

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 12th November, 2018.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. F. Kearney (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. M. Kinane
Cllr. M. Noone
Cllr. J. Charity

APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Feeney

OIFIGIUGH: Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services,
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,
Ms. M. Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer,
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,
Ms. G. Mulkerrins, Executive Technician,
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer.

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

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

AOMD 1842

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item No. 2. Report on the draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018

AOMD 1843

The Cathaoirleach stated that this Item was on the Agenda for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 16th October 2018 and had been deferred by the Members for discussion at today's Meeting.

Ms. Ní Chionna referred the Members to the Report on the draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limits County Galway Bye-Laws 2018 (draft Special Speed Limits), including Maps, which had been circulated to them. She advised that she was guided in her recommendations on the draft Special Speed Limits by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS) *Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland*, issued in March 2015. She said that making Special Speed Limits is a reserved function of the Members, taking into account the recommendations of the Executive. In accordance with the legislation, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) must give its written consent to any proposed changes to speed limits on National Roads.

Ms. Ní Chionna said that the statutory default speed limit is 80 kph on Regional and Local roads except in an urban zone, where the default is 50 kph. Special speed limits can then be introduced outside of these statutory speed limits. However, drivers also must take into consideration the road conditions, bends, hills etc and drive with due care and attention. The main issue when driving is the consideration of road safety, and traffic calming is important bringing about a reduction in inappropriate speed.

Cllr. Kinane acknowledged the work carried out by the Roads Staff in preparing the maps which had been circulated to the Members. She said that she had organised a public Meeting to discuss speed limits in her area, however only one request for a change to the speed limits had been received and this was subsequently withdrawn as locals were worried that it would lead to traffic fines being issued. She said the Members must be careful that any change to the speed limits are in line with what the public want. Cllr. Kinane also said that the Stradbally side of Clarinbridge needs to be looked at by TII and if they are not willing to reduce the speed limits here, TII should install Driver Feedback Signs instead.

In reply to Cllr. Kinane, Ms. Ní Chionna said she would investigate the Coldwood Moyvilla speed limit.

Cllr. Charity thanked Ms. Ní Chionna for preparing the maps circulated. He referred to various side roads which have become "rat-runs" for motorists avoiding main roads adjacent to Galway City due to traffic delays and he said that the question of introducing speed ramps on these roads had been discussed on numerous occasions. However, he said that the recommendation was that speed ramps on these roads would not be appropriate and now the Members are being advised that reducing the speed limit on these roads is not the solution. He said he could not stand over a decision not to make any changes to slow down motorists on these "rat-runs" to improve the quality of life for the people living along these roads.

Mr. Mitchell, in reply to Cllr. Charity, said that speed ramps are not recommended in rural areas.

Cllr. Cronnelly also thanked the Roads Staff for preparing the Report and the maps. He expressed the view that traffic calming and warning signs should be introduced in problem areas rather than reducing speed limits.

Cllr. Cuddy commended the Roads Staff on preparing the Report and maps. He said he was glad that the decision in relation to making special speed limit Bye-Laws in respect of Regional and Local Roads

was a Reserved Function of the Members and he expressed the view that TII does not consult with local people and it is the responsibility of the Elected Members to represent their constituents. He said he wished that each submission received in respect of the special speed limit Bye-Laws be dealt with separately.

In reply to the Members, Ms. Ní Chionna said that the Council must follow the guidelines for setting and managing speed limits issued by the Department of Transport and she said that the recommendations included in her Report are in accordance with same. She confirmed that the making of Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws is a Reserved Function of the Elected Members, but that written consent must be obtained from the TII in advance of any change to a speed limit on a National road. She said that the Members must be careful that any decisions they make in respect of speed limits are appropriate to the road conditions, speed limits require enforcement and may result in people receiving traffic fines if the speed limit is not appropriate to the road.

Cllr. Noone said that measures must be taken in order to ensure that motorists slow down when driving on local roads and he expressed the view that reducing the speed limits is the only answer.

Cathaoirleach Kearney said that it is important that the Members make decisions at today's Meeting in respect of the special speed limits proposed for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District and these will be put before the November Monthly Meeting of Plenary Council for final decision.

It was **AGREED** to adjourn the meeting for five minutes to afford the Executive an opportunity to consider the comments of the Members.

The Meeting resumed following the break.

