

**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 the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2021.**

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service,  
Mr. M. McGovern, A/ Director of Service  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr P. Gavin, Executive Engineer  
Ms. E. Curran, Administrative Officer  
Ms. M. Doddy, Conservation Officer  
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

Apologies; Mr G. Mullarkey, Director of Services

**To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020.** **MD 61**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll SECONDED by Cllr. Dolan the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 were AGREED.

**Matters Arising**

**MD 62**

In reply to a query raised by Cllr Cuddy in relation to the expression of interests for the provision of burial grounds at Claregalway, Mr. McGovern stated that one expression of interest had been received. This option will be examined. Cllr. Charity requested an update on the Annaghdown cemetery.

In relation to the traffic situation at the Oranmore schools Cllr. Carroll said that he did a traffic count one morning and there were approximately 271 cars and 3 busses that drove up to the schools.

In response to a query raised by Cllr Charity on the flooding in Claregalway, Mr Mitchell said that works will be progressed this year and this will include works on flood prevention. Mr Cullen said that it will go to tender in the coming weeks, and consultation will take place with the local businesses and community as part of the process.

**It was agreed to take Item 5 next**

**Proposed Additions and Proposed Deletions to the Record of Protected Structures in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.**

**MD 63**

Maureen Doddy, Conservation Officer, presented the report on the proposed additions and deletions to the Record of Protected Structures in the Galway County Development Plan. She explained that there were two structures in the Athenry Municipal District area and that it was proposed to add "The Ivymount House", Baunmore, Athenry to the list and to delete "Mikes Cottage", Oranmore. She said that the owners and occupiers have been notified and the list will be brought to the Plenary Council Meeting in March, 2021 for approval.

In response to a query by Cllr. Charity, Ms Doddy said that there were no submissions received on these two structures. She explained that under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 "every development plan shall include a record of protected structures, and shall include in that record every structure which is, in the opinion of the planning authority, of such interest within its functional area."

In reply to a query by Cllr Carroll, she said that the "Micks Cottage" was being deleted as it lost significance due to the collapse of the thatched roof. She said that she would follow up on a query by Cllr Carroll in relation to another thatched dwelling in Frenchfort near the railway track.

**Adoption of the Draft Amended Standing Orders for the Athenry Municipal District.**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Charity SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy the Draft Amended Standing Orders for the Athenry Municipal District dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 were AGREED.

**To consider and adopt the 2021 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District**

**MD 64**

Mr. Mitchell said that the TII grant for 2021 is 28.5M which is a slight decrease of €300,000 from last year. He said that the funding for maintenance for TII roads was €1M. The regional and local road grant allocation is 35.5 M which is an increase of €5%. There is an allocation of €1m included for the Athenry Relief Road Scheme. He said that there is funding included for active travel and that this funding was carried over from last year as there was a delay in allocating it in 2020. While there was a slight reduction in maintenance funding for regional

and local roads, funding of €150,000 was provided for footpaths for the county. There is also funding of €1M included for bridges. Proposals have been submitted for Active Travel and it is hoped to have information on this allocation in the next two or three weeks. He said that it is a comprehensive programme of works. The full schedule of works is outlined at the end of the Roads Programme document. He outlined that funding was allocated for works for traffic calming in Claregalway, and the long-awaited funding for the pedestrian crossing in Carrowmoneash, Oranmore. Mr Mitchell explained that approximately 50% of the CIS projects submitted for 2020 were completed, and it is anticipated that the funding roll over will allow for the completion of the remaining applications in 2021. The funding for Local Improvement Schemes is also awaited.

In relation to the works on the coast road Ms. Higgins said that the works are in progress and that €80,000 was carried over from 2020.

Mr. Mitchell said that the roadworks under the 2020 programme had to be completed by November 2020, and the only outstanding works rolled over to 2021 were the active travel and climate change works, as the funding had not been received on time to allow for works to take place by the end of the year.

In reply to queries from Cllr. Herterich Quinn and Cllr. Dolan regarding the funding allocated for the completion of the ring road in Athenry, Mr. Mitchell advised that the part 8 for that project was completed in 2006. He said that the Council were updating the design and when the drawings are complete the tender process will commence. Mr. Cullen said that there is a specific grant for the project and the Council can spend this allocation and full costs will be recouped. Mr. Cullen added that specific grants can be rolled over from one year to another, and discussions with landowners are advanced, so it is hoped to go to tender later this year.

Cllr. Dolan highlighted that the landowners raised the issue in relation to fencing on sections of the Athenry ring road that need to be addressed. Mr. Mitchell said that this will be examined by the TII Design Team.

In reply to a query on the roadway at the bring banks at Monivea, Mr. Mitchell said that the repairs of the private road in the rugby club grounds is a matter for the club and that the Council would examine the required works on the public road.

Cllr. Carroll welcomed the planned projects like the pedestrian crossing at Carrowmoneash and the allocation for works at Frenchfort. He queried if the allocation for repairs on the R338 was part of the bond from the developers at this location. In reply Mr. Mitchell said that the road would be examined and established if the works were as a result of a road opening licence application where a bond would have been retained to ensure permanent reinstatement would be completed to as satisfactory standard.

Cllr. Collins commended the Council staff on a very comprehensive programme and said the resurfacing of the motorway flyovers was very welcome. In reply to a query by Cllr. Collins in relation to a number of accidents that occurred at the bridge in Lackagh, Mr Mitchell said that the location will be examined.

In response to a query from Cllr Herterich Quinn on funding for Clarin bridge Mr. Mitchell explained that funding for the pedestrian bridge was not under the remit of the Council but was the responsibility of the Department of Education. He said that the lands had been agreed and the project will be moving to tender stage.

In reply to queries from the members in relation to staffing Mr. Cullen advised that 248 staff would be made available country wide for active travel works, but Galway County Council has not received a formal notification to date on its allocation. While additional funding is being made available it does not allow for additional staff. He said that staff are required over the whole organization and while the roads grants have increased, the budget for staffing has remained the same or decreased. He said that he appreciated the Members support for the roads programme and that it will be delivered. In relation to the funding for Active Travel he said the urban Councils have been informed of their funding but rural have not.

In relation to a funding query from Cllr. Charity on the CIS for 2021, Mr. Mitchell said that he will check the number of schemes for the Oranmore/Athenry area.

The Members welcomed the Report and they acknowledged and thanked the Roads Staff for the work carried out in preparing and presenting it as well as their hard work throughout 2020.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Charity SECONDED by Cllr. Collins the 2021 Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District and the Municipal District Schedule of works 2021 were AGREED.

**Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road- Section 11 of Roads Act 1993**

**MD 65**

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Report, including map, which had been circulated to the Members and he read the Report to the meeting as follows:

**Municipal District: Athenry:**

**Description**

Road pavement and footpath commencing at public road L-3107 in the townland of Caherroyn, point A and extending Sooth West for a distance of 148m and ending at Point B, its junction with Road E-F in the townland of Caherroyn.

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction C with that of Road A-B and extending North West for a distance of 20m and ending at point D in the townland of Caherroyn

Road pavement and footpath commencing at Point E and extending 44 m Noth West to Point F in the townland of Caherroyn.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Herterich Quinn SECONDED by Cllr. Cronnelly the members AGREED the declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, as outlined in the Report.

## Municipal District Directors Business and Correspondence

MD 66

Mr McGovern advised that he had no correspondence.

## Cathaoirleach's Business

MD 67

Cllr Cronnelly asked that the Councillors provide any Notice of Motions they wished to have included for the next meeting ten days in advance.

Cllr. Dolan asked if any information was received on a future upgrade to the waste- water treatment system in Athenry. He stated that he had received a number of representations from residents of the housing estates in Athenry but in particular the Cluain na Cathrach and Lorro Gate estates. In reply Mr. Mitchell said that due to a capacity issue no new connections to the existing network can be facilitated by Irish Water until extra funding is received. He said that the residents were informed of the situation.

A discussion followed regarding the Irish Water budgets and the lack of spending preventing new connections and not allowing any progress in towns and villages. It was highlighted that people wanted to live in their local communities.

Cllr. Collins advised that he was present at a recent Irish Water presentation. He said that he was very disappointed with the information given as there is only funding available for maintenance works with no allocations being made for capital works. This lack of funding does not allow for construction and extra infrastructure to take place, making it very difficult to implement future County Development Plans.

Cllr Herterich Quinn suggested that a motion be sent to Irish Water in relation to this matter.

## Notice of Motions No. 1 Cllr Jim Cuddy

MD 68

On the subject of the Claregalway cemetery, Cllr. Cuddy expressed his dissatisfaction with the Council response and said that the Council must pay reasonable rates for land, and a Compulsory Purchase Order should be considered if necessary.

Cllr. Charity advised that there are no available plots in Annaghdown at present, but the issue in question is with the National Monuments Section.

## A.O.B.

MD 69

Cllr. Collins asked if litter picking materials could be made available for transition year students in Claregalway secondary school. Mr. Cullen advised that the Council are not actively encouraging members of the public to get together due to public health restrictions, but the request could be brought to the attention of Mr. Molly, Environment Section for future projects.

Cllr Herterich Quinn stated that she was engaging with the Environment Section in relation to dog fouling

Cllr. Charity gave an outline of the information received in the letter from the Department in relation to "Ministers Financial Allocating to Municipal Districts". He outlined the guidance agreed at The Corporate Policy Group Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 in relation to the allocation of the funding to various projects.

Mr. Cullen said that the funding should be spent on projects of substance and that consideration should be given to a small number of high-quality projects. He said that there would be a decision on the funding for active travel in a couple of weeks and some funding could be allocated towards this area.

Cllr. Cronnelly suggested fixing a provisional date for the next meeting for the 16<sup>th</sup> March, at 2021 at 2.00 via teams.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by:

Cllr. Cronnelly  
Cathaoirleach

Date: 13/4/21