

**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 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr A. Farrell, DoS ERCD & Athenry MD  
Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.** **AMD 154**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cronnelly, SEONDED by Cllr Collins the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 were AGREED.

**Matters arising**

In response to a query on the Claregalway cemetery Mr Farrell said that this was at Part 8 stage.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Higgins and said that she would now give a presentation on Active Travel in the County.

**Update on NTA Active Travel by Ms Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer.**

**AMD 155**

**Ms Higgins outlined the following in relation to Active Travel for Galway County;**

- NTA Active Travel Schemes and how they relate to National and Local Policies, Plans and Strategies
- The objectives of the NTA Active Travel Investment Team are focused on reallocation of existing road space to Walking and Cycling and Rapid Build infrastructure
- Typical timelines and costs for Active Travel projects depending on scope and complexity and based on actual NTA data.
- NTA Active Travel process requirements according to the NTA Project Approval Guidelines
- Active Travel works completed across the County in 2021 and 2022
- Brief update on:
  - other ongoing Active Travel projects relevant to the MD - An Taisce Safe Routes to School, NTA Cycle Connects project, Community Transport Studies, Walking and Cycling Strategy for Galway County
  - the Athenry Local Transport Plan (LTP) which will go on public display circa Apr 2023
  - the Athenry/Oranmore MD Active Travel Programme for 2023

**Ms Higgins explained the following requirements for NTA Active Travel Schemes;**

- Active Travel projects are intended to support daily commuting journeys by providing walking and cycling infrastructure so that people can walk, wheel and cycle to schools, work and shops.
- NTA Active Travel Schemes are on non-National Roads and must be within the speed limits.
- The Active Travel team will actively engage with the community and key stakeholders.
- The dedicated e-mail for queries is [activetravel@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:activetravel@galwaycoco.ie).

**The Members made the following comments:**

- The setting up of the Roads Active Travel Team was welcome.
- They expressed their disappointment with the delay in progressing the projects.
- Members expressed concerns in relation to the children from the Caheroyan Housing estate crossing the road safely.
- NTA should not slow down the current projects.
- Details of design should be available to Members.
- Footpaths needed at Ballindooley for pedestrians walking to the local shop
- Nothing has been included for cycling option to Headford despite a submission made to the Council.
- The NTA should engage with road users with disabilities.
- Welcomed the completion of the Glenaslat footpaths in Monivea.
- Claregalway is not included in current Active Travel schemes.
- Park and ride would reduce the traffic in the area.
- Traffic calming at Claregalway would make the roads safer.
- Public transport needs to be improved in the county.

- The TII should be invited to the Plenary meeting.
- Cycleways and footpaths should be separate in the design.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by Ms Higgins**

- The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) is a top priority for the NTA Active Travel Investment Team and 5 schools in the Athenry/Oranmore MD, out of 7 total in the County, are included SRTS Round 1.
- Caheroyn Road, Athenry Town footpaths will be considered as part of the SRTS Routes To School phase.
- It is hoped that some SRTS Front of School measures will be completed during school holidays – these will all need to be approved by the NTA.
- Lackagh village was approved for a Pedestrian Crossing Design in 2022 which has now been extended to incorporate the additional speeding intervention measures
- NTA will consider funding for small towns and villages under Rural Active Travel and Safe Routes To School schemes.
- Currently working to procure Design Consultants in advancing Active Travel and SRTS projects in Oranmore.
- Pairc na hAbhainn, Athenry is included within the extent of the Athenry Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Ms Higgins will liaise with the consultants on issues raised.
- Use of electric scooters and electric cars is noted.

**Members queries were responded to as follows by Ms Lowe**

- In relation to connecting Headford to Galway via a cycling route, a submission has been made by the Council for this cycling route to the NTA
- Will consider with the Active Travel Team and Cllr. Charity how best to deliver a scheme for Cloonboo and the history in relation to schemes here.
- Rural areas are included in the NTA plans and the Council confirmed that it will continue to seek projects for rural areas in Co. Galway. Projects are not ruled out if not in an LTP.
- Claregalway scheme for TII scheme includes traffic calming, cycle and pedestrian routes
- The Government are examining legislation on Electric Scooters.
- Adjacent school (not in SRTS) in Oranmore town center will be included under design and construction SRTS works for the adjacent schools which are in SRTS (Safe Routes to School).

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

**AMD 156**

Mr Farrell said that a meeting of Athenry Town Team will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. and that this would be preceded earlier in the day by a tour of the BIA Innovator Campus. He advised that the town team members will be updated on the proposed works under the regeneration plans for the town, specifically in relation to the current proposals to the public realm, interpretation and wayfinding, the streetscapes scheme, branding, tidy towns proposals and the BIA Innovator Hub. He advised the

members that in addition to the proposed public realm works at Market Square, Cross Street, Davis Street and Burkes Lane, there was additional works proposed at the junctions with Northgate Street/Davis Street/Old Church Street to the junction of Northgate Street/Burkes Lane, stating that these additional works would not only enhance the look and feel of the town but also improve pedestrian and vulnerable road users safety at key junctions.

Mr Farrell advised that the building acquired for the multi-purpose enterprise and community facility was being progressed through the Part VIII process and that he hoped to bring the recommendation to the MD at the May meeting, in order to be in a position to seize opportunities that may arise.

Mr Farrell advised that he hoped to bring the wider regeneration proposals for the public realm and other appropriate works through the Part 8 process as soon as possible and in time for the next round of RRDF Category 1 funding which is expected in Q4 2023. He advised the members that he and the Regeneration Team were liaising with Planning in relation to the Athenry Local Area Plan and Infrastructure & Operations in relation to the Local Transport Plan and said that all staff were aware of the need to coordinate and progress works in time to ensure that the Council get an application submitted under the RRDF call in Q4.

He advised the Members that they were invited to join the presentation and tour of the BIA Innovator Campus at 3p.m on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm.

He said that the Director of housing wished to inform the Members that a large number of new local authority houses will be allocated next week in Athenry and provided details of same.

### **Cathaoirleach's Business.**

**AMD 157**

Cllr Hertrich Quinn suggested that the Market Cross be protected and should have a place of prominence in the new design of the square.

The Cathaoirleach said that there was an article in the papers last week stating that the city seeks to annex adjoining villages of Oranmore, Claregalway and Barna into the city boundary. The article said that the City Councillors claimed that they had the support of the County Members which is not the case. He said that he will raise this at the next plenary meeting. It would result in a major loss of revenue for the County. It would also impact plans for the Galway Airport.

Cllr Collins agreed and was surprised when he heard about it on the radio. He said that County Development Plan had been finalised and cannot be changed.

Cllr Charity said that the city CE was acceding to the request to hold a meeting on it. He said that the County Council Members should write to the City Council Members objecting to the idea of any boundary extension .

The Cathoirleach said he will be making a proposal at the Plenary meeting on this matter.

Cllr Cuddy said that he was opposed to the amalgamation.

**Notice of Motion: Cllr Herterich Quinn**

**AMD 158**

The following Notice of Motion was by Cllr Herterich Quinn

*"I wish to propose that Galway County Council implement a Zebra Crossing from the Post Office on Bridge Street to the Town Park in Athenry. A considerable number of children take this route to school and to the playground and there is no clear instruction to pedestrians or motorists on how to manage this junction".*

Proposed by : Cllr. Heterich Quinn

Seconded by: Cllr Cronnelly

**The following is the reply:**

*"A Local Transportation Plan is being developed for Athenry, in tandem with the new Local Area Plan.*

*This LTP will look at pedestrian and cyclist connectivity across the town, flow of traffic, and measures for supporting sustainable transport and travelling actively.*

*Public consultation will take place on both the draft LTP and draft LAP. It will be important for members of the public and councillors to feed into this process, and submissions in respect of crossing points will be welcome.*

*Once adopted, the new LTP will support calls for funding from the NTA for implementation of Active Travel measures.*

*We await the outcome of the LTP before further consideration can be given to individual pedestrian measures – as the matter is being looked at holistically across the town as part of that LTP process. It is also open to the Councillor to make a submission to the LTP on this matter during the public consultation phase."*

Cllr Herterich Quinn said she was satisfied with her response.

Cllr Cuddy asked if public lighting could be examined from Castle road to Calasanctius College in Oranmore. He also requested repairs to the roads in the Ashbrook Estate.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins in relation to the water supply at Carna, Mr Farrell said that this issue could be raised it with the DoS for the Roads and Transportation Unit.

Cllr Charity asked that the public lighting at the bus stop at Corandulla Barricks be improved.

Cllr Cronnelly said that there was a similar issue at Tempell Gurteen.

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked that the Roads Section examine the paths in the Caheroyn estate.

The next Meeting will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

Maureen Carroll

Cathaoirleach

Date: 6/6/2023