

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 14th October 2024 AT 2.50pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Roche

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

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Ms. Rachel Lowe, SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE,
Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Ms. Geraldine Byrne, - Meetings Administrator,
Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer, Mark Molloy – Assistant
Environmental Awareness Officer,

Cllr. Roche commenced the meeting and with agreement from all present moved item no. 2 forward on the agenda.

MDT240065

2. – Introduction to Anti -Litter Ambassador Programme

Mark Molloy, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer introduced Galway County Council's Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme, asking the members to become involved and pro-actively support and promote the initiative. He said declaring themselves anti-litter ambassadors would support the programme and he took promotional pictures to show support and requested that they encourage the public to become ambassadors, schools, tidy towns groups, individuals, businesses etc.

The elected members all welcomed the initiative. Cllr. Killilea commended this department on a recent conviction of person who was illegal dumping in the Tuam MD. Cllr. Roche asked Mr. Molloy what the current position was in relation to CCTV use for Illegal dumping. Mr. Molloy advised it was not under his remit but was aware it was being worked upon at national level with GDPR requirements, and when there is a national procedure in place Galway County Council will be proactive.

Cllr. Turner stated that a lot of litter is wrappings from fast food outlets and suggested that there should be notices placed in the fast-food outlets requesting customers not to litter. He said the onus should be on the people profiting as it is a huge part of the litter issue in the county.

Cllr. Roche suggested that "Litter Free Zone" signs were erected on entering villages. Mr. Molloy advised this signage is in place in many villages. He advised the members that he would meet with senior management in the Environment section and discuss the proposals raised at the meeting,

MDT240066

1. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 9th September 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Reddington and **seconded** by Cllr. Turner the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 9th September 2024 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Reddington raised the issue of a need for more funding for Low-Cost Accident Schemes.

MDT240067

On the proposal of Cllr. Reddington seconded by Cllr. the following motion was agreed.

I propose; -

That the Tuam MD should write to the Minister for Transport to ask for a 50% increase in the funding allocated to the low-cost accident scheme (LCA). Galway County Council received €428,000 in 2024, only €10,000 more than 2023 and in 2022 Galway County Council received €417,500. Unfortunately, road deaths are increasing but funding for the scheme is not.

Cllr. Reddington raised concerns regarding safety on the N84 as a big concern and called for it to be made a priority for funding by the new candidates running in the election.

Cllr. Hoade concurred with need for LCA funding and called for N84 to be on the National Development Plan, stating the no substantive remedial works have been carried on the road for 15 years apart from a section at Luimnagh, adding that when one minor accident on N84, the road completely closes.

Mr. Coyle said like a lot of national secondary routes, the N84 requires significant funding.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked if a report was received back from the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) which was promised at a previous special meeting. Mr. Owens advised that there was follow up with the Department but that no update had been received. He said that seventy-six international protected applicants are resident in the hotel, forty-three of which are children. He advised that the integration support co-ordinator is continuing to engage with the local schools.

Cllr. Killilea requested the Director of Services to communicate with IPAS, on the lack of engagement and disappointment on how they were treated, considering that they had gave full support and received no update. Cllr. Cunniffe said all they asked for was honest engagement, he said 102 people were expected and queried if numbers would be increasing. Director of Services, Michael Owens said he would seek further clarification.

Cllr. Roche said it was important that the refugees felt welcome and suggested a civic welcome. Mr. Owens said he would discuss this with the integration team.

Cllr. Killilea said there is a need to register people coming and going within the building, to ensure protective measures are in place where there are young children present.

Cllr. Killilea enquired if there was any update on the Courthouse on the Dublin Road. Cllr. Cunniffe said he had been in contact with the courts service, and they do not have the funding to do all that is required however he said they are looking into getting some funding for part of it and have committed informally to doing something.

MDT240068

3. – Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) – Update.

Ms. Maria Hall, independent consultant, employed with Hub Planning, joined the meeting remotely, advising that she was appointed to assist with the LECP 2024-2030, seeking to promote Community and Economic Development across the county.

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She said the purpose of the update was to provide an overview of the development of the LECP and ensure expectations are understood for the MD's.

