

**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 Tuesday 19th June, 2018.**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

**OIFIGH:** Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Services,  
Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Services,  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,  
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer.

**Item No. 1: To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018** **AOMD 1820**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Charity, the Minutes of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, were **AGREED**.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**Item No. 2. CFRAMS and Flooding Update**

**AOMD 1821**

Mr. Gallagher addressed the Members and provided an update regarding the Catchment Flood Risk and Management Scheme (CFRAMS) and Flooding.

He said that the Office of Public Works (OPW) is the statutory authority dealing with flooding issues, under the E.U. Floods Directive which was transposed into Irish Law in 2010.

There were 6 CFRAM Study Areas in the Country with 29 Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPS) to be developed. He said that Athenry, Oranmore, Gort, Kinvara and Loughrea were included in one FRMP.

118 Flood Relief Schemes were identified in the 29 FRMP's following an extensive public consultation processes from 2014 – 2016. In the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, €940m has been allocated for flooding.

In May 2018, the first tranche of 50 schemes was announced at a cost of €257m.

Under E.U. Regulations, Local Authorities must examine and consider the FRMPs produced and decide whether to adopt the Plans.

Mr. Gallagher said that the Minor and Remedial Works Programme administered by the OPW is still ongoing and he said that Galway County Council had submitted applications under this programme for several locations in the County which had been hit by flooding over recent years.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Gallagher for his detailed presentation.

A discussion took place and Mr. Gallagher responded to queries from the Members as follows:

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gallagher said that a number of schemes were progressed through the accelerated process, including at Claregalway, and these are not included in the CFRAMS.

Also in reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Gallagher said that it is a requirement that flooding proposals meet the cost benefit analysis criteria. He said that 80% of properties would be protected and that the Council can also apply for funding to the OPW under the Remedial Works and Minor Works Programme.

A discussion took place regarding flooding which had occurred in the County in the winters of 2009 and 2014/2015 and Cllrs. Kinane, Kearney and Cathaoirleach Noone expressed concern that households who had been proactive in protecting their homes during that period, with great support of Council staff, would lose out in terms of funding to protect their homes from flooding into the future. They expressed the view that households who had taken action to protect their home during flooding events in recent years were being penalised as their homes are not recognised as being in danger of flooding.

Cllr. Feeney thanked Mr. Gallagher for the update on CFRAMS. He said that the various agencies had carried out a great body of work on CFRAMS over the past number of years which was very welcome. He said that households who had been badly affected by the flooding which occurred in 2009 had learned from that experience and had taken action in 2014/2015 to prevent a recurrence of flooding to their homes. He said these houses have the same risk of flooding today and he felt that every house should be considered on a case-by-case basis and he said he was not happy that these houses were excluded from consideration, leaving the householders in limbo.

Mr. Gallagher said that the OPW will carry out works which can be implemented at a reasonable cost. He also said that the Council provides data to the Department in relation to individual properties and this data is then analysed and a budget is set aside for remedial works, however there is no endless budget in this regard. He said that Voluntary House Re-Location Scheme is there to assist households at risk of flooding and it is expected that the Department will announce further measures in this regard early in 2019.

Mr. Cullen said that issues which were raised in submissions received as part of the Public Consultation Process on CFRAMS were taken into consideration in the Scheme.

In reply to Cllr. Cronnelly, Mr. Cullen said that Galway County Council has no input into the policies of Insurance Companies in relation to flood risk areas, however he said he is aware that the Department set up a Working Group to investigate this matter.

**Item No. 3. Voluntary and Community Group Schemes**

**AOMD 1822**

A discussion took place regarding a document which Galway County Council has published which outlines that the Council recognises, welcomes and greatly values the efforts and role of Local Community Groups, Bodies and Voluntary Agencies, in carrying out works to improve the overall environment in which Galway County Council serves the Galway County Community. The document sets out the requirements of the Council to which all such Groups, Agencies and Bodies must comply to ensure that these activities are carried out in an appropriate fashion for the safety and benefit of all.

