

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 28th JUNE 2024 AT 11.30 am.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Roche

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

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Ms. Rachel Lowe, SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Padraic Flaherty, Executive Technician Ms. Geraldine Byrne, - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer. Paula Higgins – SEE, Donna Gibbons – EE.

Cllr. Roche commenced the meeting. Cllr. Killilea suggested that item no. 3 The Active Travel Presentation was moved first so that Paula Higgins, SEE and Donna Gibbons EE could then be excused. This was agreed by all.

MDT240043

3. – Active Travel Presentation

Ms. Higgins, SEE gave an Active Travel (AT) Presentation to the Elected members, advising that Active Travel funding was for functional travel such as travel to work, school and shops and was not for recreational travel. She said that NTA fund works on Regional and Local Roads and AT projects on National Roads are funded and managed by TII.

She advised of the Key Target objective is to deliver 1000km of new walking & cycling infrastructure by end of 2025. She advised the elected members that this was a process driven project and went through the 7 stages involved in the project delivery adding that currently a lot of GCC projects are at Phase 2.

She advised that no funding for any Tuam schools was received under Safe Routes to Schools in round 1 but further rounds may include same.

Ms. Higgins referred to Galway County Councils Bus Stop & Shelter Enhancement Programme and advised that Ms. Donna Gibbons, EE is currently in process of securing a design consultant and is starting to gather information in relation to the project.

Cllr. Roche thanked Ms. Higgins for the presentation and the clarity provided. Cllr. Reddington thanked the active Travel team, stating he remained concerned with the delivery time for projects with 7 stages now involved.

He advised that Headford were in the middle of preparing for the Transport Plan. He said that a huge amount of work had been done gathering information and that a report had been collated by local people, voluntarily gathering data on what the community need. He said the report will be sent to Ms. Higgins and the AT team. He called for public engagement and praised the work of Ms. Gibbons in relation to bus shelters, commending her approach with local businesses to secure a suitable bus shelter location.

Cllr. Hoade wanted to put on record that Headford is a business town and the views and needs of the businesspeople need to be considered in the Transport Study and called for active consultation with the Community Development Association. She complimented Ms. Gibbons on her works on the bus shelters and requested that Kilcoona, Cloughanover and Grange be considered to be added to the list for shelters.

Cllr. McHugh Farag thanked Ms. Higgins for her presentation and enquired if there were representations for Lavally made under the safe routes to school's programme. She welcomed the news on the bus shelters and advised that it was important that a maintenance scheme was implemented thereafter to ensure they were kept clean.

Cllr. Roche also referred to safety concerns at Lavally school referencing a letter received from a national school child in relation to safety measures required which he described as very touching.

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to the changes on the AT travel funding as Nationalisation gone mad, he said AT funding should be dedicated to each Local Area and it was insane to have to go through all the phases now required and said that smaller projects under 1.5km should also get priority.

He enquired if the bus shelters being provided were for public busses or could private operators use them also referencing private providers such as Burkes busses providing an important service. He raised the issue of speed of motorists when coming off the motorway and on to the Galway Road and asked if safety on this road could come under the active travel remit. Ms. Higgins advised that in relation to speed control there will be elements designed to slow down traffic and therefore provide for road safety.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired under the safe routes to school project is it a case of considering existing routes or can the council consider the railway alignment.

Both he and Cllr Hoade enquired if the staffing levels are sufficient in the Active Travel team, Cllr. Hoade asking how Galway County Council compares with other Local Authorities. Ms. Higgins advised that the team currently is fully staffed with 4 engineers and administrative support and that details of the resourcing of other LAs may be available on NTA website.

Cllr. Killilea enquired if areas such as Lavally qualify for AT funding and referenced Knockma not qualifying due to being outside the limits. He welcomed proposed works for Dublin Road saying works were required for over 2.5 years. He also made a reference to a bigger plan for the railway station and for a transport hub in Tuam.

