

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 Thursday, 2nd March, 2023

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. L. Carroll (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. J. Cuddy,
Cllr. A. Dolan
Cllr G. Cronnelly
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr. J. Charity

OIFIGIGH: Mr A. Farrell, DoS ERCD & Athenry MD
Mr D. Pender DoS, Infrastructure and Operations
Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,
Mr T. Prendergast, Senior Engineer
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

Apologies Cllr Herterich Quinn

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting and said that he wished to express his condolences to Cllr Herterich Quinn on the passing of her father-in-law Michael Quinn and to Cllr Byrne who is a nephew of Mr Quinn. Mr Farrell, expressed his condolences on his own behalf, and on the behalf of the wider Executive, stating that he knew Mr Quinn well and that he was a much respected gentleman that played an active role in the community and the GAA.

To Consider and Adopt the Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District

AMD 153

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Pender and said that he would now give a presentation on the proposed works of maintenance and repair for 2023.

Mr Pender thanked the Staff from the Roads Section who prepared the Roads Programme documentation for the meeting and he also thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for attending.

He explained that the Council would normally receive the TII allocations in mid-December and the Dept of Transport allocations in mid-January which gives sufficient time to get the paperwork together. However, this year they were only received about 10 days ago.

The Annual Roads Programme is concerned with the maintenance and improvement of the Public Road Network. The Public Road Network in the County comprises of 6,941km, classified as follows:

- Motorway 114
- National Primary Roads 23
- National Secondary Roads 291
- Regional Roads 900 Athenry/Oranmore 86
- Local Roads 5,613 Athenry/Oranmore 555

TII funding for 2023

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for Motorway and National Roads for the year 2023 is **€44,566,418**. That shows an uplift of **€5.7M** on the 2022 figure.

TII 2023 Allocations	
Improvement Works	€38,868,060
Maintenance Works	€1,048,358
Greenway	€4,650,000
Total	€44,566,418

These schemes are predominantly managed from the National Roads project Office in Ballybrit. The schemes in the Athenry/Oranmore MD which have received a budget allocation for 2023 are

N84	Galway to Curraghmore	€100,000
N83	Baile Chláir	€ 1,200 ,000
N67	Carrowmoneash Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study	€ 37,500
N83	Baile Chláir Traffic Calming & Pavement Restoration	€1,000,000

In terms of national primary and secondary maintenance allocations Athenry/Oranmore has received € 14,146 and € 36,157 respectively totalling € 50,303.

With relation to Greenways, TII has provided €550,000 funding for 2 Greenways which traverse the Athenry/Oranmore MD as follows;

Athenry to Milltown € 300,000 and Galway to Athlone Cycleway €250,000

The total allocation from TII for Greenways in the County is €4,650,000.

Department of Transport Grant Funding of Regional & Local Roads

The grant allocated to Galway County Council for the Regional and Local Roads in 2023 is €39,329,263. This represents a significant increase on 2022.

The priority is to protect the existing road network and the investment made in it over the last number of years.

The total grant allocation of €39,329,263 for Regional & Local Roads is broken down as follows:

Improvement Works	€ 33,996,263
Maintenance Works	€ 5,333,000

Mr Pender said the RI Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme. An overall amount of **€2,014, 985** has been provided in the Oranmore/Athenry MD for 17 sections of roads under the 2023 Restoration Improvement Grant. This is a modest uplift of €108,162 from the 2022 allocation (€1,906,822). This is the strengthening programme and again is hugely important in terms of maintaining the network. It caters for surface restoration; pavement overlay works or inlay works (planning) and for complete road rehabilitation works as well as for drainage works where required.

Galway County Council has an advisory and recording responsibility in relation to invasive species identified in the County. It is intended to allocate **€20,000** towards the recording and management of invasive species on Regional and Local Roads.

Following the inclusion in the updated Traffic Signs Manual of a new cycle warning sign which advises motorists of the need to leave adequate space when overtaking cyclists. The Council has received a budget allocation of €12,540 for 2023.

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2023 is € 8,526,786, which includes a provision for public lighting. This is an increase of € 2,063,987 on the 2022 provision of €6,462,799.

Based on the total length of Local Roads in the Council's charge, the General Maintenance allocation, inclusive of operational costs amounts to € 3,026,765 which averages €539 per km. When operational costs of € 1,206,950 are taken out of that, there is a balance available of for Local Road Maintenance of €2,287,00. The allocation for the Athenry/Oranmore MD is €226,296.

Galway County Council has received an allocation of €954,736 under the LIS grant 2023. In addition to this, the Council is pleased to inform the members that an additional €250,000, which is ringfenced, has been provided for similar works exclusively on the islands. This is

the first year that this ringfenced island funding has been provided. This brings the total LIS funding for 2023 to €1,204,736. This is the largest allocation in the country.

