

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE**

**Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach**  
***Municipal District of LOUGHREA***

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea**  
**held in the Galway Council Chamber on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 14.15 pm**

**I LATHAIR:**

**Cathaoirleach**

Cllr. P.J. Murphy,

**Baill:**

Cllr's. G. Donohue, M. Kinane, I. Canning, J. McClearn, G Finnerty

**Remote:**

Cllr's. J. Byrne and S. Curley

**Oifigigh:**

Mr. D. Pender, Director of Services  
Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services  
Ms. R. Lowe, Senior Engineer  
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. J. Coyle, Executive Engineer  
Mr. N. Kennedy, Executive Engineer  
Mr. T. Prendergast  
Ms. G. Byrne, Administrative Officer  
Ms. M. Flynn, Administrative Officer  
Ms. S. Cleary, Staff Officer

**Apologies:**

Cllr's. M. Maher and D. Kelly

**To consider and adopt the 2023 Annual Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Loughrea Municipal District**

**LMDXXXX**

Cllr. Murphy thanked the roads staff for their work over the last weeks and months on compiling the Road Programme for 2023.

Mr. Pender thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for attending the Special meeting of the Municipal District today to approve the Municipal District Roads Programme. He extended his thanks to the Roads Team for their work and dedication in preparing the document for today bearing in mind the allocations were announced 10 days previously.

Mr. Pender also thanked the area staff, administrative staff, and Meeting's Administrator for their invaluable input. He acknowledged the significant volume of work that was successfully delivered in 2022 and stated that he looked forward to another successful year in 2023.

Mr Pender presented an overview of the Annual Road Programme 2023 for the Loughrea Municipal District to the members. He informed the members that the Annual Roads Programme is concerned with the maintenance and improvement of the Public Road Network and clarified that the Public Road Network in the County comprises of 6,941km made up of Motorways, National Primary Roads, National Secondary Roads, Regional and Local Roads.

The Members thanked Mr. Pender for his presentation and thanked everyone involved in preparing the Roads Programme for 2023.

Cllr. Kinane stated that there are other roads requiring funding, but she welcomed the Road Improvement Grant for 2023 in general and in particular highlighted the Stradbally North and Knockawuddy road. She stated that she was happy to see that the L8562 and L8563 Killeenaran was included in the Programme. With respect to Road Maintenance grants, she advised that she was pleased to that the Athenry road, Clarinbridge and Dunkellin road were included. Cllr. Kinane stated that the L85801 was in a very bad state and sought clarification on whether the works extended to the full length of that road and stated that she would allocate NOM funding if needed, Mr. Haugh clarified that works would extend to the full length of the road. She stated that the allocation of Climate Change Adaptation funding would rectify the drainage issues on the Tonroe Road L81065.

Cllr. Kinane sought clarification on where the Active Travel funding would be utilised stating that she is working with the NRPO regarding the stretch of road from Kilcolgan to Clarinbridge and from Clarinbridge to Oranmore, she stated that she understood the works will be paused between Kilcolgan to Clarinbridge pending a decision on the Greenway.

In response to Cllr. Kinane's query, Mr. Pender stated that an allocation from TII was provided under an Active Travel Scheme to carry out a topographical survey along a section of the N67 from Clarinbridge to Oranmore, and to ascertain what can fit into boundaries along the stretch of road.

Cllr. Kinane proposed the Roads Programme 2023.

Cllr. Finnerty acknowledged the provision of €10,000 in the Road Programme for new works at Sheenaun. He sought clarification on the works to be carried out on the R380/R460 for which €44,900 was provided in the Programme and he welcomed the allocation of €96,000 for flooding relief on the R353. Mr. Haugh confirmed that the allocation of €44,900 was for vehicle activated signage. Cllr. Finnerty referred to the allocation provided for Tertiary Roads and specifically referred to the road at Derrycallan South and Ballynakill. Cllr. Finnerty sought clarification the monies allocated to Councillors stating he understood the allocation was €18,500 and Mr. Pender replied that he understands funding in the sum of €18,000 has been allocated per Elected Member. In response to Cllr. Finnerty's query, Mr. Haugh advised that Uisce Eireann contributed towards road restoration works in Rindifin.

Cllr. McClearn seconded the Roads Programme for 2023.

He stated that the Roads Programme was the best that could be achieved having regard to available resources but that there are many roads that could have been included if additional resources were available. Cllr. McClearn sought clarification on whether CIS applications would be submitted in 2023 or if it was intended to continue with CIS applications already submitted.

