

Municipal District of Tuam – 16th June 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY ON MONDAY 16TH JUNE 2025 AT 2.30 pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Andrew Reddington

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Cuniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. McHugh Farag & Cllr. Killilea.

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Damien Mitchell, D.O.S., Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Eithne Murphy- SEE, Ciara McDonagh- Executive Architect, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Prior to the meeting a deputation was heard from Stephen Lynn and Helen Gillard representing community park users of the Palace Grounds. They acknowledged and thanked Galway County Council for the works completed in the park but asked that there was public consultation prior to any further development in the park.

Cllr. Reddington welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his sympathies to Geraldine Byrne on the passing of her father Michael Barrett, RIP and to Pete Roche, TD on the passing of his daughter in law, Helen Roche, RIP. Mr. Owens also expressed his sympathies to Ms. Byrne and the Barrett/Ruane family and to Deputy Roche and the Roche/Rabbitte family on his own behalf and on behalf of the executive.

MDT250036

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam held 29th May 2025.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh Ryan and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 29th May 2025 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Reddington requested clarification in relation to plans for Corofin and said that the residents were seeking an update. Mr. Coyle advised that he would circulate an email with an update in relation to same.

Cllr. Reddington sought an update in relation to the woods at Castlegrove. Mr. Coyle advised he has been in contact with Coillte, and they are currently procuring a traffic management company and 2 tree surgeon companies to carry out emergency works along the R332 Castlegrove. Cllr. Turner said he has spoken with Coillte and is satisfied with their response.

Cllr. McHugh Farag asked for an update on the bus shelter on the inner relief road. Mr. Coyle advised that the Active Travel team have advised they have been in contact with the Joe O'Toole Trust fund in relation to providing a shelter and they will be speaking to their engineer in this regard and Junior Minister Canney is also working to progress this matter.

Cllr. Hoade sought an update on the Transport plan for Headford. Mr. Coyle advised that the Active Travel Team are going to send out an update re Headford CTS to all Tuam MD members. They advised

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that site visits were completed by consultants along with desktop reviews and data analysis and that an AA screening review will be completed in coming weeks. Study to go through TII and NTA for approval. Once completed Active Travel will carry out briefing, followed by public consultation for 4 weeks in Q3. Cllr. Hoade questioned the possibility of this happening given the time required for the AA screening and said this process has been going on far too long.

Cllr. Reddington queried the number of staff on the Active Travel Team and said that the Headford plan had been going on the last 3 years. Mr. Owens acknowledged the concern and said that there is a dedicated team, and he would come back with an update on the staffing levels.

Cllr. Turner asked if the monies under the LPT fund had been agreed on. Mr. Owens said that it was intended to advertise by the end of the month and that this would then allow community Groups to apply for funding. He indicated that in respect of the other projects once costs were finalised a notification would issue to Plenary for information purposes.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan asked for an update on the illegal dumping at the Clothes banks outside coral leisure advising that the bins are not full, but people are illegally dumping outside the bins.

Mr. Owens confirmed that the Environment Department had agreed a course of action involving the wardens working outside of the core hours, rostering over 7 days not 5 days to monitor usage and that an awareness campaign will be coming onstream in a number of languages with new signage included.

He said before removal of the banks they must first consider the obligation of GCC under the EU Framework Directive to provide textile waste service which they are obeying currently, and removal of the clothes backs may relocate the dumping. Cllr. McHugh Ryan suggested that the banks be provided for public use at the sites that are monitored where access and usage can be supervised.

Mr. Coyle advised that there was also a plan to implement CCTV Cameras, that Galway County Council conducted a public consultation in early 2025 regarding the installation of CCTV at several bottle bank sites, including the Palace Grounds Public Carpark in Tuam. This CCTV is intended to deter and enforce against illegal dumping under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996.

Mr. Owens advised that the Environment are currently pursuing 2 prosecutions for illegal dumping being brought forward in relation to the clothes banks.

Cllr. Reddington with agreement by all the elected members said that item no. 3 on the agenda would be brought forward. This was proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Cunliffe and Cllr Turner.

MDT250037

**3. –To consider report under Part 8 of Planning & development Regulations 2001-2006 (as Amended).
Proposal for the development of a Residential development at Farnnamartin, Galway Road, Tuam, Co.
Galway. (report previously circulated)**

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Cunliffe and Cllr. McHugh Farag and agreed by all.

Cllr. Reddington advised that extensive conversations had taken place with local residents and with design teams and everyone had worked hard as a team. He said that the elected members had all together prepared a motion to seek amendment as agreed by all parties.

