

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 14th January, 2019.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. M. Kinane (Leas Chathaoirleach)
Cllr. G. Cronnelly
Cllr. J. Cuddy
Cllr. M. Noone
Cllr. J. Charity

APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. F. Kearney

OIFIGIGH: 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,
Mr. D. Flood, Executive Engineer,
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer.

Cllr. Kinane, Leas Chathaoirleach of Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Council, welcomed all present at the Meeting.

Item No. 1: To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 23rd October, 2018 **AOMD 1848**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cronnelly and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy, the Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 23rd October 2018, were **AGREED**.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item No. 2: To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 12th November, 2018 **AOMD 1849**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 12th November 2018, were **AGREED**.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Noone referred to the R354 road (Old N63) in the vicinity of Waterview and Ms. Ní Chionna said that the Elected Members had agreed that the speed limit from Annagh Hill to Turloughmore, which includes Waterview, be reduced to 80 kmph. In regards to Waterview, she said that warning signs and visibility could be looked at.

Item No. 3: Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993

AOMD 1850

Cllr. Kinane, Leas Chathaoirleach, referred to the Report and Map which was circulated to the Members and she read the Report into the Meeting as follows:

Description:

Road commencing at junction with local road L-31023 (E140,438; N233,087) in the townland of Kiltroge and extending South East for a distance of 189 metres in the townland of Kiltroge to (E140,514; N232,914) and extending North West for a distance of 57 metres from (E140,438; N233,087) to (E140,413; N233,140) in the townland of Kiltroge.

The Notice for Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road was advertised in the Connacht Tribune on the 05/10/2018. A map showing the road was available for inspection at the Infrastructure & Operations Unit, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from 05/10/2018 to 05/11/2018 inclusive. The closing date for the receipt of objections or representations in relation to the proposal was no later than 4:00 p.m. on 19/11/2018.

There were no submissions in relation to this proposal.

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

Cllr. Noone wished to acknowledge the work of Cllr. Kearney in progressing this item.

Item No. 4: Proposed introduction of Paid Parking at Oranmore Train Station **AOMD 1851**

Cllr. Kinane said she had requested that this item be placed on the Agenda as she had been contacted by users of the train from Oranmore expressing concern that paid parking might be introduced at Oranmore Train Station.

She said that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Council had been successful in securing additional stops at Oranmore Train Station through a Resolution they passed at the May 2018 Meeting of the Municipal District, seeking that Iarnród Éireann review the Dublin to Galway train timetable.

She said that the carpark at Oranmore is usually full, with an overflow of cars parking along the road. However, she said that the introduction of paid parking would be counterproductive as it might lead to people commuting to Galway by car rather than using the train, which would add to traffic congestion. She also said that infrastructure needs to be improved, especially the introduction of public lighting at the train station.

Mr. Owens said that parking meters were provided when the carpark at Oranmore Train Station was developed, however parking Bye-Laws are required in order to bring the parking charges into operation. He said that a public consultation process would be required and the adoption of Bye-Laws would be a matter for the Elected Members.

Ms. Ní Chionna said that in advance of the preparation of Bye-Laws, a scheme will be prepared for discussion by the Members of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Council. She said that it is the general policy of the Council to charge at carparks, as recommended by the Roads SPC, and that the parking fees are set out in the Bye-Laws. She said there could be a rate for frequent users of the train and that all variables could be investigated when deciding on the rate.

Cllrs. Cuddy, Charity and Cronnelly expressed their surprise that this item was being discussed when there was no specific proposal for the introduction of parking Bye-Laws at Oranmore Train Station carpark and they said that the message should not go out to the public that the Members are contemplating introducing charges. They expressed the view that it is not safe for pedestrians to walk from Oranmore village to the train station or for visitors to make the reverse journey as there was not sufficient lighting or a proper footpath and they felt that Irish Rail should be asked to help fund the development of services such as lighting and footpaths in the area as they are benefitting from the ticket sales.

Cllr. Cuddy said that charges would go against the aim of encouraging more people to use the train and would receive a negative reaction from the public, while Cllr. Cronnelly felt that the introduction of charges would result in an empty carpark and reduced numbers using the train service.

Cllr. Charity said that if there is such a demand for carparking spaces, the Council should consider expanding the carpark in conjunction with Irish Rail.

