

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr. Killilea

**I LÁTHAIR FREISIN**

Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington & Cllr. McHugh Farag.

**AS LÁTHAIR**

**BAILL OIFIGIH:**

Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Paul Connolly – Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer, Nichola & Conor Davin & Kevin Keeley - Dublin Road Residents.

**MDT230071**

**1. – Deputation from the residents of Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.**

Ms. Nichola Davin Resident and native of Dublin Road advised the elected members that she and her son Conor were attending the meeting so that she could highlight the issue of speeding on the Dublin Road and outside their house. She advised the meeting that last Wednesday she undertook an informal 5-minute survey on the road and 10 out of 12 vehicles exceeded the 50K speed limit with over half exceeding 60k and passed around photographic evidence to support same. She informed the members that her greatest fear is that one of her children will run out after a ball and be killed immediately on the road. Ms Davin said having grown up next door, she cycled to and from school each day and it is simply not an option for her children. She said they were lucky to get a new path to Toghermore House but are unable to walk to it because of the absence of pedestrian crossings.

Ms. Davin spoke of increased footfall and cars travelling in the area in the area with 3 sports clubs and traffic to and from same daily from 5-9 with approximately 400 children using the facility. She pleaded the case that parents should be able to walk their children to and from sports facilities and referred to “Stepping Stones” child development centre that have café and shop on their doorstep but need to cross a very busy road to access facilities. She implored with Local Councillors to help her create a safer environment for her children and other local children by putting this issue on the top of their agendas.

Mr. Kevin Keeley, also a resident of the Dublin Road addressed the meeting in relation to ongoing issues where water lodges and flows down the road into a resident’s driveway. He said water lodges even with an ordinary day’s rain fall and described how water lodges at 3 other houses where there is an existing manhole at the highest part of the road. Mr. Keeley outlined how speeding cars will then drive through the lodged water saturating pedestrians. A further 150 yards down alongside the GAA pitch there is a manhole that does not function and there is a flood 20 yards each side of it. He fears that speeding cars will be unable to stop and predicts a dangerous accident or death if something not done to address issues. Mr. Connolly advised that the MD office have limited funding in drainage, but they look at the flooding issue and possible moving the location existing gullies.

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Conor Davin, aged nine, together with his mother explained to the meeting how it is so dangerous he cannot cycle to school by himself, and they felt they should be able to go safely.

The Elected Members thanked Nichola, Conor and Kevin for their representation and each pledged to give €2,000 NOM funding towards footpath's required in the area.

Cllr. Roche said he felt that Paul Connolly, SEE and the engineering staff have a good handle on whatever traffic calming measures need to be introduced. Cllr. McHugh Farag advised the meeting she was familiar with the issue as was born in Tubber Jarlath and that they had her full support.

Kevin Keely advised that he had previously met with Mr. Connolly in the Rugby club dressing rooms in relation to the issues at Dublin Road and Mr. Connolly had suggested the narrowing of road and a pedestrian crossing and lights which would force cars to slow down and not overtake.

Cllr. Sheridan called for a traffic audit to be carried out on the Dublin Road during a busy time so that accurate data is captured with summer camps due to be held in July with up to 200 cars dropping and collecting within few hours. Referencing living on the N17 himself he advised that in his experience people become immune to signage over time and that physical intervention is more effective.

Mr. Connolly thanked the Dublin Road residents for their presentation. He advised that speeding is a major issue and advised and that there is a need for pedestrian crossing. He advised that while GCC are responsible for setting of speed limits, they cannot enforce people adhering to them. He enquired if they had spoken to the Gardai and if a speed van positioned in the area would be an option, to which Ms. Davin advised it was explored but there was nowhere for it to park.

Mr. Connolly advised that works done at Glass Avenue were completed under active travel and everything in this nature will be designed under the active travel team going forward. He said that the footpath completed to Toghermore was an in-house design. The NTA are insisting that all works are designed by consultants in line with transportation plans. The active travel team will arrange long term design this year and construct following year. Mr. Pender advised that the Dublin Road is a priority scheme for the NTA.