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MDT250038

On the proposal and agreement of all councillors present the following motion was agreed

I propose; -

That the Tuam area Councillors are seeking a commitment from Galway County Council to publish an additional part 8 to incorporate agreed amendments 1 and 2 as outlined at the Tuam area meeting on Monday 16th June with the Housing Director Damien Mitchell and the design team.

Ms. Murphy, SEE, then proceeded to outline those said amendments.

- 1) Indicating units in yellow on a map that were to be changed to nothing above 1 storey, agreeing to lose 4 no. housing units if redesigned.
- 2) The duplexes that were 2.5 storey high in the original design were to be redesigned at nothing higher than 2 storeys therefore losing 11 bed spaces, but no housing units would be lost.

This was proposed by Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag and seconded by Cllr. Killilea

The elected members thanked the team involved for all the work involved in the plan.

MDT250039

2. –To consider report under Part 8 of Planning & development Regulations 2001-2006 (as Amended). Proposal for the development of a Cold Weather and Medium-Term Response Unit 'Vicar St., Tuam, Co. Galway. (report previously circulated)

Ms. McDonagh presented the details of the proposal to all present and went through the Chief Executive Report as circulated to all elected members.

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag and agreed by all.

Cllr. McHugh Farag welcomed development on a site that was derelict in the town for a long time. Cllr. Cuniffe welcomed and supported the development but queried what information was available on the management of the premises and said there must be a care plan for the development.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the Elected members, Mr. Owens, DOS, Eithne Murphy, SEE and all the team involved in bringing a successful project to this point. Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer was also acknowledged for her contribution.

MDT250040

4. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

No further items to discuss.

MDT250041

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

Cllr. Reddington referred to a water pipe in Belclare that has burst, been repaired and replacement is once again required. He said there was a promise that it will be repaired again by next August which is now reported to be pushed out to December or January and is seeking that communication issue to Irish

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Water to expedite same. Mr. Coyle advised he would follow up with Irish water regarding replacement of the water pipe.

Cllr. Reddington said that the fire brigade was present at the opening of the new community playground at Donaghpatrick, and they expressed their need for a new fire engine. Cllr. McHugh Farag asked if there was anything that GCC could do as equipment must be reliable especially when they are required to respond to traffic collisions on the motorway. Cllr. Hoade said they are covering a huge geographical area and need to address this issue urgently with the chief Fire officer. Mr. Owens said he will follow up with the Chief Fire Officer and issue an update at the next MD Meeting.

Cllr. Turner requested an update on the Part 8 for Bridge Street, Dunmore. Mr. Coyle said that hoped it would be ready for Part 8 in the next 4 weeks.

Cllr. Cuniffe said that there is a big need to affordable housing in Tuam Town with rents spiralling it is important to keep people here, as those slightly above the income threshold for social housing cannot get a home. Cllr. Killilea said that they discussed the possibility of rolling out 1 or 2 affordable schemes at the CPG meeting. All Elected members concurred that it was not acceptable that Tuam would be left without affordable housing for the people working in the town.

MDT250042

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan the following motion was agreed I propose; -

We write to Department Minister for Housing to examine the situation in relation to the number of impediments to the delivery of affordable houses in rural areas. This viability of the scheme is compromised as the cost of provision of units are unable to meet the scheme requirement to be 15% lower than OMV (Open Market value). Can the link be removed of the affordable subsidy to LAP densities and providing a higher or standardised subsidy. Consideration should be given to conditionally planning to include an allocation of 30% affordable housing. This will ensure sustainable communities of private 50%, affordable 30% and 20% social.

Mr. Owens advised that there was a presentation to the CPG that morning and that analysis would suggest that there is potential for Affordable schemes in Tuam at Ballygaddy Road and Sun Street and said when further reports are available, they will be circulated to the Tuam MD.

MDT250043

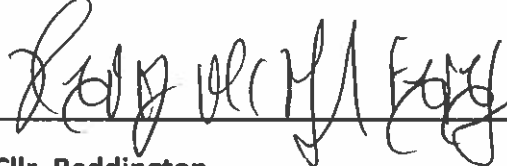
6. - Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

Cllr. Killilea put forward a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Dr. Tony Claffey, RIP, a renowned historian and instrumental figure in bringing the day care centre to Toghermore.

Cllr. Turner put forward a vote of sympathy to the family of the late John Mannion, RIP, a great supporter and follower of GAA.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15:25

Approved by:


Cllr. Reddington

Date: 08/09/25.