With respect to Active Travel funding which he stated has been cut off by the NTA, Cllr. McClearn queried if there are any other sources of funding available to have works carried out in the Loughrea and Gort areas. He stated that he believes there is no village in which Active Travel works have been completely done, such as footpaths. Ms. Lowe advised that yes there are other schemes which can help address issues in smaller towns and villages such as Clár, CIS and the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), and that these schemes can be utilised to deliver infrastructural improvements.

Cllr. McClearn sought clarification from Ms. Lowe regarding funding for Oxgrove Bridge stating that if lands were acquired it would be a step forward with the project.

Cllr. Canning stated he was delighted to see Doorus and Tynagh included in the Roads Programme. With respect to Oxgrove bridge, he stated his disappointment as he has been pushing this project for some time together with works required at Derrew Cross. Ms. Lowe responded that Oxgrove bridge was not successful in a previous application for bridge funding, but she advised that due to the scale of works sought the Council is preparing an application under the Specific Improvement Grant scheme which facilitates larger expenditure. She said that she was also reviewing a section of the road to the North of the bridge through poor ground which possibly could be amalgamated. She advised that she had recently received traffic counts for the road from the Area and would factor this into an application for funding. He requested the Roads Team to look at a bad section of road at Ballyshrul from the bridge to Portumna. Mr. Haugh clarified that the works at Ballyshrul related to surface dressing and the road was not being addressed under the RIG Programme.

Cllr. Donoghue sought clarification on funding made available for the Gort to Kilchreest road and the L4219 which appeared on both maps, and she also queried the status of the LIS applications. In response to Cllr. Donoghue's query regarding LIS Schemes, Mr. Pender clarified that there are still 107 applications on the list he stated that even if funding continues it will not be possible to get to the end of the list by 2027. In response to Cllr. Donoghue's question, Mr. Haugh advised that works to be completed on the R350 related to a skid resistance issue. Cllr. Donoghue enquired regarding roads at Gilroe and at L8537 Castlepark.

Cllr. Curley stated he was very pleased to see that the Tertiary Road at Turoe has been included in the Programme as, he stated, it is in bad need of improvement.

Cllr. Murphy welcomed funding for the bridge at Derreen and provision of funding for works on the road from Ballymanagh to Tyrone. He enquired regarding works to be carried out regarding the retaining wall at Lackan, Mr. Haugh stated that he will request Mr. Gallagher to contact Cllr. Murphy directly.



Cllr. Byrne queried if supplementary restoration maintenance funding was available this year to address localised repairs in advance of surface dressing. Ms. Lowe advised that supplementary restoration maintenance funding was available, but it was restricted to surface dressing only. Ms Lowe gave an outline of the purpose of RM and SRM funding allocations. Cllr. Byrne enquired regarding restoration maintenance works on the L4102, Athenry road, Clarinbridge and enquired regarding the funding provided for a stretch of tertiary road in the Stradbally area. Cllr. Kinane stated that the stretch of road is included in the Multiannual Roads Programme and stated that she had looked for this road to be included like other roads which have been included. Mr. Haugh clarified that the stretch of road Stradbally North is within the 50 kph zone, requires localised drainage works and will potentially involve localised widening. Cllr. Byrne enquired regarding roads on the Roads Programme and asked if some had been included by default and not on merit. Mr. Haugh clarified that each road was assessed on a yearly basis regardless of its inclusion on the Multiannual Programme. Cllr. Byrne sought clarification on the use of NOM allocations in housing estates with respect to traffic calming. Ms Lowe said that NOM funding could be used for public roads, and this included roads in housing estates where those estates had been taken in charge. She further advised that she is aware of guidance in relation to the installation of ramps and would see if this could be circulated.

Cllr. Finnerty extended his sympathies to Cllr. Byrne on the death of his uncle, also to Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn on the death of her father-in-law.

Cllr. Finnerty enquired if Gilroe Road (located near Gaynor's cross) is now off the programme and Mr. Haugh responded that it is included in the 2024 Multiannual Programme.

Cllr. McClearn stated that works were completed by Irish Water in the village of Eyrecourt but that sections of the road were not rehabilitated appropriately, he enquired if anything can be done on this. Mr. Pender responded that a temporary reinstatement has been put in place and that he will take Cllr. McClearn's concerns on board and will contact Irish Water. Mc. Coyle advised that he and Mr. Shane Gavin assessed the stretch of road and having met with the Contractor, are advised that the road will be reinstated to its former condition.

The meeting concluded at 3.08 p.m.

**HRIOGHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

  
**CLLR P.J. MURPHY**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD**

