

## Municipal District of Tuam – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

<b>CATHAOIRLEACH:</b>	Cllr. Joe Sheridan
<b>I LÁTHAIR FREISIN</b>	Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. M Hoade
<b>AS LÁTHAIR</b>	Cllr. Peter Roche
<b>BAILL OIFIGIH:</b>	Mr. Damien Mitchell, S.E., Infrastructure & Operations. Mr. John Coyle, Acting S.E.E., Mr. Paul Connolly E.E., Mr Tom Regan E.E. Ms Mary Dunne, A.S.O, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Edel Hourigan, TIC, Mr. Eoin McHugh – TIC.

**MDT200034**

#### **Item no. 1 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of Municipal District of Tuam on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. A Reddington, **SECONDED** by Cllr. K Mc Hugh Farag, the minutes of the meeting of Tuam Municipal District held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were **AGREED**.

#### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr. Keaveney queried when it was envisaged to carry out a review of the Traffic Management plan for Tuam Town and requested an update on the maintenance of the roundabouts and green areas on the approach roads into Tuam Town.

Cllr. Killilea gave an update on his recent meeting with Minister Mary Butler. He informed the members that Toghermore Campus is now set up as Covid Centre with 7 Bedrooms upstairs and 5 downstairs. The patients who were resident there have been transferred to a facility in Castlerea. The grounds and on-site services are still in use for day patients. The proposed development of the Old Grove Hospital site has an estimated redevelopment cost of €13 million and is ready to go. However, there is no funding available from this year's Capital Budget, it may be included in the Budget for next year which will be announced in October 2020.

Cllr. Reddington stated that members of the public were very happy with the feasibility study carried out on traffic movement on Main St., Headford and asked that when the results are available so that funding could be sought for a Traffic Management Scheme. He asked if the Traffic lights in Headford could be checked out as only two cars get through on the Claran roadside at school times. Cllr. Hoade added that it appears that the lights are out of sequence as there are problems on the Cong road also. She requested that a full assessment be carried out on the lights.

Cllr. Hoade thanked P. Connolly, S. Quinn and the outdoor staff on works carried out in Headford and complimented them on completing works with the least possible disruption for less than the allocated budget of €80,000.

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In reply to the members queries on funding for Traffic Management, Mr. D. Mitchell stated that the funding allocated last year was pulled. He agreed that there is a need for new traffic management plans and revision of existing plans but funding for same is the issue. Mr. D. Mitchell advised that it is difficult to provide a costing for the provision of a Traffic Management plan as the requirements vary depending on the works to be carried out at different locations, a ballpark figure would be in the region of €50,000 to €70,000.

In reply to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr Coyle stated that he met with the T.I.I. recently with regard to the maintenance of the approach roads and the three roundabouts. One of the roundabouts located at The West Wing Restaurant is not in the control of the County Council. The T.I.I. are finalising a policy on a maintenance plan in respect of the other Roundabouts. Mr. Coyle added that he will be sending out tenders early in 2021 and will be considering sponsorship for maintenance by private companies.

J. Coyle advised the members that O'Malley Contractors have been awarded the contract for works on Galway Road and will commence works there shortly. They have also procured the contract for works on the Dublin Road and both projects have been awarded extra funding under the Active Travel measures. With regard to weed control intensive spraying has been carried out recently.

Cllr. Hoade stated that people were very happy with works at Luimnagh and queried if realignment of the second section of the N84 Knockroon to the Bridge in Shrulce could be put forward for funding. In reply Mr. Coyle stated that he had spoken to D. Pender and S. Breathnach in the N.R.P.O. and they are examining the project with regard to whether a full re-alignment is required. He will provide an update for the next meeting.

In reply to Cllr Hoade's query on the safety report on the junction at Laragh, Mr. Coyle stated that he will talk to the Safety Officer in the N.R.P.O.

In response to Cllr. Reddington's query in relation to traffic illegally parking on the footpaths in Headford, Mr. J. Coyle stated he has commissioned engineering consultants to carry out a full feasibility report on the Main Street to both improve the vehicular movement and parking measures as well as enhance the street scape. The report will incorporate full engineering and safety report and will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. The report will then be reviewed, the feasible options considered, to identify what works would be most suitable. Funding can then be sought and is expected to be included in the 2021 roads budget. Public Consultation will be part of the process.

Cllr. Hoade added that it would be important that the public consultation process included people using the town as well as businesses situated there and queried how the process would be accommodated under present conditions where public meetings cannot take place.

Mr. Coyle stated that the model used for public consultation on the Tuam Regeneration project could be used whereby social media, local newspapers could be utilised, and A1 Drawings of the proposals are displayed on the windows of the Municipal District offices.

**MDT200035**

### **Item no. 2 – Taking in charge of Housing Estates .**

Ms. E. Hourigan, Taking in Charge Section, circulated a List of the Estates Taken in Charge by Galway County Council to the members and provided the following overview.

She thanked the members for funding allocations made for historical estates up to 2019 which enabled the Taking in Charge Section to complete and bring estates to a taking in charge standard.

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The Hilltop, Lissadel, and Chestnut Grove estates are among the estates that have benefitted from this funding.

The formal Taking in Charge process for Chestnut Grove will commence shortly. While works on the Lissadel estate are now complete, however, the formal taking in charge process is held up pending the receipt of wayleave agreements.

Regarding the estates raised at last MD meeting, the Clochran estate is a private estate. The developer has recently re-engaged with the Taking in Charge section and indicated that the remaining remedial works will be completed. The Meadows estate is also a private estate. Ms. Hourigan indicated that contact will be made with the developer regarding the completion of the estate.

