

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Ceanatar 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 11th November 2025.

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr. C. Keane (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. P. Feeney (via teams)

Cllr. D. Collins (via teams)
Cllr M. McNamara
Cllr J. Charity,
Cllr T. Grealish

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Mr. D. Troy, S.E.
Mr. B. Mostert
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Ms. G. Cooley, C.O.

LEITHSCÉALTA: Cllr. S. Broderick

To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 9th September 2025. AMD 74

On the proposal of Cllr. Grealish, Seconded by Cllr. Feeney the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 9th September 2025 were approved.

To confirm Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 14th October 2025. AMD 75

On the proposal of Cllr. Charity, Seconded by Cllr. Grealish the minutes of the Athenry MD Budget meeting held on the 14th October 2025 were approved.

Presentation on the Athenry Town Centre Plan- Brent Mostert. AMD 76

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Mostert and invited him to make a presentation on the Athenry Town Centre Plan.

Mr Mostert said that the Town Centre First Plan has been completed and has been issued to the Town Team and publishers. He said that the official launch will take place in early 2026.

The Athenry Community, through the Town Team, includes 10 priority projects in the Plan as follows;

- 1 Athenry – Irelands Living Medieval Town – Implementing a Marketing and Branding strategy for Athenry – to promote the town as a boutique heritage destination.
- 2 Athenry's Heritage Trail – creating a connected heritage trail network linking Athenry's medieval landmarks.
- 3 Town Wall Walk – creating a cycle and pedestrian route around the medieval walls to celebrate this heritage asset and to improve connectivity between schools and the heart of the town. Landowners are largely positive about this project.
- 4 Enhancing Athenry's Heritage Event Spaces – to promote events in the Heritage Centre and to expand use of the site and physically and visually connect it to market square. Landowners are to be approached at this location.
- 5 Enhancing the quality of the Public Spaces – Phase 2 of the Public Realm Enhancement Project. Following the successful funding application for the construction of Phase 1, community engagement for Phase 2 will commence.
- 6 Athenry Town Park Masterplan and implementation - upgrade amenities at this location to include facilities for teenagers and to better integrate the park within the broader context of the Abbey, the Castle and the river.
- 7 River Clarin Walkway and biodiversity enhancement - project to enhance public access of the river environment.
- 8 Library and Community Facility – Upgrade the library at existing site to allow the entire community to make use of the full range of activities and uses on offer at contemporary libraries.

- 9 Parking - provide off street parking around the town centre and consider the inclusion of a coach drop off area close to the heart of the town.
- 10 Outdoor and Community amenity facilities - Council to assist in or facilitate the acquisition of privately owned green open spaces to develop as outdoor amenity areas for the community.

The Cathaoirleach invited comments from the Members.

The Members welcomed the presentation and the extra funding for the long-term plan. They acknowledged the work done by the team and the strong co-operation with local groups.

Cllr Feeney queried if the signage was linked to the Public Realm. He said that the heritage center in Athenry was the most successful in the county and is run by the local Heritage company. It attracts a lot of visitors and is a great asset to the town. He acknowledged the local effort that has gone into it.

In relation to the park, Cllr Feeney said that this was developed by the local community group. It is a great resource in summer and further development is welcome.

Cllr Collins welcomed the proposed plan and funding of €6m. He welcomed the consultation process with businesses and community. He also acknowledged the role of Cllr Feeney.

In reply to a query from Cllr Feeney on insurance Mr. Mostert said that the council have received insurance cover for skateparks.

In reply to a query on signage Mr. Mostert said that funding for wayfinding strategy covers the design for signage. He said that he will examine the funding source for construction of the signage.

Mr. Hanrahan thanked Mr. Mostert and the team and said that there had been very good engagement in the various town schemes and Clifden is getting approval to continue with its plan. He said that staff from The Heritage Office is meeting with the Department next week and will highlight the interest in the town walls.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence. AMD 77

Mr. Hanrahan said that the ring road at Athenry is progressing. There is significant work done at the Elbow section.

In relation to housing works have been carried out at the site for social and affordable housing in Claregalway.

The work to facilitate the underpass at Oranmore train station is completed and the station was closed for a period to facilitate these works. The Council will be meeting the Department shortly on the proposed design of the car park and funding for the eco park.

There is an application with an Bord Pleanala for a gas /turbine from an Bord Gais. The Council planners will be preparing a report on this. A presentation will be made to MD members who can make comments to be included in the appendix and then a presentation will be made to full Council members.

There is an energy application for 8 turbines at Attymon and there is a new process for energy applications called RED 3. There is an extension requested for the solar wind farm at Cregmore. There are no applications yet for Monivea or other locations in the MD.

In reply to a query from Cllr. McNamara, Mr. Hanrahan advised that staff from the Roads Directorate will be meeting with Irish Rail and will bring up the issues of Caherroyan bridge, and the bridge at Kilkellys road. The Minister has been written to regarding the clarification on energy developments, but no feedback has been received to date and no change has been made to the regulations.

Mr. Troy gave an update on the 2025 roadworks programme and said that they are 90-95% complete. He clarified that there is a report due in relation to the storm damage repairs to the Coast Road Oranmore.

In relation to the Caherroyn bridge, he said that Mr. Gavin has highlighted issues regarding the vehicle speed and lighting on the bridge.

Cllr. Feeney added that when the bridge was altered a number of years ago, the abutments were constructed on the wrong side. Cllr. Feeney also raised the issue of the bridge at Ballydavid, and whether the bridge at Ballyglunnin would be reconstructed again as an allowance had been provided for construction of same.

In reply to a query from Cllr McNamara on the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Caherroyn road, Mr. Troy said that he will examine the options.

Cllr Collins said that he attended an electricity and water workshop with Uisce Eireann and he raised the requirement for backup generators for the water plants. He said that an overview was discussed on the provision of generators and asked if the Council had received an update on this.

Mr. Troy said that the provision of generators was being discussed nationally following the storm and would provide an update for the Members, when available.

Cllr Collins said that there was a joint CPG meeting on the bus corridor from Claregalway to Castlegar attended by the Director of Service from City and County. The NTA are to deliver a project, and the Members would like an update on this. He said that Minister Canney is in contact with the NTA on this matter.

Cllr Charity acknowledged works that are completed. He said that works at Clonboo crossing didn't proceed as proposed. He asked that it be prioritised by the NRPO office in 2026.

Cllr Charity said that issues were arising with potholes due to bad weather.

He said that there have been two accidents on the N84 in the last two weeks at the Ballindooley junction. He said that he understood that the upgrade for N84 was at consultation stage with the NRPO and asked for an update from them.

Cllr Charity also requested an update on works at Claregalway.

Cllr. Charity said there was extensive dumping near the Claregalway Abbey, which was cleared up by the locals, but requested that the Environment section would get the message out that this dumping will not be tolerated, and would like CCTV to be put in place in Claregalway at this site

Mr. Hanrahan said that there was an e-mail circulated on Claregalway to members. He said that an up-to-date timeline will be available when the tender is due.

He said in relation to the query from Cllr McNamara on to hubs required for the County that Athenry is identified as an important and strategic base. He said that provisions should be made for all major towns. Mr. Hanrahan said that Mr. Finn and his team are working on the plan. Nationally Local Authorities have been asked to identify hubs community centers, churches etc. for potential hubs. The hubs will require water, showers and ability to plug in backup generators.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

AMD 78

There was no item under this heading

Any other business (AOB).

AMD 79

Next meeting 13th January 2026 at 2.00.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

Cillian Keane .
Cathaoirleach

Date: 13/1/26