There are 5 schemes potentially in the Athenry/Oranmore MD in this first round of funding.

The Infrastructure & Operations Unit of Galway County Council has been working with the NTA to develop a 2023 Programme for Active Travel for County Galway. A total allocation of €3,000,000 has been approved for 2023 for various projects under the following categories. The full list is available on page 33.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all the staff from the Roads Section and asked the members for their comments.

The Cathaoirleach then invited contributions from the Elected Members. These are summarised as follows:

- The Members thanked the Roads Staff for their work on preparing the Roads Programme 2023 and welcomed the increase in the budget.
- The increase for Active Travel and LIS schemes was welcome.
- The breakdown of the funding is not ideal as the Athenry and Oranmore areas have only 9% of the budget when over 20% of traffic use the roads. The allocation of funding should be based on road usage in each MD
- There is scope for the Executive to look at changing the system of the allocation of funding on a kilometer basis.
- The Department said that the Council could be flexible in a letter to the Audit committee. The Cathaoirleach will circulate this letter.
- The Ballindoooley to Fureys Mill has a major refuse problem and needs to be addressed.
- More funding needs to be invested in the upgrading and retrofitting for lighting in the commuter towns.
- The works under the Notice of Motion heading have not been carried out and extra staffing need to be allocated to carry out this function.
- The Members have invited TII to the Plenary meeting in relation to the Claregalway bypass but they have not attended. GCC is fully supportive of the relief road and it has been raised in the Dail. A motion should be put forward to the next plenary meeting to invite the TII to the plenary meeting.
- There is a list of ten schemes for lighting and it is a two-year programme. A list will be circulated to the Members.
- The members of the public wanted to express their gratitude for the works carried out at Fureys Cross at Oranbeg.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Pender

- The €3m set aside for the City Ring Road will be used for extensive surveys and legal fees. The application is currently back with an Bord Pleanála awaiting a decision. There was no issue with the submission by the Consultants. At the time of submission there was full compliance with the requirements. However, the

legislation was changed in relation to the Climate Action Plan four days prior to the decision from an Bord Pleanála .

- The Abbeyknockmoy scheme is currently with An Bord Pleanála awaiting the outcome of an oral hearing and the scheme will allow connectivity from the east side of the village to the existing footpaths on the Westside.
- Members can inform the Roads Department where ESB are changing poles and the lighting is not being replaced.
- The funding for the Bridge at Clough is for repairs to the bridge
- The €150,000 for Belville is for safety improvement works.
- There are continual traffic surveys carried out on National roads and details can be found on the TII website. They are not carried out on regional roads except on an ad hoc basis.
- The Claregalway works will be treated as a joint venture i.e. the pavement and safety works will be completed together and the land acquisition is being finalised. Surveys will be carried out in the coming weeks and a Project Officer will be appointed and will liaise with the local businesses. Consideration will be given to works being carried out at night. Works will commence in Q3 of 2023 and once commenced will be for a duration of approximately 12 months.
- A breakdown of the three-year programme will be circulated to the Members.
- Consultants are preparing a feasibility report for the N84 and it is agreed that there is confusion in relation to the access to funding for Active travel projects on National Routes.
- Clarification will be sought from TII on funding under active travel for footpaths at Clonboo and Ballindooley.
- The Claregalway relief road is not in the National Development Plan.
- There are ten projects on the list for CIS schemes which will run over a 2 year cycle.
- Extra funding for speed limit signs will not be needed in 2023 as the speed limit review is a lengthy process but provision will be made in 2024.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Ms Lowe

- The sum of €1.1m allocated to Athenry Ring Road is 100% funded and covers the elbow section. The CPO was published in December 2022. This section already has planning permission. There was one objection, and the Council is awaiting a decision from an Bord Pleanála. In the meantime, work is ongoing on the tender documents. The section further east towards the Monivea Road requires further detailed design and consideration of the hydrogeological context, together with design of the railway overbridge by Irish Rail. Consultation with Irish Rail is ongoing.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr Whelan

- The preliminary design at Belville is complete and landowners will be consulted with regarding the Part 8 process.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr Gavin

- The funding allocated for works at Gloves is separate to previous works carried out at that location.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr Prendergast

- The works on public lighting is carried out on a regional basis. The contract will be agreed in six weeks whereby the contract programme will be finalised and works will be completed mid- 2025. All current light repairs are replaced with LED lights and 40% have been done so far.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Charity, **SECONDED** by Cllr Collins the Members **AGREED** to adopt the Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District 2023.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date:

6/6/2023