

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 10th May, 2022

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr M. McGovern, A/ Head of Finance
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

Apologies Cllr Charity

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 1st March, 2022. AMD 112

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 1st March, 2022 were AGREED.

Matters arising

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the meeting

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked for clarity on the amount of €36,000 for Renville park that was in the Athenry MD budget for 2022 and its implication on previous budgets. Ms Lowe advised that the Executive would follow up re this.

In response to a query on the timeline on Cregmore bridge from Cllr. Collin, Ms Lowe said that the design was currently being prepared. She said that there will be a stop-go system in place.

In relation to a query on the Maldron Hotel pedestrian crossings Mr Gavin said that there will have a push button traffic light system in place when complete.

Mr Gavin said that the footpath at Glenaslath is in progress with trees to be felled and work will then commence on footpaths.

Mr Gavin said that in relation to the area at Fursey park between the two roundabouts in Athenry the Council is currently in talks with the Contractor on the proposed dates for these works to be carried out.

In response to a query on the Athenry Relief Road Ms Lowe advised that the design of the road as far as the Monivea junction is underway and funding is in place for a design and CPO this year, although it is hoped that lands can also be acquired by agreement. Ms. Lowe advised that the Department of Transport is intending to fund the scheme 'elbow' to the extreme west as the first phase.

Traffic calming at McHughs pub is with the TII.

Notice Of Motion

AMD 113

Cllr Dolan submitted the following Notice of Motion

"I, Cllr. Albert Dolan propose that Galway County Council use the funding that was allocated under the Multi-annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021 for 2 No. estates in Athenry, namely Lorro Gate and Cluain na Cathrach as soon as possible. This funding was allocated to facilitate the connection to the public sewerage system and de-commission of on-site wastewater treatment systems and works are yet to take place."

The following is the reply;

Galway County Council made a submission for funding under the Residential Estates with Developer provided Water Services Infrastructure – Multi Annual Resolution Programme 2019-2021. Notification was received in September 2020 that two estates were allocated funding under this Programme – namely Lorro Gate and Cluain na Cathrach.

Prior to engaging with the Developers of these estates, a meeting was held with Irish Water. Irish Water indicted that capacity was not available in the existing network but capacity will be improved as part of network upgrade.

The Athenry SS Network upgrade Project is to commence construction in Q4 of 2022. The Taking in Charge Section will then contact the Developers involved and outline the Taking in

Charge procedure. It is then a matter for the Developer to contact and apply to Irish Water for a connection to the public sewerage system.

In accordance with Department Circular L(DPI)01-2020, Galway County Council can only claim funding for the estates in two stages, when 75% of approved funding is expended and at 100% when all works are complete, and the estate is taken in charge.

Cllr Dolan said that he acknowledged the response from the Director of Service, Roads and Transportation. He said that if the funding had been given to Galway County Council the works should be done.

Cllr Cronnelly said that it is within 100 yards of other estates and should be connected.

Ms Lowe said that Irish Water has completed an upgrade of the treatment plant in Athenry which has provided capacity, but the limiting factor is now the foul sewer network. The network is in the process of being upgraded and existing small plants cannot be decommissioned until the network has been upgraded. Every effort is being made to expedite the delivery of this scheme, particularly through the Housing section which requires the upgrade to be completed to facilitate housing delivery. This has been raised by Housing at the highest level. In reply to a query on the inclusion of water services in the design of road projects Ms Lowe said that generally it would not be required to be included in road designs of new roads which are more remote from housing but it should be generally possible to facilitate it if required alongside the road. Storm water systems to cater for surface-water runoff are usually incorporated.

Cllr Herterich Quinn stated that there is a large housing need in Athenry but new houses cannot be connected to the system. She said that it needs to be raised at national level.

Directors Business

AMD 114

There was nothing under this item

Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr Carroll thanked the members of the Athenry MD for their interaction in the County Development Plan and said that he hoped the new plan would be of great benefit to the Constituents of the Athenry MD Area. He acknowledged that its implementation would be a huge challenge into the future.

He also thanked the staff of Galway County Council for work done in the Oranmore area on a number of roads, the pedestrian crossing at the Maldron Hotel, footpaths and flooding relief works on the coast road. He said that resurfacing on the R446 is welcome and the speed control measures at the school. He said that it has a huge impact on safety and tourism and local businesses.

In reply to a query from Cllr Carroll on the traffic management plan for Oranmore Ms Lowe said that she will forward an update to all the members.

Cllr Herterich Quinn also thanked the area office staff for their work in the area and welcomed Ms Lowe to the Roads Section. She welcomed the work done in Athenry including the works on paths and the pedestrian bridge for Claren College. She said that a pedestrian crossing will be needed when the bridge is complete. She also said that a plan is required for the centre of Athenry Town and she has sent a list to the area office outlining necessary works.