Cathaoirleach Kearney referred to the Document entitled "*Speed Limit Review 2016 – 2018 Oranmore/Athenry Municipal District Meeting 12 November 2018 – Proposed amendments after review of Public Consultation submissions, consultation with TII and consultation with An Garda Síochana*" which had been circulated to the Members and he asked the Members to indicate their agreement, or otherwise, to the proposals.

Ms. Ní Chionna said it is very important to remember that if a speed limit is introduced, enforcement becomes an issue.

Ms. Mulkerrins said that when deciding on speed limit changes, cost implications and available budgets must be considered.

The Members made their decisions on the proposals as follows:

Map No.	Road No.	Location	Proposed change	Reason	Decision of Athenry Oranmore M.D. Members at Meeting of 12/11/18
A/O 01	R354 (old N63)	Annagh Hill	Insert 80	New road	AGREED
A/O 01	R354 (old N63)	Annagh Hill to Turloughmore	Retain 100 instead of default 80	Wide road, strategic route	100kmph Not Agreed

					It was PROPOSED BY Cllr. Cuddy, SECONDED by Cllr. Noone, and AGREED, to retain 80 kmph speed limit from just beyond Annagh Hill Waterview Road to Turloughmore
A/O 02	R347	Athenry, Cemetery cross	Increase extent of 50 on Craughwell road	Road safety	AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cronnelly, SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy.
A/O 03	N84 / L6207 /L6208	Baile an Dúlaigh	Extend 80 on N84, no change to local roads	TII recommendation in accordance with Guidelines	AGREED
A/O 04	N83 (old N17)	Baile Chláir	Extend 60 to R354 junction (Roscommon road)	TII recommendation in accordance with Guidelines	AGREED
	R381 (old N18)	Baile Chláir to Carnmore Cross	Retain 100 instead of default 80	Strategic route, wide road. Suitable for 100	100 kmph Not Agreed. The Members AGREED to retain 80 kmph, on the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Noone, SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy. See also separate Proposal hereunder re. R381
	L2119	Bawnmore Cross	Insert 60	Accident history, heavy commercial traffic	AGREED See also separate Proposal hereunder re. L2119
A/O 10	R339	Briarhill to Galway City boundary	No change		AGREED

A/O 05	R339	Carnmore Cross	Reduce 50 on Galway side of crossroads	Wide road, keep 50 to the junction	Reducing the length of 50 kph on Galway road Not Agreed
A/O 06	N67	Clarinbridge	Extend 60 on Galway road	TII policy in accordance with Guidelines	AGREED See also Proposals hereunder re. N67
A/O 07	N84, L2129, L2135	Cluain Bú	No change on N84 Extend 50 along L2135 and L2129	New footpaths on local roads	AGREED See also Proposal hereunder re. N84
A/O 08	L2119	Corr an Dola	No change		AGREED
A/O 16	R446	Coldwood	No change		AGREED
A/O 09	M6	Jn17 Furzypark, Athenry	Minor relocation of 80	TII recommendation	AGREED
A/O 11	M6 /N6	Jn19 Glenascaul, Oranmore	Minor relocation of 100 and 120	TII recommendation	AGREED
A/O 12	N83	Knockdoe Cross (Carraghy)	No change		See Proposal hereunder re. N83
A/O 13	R354 (old N63)	Lackagh	Increase to 60, reduce extent on Turloughmore side	Keep 50 to village centre. Strategic route, good sightlines	See Proposal hereunder re R354
A/O 13	R354 (old N63)	Lackagh to Ruán Mór	Retain 100 instead of default 80	Strategic route, wide road. Suitable for 100	Not Agreed The Members AGREED to retain default 80kmph
		Newcastle, Templemoyle	Insert speed limit at school, church, community centre	Insert 50	AGREED as PROPOSED by Cllr. Cronnelly, SECONDED by Cllr. Kinane.
A/O 15	R338	Oranmore - Coast Road	Insert 60, reduce extent of 50	Reduce 50 to village core, 60 to include train station	AGREED as PROPOSED by Cllr. Kinane, SECONDED by Cllr. Charity.
A/O 15	N67	Oranmore - Frenchpark to Moneyduff	Reduce from 100 to 80	TII not in agreement.	Not Agreed

