

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 2.30pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Roche

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Killilea – remote.

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., SE, Ms. Rachel Lowe – SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Geraldine Byrne, - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Cllr. Roche opened the meeting and spoke of the passing of Noel Tierney, RIP whom he referred to as the “great legend” in sporting fields. Cllr. Turner said it was bizarre that just last Sunday week the parish of Milltown had come together for an afternoon of celebration in his honour. He said he will be remembered in the chamber and throughout the county for being a true legend receiving footballer of the year at just 22 years of age.

Cllr. Hoade wished to be associated with the comments and proposed a vote of sympathy for the late Billy Lawless, who had died suddenly last weekend and wished to express sympathies to all his family.

Cllr. Roche welcomed Paula O’Connor, Nichola Comber and Michelle Abberton to the meeting from the Tuam Educate Together National School (TETNS) Parents Group who made a presentation to the members. Cllr. Roche said regretfully he had to leave the meeting and Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Leas Cathaoirleach took over the chair in his absence.

Paula O’Connor on behalf of the parents of TETNS expressed concerns regarding

- Student Safety in relation to school drop off and pick up via the Dublin Road
- Student Safety accessing Sports Facilities via the Dublin Road on a weekly basis.
- Student Safety accessing the Tusla Hall via the Dublin Road for PE Classes on weekly basis.

They made the following recommendations to address the issues presented.

Recommendations to the Council

- Provision needs to be made for public parking on the Dublin Road in Tuam
- Traffic Warden needed at the Dublin Road traffic lights pedestrian crossing at school drop off & pick up.
- A Traffic Warden would support the safety of all students attending all the Tuam schools, there are traffic wardens in Ballinasloe and in other towns in the County
- Traffic Calming/Slow down Measures
- Three Illuminated Flashing Speed Traffic Signs need to be installed.
 1. As you approach Tuam near Centra on the Dublin Road
 2. As you approach Tuam after the Railway bridge on the Athenry Road
 3. As you leave Tuam at the Ambulance Base on the Frank Stockwell Road
- Three Speed Bumps as you approach the School Complex area on the

1. Dublin Road
2. Athenry Road
3. Frank Stockwell Road
- Tuam Educate Together NS Pedestrian entrance needs to be fixed.
 1. The footpath curb needs to be lowered at the entrance to make it accessible to all on the gate side of the school entrance.
 2. Footpath tiles with bumps need to be installed to indicate the end of the footpath on both sides of the school entrance.
 3. Signs need to be installed for traffic to indicate a pedestrian crossing at the school entrance.
 4. The swing gate needs to be removed and replaced with an accessible gate that can be used by all.
 5. There needs to be a clearly defined pedestrian crossing on the avenue closer to the school where children cross the road to Tuam Educate Together NS.

The elected members thanked the group for their presentation and a discussion followed. They advised that many of the issues mentioned were outside the remit of the Local Authority to solve but advised that there are a number of issues highlighted that they could address with the engineering staff, and they would help where possible.

MDT240072

1. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 14th October 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Turner and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 14th October 2024 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Mr. Owens, Director of Services, advised that he had followed up with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth regarding child safeguarding for those residing at the Correlea Court Hotel – he advised that Eibhlin Byrne had forwarded on a written response and was available to speak online to the meeting to give a briefing this afternoon.

Ms. Eibhlin Byrne joined the meeting remotely and Cllr. Cunniffe asked her if the correct child safeguarding procedures was in place in Correlea Court. He requested details and dates of inspection from whoever is in charge. Ms. Byrne advised that would be normal procedure to have oversight of the safeguarding, that there would be a qualified inspector looking over same, but there was not a department member in every centre every day.

Cllr. Killilea referred to a potential IPAS centre at another location and outlined that the building was not within walking distance from any community services. He said there were concerns in relation to the building as when examined for homelessness it was deemed not suitable.

Ms. Byrne advised that the needs of those seeking international protection and homeless are quite different and there is no cross over.

She said they are often limited to the buildings available and that neither IPAS nor Ukrainian teams meet directly with politicians or members of the public, but she is happy to engage.

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She then confirmed that the key issues to be clarified for the next meeting were:

- 1) absence of register
- 2) who is accountable for ensuring that all child safeguarding measures/procedures are in place
- 3) Date(s) of visits to the hotel regarding compliance of these safeguarding measures.

Ms. Byrne advised that if made aware of any issues they should be raised directly with IPAS or Tusla or and herself directly.

