

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Galway County Council

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí Órán Mór

Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, on Monday 10th September, 2018.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. F. Kearney (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. J. Charity

Apologies Cllr. Cuddy and Cllr. Noone.

OIFIGH: Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services,
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,
Ms. E. Hourigan, A/Administrative Officer,
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer.

Item No. 1: To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 16th July, 2018

AOMD 1831

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane, the Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 16th July 2018, were **AGREED**.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item No. 2. Taking in Charge of Estates in Area/Consideration of Phased Remediation Programme for such Estates

Taking in Charge Report was circulated to Each Member

AOMD 1832

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Edel Hourigan, A/Administrative Officer, to the Meeting.

Cllr. Kinane thanked Ms. Hourigan for attending the Meeting and said she had asked that this Item be placed on the Agenda. She referred to the Tudor Vale Estate, Oranmore, and said that the residents were of the view that the Estate had been taken in charge, whereas only the public lighting in the Estate had been taken in charge by the Council. She said that the Residents of Tudor Vale have asked that the Estate be progressed as a phased remediation scheme.

Mr. Mitchell said that in the past, public lighting was taken in charge in isolation by the Council, however this has not been the practice for the past 10 years.

Cllr. Kinane said she had spoken with Irish Water who had indicated that they will work with the Council, however Irish Water indicated that they cannot get involved until the Estate has been taken in charge. She said that she would like that Taking in Charge be considered later in the year at Budget time in terms of increasing the allocation for same.

Ms. Hourigan addressed the Members and presented the Report on Taking in Charge.

She said that "Taking in Charge" is the term give to the assumption by a local authority of responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of public services and infrastructure.

The works undertaken by the Taking in Charge section include:-

- Work on the completion of Estates funded by Bonds
- Liaising with Developers for the completion of estates to TIC standard and/or Bond release
- Finalising works on Estates in receipt of funding under the NTICI initiative
- Completing Works on Historical Estates funded by Council Budget allocation
- Review of Developments/Estates to confirm compliance with Planning Permission, and where non-compliance issues are identified, forwarding file(s) to Enforcement to initiate appropriate proceedings.

To date in 2018, 8 estates have been taken in charge, with a further 8 estates to be advertised by year end and for consideration by the members in due course.

Ms. Hourigan said that the Council works with developers to ensure estates are completed to the required standard before they are taken in charge by the Council. She said that the financial resources available to the Taking in Charge Section is by way of Bonds specifically assigned to developments and/or funding received through Site Resolution with Irish Water. The monies received through the Council Budget allocation is an invaluable source of income for historical estates where there is little or no Bond monies available to bring estates to Taking in Charge standard. The Taking in Charge section aims to ensure the council allocation is distributed equally to historical estates across all five municipal districts. There are occasions with historical estates that in addition to monies from the Council allocation, the Residents will be requested to make a contributions towards the cost of completing works to have their estate completed and taken in charge.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hourigan for the comprehensive report.

Cllr. Kinane also thanked Ms. Hourigan for the Report and for her work in the Taking in Charge Section of the Council. She said that the Tudor Vale Estate has a very strong Residents Association and she asked if the Council would be open to a 3-year Remediation Programme for the Estate.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the Council would consider any proposal put forward by the Members.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Ms. Hourigan said that she would forward the Members a breakdown of the 16 Estates in the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District which have been taken in charge and she confirmed that Monivea is not included in the 16.

Mr. Mitchell said Taking in Charge section recently received notification from KPMG, the receiver for IBRC, that funding to the value of €1,126,300.00 for 17 estates will issue in September, 2018. He said that a number of estates have chosen to remain private.

In reply to Cllr. Charity, Mr. Mitchell said that if a Bond is in place in respect of a Housing Estate which has not been finished to the required standard for taking in charge, the Council will make a claim on the the Bond where possible.