Cllr. Hoade expressed concern that funding was not awarded under safe routes to schools and asked that priority be given to Corrandrum National School.

Cllr. Turner urged that Milltown NS were prioritised under the Safe Routes to Schools programme. Stating that the school being situated on the N17, must deal with in excess of 100KM/PH speeds on a very busy stretch of road and pleaded that something must be done. He asked for Lavally and Browns Grove Schools to also be examined.

He urged the technical staff to examine requirements at Dunmore School and said that children are not able to safely walk to school because of the state of Bridge Street, with derelict and neglected buildings and cars and vans having to go up on the footpath to pass through the town.

He stated he is concerned for the timeframe for Active Travel project delivery hoping to see real infrastructure sooner rather than later.

Cllr. Cunniffe said that Tuam Cortoon Ladies football team have been fundraising and enquired if the development of footpaths in this area would qualify for active travel funding.

Cllr. Roche said the timelines are the biggest issue and enquired if there was any latitude in relation to what is considered priority. Ms Higgins advised that based on current timelines a simple project could take 12 months but more complex they will have a target of two years, as the team will all work pro-actively to ensure delivery. Highlighting more forward planning at the initial stages of a project will ensure a smoother delivery.

Ms. Higgins advised that in relation to safe routes to schools' scheme; the scheme is closed at the moment to new applicants but there are 7 schools in Tuam MD registered. Ms. Higgins advised that the registration does not lie with Galway County Council, but rather externally with An Taisce/SRTS. She said that the principal of the national school will need to register the school with An Taisce and Safe Routes to be considered. Cllr. Hoade enquired if schools are aware they can register, and Ms. Higgins said they will have received the information. She advised that Brownsgrrove, Dunmore and Lavally were not registered on the Safe Routes to School list. Ms Higgins referenced the website where the registered schools are recorded.

Cllr. Turner enquired if a bus shelter would be considered for Dunmore. Ms. Gibbons advised that Dunmore, Tuam, Headford and Milltown were being examined for potential bus shelters. Ms. Lowe advised the members that if they would like a separate presentation on the bus stop enhancement programme then this could be arranged.

She advised that with AT a lot of projects are in the design phase, some will be in construction next year with other projects then following on behind. The Council is trying to build up a line of projects to ensure a strong delivery stream for future years. As the current schemes are all at design stage – the funding is relatively lower to reflect this.

Ms Higgins said they can arrange to come back in 6 months for a further presentation and that they hope to start the Dublin Road this time next year.

Cllr. Reddington referred to the huge amount of work done over the last number of years in North Galway in a short space of time and huge amount of work delivered and said that if the money was received locally then it could be spent locally.

MDT240044

1. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 27th May, 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 27th May 2024 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Cllr. McHugh Farag enquired if any progress was made regarding acquiring of the Scouts Hall. Ms. Lowe advised Cllr. McHugh to liaise directly with Corporate Services and Facilities. Cllr. Killilea advised Mr. Coyle

had been present for a meeting and had a list of conditions that the Scouts had requested. They agreed this list would be sent on to Mr. Coyle who would in turn pass it on to the relevant department.

Cllr. McHugh Farag sought an update regarding her request for a meeting with Mr. Owens, Director of Services, and the local businesses. She said she was told that ticketing was not as persistent as it had been for the last number of weeks but hoped a meeting could be facilitated with the businesspeople seeking that clarification was provided regarding the use of loading bays.

Ms. Lowe advised that she was conscious that concern regarding ticketing had alleviated, advising that a new structure was also in place with the appointment of a Senior Community Warden. She said she will be looking at consistency in the process.

In relation to the loading bays, she advised that they were for use of Commercial Vehicles only and apologised on behalf of the executive if there was any confusion in relation to same. She said that the bye laws are very clear, and it is important that the public know this, and they are available on Galway County Council website.

Cllr. Killilea requested clarification on the definition of a commercial vehicle and suggested a gentler approach to the ticketing system. Ms. Lowe advised that on behalf of the executive she had noted all the concerns that had been raised.

