

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT  
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY  
ON 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 AT 11.30a.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

Cllr. Killilea

**I LÁTHAIR FREISIN**

Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington & Cllr. McHugh Farag (Remotely connected via Teams)

**AS LÁTHAIR**

**BAILL OIFIGH:**

Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Michael Owens D.O.S – Planning, Sustainable Development & Corporate Services, Fiona Holland - Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan – Executive Engineer, Ms. Sinéad Naughton - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Ann Hughes McGann – Assistant Staff Officer.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed everyone to the meeting and Cllr. McHugh Farag who was participating in the meeting remotely via teams. Cllr. Killilea together with the members gave a special welcome to Ms. Fiona Holland in her new role as Senior Executive Engineer of the Tuam Municipal District and said she will be a wonderful asset to the team. Ms. Holland thanked the members and said she was looking forward to the new opportunity.

**MDT220011**

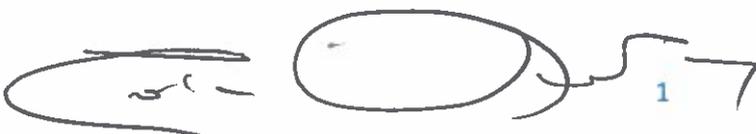
**1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the budget meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 were **agreed**.

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. Hoade requested an update in relation to the filling of the General Operative position in the Headford area with Cllr. Reddington supporting her concern to ensure that the required level of service is to be maintained in the area. In response Mr. Pender advised that there was a significant number of GO applications received for the entire county and shortlisting interviews were due to take place on 8,9, 10, 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> June. He also advised that the Community Wardens competition is ongoing with applicants to be shortlisted and 2 vacancies in the Tuam MD. Cllr. Hoade queried the lead in time for the shortlisting, stating that it could likely be July when there is new staff on the ground and the majority of the Roads Programme will be complete at this time. Mr. Pender advised that it was a large competition, and it took time to secure availability of a board for interviews.

Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. Reddington expressed their disappointment that the Junction at Grange did not meet the TII criteria to warrant intervention works and Cllr. Hoade appealed to the public that they report all incidents as she was aware of another serious incident recently. Cllr. Roche supported their concern and requested that a motion was sent to the TII indicating dissatisfaction of the decision. Mr. Pender advised that there was a feasibility study option report sent to the TII in relation to same.



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

That this Municipal Authority demand that the TII take Immediate steps to address the safety at both Ballrobbuck and Grange Junctions N84. We as an authority can't sit on our hands in the full knowledge that the situation is dire. This is a collective plea for Action.

Cllr. Roche appealed for funding and investment on the Wier Road and queried if the funding allocation of 40K for drainage works at Feigh East could be used to address the flooding issue in Killinerin Cemetery. Mr. Pender advised that The Memorandum on Roads Grants provides information on and defines the conditions governing the allocation and payment of monies to Local Authorities in respect of all grant programmes for Regional and Local Roads and it is not possible to direct the funding to this project from a road grant, however he would discuss any alternative funding options that may be available with Ms. Holland, SEE.

Cllr. Keaveney queried the effect of inflation and the situation in Ukraine would have on the Annual Roads Programme and asked if GCC were monitoring and assessing its effect in terms of KMs per €1000. Mr. Pender advised that with current increases the LA will not get the same length per 100K complete as had originally hoped in the programme and with comparison to last year's tender prices it will result in approximately 15% less works.

Cllr. Keaveney commented on the use of CCTV and the role of Community Wardens advising that the Council should invest in relation to CCTV for illegal dumping to which Mr. Pender advised that there has been a legislation change in relation to CCTV and there is currently a review being carried out regarding same. Cllr. McHugh queried if this review was happening Nationally or if it was only GCC adding that it would make sense that there was a standard operational document in place nationally. Mr. Pender advised that the CCTV was for GCC use in the first instance.

Cllr. Sheridan queried if the CIS numbers were for the year ahead and if they were being capped as last years were. Mr. Pender advised that CIS schemes were approved last week, and an allocation of €0.985M was received. GCC has to match fund €155k on top of that. Cllr Sheridan addressed the members of the press present and appealed to the public to report all traffic incidents to the An Garda Síochána (AGS) referring to 12 incidents being recorded at Tinkers Hill in one week. Cllr Killilea added that not all people would feel comfortable contacting AGS and queried the viability of using an online portal like the "fix my street" facility. Mr. Pender advised that reports could also be directed to the RSA.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to the Traffic Management Plan that had been referenced in the minutes as gone out to Tender and asked if there was any update in relation to same. Mr. Pender advised that it would be the end of May before the final award for tender was complete.

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

Mr. Pender acknowledged and thanked the MD staff for the good works done in the area and gave an update in relation to the body of work recently completed and currently underway in the Tuam Municipal district.

Cllr Roche thanked Mr. Pender and raised an issue regarding an objection of the use of LED lighting on a digital speedometer on the junction to Ballymote which have been switched off as a result and he

requested that this facility was put back on. Mr. Pender commented that he was not aware of this incident and said that he would investigate further.

Cllr. Killilea advised that the Local Authority had resolved a similar issue in 2015 and it may prove beneficial to look back upon the details regarding same. Cllr. Keaveney welcomed this detail adding that Paul Connolly has been well informed and has been engaged in looking for solutions.

Cllr. Keaveney raised concern regarding the difficulties the public are having exiting onto the Dublin Road from the combined Supermacs and Lidl exit, with the increased volume of traffic being created he suggested that both businesses be brought on board to address the situation before it becomes a bigger problem.

Cllr. Sheridan commended the Local Authority on excellent work done in Dunmore under the active travel programme and Cllr. Hoade welcomed the recent work in Caherlistrane thanking Paul Connolly, EE in his absence.