				Retain default 100	The Members AGREED to retain 100kmph
A/O 16	R446	Oranmore to Coldwood	No change		AGREED
A/O 17	L7101	Parkmore Road, Poll Chaoin	Extend 50 from jn with N83 to roundabout	Extend 50	AGREED
A/O 18	Jn18 M6 with M17/M18	Rathmorrissey	New motorway interchange with internal roundabout	Insert 60 as per TII recommendation	AGREED
A/O 19	R354 (old N63)	Turloughmore	Increase from 50 to 60, reduce extent of 60	60 appropriate for strategic road	AGREED
A/O 17	N83 (old N17)	Two-Mile Ditch	Increase to default 100	TII recommendation	AGREED

R381 at Carnmore Cross toward Baile Chláir

Cllr. Cuddy made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding the R381 (old N18) *"I propose that there be a 60km speed limit from the end of the 50km speed limit to 200 metres on the Claregalway side of the Lydican Road"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Noone, and **AGREED**.

L2119 at Cloghaun

Cllr. Charity made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding the L2119 *"I propose that the proposed 60 kmph speed limit from Bawnmore Cross be extended to 50m past Cregg Cemetery (travelling from Loughgeorge to Corrandulla)"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy, and **AGREED**.

N67 at Clarinbridge

Cllr. Kinane made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding Clarinbridge *"I wish to propose that TII extend the 50km zone passed*

- (1) L – 4102 – 0
- (2) L – 41024"

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

Cllr. Kinane made the following **PROPOSAL** *"I wish to propose that TII fund "Driver Feedback Signs" at both sides of the village of Clarinbridge"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, and **AGREED**.

L2129 between Cluain Bú and Drumgriffin Cross

Cllr. Charity made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding the L2129 *"I propose that a 50kph zone be applied from Clonboo Cross to Abbey Signs and the remainder of the road to Drumgriffin Cross be reduced to 60kph"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy, and **AGREED**.

N83 at Knockdoe

Cllr. Cuddy made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding the N83 *"I propose that the 60km at Knockdoe on the N83 be extended to 200 metres on the Tuam side of the Corbally Road"*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, and **AGREED**.

R354 (old N63) at Lackagh

Cllr. Kearney made the following **PROPOSAL** regarding the R354 at Lackagh *“I propose that the speed limit sign remain on the Galway side and that a 60km speed limit from new proposed location to existing location”*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Noone, and **AGREED**.

The Members also **AGREED** the following:

Cllr. J. Cuddy’s Proposals re Speed Limits of 60 kph

L3101 Lydican Road from R381 to Carnmore Cross

L7104 Cregboy from R381 to N83

L6218 Cloon Road 3 exits onto N83 Clogher & Cahergowan

L2133 from N83 Tinkers Lane and lane opposite 60

L3102 from R354 Caraun Cross to Cregmore to R339 Egan’s

L7110 from Lydican Road Ballymurphy Cross past school to R381

L7102 opposite McHugh’s loop roads Cloonacauneen N83

L7106 from R339 to Coast Road through Garraun

L7113 from N83 Lough George Kinniska Crusheen to Gortacleva

R446 Fureys Cross to Water Tower reduce to 80, Water Tower to Oranbeg roundabout reduce to 60.

A discussion took place regarding the speed limit signs on the R381 (old N18) at Carnmore Cross. The Cathaoirleach said that the signs show that the speed limit is 60kmph, whereas the Speed Limit Bye-Laws state that the speed limit is 50kmph. It was **AGREED** by the Members that the signs should be changed to indicate the correct speed limit of 50 km/h.

The Cathaoirleach said that the new Motorway has not solved the traffic congestion at Claregalway village and therefore the Members should lobby to get the Claregalway Inner Relief Road back on Galway County Council’s agenda and also the Government’s agenda particularly as Galway now has Ministers for State Deputy Seán Kyne and Deputy Seán Canney in the Dáil.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all for their input into the discussions regarding the draft special speed limits. He thanked Ms. Ní Chionna and Ms. Mulkerrins for preparing the Report and maps for the Meeting.