Cllr. Killilea referred to Tuam Graveyard and advised that he allocated €10,000 NOM funding for a tidy up prior to the election. He enquired if there was a bye law in relation to the size requirements of headstones and suggested that a review be done by the planning enforcement section to see if guidelines were being met. He said he appreciate it is a sensitive issue, but Galway County Council need to address it.

He requested a more concerted effort in the maintenance and upkeep of the graveyard and enquired who is responsible for it on a week-by-week basis.

Cllr. Cuniffe concurred with these requests and said it was a duty as local councillors that funding is provided stating if the specific funding is there the job will be done adding that the maintenance of the town hall is another pressing issue.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referenced the railings in the graveyard that are over 100 years old and called for a restoration to be completed. She said she had been in contact previously with the Conservation Officer regarding same.

Mr. Owens said he could appreciate that the graveyard is a sensitive issue and that he would follow up with his colleagues and provide an update for the next meeting. He advised there was a burial ground policy available on the website which had details of dimensions and allowable heights of headstones. He did advise however that sometimes works may take place without the appropriate consultation and consent in in some instance such works take place outside standard hours. He said that there are draft bye laws, and he would enquire on their progression.

MDT240045

4. – Declaration of a Road to be a public road – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993-

Friars Walk Estate, Dunmore, Co. Galway

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Turner and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea it was **agreed** that **Friars Walk Estate, Dunmore, Co. Galway** be declared a public road as follows.

- **Point A-B**
Road Commencing at its junction with the R360 in the townland of Breanra and extending south and west for 309M ending at point B opposite house no. 48 in the Townland of Breanra.
- **Point C-D**
Road commencing outside house No. 24 and extending north a distance of 187M to point D in the Townland of Breanra.
- **Point E-F**
Road commencing between house nos. 31 and 37 and extending north a distance of 82M to point F (to the north of house No. 42) in the townland of Breanra.

Cllr. Killilea wished his thanks to be put on record for the hard work and dedication of Celine Delaney and Iggy Mitchell in getting developments to this stage, saying it was a testament to the resident's association who fought for several years for this.

MDT240046

5. – The Notice of Intention to Extinguish Public Right of Way – Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993

- **L-22143-1 Access Road in the townland, Lenamore, Tuam, Co. Galway.**

Cllr. Roche enquired if the elected members could be satisfied that this was not affecting anyone else by extinguishing this right of way. Ms. Lowe responded stating that it was a rectification to reflect the existing position on the ground – presently a public road and public right of way is indicated through someone's driveway and garden and this needs to be abandoned and extinguished to reflect the reality on the ground. Ms. Lowe confirmed that no other parties are affected.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Turner it was **agreed to extinguish public right away in the townland, Lenamore, Tuam, Co. Galway**

MDT240047

5. – The Notice of Intention to Abandon Public Right of Way – Section 12 of the Roads Act, 1993

- **L-22143-1 Access Road in the townland, Lenamore, Tuam, Co. Galway.**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh Farah and **seconded** by Cllr. Turner it was **agreed to abandon public right away in the townland, Lenamore, Tuam, Co. Galway**

MDT2400048

6. - Municipal District of Tum Director's Business

Ms. Byrne advised she had received correspondence in relation to an invitation for a delegation from Tuam MD to attend Straubing Festival which will be held on Thursday, 13th August 2024 with a formal invite to follow.

It was agreed by all present the Cllr. Turner would attend the Annual Straubing festival, and that the directorate would nominate a second person.

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

Cllr. Roche referred to the plans for development of Ballygaddy Park and requested that there was engagement with locals so there their requests were facilitated.

Cllr. Killilea advised that the residents association committed to the original design sent over a year and a half ago and that Mr. Coyle had made an application for funding. If this was successful, the proposed plan would go on public display and allow for locals to have an input. He said it will not be possible to do a circumference path as would have to remove the existing trees.