Cllr. Killilea thanked Derek Pender, Paul Connolly and all staff involved in completed works in Belclare and Corofin. He asked that an update was given on a regular basis for the R332 which was a priority. Mr. Pender advised he would circulate a more accurate update but understood that land acquisition information packs have been forwarded to the Law Agent.

Cllr. Reddington raised a concern for the safety of a junction at Bpoll na Halla, Headford and appealed that something be done to address this issue before a fatality. Mr. Pender advised that both himself and Ms. Holland, SEE would have a look at this situation and seek what intervention may be suitable.

### MDT220014

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

That Galway County Council investigates every possible angle to invest and improve safety at the junction at Caherlistrane Village at the R333 whether this be a low-cost accident scheme or whatever means are necessary to prevent further accidents.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed Michael Owens to the meeting and asked that he address the members as requested at MD meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

Mr. Owens gave a detailed report on the management and procedures of the Planning Department. He advised that the CPG and its members were aware of the challenges facing the Planning Department advising that the receipt of planning applications had increased by 24% in 2021 placing significant pressure on existing resources.

He acknowledged that the pre planning meeting was one service that was not currently being maintained as a decision had been made to prioritise within functions of the Department. Mr. Owens advised that with the support of the Chief Executive the Planning Department are recruiting new staff with this process currently underway. He also stated that the retention of staff was an issue for GCC with Galway being very attractive in terms of size and variant with Rural and Urban but the volume of files being processed is very large in comparison to other Local Authorities.

Mr. Owens advised that by June this year the new Development plan for the next 6 years will be concluded and acknowledged the level of commitment and resources that went into making this plan and commended GCC on being one of 2 LA's piloting the E-Planning system which will in the long-term result in savings to the LA and then the agents and clients.

He advised that there would be a dedicated Planner to each LEA and each development giving a greater level of customer service. He acknowledged the concerns of the members and advised that we can look forward to a strengthened structure ahead.

Cllr. Killilea together with the Elected members thanked Mr. Owens for his update expressing their concern for the re-introduction of the pre planning meetings which Mr. Owens said would not return until they were satisfied it could be maintained. Cllr. Killilea welcomed that a SEP would be available for larger developments but advised that GCC must also consider the benefits of the preplanning meetings for those with one off applications as the cost of building continues to rise.

Cllr. Killilea together with the elected members queried the specific time frame in relation to the Tuam Local Area Plan and the Tuam Traffic Management Plan and asked that all the elected members were consulted in relation to same. Mr. Owens advised that it is expected that the Tuam LAP will go on public display in Q4 and expects that there will be a pre-draft meeting held with Elected Members. He advised that submissions will be invited for a Local Transport Plan which will be aligned with the Traffic Management Plan.

Cllr. Hoade thanked Mr. Owens complimented staff working within the section with the increased workload. She expressed her concern that pre planning meetings agreed prior to Christmas were cancelled for January and in some cases, peoples planning applications for one off rural houses have not gone ahead.

**MDT220015**

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

That we write to the Department to seek immediate approval for additional staff for the Planning Office to deal with the size of our County and the volume of applications to deal with.

Cllr. Hoade queried if there was a change in department guidelines in relation to extension of duration applications. Mr. Owens advised that previously applicants could apply for an extension based on economic circumstance but now when applying applicants must have substantial works completed on site prior to submission of the application or it will be refused.

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Cllr. McHugh Farag commented on the rapidly changing situation and referred to points raised at CDP discussions regarding a change in rezoned lands and appealed that the planners and process need to zone land that will be available for their purpose and if not do not keep them in the LAP.

Cllr. Roche commended the work of the planning department and asked people to be considerate as they are providing a remarkable service for our county. Cllr. Roche asked what flood data would be used when developing the Local Area Plan and hoped the new plan would reflect flood mitigation works that had been completed. Mr. Owens advised that the Planning Department rely on OPW mapping.

Mr. Pender thanked Mr. Owens for his update in relation to the Planning Department.

Cllr. Roche queried when work could be expected on the ground in relation to the Town and Village Renewal schemes and Mr. Pender said he would review.

**MDT220016**

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

Cllr. Killilea referenced the German Ambassadors visit to Tuam and thanked all involved in making his visit a success, putting Tuam MD in a positive light in National Media. Cllr. Killilea asked the director if it could make a proposal at the next CPG meeting in relation to a twinning with Tuam MD and a town in the Ukraine and felt this would show solidarity while they were looking to rebuild their society and that Tuam should take the lead on this initiative.

A date was agreed among the elected members for 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11.30 for the next ordinary meeting and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11.30 for the AGM.

Cllr. Reddington expressed his sympathies to the family of Stephen Cunningham RIP of Dunmore.

Cllr. Keaveney expressed his sympathies to the family of Nora Halion RIP and remarked on the on-10th anniversary of the sad passing of her son Eugene Halion, RIP.

**MDT220017**

Cllr. Keaveney proposed that the Tuam MD offer a letter of sympathy to the Halion family which was seconded by Cllr. Killilea.

Cllr. Roche queried if there were plans for the Spring Clean initiative, where in the past local communities were provided with bags and litter pickers. Cllr. Keaveney advised that community wardens provide pickers and bags, but they would not take electrical items and welcomed this community initiative.

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Cllr. Reddington advised that on organising a local litter pick the group involved were required to provide insurance indemnifying the council which he felt would discourage some small local groups from getting involved in the initiative. Cllr. Hoade advised that this was a requirement across the county.

Mr. Pender advised that GCC were supportive of such initiatives and that he would liaise with Eileen Ruane DOS and the Environment Department in relation to same.

***Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 13.34 pm***

Approved by:



Date: 13.06.22

Cathaoirleach