

Municipal District of Tuam – 11th September 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 11th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12:30 pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Killilea
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington
AS LÁTHAIR	Cllr. McHugh Farag.
BAILL OIFIGH:	Mr. Derek Pender Director of Services - Infrastructure & Operations, Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning, John Coyle - Senior Executive Engineer, Paul Connolly – Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Valarie Loughnane – Senior Planner, Brendan Dunne – Senior Executive Planner, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer, Forward Planning Team members.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed everyone to the meeting, and it was agreed that item 2. on the agenda would be heard first.

MDT230086

2. – To discuss the Draft Tuam Local Area Plan 2023-2029 Chief Executives Report on Material Alterations (Report circulated Tuesday 22nd August 2023) in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Copy of Minutes attached in a separate document Reference MDT230086.

MDT230087

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 10th July 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 10th July 2023 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Both Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Hoade requested and an update on a bus shelter in Headford. Mr. Pender advised that funding for shelters is allocated from the NTA and that the matter is under the remit of the Active Travel team. From this September, there will be one designated engineer assigned to this area.

Cllr. Reddington queried as to when the hedge cutting would commence across the MD and requested that areas surrounding local national and secondary schools were prioritised. He also requested an update on Corrundrum.

Mr. Regan advised that all junctions on the National roads would be cut over the next two weeks. Local road hedge cutting commenced on the local roads earlier that day. Paul Connolly advised hedge cutting would take place throughout the MD in the coming weeks. John Coyle advised that they seek €3,000 each

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in NOM from the Elected members for hedge cutting which will allow for more areas to be included this year.

Cllr. Reddington referred to the issue with the burst water main at Castlehackett and commended Uisce Eireann on a positive response in relation to significant investment which is planned in 2024.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the Headford Traffic Management plan. Mr. Pender advised that there would be an opportunity for public engagement with the plan.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on Corrandrum, referring to substantial submissions received and urged that the process was advanced, calling for a meeting in the next two weeks to address the issues. She advised she had met with Paula Higgins and Paul Connolly on the school element which was a separate issue regarding safety measures. Paula Higgins was actively pursuing funding options under Safe Routes to School, in respect of same.

Mr. Pender advised that they were in the process of reviewing submissions received on Corrandrum. There had been delays with summer holiday period and Tobin Consultants, adding that the school will be looked at in isolation. He said he was awaiting a response from the Law Agents to see if the Corrandrum would be voted on at MD Meeting level and advised that he has been successful in acquiring a dedicated law agent who will exclusively be dealing with Infrastructure and Operations Section.

Cllr. Roche queried in relation to Corrandrum if land will be forthcoming for purposes of traffic management and a public footpath as there was little point in having a meeting as if this cannot be acquired it is going nowhere. Mr. Pender stated that the acquisition of land would be hugely difficult as it was in the front of people's houses.

Cllr. Roche enquired on the feasibility of his suggestion at the last meeting re exploring the potential for local businesses to sponsor the maintenance of roundabouts in the town was investigated. John Coyle advised the had been looking into this matter by ascertaining what other Local Authorities were accomplishing and would have an update at the next meeting.

Cllr. Sheridan requested an update on the Milltown to Gortnagunned Realignment Scheme to which Mr. Pender advised that Galway County Council had received approval from An Bord Pleanála. Galway County Council are moving to phase 5 which is final design and hopes that tender documents will be ready for Quarter 1 2024. He said the TII will also be lobbied for funding early next year. Cllr. Sheridan highlighted the importance of the County Council's own staff on the ground working on these projects and praised the works done which saved the Council approx. €300-500K in consultants fees.

Cllr. Sheridan questioned if any further plans are being made to undertake similar projects inhouse. Mr. Pender envisages a plan that will demonstrate to TII that NRPO has the capability to complete these schemes and can get accreditation to become an NRDO office. Therefore, by increasing the number of projects should in turn lead to extra resources both financial and staffing.

Cllr. Sheridan sought an update on Bridge Street in Dunmore reporting two incidents that took place recently bringing traffic in the town to a halt.

Mr. Pender advised that difficulties were encountered with the consultants for Bridge Street development, and he is currently addressing the matter.

Mr. Pender provided an update in relation to queries on Garraune Park and Brooklodge which were queried at July's meeting. He advised that Garraune park was in a housing estate and there was a bond in place, therefore no resources were required to take the road in charge. In relation to Brooklodge, the County Council had previously been dedicated land for a cemetery and the existing road was in good condition and was taken in charge as it leads to a council graveyard:

Mr. Pender advised that his stance remained the same in relation to taking in charge the road at Sylau. This road needs an intervention financially before council can take in charge as there is currently no

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funding readily available for same. He advised that the Council already have 6914km of road that don't have enough money to maintain and is opposed to adding more.

MDT230088

3. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender circulated a copy of email received from Uisce Eireann. This was in response to a motion for repair of leaks at R333 with a commitment that this section of the watermains will be prioritised for further investment in 2024.

Mr. Coyle gave an update of ongoing works to the Elected members with Restoration Improvement programme for 2023, 78% complete, direct labour 100% complete and 100% of Surface Dressing programme for 2023 complete.

He advised that the final agreements are awaited for the Kilbannon R332 Road improvement Scheme and will hopefully all be received before the deadline of grant period in October. Mr. Coyle welcomed an additional €60K funding for Barnadearg and advised that the deadline for 2024/25 applications of the Community Improvement Scheme was 15th September 2023.

He welcomed Eamon McLoughlin as new Community Employment Scheme supervisor and advised that Tuam Bypass will be closed from 16th October to 3rd November for night-time resurfacing works.

Mr. Connolly advised that the Palace Grounds had just been awarded the Green Flag Status again and works were imminent on a fence between Palace Grounds and the Secondary School. He also advised that Tuam ladies shed were looking at the possibility of a sensory garden in the park.

Cllr. Sheridan enquired if the build-up of litter continued to be an issue at the public bench near the swimming pool, Mr. Connolly advised it was still an ongoing issue and they are looking at options here.

Cllr. Roche welcomed the €60K funding for Barnadearg and thanked John Coyle and Paul Connolly for efforts to secure funding. He queried when will the Council decide on what Town or Village will benefit from the Town and Village Enhancement scheme. Mr. Connolly advised that it is open currently and any group can make a submission. Cllr. Roche commented that they decided as a group collectively to prioritise Barnadearg but that we should also consider areas like Kilconly and Lavally. Mr. Connolly commented that the criteria has now shifted towards town centre, derelict buildings, community centres but the area office will assist in every way possible.

Cllr. Sheridan queried the *Safe to School's* deadline as anyone not on the list would have difficulty and if not on how they would be included. John Coyle advised he would consult with Paula Higgins regarding this matter.

MDT230089

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

Cllr. Roche welcomed the €5.6 million top up of funding recently received from central government but expressed his annoyance regarding other counties getting of similar value to what Galway obtained when

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they were already in a better stance than Galway County. He stated that €5.6 million is welcome though €20 million was expected. He queried if there was anything Galway County Council can do to obtain the adequate funding required to conduct its functions.

Cllr. Hoade welcomed all funding and queried what the criteria was for review as no county was currently worse off than Galway and stated that while all funding was welcome there was a need to go back and address why Galway County Council is so underfunded.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the funding, and it was the first time they got the funding notification so early. He said he was hopeful that the underfunding would be addressed in some way in the November Budget and although the amount was not what we hoped for, the Council were still €5.6 million better off than last year. Mr. Pender advised that our former CEO, our existing CEO, and the executive team are continuing to lobby and canvas for increased funding.

Cllr. Killilea reflected on the date marking the 22nd Anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and thinking of the family of the late Ms. Anne Marie McHugh from Tuam who tragically died.

Cllr. Killilea expressed his dissatisfaction with the quality of water in Kilcloghans and the intermittent boil water notice and stated that the suggestion of a tap at Ard Rí hotel would not be feasible for elderly residents in the locality.

