

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 the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

I LATHAIR:

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

OIFIGIGH: Mr. G. Mullarkey, Director of Service  
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer,  
Ms. P. Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr P. Gavin, Executive Engineer  
Ms. F. Holland, Senior Engineer  
Ms. M. Jordan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. G. Cooley, Asst. Staff Officer

Apologies Cllr D. Collins

To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020.

AMD 52

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Herterich Quinn SECONDED by Cllr. Dolan the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were AGREED.

**Matters Arising**

Cllr. Carroll asked if there was any further update from the planning section regarding the unauthorised development at Carrowmoneash, Oranmore. Mr. Mullarkey replied that no further works have taken place at this site, and any previous works were exempt.

Cllr. Carroll also requested that the minutes be amended to read that "there is not room in Oranmore for both a twin track and a loop".

The following proposal was made by Cllr. Carroll :

*"I, Cllr Liam Carroll, a member of the Municipal District of Athenry, propose that Galway County Council write to and request that Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister of Transport and Minister of State Hildegarde Naughton T. D. make a detailed submission to Government for the construction of a train track on the railway line between Athenry and Galway incorporating a 2<sup>nd</sup> platform at Oranmore Rail Station together with additional car parking facilities, under the provisions of the new 10 year national development plan for capital spending up to 2030 which plan is due to be published in the Summer of 2021. This submission should also include the electrification of the route under a requirement that all Ministers memos to cabinet due by January 2021 must include a climate impact assessment, with the new plan having a heavy emphasis on the effects of spatial developments on carbon emissions."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr. Cronnelly and agreed

Cllr. Herterich Quinn advised the MD members, that following the last meeting, a hackney license was granted to a local person in Athenry.

To confirm minutes of the Athenry Budget Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2020.

ADM 53

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll SECONDED by Cllr. Herterich Quinn the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 21st October, 2020 were AGREED

Cllr. Cuddy said he did not receive the e-mail that was sent notifying the members of the budget meeting, and as a result did not attend. Cllr. Cuddy said that this had also happened previously.

Mr. Mullarkey advised that there was a misprint on the circulated budget minutes, and it should read A0101 rather than E0101.

It was agreed to take Item No 6 next.

Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws No. 1-2020 (Housing Estates Slow Zones.)

ADM 54

Ms F. Holland explained that the Draft Bye-laws had been notified to the Gardai Siochana. She said that they related to a 30km/h speed limit for mechanically propelled vehicles on the roads as follows;

- the estates in Bhaile Chlair: - Summerfield, River Oaks
- the estate in Gort – Burren View
- the estate in Portumna – Cois an Eolais.

Ms Holland said that the Draft Byelaws would be advertised for public consultation which will allow for submissions. Following completion of the public consultation the council will review submissions and the bye laws will go to full council for adoption.

In response to a query by Cllr. Charity on the flooding issue on the N83 Claregalway, Mr Mitchell said that an application had been made for funding to the TII and that he would provide an update at the next meeting.

**Municipal District Directors Business and Correspondence**

**ADM 55**

Mr Mullarkey explained that the Council had received an acknowledgement from the Department of Education in relation to a letter sent to the Minister on behalf of the Athenry Municipal District Committee.

**Notice of Motion No. 1 Cllr Herterich Quinn**

**ADM 56**

Cllr Herterich Quinn stated that she was satisfied with the reply.

**Notice of Motion No. 2 Cllr Herterich Quinn**

**ADM 57**

Cllr Carroll noted the motion and proposed the following motion:

*"I, Cllr Liam Carroll propose that Galway County Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan TD Minister of Transport and Minister of State Hildegarde Naughton TD, requesting that the Department of Transport provide sufficient funding to Galway County Council in support of the introduction and implementation of a new "Safe Routes to School Initiative" for Oranmore. This funding is required to enable Galway County Council to engage in a comprehensive consultation process with the communities of Oranmore and surrounding areas while financial resources will also be required to implement improvements to Oranmore's walking and cycling infrastructure and to enhance safe and sustainable access onto the school grounds of the four schools in the community."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy and AGREED

Cllr Herterich Quinn said that a body of work had already been done and that she would welcome the request for funding.

Mr Mitchell explained that the walking bus phase is proceeding and will be managed and implemented by the schools and parents. He said that there was a local agreement that commercial car parks would facilitate parking. The council had placed bollards along the access road to the schools as cars were parking on the footpaths. He said that the uptake of the scheme will be monitored to see if it results in a reduction in traffic. Then consideration can be given to the next phase which would include closing the access road to the school. Consideration would need to be given to the management of any road closure. He also explained that there would not be any road closures without extensive consultation. Mr. Mitchell recommended waiting 6 months before going into the next phase.

Cllr Herrterich Quinn said that the active travel should be considered as there are over two hundred new houses in Oranmore.