Cllr. Noone said he was not completely against the idea of introducing parking charges at the carpark as he said that when services are provided there must be a revenue stream to sustain the service. However, he said that train users should not be penalised and that a system could be introduced to allow train passengers to use their train ticket as a concession at the parking ticket machine. This would result in people only parking at the train station if they are using the train, as they would be required to pay full charges if they did not have a train ticket.

Mr. Mitchell, in reply to the Members, said he would examine the costs of extending the public lighting and the footpath. However, he said that as it was a considerable distance, the cost would be high. He said if the Council developed carparks, then there has to be some

revenue stream. Mr. Mitchell agreed with Cllr. Noone, that paid parking helps regulate parking.

Cllr. Noone also said that funding for the footpaths could be assisted through the allocation of Notice of Motion monies by the Members and Mr. Mitchell said that this would be welcomed.

Mr. Owens said that the debate and the Members comments would help draft any proposal regarding parking charges at the train station. He said that such proposals would be open to public consultation and the introduction of parking Bye-Laws would be a matter for the Elected Members to decide.

Cllr. Cronnelly said that a Park & Ride facility from Oranmore Train Station to Galway City should be considered by the Council and Cllr. Kinane agreed that this was an option work exploring.

Item No. 5. Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence

AOMD 1852

Mr. Owens referred to the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. He said that on 8th January 2019, Deputy Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development and Ms. Orla Carroll, Director of Strategic Development with Fáilte Ireland, jointly announced the approval of Funding for Measure 2 of the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme which included an announcement that the Kilcornan Trail Project, Clarinbridge, was successful and would receive an allocation of €199,766.

The Kilcornan Trail Project plans for the establishment of a new walking trail on the Wild Atlantic Way adjacent to Clarinbridge Village.

- The project is led by Galway County Council, the Local Authority, and partnered by Coillte, the State Agency for Forestry, and the Brothers of Charity, a registered charity that has supported people with intellectual disability in the Western region for several decades.
- The project proposes to create a National Trails Office (NTO) Class 2 single use trail (walking initially) 1.2m wide through more than 190 ha. of grassland, forest and farmland. Representing excellent value, it will create a traffic-free corridor from the tourist village of Clarinbridge and its associated schools, shops, transport infrastructure and services to Kilcornan House and grounds (including sports grounds, indoor sports hall, swimming pool, national school, walled garden, sanctuary and planned playground and enterprise village). The corridor will comprise several options for the walker including a sheltered forest walk, a river walk or an expansive landscape walk through a living museum Irish heritage and agriculture.

Mr. Owens acknowledged the work of Ms. Bernie Donnellan of the Community & Enterprise Unit and other staff involved in progressing the successful application. He said that a meeting of the Project team including the three Partners will take place as soon as availability is established with all partners, in order to progress the project.

Cllr. Kinane welcomed the approval of funding for the Kilcornan Trail Project in the sum of €199,766 and she thanked Michael Owens, Bernie Donnellan and Eimear Dolan for their work in securing the funding and she also thanked the Brothers of Charity and Coillte for their work in this regard. She said that this project, when completed, will increase footfall in the Clarinbridge and Kilcornan area and she said that this will create an even greater need for a playground for Clarinbridge.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Owens said that the initial project is for the creation of a walking trail and that a cycling trail is not precluded.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Mr. Owens said that his queries regarding funding opportunities for Ladies Well and other locations in Athenry had been referred to the Community & Enterprise Section for reply.

Mr. Owens then referred to the Resolution passed by the Members at the Municipal District Meeting held on 12th November 2018 that a letter issue to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) 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. He said that the DOA had replied to the Council's letter and this letter dated 9th January 2019 had been circulated to the Members.

Cllr. Charity said that the Members have raised this issue on numerous occasions and there is a wider issue of animal welfare to consider. He expressed doubt as to how the DOA would deal with the problem. He said it is sickening to witness the disregard some people have for horses and a message needs to go out from today's meeting that it is not acceptable that horses are not cared for, not provided with feed and that the land they are located in is not adequately fenced, in order to prevent the horses from wandering on to the roads, thereby endangering road users.

Cllr. Noone said that the onus is on the horse owners to ensure that their horses are not left to wander onto roads. He said that if farmers allowed their animals wander onto roads they would be in serious trouble. Cllr. Noone acknowledged the work of the Director of Service and his staff in their efforts to ensure that horses are not wandering onto the road causing danger to road users, especially after dark.

