

**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 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.**

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Conneally, Chief Executive,  
Mr A. Farrell, DoS ERCD & Athenry MD  
Mr. S. Whelan, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. C. Wynn, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. J.P. O Carroll, Senior Ex. Technician  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then acknowledged the presence of Mr. Adrian Furey, General Manager, Dexcom, Mr. Mark Gill, Dexcom Ireland and Mr. Ricky Conneely IDA West Regional Manager following a recent announcement by Dexcom on their intention to develop a permanent headquarter on the IDA lands at Newford Athenry, saying that the announcement was a huge boost for the MD and region.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.** **AMD 159**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Dolan, SECONDED by Cllr. Cronnelly the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023 were AGREED.

**Matters arising**

Cllr. Charity expressed his frustration at the ongoing lack of communication from the TII regarding his query on active travel funding for Ballindooley and Cloonbooy. Mr. Whelan said he would contact NRPO regarding this issue,

Cllr. Herterich Quinn asked if the safety works at the junction of Bridge St. and Court Lane would be delayed due to publication of the Local Area Plan.

Mr. Whelan advised that he met with the NTA to confirm the larger plans be put in place. The smaller schemes would then be run in conjunction with the plan, and a tender would be run for these works.

**To confirm Minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** AMD 160

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Collins, SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were AGREED.

**To consider and approve Part VIII for Multi-purpose Community and Enterprise Facility at Athenry.** AMD 161

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that the Chief Executive's report on the Part VIII had been circulated to the Members for their consideration with a recommendation to grant subject to a number of conditions. Mr. J.P. O Carroll made a brief presentation on the proposed multi-purpose community and enterprise facility in Athenry, as per the Part VIII planning documentation and presented some visuals of the property.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Cronnelly and SECONDED by Cllr. Dolan and on the AGREEMENT of the Members the Part 8 for the Multi-purpose Community and Enterprise Facility at Athenry was approved.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged that Mr Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council had joined the meeting and said he was delighted to welcome him to the Athenry MD meeting.

Mr. Farrell welcomed the decision of the Members to approve the Part VIII and said that it was an important step in bringing a building that was vacant for over 12 years back into use with an immediate use for same. He said that the building in question was purchased using funds from the town and village renewal scheme for vacant properties with the intention of it contributing to the overall regeneration objectives for Athenry by providing enterprise space for job creation and economic activity in the town center, as well as community benefits.

Mr Farrell advised the Members that as part of the work with the IDA in relation to securing the investment by Dexcom, it had been agreed, subject to the ultimate approval of the Members of the Council by way of a Section 183 Notice, that the building will be used by Dexcom as office space in Athenry while the larger project is being progressed at Newford. He advised that work was continuing with Dexcom and the legal teams in relation to progressing the terms of agreements, and that it was anticipated that the S183 Notice to lease the premises to Dexcom for a period of up to 3 years would be brought to the Members for their consideration and approval during the summer.

The Members welcomed the update and the recent announcement by Dexcom on their decision to locate in Athenry. They thanked Mr. Alan Farrell, Mr. Jim Cullen and the wider Council team for the role they played to date in securing the investment by Dexcom, stating that it was fantastic from an economic development and job creation perspective. All the Members said that the proposed location of the major investment is very strategic and can be easily accessed by the motorway and railway, and said they were delighted to see that the Dexcom senior team would have a presence in the town while planning and other matters were being progressed. The Members said that it was great to see such commitment by Dexcom and that they hoped Dexcom would be a catalyst for more investment by companies in the County and that their investment would result in the delivery of other essential infrastructure including housing. They said they were looking forward to working with Mr Conneally and Mr Farrell in the delivery of this and more exciting projects in the Municipal District and wider county.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the proposed Community facility and said he hoped the wider community of Athenry would be engaged in the development. He suggested bringing other stakeholders in order to maximise the opportunities for the development of lands in the Strategic Economic Corridor in Athenry and Oranmore, that stakeholders such as Irish Rail should be brought on board.

The Chief Executive said he welcome the comments of the Members and advised that he intended that role of the Municipal Districts would become more important and resourced further in coming years and acknowledged the work done by Mr. Farrell, the Cathaoirleach and the Members.

Mr. Conneely said that he was delighted to welcome representatives from Dexcom and the IDA and was aware that a stakeholders meeting would be held in the coming week to meet with the wider Athenry community which he said was important. He said that the passing of the Part VIII proposal is important and that the work undertaken to acquire and develop the facility will allow companies such as Dexcom and others in the future, to have an office to set themselves up in the area while greater plans are progressed. The presence of Dexcom has regional, national, and international significance and shows Athenry MD in a positive light and highlights that the county is open for business. It is anticipated that this will encourage future development in the County.

