

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 14th September, 2021.

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr G. Mullarkey, Director of Service
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,
Mr. P. Duffy, Snr Assistant Chief Fire Officer.
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer.
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr Collins, Cathaoirleach
P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer.

Cllr. Charity took the chair in the absence of Cllr Collins and welcomed all present to the meeting.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn had requested permission to speak out about the recent tabloid article criticizing the dress code of certain Fianna Fáil politicians at a recent meeting of the party. She said that it was oppressive to women and would discourage women from going into politics. The other MD Members present agreed with her comments.

To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 13th July, 2021

AMD 91

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cuddy SECONDED by Cllr. Dolan the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 13th July, 2021 were AGREED.

Matters Arising

In response to a query by Cllr Cronnelly on the derelict house in Athenry, Mr Mullarkey said that the case had been adjourned until October, 2021.

Mr Mitchell responding to a query on the Safe Route to School Initiative explained that the NTA are engaging with school principals and will consult with the Council.

Ms Herterich Quinn acknowledged the work being done by the local area office on the roll out of the Roads Programme.

Cllr Cuddy said that there were reports that Intel is considering a site near Oranmore for a major new development that could create thousands of jobs for the county. He said that the airport should be maintained for private use and the emergency services. In response to a request by the members that the executive provide a copy of the masterplan for the airport Mr Mullarkey said that he would consult with the DoS on the matter.

In response to a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn on the refund of money in relation to Sec 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 "where the local authority decides not to proceed with the proposed works or part thereof the contribution shall, be refunded to the applicant together with interest they may have accrued over the period while held by the local authority", Mr Mullarkey said that he will consult with the Dos for Planning on the matter.

Mr Mitchell said that tenders have been received for the construction of the bridge at Clarin College and when the contractor is appointed the timeframe for completing the works will be agreed. He said that the temporary access would stay in place until completion of the works.

To consider and approve Part 8 for the construction of a new Fire station at Ballygurraun South, Athenry.

AMD 92

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cronnelly SECONDED by Cllr. Hertrich Quinn the Part 8 for the construction of a new Fire Station at Ballygurrann South was approved.

Cllr Cronnelly thanked Mr P. Duffy, Snr Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Ms E. Ruane, Dos for their work on progressing the project. Mr Duffy said that a lot of hard work was involved in getting the project to this position and thanked the members for their support in adopting it. He said that a contractor should be appointed by the end of October, 2021.

Directors Business

AMD 93

Mr. Mullarkey advised the members that the Plenary meeting of the Council will be held in Corandulla on Friday, the 17th September. He advised that a Municipal District meeting will need to be held during the month of October, 2021 to consider the Multi-annual roads programme. He suggested that the meeting could be held after the Budget Meeting in October, 2021.

The Members acknowledged the quality of work on the roads programme.

In response to a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn on hedge cutting for road safety reasons Mr. Mitchell said that the Wildlife Act prohibited hedge cutting from March to September. However, there are exceptions to the legislation to allow the cutting of certain hedges that pose a road safety risk.

Following a query by Cllr Herterich Quinn on the housing waiting list, Cllr Charity requested that Social Housing Waiting List be included as an item on the agenda for the next meeting and that the DoS from housing be requested to attend.

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked that the Athenry Town Team be included as an item on the Agenda for the next meeting and that a member of Community and Enterprise be available at the next meeting.

A debate took place on the proposed National Cycleway and the route selection that would pass through Athenry. Mr Mitchell said that there are five proposed routes and that Athenry was included in four of them. He said that a decision had not been made on the preferred route.

In reply to a query by Cllr Cronnelly, in relation to the Athenry Ring Road, Mr Mitchell advised that the part 8 planning permission is in place. Surveys had taken place recently to aid the preparation of the construction drawings for the project in accordance with the planning permission granted.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Cuddy

"Since the M 6 Motorway way was opened in 2009 information signage has been erected. Every sign between Dublin and Galway has been in English until one comes towards exit 19 and the Annagh Hill exit where the signage for Claregalway is a small sign showing Baile Chlair. This is causing confusion to many motorists and particularly tourists. The direct translation of Claregalway into Irish is Baile Chlair na Gaillimhe. The confusion of using Baile Chlair has ended up in many motorists going miles out of their way and some ending up in a village between Tuam and Headford called Belclare. Where the signage is erected showing Baile Chlair is not in the Gaeltacht area. This is the case both at the Exit 19 and Annagh Hill exit. The motion I put forward was for the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District to write to the Minister for the Gaeltacht, Mr. Jack Chambers asking him to direct TII to erect signage showing both the English and Irish version of Claregalway. I can understand that under Acht an Teanga signage within Gaeltacht areas must be in Irish. Any person travelling to Claregalway and checking their road map will not see Baile Chlair on the map but Claregalway is clearly marked. The present situation is causing serious concern to the business people of the Claregalway area whose business is suffering as a result of this signage problem."

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

The following proposal was made by Cllr Carroll

"I am proposing that Galway County Council write separately to An Taoiseach Michael Martin and An Tanaiste Leo Varadkar (Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment) urging them as the two most senior Cabinet Ministers to use everything within their power to influence Intel to locate their new chip Manufacturing facility in Oranmore."

Mr Mitchell said that he will request an update from the TII regarding funding for the Cregboy junction,

In response to a query from Cllr Carroll, Mr Gavin said that additional signage had been ordered for the traffic lights at the new Colaiste and it is hoped that this should improve road safety at the junction. He also said that the timing of the lights at the junction had been adjusted.

In reply to a query on the traffic management plan for Oranmore Mr Mithcell said that the existing plan will be reviewed and will consider the Oranmore train station and traffic congestion. The consultants have been asked to look at all aspects for the potential movement of people. Once the plan is in draft form, it will be presented to the Members who will have an opportunity to make submissions. When the plan is adopted the NTA will provide recommendations and funding depending on resources. He said that he may have a better timeline for the next meeting.

In reply to a query from Cllr Carroll Mr Mitchell said that the reinstatement works on the R446 were completed by Irish Water. He said while isolated areas of the road may need work the PSC ratings are high on this stretch of road. He also said that he would examine the R446 under the Roadworks Programme.

Cllr Dolan congratulate the Galway Camogie team on winning the All Ireland Camogie Final.

Criochnaigh an Criniu Ansin

Approved By;


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 1/3/22