Matters Arising

Cllr. Reddington advised that he had received agreement from all landowners and had eleven signatures in relation to the taking in charge of the road at Sylane. Cllr. Hoade asked when this would be conducted, that all the signatures were received. Mr. Coyle advised it was not likely to happen before Christmas. Ms. Lowe advised in terms of the NOM allocation process must be completed.

Cllr. Hoade enquired as to the Headford traffic management plan. Ms. Lowe advised it was a slow process, they were hoping to have a draft plan available shortly and were consulting with the engineers. Following this, they would consult with the councillors and public consultation would follow. She said this was likely to take place in the new year. She advised that the draft plan has been finalised recently for Kinvara and should go on public consultation shortly and that Headford is next on the list.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired if the footpath in the Palace Fields was proceeding, and Mr. Coyle advised that it may be possible to look at a scheme through NOM funding.

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to two major sections of road in need of repair on Bishop Street following on from repair works by Uisce Éireann (UE) and requested that UE repair same. Ms. Lowe advised that this issue has been followed up with Uisce Éireann and has now been escalated to Road Management Office in Donegal. Mr. Kennedy advised that Uisce Éireann have given a commitment to have reinstatement of this road before Christmas.

Cllr. Killilea suggested an in-camera meeting regarding the naming of streets in Tuam. Cllr. McHugh Farag suggested that a proposal be circulated and agree a date for this meeting.

He thanked the engineers for the speed ramps installed in Park View Drive and asked if there is any indication as to when the footpaths will be updated. Mr. Coyle advised they are currently looking at having these paths upgraded, review what funding is available and if possible, will aim to have this completed before Christmas.

Cllr. Turner requested an update on Bridge Street, Dunmore. Mr. Coyle advised that they were currently working on Bridge Street project documentation and would take a further 6 months to get to the Part 8 with a further scheme to bring to planning stage thereafter.

MDT240073

2. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 14th October 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Turner the minutes of the budget meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 14th October 2024 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising

Cllr. Reddington referred to a meeting he attended with NTA, Cllr. Hoade and Community Group and was seeking clarification why local towns were not receiving Active Travel funding.

He said they were told unless they have Transport plans in place, they would not get it and that the NTA said this is not the case they are happy to fund any project. Ms. Lowe advised that the Active Travel team had never stated that LTPs were required to complete active travel projects. She said that this would not be logical as there are a lot of settlements in the county that will not have LTPs. Many of the Safe Routes to School projects are in rural areas. But she did say that it makes if a town is getting an LTP to draw the plans and proposals for new projects from those studies.

Cllr. Hoade advised they did hear a message of reduction of funding – and referred to funding that was allocated few years ago to Headford under Active Travel and subsequently withdrawn.

Ms. Lowe advised that at Loughrea Municipal District Meeting, Councillors conveyed the same message from NTA that funding is extremely tight and very constrained. She advised that it was not a matter of the Executive not applying for funding but that it was very limited and sum of money coming may have already accommodated Headford.

Cllr. Reddington said he was not aware why it was pulled and that NTA did say if it were submitted again next year, this would be honoured if the price remained the same as the original quotation.

Ms. Lowe said she will require more information on the scheme. She understands that it is a sum of €140,000 at issue. Ms. Lowe also said that NTA has since confirmed that the NTA will not provide an additional sum of funding for this project so the costs must be accommodated within the same budget for 2025, and funding of other schemes must reduce accordingly.

Cllr. Reddington advised that he was informed that AT projects could not be completed outside speed limits. Ms. Lowe advised that this was the case previously and there were no NTA design standards for higher speed roads, but these standards are now in place. But Ms. Lowe also stated that the NTA has clearly indicated that AT projects should be directed to the areas of greatest use, e.g. in urban areas and in support of the national development objective of compact growth.

MDT2400074

3. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens Director of Services advised that regarding the redevelopment of the Shambles where the last application was not successful, Galway County Council are ready to resubmit at the next available round of funding.

He advised that in relation to the development of the Town Hall – the application was successful with tender appointment of the contractor closing in December and an expected appointment in Quarter 1 of 2025.

Mr. Owens referred to the proposal to submit for redevelopment of Tuam Station next year and said that there would be a briefing to the Municipal District before same and that it was expected to apply for

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funding under THRIVE in May of next year. He said that there would be public consultation initially and a Part 8 process in February or March 2025.

He welcomed the funding for the operation of the Christmas lights advising that €10k was made available under three successful applications and awarded as follows, Tuam €4,000, €4,000 Headford and €2,000 Dunmore.

