

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

I LATHAIR:

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

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

Cllr. Cronnelly, Cathaoirleach of Athenry Municipal District Council, welcomed all present at the meeting and in particular the new Director of Services for the Athenry Municipal District Mr. Mullarkey and the Meetings Administrator, Ms. Jordan.

**To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.** AMD43

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Carroll, SECONDED by Cllr. Cuddy the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 were AGREED.

**To confirm minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020.** AMD44

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Collins, SECONDED by Cllr. Dolan, the minutes of the Athenry Municipal District Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 were AGREED.

**Notice of Motion – Cllr. Herterich Quinn.**

**AMD45**

**Cllr. Herterich Quinn submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

*"That Galway County Council would permit two parking spaces be selected from each of the Council public parking stock in Oranmore Village and at Renville to be used to trial EV (150kW) fast charging to facilitate Domestic Drive Tourism for EV users. Currently there is only one public EV (22kW) charging unit in Oranmore located outside of the Village at Oranmore Train Station.*

*I would further like to propose that Galway County Council take whatever steps necessary to facilitate third parties on the installation and maintenance of these charging points in whatever manner required in order to promote the immediate economic recovery of our towns and villages through Domestic Drive Tourism. Several grants have been made available through the Government and the SEAL in the past year which Galway County Council could apply for in facilitating a third party to set up.*

*In light of the effects of the Coronavirus on our Country, the need to facilitate the domestic EV traveller has never been more important. There is a particular deficit of EV Fast Charging Points in the Athenry/Oranmore area and indeed in our County. The Climate Action Plan launched in 2019 by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, commits to a target of "936,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads by 2030". Ensuring there is the necessary infrastructure in place to support this step is crucial. It is imperative that priority is given to supporting domestic EV 'Drive Tourism' in the short term and foreign EV 'Drive Tourism' in the long term".*

***The following was the reply:***

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has announced funding to support the rollout by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles over the next 5 years.

Capital supports of 75% of the cost up to maximum of 5,000 euro per charge point will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street charge points per annum across the whole local authority sector not per individual local authority. The Local Authorities will operate the charge points subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, who will manage the scheme, and the Department are currently finalising the terms and conditions that will apply. Charge points may be located where public parking is provided on-street or in Local Authority car parks. On-street charge points may also be integrated with street lighting in a single lamppost as has been trialled in the Dublin Local Authorities.

In addition, under the first call for applications from the Climate Action Fund, approved funding of up to €10 million has been allocated to ESB eCars to develop a nationwide, state-of-the-art electric vehicle fast charging network. The project includes the installation of 90 high-power chargers each of which will be capable of charging two vehicles simultaneously, upgrading 50 existing standard chargers to fast chargers and replacing over 500 existing charge points with next generation high reliability models. There is no current information available in respect of proposed locations in County Galway.

Galway County Council is currently reviewing the current network of existing charge points throughout the County to determine the most suitable potential locations on our own lands. The most appropriate business model for the roll out of any such network is also being considered having regard to the upfront capital investment and long-term maintenance that will be required. There are also additional issues which require further analysis including fee structure, contractual arrangements with ESB and the potential ramifications of being considered an "energy supplier".

### **Notice of Motion – Cllr. Herterich Quinn.**

**AMD46**

**Cllr. Herterich Quinn submitted the following Notice of Motion:**

*That Galway County Council would permit two parking spaces in the Back Lawn (Backlawn) Car Park in Athenry, be used to trial EV (150kW) fast charging in the centre of the town. Currently there are two locations in the entire town where the EV driver has access to charging, neither are 150kW.*

*I would further like to propose that Galway County Council take whatever steps necessary to facilitate third parties on the installation and maintenance of these charging points in whatever manner required in order to promote the immediate economic recovery of our towns and villages through Domestic Drive Tourism. Several grants have been made available through the Government and the SEAL in the past year which Galway County Council could apply for in facilitating a third party to set up.*

