

Municipal District of Tuam – 12th April 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM

REMOTE MEETING -

ON 12TH APRIL 2021 AT 2.30PM

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Joe Sheridan

I LATHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Peter Roche

BAIL O'FIIGH Mr. Jim Cullen, D.O.S., Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. John Coyle, Acting S.E.E., Mr. Paul Conolly, E.E, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Mr. Tom Regan, E.E. Ms. Jennifer O'Neill, A.S.O., Ms. Mary Dunne, A.S.O., Ms. Hazel Fox, Executive Planner, Mr. Ciaran Wynne, S.E.E., Liam Hanrahan, D.O.S. Housing, Daithi Flood, S.E.E.

Cllr. Sheridan welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag wished to offer a vote of sympathy to Mr. Mike Mongan & family, Tuam on the death of his wife Winnie R.I.P. This was seconded by Cllr. Killilea.

Cllr. Roche queried if this was an ordinary meeting of the Tuam Municipal District or a meeting to decide on the allocation of the €180,000. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan confirmed this was an ordinary meeting.

MDT210008

Item no 1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 1st March 2021

On the **proposal** of Cllr. D. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. M. Hoade the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 1st March 2021 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Hoade welcomed the return of the spring clean-up due to take in April, adding that she had received a number of requests from community groups regarding this. These groups must register with An Taisce and there is a process to go through. She requested that the Local Authority and media launch a campaign informing the public of the spring clean-up and the process involved.

Cllr. Reddington queried if the depot in Headford could be made available for locals who are not part of a community group, to dispose of waste collected from small rural roads during the spring clean. In reply Mr. Connolly confirmed that all groups and individuals would need to register with an Taisce and equipment will be provided.

Cllr. Reddington referred to his query at the last meeting whether a bond was held from the company who installed he Fibre Optic cable at Liss, Headford, as the road is left in a bad state of repair and

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needs resurfacing. In reply, Mr. Coyle said he would contact the broadband provider and revert to Cllr. Reddington this week.

Cllr. Killilea wished to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and commitment of the Engineering staff of Tuam MD regarding the Active Travel Scheme.

Cllr. Roche wished to acknowledge his gratitude to Echo Chef regarding the spring clean carried out at Tuam Stars and thanked Mr. Cullen and Mr. Coyle for their support which meant a lot to the group who participated in this spring clean.

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the chronic littering at the back of Trinity Primary School and St. Jarlath's College, he queried if Mr. Coyle could contact the schools with regard to carrying out an environmental clean-up. In reply Mr. Coyle said he liaise with the Community Wardens and see what resources were available.

MDT210009

Item no 2. – Declaration of Roads to be public roads, Tuam Municipal District – Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 – Details as follows:

Chestnut Grove, Tuam, Co. Galway (Townland of Townparks 1st Division)

Point A to D: Main link road pavement and footpath's commencing at public road L – 2141 -2 and extending west for approximately 138m and ending near house no 1. (all in the townland of Townparks 1st Division).

Point B to C: Road pavement commencing at junction opposite house no. 3 and extending South for approximately 23m and ending near house no. 4. (all in the townland of Townparks 1st Division).

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Roche and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag, it was **agreed** to have the above declare public roads.

MDT210010

Item no 3. To consider the report under Part 8. Of planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) proposed development at Knockaloura West, Browns Grove, Tuam Co. Galway consisting of the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a 2 bedroom dwelling, together with proprietary effluent treatment plant, percolation area and ancillary site works – LA 03/21

Mr. D. Flood, A/S.E.E. Housing gave an overview of the above Part 8. The existing building on site is derelict. The executive recommendation is to demolish the existing structure and to construct a two bedroom dwelling in accordance with plans as submitted under LA 03/21.

In response to Cllr. Killilea, Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. Housing confirmed that the two sites under consideration today are properties in the ownership of Galway County Council, which are in a state of disrepair. Nine such properties have been identified throughout the County with six having the possibility of being redeveloped. He confirmed that the house/s have not yet been allocated, this will be done when the property is being developed. There is currently a high demand for two-bed units throughout the County.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the proposals and the approach being taken to address old derelict site like this. He also requested that the letter of offer to potential tenants could issue prior to completion so tenants could take up occupancy as soon as the properties are complete.

