

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Locha Riach Municipal District of LOUGHREA

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held virtually on 24th January 2022 @ 2.30 pm.

LATHAIR:

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. G. Donohue

Baill:

Cllr's. P.J. Murphy, J. Byrne, M. Kinane,
I. Canning, J. McClearn, S. Curley, G Finnerty, D
Kelly.

Oifigigh:

Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Services
Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer
Mr. G. Haugh, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. N. Kennedy, Executive Engineer
Mr. E. Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. M. Finn, Administrative Officer
Ms. P. McHugo, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies from Cllr Maher who was not in attendance.

Confirmation of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th December 2021

LMD 2201

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Loughrea held on 13th January 2022 were proposed by Cllr McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Curley and agreed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Curley proposed that monies from the Loughrea MD Budget fund the repairs to the skateboard park. Ms. Ruane state that no budget was agreed at the Loughrea Municipal Meeting, and she confirmed for Cllr Curley that she would refer the matter of funding the repair of the skateboard park in Loughrea Playground to the Director of Finance.

Mr. Mitchell confirmed for Cllr's Byrne and Cllr. Kinane that of the €8 million funding for Active Travel recently announced for 2022, €4 million was for projects already in place since 2021 and the balance would be assigned to new projects once official notice of the funding is received. Until the Active Travel Team is set up, all submissions by the Members to be sent

to Mr. Haugh. The criteria for footpath projects to be submitted is that they are inside the speed limits on non-national routes.

Cllr. McClearn queried does it encompass replacing existing footpaths and Mr. Mitchell replied Yes.

Ms. Ruane confirmed that appointments were imminent for the Active Travel Team which would consist of 1 Senior Executive Engineer, 2 Executive Engineers and 1 Assistant Staff Officer.

Flooding

LMD 2202

Mr. Gallagher updated the meeting as follows: -

South Galway Gort Lowlands FRS – The Environmental Consultant continues to undertake baseline surveys to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). A contract was signed in early January with the Marine Institute to undertake the 3D salinity modelling of Kinvarra Bay.

The Engineering Consultants continue to examine local hydraulic models that have been developed following both the Public Consultation and feedback from landowners during the ongoing Ground Investigation works. Results from the ground investigation contract are being examined on an ongoing basis. The Irish Drilling contract is nearly 70% complete with four road closures scheduled to be undertaken between 7th and 22nd March.

Road raising, overlay and lining works at Owenbristy were completed before Christmas. The road is to be included in this year's surface dressing programme to complete the works.

A project programme was circulated following the last M.D. meeting and a few queries were received from Cllr. Byrne. Mr. Gallagher went through the responses and advised the members that he would circulate written responses after the M.D. meeting.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed to Cllr. Finnerty that letter drops, and appropriate signage would be included when roads were being closed for the ground investigation works. The works at each site are scheduled to last between one and two days and no major roads are being affected.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed to Cllr. Byrne that a tender process will likely be required for the 30 large culverts, large areas of rock breaking and possibly plant hire before works would begin on the ground. It is expected that these documents would be prepared during the period the minister is considering the Confirmation documents, with contracts being entered after the minister's decision is received. It is anticipated that the OPW will be the main contractor on site, undertaking the majority of channel works but this can only be confirmed when timeframes are confirmed, so the availability of resources can be assessed.

Cathaoirleach's Business

LMD 2203

It was proposed by Cllr. Kinane and seconded by Cllr. Curley that Ms. Bernie Donnellan, A.O. Economic, Rural and Community Development would attend the next meeting of the

Loughrea MD to address the issue of public lighting to make public walking trails a safer place to walk.

Ms. Ruane confirmed for Cllr. Canning that 4 new Waste Enforcement Officers have been appointed to deal with illegal dumping in the County and she would also request Ms. A. Dolan to attend the next meeting to address Members concerns about same.

Ms. Ruane to liaise with Mr. Liam Hanrahan in relation to walking trails and funding applications and ascertain is possible for a staff member from Community and Enterprise to attend the Loughrea MD.

Mr. Haugh confirmed for Cllr. Kinane that work on the Athenry junction, Clarenbridge had been tendered and would commence once the successful contractor became available. Work on the road recently taken in charge at Clarenbridge would be completed in the coming weeks or alternatively in May/June as part of the Loughrea MD Road Works Programme.

Ms. Ruane confirmed that Mr. John Coyle will start in the Loughrea Office when Senior Engineer is appointed.

Ms. Ruane confirmed for Cllrs. Byrne and Murphy that she would bring the issue of cancelled pre-planning meetings to the attention of the CE as the cancellation was necessary due to a 25% increase in applications and staff movements.

Cllr. Curley requested that members be facilitated to log in online for future meetings if they were unable to attend in person.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Loughrea Municipal District would take place on 14th February 2022 at 11 am.

CHRIOGHNAIGH AN CHRUINNIU ANSIN


CLLR GERALDINE DONOHUE
CATHAOIRLEACH, LOUGHREA MD