

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 14th November, 2023.

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr A. Farrell, A/DoS, Community & Rural Development & Corporate Services,
Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS, Economic Development & Planning
Ms V. Loughnane, Senior Planner
Mr B. Dunne, Senior Executive Planner
Mr L. Ward, Assistant Planner
Ms. A. Power, Senior Staff officer
Ms Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer,
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 12th September 2023.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District the meeting held on the 12th September 2023 were AGREED.

Matters arising.

In response to a query in relation to the junction at Corbally Mr. Whelan said that a count is being organized to provide information for the TII in relation to the number of vehicles turning right at the junction. The results of this count will help to determine the next step.

Cllr Collins requested an update on the application submitted to the O.P.W. on Claregalway.

To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Area Plan meeting held on the 19th September 2023.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Herterich Quinn, SECONDED by Cllr Cronnelly the minutes of the Athenry Area Plan meeting held on the 19th September 2023 were agreed with amendments.

Notice of Motion: Cllr Albert Dolan

"I, Cllr. Albert Dolan propose that the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal district prepare new draft car parking bye laws for the town of Athenry for the consideration by the members.

Context: Since the installation of the new parking meters in the town and an increased enforcement presence many constituents in the town of Athenry have reached out to me explaining the frustration it is causing to have to pay for parking for very short visits and it is my opinion that this paying for short visits is a deterrent to people doing their quick shops in the town for fear of being penalised.

In the new draft bye-laws I believe we should take inspiration from the success of the Westport model whereby people have a free period of either 30 mins or 1 hour but this is well enforced at the same time and so people don't abuse the free period.

I believe this will stimulate economic activity in the heart of the town and will lead to higher footfall."

The following is the reply;

"The current contract with Systra transportation planners provides for a revision of the Traffic Management Plan for Athenry. The bye-laws can be considered at this time.

The current arrangement in Athenry provides for parking for as little as 20c and also now facilitates card payment."

In response to a query from Cllr Dolan, Mr Farrell said that the parking by-laws are not written by the Contractor.

Notice of Motion: Cllr Albert Dolan

I, Cllr. Albert Dolan, propose that the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal district writes to Eir calling on them to remove the derelict and broken telephone booths in the town of Athenry and replace them with the modern telephone and information booths as they have done in the city and around the country.

The following is the reply;

"Galway County Council sent this motion to Eir."

Cllr Dolan said that the phone boxes in the town were unsightly and needed to be removed.

Notice of Motion: Cllr Albert Dolan

"I, Cllr. Albert Dolan, propose that the Athenry Oranmore municipal district investigate the possibility of installing ramps on the inner lane of Monivea village in front of the shops and houses so as to reduce speed of cars which travel here."

Context - Monivea Community Council has prepared a document with a list of objectives it wishes to work on with the council. One objective is speed ramps along by the shop fronts and houses on the inner road of the village."

The following is the reply:

This can be considered by the Area Office in the context of urban road design guidelines and specifications.

Notice of Motion: Cllr Shelley Herterich Quinn

"I propose that we retain the triall of free parking in the Back Lawn Car Park, Athenry for another year."

The following is the reply:

"Galway County Council will provide free parking for 2024. As stated in respect of Notice of Motion 2023 a review has been undertaken and charges will commence, as is the case throughout the County, in January 2025".

Cllr Herterich Quinn welcomed the decision of free parking in the Backlawn Car park for 2024.

Cllr Herterich Quinn requested that a reminder system be put in place for residents in the town of Athenry in relation to on street parking permits. She said that the fee was very low and would be in favour of an increase in same. In response to the query Ms Lowe said that there was a limit to the amount of follow up that the Council could provide on the matter. There is enforcement in place and the Wardens take a reasonable approach on fines.

Cllr Cronnelly highlighted that the cost of a permit for a disabled space is €28 for two years and he said that he would like to see the number of fines issued for persons parking illegally in the disabled spaces in the town. Ms Lowe said that the fine for parking in a disabled space was €150.00 and it increased to €225 if not paid within 28 days. She said that these fees are now fixed nationally.

Cllr. Dolan spoke on his Notice of Motion re car parking fees and confirmed that it was the parking byelaws and corresponding P&D fees more so than the traffic management byelaws which were the nub of his motion, whereas the reply focused more on traffic management. Ms. Lowe said that she would endeavour to get a response on whether a review of the carparking byelaws was proposed.

In response to a query on the concerts that have been announced for Galway Airport Mr Farrell said that discussions had taken with MCD and that there was a provisional agreement for up to 10 concerts. He said that discussions took place with the executive of Galway City Council in relation to the proposals. As the proposed number of attendees is less than 5,000, a licence is not required under the planning legislation. Mr Farrell advised that a meeting of the relevant agencies that normally assist with events/concerts had been held and that this includes senior planners, Gardai, HSE, Roads section GCC. He said that the dates do not coincide with other festivals and the residents of the area will be taken into account. There will be another meeting of the group in January 2024.

Cllr Collins said that he spoke on the radio and that he recommended that the Executive meet with MCD. He said that he had spoken to City Council Members, and it was agreed that the site should be used. He said that he hoped the members would support it.

In relation to a query on the Athenry Area Plan Mr Farrell said that planning would clarify the dates for the next stages and the OPR submission.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins on an update on the safe routes to school for Crumlin, Carnaun and Corandulla Ms Lowe confirmed that they were included in the programme.

In reply to a query on funding available to deal with the damage of the recent storm Ms Lowe said that a submission for clean-up costs will be prepared and also a submission for the more extensive costs.

In reply to a query on speed limits Ms Lowe said that while the Council awaits a change in national legislation on speed limits (expected mid 2024) there is still work ongoing in relation to the speed limit review and Mr Prendergast continues to arrange traffic counts and review locations where amendments have been proposed, particularly in relation to schools. She advised that the members can still reach out to Mr Prendergast.

The members highlighted the poor condition of the footpaths at Monivea village to Ard Aoibhinn and said that the footpaths need to be sprayed. The drains between Monivea village and Glenasol need to be cleaned.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

Mr Farrell said that the planned presentation by Ms Ryan, Climate Change co-ordinator will not be taking place at this meeting but there will be a separate briefing for Members.

Mr Farrell said that a date has to be decided for the Part 8 for the Public Realm for Athenry. He suggested that this item be put on the agenda on the 9th January, 2023 so that a date can be agreed. Mr Farrell advised that it was critical that the planning process had been completed as it is a requirement of the Category 1 call under RRDF for the delivery of the public realm project and the closing date for applications is the 8th February 2024.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

In relation to a query on the Graveyard at Cregboy Mr Farrell said that he will request an update from the DoS Environment.

In reply to a query on the appointment of a Traffic Warden for Claregalway, Mr Farrell said that a provision for funding had to be considered in the overall budget.

The members complimented all involved in the clean up after storm Debi. A lot of damage was done in the county with high expenditure needed to deal with the damage. Minister Patrick O Donovan visited Clarenbridge where businesses looked for assurance if they went back in business that this could not happen again.

Any other business (AOB).

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Approved by:

James Hayes
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 30/1/2024