*In light of the effects of the Coronavirus on our Country, the need to facilitate the domestic EV traveller has never been more important. There is a particular deficit of EV Fast Charging Points in the Athenry/Oranmore area and indeed in our County. The Climate Action Plan launched in 2019 by Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton, commits to a target of "936,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads by 2030". Ensuring there is the necessary infrastructure in place to support this step is crucial. It is imperative that priority is given to supporting domestic EV 'Drive Tourism' in the short term and foreign EV 'Drive Tourism' in the long term".*

*The following was the reply:*

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has announced funding to support the rollout by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles over the next 5 years.

Capital supports of 75% of the cost up to maximum of 5,000 euro per charge point will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street charge points per annum across the whole local authority sector not per individual local authority. The Local Authorities will operate the charge points subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, who will manage the scheme, and the Department are currently finalising the terms and conditions that will apply. Charge points may be located where public parking is provided on-street or in Local Authority car parks. On-street charge points may also be integrated with street lighting in a single lamppost as has been trialled in the Dublin Local Authorities.

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Galway County Council is currently reviewing the current network of existing charge points throughout the County to determine the most suitable potential locations on our own lands. The most appropriate business model for the roll out of any such network is also being considered having regard to the upfront capital investment and long-term maintenance that will be required. There are also additional issues which require further analysis including fee structure, contractual arrangements with ESB and the potential ramifications of being considered an “energy supplier”.

Cllr. Cronnelly, Cathaoirleach, read out both notice of motions which related to the provision of car parking spaces in the towns of Athenry and Oranmore to facilitate the fast charging of electric vehicles.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn advised that this matter had been raised at the Plenary meeting but it had to be postponed due to time restrictions. She requested that an energy supplier set up fast charging facilities in public parking spaces in both Athenry and Oranmore on a trial basis.

- She said that during the summer months there were a lot of people on day trips and all that was needed by the energy supplier was permission from Galway County Council to go ahead with this proposal.

Cllr. Cronnelly asked if this trial could be rolled out to other locations in the county also.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the proposal is worthy of consideration, but at the moment the Environment section is awaiting clarity from the energy suppliers as to how the scheme will work, and as such the Council cannot commit to allowing a private company take over public parking spaces in the interim as it may have implications for the awarding of the contract in the future.

Cllr. Cronnelly asked if an answer would be available for the September meeting and an update on the provision of the LED lighting scheme.

Mr. Mitchell replied that these are two different Schemes in place, one is a Climate Action Fund and the other is funded by the E.S.B. He explained that he is awaiting final details on the Schemes. The LED is a National scheme which is rolled out in different regions and is managed by Mayo County Council. The roll out in the South region is ongoing, and this will be followed by the other two regions. While there is an initial cost involved upfront, there will be cost savings in the future. The borrowing requirements were presented at the Plenary Meeting.

Regarding the provision of the spaces for the fast charging of electric vehicles, Galway County Council has not received clarity regarding same, and as the Council is not an energy supplier, it cannot go forward with any plans. Replying to a query from Cllr. Herterich Quinn in relation to the implementation by private companies of this scheme, Mr Mitchell said that they were not part of the National Plan.

Cllr. Carroll questioned why these spaces should to be provided on a trial basis, when provision will be made under a permanent Government scheme once clarity is obtained. Currently there is one space being used at Oranmore train station.

Cllr. Cuddy agreed with Cllr. Carroll's observation and said that he endorsed the scheme being rolled out on a permanent basis.

Cllr. Cronnelly said that he would request an update be provided at the next Plenary Council meeting in September.

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

**AMD47**

Mr. Ger Mullarkey advised that he had no correspondence.