Item No. 3 Control of Horses

AOMD 1844

Cllr. Charity referred to the problems caused by stray horses on the N84 in recent years, which he said is an issue of concern to many people. He said stray horses on this road pose a danger to motorists and can result in injury. He said that the Council removed stray horses from this area in February of 2018, however the horses were not chipped and this meant that the owners could not be identified. He said that individuals have now commenced Judicial Proceedings against the Council as a result. He said this is *Sub Judice* and he would not comment on same, however he said this is outrageous given the danger presented to people by wandering horses on the road and he referred to near-misses which had occurred over the previous weekend on the N84. He said that the situation is almost out of control and that, following the October Horse Fair in Ballinasloe, an

influx of horses has occurred in the area with very little fodder provided. He said that Representative Groups should come into the Council Chamber and indicate what is being done to alleviate this problem.

Mr. Owens said that given the exceptional circumstances that existed the Council, with the support and assistance of An Garda Síochána, took action in early 2018 to address the significant concerns arising from ongoing reported instances of horses wandering on the N84 and presenting a serious safety concern for road users. He confirmed that arising from same legal proceedings against the Council were currently before the High Court. He stated that the Council will be defending its position in these proceedings and was precluded from further comment on the matter at this time.

He advised that a total of 64 horses had been lifted across the county year to date at a total cost of €36,846.37, exceeding the budget provision for the service. He outlined that although the Council has exceeded its budget for the Control of Horses this year, this will not be a determining factor in addressing issues of concern that present and any incidences will be responded to as appropriate in conjunction with other stakeholders.

He said that the primary responsibility rests with the owner of the horse to provide fodder and to ensure that the land is appropriate and adequately fenced to prevent horses wandering onto the road and causing danger to road users. He said that other agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, have a role to play in relation to the control of horses. He said the Council will continue to meet its responsibilities regarding the control of horses and will also continue to highlight the responsibilities of others in this regard.

Cllr. Noone said that people should not have horses if they cannot provide the necessary land, fodder and shelter for them and he said that pressure should come from the Department of Agriculture in order to ensure this is the case. He said that sheep and cattle farmers are regulated stringently by the Department of Agriculture and this should be the same for people who own horses.

Cllr. Kinane thanked the Council staff including the Community Wardens for their work in dealing with stray horses. She said that it has come to her attention that there are hundreds of horses which are not chipped and do not have a passport and she asked is it the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to enforce these regulations and are they neglecting their responsibilities in this regard.

Mr. Owens replied that the legal requirements for chipping and having a passport for a horse are contained in animal welfare legislation with primary responsibility for compliance under the remit of the Department of Agriculture.

Cllr. Kinane **PROPOSED** that a letter issue from the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Council to the Department of Agriculture asking them to outline what action they are taking in relation to the enforcement of the legal requirement for horses to be chipped and for their owners to hold a passport. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Noone.

Item No. 4. Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence

AOMD 1845

Mr. Owens referred to the Motion passed by the Members of the Municipal District Council at its Meeting held on 10th April 2018 *"that the Languages Act be amended so that the directional signs for Gaeltacht Placenames located outside of the Gaeltacht be bilingual"*.

He said that, on behalf of the Members, a letter had been sent to Deputy Seán Kyne, who was recently appointed Minister of State for the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht & the Islands, informing him of this Motion. He said that Minister Kyne had acknowledged the Council's letter and a copy of the acknowledgement, dated 7th November 2018, was circulated to the Members.

Item No. 5. Cathaoirleach's Business

AOMD 1846

Cllr. Cronnelly asked if there was any update regarding the Council's application under the Urban and Rural Regeneration Programme in relation to Athenry and Ms. Higgins said she would check this with the Community & Enterprise Department and revert to Cllr. Cronnelly.

In reply to Cllr. Kinane, Mr. Gavin said that hedgecutting in her area would commence during the week.

In reply to Cllr. Kinane, Mr. Mitchell said that €1m had been received by the Council in respect of applications under the Local Improvement Scheme and that notices would be issued to the relevant areas, working off the priority list which was submitted to the Department.

He also confirmed that €1.1m of additional funding had been received from the Department to deal with damage caused by the heatwave during the summer and the severe weather events during the winter. He said that 10% of this funding would be allocated to the areas within 25km of Galway City, as previously agreed. He said that a total allocation of €124,300 would be provided for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District.

Cllr. Kinane welcomed the allocation of funding for works on the Old Dublin Road.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Mitchell said that work should commence on traffic calming at Claregalway the following month.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

SIGNED: Martina Kinane
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 14/1/2019