The Cathaoirleach suggested to the Members that given the significance of the investment by Dexcom that Mr. Furey could address the meeting if he wished. The Members agreed.

Mr. A Furey, Dexcom then addressed the Members of the MD meeting. He thanked them for allowing him to attend the meeting and the Council for providing the proposed multi-purpose community and enterprise facility to Dexcom. He said that this would be their base for the next few years. He added that the announcing of the €300m investment in Athenry was a great day for the town and the wider region. He said that the announcement the previous week was very significant for Athenry and the West of Ireland and thanked the Council for enabling the use of the building in the town, stating it was important that they secured office space in the town so they were part of the community. He acknowledged the role Mr. Farrell,

Mr. Conneely and the IDA played in enabling the work to date and said he looked forward to continuing good working relationships with the Council.

**Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.**

**AMD 162**

There were no items under this heading

**Cathaoirleach's Business.**

**AMD163**

In reply to a query from Cllr. Cuddy regarding the safety at McHughs pub on the N83, Mr. Whelan advised that he will investigate the matter on receipt of further information from Cllr Cuddy.

Mr. Whelan told Cllr. Collins that CCTV surveys will be carried to investigate any blockages in the pipeline at Coolarne that may be causing flooding at this location.

In reply to a query by Cllr Cronnelly Mr. Whelan advised that Coffey Construction had contacted all businesspeople affected by road closures in Athenry town, in advance of works taking place.

In reply to queries from Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Whelan said that works will be finalized on the gap in the footpath at Glenaslat.

In reply to a query from Cllr Dolan in relation to a parcel of land at Belville from Mr Whelan said that he will investigate the matter on receipt of further details from Cllr Dolan.

Mr Whelan said that the works as Monivea pedestrian crossing are going to tender.

Cllr. Collins recommended keeping certain items such as housing, infrastructure, school spaces etc. on the agenda for discussions at MD level to allow for progression of upcoming developments, and this was agreed by Cllr. Carroll.

In response to a query by the Cathaoirleach Mr Whelan said that he would investigate the flooding at the railway bridge on the R348 on the Derrydonnell Athenry road.

Cllr Collins said that he welcomed the investment by Dexcom and said that it was important that their investment was built on. He queried if the Council was working to ensure that there would be adequate housing and if the Council had further plans in terms of development of the Athenry and the wider MD.

Mr. Farrell said that the County Development Plan provided the foundation for the development of the county and that the Local Area Plan for Athenry was due to be published in the coming weeks. The LAP will include land zonings for various uses including residential, commercial, town center, community facilities, business & technology etc. He said that the Council were also progressing the Local Transport Plan alongside the LAP and that Planning, Infrastructure and Operation and the Regeneration Team were coordinating to ensure that the active travel schemes, safe routes to school, public realm schemes etc would facilitate the

development of the town. He advised the Members that while the news relating to Dexcom locating in Athenry was important for the town, it was a regionally important project and highlighted that the Council continue to work with the IDA in delivering on the Strategic Economic Corridor from Galway to Athenry including the IDA lands at Oranmore, as well other towns around the county to facilitate investment and job creation.

Cllr. Charity acknowledged the presentation made on behalf of the CES, Tus etc. and PROPOSED recommendations be sent by the MD to the Department of Social Protection regarding the issues raised. This was SECONDED by Cllr. Collins.

**The following proposal was made by Cllr Dolan.**

*"I Cllr. Albert Dolan propose that Galway County Council investigate the Possibility of purchasing the vacant site opposite the Athenry Playground for the Purpose of constructing a Tourist Information Office."*

The Proposal was made by Cllr Dolan, SECONDED by Cllr Herterich Quinn and AGREED by the Member.

**The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn**

*"I would like to propose that Galway County Council look for funding to purchase additional properties for civic and community use in Athenry given the obvious need for hubs in our county town."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn, SECONDED by Cllr Dolan and AGREED by the Members.

Cllr. Cuddy added that a playground is needed in Claregalway and Mr. Farrell said he would raise this issue with Corporate Services.

**Notice of Motion: Cllr Herterich Quinn**

**AMD 164**

Cllr. Herterich acknowledged receipt of reply on her notice of motion.

**A.O.B.**

**AMD 165**

It was agreed that the Athenry MD Annual General Meeting would be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 at 2.00.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by

ieran Carroll

Cathaoirleach

Date: 6/6/2023