In reply to a query on upgrading of the footpaths in the town for wheelchair access Mr Gavin said agreements are in place to carry out the works and that next stage is for a tree surgeon to clear the site and then a wall will be built. It is anticipated that the works will be complete by the end of Summer. Applications will be made for other footpaths in the town.

Mr Gavin said that staff recruitment is in progress for the regeneration team. The Part 8 for cross street is with the regeneration project team. The traffic management plan and the local area plan is due for review.

In reply to a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn, Mr Gavin said that there was a Cycle Network Consultation portal open for Councillors and members of the public to make submissions and he said that he will send this on to her. He said that a Cycleway/Greenway team will be established, and Galway County Council will be recruiting staff for this project. Cllr Herterich Quinn said that Athenry was named four times in relation to the Cycleway but lost out. She said that there was an opportunity to apply under the Cycle Network project and she would like to advance the project if possible, along the route previously identified. She said that it would be of great benefit to tourism in the area.

Mr Gavin ,in reply to a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn, said that he will check if power was connected to the park in Athnery.

In response to a query; Ms Lowe explained that the purpose of Local Transportation Plans is to examine how people move around the town, and to assist in designing for more sustainable modes of travel and to provide context and support for future active travel proposals. Ms Lowe advised that a team is being established to deliver ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS with Ms. Paula Higgins appointed as SEE.

In relation to the traffic management plan for Oranmore Ms Lowe said that she would provide an update for the Members.

In response to a query on EV charging points Ms Lowe said that EV charging points are usually provided by the private sector and apps can be downloaded to show the locations of EV Charging points. Eg. ESB, EasyGo have apps that can be downloaded.

In relation to the updating of signage on speed limits at Oranmore this will be investigated with the aim of progressing asap.

Cllr Cuddy raised the issue of parking at the schools at Claregalway and said that it is an ongoing issue for the residents in the area. He said that when schools are being designed

the Department of Education should include a parking plan. Ms Lowe advised that the responsibility for parking at schools rests with the schools themselves and not the Local Authority. Ms Lowe explained that for new planning applications schools are usually required to draft Mobility Plans to include parking and other transportation measures. In tandem with this Plan the school is then generally required to appoint a coordinator to ensure that the measures in the Mobility Plan are being implemented.

Cllr Collins said that there have been meetings with the Board of Management and the Principal in relation to the issue and would be grateful for input by the Council. He said that there is provision in the new Development Plan for park and stride at schools.

Cllr Carroll said that there are parking issues at schools every morning and afternoon and that some schools stagger times to alleviate the traffic. He said that it is only for a short period of time and a realistic approach needs to be taken on the matter.

A.O.B.

AMD 115

Cllr Collins asked if safety measures could be put in place at the slip road at Derrydonnell Cross near Teagas and the golf club. He said that there have been several accidents at that junction due to motorists speeding. He also requested if the option of street lighting could be considered there. Mr Walsh said that he would examine making an application to TII.

Cllr Collins said that the road past Lydons pub Knockdoe, at the Corbally Junction on the right, should have a slip road similar to the roads along this route.

Cllr Collins said that a joint submission on zoning was submitted for the Athenry MD Area and it was supported by the members. Land was zoned for 2,500 houses for the area to allow for the population growth and it is important that these houses are built.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Collins

"I propose that all Councillors for the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District are provided with an update/briefing on the amount of R1 lands being developed within the MASP every six months at the Municipal District meetings."

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Collins and SECONDED by Cllr Dolan the motion was agreed.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn

*"I propose that we write to the Department of An Tanaiste - Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in relation to the development of the Western Economic Corridor and in particular the IDA Lands in the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District as follows:
The Oranmore – Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor, is referenced in Galway County Council's submission to the National Planning Framework March 2017*

It was objective EDT 1 of the Galway County Development Plan, 2015-2021 and it is referenced once again in the Galway County Council Development Plan, 2022-2028.

However, seven years hence, not one indigenous industry or foreign direct investment has materialised on this corridor.

Councillors in Galway County Council have requested updates from the IDA without success over a number of council terms. We respectfully request an update from your department in relation to the plans for the Athenry - Oranmore Strategic Economic Corridor and what steps are being taken to secure investment along this corridor?"

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

The following proposal was made by Cllr Cronnelly

"I propose that the Water Safety Officer gives the water safety presentation to this Municipal area at the next meeting.

The motion was PROPOSED by Cllr Cronnelly, SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn and AGREED.

Cllr Carroll asked that a letter be sent to the IDA requesting them to attend the next Municipal District meeting.

Cllr Collins raised an issue, in relation to the E.S.B, of overhanging wires and also said that the charging points for Electrical vehicles need to be connected by the ESB.

He, also, said that the water tower on the Tuam Road in Athenry needs to be decommissioned and maintained.

The date for the AGM was set for Tuesday, 14th June, 2022 at 2.00. It was agreed that a meeting of the Municipal District will follow at 2.30

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by


Cathaoirleach

Date 10/5/22