

Municipal District of Tuam – 6th July 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, HIGH STREET, TUAM, CO. GALWAY

ON 6TH JULY 2020, AT 11.00A.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Joseph Sheridan
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. Colm Keaveney
AS LÁTHAIR	Cllr. Peter Roche
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	Mr. Jim Cullen, Director of Service, Mr. John Coyle, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Jennifer O’Neill, A.S.O, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator

MDT200027

Item no. 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 25th June 2020

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh and **seconded** Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2020 were **agreed**.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

None

MDT200028

Item no. 2 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 25th June 2020

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh and **seconded** Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2020 were **agreed**.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the National Broadband strategy and emphasised the need to accelerate the role out of fibre optic Broadband in Tuam. He stressed the importance of broadband to keep businesses open and to facilitate the requirements of children and students where blended learning is required. He acknowledged the role of the Council in providing ducting at many locations that facilitated broadband services.

Cllr. Hoade added her support to Cllr. Keaveney stating that limited broadband led to huge challenges where blended learning and remote working was in place.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the proposed development of the old Grove Hospital in Tuam into a new mental health facility. He stated that at a recent HSE meeting it was confirmed that this would cost

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in the region of €13m. There is a significant funding shortfall for the project, which had an original cost estimated of €8m. He expressed his discontent with false commitments made in relation to this project. He has written to Minister Mary Butler regarding this and extended an invitation for her to visit Tuam to see what can be done at this location and at Toghermore house.

Cllr. Killilea requested that representatives from the Taking in Charge section of Galway County Council be invited to attend the next meeting in September. He referred to the estates of An Clochran, The Meadows and Gold Cave which to date have not been taken in charge by the Council. He confirmed that An Clochran estate had secured funding of €240,000 and no works had commenced. He said developers should not be allowed to seek planning permission for new projects if they have left estates unfinished. Mr. Cullen confirmed that a representative from Taking In Charge section of Galway County Council will be requested to attend the September meeting.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J Sheridan has requested a deputation from Dunmore Group be heard prior to the Municipal District meeting in September.

MDT200029

Item no. 3 – To consider the report under Part 8 of Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), proposal for the

R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme, incorporating the realignment of the R332 Regional Road from near Duddy's Bar & Lounge Kilbannon to Kilconly GAA Club at Annagh to accommodate a revised road cross section with the addition of shared cycle-track and pedestrian way from St. Benin's National School to the GAA Club. The scheme includes the realignment of the county road L-2210 and L-6486 at the junction with R332 at Kilbannon. The scheme also includes all ancillary works to services, boundaries and amenities.

Mr. Coyle gave an overview of the R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme. Since the opening of the N17 Tuam Bypass, while greatly appreciated locally, it has resulted in the changing of traffic movement along the R332 and the traffic through Kilbannon has increased threefold. There are no specific facilities for pedestrians or cyclists at this location. The lack of hard shoulder and soft verges along with the above result in very little refuge from the carriageway.

The R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme proposes to widen/realign the existing R332 carriageway through Kilbannon in Co. Galway from the crossroads at Duddy's Bar northwards for approximately 1200 meters to Kilconly GAA club. The scheme also includes the provision footpath/cycle track within the village to improve the safety for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed works will also improve the safety and visibility for vehicles at the two junctions on the improvement scheme, firstly Kilbannon Cross and secondly at Varleys Cross.

Mr. Coyle added that tender documents were prepare and subject to approval by the Elected Members can go to tender in the next couple of weeks. It is envisaged that contractors will be on the ground by Q4, 2020 and that the project should take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed Ms. J. Steede and Mr. P. Varley to the meeting and acknowledged Mr. M. Durand and Mr. P. Mannion from Kilbannon and he wished to put on record his gratitude to them for the commitment shown to this project. He also especially wished to thank the current and previous engineering staff who had been involved with preliminary investigations on this project.

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In reply to Cllr. Killilea's questions regarding the project, Mr. Coyle confirmed that the speed limit is still being looked at by the design team, the cost is still being calculated with land valuation prices to be taken into effect and he confirmed that all landowners have been contacted to date and will be informed of any new developments regarding land valuations.

The members welcomed the scheme and in response to their questions Mr. Coyle stated that there would be a zebra crossing at the school and also at the pitch. A traffic light pedestrian crossing will be installed at Duddy's bar. He confirmed that adequate ducting will be put in place for lighting and other services for the future enhancement of the scheme.

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. Keaveney regarding excess speed in the area, Mr. Coyle confirmed that speed data has been received and forwarded to an Garda Síochána and that it was a matter for the Gardaí to police the speed on this road.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan invited the representatives from Kilbannon to say a few words.

Mr. P. Varley said on behalf of the people of Kilbannon this was a very exciting day for the area, adding that this project will make a massive difference to the people locally. He wished to express his thanks to Cllr. Roche and the many officials of Galway County Council and looked forward to commencement of the scheme.

Ms. J. Steede added that she had been met with respect by all involved with this project and wished to also relay her thanks to the officials.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. D. Killilea, **seconded** by Cllr. C. Keaveney, to approve R332 Kilbannon Road Improvement Scheme, incorporating the realignment of the R332 Regional Road from near Duddy's Bar & Lounge Kilbannon to Kilconly GAA Club at Annagh to accommodate a revised road cross section with the addition of shared cycle-track and pedestrian way from St. Benin's National School to the GAA Club. The scheme includes the realignment of the county road L-2210 and L-6486 at the junction with R332 at Kilbannon. The scheme also includes all ancillary works to services, boundaries and amenities – Ref LA01/20 as outlined in the Chief Executive Report of the 30th June 2020.

MDT200030

Item no. 4 – Any Other Business

Cllr. D. Killilea proposed that a 'Wall of Remembrance' be erected in the Palace Grounds to celebrate those who have contributed to Tuam Town over the years.

Cllr. Killilea suggested that a letter be written to the Council in Straubing (our twinned town) to show solidarity to them as their annual festival which generates much needed funds has been cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions. Cllr. Hoade concurred with this. Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheridan to liaise with Ms. E Curran, Meetings Administrator regarding same.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the lack of Mayoral Chain in the Tuam Municipal District and queried if we could invest in same. In response, Mr. J Cullen stated the this has been raised by other Municipal Districts and that it would need to be raised at the next Corporate Policy Group.

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Cllr. Hoade asked for an update regarding the site of the carpark in Headford. She stated we must endeavour to support businesses on the main street. Mr. Cullen said he had discussed this with Mr. P. Connolly last week and Mr. Connolly is to revert to him regarding an update on same.

Cllr. Hoade paid tribute to Mr. J. Coyle, Mr. D. Mitchell and Mr. J. Cullen for the excellent job which was recently completed by Maddens & Sons on the Shrule road. She requested if a safety officer could inspect the side road junction for access and egress onto the national road.

Cllr. Hoade expressed a vote of thanks for Mr. S. Quinn, G.S.S. and the General Operatives in the Headford area who have done huge work regarding the resurfacing of the car park and their work over the last couple of months, throughout Covid19.

In reply to Cllr. Sheridan's query regarding an update on Local Improvement Schemes, Ms. E Curran confirmed that out of 35 schemes 29 had paid their local contribution and 6 had since withdrawn. The funding from these had been offered out again and it is hoped that by the end of next week will be able to issue the full list to the elected members.

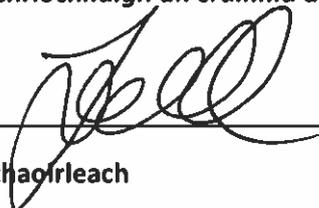
Cllr. Keaveney referred to the approach roads to Tuam which are currently unsightly due to lack of maintenance. He added that contractors should be held accountable for maintaining these areas and that it appeared that Tuam is being overlooked. In response Mr. Coyle said he currently working on devising a policy for this and that it is envisaged that private companies will sponsor the maintenance of a roundabout.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held on Monday September 7th, 2020 at 11:30a.m.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 12.05

Approved by:



Cathaoirleach

Date: 7/9/2020

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COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

MDT200031

CLLR. A. REDDINGTON (seconded Cllr. C. Keaveney)

I propose to make an amendment to the Tuam Traffic plan to include one more Disabled Parking Place on the Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway

Written reply as follows:

Currently under review by the area engineering staff to determine location of proposed Disabled Parking space.

P. Connolly, Executive Engineer

MDT200032

CLLR. D. KILLILEA (seconded Cllr. C. Keaveney)

I propose that we erect a Remembrance Wall at the Palace Grounds, Tuam to celebrate people who have dedicated their time and effort in making Tuam a great place to work and live

Written reply as follows:

Galway County Council recognises that public commemoration and memorials offer opportunities to honour, celebrate, or remember a person or group of persons of significance.

It is important, however, that public commemoration and memorials are guided by a clear policy, to provide clarity regarding the procedures for the consideration of proposals from individuals and interest groups, to address the possible emotive nature of requests where people are recently deceased and to ensure that the memorial does not detract from the wider amenity and enjoyment of public spaces. It is also important to ensure that clear criteria guide recommendations regarding the selection of individuals to be commemorated. At present there is no policy in place in relation to public commemoration and memorials.

In addition to the requirement for a clear policy, the specific proposal for a Remembrance Wall at the Palace Grounds, Tuam will also require consideration in terms of suitability, construction and maintenance

M. Owens, County Secretary

MDT200033

CLLR. J. SHERIDAN, CATHAOIRLEACH (seconded by Cllr. D Killilea)

I propose that the next meeting of the Tuam Municipal District take a site walk visit to Dunmore, with the September 2020 meeting to take place in the Community Facilities thereafter.

Written reply as follows:

Due to the continued restrictions that are in place as a result of Covid19 and in consultation with the Cathaoirleach, the proposal to hold meeting in Dunmore has been postponed at present.

E. Curran, Meetings Administrator