Cllr. Charity said that the document has been very topical over recent weeks among Community Groups and he said he wished to raise some aspects of concern in the Document. He said that it is a requirement that Community Groups provide evidence to the Council of Public Liability Insurance to a level of €6.5m and Employers Liability of €12.7m, if relevant, and must also indemnify the Council. He said that these levels of cover are excessive as the Council is relying on these Groups to carry out work the Council is not in a position to provide due to lack of resources. He also referred to Health & Safety compliance requirements which are causing concern and he said that Community Groups are asking why this policy is being introduced by the Council. He said the Members of the Plenary Council had not agreed to this policy and he said that the Council should be encouraging, not curtailing, Community Groups with red tape and restrictions.

Cllr. Kinane said this document had been discussed by the Roads Strategic Policy Committee a number of weeks previously and she had raised insurance and health & safety requirements outlined and she had been informed that the Document was there in order to protect Community Groups and the public in terms of safety. However, she said that communities view the requirements in a negative light and she expressed the view that the message should go out that the Council wishes to support the spirit of volunteerism and not curtail the efforts of communities.

Cllrs. Cronnelly and Cuddy also expressed concern regarding the requirements set out by the Council in respect of Community Groups carrying out works in their area.

Cllr. Feeney said that volunteers view the document as heavy handed on the part of the State and he felt that the good relationship between the Council and Community Groups needs to be preserved. He said that while it is important that the volunteers and the public are adequately protected in terms of insurance and health & safety requirements, a positive message needs to go out from the Council in terms of the value placed on community effort.

Cllr. Kearney asked if it would be possible to introduce Group Insurance through the Public Participation Network (PPN) so that the cost of insurance would be reduced for communities.

Mr. Mitchell replied to the Members stating that the requirements set out in the Document are not new and the insurance and health & safety requirements outlined have been in place for many years in line with Irish Public Bodies Insurance. He said the Document is for information purposes and for the safety of Community Groups and the public.

In reply to Cllr. Charity, Mr. Cullen said that while the Council welcomes and greatly values the efforts and role of Local Community Groups, Bodies and Voluntary Agencies, in carrying out works to improve the overall environment, the requirements are not optional for any Group who express the intention to carry out works and it is essential that safe methods of work are being practiced

In reply to Cllr. Kinane, Mr. Mitchell said that Tidy Towns can submit an application form regarding activities they wish to carry out on roads at any time during the year to the Roads Section and these applications will be examined and replied to.

Cathaoirleach Noone said that common sense should prevail in terms of Community Groups carrying out works in the interests of health and safety.

**Item No. 4. Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993** AOMD 1823  
[Report attached]

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Cuddy, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Feeney, 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, as follows:

**An Mhainistir Estate Claregalway – Municipal District of Athenry Oranmore**

**Road Description:**

Road pavement and footpath commencing at public road N83 (Old N17 Galway/Tuam Road) in the townland of Cathair Ghabhann and extending North East for a distance of 287m to the end of the cul-de-sac in the townland of Droim na Gaoithe.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction C with that of Road A-B and extending South East for a distance of 85m (serves units 31 to 22), then South West for a distance of 32m (serves units 20 to 11), then North West for a distance of 69m (serves units 10 to 1) ending at junction C with that of A-B. Total distance of 186m from its start point in the townland of Droim na Gaoithe.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction E with that of Road A-B and extending South East for a distance of 65m (serves units 55 to 60) in the townland of Droim na Gaoithe.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction G with that of road E-F and extending South West for a distance of 45m (serves units 54 to 47), then North West for a distance of 46m (serves units 46 to 34) and ending at cul-de-sac adjacent to no.34 in the townland of Droim na Gaoithe.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction J with that of Road A-B and extending South East for a distance of 28m (serves units 61 to 64), in the townland of Droim na Gaoithe.

