

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Galway County Council

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí
Municipal District of Athenry

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, on Tuesday 22nd October, 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. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance,
Ms. G. Healy, A/Administrative Officer,
Ms. T. Gannon, Clerical Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cuddy, welcomed the Elected Members, Officials and the Media to the Municipal District Budget Meeting.

Item No. 1: To consider & adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Athenry, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. **AMD 13**

[Report including Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 for the Athenry Municipal District was already circulated to each Member]

The Cathaoirleach asked Mr. Mullarkey to address the Members in relation to the Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 for the Municipal District.

Mr. Mullarkey said that Annual Budget for Galway County Council will be considered by the Plenary Council at its statutory Budget Meeting in November. He noted that at this point in time the only additional funding being available for 2020 related to roads grants which were estimated to be €3.5M county wide higher than 2019 budget. He noted that this increase in funding was distributed across the Municipal District areas on a per kilometre basis. He also

noted that estimates under other headings were largely unchanged from the 2019 budgeted figures.

The Members whilst welcoming the increase in roads grant funding, expressed their dissatisfaction with the policy of allocating the roads funding based on the length of road stating that the roads budget should be based on traffic movement in each Municipal District.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed the view that there is a need for an increased number of outdoor staff in the Municipal District in order to carry out necessary works, such as works earmarked to be completed using monies allocated by the Members out of their Notice of Motion monies.

He complimented the Athenry Municipal District Engineers on doing their best within the resources available to them. He expressed concern that there is still no pedestrian crossing at the Maldron Hotel in Oranmore which has been requested for the past number of years.

Cllr. Cuddy also questioned why the provision of green and white bollards are allowed on national primary roads but not allowed on regional roads. He asked for this to be taken on board from a road safety point of view.

Cllr. Charity expressed his concern about the amount of funding being provided for burial grounds. He stated that families have no option but to re-open closed family graves and this is extremely upsetting for them. He said many burial grounds in the Municipal District are at capacity and in the coming years this will reach crisis point. He requested that a working group should be formed within the Council to investigate solutions for this problem.

Cllr. Dolan also expressed concern regarding the funding in place in respect of burial grounds, stating it is important that adequate provision be made for those who have gone before us.

Mr. Mullarkey, in reply to the Members, noted the concerns raised by the Members and advised that the Council make an annual provision towards the cost of acquiring / extending grave yards. He also noted that he would bring the issues raised to the Roads and Environment sections.

Cllr. Carroll asked if there would be an increase in roads funding and Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that the proposed roads budget for 2020 reflected an increase county wide of €3.5M.

Cllr. Cronnelly queried if the funding for winter maintenance is adequate. He also asked if there is an emergency fund in place to deal with flooding events should they occur. Mr. Mullarkey said that winter maintenance funding has increased by approximately €4000 and that there is unfortunately no emergency fund in place. He did note that in the past that additional funding had been made available to local authorities affected by severe weather events. He also stated that the Council works closely with the Office of Public Works in order to deal with flooding issues around the County.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn expressed concern about the new Secondary School in Athenry, stating that the traffic situation is extremely dangerous at this location and that this is a matter that should be addressed.

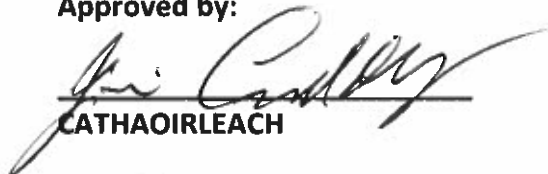
Cllr. Herterich Quinn also referred to CCTV in place at recycling banks in the Municipal District, stating that may need to be upgraded. Mr. Mullarkey said that the new Data Protection Regulations have implications in relation to CCTV and this matter is under review at present.

Mr. Mullarkey acknowledged the concerns raised by the Members in relation to Roads and Environment, stating that he would relay these concerns to the relevant Sections.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Charity, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Cronnelly, the Members **AGREED** to adopt the Budgetary Plan 2020 for the Municipal District of Athenry, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Approved by:


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 11/11/2017