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It was **proposed** by Cllr. Keaveney, **seconded** by Cllr. Roche, it was **agreed** to approve the proposed development at Knockaloura West, Brownsgrrove, Tuam Co. Galway consisting of the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a 2 bedroom dwelling, together with proprietary effluent treatment plant, percolation area and ancillary site works – LA 03/21

MDT210011

Item no 4. To consider the report under Part 8 of planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) proposed development at Woodfield, Dunmore, Tuam, Co. Galway consisting of the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a 2-bedroom dwelling, together with proprietary effluent treatment plant, percolation area and ancillary site works – LA 04/21.

Mr. D Flood gave an overview of the proposed development at Woodfield, similar to previous Part 8 discussed, it is proposed to seek permission to demolish the existing dwelling on site and to construct a new two-bedroom unit together with associated works.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Keaveney, **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade, it was **agreed** to approve the proposed development at Woodfield, Dunmore, Tuam, Co. Galway consisting of the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a 2-bedroom dwelling, together with proprietary effluent treatment plant, percolation area and ancillary site works – LA 04/21.

MDT210012

A general discussion was had in relation to energy efficiency and retrofitting of local authority housing. Cllr. Keaveney proposed a motion that the housing section make a presentation to the Tuam MD with regard to their immediate plans for retrofitting and insulation local authority properties in the electoral areas. Proposal was seconded by Cllr. Killilea.

MDT210013

Item no. 5 to consider and endorse the Tuam Town Masterplan.

Ms. Hazel Fox confirmed that the Tuam Regeneration Master plan has been finalised.

Cllr. Killilea queried if this could be incorporated with the new local area plan and if it could form part of the new County Development Plan. In reply, Ms. Fox confirmed that the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan had no statutory status but is a response to objective ED5 from the Tuam Local Area Plan. There is no plan to include the masterplan within the County Development Plan. Tuam will always have a standalone Local Area Plan and there would need to be a discussion at the time of the local plan review with the Planning department whether to incorporate the Masterplan into the new Local Area Plan or carry it forward as a representation of an objective.

Cllr. McHugh Farag welcomed the plan and stated she had hoped to see more concrete plans for the Town Hall as this had been discussed previously. She had hoped it could be segregated into designated spaces for indoor markets etc. She queried if there was a strategy to engage with owners of old buildings in Tuam to restore them and if there was an overall costing for same.

Ms. Fox stated that the Town Hall was currently occupied and the proposals by Cllr. McHugh Farag could be investigated. Regarding the restoration of buildings, she stated they would engage with the owners with a view to restoring them. She advised the members that there is no cap on Rural Regeneration Development Fund awards, the proposals will cost what they cost, and this will be incorporated this into any future applications.

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Cllr. Keaveney welcomed the plan adding that it is key to accessing future funding. In reply to his query regarding the inner relief road, Mr. Cullen confirmed that this was a public road which comes under the remit of the Tuam Local Area Plan.

Mr. Cullen thanked Ms. Fox and Mr. C. Wynne adding that this plan was encouraging and had the unanimous support of the Municipal District and puts the town in a great position to be successful in future applications for funding.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan, it was **agreed** to endorse the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan as the response to Objective ED5 of the Tuam Plan 2018-2024.

MDT210014

Item no 6. To consider and adopt the distribution of Municipal District of Tuam €180,000 allocation

The following motion was read out by Cllr. M. Hoade;-

MOTION ON THE ALLOCATION OF €180,000 funding 12th April 2021 Tuam Municipal District

This MD welcomes the opportunity to invest this allocation of €180,000 of public monies in the interests of the citizens of the Tuam Municipal District.

We note it's a finite resource and take cognisance of our directors' advice that the best impact in its expenditure would be achieved at targeted projects that secure value for money by allocating it at its maximum scale per project.

In an effort to achieve the spirit set out by our director of services in this regard I propose the following method of distribution of the allocation.

