

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 9th September 2025.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. C. Keane (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. S. Broderick
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr M. McNamara (via teams)
Cllr J. Charity,
Cllr T. Grealish

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Ms V. Loughnane, Snr Planner
Mr. B. Corcoran, S.E. Planner
Mr. D. Troy, S.E.
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.
Mr. P. Gavin, E.E.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Ms. G. Cooley, C.O.

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 8th July 2025 AMD 67

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, Seconded by Cllr. Grealish the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 8th July 2025 were approved.

Presentation of Chain to Cathaoirleach.

The Director of Service presented the Cathaoirleach with the new Cathaoirleach's chain.

Declaration of Road to be a Public Road- Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. AMD 68

Description:

Road commencing with public road L-21193 (E537898, N736572) in the townland of (Mullach Otraigh) Mullaghruddy and extending Northeast for a distance of 78m in the townland of (Mullach Otraigh) Mullaghruddy and finishing at (E537933, N736643) in the townland of (Mullach Otraigh) Mullaghruddy.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Collins SECONDED by Cllr Grelish the Members AGREED the declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 as outlined in the report.

Update on the URDF project at Oranmore Train station – construction works timeframes. AMD 69

Ms Loughnane presented the Members with an update on the timelines for the URDF Oranmore Station works and the carpark restrictions associated with these works. She highlighted that the works are for the construction of a pedestrian underpass to service the second platform which forms part of the URDF project. It is expected that works for the construction of the second platform will commence in Q1/2 of 2026.

The relevant dates were outlined as follows;

From 22nd September 2025:

- Northern side of car park capacity reduced. Impact is a loss of approximately 16 car parking spaces including informal parking.
- Signage to be erected on fence adjacent to this area on 15th September indicating capacity to be reduced.

From Wednesday at 19.00, 8th October 2025:

- Car park capacity reduced further by approximately 100 spaces on the western side of car park. Approx. 100 spaces remain.
- Signage to be erected communicating this on 29th September 2025.

From Thursday 19.00, 9th October to Tuesday 06.00, 14th October:

- Main car park fully closed for parking. Pedestrian, cyclist and pick-up/drop-off access maintained. Parking available on access road for approx. 50 cars.
- Signage to be erected communicating this on 29th September.

Added to this all cars should be removed from the carpark at the Station by 18.00 on Thursday October 9th to facilitate the works.

Over the weekend of the 10th to the 12th October there will be no rail service at Oranmore train station but there will be a bus connection from Athenry to Galway for those using the rail service for that period. The bus will service the train station at Oranmore. Exact details of the rail services over that weekend will be available on the Irish rail website and their social media platforms. The underpass when complete will have cycle and pedestrian availability and disabled access.

All this information will be on the County Councils social media platform and will be advertised on Galway Bay FM from Wednesday 24th September 2025.

Ms Loughnane said that the works will be carried out on a tight timeframe and the project will be managed by Irish Rail. The tender documents for the car park have been received and assessment is taking place. It is hoped that the carpark design once completed will be coming through the planning process. The design of the carpark and the topology process is almost complete. The design of the Eco park will also be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The Members welcomed the update.

In reply to a query by Cllr Collins in relation to Irish Rail providing a liaison Officer Ms Loughnane said that she will be the contact from GCC together with Mr B. Corcoran, Senior Executive Planner. A steering group is in place consisting of GCC, the NTA and Irish Rail and this coordinates the work programme on the project.

In reply to a query on the bus service Ms Loughnane confirmed that the bus service will serve Oranmore and Galway train stations.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence. AMD 70

Mr Hanrahan advised that consultation continues tonight on Athenry Town First towards creating an Athenry Town Plan. Consultants will be available and it will give Members a chance to meet consultants. The Part 8 approval will be required from the MD.

Cathaoirleach's Business. AMD 71

Mr Whelan gave an update on the Roads Programme.

In reply to a query from Cllr Grealish on the changing of the lights at Carnmore, Mr Whelan advised that it will not be fully completed in 2025. The lining and marking works however will be completed.

Cllr Feeney welcomed the pedestrian crossing at new line and the drainage works at station road. The ESB are working on the power supply to the lights.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins if the scheme in Claregalway was still on the agenda for funding Mr Whelan said that the NRPO would be tendering before Christmas, and funding will then be requested. He said that the tender process is nearing completion and should be on e-tenders before Christmas.

He also requested an update on the funding available for hubs etc in the event of another storm.

In reply to a query on derelict buildings in Athenry Mr Hanrahan said that he will follow up with the derelict sites team and that they were looking at derelict buildings around the County for the housing needs survey.

In reply to a query from Cllr McNamara on a recent incident at the Derrydonnell junction Mr Whelan said that this was a matter for the gardai. He said that a road safety audit has been complete at stage 3 and another audit will be carried out at stage 4 when the works highlighted in stage 3 are complete. The contractor has works planned for the next few weeks.

In reply to a query from Cllr Keane on the report on the coast road following storm Debbie Mr Whelan said that he will follow up.

Cllr Charity welcomed the fact that works at Claregalway was going to tender and asked if the funds were approved by the TII. He also said that it was important that the works be carried out at night. Mr Whelan said that he will arrange to get a programme of works. It will take 12-18 months. He said that the NRPO office is dealing with the project.

Any other business (AOB).

AMD 72

Mr Hanrahan said that he will arrange a LPT workshop for the Members.

In response to a query from Cllr McNamara on passing a motion in relation to large scale projects in the County, Mr Hanrahan said that the Members can make submissions on any planning application for large scale developments. It was highlighted that it was not possible to make a submission unless a planning application has been lodged. Mr Hanrahan said that any planning applications for large scale developments will be highlighted to the member when submitted to Planning.

The next meeting is the Athenry MD Budget Meeting on the 14th October 2025.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date: 11/11/2025