Advising that the LECP is a statutory document that every county must develop and has guidelines to ensure consistency across counties. She said there are six stages in its development, and they are currently at stage 3.

The draft document is likely to be circulated in the coming weeks and they would be seeking the Councillors input, and Hub Planning would be delighted to hear from the members, with any questions they may have. She was seeking general comments and feedback from the MD and ensuring that it aligns with the Local Area Plan and has a balanced approach. She advised it is a quite different document to the LAP, the LECP is overly broad and designed to be flexible in approach.

The elected members thanked Maria for her presentation. The agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. Hoade.

MDT2400069

4. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Coyle gave an update to the elected members on current works underway. He advised that the consultants have finalised documents and drawings for the Kilbannon Scheme with the final review by Department of Transport to be undertaken in the coming weeks. All landowners have signed up and agreements made, and land transfer payments are ongoing, all at various stages of processing.

Cllr. Killilea enquired if it was the same consultants that were working on Kilbannon and Bridge Street in Dunmore, stating concerns re delays with the project.

Mr. Coyle advised it was agreed to proceed with the original proposed scheme for the Rural Regeneration of Dunmore – Bridge Street to the Square on the East Side, with Galway County Council hoping to apply for Part 8 planning in May 2025.

Ms. Lowe acknowledged that for R332 Kilbannon, it was moving slower than anticipated but it is challenging, as one of the primary obligations is to provide the land and make payment and the process was underway. Advising that the consultants, were not paid on a time rate paid by appointment but on a per item basis.

Cllr. Killilea advised that if this was the case in the future there should be time stipulation built in. Ms. Lowe advised that Covid 19 also caused a disruption on Kilbannon project, she appreciates the comments and there is a piece Galway County Council can take from this, and she hoped it would come before the MD in Q 1 2025.

Mr. Coyle advised that fifteen submissions were received in relation to enhancement plans for Ballygaddy Park and that amendments will be made to the design as necessary and further engagements will be made with the residents on enhancements of the park. Cllr. Killilea welcomed this news and said the local people can be confident that it will be an open and transparent scheme.

Cllr. Hoade referred to proposed taking in charge at Sylau and asked was the issue with the landowner rectified. Mr. Coyle advised that the issue will be raised during the following week, and he would revert with an update.

Mr. Coyle advised that hedge cutting was ongoing throughout the MD and five out of seven Councillors had allocated NOM monies. Cllr. Turner asked regarding the hedge cutting why some Cllrs had not allocated monies.

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Cllr. Roche said in relation to this year's hedge cutting there was a suggestion that tertiary roads would not be completed and said it was vital that we did not fall short on last year's works, especially where there is a requirement to service some roads near nursing homes etc. Ms. Lowe advised that in relation to hedge cutting it is expensive and Galway County Council cannot keep committing to do same amount every year as there is no specific fund. Ms. Lowe informed the meeting that the locations are primarily done on safety location.

Cllr. Hoade sought a reply to the mail she had sent some time ago regarding trees overhanging onto the public road causing a hazard for trucks using the road. A discussion then followed between the members as to whose responsibility it was for cutting trees based on location to their property.

Mr. Coyle referred the Elected Members to a document prepared and drafted by Department of Agriculture Food and Marine and Tree Council of Ireland titled "A Guide for Landowners to Managing Roadside Trees" which was circulated and advises that Land Ownership normally extends to the centre of the road; therefore, it is the landowner-not the local authority- who is responsible for the trees and hedges beside the road.

Ms. Lowe referred to a public notice in the media regarding same that issues annually.

Mr. Owens provided an update on the issue raised at the last MD regarding drinking in public and advised that there were currently no bye laws in place and that if the members wished to progress same it would be necessary to adopt a motion.

He advised it was a matter for Tuam MD to first decide and allow it to be brought forward to the Local Community Safety Partnership and the relevant Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to progress further.

MDT240070

On the proposal of Cllr. Cuniffe seconded by Cllr. Hoade the following motion was agreed

I propose; -

That byelaws are prepared in relation to Tuam MD to prevent open drinking intoxicating liquor in public.

