

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 the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, on Monday 11th November, 2019.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. J. Cuddy (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. G. Cronnelly,
Cllr. J. Charity,
Cllr. L. Carroll,
Cllr. D. Collins,
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn,
Cllr. A. Dolan.

OIFIGIGH: Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services,
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,
Mr. M. Melody, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr. M. Molloy, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer,
Ms. G. Cooley, Assistant Staff Officer

Cllr. Cuddy, Cathaoirleach of Athenry Municipal District Council, welcomed all present at the Meeting.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 10th September, 2019

AMD 14

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, the Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 10th September 2019, were **AGREED**.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Herterich Quinn said that the Athenry Traffic Management Plan needs to be reviewed and Mr. Mitchell replied that there are a number of Traffic Management Plans in need of

review, including Athenry and Oranmore Plans and he said this will be dependent on funding. Also in reply to Cllr. Herterich Quinn, Mr. Mitchell said the installation of a footbridge in conjunction with the new Clarin College building is a requirement but this is a matter for the Department of Education to design and construct, in line with conditions of planning permission.

Cllr. Cronnelly welcomed the funding which had been secured under the Rural Regeneration Fund for the Bia Innovator Hub at Athenry. He said this funding also includes an allocation for Athenry Town which will be used for upgrade and improvement works in the town.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn referred to Backlawn Carpark and she stated that the free carparking initiative in place since September has brought about a significant change to on-street parking in the town and 80% of the carpark is now being used. She said that as this was the final Meeting of Athenry Municipal District Council for 2019, she would like to discuss the possibility of extending the free parking for a further term.

Cllr. Cronnelly said he would be in agreement that the free parking initiative be extended at Backlawn Carpark.

Mr. Mitchell welcomed the increased use of the carpark, however he said he had serious concerns regarding any proposal to extend the free parking at Backlawn as this would set a precedent for other carparks in the County.

Following a discussion, Cllr. Cronnelly made the following **PROPOSAL** "*I propose that Kenny Park Backlawn remain free for 1 year from 2020-2021 and 2 designated bus parking spots*". This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn and **AGREED** by the Members.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn asked for an update regarding the proposal to construct Affordable Housing Units at Raheen, Athenry and Mr. Owens replied that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPLG) had recently hosted a Workshop for Local Authorities to provide guidance in relation to the Serviced Sites Fund and further Meetings will be held before the end of the year. He said the Council is making arrangements to engage a Design Team for the project and once the funding element is finalised, the Municipal District Members will be briefed on same.

In reply to Cllr. Collins, Mr. Gavin said that the work to alleviate flooding in the vicinity of Lackagh Graveyard and resurfacing works at this location would be carried out in the coming weeks.

Mr. Mitchell indicated to Cllr. Collins that there was no advancement in relation to a Community Employment Scheme for Lackagh due to funding constraints associated with the supervision required for the operation of such a Scheme.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 22nd October 2019

AMD 15

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Carroll and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Herterich Quinn, the Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 22nd October 2019, were **AGREED**.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Herterich Quinn said the presence of working CCTV cameras in towns is very important as they assist Garda investigations.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy's request that green and white bollards be provided on regional roads, Mr. Mitchell agreed that these bollards provide a safety feature and said he would consult the Transport Infrastructure Ireland in regards to the provision of these bollards on Regional Roads.

To consider and Adopt the Draft Standing Orders Regulating Proceedings and Meetings of Athenry Municipal District Council

AMD 16

[Draft Standing Orders were already circulated to each Member]

The Meeting Administrator indicated that the Draft Standing Orders which had been circulated to the Municipal District Members had been considered at the September 2019 Meeting of the Plenary Council, that Items 1, 5 and 6 of the Draft Standing Orders were specific to Athenry Municipal District and all other items in the Draft Standing Orders reflected the outcome of the consideration by the Plenary Council.

Following a short discussion, the Members **AGREED** Items 1, 5 and 6 as follows:

Meetings of the Municipal District Members

1. Unless upon any occasion when it is otherwise fixed by statute or by resolution of the municipal district members, Ordinary Meetings of the municipal district members shall be held bi-monthly at 2.00 p.m on Tuesday of the second week of the month. A schedule of Ordinary Meetings of the municipal district members for the ensuing year shall be approved at each Annual Meeting.

Hour of Meeting

5. The hour of meeting of the municipal district members shall be 2.00 p.m. for a maximum duration of 2 hours or at such other hour as may from time to time be fixed by resolution of the municipal district members. The municipal district members shall rise not later than 4.00 p.m. and standing orders shall only be suspended in order to allow the meeting to continue. Where standing orders are suspended to allow the time for the meeting to be extended they shall be suspended for a defined period and shall only be suspended once.