**MDT230072**

### **2. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were **agreed**.

#### **Matters Arising:**

Cllr. Hoade requested an update regarding the staff shortages in Headford and pleaded with Mr. Pender that extra staff were needed urgently. Mr. Pender advised that offers are continuing to go out for the position and advised that the CEO has put in place a new strategic workforce plan requesting additional GOs in every MD in the medium to long term. Mr. Connolly advised that they may look at transferring GOs from another area for a few months throughout the Summer to get the works completed.

Cllr. Hoade queried if the panel had been exhausted for the post as some people had been saying to her, they never received correspondence from Human Resources. Mr. Pender advised that panels expire within 2 years or if everyone on it has been offered, but that there is a shortage of people throughout the workforce from Planners, Engineers to General Operatives.

Cllr. Sheridan referred back to his motion MDT230062 at the previous months MD Meeting regarding outsourcing of contracts, referencing the supply and demand matrix and queried why more works could not be outsourced to contractors such as traffic management. Cllr. Redington referenced a GO being out on Annual leave in Headford the previous week and the team were severely impacted. He queried if sub contractors could be called in to help the GO team. Cllr. Sheridan also queried if there were procurement issues.

Mr. Pender advised that the majority of works are contracted out and that the remainder of works is completed by our own teams and that GCC would not have the money to bring in further external resources, but he assured the elected members that funding is not being returned to the Dept. Mr. Pender advised that everyone is entitled to tender for works when it is the appropriate time to do so.

Cllr. Roche expressed his delight that the offensive sign was removed from the Dublin Road. He queried what was the next step in the process the road at Corrundrum and queried what traffic calming measures had been proposed. Mr. Pender advised that Corrundrum had undergone a section 38 regarding traffic calming measures, that the public consultation period had closed and that both he and Rachel Lowe, SE, would go through submissions received and determine what if any works were warranted within next 10 days. Mr. Pender advised that he could not see any reason that works carried out would be undone as they were part of 2018 roads programme, and the road was included in the roadworks programme for that year but that there may be a list of additional remedial works to be carried out.

Cllr. Roche enquired if there will be a vote required on the measures from the elected members and Mr. Pender advised that he have to discuss the matter with the law agents. Clarification will be required and ascertain if this will be a statutory process to go before the plenary meeting or the MD meeting.

Cllr. Roche advised that the road is wide and sweeping and comes to a pinch point and referred to some land not given for where works were intended and he questioned how GCC proposed to engage with those who are not willing to engage, expecting that they will not be engaging in CPO.

He referenced that GCC are separately looking at N83 Junction onto the school, with expected TII localised intervention which is a separate issue.

Mr. Pender advised the elected members to be clear that there would be an isolated scheme at the school junction, independent of the works at the Corrundrum road.

Cllr. Reddington advised that he attended a public meeting and was looking at a proposal for 80km speed limit on this road but the most important aspect was the junction above. In terms of what the people want locally not everything is achievable such as speed bumps. Mr. Pender advised that the Council will look at the periodic speed limit signs in isolation especially where schools are involved.

Cllr. Hoade welcomed a separate proposal going forward for the school junction and sought clarification and timelines regarding same. She questioned when works would be expected to commence on a separate area of road from the quarry entrance to Peggy's Bar. Mr. Connolly advised that there is a plan in place to overlay that section of road and it has been included in this year's roads programme and expects it will be done in next 2-3 weeks.

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### 3. – Declaration of a Road to be a public road – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 – Rockley Court, Corofin, Co. Galway

On the proposal of Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag it was agreed that Rockley Court, Corofin, Co. Galway be declared a public road as follows:

Point A-B on TIC Map: • Road commencing at its junction with L-2123 in the townland of Ballybanagher and extending northeast for a distance of 236M ending at point B in the townland of Ballybanagher.

**MDT230074**

### 4. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender was delighted to confirm that the LIS to Abbey scheme was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála two weeks ago. He advised that the old N63 from Abbey Village to the national school will be an active travel scheme.

He advised that the CPO for the new road was approved by An Bord Pleanála last week and if it comes through the judicial review phase, it is expected it will be going to contract next year. This is positive news for the Tuam MD with the Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment scheme expected to go to construction within next 12-18 months.

Cllr. Sheridan requested an update on the Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment Scheme to which Mr. Pender advised that it went for planning permission late last year, the team are finalising the detailed design. Tender documents are 75% complete and when both sets are complete, they will then be referred to TII for review. Cllr. Sheridan commended the internal workings on the scheme and savings of €400K and stated it is an example of taking best out of private and best out of public skills.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said it was fantastic that the Liss to Abbey scheme was going ahead welcoming a viewing site for the Abbey and the walking infrastructure being extended, stating its great from historical and preservation point of view.

Mr. Connolly gave a brief update on current works in the MD area advising that GCC have reached agreement with the last of the landowners in respect of the Kilbannon Scheme with more signed agreements expected next week. Further final documents have also been received from the consultants. He advised that the Roads programme is progressing well and that the Palace Grounds have applied for a pollinator award. He has also recently applied for a Green Cities Europe award for the park and €75k has been approved from a community regeneration fund which was available to any town hosting Ukrainian nationals. He said this funding will be a great help in upgrading the park and will address the elected members before any works commence in respect of same.

**MDT230075**

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### **5. - Municipal -District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business,**

Cllr. Hoade queried Headford being prioritised with Systra for the Traffic Management plan and expressed concern for people with a disability locally, stating it would be difficult for them to apply for a job with access issues and that she had been speaking to Rachel Lowe, SE in this regard. Cllr. Hoade expressed her disappointed that Systra has not started yet and that it will likely be into the third quarter of the year.

Cllr. Hoade informed the meeting of communication she had from someone with a brain injury regarding cutting back of roadsides where they were overgrown, and this person has contacted all the Elected Representatives with her concerns. Mr. Pender responded advising that we are in the bird nesting season and hedge cutting is not undertaken inside this period but if can get the exact location will check out if anything can be done under Health and Safety grounds.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to social media reports on crows attacking people outside the shopping centre and asked if the Council could intervene in this issue.

**MDT230076**

**On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh Farag seconded by Cllr. Roche the following motion was agreed  
I propose; -**

That we invite the Court Services into the Tuam MD meeting to give us an update on the development of Tuam Court house. We previously received a presentation from them in 2017 and nothing has progressed since.

Cllr. Reddington praised the work of one of the Community Wardens and referred to an incident where he contacted her about 15 tyres that were illegally dumped, and she had organised to have them removed the next day. He referred to her transfer to another area and queried why if someone was doing a good job in an area that they were moved and said it could be a problem that should be looked at in GCC.

Cllr. Reddington advised that as the transportation plan for Headford was going to take a while he had a request that 3 sections of footpath were looked at that required urgent attention.

**MDT230077**

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

That the Tuam engineering team do a site survey on the footpaths on main street Headford at the following locations (Outside John McHugh's, Conroy's Butchers, Ryders Funeral Home) and repair them immediately.

Cllr. Reddington referenced the CIS schemes and that the letters were issued regarding same and asked Mr. Pender when new applications were coming available. Geraldine Byrne, Meetings Administrator advised that contact was made with the Department but that a date was not confirmed.

Cllr. Roche referred to MD meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 when the development of the Town Hall was discussed and a plan was approved. He enquired if there was any update regarding same of if these preparatory works were lost.

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The CIS scheme is in year 2 of a two year cycle and that GCC expect Departmental correspondence on same later in the year.

With regard to the query on the Town Hall, Mr Pender advised the meeting that the Part 8 was in place and the Council are awaiting a call for funding.

**MDT230078**

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

That Galway County Council proceed with the Development of Tuam inner relief road at least from Dunmore Road to Dublin Road. The future development of our town is reliant on consistent development of infrastructure.

**MDT230079**

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

That Dunmore Town EU charge point be prioritised as a small town ZEV deployment for a medium/fast charge E. V. point as a forerunner to GCC EU planned development.

Cllr. Sheridan advised that this would involve a box to be checked by ESB and that there are rates payers at present putting charging points in because we don't have the facility as a Local Authority.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr. Roche and Cllr. Killilea referenced having further discussion in relation to locations of meetings within the community and giving something back to communities by recognising outstanding achievements. Mr. Pender advised the Elected members that there may be a financial implication that would need to be considered also.

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*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 13:44 pm*

Approved by:



Cllr. Killilea, Cathaoirleach.

Date: 10/7/23