

Municipal District of Tuam – 11th December 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 DECEMBER 2023 AT 12.30 pm.

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

Prior to the meeting the Elected Members received a deputation from a Local L2123 Neighbourhood Road Safety Action Group of concerned residents from the head of the L2123 road connecting N83 to Corofin Village. The group highlighted the dangers of the ever-increasing volumes of traffic and the increasing speed travelled of these vehicles on the road. They informed the meeting of the results of a traffic count completed over an 11-day period that recorded 20,557 cars with 350 vehicles exceeding the 80KM/hr speed limit.

The groups were requesting the following actions.

- Reduction of the speed limit from 80KPH to 50KPH
- Instalment of flashing signage, children crossing, pedestrian walking
- Instalment of solar panelled street lighting
- Provision of bus shelter and additional lighting with safe cycling & walking lanes

The Elected members commended the group for their presentation and the work and dedication shown and all members present agreed that they would dedicate NOM funding towards works required and promised that they would work with the Executive to find the solutions required where possible.

Mr. Pender advised that there was a statutory process involved in reducing the speed limit. There is a speed limit review currently underway and the residents would need to submit a proposal and obtain support of members. He advised if the speed limit is reduced in a rural area to 50kmph, then active travel funding measures may be applied for such as lighting and footpaths. In the meantime, a short-term intervention would be vehicle activation signage.

MDT230100

1. – Presentation from the Reimagine Tuam Project

Helena McElmeel of Helena McElmeel Architects gave a presentation to the Elected Members on the *Reimagine Tuam* project that focuses on identifying the vacant buildings in the town centre and addresses challenges that owners face in getting the buildings back into use. She advised that engagement with owners started in late Spring and over the Summer. They have been successful in engaging with the owners of the identified properties and stated that they had 215 respondents to a survey they created. Ms McElmeel said the plan was focusing on identifying sites, working with

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communities, identifying the town's requirements. The project seeks to encourage owners to develop ideas on development of buildings that could have a lot of impact on the town through regeneration. She is hoping to meet with the buildings proprietors in January 2024 and have an outcome in February or March.

Cllr. Roche thanked Ms. McElmeel for her presentation and welcomed measures to combat dereliction and enquired if the Tuam Railway Station formed part of this project stating it should be considered a heritage hub for the town. Helena advised the project is solely concentrating on the core of the town and this area is not in her remit right now.

Both Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Hoade thanked Helena and spoke of her success on the *Reimagine Headford* project and encouraged people to get involved and engage with the process with Cllr. Hoade commenting on the numbers engaging with the survey expecting there to be more than 215.

Cllr. Sheridan welcomed the project and commented that it is great to see there are already projects underway to regenerate the town centre, with two currently under completion on High Street. He suggested that a letter issue to the probation services in relation to the courthouse.

Cllr. Killilea remarked that it is not that Tuam has a huge amount of dereliction, but it is the visual impact of some of the bigger buildings that are derelict. On a positive note, Tuam has had 18 new businesses set up in the town in the last 2 years.

Cllr. Roche asked if conversion of the buildings to residential use was being considered and the impact this may have on the town centre. Ms. McElmeel noted that not every building was suitable for residential.

Mr. Pender thanked Ms. McElmeel for her presentation and commented that it is clearly identified that there is a need to get the Town Hall operating as soon as possible, with the application for funding ready for submission. Mr Pender also added that a public realm enhancement is also required.

MDT230101

2. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 13th November 2023

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Sheridan and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 13th November 2023 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Mr. Pender gave the members an update in relation to issues that were raised at the meeting of 13th November 2023 advising as follows.

He advised that a workshop was held on Corrandrum prior to the MD meeting with the Elected Members. Information was shared in relation to proposed works to be carried out following on from the consideration of public submissions and the consultant's report.

Mr. Pender advised Cllr. Killilea that he expected to have a report on the bridge approaching the swimming pool before Christmas holidays.

He advised Cllr. Sheridan that he had the contact details for the person in Donegal County Council regarding electric charging points as they were the lead Local Authority regarding same.

Mr Pender advised that Christmas Parking concessions commenced last Friday, 8th December in Tuam and that he was meeting with business owners later that day regarding their concerns over parking in Tuam.

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He said he has requested copies of all the bye laws regarding parking to see what differences exist and would like to see consistency across the county and he expects to have a report early in the new year.