Place of Meeting and Address of Principal Offices

6. In so far as practicable the place for holding meetings of the municipal district members shall be the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and meetings shall normally be held there, provided that the municipal district members may from time to time by resolution appoint an alternative location for a particular meeting.

Cllr. Carroll **PROPOSED** that the Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Athenry be adopted, including the amendments made to Items 1, 5 and 6 which are specific to Athenry Municipal District. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED**.

Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993

[Report already circulated to each Member]

AMD 17

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Report, including Map, which had been circulated to the Members and he read the Report into the Meeting, as follows:

Summerfield Estate, Baile Chláir, Co. Galway.

Description:

Section A-B-C: Road pavement and footpath commencing at public road N-83-241 Point A and extending North West for a distance of 222m to point B in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann,

Section C-D: Road pavement and footpath commencing at point B and extending North East for a distance of 31m to point C adjacent to House No 1 in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

Section D-E-F: Road pavement and footpath commencing at point C and extending South East for a distance of 127m to point E adjacent to house No 4 in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

Section E-B: Road pavement and footpath commencing at point E and extending South West for a distance of 30m in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

Electoral Area: Athenry-Oranmore

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Members **AGREED** the Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, as outlined in the Report.

Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993

[Report already circulated to each Member]

AMD 18

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Report, including Map, which had been circulated to the Members and he read the Report into the Meeting, as follows:

River Oaks, Baile Chláir, Co. Galway.

Description:

1. Section A-B

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction A with the N-83-241 in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann and extending North West for a distance of 302m to the end of the road at B (house no.108) in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

2. Section C-D

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction C with that of Road A-B and extending South West for a distance of 134m (serves units 1 to 20), ending at D in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

3. Section E-F

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction E with that of Road A-B and extending South West for a distance of 135m (serves units 21 to 44), ending at F in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

4. Section G-H

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction G with that of Road A-B and extending South West for a distance of 282m ending at last house H in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

5. Section J-K

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction J with that of Road G-H and extending South East for a distance of 83m (serves units 87 to 94), ending at K in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

6. Section L-M

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction L with that of Road G-H and extending North West for a distance of 38m (serves units 59 to 62), ending at M in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

7. Section N-P

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction N with that of Road G-H and extending South East for a distance of 80m (serves units 73 to 86), ending at P in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

8. Section Q-R

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction Q with that of Road A-B and

extending North East for a distance of 172m ending at R (house no. 114) in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

9. Section S-T

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction S with that of Road Q-R and extending North West for a distance of 64m (serves units to 115), ending at T in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann.

Electoral Area: Athenry-Oranmore

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Members **AGREED** the Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, as outlined in the Report.

Cllr. Charity referred to the Deputation from River Oaks Residents Association which had been received by the Members of the Municipal District directly prior to the Meeting. He said the Deputation highlighted the problems of access onto the N83 from River Oaks Estate and he said he would welcome either the introduction of lights at this junction or the creation of a yellow box. He said the Office of Public Works are to deal with the flooding issues at this location.

Cllr. Charity said that the Deputation expressed their frustration with the traffic congestion at Claregalway where 18,500 cars per day pass through the village with no solution in sight despite promises that the opening of the motorway would alleviate matters. He said the Residents and the Members are in agreement that the only solution is the provision of a by-pass of the village which needs to take place with political will and government support.

Cllr. Cuddy made the following **PROPOSAL** *"that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District instructs the CEO and the Director of Services for Galway County Council to seek the necessary funding from the Government and TII for the relief road for Claregalway/Baile Chláir.*

The preferred route has been identified since 2003 and the traffic congestion each morning and evening is not acceptable. Since the preferred route was identified and on which Galway County Council has done a considerable amount of work traffic volumes have increased and there is now more than 18,500 vehicles going through this village each day.

In the meantime the school population in the village has increased by more than 1,500 and that has also brought its additional traffic.

The failure of Government to allocate the necessary funding is hampering the future development of the area and is causing unnecessary delays to motorists going to and from work each day".

This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, and **AGREED**.

Review of Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2022

AMD 19

[Report dated 4th October 2019 together with Draft Litter Plan 2019 – 2022 was circulated to each Member]

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Mike Melody and Mr. Mark Molloy from the Environment Section to the Meeting.

Mr. Melody said that the Review of the Litter Management Plan is a Reserved Function under Section 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and this Reserved Function is performed by the Municipal District Members, in accordance with Schedule 14A of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

He said the Draft Litter Management Plan sets out the objectives for the prevention and eradication of litter throughout County Galway. The main objectives of the Litter Management Plan fall under four measures: Partnership; Awareness; Enforcement; Operations.

He said the Plan will act as a medium-term strategy based on which an annual Action Plan will be prepared identifying priorities and actions to be carried out each year.

