

**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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

**OIFIGIGH:** Ms V. Loughnane, DoS  
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.  
Mr. P. Gavin, E.E.  
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.  
Ms. G. Cooley, C.O.

**To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. AMD 53**

On the proposal of Cllr Feeney Seconded by Cllr Broderick the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were approved.

**To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. AMD 54**

On the proposal of Cllr Broderick Seconded by Cllr Feeney the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved.

**Matters Arising**

Cllr Collins requested clarification on the location of the playground in the affordable housing scheme in Claregalway. He stated that the playground should be located at the front of the estate. Ms Loughnane said that she will clarify the location of the playground and reply to the Members.

Cllr Feeney said that Claregalway residents have been advocating for a playground for a number of years and it is important that it is located at the front of the site for easy access to all users.

### **Approval of LPT funded projects.**

**AMD 55**

Cllr Feeney said that he is the Director of Athenry Community Council, so he excused himself from the meeting while the item was dealt with.

*Cllr Broderick said that "Athenry Playground was built in 2003/2004 with the help of Galway County Council and let by a local Playground Committee. The playground is located on land owned by Athenry Community Council at Bridge Street Athenry. It is now 20 years old and requires full refurbishment. The Playground Committee with Athenry Community Council are in the process of applying for LEADER funding to complete the works. The project requires 25% match funding and a sum of €40,000 from the LPT funding would fulfil this requirement and allow this very worthwhile and necessary project to be completed. The work involves replacing play equipment which has reached end of life (some equipment has already been removed as unsafe), the renewal of child-safe surfaces and the installation of special needs equipment."*

Cllr Broderick made the following proposal.

*"I will propose that Galway County Council Provides €40,000 LPT funding towards the refurbishment of Athenry playground. The funding is to be given to Athenry Community Council CLG."*

On the proposal of Cllr Broderick, seconded by Cllr McNamara and agreed by Members the amount of €40,000 was allocated to Athenry Community Council for refurbishment of Athenry Playground.

Cllr Feeney returned to the meeting

Cllr Collins made the following proposal

*"I would like to allocate the following from the LPT allocated funds.*

*€5,400 towards Tertiary Road in Claregalway*

*€15,100 towards improving sightlines in Abbert Demense Abbeyknockmoy."*

On the proposal of Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Broderick it was agreed that €5,400 of LPT funding would be allocated to tertiary road in Claregalway and €15,100 towards improving sightlines in Abbert Demesne, Abbeyknockmoy".

## **Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence. AMD 56**

Ms Loughnane congratulated Cllr Keane on his appointment as Cathaoirleach and Cllr Charity on his election as Leas Cathaoirleach. She thanked Cllr Feeney for his work as Cathaoirleach over the past year.

Ms Loughnane gave an update on the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund(URDF) Project.

In March of 2021, GCC secured EUR12.28 million for the project at Oranmore Train Station (UDF area) with three key elements –

- (1) An additional platform and a 1KM passing railway loop
- (2) Detailed design of the local centre including associated car park and landscaping plan for public area
- (3) a study on the Design Development of Typologies to implement the Urban Framework Plan (UFP).

She stated that the development of the additional platform and passing loop will generate significant additional public transport potential and the UFP is included in the County Development Plan. The UFP has the potential to deliver 1,100 homes and up to 1,000 jobs ensuring a significant contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan

In February 2025 planning permission was granted for the additional platform, a 1KM passing railway loop and an underpass with 150m of the 1 km passing loop within Galway City Council jurisdiction. The underpass will be the first phase of the project to be constructed, with the detailed design of the local centre and the eco park along with the study on the Design Development of Typologies to implement the Urban Framework Plan completed by July/ August of 2025.

The design of the carpark will be going to tender in the near future also. GCC, working with Irish Rail and NTA will provide updates as progress occurs. It should be acknowledged that a lot of work has been ongoing in background since 2021 and significant progress will be evident over next year. The Active Travel scheme from Oranmore to the train station will be also incorporated into the ongoing plans and works.

In reply to a query from Cllr Grealish on the parking arrangements at the train station when construction commences Ms Loughnane said that funding is available to design the carpark, but no funding as yet has been secured for the construction of same. However, GCC are currently exploring all options with respect to the construction of the carpark and when that occurs that alternative carparking arrangements will be examined at that point. She also noted that GCC were aware of the parking issues at that location.

Cllr Keane welcomed the proposed passing loop and the project coming to fruition. Future developments are important including active travel and this will provide a bright future for the station.



Cllr McNamara thanked Ms Loughnane for the update. He stated that the co-ordinated approach on providing the infrastructure is welcome. He also re iterated his concerns re timelines and carpark facilities.

**Cathaoirleach's Business.**

**AMD 57**

There was no item under this heading.

**Any other business (AOB).**

**AMD 58**

Mr Whelan gave an update on works being carried out in the Athenry Oranmore MD area. Road recycling was minimized this year, and this was replaced by micro surfacing. The safety works at Belville are progressing in conjunction with landowners. The queries raised by landowners are currently with the designer.

In response to a query from Cllr Grealish on Derrydonnell junction Mr Whelan said that there would not be a left turning lane. He said that a turning circle on the curve will be opened up to make it easier to turn. The slip lane was taken out and is not part of the road design manual.

Cllr Charity asked for an update on the deputation from Clonboo who attended a meeting last July. Mr Whelan said that it was with the NRPO office for design. He said that he will provide an update for the next meeting.

Cllr McNamara asked about traffic monitoring at Ballydavid. Mr Whelan said that one traffic monitor will be put in place at this location, and he will report back to the Members with an update.

In response to a query from Cllr Feeney re Claregalway school Mr Whelan said he has been in contact with the Board of Management in Claregalway and progress is being made. These works are dependent on TII Funding.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> / 7 / 2025 .