The developer/owner of the Goldcave development, will be contacted regarding completion of the estate to required standard. The members will be updated accordingly, in due course.

Cllr. Killilea thanked the Taking In charge Section of Galway County Council for the massive work done in recent years and stated that out of 30 estates in the town only 5 remain unfinished.

Cllr. D. Killilea, referred to Cloghran Estate and welcomed the re-engagement of the developer and for the estate to be completed to required standard. He noted that the Cloghran estate received public funding to complete the estate and it is totally unacceptable for developers to delay the completion of estates. He referred to 'The Meadows' where raised manholes are left approximately four inches above ground level and the unevenness of the surface at the rear of the Estate contributes to children falling off their bicycles.

He stated that developers should not be granted planning for further developments until existing estates are fully complete. He said he and Cllr. P.J. Murphy are working with the Law Library in the Oireachtas to determine what changes can be made to the Legislation to provide protection to homeowners who buy houses in estates, from ending up dealing with this situation.

Cllr. McHugh Farag queried the bonds and the need for standardisation of Bonds as presently bond can be in the form of a Bank Bond, Cash or Land/Property. She also queried the status of the Cuirt na Cora estate in Tuam which is unfinished and has numerous issues on the estate. In reply, E. Hourigan said that the Cuirt na Cora estate is a private estate, currently with a Receiver.

Cllr. Reddington thanks Ms. E. Hourigan and her team for all her good work and concurred with Cllr. Killilea's statement with regard inserting a stipulation on planning permission for developers who are known to have left previous projects unfinished.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan thanked Ms. E. Hourigan for the update and the Taking in charge section for their hard work. The members present concurred with the Cathaoirleach.

**MDT200036**

### **Item no 3 Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business**

Cllr. Hoade raised the issue of a foul smell emanating from the Ashtown Estate, a private estate in Headford and is causing great distress for residents in the lower part of the town and could have serious health implications. Cllr. Hoade has spoken to the Management Committee and Ms. F. Holland and staff from the Environment Section have visited the site. Mr. Mitchell advised as this is

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a private estate it is a matter for the Management Committee and that the Environment Section would be representing the public interest in this case.

Cllr. Keaveney request clarification with regard dedicated provision for footpath maintenance. He expressed his discontent that Galway County Council did not have a separate funding allocation for the provision and maintenance of footpaths.

Mr Mitchell confirmed that there is no dedicated budget for these works, he would welcome a dedicated allowance for the provision and maintenance of footpaths. At present the solution is to apply for funding under the various schemes available CLÁR, Active Travel Scheme and Town and Village Renewal schemes. The Council make good use of any funding stream that becomes available as is the case with the Road Maintenance allocation, which is insufficient for the road network within the County. Extra funding is always welcomed for Road Maintenance.

**MDT200037**

### **Item no. 4 – Municipal District of Tuam Director’s Business**

None

**MDT200038**

### **Item no. 5– Any Other Business**

Cllr. McHugh Farag enquired if the Tuam Library has a dedicated back to school programme for school children who wish to use the Library services. She asked if there was any update on the Tuam Masterplan.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he expects that the Back to School facilities previously available from the Library may now be reduced and will refer same to the Library service for reply.

He will provide an update on Tuam Masterplan at the next meeting.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the restricted space available in some schools in Tuam and queried if any of the vacant buildings in the ownership of the County Council i.e. Town Hall, Scout hall could be made available for after school study, stating that it would be important to send out the message that we support them. Mr. Mitchell advised that the individual schools involved could contact the Facilities Section of Corporate Services if they wish to make enquiries regarding same.

Cllr. Hoade referred to the €1 million allocation received by Galway County Council which is a vital boost to 2020 funding. This Funding is a once off payment to strengthen the funding to Municipal Districts and the allocation will be divided among the five Municipal Districts.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Tuam Municipal District were allocated €140,000 under the Climate change adaption and €497,000 for Active Travel Measures for Regional and Local Roads.

In reply to Cllr D.Killilea in relation to the position on the application for green Flag Status for the Palace Grounds, Mr. Connolly stated that he will be applying for funding for further improvements for the Palace Grounds under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in November and he will deal with the application for Green Flag Status thereafter. He has been working with Michael Owens, Corporate Services regarding this matter. He stated that a lot of improvement works have been carried out over the last two years.

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Mr. Connolly updated the members on the position relating to the provision of a carpark in Headford, he stated that a number of options were considered and there were a number of issues with the preferred site, as the site was considered unsuitable when examined by a road Safety Auditor. The site could possibly be used if the entrance was at the front of the site and exit at the back. This will need to be examined further.

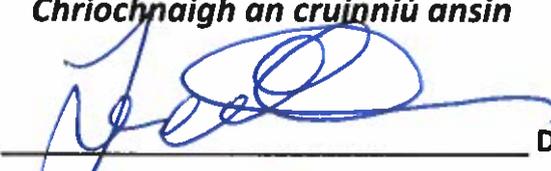
In response to queries raised by Cllr Sheridan and Cllr Keaveney on section 254 applications, Mr. Mitchell stated that he is not aware of any delays in processing the applications in the Tuam Area .

### **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 @ 13.15, followed by General Municipal Budget Meeting @ 14.30

### ***Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin***

Approved by:

  
Date: 22/10/2020

Cllr. J. Sheridan  
Cathaoirleach

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### COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

**MDT200039**

**CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. J. SHERIDAN (seconded Cllr. D. Killilea, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. A Reddington)**

*I propose The Municipal District of Tuam call on Government Ministers to put in place protocols for the full and immediate opening of all Pubs of the Tuam Municipal District and further throughout Ireland.*

Written reply as follows:

Letter issued to the Department of the Taoiseach.

**E. Curran, Meetings Administrator**