The Councillors welcomed this funding. Cllr. Cuniffe advised it costs approximately €25k to have the lights up and operational, that businesses give generously, and credit union sponsorship is welcome, but help from members of the public is welcome.

Cllr. Turner welcomed funding stating that without it there would not be lights in Dunmore and said he hoped it is not one-off funding and will continue.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said Galway County Council need to bear in mind the storage of the lights with development works coming down the line in the yard of Tuam Municipal District where they are currently stored. She asked that they keep the potential of the development of the Scout Hall on the table for discussion and requested that the executive progress the handover of the building to Galway County Council.

MDT2400075

4. - Municipal -District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Killilea referred to an incident where last Sunday morning at 8am a couple of people entered the playground and cut a tree near the swimming pool, which was then loaded into a car, and they drove away. Mr. Coyle advised him to pass on the details on to the Community Wardens and the Gardai.

Cllr. Killilea enquired of plans to honour Rossa Ryan for his achievements and said since last mentioned he had again won a very prestigious race again and asked if it would be possible to give him a civic reception. Mr. Owens advised that this matter should be directed to the CPG for decision on where the civic reception would be.

Cllr. Killilea advised a general conversation needs to take place if it is possible to afford the freedom of Tuam Municipal District. Mr. Owens advised that a civic reception and freedom are two distinct different honours. Cllr. Killilea enquired if proposal came before the Municipal District to offer freedom of Tuam Municipal District can this be considered. Mr. Owens advised he will review and revert regarding same.

Cllr. Killilea asked of there was a completion date for speed ramps on Tullinadaly Hill. Mr. Coyle advised that the ramps were completed but they were waiting for line marking and the temporary bollards would be removed when all was complete.

He wished to express his congratulations to Milltown on being the tidiest town in Galway and commended Tuam Tidy Towns on receiving bronze. He also acknowledged Williamstown on their success in the pride of place awards.

Cllr. Hoade queried if all the General Operatives (GO's) were now in place for the Tuam MD. Ms. Lowe advised that the Chief Executive did sanction extra staff and did receive approval for ten additional GO's, that a shortlisting exercise had taken place and was being finalised and moved to the next stage. Cllr. Hoade asked how many were likely to be appointed to Tuam Municipal District and was advised two. She also stated she would welcome the immediate replacement of roads staff retiring from panels put in

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place. Ms. Lowe advised that any current requests would have gone to the HR department, and this was a matter for HR to progress.

Cllr. Reddington said that it was important that when advertising positions, that a clear list of courses and experience that are necessary to qualify for a particular post, is provided with the applications and called for further guidance on Galway County Council's website.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the announcement of the Rural Bus Link and thanked all who organised the meeting and to the NTA for attending.

Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to safety works required on the L2123 – Corofin Road, requesting an update and advising that the group were disappointed with the lack of communication with them.

Mr. Coyle advised the scheme would be funded through NOM, not a grant that it was essential first that Tuam of Municipal District staff to prioritise the works on the Roads Programme with grant deadlines. Mr Coyle stated that that the design process had commenced and hoped it would go for public consultation in Quarter 1 of 2025. He said also that the reduction in the speed limits to 60KPH would also have an impact here.

Ms. Lowe advised that Donna Gibbons, EE, will give an active travel presentation to Tuam MD and will go into further detail on the schemes at that point.

Mr. Coyle advised that a green flag had been awarded by An Taisce to the Palace Grounds and that for the fourth year running Ballyglunin had retained its Green Flag Community award. He wanted to thank Community Employment Staff and Frank Dolly and his team, Richard Trench, gardener, and the Biodiversity team for all the works done to achieve same. Cllr. McHugh Farag welcomed the news and referred to the palace grounds as the "Jewel in Tuam Town."

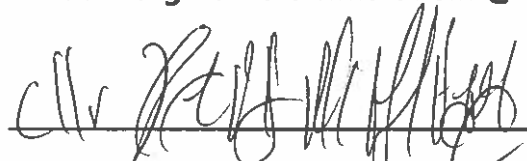
Mr. Coyle advised that a basketball arena would also be coming to the Palace Grounds with investment from Sports Partnership for same.

Mr. Owens expressed his thanks to all who worked on the Palace Grounds to retain the green flag status. He also wished to acknowledge the works of and congratulate both Milltown and Tuam Tidy towns on their achievements, wishing them well and assuring them of the support of Galway County Council.

Cllr. McHugh Farag extended her best wishes to all the candidates participating in the General Election this November.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16.36

Approved by:



Date: 09/11/24

Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag, Cathaoirleach.