Also in reply to Cllr. Charity, Mr. Mitchell said that in the event that the Council calls in a bond, the public procurement process in carrying out the works however the bond holder may engage the services of the original developer as there may be advantages to the bond holder because the original developer will be familiar with the site. However, it a matter between the bond holder and the developer the to complete the estate. He said the Council carries out checks and balances, water audits, visuals, health & safety certification of public lighting etc.

In reply to Cllr. Kearney, Ms. Hourigan said the developer of Tudor Vale Estate, Oranmore has ceased trading.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Hourigan for updating the Members in relation to Taking in Charge of Estates in the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District.

No. 3. Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence

AOMD 1833

Mr. Owens read out the letter dated 2nd August 2018 which had been received from Mr. Jim Meade, Chief Executive of Iarnrod Eireann, in reply to a Motion which the Members had adopted at the May Meeting of the Municipal District Council.

The letter from Iarnrod Eireann indicated that 2 no. additional stops would be added to its timetable from Sunday 9th September 2018 as follows:

11:05 Galway to Heuston service to serve Oranmore Train Station at 11:16

19:35 Heuston to Galway service to serve Oranmore Train Station at 21:52

Cllr. Kinane welcomed the additional stops at Oranmore Station stating that they would benefit the local community greatly, in particular the final stop at 21:52 and she said it was heartening that Iarnród Éireann had acted on the request put forward by the Members of the Municipal District.

Cllr. Feeney also welcomed the additional stops stating that it was very positive that Iarnród Éireann were engaging with the Council. He asked that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Iarnród Éireann in this regard.

Cllr. Cronnelly expressed the view that ticket pricing for the commute from Athenry to Galway should be looked at and he also felt that a reduction in the parking charges in Athenry would be an incentive for commuters to use the rail service.

Cllr. Feeney concurred with Cllr. Cronnelly, stating that the train service is a very valuable asset to Athenry and Oranmore, however there is an issue regarding the price of tickets and he said that a more realistic ticket price would be welcome.

Item No. 4. Cathaoirleach's Business

AOMD 1834

In response to Cllr. Feeney's query in regard to the progress on the New Line, Athenry junction, Ms. Higgins said that the closing date for the tender for the works was the previous Friday, and that the tenders would be examined in the coming weeks.

Mr. Gavin, in reply to Cllr. Charity, said that the works at Baunmore are underway and it is anticipated that these will be completed shortly.

In reply to Cllr. Kearney, Mr. Mitchell said that provision of footpaths on certain routes would be under the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and that the footpaths would have to serve a destination or function.

In response to a number of queries from the Councillors in regard to the speed limit review, Mr. Owens said that the closing date for submissions was the previous Friday, and that a report would be available for the October Meeting of the Municipal District Council, taking into account submissions received.

In reply to Cllr. Charity, Mr. Mitchell said that the Members' views are always considered, however in certain circumstances, proposals received from the Members are not included in the Draft Byelaws, if they do not meet safety requirements.

Mr. Owens added that a Report on the submissions received would be presented to the Members of the Municipal District Councils for consideration and that the final decision on the Speed Limit Review for the County would be made by the Members of the Plenary Council at the October Monthly Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Kinane said she was disappointed that her submission for the Speed Limit Review in the village of Clarinbridge was not taken on board by the TII, given that €250,000 was earmarked previously under traffic calming at this location. She said she would like that the Council progress her recommendation to reduce the speed limits entering Clarinbridge.

Mr. Mitchell said he would follow up on Cllr. Kinane's query.

The Cathaoirleach stated that he had been informed that the Speed Limit Review would be available for consideration by the Members of the Municipal District Councils in October.

Mr. Mitchell said that 3-year Roads Programme would also be available at the October Meeting of the Municipal District.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Kinane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Feeney, and **AGREED**, that the next Meeting of the Municipal District Council would be held on Tuesday 16th October at 10am.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

SUBMITTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Frank Heaney

DATE: 12-11-18

