

**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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**I LATHAIR:**

**BAILL:** Cllr. C. Keane (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. P. Feeney  
Cllr. S. Broderick  
Cllr. D. Collins  
Cllr J. Charity,  
Cllr T. Grealish

**OIFIGIGH:**

Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS  
Ms. L. Keane, Conty Librarian  
Mr P. Gavin ,S.E.E.  
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.  
Ms. G. Cooley, C.O.

**LEITHSCÉALTA:**

Cllr M. McNamara

**To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025. AMD 79**

On the proposal of Cllr. Grealish, Seconded by Cllr. Collins the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were approved.

**Matters arising**

Cllr Collins requested an update on the provision of generators for reservoirs. He also requested an update in relation to the bus corridor for Claregalway from the NTA.

**Galway Public Libraries 5-Year Strategy - Consultation.**

**AMD 80**

It was agreed to defer this item until the end of the meeting.

**Local Property Tax Projects for approval.**

**AMD 81**

The following proposals were made on the funding for the LPT;

*I propose to allocate €10,000 of LPT funding towards two public lights alongside the footpath leading to Ard Aoibhinn Estate in the village of Monivea.*

*Proposed by Cllr Broderick  
Seconded by Cllr Feeney*

The proposal was agreed.

*I propose that €20,000 to be allocated for the Carnmore Community Playground and €20,000 to be allocated for Carnmore Community Centre upgrade,*

Proposed by Cllr Grealish  
Seconded by Cllr Collins

The proposals were agreed.

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

**AMD 82**

Mr Hanrahan thanked Mr Gavin and his team on the completion of the road's projects.

In reply to a query from Cllr Collins on applications for the CIS Scheme Mr Gavin said that works on the current list are being finalised and new applications are sought every two years.

Cllr Feeney acknowledged the works done on providing new footpaths.

In reply to a query on the lights at the pedestrian crossing at the new line junction Mr Gavin said that a request had been made to the ESB last July and he is in contact with them for an update on the connection.

Cllr. Feeney said that the wind farm application for Attymon was recently refused and asked what the process is now for making appeals.

In reply to a query from Cllr Feeney Mr. Hanrahan said that the wind farm was refused permission by the Planning Department and appealed to An Coimisiun Pleanála. He said that it was the normal appeal process.

In response to a query from Cllr Broderick on the bridge at Caheroyn and Ballydavid Mr Gavin said that he was meeting with staff from Irish Rail this week and will give an update.

In response to a query from the Cathaoirleach on the reinstatement of roads by Uisce Eireann when works are complete Mr Gavin said that there is a process in place for road opening licence that area office follow up on. However, if emergency works are carried out by Uisce Eireann there is sometimes a temporary surface put in place and reinstated afterwards.

Mr Hanrahan said that if there were any roads that the Members wanted to highlight that this will be followed up.

In response to a query from Cllr Broderick on the reinstatement of roads used by Coillte for forestry harvesting Mr Hanrahan said that there is a process in place with Coillte.

Mr Hanrahan said that roadworks to the new Dexcon facility will be carried out this week. He said that the MD Members will arrange a visit to the new facility in the coming weeks.

The regeneration team are working with the design team in Athenry. He said that five tenders are being assessed. There will be a senior Engineer in place next month on the team. The projects are for Oranmore and Claregalway for 2026.

Ms Hazel Fox is the Town Regeneration Officer and as DOS Liam Hanrahan said he would welcome a focus on Claregalway. For this to start though a Town Team or Community Group must be registered by the PPN. A masterplan would include projects such as public realm, playgrounds and river walks.

The Members welcomed the news on Claregalway, but highlighted the need for a by-pass and alleviation of the flooding problems to progress any works in the village. Cllr Grealish welcomed it and said that Claregalway is lacking facilities.

Cllr Charity said that Claregalway needs a playground. He also highlighted the flooding issues and requested an update from TII on National Roads water tables and asked if the council was repairing potholes.

In reply to a query from Cllr Charity in relation to the staffing of the area office to repair potholes Mr Gavin said that the crew do works on the local roads and will prioritise these works in the coming months. Any queries on potholes that come in are dealt with immediately and he will welcome information from the members and will work on same.

In reply to a query about opening water tables on the local roads, Mr. Gavin said a crew will commence work on same.

### **Cathaoirleach's Business.**

**AMD 83**

There was no item under this heading

**Any other business (AOB).****AMD 84**

The Members congratulated Athenry Camogie Team on their achievement on winning the All-Ireland Final. The CPG propose to have a civic reception for the team, and this was proposed by Cllr Feeney seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed.

Cllr Keane condemned the behaviour at Renville graveyard where littering and gatherings are taking place. He requested that the Council engage with whoever is necessary to deal with this matter.

Cllr Collins asked for an update on the proposed increase of staffing levels for the Athenry MD area office from H.R.

**Galway Public Libraries 5-Year Strategy - Consultation.****AMD 85**

Ms Keane, County Librarian gave a presentation to the Elected Members on the Galway Libraries Strategic Plan. She explained that the libraries operate as a shared service between Galway County Council, who are the managing authority, and Galway City Council and serve a population of over 276,000 in 29 branches.

The key achievements include winner of LAMA Gold Award 2025 for best environmental/ecological project and collaboration with University Hospital Galway on a new parent-focused initiative aimed at promoting early literacy.

The development of the five-year strategic plan is currently underway to shape the future of the services and includes the review of national policy, staff workshops, staff survey and field trips.

She explained that the outreach campaign was designed to capture the views of staff and library users on core focus areas.

She advised that the engagement has identified a perception gap in the work that goes on within the libraries and how this is valued or perceived beyond the library.

There is a 90% satisfaction rate from primary users but there is a cohort of non-users that it is aimed to reach.

Ms Keane highlighted areas for improvement which included making libraries community hubs for all ages, supporting children's literacy and education and creating spaces for remote working/study. She advised that to help address this they are reviewing a new evaluation model for services.

The elected member thanked Ms. Keane for her presentation and all the work done within the library services.

Ms. Keane advised there are also buildings and technical audits being completed. She thanked the Elected Members for their time and welcomed any communication from them in relation to the plan.

The Cathaoirleach said that there was an excellent library service in Oranmore.

Cllr Feeney said that libraries were one of the few public buildings left in towns and villages. He said that a new library is needed in Athenry, and it should be incorporated into a new area office.

Cllr Collins said that as Cathaoirleach for the Council he can see what is happening in the county and he praised the summer stars projects. He also said that Tuam Library had a tapestry of music and poetry, and Ballinasloe Library staff did projects on Art and Healthcare. He said that it was important to promote the activities that are taking place in the libraries.

Cllr Broderick highlighted the benefits of the mobile library for some older people who don't go into the libraries but use the mobile library.

In relation to a query from Cllr Charity on A.I. Ms Keane said that they are addressing this in dual format with a skills for life programme on disinformation and misinformation and upskilling staff who advise the public.

She said that PR is an issue and the need to advocate what the libraries do will be part of the Communications Plan.

Mobile service will be continued, and capital funding has been made available to increase stock.

In relation to a new library building the vision is to invest in Athenry and other areas.

Next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2.00.

Criochnaigh an Crinniu Ansin

Approved by



Cathaoirleach

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

