

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 Monday 11th March 2024.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. J. Charity (Cathaoirleach)

Cllr. J. Cuddy

Cllr. S. Herterich Quinn (via teams)

Cllr. A. Dolan

Cllr. D. Collins

Cllr. L. Carroll

OIFIGIGH: Ms J. Brann, A/DoS Community & Rural Dev. & Corporate Services

Mr L. Hanrahan DoS Economic Development & Planning

Ms V. Loughnane, Snr. Planner

Mr B. Dunne, Snr Executive Planner

Mr L. Warde, Assistant Planner

Ms A. Power, Senior Staff Officer

Ms R. Lowe, Senior Engineer,

Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr P. Gavin, Executive Engineer,

Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer

Ms P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms K. Garvey, Executive Engineer

Apologies: Cllr G. Cronnelly

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Herterich Quinn it was agreed that Cllr Cuddy would chair the meeting until the arrival of Cllr Charity who had been delayed. Cllr Carroll thanked the Members for facilitating a change in the date of the Municipal District meeting from Tuesday to Monday. He said that he requested the change as he was part of a delegate representing the Council at the St Patrick's Day Parade in New York.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 9th January 2024. **AMD 201**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 9th January were approved.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 30th January 2024. **AMD 202**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 30th of January were agreed.

It was agreed to take Item No 4 "Notice of Motion Cllr Dolan" next.

Notice of Motion Cllr Dolan **AMD 203**

"I, Albert Dolan Councillor with Athenry Municipal District Council, by way of formal Motion hereby propose, pursuant to Section 18 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the land set out in the Schedule hereto to be zoned with C2 designation and objectives.

The subject property set out in the Schedule is located within the Municipal District of Athenry which requires economic, physical and social renewal for that area which is likely subject to large scale development within the lifetime of the Plan which is proposed for the duration of the most recent County Development Plan and is consistent with the objectives of the Development Plan and consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, particularly having regard to the advent and establishment of Dexcom within the local area.

Also in support of the Application and by way of alleviating any unfounded flooding concerns, I enclose herewith report which has been prepared by Enviroplan Consulting of Ross House, Victoria Place, Eyre Square, Galway, which clearly demonstrates that the subject site is not at risk of flooding and is amenable to development as proposed.

SCHEDULE

Plot B as depicted on the map attached hereto edged in red, situate in the townland of Caherroyn, Athenry, Co. Galway."

The following is the reply:

"The Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030 was formally made by the Elected Members of the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District on the 9th of January 2024. The plan came into effect on the 20th of February 2024. There is a Draft Ministerial Direction on the Athenry Local Area Plan relating to several particular zonings. The land referenced in the motion does not form part of this Draft Direction and as a result this land is zoned Open Space/Recreation and Amenity and is in effect. There is no current case in accordance with the legislation for the Municipal District Member to seek a new zoning as per this motion."

Cllr. Dolan stated that he appreciated the response that he received in relation to his motion on the Athenry Local Area Plan and he queried if there was a mechanism by which Councillors could amend Local Area Plans at any point. He referred to a specific site in Athenry and to a planning application that was currently before An Bord Pleanala (ABP). Ms. Loughnane advised that the Athenry Local Area Plan was agreed at MD Meeting held on 19th January 2024. In relation to planning application that was with ABP, she advised that they have due regard to current County Development Plan (CDP) and ABP would have to decide on flood risk based on documentation that was before them.

She advised the Members that the NPF Report was due to come out in April 2024, but it was her understanding that there wouldn't be revised figures available at this time. She stated that once the revised figures were received and if the revised figures were at variance to figures in the Core Strategy of CDP, they would look at commencing a variation to the CDP.

In response to a query from Cllr. Cuddy regarding the possibility of amending an adopted LAP, Ms. Loughnane advised that the process for the Athenry Local Area Plan was not yet complete. She explained that the Draft Ministerial Direction was currently on public display and that based on any submissions that may be received during this public display period, the Chief Executive must prepare a report for submission to the Minister and OPR. The outcome of this is up to the Minister and until such time as this process is complete it is not possible to consider any amendment to same. She further advised that if the population figures change as a result of NPF Report, then the figures would have to be changed in the CDP firstly and this would follow through to the Local Area Plans thereafter.

Cllr. Carroll queried that at some stage in the future when the Athenry LAP process was completed, can a material alteration be affected at that stage.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn stated that the subject lands being referred to were not included in the lands under the Draft Direction and queried if they this made a difference or not.

Mr. Hanrahan reiterated earlier comments stating that the Minister has not signed off on Athenry LAP 2024-2030 and it was not possible to make changes to the plan as suggested by Members. He further advised that the Core Strategy was under review through the National Population Figures at the moment and when that was completed, the proposed changes would be done through the core strategy.

