

Municipal District of Tuam – 13th November 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 13:15 pm.

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| CATHAOIRLEACH: | Cllr. Killilea |
| I LÁTHAIR FREISIN | Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. McHugh |
| AS LÁTHAIR | Cllr. Keaveney |
| BAILL OIFIGIHH: | Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, John Coyle - Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Meeting Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer. |

Cllr. Killilea welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that item no. 1 Deputation from Corofin Soccer Club was not going ahead and postponed to another date.

MDT230092

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 9th October 2023.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Sheridan and **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 9th October 2023 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Mr. Pender provided the members an update in relation to issues that were raised at meeting 9th October 2023 advising as follows;

In relation to the Traffic Management plan for Headford, Systra have been engaged by Galway County Council, Headford has been prioritised. While work is underway, it is in the initial stages of development and there will be many opportunities for public consultation. Engagement will commence as early as possible with a target date of Q2 2024.

Corrandrum –as per the recent publication by the Department procedures regarding Section 38's, there is no requirement for proposed works to go before Tuam MD Elected members, it can be adopted at Chief Executive Order level. Mr. Pender advised that he has the final report following on from public submissions. Mr. Pender made a commitment to have workshop before the end of November.

Cllr. Roche commented that he was happier that the Elected Members did not vote on something that involved Health & Safety and enquired at what point local people will have their say on what will be done. Mr. Pender advised that the submission period was the opportunity for the public to have their say. He advised that there was a separate body of work done around the school.

Cllr. Killilea, Cllr Roche & Cllr Reddington raised the issue of the loss of power from local Councillors and their promised engagement with the local residents on the matter. Mr. Pender advised that it had already went through a public consultation process.

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Cllr. Hoade said it was an erosion of democracy and understood that Mr. Pender could do nothing about it but that she was concerned for the residents who made representations and enquired if anyone on public record of making submissions would be notified. She said Galway County Council needed to work on a clear timeframe to move the process forward.

Mr. Pender advised that procurement and tender documents were currently being drafted up for sponsorship of the roundabouts and they would then be sent for review to the Senior Engineer, Procurement Officer and Biodiversity Officer.

In response to Cllr. Sheridan's query regarding Safe Routes to Schools Mr. Pender advised that Milltown National School is one of the remaining 53 schools on the list. Rounds 1 & 2 are currently in progress and he has no indication at this time if Milltown NS will be included in round 3. School selection is a function of An Taisce, and he suggested that Elected Members carry out further enquiries with An Taisce.

In relation to the Mass Rock Road at Sylane Mr. Pender advised that Tuam MD office were progressing it with Taking in Charge documentation to be sent into the Senior Engineer for approval.

In response to Cllr. Sheridan's query, Mr. Pender advised that he was not aware of any ragwort trials that had been carried out and that the ragwort funding allocation from TII is not sufficient to carry out the treatment required on a rolling basis. The required treatment on a site may take up to 3 or 4 years.

In relation to Parking and the 30-minute set down rule he was working on an information campaign and advised that the annual Christmas Parking concession campaign is going to be implemented again.

He advised Cllr. Killilea that he is awaiting a report on the bridge approaching the swimming pool.

Regarding ZEVI, Mr. Pender advised there is available funding. Donegal County Council will be the Project Lead and he would get contact details and circulate them to Cllr. Sheridan

In response to queries raised on Bridge Rehabilitation works, Mr. Pender said that that works carried are complete and he has spoken to Tom Prendergast, SE and Conor Quigley, EE in relation to future works. There is no proposal for widening as funding is only provided for safety and strengthening.

Cllr. Roche advised that this is a missed opportunity as extensive rehabilitation being carried out will still no let the required machinery past. Further engagement and discussions regarding future works planned are required.

Cllr. Killilea thanked Mr. Pender for the update and advised that he had a request from 3 local businesspeople to have a private meeting with himself and John Coyle, SEE. He advised that two businesses were targeted about having signs on the footpath and it hadn't happened to any of the other businesses, with a total of 17 signs on the footpaths in town. He suggested a meeting with local business would be useful as they are significant rate payers in the town. Mr. Pender advised that he would meet with anyone and that there is a statutory process in relation to signage that should be adhered to (Section 254, Planning & Development Act, 2000). Mr. Pender said that the community is full of vulnerable people and that street signage should be looked at independently and applications assessed on health and safety basis.

Cllr. Killilea advised that in relation to Clifden paid parking is not until 11.00am and called for consistency between bye laws for all towns in Galway.

Cllr. Hoade asked if the Tuam LAP was now effective and without ministerial directive. Mr. Pender advised that it was.

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Cllr. Sheridan requested an update regarding street rehabilitation in Dunmore and consultants update, Mr. Pender advised that he provide an update.

Cllr. McHugh asked what was the future plan for Bridge Street in Dunmore. Mr. Pender advised that the river discharged to a Special Area of Conservation therefore a Nature Impact Statement (NIS) is required. Any demolishing of the buildings on the street will have a visual impact and consultants have been unsuccessful to date in a future plan for the public realm. He advised that the TII have committed to fund the road element.

MDT230093

3. - Consideration of the request to hold a civic reception to honour the Irish Ladies World Darts Federation Winning Team.

The request was read out by Geraldine Byrne, Meetings administrator,

Cllr. Roche advised that this matter had come to CPG. Cllr. Killilea proposed this item was deferred to the next meeting and to talk to the people involved and get more information.

Cllr. Killilea suggested also that Tuam MD should show appreciation for local winning football teams and consideration be given to acknowledging a number of groups at one event in early 2024.

MDT230094

4. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender acknowledged the huge works carried out across the county last night in relation to the response to storm Debi. He said that what occurred while quick in nature, left a serious clean up operation- fire services had 10 rescue operations 1 very serious and 3 road traffic incidents . He thanked John Coyle for allowing some Tuam MD crews to move over to the Athenry Oranmore MD area to assist in areas worst effected with Clarenbridge/Coast Road and Kinvara particularly effected.

He requested that the public exercise caution where trees are down and associated danger of entangled wires. He thanked all MD's and emergency services and people on the ground for their fast-acting response.

Cllr. Hoade thanked all the people on the front line and pleaded with the public to be responsible for own safety within weather warnings.

Cllr. Sheridan said there is a huge issue with ash die back and asked if Galway County Council had the resources to deal with the issue with an astonishing number of debris on the roads. Mr. Pender advised that roads need to be made passable in first instance, debris will be pushed aside will later be cleared but getting people moving safely again takes priority.

Cllr. Sheridan asked if there is funding to bring in outside help or specialist as these events become more frequent. He said there must be a contingency plan. Cllr. Roche commented that would not like to discourage people from moving trees if it is safe to do so without fear of liability if they have the required machinery as resources are so stretched.

MDT230095

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

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I propose; -

That government extend the business flood compensation scheme to cover areas in County Galway which were affected by last night's devastating storm.

John Coyle, SEE gave an update on works to date. Closing out the Roads Programme 2023 with Restoration Improvement programme 96% complete with a few remaining projects to be completed at Barnadearg, Frank Stockwell Rd, Feadh and Bishop Street.

Under the Climate Action programme, 6 out of 8 schemes have been completed in total with one scheme at Kilgeverin not going ahead due to landowner issues and this funding has been reallocated to Barnadearg. 6 LIS schemes are complete by Tuam MD with hedge cutting ongoing.

Cllr. Roche thanked John Coyle for addressing situation in Barnadearg opposite the school as a matter of urgency with a spectacular job on road regarding surfacing and traffic now going through the village at a safer pace.

Cllr. Sheridan sought an update on scope for applying for extra manpower in Tuam MD. Mr. Pender advised that as of September 20th 2023 there was a significant change in the Irish Water / Úisce Eireann transition and quite a number of General Operatives (GO's) want to be absorbed back into Galway County Council. He said this considered it looks like every MD would get an increase in GO numbers and an advertising campaign will take place should there be a shortfall.

MDT230096

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

MDT230097

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

I propose; -

That €800 to be allocated from our twinning budget 2023 to Tuam Twinning Committee as set out in the attached request.

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the Athenry to Milltown Greenway Feasibility study. Mr. Pender said he has it and will circulate a copy to all members.

Cllr. Killilea advised that it is possible to extend the retirement age for a General Operative in Galway County Council, FAS schemes have to cease at 65. He said this is unfair as at the age of 65, many feel they have more to give and are not given an opportunity to do this. Mr. Pender said this came up with the GRD at previous deputation and would seek clarification from HR.

MDT230098

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

I propose; -

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That the Municipal Authority send a note of congratulations to the Management of retrospective football teams who won county titles in the past week. "Corofin" Senior Team, "Monivea-Abbey" intermediate team & "Kilkerrin- Clonbern" ladies football team.

MDT230099

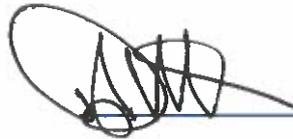
**On the proposal of Cllr. Reddington seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed.
I propose; -**

That we re-examine the possibility of allocating our training and conference budget monies and NOM to community groups in Galway County. I would like this to be discussed at Plenary Council Meeting.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 14:15pm

The meeting was followed by an exhibition charting the development of Tuams Twinning with Straubing with photographs and documents from the signing of the Charter in September 1991 placed on display together with Straubing memorabilia and information on the history of the twinning. Emily Reynolds, Chair of Tuam Straubing Twinning Committee was present and welcomed the display compiled by John Coyle, SEE.

Approved by:



Cllr. Killilea, Cathaoirleach.

Date: 11/12/2023