

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí

Municipal District of Athenry

Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 9th July 2024.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. P. Feeney(Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. J. Charity
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr L.O'Hara
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr C. Keane

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Ms. R. Lowe, S.E.
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.
Mr. P. Gavin, E.E.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Ms. M. Flynn, A.O.
Ms G. Cooley, ASO
Ms C. Kelly, ASO

Apologies Cllr. T. Grealish

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Dolan, SECONDED by Cllr Charity the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 14th May were approved.

Matters Arising

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins on his motion to the NTA requesting them to attend an Athenry MD meeting in relation to the Park and Ride at Parkmore and Knockdoe, Mr Hanrahan said that he will follow up with the DoS from the Roads and Transportation Unit.

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the AGM Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Charity, SECONDED by Cllr Dolan the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 25th June were approved.

Introduction to Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme.

Ms Flynn gave an outline of the Anti-litter Ambassador Programme that is currently being promoted by Galway County Council.

She said that its aim is to encourage individuals, groups, or businesses to register as Anti-Litter Ambassadors to support and promote Anti-Litter initiatives throughout the County. Ms Flynn said that she was inviting the Members as leaders in the community to become Anti-Litter Ambassadors to promote the programme in their community, and to continue to support Anti-Litter Initiatives in the county by allowing their image to be used in the campaign.

The Cathaoirleach said that pickers and bags are being provided in towns and villages and that communities are playing their part in litter picking. He asked if this would involve providing extra equipment to the groups.

Cllr Charity asked what was being done in relation to litter on National roads and highlighted that there was a discarded fridge on the N84 for the last eight months. He said that he welcomed the plan but questioned the practicalities of dealing with the littering problem. Ms Flynn said that Members should report incidents of littering to the Environment section for follow-up.

Ms Flynn explained that the Environment Section work with the area offices in dealing with illegal dumping. She said that she will examine the issue raised by Cllr Charity and revert to him. Ms Flynn said that there will be a Gum Litter launch in Athenry in August and the date to be confirmed for the Members.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

Ms Lowe provided the members with an update on the Roads Programme.

In response to a query on the number of landowners involved in the Belville Scheme Mr Whelan said there are seven. Cllr. Dolan commented on the length of time it took for the ESB to turn on the lights at a number of locations in the County. The members proposed that a letter be sent to the ESB in relation to this delay.

Cllr Feeney requested a copy of the hydrology study at Clarin. He highlighted that the bridge near the playground is prone to flooding. Mr Whelan said that he will circulate the report when it is received. A contractor is currently providing a temporary solution and a permanent solution will be examined.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Hara on the new line junction design at the Craughwell road Mr Whelan said that this was with the NTA as part of an active travel project and covers the area from church street to station road.

Cllr Dolan asked about the spend allocations divided by roads kilometre per MD and referenced a motion passed in 2017 stating that the first 10% would be spent within 25 km of Galway city.

Ms Lowe confirmed that the additional funding allocated to Athenry Oranmore was in accordance with the motion passed by the Plenary Council.

Ms Lowe explained that the NTA is working with Galway County Council to progress larger design-led schemes. Athenry town has benefitted from a recently adopted Local Area Plan and Local Transport Plan. The Council is workshopping a proposal with the NTA in relation to the upgrade of connectivity from residential areas to the north of the railway line towards the town centre and schools.

In response to queries from the Members in relation to the New Line Junction, Ms Lowe said that the council expects to progress a large Active Travel project. It will be a very comprehensive plan. She will update the members when consultants are appointed, and they will have full engagement with members.

Ms Lowe said that Athenry Ring Road consists of two sections. Approval for the scheme dates back to circa 2009 and to date two sections are complete with the remaining elbow section in progress. Tender documents are being drafted for the elbow section and these will be sent to an independent quantity surveyor and tenders will be published on e-tenders in Q3 this year.

In respect of the section towards the Monivea Road detailed design is underway including the bridge structure. The Department of Transport have given the Local Authority approval to acquire additional lands by agreement.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Dolan on the breakdown of the €2M in funding provided by the Government on the Programme of works and what portion was given to the Athenry MD, Mr Whelan explained that additional funding was required for some of the projects due to increasing tender rates which meant some projects had to be deferred. When current projects are completed, the funding can be re-examined. An update will be provided for the members.

In response to a query on the Claregalway by-pass Ms Lowe said that she would provide an update for the Members.

Cllr Charity said that a number of members met with staff from Claregalway National School in relation to road safety concerns at the school and the necessary works that need to be carried out. He requested a copy of the report that has been produced. He said that parents have reported near misses at the school.

On the proposal of Cllr Charity and the seconded by Cllr Dolan it was agreed that a deputation from Claregalway National school would be facilitated before the next meeting on the 10th September 2024.

Cllr Charity said that he welcomed the meeting with the Deputation of Clonboo Tidy Village Committee that took place before the MD meeting.

In response to a query from Cllr Collins on the works to be carried out at Claregalway, Ms Lowe said that local businesses will be consulted and updated on the dates and times that the works will be carried out.

In response to a query from the Cathaoirleach in relation to a requirement for a Part 8 for works at Clonboo, Ms Lowe said that she will check whether the scheme exceeds the Part 8 threshold.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

Cllr O'Hara asked if the site opposite the playground in Athenry, where a recent demolition took place, could be purchased by Galway County Council for tourism. Mr Hanrahan said that the council's function was to demolish the site but not take ownership of it. He said that funding under regeneration is specific to works on the square in Athenry. He will revert to the Members on details from OPW in relation to the site.

In reply to a query from Cllr Dolan on the building in Athenry occupied by Dexcon Mr Hanrahan said that the building was still required by the company.

Cllr Dolan welcomed the approved designs for Athenry and said that they will have a positive impact on the town. He said that the town needs a youth hub and asked if there was space in the building. Mr Hanrahan said that funding and design was for Community and Enterprise as opposed to Community Social, but he will discuss options with Galway Rural Development.

Any other business (AOB).

There was no item under this heading.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin.

Approved by



CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 10/9/24