In reply to the query from Cllr. Cronnelly regarding the up to date position of the provision of a footbridge for Clarin College and the results of the safety audit held for safe access to the new Presentation College campus, Mr. Mitchell replied that the Department of Education should have their report available on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July which will allow progression to procurement for tenders. However, due to the Covid-19 restrictions it may be difficult to get contractors to commit to a time frame for these works. Galway County Council are not responsible for the temporary access but have provided planning advice to the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB). Mr. Mitchell explained that he has received the drawings of the temporary access from the GRETB.

Mr Mitchell said that Communication from Rattigan's Contractors is still awaited regarding the safety audit results at the Presentation College campus.

Cllr. Collins asked if temporary speed limits could be put in place along narrow public roads as a lot of extra pedestrians and cyclists are using the roads. Community groups in his area are willing to put up signage advising drivers to slow down. Cllr. Collins also asked if Community groups could put up "children at play signs".

Mr. Mitchell advised that the matter of speed limits requires the implementation of statutory bye laws, which is a lengthy process. He explained that there is no facility to apply temporary speed limits at particular locations other than where roadworks are taking place. Mr. Mitchell said that the Gardai should be contacted and, in particular, the traffic core to enforce the speed limits.

Statutory signage such as "children at play" signs can be put up if requested, in line with Galway County Council's guidelines. He said that the Council would facilitate such signs in conjunction with Community groups.

Replies to Cllr. Cuddys query regarding the Claregalway traffic management plan, Mr. Mitchell said that it will require funding and he has not yet received a start date.

Cllr. Charity expressed his frustration that the surface dressing works in Carrowbrowne were once again delayed and asked for a timeline on completion of these works.

Cllr. Charity also added that no progression was made regarding the fencing on the Curragh line to stop horses accessing the road, as the Gardai were once again out on the road trying to prevent collisions happening.

Mr. Gavin advised that contractors are still working on the water works scheme in Carrowbrowne and could not guarantee a finish date due to these works. The Council had no option but to delay the proposed road works on this road until 2021. In the meantime, the funding is diverted to two other roads in the area.

Cllr. Cuddy expressed his deep annoyance and frustration on the matter of the City Council Housing Authority purchasing a property in the county area and in particular in the Athenry

Municipal District Area. He explained that the Director of Services for the Housing Authority in Galway County Council was not informed in advance of the purchase nor was agreement sought from Galway County Councillors. Cllr. Cuddy went on to say that four families could have been rehoused in the city for the cost involved in purchasing the property at Kiltulla. He also said that the City Council was outbidding young families for the purchase of this property.

Cllr. Carroll concurred with the views of Cllr. Cuddy and said that the residents in the Kiltulla area felt let down as they could not make representations to the City Council and the County Councillors could not engage with the City Council regarding this matter. He said that the County Councillors should make the City Council aware of the residents' concerns.

Cllr. Charity also wanted it noted that the Kiltulla residents were concerned about the City Councils actions and he requested a joint meeting between the City and County Councils and the Kiltulla residents.

Cllr. Cronnelly agreed that the actions of the City Council showed a lack of respect by them to the County Councillors and requested that the matter be put on the Plenary Council Meeting Agenda for September, 2020.

Cllr. Carroll asked if a follow up was done on an enforcement notice served by the Planning Section on a contractor who allegedly cleared a site at Carrowmoneash, Oranmore without permission.

Cllr. Cuddy and Cllr. Carroll expressed their disappointment at the recent decision by An Bord Pleanala not to allow a GAA development to take place in Renville,. They stated that a great deal of funding by three GAA clubs went into the preparation of the submission for this development, which is badly needed in the area.

Cllr. Herterich Quinn asked about the shop fronts scheme for the towns of Athenry and Ballinasloe and also if more Community Wardens could be employed in the Athenry MD. She also asked when the issues with Fureys Cross be addressed.

Mr. Mullarkey replied that the matter of the shop fronts scheme was looked after by the Community and Enterprise Section. He said that there are currently no resources available to employ extra Community Wardens.

Criochnaigh an Cruinniu Ansin

Approved by:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Date: 10/11/20