Mr. Dunne advised that the parcel of land referred to had been dealt with and had been adopted at a previous MD Meeting. He explained that to trigger a material alteration, there had to be inconsistency with the particular zoning and with policy objectives as outlined in section 19(2B) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended). He explained that there had been no inconsistency with zoning and with policy objectives in this instance.

Ms. Loughnane again explained that the LAP process had to be completed in its entirety and if there was a change to national population figures, then the core strategy figures would be changed in CDP and follows through to LAPs thereafter.

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

AMD 204

The Cathaoirleach read the report as follows:

Description:

Tudor Vale, Oranmore, Co. Galway

Section A-B-C-D-E

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction A with the L-4105-0, Station Road, in the townland of Carrowmoneash and extending West for a distance of 196m ending at point

E, all in the townland of Carrowmoneash

Section B-G

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction B with that of Road A-B-C-D-E and extending South for a distance of 39m and ending at G, all in the townland of Carrowmoneash.

Section D-F

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction D with that of Road A-B-C-D-E and extending South for a distance of 48m and ending at F, all in the townland of Carrowmoneash.

Section C-H

Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction C with that of Road A-B-C-D-E and extending North for a distance of 76m and ending at H, all in the townland of Carrowmoneash.

Cllr Carroll said that the roads and infrastructure has done great work in Tudor Vale which is a longstanding estate in Oranmore. He thanked the Residents Association who worked with Kasia and the Roads Section and Derek Pender. He said that it has been a difficult situation for residents for a number of years.

Cllr Cuddy welcomed the taking in charge and thanked Edel Hourigan for her work on the project.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr Dolan the Members AGREED the declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 as outlined in the report.

Update on Active Travel - Oranmore to Train Station

AMD 205

Ms Garvey gave a presentation on the Active Travel -Oranmore to Train Station as follows.

The Project Study Area is along & within the existing Coast Road (R338) corridor over a distance of 1.3km (approximately) between the mini-roundabout north of Oranmore Village to the entrance of the Oranmore Train Station carpark.

Need for the Scheme

- Large numbers of commuters travelling between the Village and Train Station every day (evident from full car park every day) and Irish Rail commuter numbers
- Ongoing plans to upgrade the Train Station will yield an increase in train users and drive the need for greater connectivity and travel alternatives.
- Existing footpaths which provide a walking link are broken in parts, in poor condition and do not meet current specifications.
- No existing cycling infrastructure between Oranmore and Train Station – cyclists may travel on hard shoulder, but this is in poor condition.
- The road is wide in places which lends itself to motorists travelling over the posted speed limit.

SCHEME OBJECTIVES

- To link cyclists and pedestrians safely from Oranmore to the Train Station at Garraun.
- To improve pedestrian and cyclists' safety at Station Road junction.
- To kick-start provision of cycle facilities along Coast Road between Oranmore and Galway City and support delivery of Urban Framework Plan at Garraun by linking it with Oranmore town centre, schools etc.

PROPOSED WORKS

- Upgrade the existing pedestrian footpaths for the entire length of the route.
- Provide a cycle track to enable direct connectivity between Oranmore and the train station at Garraun.
- Upgrade junctions and provide crossing points to provide for better vulnerable user safety along the route.
- Improved connectivity and accessibility with a SAFE 5mins cycling commute from Oranmore to the train station. This in turn will improve comfort of living for the residents of Oranmore.

She said that the standard design was in line with the NTA Approval Guidelines. There are two options, the standard cycle track, or the stepped cycle track. The consultants will carry out an appraisal of the design concepts and available design options in line with Transport Appraisal Framework (TAF) guidance.

The project is at Data Collection Stage, and she also highlighted that Galway Bay is a special area of conservation. The Consultants are currently working on the appraisal of the scheme. It is anticipated that the project will reach stage 4 this year which requires statutory approval.

Information on the project will be put on the Active Travel website and will be circulated to Members.

Cllr Carroll asked when the footpath and cycle way from the railway station to the village will be complete and if consideration was being given to extending the cycleway to join the city council section of road at Roscam. He said that the success of the train station is taking 60,000 cars out of city per annum and Iarnród Éireann will be increasing capacity on the 17.20 train from the city due to the demand. They will be putting in an application for the loop line in 2024. He said that the new car park will be two tier and that the Council has applied for funding for it. He said that it is being addressed as part of URDF Funding. Over 300 houses are being constructed in Oranmore. The cycleways will fit in with bus connects happening in 2025.

