

**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 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.**

**I LATHAIR:**

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

**OIFIGIGH:** G. Mullarkey ,Head of Finance  
A. Fenton, Financial Accountant  
Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,  
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr J. Charity

The Cathaoirleach to wished Mr Mullarkey, best wishes on his retirement after twenty years of service with Galway County Council. He said that he had always found him very helpful in explaining the financial figures over the years. He also welcomed Ms Fenton, who will be taking up the role as acting Head of Finance.

The Cathaoirleach explained that the District Manager of Iarnróid Eireann Galway will attend the next Athenry MD meeting on the 13th September, 2022.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022** **AMD125**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Collins SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 were AGREED.

**Matters arising**

Cllr Collins said that he wished to congratulate the Cathaoirleach on his election at the last meeting. He also thanked all of his colleagues on the work done on the County Development Plan.

Cllr Dolan congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election.

The Cathaoirleach said that he wanted to congratulate Cllr Dolan on climbing Mt Kilimanjaro in aid of the Alzheimer's Association.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District AGM Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022** AMD126

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cronnelly SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District AGM Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 were AGREED

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

AMD127

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:** Caherroyn Park, Athenry

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Cronnelly, SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn 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 Director's Business & Correspondence** AMD128

Mr Mullarkey thanked the Members for their kind wishes and wished his replacement Ms Fenton best wishes in her new role.

**Cathaoirleach's Business**

AMD129

The Cathaoirleach said that the IDA would not be in attendance at todays meeting as requested but had agreed to attend a Plenary meeting of the Council at a future date.

The Cathaoirleach said that he was made aware that representatives from the IDA Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment were in discussions with a multi-national company in relation to setting up business on a 50-acre site on the Claregalway Road, Oranmore. He said that discussions were at an advanced stage.

Cllr Herterich Quinn welcomed the news but said that she was disappointed that the IDA were not attending the Athenry MD meeting.

Cllr Cuddy also welcomed the prospect of the IDA investment. He said that a regional policy is needed for the whole County. There is a view that the County is being neglected. Towns such as Gort, Athenry etc. have broadband in place and are open for development and would welcome the IDA giving incentives to encourage factories to come into the county areas. He said that it would help to alleviate traffic congestion in the city.

Cllr Dolan also welcomed the news of a potential Multi-national Company setting up on this site in Oranmore. He said that with the current concerns in relation to another recession and with rising costs it is the duty of elected representatives to ensure that something happens for that site.

Cllr Collins welcomed the decision of the IDA to attend the Plenary meeting. He said that if investment comes to Oranmore there will be benefits for surrounding areas.

Cllr Cuddy said that Central Government needs to fund Galway County Council. He also said that a waste-water treatment plant on the edge of the city would enhance development into the future.

Cllr Cronnelly agreed and said that while 20% of the population in the county is in the Athenry MD area it has the smallest budget.

Cllr Carroll said that a decision on planning permission from An Bord Pleanala is due in relation to the development of playing pitches at Oranmore. He said that the rising costs of the contractors, materials and fuel will mean that the project will be over budget if a decision is not received soon.

### **Any other business (AOB).**

**AMD 130**

Cllr Herterich Quinn said that the bridge was installed at Clarin College, Oranmore and will be in operation at the end of August. She said that she would like to thank the Roads department and the contractors, and all involved. Cllr Cuddy said that he would like to thank Mr Mitchell, Senior Engineer for his work on the project.

**The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn**

*"Motion in relation to the naming of;*

1. *The new pedestrian bridge in Athenry and*
2. *An unnamed road at Raheen in Athenry*

*A Chairde,*

*On consultation with the families of both named persons in this motion, I would like to propose the naming of the new pedestrian bridge to, and from, the Clarin College in Athenry as follows:*

*Droichead Seamus O'Cuilleanain  
Seamus Cuillinane Bridge*

*"I would also like to propose to name the link road from Gort Mhaoilir to The District Fitness Gym:*

*Bothar An tOllamh Mairead Ni Eimhigh  
Professor Margaret "Ma"Heavy Road"*

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

In reply to a query by Cllr Cronnelly, Cllr Herterich Quinn confirmed that the naming of the road had been agreed with the Athenry Community Council.

Ms Lowe said that she would refer the motions to the Place Names Committee.

**The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn:**

*"I would like to propose: -*

*That this Municipal District write to the Minister for Social Protection and seek clarification as to why the Dept of Social Protection Community Employment Schemes in Galway are not permitted to tend to graveyards when the same schemes in other Counties are permitted to do so. I would cite Limerick as an example where Limerick Civic Trust are the sponsors of a Community Employment Scheme with participants who tend to graveyards and in particular grass cutting."*

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

In reply to a query on the Priory Graveyard in Athenry Ms Lowe said that the function of grass cutting has been referred to the National Monument Service and they have allocated it to the O.P.W.

**The following proposal was made by Cllr Collins**

*"I propose that Galway County Council write to the Department of Agriculture to request an initiative to allow farmers to get rid of unwanted tyres. An initiative like this was carried out in 2018-2019 and was a great success. A similar initiative is now required."*

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr Collins, SECONDED by Cllr Carroll the motion was AGREED.

Cllr Collins asked for an update on the safety measures at Derrydonnell Cross.

In response to a query from Cllr Collins on the Corbally- junction Mr Whelan said that he had contacted the TII and the NRPO office are examining this junction and a survey will be carried out shortly.

In Lackagh three projects will be carried out together, the public lighting and footpaths will be part of one project.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins on Derrydonnel Cross Mr Whelan said that he will examine this and put in a request to NTA for funding.

In reply to a query from Cllr Cuddy in relation to the junction at Loughgeorge, Ms Lowe said that the narrowing of the junction is designed to encourage vehicles to slow down when approaching the junction and is a road safety feature.

Cllr Cuddy also raised issues in relation to overhanging vegetation along the footpath at Loughgeorge and Ms Lowe said that she will examine this and arrange correspondence to be sent to the owner.

The members thanked Ms Lowe for the "Roads Programme Report – July, 2022" circulated at the meeting.

In relation to a query on the speed limits review Ms Lowe said that the DoS has given a commitment that it will be completed in 2022. She said that a company has been appointed to examine a system for traffic management. The NTA approval has been received and Athenry is included. The Local Transport Plan will run with the Local Area Plan. There will also be a plan for Oranmore .

Ms Lowe said that €7.5m has been allocated for the redevelopment of properties in rural Ireland. Galway County Council has been granted funding to develop a property in Athenry at Burkes lane.

In reply to a query on the timescale for the Transport Plan Ms Lowe said that Athenry and Gort is due this year and Oranmore may be early next year.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



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Cathaoirleach

Date: 13/9/22