- A. That the Fianna Fail councillors direct that €60,000 be allocated for the purpose of recruiting technical and engineering speciality to assist in all current roads and infrastructural development and enhancement plans across the Tuam MD and helping our existing Tuam area staff get on with a concentrated effort in maximising the funding levels in our area.***
- B. Cllr Mary Hoade is allocating €30,000 funding to go to Caherlistrane Village for a controlled Pedestrian crossing, speed activated signs and additional signage and road markings to improve pedestrian safety through the village. I take this opportunity to thank Caherlistrane Community Council for their valued input into this project along with our area engineers and ground staff.***
- C. Cllr Colm Keaveney is allocating €30,000 to go to his NOM bringing to a total notice of motion spend of €50,000 for the purposes of investing in the Tuam MD Area in the following sub sections,***
 - Environmental infrastructure.***
 - Shared space infrastructure.***
 - Pedestrian infrastructure.***
- D. Cllr Donagh Killilea is allocating €15,000 to Ballygaddy Park, Tuam for the construction of a walkway looping the park and new seating installed. Having consulted with neighbours in the area this is a fine public park that needs upgrading.***

Cllr Killilea also allocates €10,000 to improving the estate entrance at Millstream Park/Weir Road Tuam, to allow for the safe entrance and exit into and out of the estate.

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The sum of €5000 will also be transferred to Cllr Killilea's NOM, leaving a balance of €20,000 to spend on works and upgrades at the Palace Grounds Tuam, Corofin Village project and Belclare Village enhancements in line with my previous 8 years allocations. It is intended that spending will be taken from the document circulated by John Coyle.

- E. Cllr Joe Sheridan in continuing his support in the Tuam MD area will allocate significant funding that will go to the following sectors:**
- *Climate Tourism Amenities & Trails with Mapping & signage*
 - *Tidy Town / Village / Group and Housing Estate Themed Garden projects.*

All these projects are fast track and will be deployed with community proposers as reward to volunteers and frontline workers in our neighbourhoods and beyond.

To facilitate this important work €30,000 will be transferred to Cllr Sheridan's NOM funding for allocation over the coming weeks.

This Motion is proposed by Cllr Mary Hoade (FF Group Leader), Seconded by Cllrs Keveney/Killilea/Sheridan.

Cllr. Reddington stated that whilst he supported the above proposal, he wished to propose the following:

I wish to allocate €20,000 to lighting at the demesne in Headford. The lighting project is costed at €20,000

I also wish to allocate €5350 for wheelchair accessible benches to the local publicly owned piers Greenfields , Annaghkeen , Kilbeg. I believe that this will help with tourism in our area. The total cost of the benches is €5,350

This is a total amount of €25,350 I wish to allocate under the Tuam municipal allocation which is under 1/7 of the total allocation

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan asked Cllr. Reddington if the proposal was a counter-proposal and if it is, where the balance of the €180,000 is to be allocated.

In response to Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington stated that the motion was not counter proposal, just a separate proposal he wished to put forward.

Cllr. McHugh Farag stated she supported Cllr. Reddington's proposal.

Regarding the proposal put forward by Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Cullen sought clarification as he was concerned these figures added to more than the allocated €180,000. He stated that any balance left over can only go to Notice of Motion if the intended expenditure is eligible under Notice of Motion funding and that the resolution must deal with full €180,000.

In response Cllr. Killilea clarified that he proposed to add €5,000 to his NOM, giving a total of €20,000, to spend on upgrade works in the Palace Grounds.

Cllr. Roche said he was dumbfounded that this proposal could be brought to the meeting as it had been agreed at the March meeting to have an inhouse discussion to decide what the funding would be used for. He added his disappointment that a number of councillors would get together without considering proposals from Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. McHugh Farag and he too had no consultation on the proposal. He added that although he supported the proposal he was disgusted that no discussion took place with the engineering staff as he had projects he would of liked to put forward, he

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emphasised his annoyance at this and wondered who was shouting for Lavally, Kilbannon and surrounding areas.

In reply, Cllr. Keaveney stated that there had been nothing to stop Cllr. Roche meeting with other personnel, as a document with numerous options to pick from had been received from the engineering staff, he added these remarks were disingenuous. It wouldn't be practical to dilute the funding across the 7 councillors.

