

**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 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

**OIFIGIH:** Mr A. Farrell, DoS ERCD & Athenry MD  
Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner,  
Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,  
Mr B. Dunne, Senior Executive Planner  
Mr. L. Ward, Assistant Planner  
Mr. K. Finn, Building and Facilities Manager  
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr A. Dolan

The Cathaoirleach said that he wanted to condemn the unruly actions of a small number of people in Galway city during the weekend. He welcomed the meeting arranged by Cllr Cuddy which he will attend with the Chief Superintendent Mr Roche at 9.00 tomorrow morning to discuss the matter. He said that Galway Gardai has seen a reduction of 51 officers, and he said that he wished to call on Minister McEntee to restore the numbers.

The other members concurred with this and welcomed the meeting with the Chief Superintendent and made the following observations:

- This type of behaviour cannot be allowed to continue.

- The judicial system must be speeded up as the public deserve to live in a peaceful community.
- The City Joint Policing Committee met with the Chief inspector today and will be meeting the Minister in Galway tomorrow.
- The Emergency Response unit is being assigned to the case.
- Court resources should be put in place to deal with this behaviour and Galway needs more district court judges.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.**

**AMD 179**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll SECONDED by Cllr. Cronnelly the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 were AGREED.

**To discuss the format and content of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2023-2029.**

**AMD 180**

Ms Loughnane outlined the process. It was on display and the closing date for submissions was the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. A report was circulated to members in August 2023.

**To agree a meeting date to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2023-2029**

**AMD181**

Ms Loughnane said that it was now necessary to agree a date to consider the Chief Executive report on the submissions received on the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2023-2029. The date of the 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30 was proposed. She said if members wish to submit a motion it should be made by 11.00 on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. Maps should be included with the motions. There are currently 130 submissions.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cuddy, SECONDED by Cllr Collins the date of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 was agreed for the meeting to consider the Chief Executives report on submissions received on the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

In relation to a query from Cllr Collins on the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Briarhill Ms Loughnane said that progress was being made and an update will be available shortly. There are still several issues to be considered.

Cllr Collins said that he was anxious to get it progressed as the Residential Zoned Land Tax would be in place shortly and the lands are tied up until the ABTA process is complete.

In reply to a query from Cllr Cuddy Mr Dunne said that the planning office were working with the City Council on the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS).

In reply to a query from Cllr Cuddy on the effect of the proposed ring road on the plan Mr Dunne said that it forms part of the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS) and is a key priority in the planning and roads sections.

In reply to a query from Cllr Carroll, Mr Dunne said that the Council has engaged consultants to prepare the ABTA and confirmed that it is the same team that did previous transport plans in the county.

Mr Dunne said that the GTS is being reviewed and a new Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (GMATS) is being prepared by the National Transport Authority (NTA) with close consultation with Galway City Council, Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

In reply to a query from Cllr Herterich Quinn, Mr Dunne said that if members were proposing an amendment, it should be identified on a working document with a proposer and seconder.

Cllr Charity said that if further clarification was required on zoning it could be discussed with Mr Dunne after the meeting.

Mr Dunne said that maps should be accompanied with the working document also.

**To approve the Part 8 for planning ref LA0523 for construction works to Oranmore Library.**  
**AMD 182**

The report on the Part 8 for planning ref LA0523 for construction works to Oranmore Library was circulated to members.

Mr Finn outlined details of the Part 8 for Oranmore Library in relation to works that need to be carried out. He said that he consulted with the conservation officer as the building is a listed building. He advised the Members that the proposed development had been considered by the Planning Department and that it was considered to be in line with the Planning Policy and that it was recommended for the approval of the Members.

The Cathaoirleach said there were no public submissions.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy the Part 8 for construction works to Oranmore Library were agreed.

The members outlined the value of the library to the local community.

**Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.** **AMD183**

Mr Farrell said that the Area Office staff had circulated a progress report on the work done in the Athenry MD area.

Cllr Carroll welcomed the work carried out and said that more is needed in the Gurane area.

The following matters were raised;

- The tendering is complete on the pedestrian crossing on the Maree Road and works will commence next month.
- The bollards are in place on the main street in Oranmore and the site lines restored. Double lines and other works have made great improvements.
- The Ballydavid hydrology study mentioned in the report relates to the Clarin river study for which OPW have approved funding.
- The Lavally drainage are works that are carried out on a yearly basis and are planned to commence shortly.
- NRPO said a count is required at Knockdoe N83 in order to get an idea of the volume of traffic to ascertain if safety works can take place at this location. The works would have to comply with the NRA criteria.
- An application has gone to the OPW in relation to the flooding at Ryehill and the Council is awaiting funding.
- The consultant has completed the design of speed reductions. Funding may be an issue from NTA as there is no local area plan for Lackagh village
- A design has been completed for a pedestrian crossing at Lackagh. However, traffic calming, a speed limit reduction and a bus shelter are being considered in conjunction with the proposed pedestrian crossing and this has been raised with the NTA. This scheme will remain on the agenda pending funding from the NTA.
- Works on resurfacing a local road in Cloonboo will be finished this week.
- There is a section of footpath constructed on the Annaghdown road to the school, approximately two meters not done beside the bridge. Mr Gavin will visit the site with Cllr Charity.
- Issues of cars not stopping at the Corrandulla pedestrian crossing will be considered and may include extra road lining at this location.
- The NTA has given design guidelines for dealing with cyclists at pedestrian crossings.
- An update from the NRDO for the issues at Claregalway is requested for the next meeting. There have been two incidents of flooding in the last month and a slowdown sign at Lydican junction of the R381 is required.
- The Council has not yet received information in relation to the proposed reduction of speed limits announced by the Minister.
- The street lights at the Tuam road need to be connected by the ESB.
- There is no exemption from paid parking for illegally parked cars during the school run.
- The speed limit should be put on the road in the area around the Galway Clinic to the roundabout at the university to inform drivers of the new speed limits.
- Mr. Prendergast, Senior Engineer will provide an update to members on the proposed speed limit reviews. A number of submissions have been received.
- It is hoped to use the Lavally drainage funding to clear any debris caught at the bridge in Athenry.
- An Executive Engineer will be appointed to work on the Athenry ring road scheme. This will be a permanent appointment. Drafting of tender documents for the

construction contract has commenced and should conclude in Q1/Q2 2024. The DoT usually requests an independent audit on the draft tender documents to help mitigate the risk and/or magnitude of claims. On the eastern section ring road to Monivea the DoT has confirmed its commitment to the Council that land may be purchased in advance (subject to agreement). Some of the land on this section has already been acquired, negotiations are ongoing on the remainder. Irish Rail are redesigning the railway over bridge due to the current height restrictions and in the context of the All-Island Strategic Rail Review.

- The pedestrian crossing at Lidl Oranmore is being designed to take into account cyclists' option on the road into the future. An updated design has been sent to the NTA for their review.

**Cathaoirleach's Business.**

**AMD 184**

No items

**Any other business (AOB).**

**AMD 185**

The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn

*"I propose that Galway County Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the Croi Conaithe Scheme and the criteria surrounding application approvals. The shortage of inspectors is causing a huge delay in housing inspections after an application has been received. The knock-on effect this delay has a number of implications on the applicants: 1. The applicant could lose their builder. Builders are hard to come by at the moment and will not wait around for an application to be approved. 2. Bridging Funding - lenders may withhold funding until the application is approved. 3. Sale of current residence would be impinged if the vacant property is uninhabitable. Can the criteria for grant approval be changed to accept a builders quotation in the interim until the shortage of inspectors is dealt with? If not, can the department suggest another way that applications can be moved along and ensure that vacant houses can be brought back into use? "*

The Proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn, SECONDED by Cllr Charity and AGREED by the Member.

Cllr Cronnelly requested the breakdown of vacant houses in the Athenry MD area to be given to the members before the next MD meeting.

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Approved by:

JAMES CHARITY  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 30/1/2024