Cllr Herterich Quinn thanked the active travel team for the presentation, and she said that the funding provided by the NTA was not sufficient. There are two projects in Athenry awaiting progress and she said that she will be contacting the Minister.

Cllr Dolan thanked Kasia for the presentation and he said that the timelines are a big concern as the framework is holding back on safe route to school schemes in rural villages. He said that funds for Athenry/Oranmore last year have not been expanded.

In relation to the timelines for the project Ms Garvey said that it is anticipated that planning will be in place by end of year. The design phase and tenders will take 3 to 4 months and will be built by 2026.

Cllr Charity took the chair.

Ms Higgins said that construction should be complete by 2026 and the team will provide updates on a regular basis to members.

She said in response to Cllr Herterich Quinn's query that the projects funded in 2020 got to design stage but there are delays on a number of projects. There are currently three engineers working on the projects. Ms Garvey is working on the Oranmore project and will be working on Athenry. A new engineer is being appointed and will be looking at safe routes to school and it is hoped that by end of year good progress can be made. She said that the Oranmore coast road is a top priority and NTA will examine other projects at year end. The Safe route to schools' projects were delayed, seven were announced. The projects will be reviewed by An Taisce and NTA will be making the decisions.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence. AMD 206

There were no items under this heading.

Cathaoirleach's Business. AMD 207

Ms Brann updated the members on Claregalway graveyard. She said that the potential site that was to be developed presented with access issues. However, there is a pre-planning meeting to be scheduled on an alternative potential site in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Dolan requested details of the funding spent to date on the proposed new Claregalway Graveyard.

Cllr Herterich Quinn welcomed funding for a Hydrological Study for Athenry, clarification on storm Debi clean up and details of a temporary plan to secure the coast road.

She welcomed the update on the Part 8 for Market Square Athenry.

Cllr Herterich Quinn said that the granting of planning application for a mast at the Eir depo would have a visual impact on the town.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn

"I propose that Galway County Council write to Eir and request them to raise the wall at their base in cross Street, Athenry where a new mast is being built so as to minimise the visual impact of the mast on the streetscape of the street.

High quality natural stone would need to be used to remain in keeping with the attractive, durable and long-lasting public realm."

On the proposal of Cllr Herterich Quinn seconded by Cllr Dolan the motion was agreed.

Cllr Collins welcomed the update on the Graveyard at Claregalway.

He said that the works at Briarhill bus lane has led to serious traffic congestion. The NTA gave a presentation at a plenary meeting on proposed park and ride facilities in Knockdoe and Carnmore. There has been no progress on this in the last 18 months. A park and ride facility should be put in place at the airport site at Carnmore. Talks should be commenced with landowners in Knockdoe in relation to available land, but he said he was not aware that any landowners have been approached to date.

The following proposal was made by Cllr Collins

"Galway County Council request that the NTA representative responsible for Park and Ride would be invited to update this Municipal District at our next meeting on their plans for Park and Ride at Carnmore and Knockdoe and Headford Road as presented to us previously at Pleanary."

On the proposal of Cllr Collins seconded by Cllr Dolan the motion was agreed.

Mr Whelan said that in relation to the clean-up of the coast road that the Hydrological study is due and Kelly blocks will be put in place as a temporary measure along the knocked wall section.

Ms Lowe said that funding was allocated under a severe weather grant to help address the wall repair at coast road. She said that Mr. Gallagher is examining the hydrological aspect and every effort will be made to expedite the works. She clarified that the €108,000 announced by the Minister for OPW is separate funding.

Cllr Carroll said that there is a problem with littering on roads leading into Galway City on the coast road and on the N67 dual Carriageway. He said that he was appealing to the public to bring their litter home and be more responsible.

In response to a query from Cllr Carroll Mr. Whelan said that he would liaise with him in relation to dog fouling in Oranmore village as highlighted by a constituent. He said that bag dispensing stations could be considered in the area. Cllr Hertrige Quinn asked if extra cleaning could be put in place.

In reply to a query from Cllr Cuddy Mr. Whelan said that the project for the pedestrian crossing in Oranmore was being submitted to NDA this week. The project is being managed by GCC Active travel team.

In reply to a query on potholes on the link road for Roscam road to Tinkers lane Mr Whelan said that he would examine same.

Any other business (AOB).

AMD 208

Cllr Carroll said that as Cathaoirleach he attended the sad funeral of Saoirse Ruane. He said that she was an impressive young person of 12 years and an inspiration to the county. He said that he wanted to send his condolences to the family and that a book of condolences was open in Aras an Chontae.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

Jones (Chair)
Cathaoirleach

Date: 14/5/2024