Cllr. McHugh Farag commented that the 'game of politics was alive and well' and that she was concerned at the idea of the funding being used in conjunction with notice of motion allocation. Although she didn't object to the proposal, she felt the decision was not good governance and it doesn't look as if we are playing ball with the system in place.

Cllr. Hoade stated there had been an discussion regarding the workload of staff at the last meeting, the reality is that the staff can't cope with the current workload and part of this funding could go towards providing extra staff so that all projects were tangible and would also provide support to the existing staff.

Cllr. Reddington commented that he didn't wish for the discussion to become an argument but that he had spoken previously to Mr. Cullen, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Connolly and he had a good proposal which would promote tourism in Headford.

Cllr. Roche stated that although he supported the hiring of technical staff when needed, that this allocation was not given to appoint staff and questioned what would happen to the staff member when this funding ran out. He added that the Council should have separate funding for providing employment.

Cllr. Keaveney commented that he was pleased to hear that Cllr. Reddington had also spoken to staff regarding his proposal and if the other councillors hadn't that was their issue. He wished to second Cllr. Hoade's proposal unless there was a counter proposal. Cllr. Killilea added that he would jointly second this proposal, stating that a new staff member would be a good asset as current staff were put to the pin of their collar and he looked forward to sitting down with the engineering staff and getting shovel ready projects started as this is the right thing to do.

Cllr. Roche queried what contribution the other 3 councillors were getting if this proposal was to proceed.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan called for a vote on Cllr. Hoade's proposal, stating that as Cllr. Reddington's was not a counter proposal and was not a valid proposal.

Cllr. Reddington requested a seconder for his proposal. Cllr. McHugh Farag stated that she supported Cllr. Reddington and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag, who also queried who decided on whether Cllr. Reddington's proposal was valid. Cllr. Roche also added his support to Cllr. Reddington's proposal.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan moved to take a vote on Cllr. Hoade's motion as presented to the members by Cllr. Hoade, as outlined in the text provided by Cllr. Hoade to Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan at the start of the meeting.

In favour of the proposal: Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Sheridan,

Against the proposal: Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Roche.

Result: 4 votes in Favour, 3 votes against, the Cathaoirleach deemed the proposal by Cllr. Hoade was carried.

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Cllr. Sheridan commented that this was good news for Tuam and the surrounding villages, Towns and countryside bringing focus to tomorrow's opportunity's in infrastructure, Environment and Tourism for the Municipal District of Tuam, adding that the extra staff member will allow us to concentrate on regeneration in Tuam and surrounding areas.

Cllr. Hoade offered to meet with Cllr. Reddington to discuss his proposal adding that she was willing to support this in conjunction with Cllr. Reddington by allocating some of her notice of motion funding.

MDT210015

Item no 7 Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Roche wished to thank Mr. Regan, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Connolly for their hard work which resulted in the Pedestrian Crossing at Annagh School, which is a positive development for the safety of the children.

The Councillors wished Mr. Cullen well in his new role as Acting C.E.O and thanked him for his contribution to the Tuam Municipal District.

MDT210016

I propose;

That the Tuam MD invite Corrib Beo and Clare River Valley Way to the next meeting (physical or remote) for update and dissemination session on their EU 'Life' Funding streams and its relationship with the Tuam MD and Galway County Council as a pre-meeting deputation.

Proposed: Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Sheridan

Seconded: Cllr. Mary Hoade

MDT210017

I propose;

That we hold a special (physical) meeting in committee in the Tuam Area Office as soon as restrictions lift to discuss the new walking and cycling loop around Tuam. In preparation for this meeting could we write to the relevant groups and stakeholders and ask them for their input into a potential project.

Proposed: Cllr. Donagh Killilea

Seconded: Cllr. Colm Keaveney

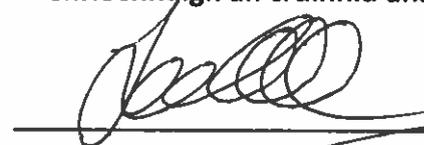
Item no. 8 Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business.

None.

The next meeting was scheduled for 14th June 2021 at 11.30am.

Chriochnaigh an cruinniú ansin 16:04

Approved by:


Cllr. J. Sheridan
Cathaoirleach

Date:

