

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 11th July, 2023.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. J. Charity (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn
Cllr G. Cronnelly
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. Carroll.

OIFIGIGH: Mr A. Farrell, DoS ERCD & Athenry MD
Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. A. Brogan, Executive Engineer
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer
Ms. Jordan, Administrative Officer
Mr M. Molloy, Assistant Environmental Officer.
Ms. G. Cooley, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr J. Cuddy

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 6^h June, 2023. **AMD 172**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cronnelly SECONDED by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District AGM meeting held on 6th June, 2023 were AGREED.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 6^h June, 2023. **AMD 173**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll SECONDED by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District meeting held on 6th June, 2023 were AGREED.

Update on Proposed Part X Planning Application for Droim Na Gaoithe, B baile Chláir'.

AMD 174

Mr Brogan gave a presentation to the Members on the Proposed Part X planning application for Droim na Gaoithe, B baile Chláir. He said that the development will comprise of 88 units in total, 1 creche facility and a community playground. It will have a proposed 50:50 split of Social and Affordable housing.

He said that "Housing For All" requires Local Authorities to set out housing delivery for the years 2022 to 2026. The targets for Galway County Council are 1,717 Social Units & 223 Affordable Units. The Social Housing delivery mechanisms is 60% Local Authority and 40% from Approved Housing Bodies.

Mr Brogan explained that the Part X application for the development at B baile an Chláir will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in late July, 2023 and it is anticipated that a decision will be made by February, 2024. The project should be substantially completed by December 2025.

Mr Brogan said that expressions of interest will be sought for the affordable Scheme. He explained the income levels and the claw back details of the scheme.

The Members thanked Mr Brogan for the presentation and welcomed the development for the area.

In response to a query on the Playground Mr Mitchell said that the playground will be funded and managed by the Corporate Services Unit of Galway County Council and will be open to the community.

In response to a query from Cllr Dolan Mr Brogan said that the estimated cost of the units would be approximately €220,000 for a two bed and €270,000 for a three bed.

In reply to a query from Cllr Charity Mr Brogan said that priority will be given to applicants living within a 10km radius.

The members said that the scheme should be widely advertised to the public to ensure its success.

Mr Mitchell said that the open space was at the required 15% level. He thanked the housing staff for their work on this scheme.

In reply to a query on the availability of the Scheme Mr Brogan clarified that the scheme was available to first time buyers.

Approval of Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025.

AMD 175

Ms Flynn said that the Litter Management Plan was circulated to the Members for their input and observations. She was requesting approval of the plan. The Members welcomed the plan.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the Members APPROVED the Litter Management Plan 2023 -2025.

- The members raised the following:
- There is still a major issue with dog fouling in the county and dog owners are not picking up after their dogs.
- There is a problem with cigarette litter outside pubs and CCTV should be considered to deal with this.
- Community Wardens are playing an important role in dealing with littering.
- The Environment section have provided the necessary equipment to communities for clean ups.
- There should be prosecutions for people leaving litter at bring banks.
- There should be dedicated Council litter pickers in the county.
- There is a serious problem with littering on the Headford Road and funding should be requested from the Department to tackle the problem in this area.

In relation to cigarette butt litter Mr Molloy said that there will be a national campaign for this, and that Vapes, and e-cigarettes can now be deposited in the Blue Boxes for batteries currently to be seen in many shops.

He said that there was also an ongoing campaign for dog fouling incidents. The use of CCTV is currently under review due to GDPR and once this review is finalised and procedures are in place then the CCTV can be used to prosecute offenders.

Ms Flynn said that under the LG Act 2014 the plan must be approved by the Municipal District Members. Recommendations made by the Members will be considered. She said that the Environment Sections role was to curtail dumping and an additional €50,000 will be sought from the Council Budget for implementation of the Litter Management Plan. The Bring Banks are also an ongoing problem. The wardens are making every effort to institute legal proceedings and check regularly for documentary evidence that may be left by the offenders.

In reply to a query on the purchase of prepaid bin bags Mr Molloy said that this was discontinued due to the change to pay by weight and the segregation of waste. He said that there was information available on the Councils website on the waste disposal options available.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

AMD 176

Mr Farrell said that an update from the Area engineer on the current projects for the Athenry/Oranmore Area had been circulated to the Members.

Mr Whelan gave an outline on the progress of the area engineering works being carried out.

Ms. Lowe confirmed that 2 new Community wardens were appointed in the Athenry Oranmore MD and thanked Mr. Tommy Boyle who recently retired and Mr. Shane Coogan who is now the Water Safety Officer for their service in the area. She said that approval is being sought to appoint a Senior Community Warden.

The members welcomed the works being carried out by the Staff of the Municipal District particularly the works completed on Cross Street and Bridge Street, however they pointed out that more funding is required to resurface other roads in Athenry.

Replies were given by Ms. Lowe and Mr. Whelan as follows;

- The NTA has identified a need for a mobility plan for Athenry town to encourage people to walk or cycling. They are focusing on projects that create a modal shift from the motor car.
- A review is taking place of the Furey's cross and Derrydonnell junction by a consulting engineer with a view to putting extra safety precautions at these locations.
- An email will be sent to the MD members giving up to date information on the Athenry relief road.
- Galway County Council received funding of €3m under Active Travel for such projects as safe routes to school, provision of cycle lanes etc. The NTA are now focusing more on design led schemes to tie in with Local Transport Plans such as the East Galway and Athenry Transport Plans.
- The Active Travel Senior Executive Engineer can be invited to the September meeting to provide an update.
- The last update received on the Athenry relief road was in June 2023. The one objection has been withdrawn.
- The NRDO are looking at speed and are carrying out a turning count on the junction near Knockdoe on the N83 to ascertain if there is a need for road lining at this location.
- A report on flooding in Ryehill has been forwarded to the OPW.
- An update on the design works at Briarhill and an update on the Corbally Junction will be sent to Councillor Cuddy. Mr Whelan believes NRPO have looked at it and it did not meet criteria for Right turn lane. Need to confirm.
- Galway County Council received €1.5m from the Department for the Roads budget. Query over 20% allocation ring fenced for Athenry/Oranmore area.
- Speed limit review queries LC
- Pairc Na Habhainn and Abbey Glen queries SHQ

Cathaoirleach's Business.

AMD 177

Cllr Carroll said that he wanted to highlight an incident that occurred in Oranmore whereby there was a discharge of a white substance into the river. The area is a SAC and is rich in biodiversity. He said that he would like to praise Barry Cormican, Executive Technician who responded immediately to the incident and identified the source. It is important that the appropriate action is taken in relation to this incident.

Any other business (AOB).

AMD 178

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th September, 2023 at 2.00

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

James O'Leary
Cathaoirleach

Date: 14/11/2023

