

Municipal District of Tuam – 13th June 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT ARD RÍ HOUSE HOTEL, MILLTOWN ROAD, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY ON 13 JUNE 2022 AT 12.00 NOON.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Keaveney
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington & Cllr. McHugh Farag
AS LÁTHAIR	
BAIL OIFIGIH:	Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Ms. Fiona Holland - Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Paul Connolly – Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan – Executive Engineer, Ciaran Wynne – Senior Executive Engineer, J.P. O’Carroll – Architectural Technician I, Ms. Eimear Dolan, Administrative Officer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MDT220021

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam held 11th April 2022.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Sheridan the minutes of the budget meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 11th of April 2022 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

The Elected members congratulated Cllr. Keaveney and wished him well in his role as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. Hoade and Cllr Reddington expressed concern regarding the delay in the filling of the General Operative position in the Headford and queried how long it would be until a panel was available from which to fill the vacancy. They praised the existing staff in this area referring to the pressure they are under to cover annual and other types of leave required. In response Mr. Pender advised that General Operative interviews commenced last Wednesday 8th June and were due to finish 14th June, after which time he expected a panel would be formed and offers made quickly following on from same and it would be expedited as quickly as possible. He also added that Community Warden interviews were happening in the coming weeks and was hoping to have two vacancies filled shortly and would confirm the exact timeline.

Cllr. Reddington expressed his thanks to Fiona Holland and Brian Boyle who visited the junction at Cravens Corner a week after the last meeting and acted upon his request to increase safety at this junction promptly.

Cllr. Roche queried if motion MDT220012 had been sent to the TII regarding the junction at Grange and Balrobuck. Mr Pender advised that the proposal had not yet gone but would soon.

Cllr. McHugh Farag queried if the tender was awarded for the traffic management plan. Mr. Pender advised that the tender was received but there were some clarifications sought but he did not anticipate any difficulty and that a letter of intent/award of contract was expected to follow in the coming weeks.

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Cllr. Keaveney queried CCTV procedures and data protection as there was frustration with increased incidences of illegal dumping. He referred to a national media campaigns and queried if there was any update regarding its use as many voluntary groups that were helping out in the past have not got the same time as we emerge from Covid advising that cities like Galway need to take the lead on such initiatives. Mr Pender responded to this query advising it will be provided for under Section 20 of the Circular Economy, Waste Management (amendment) and Minerals Development (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which was not yet enacted. Adding that this Bill covers environmental pollution in great detail and in preparation for the process GCC are drafting DPIA's currently, but until this legislation is formally but into law it cannot be acted upon.

Cllr Reddington referred to the Traffic Management Plan in Headford, referencing the work of Town Teams and local people and encouraged Galway County Council to engage advising that so much happening at local level was important to pull all together and have consultation with all involved.

Cllr. Hoade commended the good work done by Development Association and Town Teams and advised that parking is an ongoing issue on main street in Headford. She highlighted the need for consultation to get the best for the local people.

Cllr. Sheridan referred to Tinkers Hill and queried what was happening with regard same. Mr. Pender advised he would follow up with the TII. Cllr. Sheridan also queried if there is any scope for funding for Archaeological requirements from other strands other than monies given under Active Travel. The impact of dealing with the Archaeological Conservation Areas (ACA'S) used up a significant portion of the funding allocated, and all future funding applications will provide for the inclusion of any ACA requirements where applicable. Mr Pender advised that dealing with the impact of ACA's needed to be done with the approved funding as no additional resources are available.

Cllr Sheridan also referred to successful man and van with regard to fly tipping. Cllr Hoade thanked Eileen Ruane, DOS, The Committee on APC and the Gardai on the Man and Van campaign which was publicly announced advising that there will also be dates not advertised. She said it was a good initiative. Mr. Pender advised that they were successful and would liaise with Eileen Ruane, DOS in relation to same.

Cllr. Roche said he fully supported the initiative but pointed out that most fly tipping occurs late at night and may not always be able to be detected by the check points. He welcomed other initiatives or suggestions such as early intervention by community wardens where possible, sharing of information where vehicles are illegally parked.

Cllr Roche referred to Tuam MD seeking to fill two Community Warden vacancies and asked if the process regarding making complaints could be reviewed. Cllr. Roche added it would be more effective to pick up the phone and report directly illegal dumping to the wardens as in recent times he has been advised to email the Environment Department.

Cllr. Killilea reemphasised the importance of making direct contact with Community wardens to ensure an immediate response. Mr. Pender advised that the first step will be to get the full complement of community wardens and that the role and structure of the wardens is being looked at internally adding that as soon as there is a change, he will inform the Elected Members.

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2. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 23rd March 2022.

Cllr. Killilea thanked all that attended the Special MD Meeting on 23rd March 2022, that welcomed the visit of the German Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt. Cllr. Killilea stated that this connection was very important for business relationships, advising that the ambassadors visit was discussed at a meeting in Brussels the following week acknowledging the twinning connection and putting Tuam MD forward in a very positive way.

Cllr. Killilea mentioned that an invitation has been extended to the Director of Services, Cathaoirleach and members to attend the Straubing festival on 18th August 2022

Cllr. McHugh Farag thanked Cllr. Killilea advising of the importance of keeping the lines of communication open between the towns in the future.

MDT220023

3. - To consider the use of Tuam Cemetery as a burial ground for other religious denominations.

Cllr. McHugh Farag welcomed this agenda item and said that it was very progressive of Tuam MD to have it on the agenda. She referred of the people who have lived in Tuam their whole lives and could not be buried locally in their own faith.

MDT220024

**On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh Farag seconded by Cllr. Hoade the following motion was agreed
I propose; -**

That a plaque of remembrance be installed in Tuam Cemetery for babies lost due to miscarriage and still birth.

Mr. Pender advised that the Executive did not have a problem with this proposal, but that GCC are currently mid-way in drafting bye laws in relation to cemeteries which could form part of this process and advised that he will liaise with the members in relation to same. He proposed that it was put forward to the September meeting.

Cllr. Killilea advised that GCC should progress a county strategy and have a way to respect the people of Tuam as all local people were entitled to a place to be buried and worship in their own town and agreed that this matter should stay on the agenda.

Cllr. Roche fully supported the notion but advised that it would need to be discussed in some way with the priest and bishop locally as this needs to be a well thought out decision and it would be important that there is collaborative consultation with all involved.

Mr. Pender agreed that it would be intended that there would be engagement with the relevant people.

Cllr Reddington referred to some groundwork that had been prepared by Dave O'Loughlin, Executive Engineer, Environment Department and that he was aware that people were currently going to Sligo/limerick or further to be buried which was not right and he fully supports the motion to keep this item on the agenda.

Cllr. Sheridan suggested the provision of an Urn Wall referencing one in Sligo that may be something to consider for the future. Mr. Pender advised that Dave O'Loughlin had some work done and was familiar with a similar pilot project in Renvyle. He said all suggestions can be considered.

MDT220025

4.- Consideration of Part 8 application for Tuam Town Hall

JP O'Carroll gave a visual presentation of the Part 8 application to develop Tuam Town Hall under the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan and funded by Rural Regeneration Development Funding, giving the project background details, context and the project objective to redevelop the former Tuam Town hall for use as a modern multi-functional space to facilitate Creative enterprise Hub/Co-working space, offices, meeting/community spaces with supporting facilities with all improvements to the building supporting climate action measures.

Two design and layout options were presented to the elected members. Cllr. Keaveney advised that it is important to remember that the town hall belongs to the people of Tuam and that it is important to promote inclusivity and that the people have a sense of ownership of the hall and access to it.

Cllr. Killilea thanked JP Carroll for his presentation and acknowledged that over the last 3 years the hall was as good as closed and proposed that it would be used for future MD meetings as it is an underutilised property and as Elected Members, they need to ensure that the building is brought back to use. Cllr Killilea stated that how it will be resourced will be important and not to forget its use in the past for Dramas, plays, meetings and civic receptions. He referenced that in the past there were a lot of groups seeking to use it but did not meet with the insurance requirements. Cllr Killilea requested that there would be a definite line of enquiry and channel for it. He queried the budget involve and when best case scenario a start date or a completion date may be expected stating the importance that there was a caretaker role assigned to it.

Cllr McHugh Farag concurred with the sentiments of welcome expressed by Cllr Keaveney and Cllr. Killilea expecting that demand was hard to gauge but if the town hall was accessible expected that demand would increase.

Cllr. Roche thanked JP O'Carroll and Ciaran Wynne and recalled that there was a difficulty in conducting MD meetings in the town hall because of the echo and acoustics problem but that it would be an ideal location for their meetings and asked that this requirement be considered. He stated that he preferred Option 2 and would be lovely to have this facility if wished to hold civic receptions.

Cllr. Sheridan thanked and expressed disappointment that funding had not yet been secured. He felt this development was bringing it to the next generation of users. He aired concerns of the difficulty in getting access to the current building and expressed concern that the first floor was losing a lot of space to a storage area.

Mr Wynne advised in relation to accessibility he would need to revert to the design team. He advised there will be RDF funding to operate the building such as that of other town halls in Loughrea and Portumna. He advised that this development would require significant funding, that Cat 1 funding is yet to be published but there is an indication that the application will not be successful as there was no planning permission prior to application going in.

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Mr. Wynne advised that if funding was available in 2023, the project may likely be complete by 2026 and advised that the acoustics in the room would be considered at design stage.

Mr. Hanrahan thanked JP and thanked the Elected members for their engagement. He advised that it is all about providing a use for and by the community and used for the purposes as described. There would be flexibility and the project would aim to build up small and diverse businesses in Tuam. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the funding would be available under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and that other funding may be available such as funding western development loan commission.

Cllr. Killilea thanked for the presentation and said it was important that between now and then the building would be developed and asked the Director if it would be possible to have community groups to have controlled access to the building. This request was supported by Cllr. Sheridan.

Following the presentation, the Elected members were satisfied with going forward with Option 2.

Mr. Pender thanked Ciaran Wynne and his team for the presentation

MDT220026

5. - Tuam Town Centre Enhancement Measure 2022

Eimear Dolan, AO, introduced the Elected Members to the proposal that Tuam town be involved in the Streetscape Enhancement project.

Galway County Council nominated Tuam in line with the Department of Community and Rural Development invite to all Authorities to submit one location prior to June 3rd and to prepare a preliminary Scheme by June 17th, 2022, for a budget of 90k.

She advised that Galway County Council are awaiting Ministerial Approval of the Location prior to making a formal launch of the Scheme but given the short deadlines as issued by DRCD to the Chief Executives Members were being briefed that Tuam had been nominated.

Subject to Ministerial Approval GCC would be inviting property owners within the town centre to make a proposal to the Council to apply for funding under the initial €90k budget, with the maximum allowable per property of €3500 would be looking at targeting 30/40 properties, depending on availability of quotes/workers etc., limited budget and will be assessed by a case-by-case basis.

Liam Hanrahan advised that main street only red zone would be applicable as that is what budget would be for.

Cllr. Keaveney stressed that ERCO in GCC is the main contact. Cllr. Killilea advised meeting with Tuam Tidy Towns that they would know all the businesses and property owners who should be engaged directly with. He welcomed the opportunity and hoped business would apply for the funding available.

Cllr Hoade welcomed the opportunity and advised if it was to work local engagement and involvement must be present. Cllr Reddington said this project was successful in Headford and advised that a Public Meeting is held and a follow up public meeting to ensure buy in from all the local people.

Cllr McHugh Farag said it would be very visible and make reference to ensure proper materials were used with longevity

Cllr. Sheridan urged all potential applicants to engage with the scheme. Cllr Roche welcomed the initiative and referred to the 6-foot wall from Dublin Road to Market Square which remains unplastered and requested that this wall be used to demonstrate art works, highlighting everything good about our town.

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Cllr. Keaveney thanked all involved in the information provided.

MDT220027

6. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender advised that in previous meetings he would have given a list of works ongoing and completed in the Tuam MD but on this occasion, Paul Connolly, EE, would give a visual presentation of works completed in the MD, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation of photographic images which was welcomed by the Elected Members.

MDT220028

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

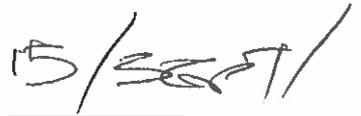
Referenced the motion brought forward by Cllr. McHugh Farag which was unanimously agreed.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 13.38 pm

Approved by:



Date:



Cllr. Keaveney, Cathaoirleach