A discussion took place and the Members welcomed the Review of the Litter Management Plan and thanked Mr. Melody and Mr. Molloy for their work in preparing the Plan. Mr. Melody addressed queries raised by the Members as follows:

In reply to Cllr. Carroll, he acknowledged that the bring-bank which had been removed from Oran Town Centre as part of a new layout needs to be reinstated at an alternative location. He said the Council has examined a number of options, however no suitable location has been found as of yet. He said if the Members could bring a suitable accessible location to the attention of the Council, this would be welcomed.

In reply to Cllr. Charity, Mr. Melody said that the Council's Community Wardens, including a Litter Warden in Ballinasloe, maintain a visible presence in towns and villages to help deter littering and to promote awareness of the implications, in terms of fines and other enforcement actions, of littering. He also said that the Council intends to maximise the participation of Community Employment Schemes/Rural Social Schemes and also the Probation Services in litter clean-ups.

Cllr. Charity asked if designated litter pickers are assigned by the Council to cover the litter black spots in the county to clean up the roadsides due to the large scale of the litter problem. He said that littering along the N84 and roads leading off this is a particular problem.

Mr. Melody replied that there are no dedicated litter pickers employed by the Council. The question of supervision, provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other safety issues would need to be taken into account if litter pickers were employed. The Council will continue to investigate measures to best deal with the litter problem.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Mr. Melody said that a Civic Amenity Site is not planned for Athenry and he said the area is served by two private Civic Amenity Sites, one at Oranmore and one in Carrowbrowne.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn asked if the frequency of bottle-bank collections could be increased, as bottle-banks, particularly in Athenry, are constantly overflowing, and there is a constant problem of illegal dumping at these locations. Mr. Melody acknowledged Cllr. Herterich Quinn's concerns and said the Council intends to amend the signage at bottle-banks to ensure the public are aware that illegal dumping at these locations is not permitted. He also said the Council is experimenting with devices to alert the public to the correct use of bottle-banks.

Cllr. Collins highlighted the reduction in the number of volunteer groups taking part in National Spring Cleans from 80 in 2015 to 37 in 2018 and Mr. Melody said that insurance is a contributing factor to this reduction in volunteers. However he said that it is hoped this issue will be solved by securing insurance under the umbrella of An Taisce.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Mr. Molloy said that WEE Ireland will be facilitating the collection of waste at four locations around the County and this will be advertised in advance.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Herterich Quinn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Members **AGREED** to adopt the Litter Management Plan 2019 - 2022.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence

AMD 20

Mr. Owens informed the Members that the applications for funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019 in respect of Oranmore and Baile Chláir were successful.

He also informed the Members that the DHPLG has given the go-ahead for a new Fire Station in Athenry and discussions are underway in relation to securing a site for the Fire Station.

Cathaoirleach's Business

AMD 21

A discussion took place regarding parking at Oranmore Train Station and the Members expressed the view that the carpark needs to be extended in order to cater for the number of cars using the train.

Cllr. Carroll said that there are 140 carparking spaces at Oranmore Train Station carpark and he estimated that on occasion up to 250 cars park there, spilling out onto the road. He said these cars are mostly owned by people using the train into Galway City and this is achieving a significant reduction in the volume of cars on the road and reducing the carbon footprint in the City.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn said that people are driving to Oranmore Train Station to get the train instead of paying for parking in Athenry and this is adding to the overspill at Oranmore carpark.

Mr. Mitchell said that if carparking is to be extended at Oranmore, the only way to pay for this is by charging for parking.

Cllr. Cronnelly made the following **PROPOSAL**: *“that Irish Rail review the frequencies of the train stops in Attymon, Athenry and Oranmore Stations”*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, and **AGREED**.

Mr. Mitchell said that a framework document currently under development for the Garraun area where Oranmore Train Station is located includes provision for a loop system which would enable frequent commuter trains in and out of Galway City. He said a conceptual design is being prepared at present in this regard. He said Iarnród Éireann is very much involved and is supportive of the proposed loop system.

Cllr. Charity made the following **PROPOSAL**: *“that Galway County Council write to the Department of Agriculture, An Garda Síochána, the Galway Traveller Movement and Galway City Council requesting a Meeting with Galway County Council officials and the Athenry Oranmore Members regarding ongoing incidents on the Headford Road involving collisions between animals and motor vehicles, as well as public order incidents”*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Carroll, and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Collins referred to the recent announcement by Minister Phelan of an additional allocation of €1m funding to Galway County Council and he asked for clarity as to how this money will be allocated for spending. Mr. Owens replied that each Municipal District will be notified when the funding becomes available. He said the appropriate time to discuss the allocation of the funding by the Municipal District will be when considering the Municipal District Schedule of Works in the New Year.

In accordance with the adopted Standing Orders for the Municipal District, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District will be held on Tuesday 14th January, 2020 at 2pm in the Council Chamber.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

Approved by:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 17/1/2020

