

**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 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. L. Carroll (Cathaoirleach)

Cllr. J. Cuddy,

Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn

Cllr. A. Dolan

Cllr G. Cronnelly

Cllr. D. Collins

Cllr. J. Charity

OIFIGIGH: Ms A. Fenton, A/ Head of Finance

Mr D. Pender A. DoS

Mr A. Farrell, A/DoS

Ms Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer,

Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer

Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer

Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 13th September, 2022.**

**AMD 139**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cuddy SECONDED by Cllr Dolan the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 were AGREED.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 10th October, 2022.**

**AMD 140**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cronnelly SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 were AGREED.

## **Notice of Motion – Cllr Dolan.**

**AMD 141**

*Cllr Dolan submitted the following Notice of Motion:*

*"I, Cllr. Albert Dolan propose that the Athenry/Oranmore area office construct a footpath from Monivea Village (53.3735513, -8.7072665) to the Graveyard in Monivea (53.3688181, -8.7136177)*

***Context : This motion is being made off the back of regular representation on the issue with the local area office and I am seeking the support of my fellow municipal district colleagues to ensure this project progresses.***

*5 new homes have been constructed/under construction along the road and have paid in excess of €20,000 in development contributions to Galway County Council and have yet to receive any footpath or lighting services for their contributions,*

*Halfway along this route there is a large guest house which is providing accommodation for up to 30 Ukrainians, these individuals have no safe access to the village. The road (R339) is an extremely busy commuter road and it is very dangerous for them to be walking the road with no safe footpath,*

*Also, given the large number of visitors who walk to the graveyard it is critical that we have connectivity to the village to provide safe access,*

*The footpath would fall within the speed limits of the village and the R339 is the only road into Monivea not serviced by a footpath*

*Proposed by : Cllr. Albert Dolan*

*Seconded by: Cllr. Shelly Heterich Quinn ,"*

**The following was the reply:**

*"The Area Office will examine this request in the context of engineering feasibility and available funding schemes."*

Cllr Dolan acknowledged the reply to the motion and said that he appreciated that Galway County Council had given a commitment to pursue funding for this project.

## **Directors Business**

**AMD 142**

Mr Farrell explained that the Regional Manager of Bus Eireann had received the queries raised by the members and his responses had been circulated to them. He said some of the matters raised by the Members relate to the NTA and that the Regional Manager for Bus Eireann would revisit the option of giving a presentation when further detail on a timeframe for Connecting Ireland are available.

Cllr Carroll said that the NTA will be attending the December meeting of the Council.

Cllr Cuddy said that it was important that the Bus Eireann Reginal Manager also attends the NTA Meeting. Mr Pender advised that the Member raise this matter at the next Plenary meeting.

Cllr Charity said that there was an issue with ponies being driven by children in sulkies on the Headford road. He said that some of the children are as young as eight or nine. This is the cause of major traffic delays on the Headford road. He said that something needs to be done as it is a road safety and a child and animal welfare issue. He asked that the area office link in with the housing unit and the Gardai with a view to resolving the issue. Mr. Pender said that this was a matter for the Gardai but he will liaise with them.

In relation to a query by Cllr Cuddy on the cemetery at Claregalway, Mr Farrell said that it was progressing and would be going to part 8 shortly. He said that the DoS for Environment will provide the members with a further update.

Cllrs Collins said that he welcomed the roads programme report circulated by the Area Office. He asked about the safety audit at Derrydonnell cross and welcomed works already carried out there and the extra funding that was made available.

In response to a query from Cllr Collins on the signage for Claregalway on the wording on the sign for Claregalway as "Baile an Chláir", Mr Pender said that he is liaising with the Department on the matter. He read a response from the Department stating that they would consider a change to the signage to Baile Chláir na Gaillimhe . This clarification was welcomed by the Members.

Cllr Collins proposed that the U17 All Ireland Minor Football Team be invited to a Civic Reception from Athenry MD this was seconded by Cllr Cuddy.

In response to a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn Mr Farrell said that it had been agreed with the Department of Rural & Community Development that the design of public realm for Cross Street could progress under the Category 2 funding stream, linking it with the public realm works on Market Square. He advised that with this approach would lead to greater enhancement of the town and that it was intended that the rest of the town would be subject to a further Category 2 funding application to incorporate the rest of the main streets as well as a number of other elements that the Regeneration Team had identified as opportunities. Mr Farrell advised that it was intended to engage with the Cllrs and the Town Team as part of the next stage in the consultative process, stating that it will then go to Part 8 planning process.

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked about the Local Area Plan for Athenry and the development of affordable as well as social housing in the area. She said that she will be seeking a report from the housing unit in relation to proposals for the area as affordable housing was badly needed.

In response to a query by Cllr Dolan Mr Pender said he would provide a break down on the expenditure of the €180,000 allocated to the MD in 2021

In relation to a query on the Date for the Belville road realignment design by Tobins, Mr Whelan said that the contractors were surveying the area and liaising with landowners.

In relation to a query on the pedestrian crossing at Monivea he said that a meeting was arranged with the Heritage Society in Monivea. He also said the works at Glenasalt are ongoing.

In response to a query by Cllr Cuddy on the lights at the lake view junction. Ms Lowe explained that there are two advance warning signs and it is in compliance with the traffic manual. She said that the Area Office will examine it and advised that the incidents be reported to Gardai.

In response to a query on the Oranmore Traffic Management plan Ms Lowe said that a consultant was appointed last July but the Athenry, Gort and Loughrea plans are a priority as their Local Area Plans are due for renewal and the transportation plans must be in full alignment with the LAPs. She said that the Oranmore plan will follow in due course.

The following proposal was made by Cllr. Charity:

*"I propose that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District puts a motion of "no Confidence" in the Minister for Local Government arising out of the continued under-funding of this Municipal area and Council and that this motion, if passed, be circulated to every member of the Oireachtas. A further cut of €74,174 to this District is simply unacceptable."*

As the Members did not agree on the proposal a vote was taken with the result as follows;

For: Cllr Charity, Cllr Cronnelly (2 no.)

Against: Cllr Cuddy, Cllr Dolan, Cllr Collins, Cllr Shelley Herterich Quinn, Cllr Carroll (5 no.)

The motion was not passed by the Members.

A.O.B.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the next meeting would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

**Criochnaigh an crinniú ansin**

**Approved by:**

Dan Carroll

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Date:** 10/1/2023