Mr. Owens said that landowners in the area will be asked to ensure that their lands are fenced and secure and he said the Council will continue to engage with landowners and other stakeholders.

Mr. Owens said that the letter dated 9th January 2019 received from the DOA indicates that enforcement is led by experienced personnel in the Department's Galway Regional Office and that these personnel have local knowledge of the area and work closely with the Council as required. The policy of the DOA is to adopt a fair and proportional approach in dealing with suspected breaches of equine identification and authorised officers engage actively with keepers to ensure that they understand their responsibilities and where breaches of the legislation are identified, they generally initially provide an opportunity or non-compliant

keepers to rectify the position within a specified timeframe. Mr. Owens said that the DOA letter indicates that they consider this approach to be effective.

Cllr. Charity made the following **PROPOSAL** *“that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Galway Regional Office and request same to attend a Municipal District Meeting to outline plans to address ongoing horse welfare issues on the Headford Road and the wider Municipal District area”*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Noone.

Cllr. Noone asked if a motorist hits a wild deer on the road, does the State cover the cost.

Mr. Mitchell said he would check this out a revert to Cllr. Noone.

Cllr. Noone said that in his view the State should cover the cost of any accident which occurs in relation to a horse which is not chipped.

Item No. 6. Cathaoirleach’s Business

AOMD 1853

The Leas-Chathaoirleach said there was no Cathaoirleach’s Business

Item No. 7. Any Other Business

AOMD 1854

Cllr. Cronnelly made the following **PROPOSAL** *“I propose that the Athenry Oranmore Municipal Area seek funding for the link road from Monivea Road to the Tuam Road as this is vital infrastructure for the development of the town and the overall Traffic Plan”*. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy, and **AGREED**.

Mr Mitchell replied that the link road at the south side of the town is under construction, and when completed will link up with the Monivea road.

Cllr. Cronnelly said that this link road is vital for Athenry town, and asked for an update on the upcoming dig in the town for the extension of the sewerage scheme. Cllr. Cronnelly also raised the issue of flooding of the bog lands in the area and the implications it would have for surrounding property. He said that the land owners in question would need to be informed by Bord na Mona of proposals for this land.

Ms. Higgins replied that the status of site investigations for upcoming works on the new sewerage extension will be known shortly.

Cllr. Noone asked for an urgent update on Claregalway burial ground and Cllr. Charity also requested an update on the Annaghdown burial ground.

Cllr. Noone requested that Mr. Paraic Carroll, Administrative Officer, Environment Section, be present at the next Meeting of the Municipal District to provide an update in relation to graveyards.

Mr. Owens said that the next Meeting of the Municipal District would most likely be later in February depending on the availability of the Roads Programme and the Municipal District Schedule of Works.

The report from the OPW on Montiagh South flooding was also requested by Cllr. Charity.

Mr. Flood said that the OPW has contacted Galway County Council officials regarding a design for this location and this has been examined with a view to an access onto the N84 during flooding events. The consultants who prepared the draft report on behalf of the OPW highlighted the cost of the access as opposed to future works in Montiagh.

Mr. Mitchell added that the decision on the costs involved, which will be high and difficult to put a figure on, whether it be by raising the road at Montiagh by digging out the bog, or providing an access to the N84, would be for the OPW consideration and that a report would be requested on same.

Cllr. Charity asked that there be clarity on the report regarding relocation of the residents involved.

Cllrs. Cuddy was very disappointed at the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) allocation to the Athenry Municipal District for roads in the area and queried the status of the traffic calming plan for Claregalway.

In reply, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that the TII would meet with Municipal District Members before preparing a traffic calming plan for Claregalway, and the reason for the delay was due to the surface water issue.

Cllrs. Cronnelly and Charity also expressed their disappointment at the level of funds allocated to the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District by TII.

Cllr. Kinane said that the agreement reached some years previously at Plenary Council that 10% of any additional funding received by the Council for roads would be allocated to roads inside the 25km zone of Galway City, is being challenged by other Municipal District Members and she said this agreement needs to be retained.

The Leas-Cheathaoirleach thanked all who contributed to the Meeting.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

APPROVED BY:

Frank Keane

DATE:

19-2-19