MDT240071

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

Cllr. Roche requested an update on Brown's field. Mr. Owens advised that he was in contact with Galway GAA and will be having a meeting with the GAA in November in relation to same, that there was a Section 183 lease that was not executed. He said he will meet the GAA in November to review and will revert to the members.

Cllr. Killilea advised that he was approached by a group regarding the old high cross in the Square, calling for a marker to remain in the square to show where the cross once was, and he asked if it was possible to have funding on the public realm set aside for same.

He also requested if it would be possible to hold an in-camera meeting to discuss the naming of roundabouts or streets come together at MD level. He advised only one roundabout remains unnamed and that there are four public roads not named currently and it is the reserved function to name the streets. Mr. Owens requested that the members provide the details in advance to allow for appropriate consideration and advice by the Executive. Cllr. Roche enquired if it could be done in a way that others may like to feed in. Cllr. Killilea said he would talk to some local groups, and they may have some suggestions.

Cllr. Killilea queried the proposal to divert a path in the Palace Fields, an area which he said an engineer had recently visited. He had requested same two years previous and was informed that it was not possible to have a Community Improvement Scheme (CIS) on council owned grounds.

Mr. Coyle said there were no plans currently to conduct works with the laneway from the Palace Fields and if funding became available, he would investigate it further and that a CIS will not work if it is on Galway County Council owned lands.

Cllr. Killilea enquired about the non-operational CCTV in the Palace Grounds. Mr. Coyle advised there was huge cost involved in getting CCTV operational. He said a significant amount of work was required under GDPR and Data Protection requirements, that a separate GDPR process would be required and that the cameras were not under the remit of Tuam MD. Ms. Lowe advised Galway County Council are seeking to apply for grant for funding to bring some older equipment up to date but there is a huge volume of information required.

Cllr. Killilea enquired about the design for housing Design, located on the old fire station site. Mr. Owens advised that initial ground investigations have commenced and it expected to go to planning in Q1 next year.

Cllr. Killilea enquired about Galway County Council's housing development on the Galway Road. He requested that a team engage with the locals on the project.

Mr. Owens advised that appointment of consultants was imminent and that preliminary works on design has been submitted to the Department. He said it is intended that planning will commence in Q1 2025. Advising there have been changes to Part 8 process, it has changed to a public information process with a decision on the planning made by Chief Executive, the project had to commence in the current year, but this may now been extended to end of 2025 in the Planning Bill, therefore it is likely a decision for the CE.

He said he anticipates it will be a section 197A. Once the design team have been appointed there will be an opportunity to share information but will not be a public submission process. Cllr. Killilea said that engagement before the design stage may be more important.

Cllr. Roche requested an update on the redevelopment of the Shambles car park and when this was expected to take effect. Mr. Owens advised that the proposal is in place and will be subject to funding and he will follow up with the regeneration team regarding same.

Cllr. Cunniffe expressed his concern with issue on Bishop Street and said that both the technical staff and he were engaging with Uisce Eireann on the repair of the road. He called for Uisce Eireann to make good their repairs, on Bishop Street immediately.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired if an invitation had been extended to Action Tuam arts programme to attend an MD meeting. Mr. Owens advised that contact was made, and an invite given for the October meeting, but they were not able to attend, and a further invite has now been extended to the November and December meetings, but they still must indicate availability.

Cllr. Reddington referred to an email he received from residents in the Square in relation to outdoor dining that was removed from the Abbey Tavern and a loading bay replaced it. He queried why when there is limited parking and only one spot in that area. Mr. Coyle advised that under schedule seven of the Traffic Management Plan 2013 it was a loading bay, and a taxi rank was allowed to park there also. He said further changes will have to wait until there is a new traffic management plan in place. Ms. Lowe said she will follow up and see if a traffic management plan is imminent.

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Cllr. Turner referred to a request for public lighting at Friars Walk Dunmore and a quotation that was provided for €6,500 by Electric Skyline to Tom Regan EE for two lights. He enquired if there were any way councillors could provide NOM for same. Cllr. Killilea said he would provide €500.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 17.28

Approved by:

_____ **Date:** _____

Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach.