

# Municipal District of Tuam –10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 AT 12:30 pm.

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<b>CATHAOIRLEACH:</b>	Cllr. Killilea
<b>I LÁTHAIR FREISIN</b>	Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington Cllr. McHugh Farag.
<b>AS LÁTHAIR</b>	Cllr Colm Keavney
<b>BAILL OIFIGH:</b>	Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, John Coyle, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner, Ms. Maria Flynn, Administrative Officer, Mr. Mark Molloy, Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer, Ms. Mary Dunne, Assistant Staff Officer, Mr. Steve Lane, Chairperson and Ms. Petrina Mitchell, Secretary Tuam Cycling Club.

MDT230080

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### **1. – Deputation from Tuam Cycling Club**

Cllr. Killilea welcomed Mr Steve Lane and Ms Petrina Mitchell of Tuam Cycling Club.

Steve Lane addressed the meeting saying that Tuam Cycling club are made up of 125 members who are predominantly cycling for leisure, generally cycling distances of 25km to 50 km. He stated that they appreciated the opportunity to initiate constructive engagement with the Council on behalf of their members. Mr Lane stated that the reason for the deputation was to highlight the obstacles and dangers encountered by cyclists and to push for safer infrastructure and support from the local Authority in maintaining the hard shoulder and cycleways in the Municipal District Area.

He stated that while the club are mainly accident free, they encountered a serious accident where a multiple collision took place at Craughwell railway junction recently, where 8 cyclists came down and suffered injuries. He acknowledged that this area is not within the remit of the Tuam MD but requested that this would be looked at by the relevant department in Galway County Council as he has since been informed that a few similar accidents have occurred at this site and have been reported. He appealed for better signage to warn cyclists of the danger at the location.

Ms Mitchell outlined that each group cycle is led by a lead cyclist who underwent special training to ensure they identify hazards to the cyclists who are following them , but as groups predominantly cycle along the hard shoulder they encounter large potholes and debris such as stones and twigs from the roadway all of which create hazards for cyclists .One of the hazard identified was the lack of level manhole covers ,many of the manhole covers in urban area may be two or three inches lower than the road which forces cyclists to swerve to avoid them. Another hazard identified was where road resurfacing takes place the surface is not always suitable for use by cyclists.

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Mr Lane outlined that the cycleways are not generally suitable for group cycling but for other cyclists who use them there are hazards such as an inch and a half lip that exists between the cycleway and the path on the Bobby Burke Road.

Mr Lane queried the possibility of the setting up of a portal by Galway County Council where hazards could be identified and logged as cyclists come across them. He also appealed to the members who engage on the Joint Policing Committee to raise the issue of intimidation and aggressive behaviour by motorists towards cyclists on the road. Stating that several incidents have been reported, he referred to one incident where a bottle of water was thrown from a car at a lone female cyclist.

On conclusion of the presentation, Cllr. Killilea and the members thanked Mr. Lane and Ms. Mitchell and stated that he was disappointed that there was this level of road rage experienced by cyclists and asked if the Council could investigate the provision of a portal where hazards identified could be logged as cyclists encounter them.

Cllr Sheridan advised that the hard shoulders in some cases are not within the remit of the County Council but that the Council would engage with the bodies responsible for their upkeep and raised the issue of hedge cutting as overgrown hedges can be a hazard for cyclists.

All members condemned the aggressive behaviour referred to and Cllr Roche, Cllr Hoade, and Cllr Reddington agreed to bring the issue of intimidation of cyclists to the JPC and advised that these incidents should be reported to the Gardai.

Cllr Reddington queried the possibility of having a dedicated council official who could communicate directly with cycling clubs.

Derek Pender D.O.S. thanked Mr. Lane and Ms. Mitchell for their deputation and advised that he was aware of the situation at the level crossing at Craughwell and that a two-pronged approach involving Galway County Council and Iarnrod Eireann is needed. He will contact Iarnrod Eireann again in relation to this matter. Mr Pender outlined the constraints in relation to funding, Galway has 6914 kms of road network and are the third worst funded county in Ireland, he outlined that when the Equalisation fund of €180 million was allocated, Donegal was allocated €17 million, and Galway received €155,000.

He advised that when resurfacing roads, that the Council will be more conscious of the surfaces they use going forward and the need to accommodate cyclists. Focus has changed in recent years to vulnerable road users.

In relation to the setting up of a reporting portal, Mr Pender advised that C.E. of Galway County Council wants a complete overhaul of IT systems. This could be investigated as part of that process but for the present time issues can be raised at M.D. offices and to the Elected representatives.

Cllr Killilea requested that item no 3 on the agenda would be moved forward to No 2 to facilitate the Planning Department, this was agreed.

**MDT230081**

### **Draft Tuam Local Area plan Q&A 2023-2029**

Ms Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner addressed the members outlining those the proposed material alterations to the Draft Tuam Local Area plan 2023-2029 is currently on display and that submissions can be made from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023, submissions can be submitted by post or via the Portal. A report will then be prepared based on submissions received and will go to the members.

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The only submissions that can be made at this time are in relation to material alterations only and not on the Draft development Plan. Once the Plan is adopted it will come into effect after 4 weeks.

Cllr Killilea enquired if there was a need for a workshop, Ms Loughnane advised to wait and see the submissions and if the members require a workshop, it would be organised.

### **Adoption of minutes of the planning meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the meeting to discuss the Draft Local Area plan 2023-2029 for Tuam held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed.

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MDT230082

### **2- Approval of the Litter Management Plan 2023-2025**

Ms. Maria Flynn and Mr. Mark Molloy, Environment Section addressed the members referring to the Draft Litter Management Plan circulated to them and invited their observations and comments.

Cllr Killilea complimented the Environment section on preparing the plan, and queried if it was to cover a 2-year period. In reply to Cllr Killilea, Mr Molloy confirmed that the plan covers a 3-year period and can be reviewed after that time. Cllr Killilea queried if the plan was more aspirational than operational and mentioned that the plan doesn't outline the penalties involved for illegal offences under the legislation.

Cllr Hoade complimented Maria Finn and Mark Molloy for the wonderful work they are doing and particularly in relation to the recent W.E.E Collections and collections of bulky goods, she enquired if one could be organised for Headford.

Mr Molloy confirmed that Headford could be considered later in the year.

Cllr. Hoade referred to a pilot scheme in relation to waste disposal in Ballinasloe and enquired if a similar one could be organised for other areas. She queried if householders could be requested to provide evidence of how they dispose of their waste as a means of helping to combat the big issue of illegal dumping.

Cllr. Roche while accepting the benefit of having a plan, he felt that the plan can only have a positive impact if it is met with investment in resources both financial and staffing and requested the Executive to provide the resources needed to implement the plan.

He referred also to the ongoing issue relating to G.D.P.R. regulations which prevents evidence from two CCTV cameras on site in a bog being utilised, until legislation is passed by the Oireachtas.

Cllr Killilea complimented the W.E.E. Collections organised by the Council and referred to the great service provided by Bounceback furniture and Recycling facility in Ballybrit.

Cllr, Reddington also complimented the local WEEE collections and queried funding. He commented that there has been an increase in the incidents of tyres being dumped now and queried if a collection programme put in place some years ago, could be organized again. Mr. Molloy replied that there was a collection some years ago but was not aware of any plans for another one. However, he is aware of a programme in place for end-of-life tyres and will follow up and revert to Cllr. Reddington.

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Cllr. Sheridan thanked Mr. Molloy and Ms. Flynn and referred to a successful campaign where a water filling station was installed in Milltown and reduced the number of single use bottles. This initiative could be considered in other communities. Mr. Molloy acknowledged that the installation of a water refill station in any environment will reduce the use of single use bottles. An example of where this has been highly successful is in secondary schools where 18 schools so far have been part funded for the installation of water units and at last count in excess of 120,000 bottles have been refilled. More schools can be considered for support in the future. He outlined that many new builds and renovations now include refill stations in their design. Another area of support for this initiative is in the Green GAA initiative being supported by Galway County Council.

Cllr. Hoade complimented Mr. Molloy on the great work he does with communities and with educational programmes such as the Green Schools programme. Mr Molloy agreed that the Green Schools programme was a very important for the delivery of environmental education in schools, and that Galway County Council would continue to support it. The Green Schools programme covers themes such as litter management, waste, energy, water and biodiversity.

Cllr Roche referred to an initiative he had seen in a tourist area, relating to the provision of signage informing the public that they were now entering a litter free zone, and felt it would be a worthwhile investment if this signage was erected at a strategic location. He added that if these billboards came at a modest cost Councillors could contribute N.O.M Funding if this was allowed under N.O.M. regulations Ms Flynn mentioned that she had seen this initiative on a beach in Devon and that the Environment section were working on a similar programme for beaches which could also be adapted to include towns and villages.

Ms. Flynn stated that the Environment section were considering an Ambassador programme in the County in relation to a litter awareness programme. Further details would be available once it was developed. She also confirmed that the Environment section have sought additional resources this year.

Cllr Reddington proposed the approval of the Litter Management plan 2023-2025 and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Killilea.

MDT230083

### Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed.

### Matters Arising:

Cllr Hoade requested an update on the position relating to Corrandrum.

Mr Pender replied that the closing date for submissions in relation to the section 38 traffic calming measures, had closed and 19 submissions were received which will be considered by Rachel Lowe and Mr Pender and a report will be prepared.

In response to Cllr Roche, Mr Pender advised that he would check with the law agent to determine if this will then be referred to the members for consideration.

Cllr Hoade proposed that a workshop be held to consider submissions with the technical staff.

This was proposed by Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr Killilea.

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Cllr Mc Hugh requested an update on funding pledged at the last M.D meeting in respect of repair of footpaths at Dublin Rd. Tuam.

Cllr Reddington asked for an update on the survey of footpaths in Headford.

Mr Coyle replied that he would review the footpaths on the national road and seek funding from the T.I.I.

In reply to Cllr. Reddington, Mr Coyle advised that a draft Community Transport study for Headford has been prepared and the draft plan, scope of the works, data requirements mapping, and duration can now be considered by Area Staff and the Active Travel team.

Cllr Hoade referred to a request she made previously relating to the holding of an information evening as part of the process.

In reply to Cllr Hoade, Mr Pender stated that it was standard procedure to gather all information, then prepare the plan and subsequently have the public consultation.

Cllr Mc Hugh Farag requested an update on the position relating to the old Courthouse Building. Mr Pender confirmed that he has communicated with the OPW, and the Court services and it was confirmed that the building was in the ownership of the Court services and while there was a long-term plan to redevelop the site there was no funding available at present.

**On the proposal of Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed.**

**I propose; -**

That Galway County Council serve a dereliction notice on the Court services for the buildings in their ownership on the Dublin Road Tuam (old Courthouse and former G.A.A. complex)

Cllr Sheridan asked for updates on a recent proposal put to Rachel Lowe regarding social integration on clean up schemes. He also referred to Electric Vehicle (EV) deployment and the interaction between Galway County Council and the CARO office.

ZEVI (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) which is a dedicated unit established within the Department of Transport and will provide matching funding for the development of the EV strategy.

**MDT230084**

### **Adoption of minutes of A.G.M held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Roche the minutes of the meeting of the Annual General meeting of Tuam Municipal District held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed.

**MDT230085**

### **Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business**

Mr Pender advised the members that the Council have received an additional sum of €1.5 million allocation of funding for roads for the county, each MD have been provided with funding for 2 no. additional roads. The allocation for Tuam M. D will be €200,000 for road improvements on the R347 and

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€80,000 for the Frank Stockwell Road. The Department may come back with more funding and if this happens the extra funding will be divided out evenly over the M.D.'s

Cllr Roche raise the issue of roundabout maintenance and queried if a pilot scheme could be set up whereby a local business could fund the maintenance for a year and by way of acknowledgement of their input a signpost could be erected on the roundabout advising of their contribution towards the maintenance.

