

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, 14th July 2026.**

I LATHAIR:

BAILL: Cllr J. Charity, (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. P. Feeney
Cllr. S. Broderick
Cllr. D. Collins
Cllr M. McNamara
Cllr. C. Keane

OIFIGIGH: Mr. L. Hanrahan, DoS
Mr C. Harley, S.E.
Mr. S. Whelan, S.E.E.
Mr. E. Gallagher, S.E.E.
Ms. M. Jordan, A.O.
Ms. G. Cooley, A.S.O.

LEITHSCÉALTA: Cllr T. Grealish

**To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of
Athenry AGM held in Aras an Chontae, on the 9th June 2026.**

AMD 110

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Collins the minutes of the Athenry MD AGM held on the 9th of June 2026 were approved.

**To confirm Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of
Athenry held in Aras an Chontae, on the 9th June 2026. AMD 111**

On the proposal of Cllr. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. Feeney the minutes of the Athenry MD meeting held on the 9th June was approved.

Matters arising

In reply to a query from Cllr McNamara in relation to the footpath at Esker Road near the boy's school Mr. Harley said that he will provide an update at the next MD meeting.

In relation to a query on the bus corridor, Mr. Harley said that he will provide an update at the next meeting following consultation with Galway City Council staff.

Cllr Broderick raised the new Bye laws on drinking in public places that were recently passed by the Tuam MD and highlighted concerns that this would encourage young people to drink in areas that are not visible. He also expressed his concerns in relation to the effects it will have on tourism and that it may encourage visitors to go to the city. The policing by community wardens who already have a large workload was also raised as an issue.

Cllr McNamara said that he is on the committee and the legislation is already in place to cover drinking alcohol in outdoor spaces. He said that there is a process in place and that Community Warden fines are only issued in extreme cases.

Cllr Charity said that the debate is premature until the Members are aware of what is being proposed. He queried if it was specific to issue in Tuam.

Cllr Collins said that he shared the concerns outlined. He said that it might affect the county economically and suggested that Tuam be used as a pilot and review in six months' time.

Cllr Feeney until have a proposal hold on agenda and deal with it then.

Cllr Keane asked if details could be provided from Tuam.

Mr. Hanrahan said Community Safety Partnership worked on the bye laws. Will be monitoring how they are working in Tuam we will look at in the future but not proposed to do it now.

He said that Galway City is covered by their own byelaws. Can get a presentation from Community Safety partnership in future.

Update on Athenry Ring Road

AMD 112

Mr. Harley advised that two sections have been funded. The first section is almost complete, and the Council is awaiting ESB connections. In the meantime, funding has been received through the housing infrastructure scheme, and the road will be completed to the railway bridge. It is hoped to start construction in late 2027.

In response to a number of queries on the completion of the works on Athenry Ring Road Mr. Harley said that the council has funding to do a portion of the remaining works and are working with Dept. of Transport on the final section. Consultants will be appointed to design the overall scheme, and this will include a new entrance for housing and the final section of road.

Update on the Oranmore to Kinvara Storm Debbie.

AMD 113

Further to the request from the Members, Mr Gallagher gave a presentation on the progress of the Oranmore to Kinvara, Storm Debbie Study. He outlined the details of the storm and the engagement of RPS (now Tetra Tech) to examine the storm event, the effects of the event on local communities and possible measures to mitigate such effects in the future. Tetra Tech was engaged in September 2024.

Mr Gallagher outlined to the meeting the works that had been completed on the project to date. The Interim Report was recently finalised and discussed with the OPW. The 83 properties that were affected by the storm are to be examined under three categories (1) those best suited for Individual Property Protection (flood gates etc.) (2) those houses in clusters where a small scheme (flood wall) may be a suitable solution (3) large scale individual scheme (Clarinbridge Retail Park).

It is envisaged that these categories may form the basis for three separate funding submissions to the OPW. Tetra Tech is now to progress more detailed assessments and likely funding requirements for each of the properties.

The Interim Report also looked at the damaged walls on the Maree Road and the Coast Road. The report concludes that the wall on the Maree Road should not have adversely affected the houses in Oran Island. The report also provides details of replacement standard of wall required on the Coast Road. It will not be feasible or effective to provide the replacement reinforced concrete wall to full coastal protection standards, so this issue will be discussed further with the Area Office.

In response to a query from Cllr Keane, Mr Gallagher confirmed that it could be a year before funding for any proposals was secured from the OPW and depending on the agreed scheme mechanism (possibly in the form of grants to house holders), it could be 18 months before works were seen on the ground. While it was not envisaged that environmental concerns would delay Individual Property Protection works, environmental studies and assessments would likely be required for larger schemes where walls were proposed, or construction works were required directly adjacent to Galway Bay SAC.

LPT Projects for approval.

AMD 114

Have agreed workshop will be held in September and members engage with staff and then brought forward.

Municipal District Director's Business & Correspondence.

AMD 115

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the closing date for the refurbishment of Burkes Lane is 28th August. He said that the design work is complete and the date for signing the contract is the end of September 2026. He highlighted that it will be an important Hub in the town center. The building will contain a meeting room that can be used for the MD meetings, but it will not be used as an area office.

Mr. Hanrahan said that a nominee for representation on the Corporate Policy Group was required from the Athenry MD members. On the proposed of Cllr McNamara seconded by Cllr Charity and the agreement of the Members Cllr Grealish was nominated.

Mr. Whelan gave an update on the roads programme, and the Members expressed their thanks for works carried out in the Athenry MD area.

In reply to a query about restoration of a road following a road opening, Mr. Whelan advised that the staff attempt to visit all the road openings, but it is not always possible.

Mr. Hanrahan said that six tenders were received for the purchase of the airport, which are currently being evaluated following interviews. A report will be prepared for the Chief Executive of the City and County Councils, and the Members will be briefed in advance of any decision. The airport is 50% owned by both the City and County Council. Mr Hanrahan suggested that a workshop would be held to go through the applications. He said that a part 8 would only be needed if there was any construction on the site.

Cathaoirleach's Business.

AMD 116

There was no item under this heading.

Any other business (AOB).

AMD 117

Cllr Collins asked about the process for the provision of new bring banks in Claregalway and enquired if they could be located on private property. Cllr. Charity confirmed that he had bring banks on his property but highlighted the difficulty for trucks turning.

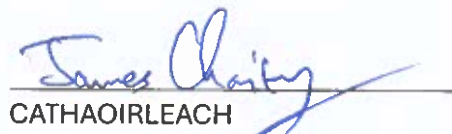
In reply to a query from Cllr. McNamara on the instillation of CCTV cameras to stop dumping at the various bring banks Mr. Whelan replied that this area is covered by the Environment Section.

Cllr. Charity raised the issue of the need for a pedestrian crossing at Cloonboo, prior to the works at Claregalway commencing.

Mr. Harley replied that 3 routes would be identified – N83, N84 and motorway and that emergency vehicles would be facilitated.

Criochnaigh and Cruinniu Ansin

Approved by


CATHAOIRLEACH

Date 8/9/26