**Item No. 5. Notice of Motion: Cllr. Kinane**

**AOMD 1824**

Cllr. Kinane submitted the following Notice of Motion:

*"I, Cllr. Kinane wish to propose that Galway County Council undertake a complete review of the Oranmore Traffic Management Plan".*

The following was the Reply:

*'There has been an allocation of €30,000 for Traffic Management Plans in the Roadworks program for 2018. This funding will facilitate only minor adjustments to existing Traffic Management Plans at various locations across the County. A review of the Traffic Management Plan for Oranmore will be subject to adequate funding and prioritization of similar requests from other locations across the County'.*

Cllr. Kinane said the number one priority of businesses, schools and local people of Oranmore is traffic management and she said she wished that a Traffic Management Plan Review be progressed.

Mr. Mitchell said that Traffic Management Plans at various locations in the County are in need of review, including Oranmore, however the funding is not available in this year's budget. He said it is open to the Members to put forward their proposals in this regard when budgets are being considered. He said that the possibility of paid parking will need to be considered in the context of a Traffic Management Plan Review for Oranmore.

Cllrs. Cuddy and Charity also expressed the view that the Traffic Management Plan in place for Oranmore is outdated.

Cathaoirleach Noone said that enforcement of parking rules on yellow lines must be carried out and if this is not working, paid parking may need to be considered.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the Council acknowledges that enforcement is very important and he said that people tend to abandon their cars in the village and this needs to be stopped.

Cllr. Kinane acknowledged the work of the Area Engineers and the Community Warden as regards traffic management in Oranmore.

Cllr. Cronnelly expressed the view that there are not enough disabled parking spaces available in the vicinity of banks and shops in the village.

**Item No. 6. Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence**

**AOMD 1825**

Mr. Owens said that no response had been received from the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht regarding the Resolution passed at the April 2018 Meeting as follows *"that the Languages Act be amended so that the directional signs for Gaeltacht Placenames located outside of the Gaeltacht be bilingual"*.

**Item No. 7. Cathaoirleach's Business**

**AOMD 1826**

Cllr. Noone said that Brexit may need to be considered before a final decision is made on the future of the former Galway Airport Site and Mr. Owens said that the Council's position remains that all options are being considered for the future use of the site, including aviation.

Cllr. Kearney said that the airport site at Indreabhán is also in danger and a use for the site at Carnmore, which is jointly owned by Galway County Council and Galway City Council, must be found in order to maximise use and income from the site.

Cllrs. Cuddy and Charity expressed the view that it would be detrimental for business if Galway County and City were left without a facility for aviation into the future.

Cllr. Cronnelly raised the issue of Páirc na hAbhann Estate, Athenry stating that the safe crossing of residents of the 62 no. houses needs to be protected in the revised layout for the road at this location.

Cllr. Cronnelly thanked the Roads Staff, both indoor and outdoor, for the work carried out in dealing with fallen trees following the adverse weather which had occurred the previous week.

In reply to Cllr. Cuddy, Mr. Cullen said that the Speed Limit Review, to include National Primary, National Secondary and Local Roads, would be published shortly.

Cllr. Feeney thanked the Athenry Area Office Staff for the works carried out at Lisheenkyle and especially Mr. Alfie Madden who made the necessary land available for the road works.

In reply to Cllr. Feeney, Mr. Mitchell said that the OPW is responsible for dealing with fallen trees in OPW Arterial Drainage Schemes and it is the landowners responsibility where trees fall into drains on their lands.

In reply to Cllr. Kinane, Mr. Mitchell said that hedge cutting is allowed during the nesting season at junctions when the interests of Health & Safety are at risk.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Feeney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cuddy and **AGREED** by the Members that the Annual General Meeting of the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 9.30am.

**Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin**

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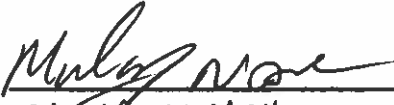
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### Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

SIGNED:   
CATHA BOYLEACH

16/7/18.  
DATE