Cllr Hoade queried that while she was aware of restrictions in relation to verge trimming at this time of year, could special exemptions be given to National Primary and National secondary junctions on Health and Safety Grounds and referred to a particular location she raised at last month's meeting.

Mr Pender replied that while in the bird nesting season verge trimming can be considered at junctions and at locations where visibility of signage is restricted.

He said he was aware of the location referred to by Cllr Hoade at the last meeting and it will be assessed under Health and Safety and Visibility issues.

Mr Coyle gave an update on the current position relating to the Roadworks programme in Tuam M.D as follows.

He stated that 90% of the Surface Dressing programme was complete, 70% of road improvements was complete, Colas will return in next few weeks for recycling works.

Work on Local improvement schemes is ongoing, and work will commence on Community involvement schemes after the August break.

Tenders are back in relation to verge trimming of dangerous junctions,

Cllr Mc Hugh Farag queried if the pot of money available for art installations could be useful for the installation of a piece of art on the roundabouts.

Mr Pender advised the funding is €140,000 and they could look at finding a second round of funding. The funding depends on the size of the project and the higher the value of the project the bigger the allocation allowed,

Cllr Reddington referred to a proposal he put forward in December 2022 requesting Irish Water to provide a costing for the repair of burst pipes at Caherlistrane and has not yet received a reply.

He referred to the situation 2 weeks ago where the pipe at Cave Caherlistrane burst again and led to a very serious incident where a car drove into a sink hole created by the burst main.

He stated that the surrounding area was again left without water, and he referred to many other occasions where the water is turned off without any notice while the pipeline is being repaired.

Cllr Hoade concurred with Cllr Reddington adding that this situation has serious consequences for all householders and businesses but particularly for the elderly and where people are dealing with illness.

Mr Pender stated that he was not aware of the motion but requested that Cllr Reddington forward it to him, and he will follow it up with Irish Water

Cllr Roche stated that from information he holds the pipe has been repaired 26 times.

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

**I propose; -**

We seek a guarantee that the leaks repair at R333 (Knockma) stand the test of time.

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The recent repair was the last repair of 26 carried out over the years causing considerable disruption and distress locally.

Cllr Hoade referred to an ongoing safety issue relating to a roadway adjacent to Sylane N.S. which is used by children to access playing pitch and needs resurfacing. The road is not taken in charge by Galway County Council and Cllr Hoade queried the policy regarding taking in charge of this road.

Mr Pender advised that the taking in charge of a roadway is a reserved function of the members.

His advice was that due to limited finance available for upkeep of roads was not to take any more roads in charge.

There is a financial outlay involved in bringing the road up to the required standard for takeover and the costings in this case are approx. €45,000.

The option of members to allocate N.O.M Funding towards the works was discussed.

Cllr Killilea referred to two roadways that were previously taken in charge without upgrading. Mr. Pender stated that he was opposed to any attempt to having the road taken in charge without the required works being carried out.

Cllr Sheridan enquired if a re assessment of the estimate could be done to see if repairs could be carried out for less than €45,000.

A discussion took place, and as there is a heritage site also served by this roadway, a proposal was put forward to seek funding from the Department of Heritage to upgrade the road.

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

**I propose; -**

That Galway County Council seek funding to upgrade the road at Sylau N.S. to bring this section of road to a decent standard.

There is a significant piece of National Heritage on the section of road that attracts regular visitors.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the CIS scheme and was informed that the Council await a call for applications.

Cllr Sheridan asked if Ms Paula Higgins could attend the next meeting and provide an update on Active Travel.

Cllr Mc Hugh queried if the Little Red Chair project could be considered for a paint upgrade.

### **Cathaoirleach Business**

Cllr Killilea advised of an invitation to attend Straubing and confirmed that he is willing to go and asked if there was a second member interested in attending.

It was decided that a second person would be confirmed at a later date.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin*

Approved by:



Cllr. Killilea, Cathaoirleach.

Date: 11/09/2023