Cllr. Killilea commented that the parking concession was initially given for the full day, but this had led to car parking spaces being taken up by employees for the entire day. The concession time was subsequently changed so that free parking commenced from 11am. Cllr. McHugh queried if it would be possible for commercial vehicles such as transits or transporters to be allowed to pull up in spaces for 5-10 minutes to drop deliveries.

Mr. Pender advised that there are bye laws in place and any change to current arrangements would require a change in bye laws,

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the situation in Sylane and enquired if an agreement needed to be signed by the members to put forward the required funding. Mr. Pender advised that Tuam MD were progressing the paperwork on the matter. John Coyle, SEE advised that the taking in charge forms have been completed by area office and once funding is secured and process complete the safe routes to school programme can be sought.

MDT230102

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

I propose; -

That we review amount of NOM requested per member to be allocated for work to take place – in the Mass Rock Lane, Sylane N.S.

MDT230103

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Reddington and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District Budget meeting held on 13th November 2023 were **agreed**.

MDT230104

3. – Declaration of a Road to be a public road – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 – Lissadel Drive, Tuam Co. Galway

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan it was **agreed** that **Lissadel Drive, Tuam, Co. Galway** be declared a public road as follows;

Point A-B

- Road commencing at its junction with the R-939 (Milltown Road) in the townland of TOWNSPARKS (1st Division) and extending westwards 165M and ending at point B in the townland of TOWNSPARKS (1st Division).

Point C-D

- Road commencing at the southernmost most part of Lissadel Drive, and extending northwards 48M to point D in the Townsland of TOWNSPARKS (1st Division)

Point D-E

- Road commencing outsat its junction with A-B and extending northwards a distance of 111.5M to point E, the northernmost part of Lissadel Drive, in the Townsland of TOWNSPARKS (1st Division)

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Point F-G

- Road commencing at its junction with road D-E and extending westwards a distance of 82M to point G in the townland of TOWNSPARKS (1st Division)

MDT230105

4. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Coyle gave an update to the elected members on ongoing and completed works in Tuam MD. He advised that works surrounding the sponsorship of the roundabouts is ongoing.

In relation to Dunmore regeneration project, he advised he has contacted consultants and there is a meeting on Thursday 11th December 2023. They are seeking to review the preliminary design and there is now a separate ecology and town landscape team, and he will have a review on progress at the January meeting.

He advised that works are ongoing with Bishop Street, Barnadearg and Frank Stockwell Road being completed by Harringtons. Mr Coyle informed the meeting that the CIS scheme works is continuing with a mix of direct and contract labour. Currently new footpaths at Wier Road in Tuam and setting back local roads in Headford improving sightlines are underway. He advised repair works had been carried out in the playground in Palace Fields.

Cllr. Reddington advised that Paul Connolly, EE had sent on correspondence he recently obtained from Electric Skyline, the company responsible for the traffic lights in Headford. He requested that Tuam MD monitor works being done and that a change may be required as this issue has been happening with lights in Headford since 2019.

Cllr. Hoade also referred to the ongoing problems with the traffic lights in Headford. For a period, the issue was on the Cong side, but the opposite side is now causing difficulties.

MDT230106

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

I propose; -

That Galway County Council contact the Contractor/Firm responsible for the traffic lights in Headford, and request a full examination of the lights, and that they seek funding to have them upgraded, as they are currently leading to large traffic jams approaching them.

Mr. Coyle responded advising he will research how long the lights are in place and as it's on a National Road they may be able to log a defect and obtain funding from the TII. A review is required in the first instance.

Cllr. Reddington advised that he met with people at Cave, Caherlistrane, and he believes that a Low-Cost Safety scheme similar to that completed at Donaghpatrick is required. He said there is an urgent need to address this area as have been several accidents in the locality.

Cllr. Reddington also referenced an e- mail Paul Connolly circulated in relation to funding sought for Salt Bins.

The members each expressed their disappointment on hearing the news that Mr. Pender would be departing Galway County Council. They each thanked Mr. Pender for his work and dedication stating he was a great asset to Galway County Council. Mr Pender would be greatly missed and that Tuam better place because of his commitment over the years.

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Mr. Pender thanked all the members for their kind words said it was disappointing his term was coming to an end with Galway County Council and he had enjoyed working with both dedicated staff and the elected members during his career with the Council.

MDT230107

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

Cllr. Killilea wanted it noted for the minutes that representative's approval had been sought for those who travelled to Straubing, which was proposed by Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Sheridan and agreed by all.

