

**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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

**OIFIGIGH:** Mr G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance  
Mr Derek Pender, Director of Service  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. P. Gavin, Executive Engineer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all present to the Athenry Municipal District Meeting and said that our thoughts and prayers were with the people of Ukraine. On the proposal of Cllr Charity, seconded by Cllr. Collins it was agreed to fly the Ukraine flag outside County Hall.

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence for Aishling Murphy, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.** **AMD 108**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Herterich Quinn SECONDED by Carroll, the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 were AGREED.

**Matters arising**

Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn asked for an update on the €36,000 allocated under the Athenry Oranmore MD budget for recreation and amenity. Mr. Ger Mullarkey advised that this allocation was for the upkeep of Renville park and that it was included in the Athenry Municipal District budget in error. He said as there are no parks in the Athenry Oranmore MD area and therefore, no funding is included in the budget under this category.

Mr. Mitchell welcomed Mr. Sean Whelan Senior Executive Engineer to the Athenry Oranmore MD and thanked outgoing Senior Executive Engineer Ms. Paula Higgins for all her hard work. He said that he was looking forward to working with her in her new role in the Active Travel section.

**Adopt Annual Schedule of Works for 2022**

**AMD 109**

Mr. Pender presented the Annual schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District for 2022. Mr. Pender acknowledged the hard work done by Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Mr. Damien Mitchell, Ms. Paula Higgins, Mr. Peter Gavin and the local area office staff in preparing this report. Mr. Pender went on to thank Ms. Higgins for her professional and dedicated work in the area. He welcomed Mr. Sean Whelan to the MD.

Mr. Pender informed the Councillors that funding is almost back to 2012 levels and that some of the extra funding received from the TII in 2022 relates to the greenway. He explained that a team has been appointed by the TII for this project.

Mr. Mitchell thanked all the staff involved in preparing the Schedule. He went on to outline certain points on the Schedule such as the funding available for footpaths is now included in Active Travel. This allowed an increase in the Local and Regional maintenance allocations. A reallocation of Notice of Motion funding from the Councillors also allowed an increase in the local road's allocation.

Funding is being made available for projects such as Safety Improvement Works at Knockdoe junction, Cregmore bridge and on the R339 at Belville.

The Athenry Relief Road project is entering into a CPO process. CIS approval has been received and funding is being made available for 4 projects under Climate Action at the R339 – Carnmore, Temple Cross, Gloves and Corrandulla. No allocations have been announced under the LIS to date and the Athenry Oranmore MD has received €1.56 million in Active Travel Funding. He said that it is hoped that sixty wi-fi spots will be created county wide by May 2022.

Cllr. Collins thanked the Roads staff for all their hard work and said that he appreciated that extra staff are needed in the area. Cllr. Collins welcomed the funding being made available for the safety works at Cregmore Bridge and Knockdoe.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn thanked the staff for their hard work, welcomed Mr. Whelan to the MD and thanked Ms. Higgins for her hard work especially dealing with the Active Travel projects in Athenry. Cllr. Herterich Quinn welcomed the funding for the pedestrian bridge at Newcastle school and asked for an update on the bridge funding at Barrack St., Athenry. She also highlighted that the roads and paths in Athenry town center are deteriorating.

Cllr. Dolan thanked the staff for preparing the Schedule and welcomed, in particular, the funding allocated towards the safety improvement works at Belville where numerous

accidents had occurred. Cllr. Dolan asked when works to the Glenaslat path in Monivea will take place.

Mr. Mitchell welcomed the funding for the bridge at Newcastle School and advised that the Barrack St bridge is still at design stage. He said that general infills around Athenry town will be included under Active Travel funding and the footpath works in Monivea are in progress.

Cllr. Carroll thanked the staff for their hard work especially regarding the works on the Coast Road flooding at Oranmore where both Ms. Higgins and Mr. Gavin had been involved.

Cllr. Carroll had a query on the portioning of the Active Travel for each MD, and Ms. Higgins advised that she would provide him with a breakdown.

Cllr. Cuddy welcomed Mr. Whelan to the MD and thanked Ms. Higgins and all the MD staff. He recommended the adoption of the Schedule of Works and was delighted to see the inclusion of projects that he had campaigned for such as the Pedestrian Crossing at Carrowmoneash, safety works at Cregmore Bridge and Knockdoe junction. He also welcomed the recent works at Coast Road, Oranmore but was disappointed that the Waterdale road was not included in the Schedule.

Cllr. Cuddy asked about safety works at McHughs pub, Claregalway due to the high level of accidents at this location. He also expressed his annoyance at the lack of progress being made on the relief road at Claregalway. He acknowledged that it was not the fault of Galway County Council and he highlighted that a lot of proposed projects in county Galway, such as the city ring road, were being blocked by protesters not even living in the area. Cllr. Cuddy said that he would like to see changes in legislation preventing such objections.

Cllr. Charity acknowledged the excellent work being done by the staff of the roads section and agreed that funding had come a long way since 2014. Most issues raised have been dealt with and he was delighted to see the proposals for Corrandulla village. While Waterdale road is on the 3-year plan, he said that he would like to see works on this stretch taking place sooner. He also said that he would like more detail on the funding received for the N84 and agreed fully with Cllr. Cuddy on the progress being made in Claregalway.

Cllr. Cronnelly thanked the staff for their hard work in preparing the Schedule but was still unhappy with the way the funding was allocated to the MDs as the Athenry MD has 25% of the traffic for the county. He welcomed the Gurteen flooding funding and asked for the up-to-date position on the Athenry link road and the introduction of LED lighting in rural areas.

Mr. Mitchell advised that works on the Carrowmoneash pedestrian crossing should commence in early April and that while a design has been completed for works at McHughs pub, there were ongoing issues to be resolved. Traffic counts are being carried out in Claregalway and a letter is drafted to the Department. Mr. Mitchell said that he cannot comment on the city link road, as the judicial review is still ongoing. Some of the funding being made available on the N84 is going towards consultants' fees and to allow for ground investigations, surveys etc.

He said that Mayo County Council are responsible for the roll out of LED lighting in this region and a document is being prepared to go to tender on this project. The land acquisition for the Athenry ring road is going to Compulsory Purchase Order stage for the elbow portion initially and then the rest of the lands will be included later. This will allow for reclassification of the road when works are complete.

Cllr. Carroll raised the issue of people completing online petitions who were not living in the locality. He said that the petitions were coming in from all over the world and should not be included when deciding on projects in the county

Cllr. Charity agreed and said that planning objections were coming from sources outside the county and an overhaul of the planning acts should be carried out. A number of the members agreed.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn queried the funding for housing maintenance as shown on the budget schedule. Cllr. Charity advised that detailed reports had been completed by the Housing section, and it was a matter for a Plenary meeting.

**Directors Business** AMD110

Mr Mullarkey said there was nothing under this heading.

**Chairmans Business** AMD111

**The following proposal was made by Cllr. Cuddy**

*"I propose that Galway County Council write to all the Oireachtas members for Galway East and West to unite to progress the Galway Relief Road".*

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cuddy, SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn the motion was AGREED.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Cuddy

*"That a letter of condolence be sent to the family of the Council staff member at Wexford County council who tragically lost his life during the last storm."*

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cuddy SECONDED by Cllr. Cronnelly the motion was AGREED.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date 10/3/2022