In response to a query by Cllr Charity that a traffic management plan is needed for Oranmore , Mr Mitchell said that there was a need for the plans all over the county but the Council did not have the funding available. Cllr Charity asked that an application be made under the Active Travel or Climate Schemes for funding for Traffic Management Plans.

Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council have sought funding for the preparation of traffic management plans in the county, but it may be possible to seek it under the Active Funding Scheme if the scheme is available next year.

Cllr Cronnelly requested that the Council arrange traffic counters for the area to provide the necessary information which can then be analysed.

#### Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993

ADM 58

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Report, including map, which had been circulated to the Members and he read the Report to the meeting, as follows:

Municipal District: Athenry:

##### Description

Road commencing at junction with N84 (132404,239708) in the townland of Cor an Dola and extending East for a distance of 65m in the townland of Cor an Dola and finishing at (132469,239699) in the townland of Cor an Dola.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr Charity, SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy, the Members AGREED the Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, as outlined in the Report

#### Cathaoirleach's Business

ADM 59

The following proposal was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn

*"That Galway County Council continue the trial free parking in the Backlawn Car Park in Athenry for another year.*

*It is now widely considered to be a success having freed up on-street parking outside local businesses. As the economy of many businesses has been decimated since the arrival of Coronavirus and the government-imposed restrictions, ensuring the on-street parking spaces outside local shops are available is more important than ever."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Herterich Quinn, SECONDED by Cllr Cronnelly and AGREED.

Mr. Mitchell advised the members that this decision would influence the funding for the Municipal District. He said that there would be implications for other Municipal Districts also. Mr Mullarkey said that a case has been made to the Department for extra funding due to Covid-19.

The following proposal was made by Cllr. Cllr Charity

*"I propose that the Athenry-Oranmore MD apply to the Department of Transport for funding under any further Active Travel Scheme or Government Schemes as available to provide for extension of the footpath between Annaghdown National School and Annaghdown Cemetery and at the T-junction leading to Annaghdown National School for a distance of 100m."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Charity, SECONDED by Cllr Cuddy and AGREED

#### Any Other Business

ADM 60

The following proposal was made by Cllr. Cuddy

*"I propose that Senior Engineers from Galway County Council visit the Lakeview Rd. Claregalway at the first available opportunity to see the very serious and dangerous situation that unfolds there on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays as the children from the secondary school in particular leave the school to go home. I am suggesting that such a visit should take place between 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p. m. There is concern that a serious accident is just waiting to happen and remedial action needs to be taken as a matter of urgency. The volume of traffic is also impacting severely on the local community."*

The PROPOSAL was made by Cllr Cuddy, SECONDED by Cllr Cronnelly and AGREED.

Cllr. Cuddy advised the MD members that the traffic situation was extremely dangerous at the moment outside the new Claregalway school at approximately three to four p.m. when the school day finishes. There are cars parking on the footpaths and the local GAA is currently providing car parking space for the school. He said the road is very narrow and that the footpath needs to be extended.

Mr. Mitchell advised that as part of the planning permission the school had to take parking into account. However, he is prepared to examine the issue. He said a lot of the problem is down to driver behavior and it is the role of the school to manage the parking.

Cllr. Carroll asked if funding had been made available to the Athenry MD area due to road reclassification and in particular the National road between Oranmore and Craughwell, where works are being carried out.

Mr Mitchell said that the introduction of the motorway led to funding being given by the Department for reclassified roads – the former N6, now the R446. In relation to the section between Oranmore and Carughwell, reinstatement works will be carried out as part of the works recently completed by Irish Water.

Cllr. Cronnelly requested that some traffic calming measures be put in place outside Coldwood National School. Ms. Paula Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer advised that she is meeting with the Board of Management at Coldwood School to discuss the matter.

Cllr. Cuddy said that the works done at Rouanmore Cross only made the junction more dangerous. Ms. Higgins advised that the works carried out there were done by the TII and she would look for feedback on an audit done at that location. Mr. Mitchell said that the works were carried out in line with the TII design criteria.

Cllr. Cuddy asked if roads in the Gaeltacht area of the MD received funding from the Department. Mr. Mitchell replied that these grants are no longer in existence.

In response to a query by Cllr. Cuddy on the provision of bicycle racks in Oranmore, Ms. Higgins advised that locations and pricing are currently being examined

Cllr. Charity said that due to the high volume of traffic created by the motorway through the village of Lackagh, the residents there are looking for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Flynn's shop and the Church. He said that he recently visited the new walkway constructed in Lackagh and stated that he would like to see lighting installed at the location.

Cllr. Carroll requested that a message be given from the Members of the MD to the public to shop local and he asked that Cllr. Charity, as Galway County Council Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Cronnelly as MD Cathaoirleach, encourage this initiative. Cllr. Charity said he is in discussions with the County Secretary with a view to progressing the matter.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by:

Gáel Cronnelly  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE 2/3/21