MDT230090

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

I propose; -

That our director write to Irish Water with regard to a pipe replacement in Kilcloghans, Tuam, that are subject to a boil water notice and seek its redesigned in 2023 as priority works.

Cllr. Reddington fully supported the motion and Cllr. Roche called to expedite the issue in the matter of safety but advised that there are regular tests done regards suitability for drinking and it is monitored several times a day. Mr. Pender advised if there was any indication of worsening of the water then a do not consume as opposed to boil water notice would immediately issue.

Cllr. Killilea thanked John Coyle, SEE who accompanied him to Straubing and thanked the people of Straubing for the great welcome they received, stating there was lots to learn from the German town with nice greenways and how they keep their towns and green areas clean.

Cllr. Roche enquired about the possibility of a return trip for the people of Straubing to Tuam. Cllr. Killilea remarked that Tuam MD held a reception for the German Ambassador in 2022. He referred to proposed works for the park at Ballygaddy Road which would cost an estimated €100K to develop and suggested renaming it Straubing Park and asking the mayor over to officially open it. He said he would seek to have it included in 2024 Budget. Mr. Pender advised that there was a naming committee and a process to be engaged in before a name could be changed or assigned.

Cllr. Roche said he would fully support the motion and it would be more meaningful to visit somewhere in their name, but the Council should look at reciprocating their hospitality.

Cllr. Sheridan spoke of the euphoria of the Saw Doctors concerts at Tuam a few weekends previous and the injection of funding and good news stories it meant for Tuam. He requested that Tuam be considered and promoted as a special open air entertainment centre with its location off the M18 making it very

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accessible. Mr. Connolly agreed that the Saw Doctors event was a remarkable success and a massively positive event for Tuam and promoted the town for all the right reasons and thanked all the groups involved in it especially Creative Places Tuam and the help and unseen work from Frank Dolly's Team.

MDT230091

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

I propose; -

That Galway County Council undertake a report and or feasibility study as to the allocation of Tuam as a key town for open air entertainment and concerting centre for the duration of the new Tuam Local area plan.

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the proposal of Tuam Town hall and the Old Fire Station. Mr. Pender advised there was no update since the last meeting. Mr. Pender advised he will have to follow up with the Environment Department regarding the dereliction notice for the old Courthouse.

A discussion followed in relation to Mass Rock Road in Sylane. Cllr. Killilea referred to the frustration of 40-50 parents using the road, walkers, and local people. He appealed for any stream of funding that may be available. Mr. Pender advised that finance was not available to bring it to the required standard to be maintained by the council.

Cllr. Hoade advised there was an obligation for the safety of the school and enquired if there was any facility to put NOM funding towards it, if the 7 members came together to address the situation.

MDT230092

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

I propose; -

That Councillors allocate NOM to address the situation regarding the taking in charge of the Mass Rock Lane in Sylane over a two-year period.

Mr. Pender advised it may be possible for Cllrs to provide the €45K over a 2-year period. Cllr. Killilea advised that this proposal would need to get permission from the other Cllrs. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Killilea on the basis that they could divide the cost and he also said he would have no problem putting €10k from own funding which would mean €35k to be put forward by elected members in NOM.

Cllr. Roche said the Council should first exhaust applying for all other funding streams such as Safe Routes to School first and check with the Department of Heritage and local government if funding would be available. Mr. Pender advised he would look at all options but a Safe Routes to School Road must first be a public asset before funding could be allocated.

Cllr. Killilea enquired about the road markings at N83. Mr. Pender advised he would raise this as a Health and Safety issue with the NRPO.

Cllr Reddington thanked Paul Connolly, EE for his help with application for Clarin Development association to get a cycle way to Lough Corrib.

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MDT230093

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

That Galway County Council and Galway City Council JPC Forums meet as a matter of urgency to discuss and deal with the dreadful behaviour that occurred in our city over the past few days. The people involved are drawn from the County and City hence the request to have a joint City and County response.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15:10 pm

Approved by:



Date: 9/10/23

Cllr. Killilea, Cathaoirleach.