

**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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

I LATHAIR:

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

**OIFIGIGH:** Mr. G. Mullarkey, Director of Service  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins,  
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

**Apologies** Cllr J. Charity

**To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2020.** **AMD49**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cuddy SECONDED by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were AGREED.

In relation to a query from Cllr. Carroll on an alleged unauthorised development at Carrowmoneash, Oranmore Mr. Mullarkey said that he was informed by the Planning Section that following an investigation, a warning letter was issued in October 2019. Correspondence was received from a Consultant on behalf of the owner/developer stating that the works being carried out were only in preparation for survey work and that there was no importation/exportation of fill to or from the site, and that these works constituted exempt development. The works then ceased, and no further works

were noted. The file was then closed. Cllr Carroll asked that Mr Mullarkey check with the Planning Section in relation to the site being reinstated.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence AMD50

Mr Mullarkey told the members that the Athenry Municipal District Budgetary Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 10.00 in the Council Chamber. He also said that the Part 8 for Cross Street, Athenry could be dealt with after the Budget Meeting.

Cllr Carroll requested an update on the funding announcement by the Minister for Housing and Environment of funding of €1m that was promised last November. He said that it will have a big impact on the Municipal Districts. Mr Mullarkey explained that he has not received official notification from the Department to date in relation to this funding or how the funding will be allocated.

Cllrs Cuddy and Cllr Cronnelly expressed their hope that the funding would be discretionary and that each Municipal District would receive €200,000.

**Cathaoirleach's Business** **AMD51**

Cllr Cronnelly, Cathaoirleach said that he had received a letter from Gerry and Helen Ahern, residents of Athenry, in relation to a derelict house opposite the town park. He said that cracks had recently appeared in the building and he asked that the letter be forwarded to Ms Ruane, Environment Section.

Cllr Herterich Quinn said that she had received representations in relation to this derelict house over the years and asked that the council take action on it.

Cllr Cronnelly said that he had a request from Cllr. Charity to mention a request from Oranmore Football Club for funding from Galway; County Council to help in providing floodlights at its development in Oranmore.

Cllr Carroll said that the club should be supported and that spending on recreation and amenity is low in the county. He said that more facilities were needed in the county. He said the Club in Oranmore was not getting rid of a hockey pitch but are replacing the surface on the astro pitch that was build twenty years ago. He said that Galway Hockey need a new Headquarters and proper facilities.

Cllr Cronnelly said that Renville Park and the pier is a great facility and that it should be fully utilised. Cllr Carroll said that the toilets had been closed but were now reopened. Cllr Cuddy said that the Park is jointly owned by the City and County Councils.

In relation to a query on the updated position at Clarin College, Mr Mitchell said that he had received additional drawings at the end of August and was examining them. He said that the project was proceeding to procurement and that the temporary access would be in place for approximately ten months. He said this was subject to the availability of contractors.

Mr Mitchell said that he welcomed the extra funding received by the Department for Active Travel and Climate change. While it is late in the year to receive funding, it is hoped to complete the works.

In response to a query from Cllr Carroll, Mr Mitchell explained that the funding available to the council would be spent on a priority basis of the drawdown dates set by the Department. He said that the deadline for the Town and Village schemes was June 2021, while the Active and Climate Changes funding must be spent by November 2020. He said that he hopes that an extension would be given but all other counties are facing the same challenges.

Cllr Dolan said that the Strategic Policy Committee for Roads and Transport had a call with Eamon Ryan who is looking for opportunities to invest in the West. He mentioned projects such as the double train tracks for the Oranmore Galway City Route and the installation of a passing loop at Oranmore. The passing loop would cost in the region of 15m to 20m and would be in place quicker than the double track.

Cllr Carroll said that Galway County Council should request Irish Rail to electrify the line between Athenry and Galway City as there is no room for a twin track or a loop. Mr Mitchell explained that an application had been made under URDF to put in a passing loop.

Cllr Herterich Quinn asked that a representative from the NTA be requested to meet with the Municipal District Members following their decision to refuse an application for a hackney licence for Athenry town.

The TII should address the funding for National and Primary Roads as there were projects ongoing on the list for ten years.

Cllr Collins said that there was an issue with the school transport system due to the reduction in capacity to 50%. He asked that the Municipal District write to the Minister for Education, the Minister for Transport and Bus Eireann highlighting the issue of concessionary tickets and the unfair system of choosing who gets a ticket. That Galway County Council request the Ministers and Bus Eireann to provide extra buses to meet the demand and allow children, including children with special needs, to get to school safely.

Cllr. Cronnelly agreed and said that there were a lot of children with special needs particularly affected.

Cllr. Cuddy said that there was only one plot available in Claregalway cemetery and that the council was aware of this issue. He said that the council could do a Compulsory Purchase Order on the lands but had not done so. Cllr. Cronnelly said that he would organise to meet the Senior Executive Engineer from Environment on the matter.

Cllr Cuddy also raised the issue of the Galway City Outer Bypass and said that it needs to go ahead taking the demolition of houses into consideration.

Cllr Heterich Quinn said that she would like to thank the Regeneration Team for their efforts in taking submissions from the Athenry public on street scape scheme at Cross Street, Athenry.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

Approved by:

Gabe Cronnelly  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 10/11/20