

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 5th March 2024.

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Ms Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer,
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer
Ms G. Byrne, Administrative Officer

Cllr Cuddy took the Chair in the absence of Cllr Charity
He welcomed all to the meeting on the Roads Programme 2024.

To consider and adopt the 2024 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District.

AMD 200

Ms Lowe explained that the Total Allocation for GCC on the roads programme 2024 for Regional and Local Roads is €39,926,300 which represents an increase of €600,000 on last year.

The allocation for TII to GCC in respect of National Roads is €17,928,990. The breakdown of this funding is set out in broad headings of National Primary, National Secondary, Greenway and engineering support. The breakdown of the improvements are set out in the report.

The grant funding for Galway County Council for the Regional and Local Roads in 2024 is broken down between improvement works of €34.5m and maintenance works of €5.3m. The report shows a breakdown of this funding.

Ms Lowe also presented the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District.

Funding is available for three bridges in the Athenry MD Area with a total of €225,000. This funding is based on a priority basis and is not proportionate to Municipal Districts.

The Cathaoirleach then invited contributions from the Elected Members. These are summarised as follows:

- The members thanked the roads staff for the work done on the roads programme.
- The R1 funding in Athenry Oranmore area is up €24,000 and this will not cover increased cost of materials.
- The discretionary grants have not increased on last year.
- The R338 is in poor condition. The city did major resurfacing works on the coast road and the county need to do the same on its side. Can an application be made to the Department to get this road done as large volumes of traffic.
- Additional funding is welcome but is not enough to deal with the wear and tear on the roads.
- Climate change funding should be used for repairs to roads as some roads in poor state. Some sections done would fit under climate change funding.
- A lot of work done but flooding is having implications on roads.
- Large volume of traffic on local roads in the area.
- Schedule of works covers lot of areas small roads need more funding and pull in areas need to be put in place as some roads are too narrow for more than one car.
- Additional funding is needed due to the increased cost of materials.
- Lot of roads in poor repair due to the excessive rain in the last few months.
- The N84 is in poor condition.
- There is an issue with potholes on a number of roads.
- Cleaning of gullies is an issue and staff is needed to clear them.
- The council has done a lot of work with water tables, but roads need to be raised in some areas.
- A query was raised as to whether someone would be appointed to liaise with the residents and businesses in relation to the proposed works at Claregalway. Consideration should be given to doing some of this work at nighttime.
- The members said that they hoped that more staff will be made available to the Athenry/Oranmore Area office as the population of the catchment area is now 33,000.

Members queries were responded to as follows by Ms Lowe

- She thanked the staff of the Athenry/Oranmore Area Office and the roads staff working on bridges and piers and harbours for their work on compiling the Roads Progaramme.
- Works on the coast road will continue from the city boundary and there is a sum of €312,000 in the Roads Programme to cover this work.
- There is an Active Travel project for Oranmore which will include a cycleway to the Train Station and works to the Station Road Junction to better facilitate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists.
- The amount of €100,000 in the Active Travel 2024 allocation for Design in Oranmore is for the above project.

- The cycleway and redesign with the station is being funded by the NTA and expected to proceed to planning in Q3 2024. Galway County Council do not have the staff to carry out this design work across multiple major projects simultaneously. Employment of consultants is standard practice and facilitates the council in handling many different projects of significant scale.
- The NTA approved the employment of an additional Executive Engineer for the Active Travel Team.
- GCC will always welcome more staff and additional funding.
- There is €1.6M included for the Athenry Northern Ring Road which is to facilitate its progression to construction on the elbow section.
- Section 3 is the elbow section of the ring road, and it is going to construction shortly. Tender documents are being prepared and are currently 70% to 80% complete. There are two staff dedicated to this project.
- Section 5 is the unconstructed section to the Monivea road. It includes detailed design on the railway overbridge which is being done by Iarnród Éireann. Engagement is ongoing with landowners in respect of land acquisition.
- The underbridge design with Iarnród Éireann is a priority and the Roads Section will update the members as this progresses.
- More funding would be welcome across the county and any extra funding received throughout the year will be spent.
- GCC has a specific severe weather allocation of €420,000 for 2024 and there are allocations for the Coast Road and the Maree Road walls.
- An update will be sought for the members on the N63 Liss/Abbeyknockmoy realignment.
- The maintenance of roads is ongoing due to damage from water and the cleaning of gullies and opening of water tables is a priority at present.
- The Roads staff will continue to do the best that they can within their resources and will endeavour to deal with any issues raised by the members. Investment has been made in acquiring a new Velocity Patcher that will be used throughout the county.
- An update will be given to members on the status of the tender process for Claregalway.

Cllr Cuddy said that there was an issue with littering at Carnmore. Mr Gavin said that he has contacted sign owners in the area and asked them to remove them.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Herterich Quinn **SECONDED** by Cllr Collins the Members **AGREED** to adopt the Annual Schedule of Proposed Works of Maintenance and Repair to be carried out in the Athenry Municipal District 2024.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by


Cathaoirleach
Date: 14/07/2024