Cllr. Killilea provided an update in relation to MDT230093 - a proposed civic reception to honour the Irish Ladies World Darts Federation Winning Team. He said he had spoken to Stiofán O'Dálaigh, INDO Vice Chariman and that the manager and a player on the team were from Clonbeirne. The possibility of holding a reception in March 2024 will be examined. Cllr. Killilea said he will speak to Geraldine Byrne, Meetings Administrator regarding hosing an event and if there are any other groups to be considered for such a reception.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the ongoing difficulty with the connection of public lighting on the Dublin Road, he suggested that Galway County Council request a meeting with Electric Skyline and the ESB as there seems to be a crossover of responsibility. He also referenced O'Keefe's Terrace, the residents of which are waiting over 15 months for lighting.

Cllr Killilea drove by some estates that were in under the charge of the council prior to the meeting and found on average 4 lights out per estate and talking to residents they have the issues reported under Fix My Street. Cllr. Reddington queried if there was an alternative way to make contact with Electric Skyline stating there was an email, but not receiving any response.

Mr. Pender said understands that Electric Skyline are responsible for energising and replacing of the light standards but would confirm procedures for members.

Cllr. Roche advised that on the Dublin Road to Toghermore, the lighting is not functioning and asked it to be looked at. He praised the scheme in Barnadearg and said it would be fantastic if the lights were on for Christmas.

Mr. Coyle requested that a list would be sent to him regarding the lighting concerns, and he would contact Electric Skyline, and he would try and get the matter with the Barnadearg lights expedited.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the playground on the Dublin Road and advised it is to remain closed until the excavation works on the Dublin Road were completed.

Cllr. Roche queried when the last date was for submission for active travel scheme proposed for Abbeyknockmoy Village, asking what is involved and how long the works are anticipated to last and how it will tie into the Lis to Dereen scheme.

Cllr. Hoade raised concerns regarding when there would be an update on N84 Ballyfruit to Grange at Shrule, she said there was a site visit recently by an Engineer to look at safety and queried what the outcome was. She said there were several fatalities and there was a previous commitment to go to a funding or prefunding stage from TII and what was the update on same.

Cllr. Reddington stated that the N84 Galway to Shrule is without a doubt a forgotten road as it is between two boundaries and electoral areas, with no bus corridor or lay byes. He said from Headford to Horsevalley, a bus or truck cannot meet on the road and it's a long-term issue.

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Mr Pender advised that currently there is no large scheme, but the Council are looking at individual locations. He acknowledged it needs intervention.

Cllr. Roche requested of Mr. Pender to examine the works required at Balrobeck coming off N84 as a priority, prior to his departure.

A.O.B.

Cllr. Reddington enquired prior to upcoming local elections if money left over from NOM should be put back into local funds.

Mr. Pender explained to the members that during 2023, the members received an allocation of €18,000 and in 2024, the forthcoming election year, each member would be allocated €9,000 until June 2024, with the remaining €9000, would go to a newly elected Tuam MD member if the original candidate was unsuccessful.

Cllr. Sheridan referred to Storm Fergus and the level of ash dieback that is happening on the roads as it will continue to be a problem on secondary and tertiary roads.

In relation to Dunmore regeneration, he requested to attend the scheduled meeting with the consultants on the project. Mr. Coyle advised that the consultants have given a commitment commence the project and he will update the members accordingly.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the announcement by Iarnród Eireann regarding cleaning of the track on the Mayo Galway Line and suggested a bridge may be required in the Frank Stockwell/Bobby Burke area - dividing the town.

Cllr. Sheridan said it was the end of the climate adaption draft plan and asked that each community have a look at what's going on and new projects going to continue.

Cllr, Roche proposed a vote of sympathy to John Coyle, SEE whose father-in-law had passed away the previous week, RIP.

MDT230108

On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea seconded by Cllr. Sheridan the following motion was agreed and signed by members present.

I propose; -

I propose to allocate the following NOM monies from NOM 2024 to the Corofin L2123 Project

Cllr. Donagh Killilea	€2,500
Cllr. Steven McHugh	€2,500
Cllr. Mary Hoade	€2,500
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	€2,500
Cllr. Pete Roche	€3,000
Cllr. Joe Sheridan	€2,500
Total	€15,500

Date for the next meeting was set for 8th January 2023

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 14:25pm

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Approved by:



Date: 8/1/2024

Cllr. Killilea, Cathaoirleach.