the lead, and Members have a role in making submissions. He said that workshops will be held and on completion of the process it will be brought to the Members. Once the plan is adopted as a town plan a number of projects will commence. There is a statutory basis for Part 8 works and there are limits on the size of the space available for development.

He said that Tobin's will progress the Public Realm and contracts will be issued mid-summer 2025. In relation to Burkes Lane discussions have taken place with the OPW on the Athenry Castle and opening up the grounds create an open plaza effect. The two projects are at design stage.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the local input and also highlighted the input of the Members. He said that Athenry is unique and has constraints with street width. He said that there was only one chance, and it is important to get it right. The Members would like to be involved with the progress, and they have valuable local knowledge. The development of the building at Burkes Lane into a public and community facility is welcome. He said that redesigning the junction is essential and Consultation is important.

It was agreed that M. Jordan would circulate the presentation to Members after the meeting.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

AMD 39

Mr Hanrahan presented the planning figures for 2023 that were circulated to the members. He said that he had undertaken a review of planning permissions granted in 2025 and confirmed that GCC had an 86% grant rate. Athenry MD recorded the lowest number of applications and the highest number of appeals as a percentage. There were no refusals in Athenry MD area. There were a substantial number of agricultural developments reflected in further information requests due to the need for a Natura Impact Statement.

Mr Hanrahan thanked the office and outdoor staff in the Athenry Area MD for their work during the recent storm. He said that there was extensive work required due to the amount of damage caused. He highlighted that a system of emergency community hubs and the provision of generators for hubs was being examined in preparation of further storms.

The Members concurred and thanked the staff for the work done during the storm. The response from GCC was exceptional.

Cllr Collins acknowledged that the pre planning meetings were a great success. He congratulated the planning Department. He said that it was important that applicants engaged in the process.

In reply to a query from Cllr Charity on the low number of applications in the Athenry MD area Mr Hanrahan explained that there was a large number of applications in the system which included large housing estates. When they are processed it will change the figures. It is based on the number of applications granted as opposed to the number of houses. He explained that the main reason for refusals are on road safety grounds and issues with sight lines on TTI roads. The onus is on the applicant to provide a solution as the TTI cannot change an application. If making TAMS application for a shed a nutritional plan is required and there is a long waiting list for professionals.

Cllr Grealish requested a copy of the drawings from the NRPO of the works being carried out in Claregalway. He also asked for an update on the works on the Tuam road where the bus lane is being upgraded.

He expressed his condolences to the family of the pedestrian that was killed in a road traffic accident in Claregalway last week and highlighted that this was a dangerous junction.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that the NRPO be invited to a Athenry MD meeting to provide an update on projects.

In response to a query from Cllr McNamara on fallen wires at Castle Ellen the Cathaoirleach said that these were Eircom wires and were not dangerous. He said that Eir was continuing to do repairs after the storm.

In reply to a query from Cllr Kean Mr Whelan said that a contractor was in place to carry out the works after storm Debbie on the Maree Road. It is anticipated that works will be complete in a couple weeks. He said that he will provide an update to the Members.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

AMD 40

Cllr Collins said that there was major interest in the affordable homes in Claregalway. He requested that a Staff Member from the Housing Unit be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the affordable Scheme.

In relation to a query from Cllr Collins on a road patcher replacement for the Athenry Office. Mr Hanrahan said that he will discuss the matter with Uinsinn Finn. Cllr Collins will send an e-mail with the request.

Cllr Charity said that the closing of the post office in Oranmore was a serious concern. Cllr Keane said that there was no transport provided for customers to the alternative locations which were providing the service.

Cllr Martin said that there is a phone line available to Members to contact An Post.

Cllr Martin said that clarification is needed on the crossing at Caheroyan as a safer option needs to be found at this location.

Cllr Broderick said that a crossing has been designed but funding was not made available under the active travel. However, when the school is built it will be considered.

Cllr Collins said that three school are selected under safe route to school's scheme. He asked that an update be provided on these.

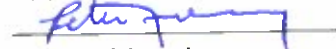
Any other business (AOB).

AMD 41

There was not item under this heading.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date: 6/5/2025