Cllr. Roche said whatever was developed, needed the consensus of the local people and that it was important that everyone is happy with the finished plan. Mr. Owens commented that there is always benefit to the public consultation element and gave confirmation that this would take place.

Cllr. Roche said he had been contacted by two people who had Japanese Knotweed in their garden, that they were told to engage with the Council but that nothing has happened. Ms. Lowe advised that if it is on private land, it does not pass through the roads section but that they may be able to contact the Councils Biodiversity officer for general information or to be informed of some people they could contact regarding the issue.

Cllr. McHugh Farag requested the frequency of the road sweeper and footpath cleaner in Tuam town as the aesthetics in the town is not as good as it used to be. Mr. Coyle advised that the Road sweeper is used in the town 3 days a week and in Headford and Dunmore one day each week. He said Tuam MD do not have a smaller street sweeper.

Ms. Lowe advised that footpath sweeping is resource heavy and would pull staff from working on the Roads Programme but with the movement over of some staff from Water Services over time they could look at some of those areas that are more resource heavy. Mr. Coyle advised that Tony Cuniffe had retired from his post and that his replacement would be starting on July 1st carrying out street cleaning and litter maintenance throughout the town.

He advised that a Litter Management Plan is being developed for Tuam, Dunmore and Headford and will deal with issues such as sweeping schedules, location of bring banks and maintenance regime in towns. And will be brought before the MD before completion.

Cllr. McHugh Farah requested that when developing the realm of Tuam to examine materials and structures that are maintenance free.

Any Other Business

Cllr. Killilea informed the meeting that one of the tennis nets in the palace grounds was missing. Mr. Coyle advised that nets were torn and were taken down and are currently working on getting them replaced.

Cllr. Killilea enquired if there was any update on the inspection of the Palace Grounds to maintain the Blue Flag status. He thanked everyone who was working on the Sensory Garden and said it was great to see it starting. Mr. Coyle advised that Frank Dolly and his team and the CES team were in the park doing maintenance works and getting it ready for upcoming inspection.

Municipal District of Tuam – 28th June 2024

Cllr. Cuniffe expressed congratulations to Cortoon Lavally Development Group for their success in securing land for a football pitch, he wished them well and said the Council would row in and help where possible.

A discussion took place among the elected members in relation to Pieta House, the struggle to raise funding and the importance of keeping this vital service open in Tuam with the service being used by people of Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon. The elected members advised it was important to communicate that the message that the service remains open and totally committed to continuing the service that it provides within Tuam.

Cllr. Hoade advised that reimagine Tuam wished to make a presentation at the meeting on 15th July 2024.

MDT2400050

**On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea seconded by Cllr. Reddington the following motion was agreed
I propose; -**

That Galway County Council engage with TII in relation to a dedicated bus corridor from Claregalway to Galway City. The bus companies that traffic people to and from the city are hitting delays at Two-mile ditch. This needs to be a priority within the next 12 months.

Cllr. Killilea said that it is their priority to assist those using public transport and delays of 15 minutes were being experienced at Two-mile ditch.

Cllr. Roche suggested the matter could be brought to the Roads & Transportation SPC. Ms. Lowe advised that a response could be provided to the Motion from HQ. She stated that any response is likely to reference the currently underway Galway Metropolitan Transportation Strategy which is considering transportation in the area of the Galway MASP including public transport.

Cllr. Reddington advised that in 2019 he received and paid a €150 fine for election posters and referred to campaign stickers that remained visible for one candidate from the recent election and enquired why the environment section had not dealt with this issue as it was past the date to have all such campaign matter removed. He requested that a letter issue to the candidate to have them removed. Mr. Roche concurred and said that the person or their agents should remove the stickers.

Mr. Owens in response to a suggestion from Cllr. Killilea agreed to provide an update on Housing to the next meeting of the MD.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 13.55

Approved by:


Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach.

Date: 15/7/2023