

# Municipal District of Tuam – 14th JUNE 2021

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 12 noon.

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. D. Killillea

**I LÁTHAIR FREISIN** Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. McHugh Farag,  
Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Roche

**AS LÁTHAIR**

**BAILL OIFIGH:** Mr. Pender D.O.S., Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Coyle, A/S.E.E., Mr. Regan & Mr. Connolly, E. E.'s, Ms. Hourigan, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Dunne, A.S.O., Ms. Naughton, Staff Officer, Ms. O'Grady, Arts Officer.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting of Tuam Municipal District.

**MDT210028**

### **Agenda**

The Cathaoirleach requested that Item No. 2 on the agenda be brought forward to enable Ms. Carolann Courtney, Co-ordinator who was on a remote connection to give a presentation on Creative Places Tuam.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington and agreed by the Members for Item 2 on the agenda to be brought forward.

**MDT210029**

### **Item no. 2 – Creative Places Tuam – Update by C. Courtney, Co-Ordinator and S. O'Grady, Arts Officer**

Ms. O'Grady, Arts Officer introduced Ms. Carolann Courtney, Co-Ordinator for the Creative Places Tuam Programme who was joining the meeting via remote connection.

Ms. Courtney thanked the members for the opportunity to give an update on the Creative Places Tuam Programme which is a three-year pilot programme led by the Arts Council. The programme is for communities around the country who have not had opportunities to benefit from sustained public arts investment. Investment in Creative Places Ireland is a change in the way the Arts Council invests in the arts. For the first time, it is directly investing in a place and its people and working with key local partners to uncover each location's key assets, resources, and ambitions.

Since Ms. Courtney's appointment in January 2020, she has been engaging directly with communities, artists, and project stakeholders to help realise the programme's aims and ambitions. The programme was only live for 6 weeks when Covid restrictions required changes and adaptation to our operations and delivery. She proceeded to outline the works and events that have taken place, which have included Artist Bursary Awards – 3 No. awarded and Community Seeding Fund with 20 applications, with all

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receiving funding. She said that the response and feedback from the Artists to date is extremely positive. The Creative Places programme is recognised as the programme that is both artist and community centred. Ms. Courtney acknowledged that Galway County Council is a strategic partner in this work.

Ms. Courtney thanked Ms. O'Grady, Arts Officer for her work and assistance to date.

Ms. O'Grady thanked Ms. Courtney for her presentation. She confirmed that the pilot programme is approved for a period of three years, and having observed the benefits, the Council is seeking a one-year extension from the Arts Council.

Cllr. Sheridan referred to a Cairde Mol performance that he had seen virtually, had over 5,000 views. He said that this is an excellent way for emigrants worldwide in places like Dubai and Sydney to see what is going on locally.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said it was not that Tuam lacks creativity but that this project was allowing it to be harnessed and grow. She said the programme was a credit to Ms. Courtney as it reinforces existing talent and brings forth new talents /passions and the legacy will live on for a long time.

The Cathaoirleach joined in the sentiments of Cllr Sheridan and Cllr McHugh Farag and indicated that he would write to the Minister regarding the one-year extension of the project.

The Cathaoirleach asked as to what is the estimated value/expected financial return on this programme.

Ms. O'Grady replied saying that the projects have both an economic and social return. The Council is working with the Arts Council to evaluate the programme, a more strategic overview will be available in the coming months. However, the overall impact of the programme can be seen, from artists collaborating, forming collectives, strategic county and national funding being received, and increased community engagement. The programme is very positive with local artists getting attention and contributing to the positivity and wellbeing of the people of Tuam.

Mr. Pender, D.O.S. thanked Ms. O'Grady and Ms. Courtney for an extremely informative presentation, adding that he was particularly impressed that seed funding was given to all applicants. He assured Ms. Courtney that she will receive any assistance she needs from Municipal District level.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Ms. Courtney and Ms. O'Grady for the presentation.

Ms. Courtney and Ms. O'Grady then left the meeting.

**MDT210030**

### **Item no. 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Roche the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 **were agreed**.

#### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

On a point of information, Cllr. Keaveney gave a brief update on the newly established Tuam Housing Task Force, with first meeting of the Anti-social Behaviour Sub-Committee to take place on Wednesday next. Cllr. Keaveney noted that there should be careful consideration when allocating houses in estates to ensure that other tenants' rights to live in peace in their houses is protected and to date investment in this area has been lacking. He acknowledged the work of Mr. Hanrahan, D.O.S. Housing for formulating

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the taskforce and commended the prompt actions being undertaken with several evictions to take place on Friday.

Cllr. McHugh Farag suggested that with the task force now in place, it should be used to forge better links between Galway County Council and Approved Housing Bodies and to look at how other Local Authorities address issues which may help in preventing some of the problems that have arisen in estates.

Cllr. Reddington said he was delighted to be part of the new forum adding that his work will be around youth engagement and what happens to young people when they leave school. This is a national issue that needs to be addressed. He invited the Councillors to come forward with any issues they may have so that the issues could be dealt with by the task force.

**MDT210031**

### **Item no. 3 – Cathaoirleach Business**

Cllr. Hoade raised concerns at the dangerous state of the N84 and the challenge it is posing to people living on the road in particular at O’Flaherty’s Cross, Grange, where a serious accident took place on Wednesday night last which resulted in part of the road being closed temporarily. She met with a group of concerned residents on Friday and forwarded an e-mail to the Executive in relation to this issue.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Keaveney, it was agreed by the members that a request be submitted for T.I.I. to immediately carry out a safety audit of the N84 junctions from Ballindooley to Cloughanover and provide some safety measures at Grange.

Cllr. Hoade also expressed concern on behalf of the residents of Balroebuck regarding over-grown verges. While recognising that this is not the appropriate season to cut-back the verges, asked that consideration be given on health and safety grounds.

Cllr. Roche agreed with Cllr. Hoade regarding the N84. He said that funding was available for a draft design plan for a new road at Balroebuck and asked for an update and whether any engagement took place with the Oranmore/Athenry MD as the road links with this area. Cllr. Roche also requested an update on the proposed works at Twenty Minute Hill.

Cllr. Reddington requested an update on Cloughanover Cross, where traffic counters were in place and asked what works are proposed following traffic results. He also queried whether there is any funding available for the restoration of Old Water Pumps in a village.

In reply, Mr. Pender, D.O.S. indicated that he would speak with Mr. Durkin, Safety Advisor in T.I.I. regarding the N84 and will have a response for the members for the next meeting.

Mr. Pender advised that as part of the N84 inspection, he will request Mr. Durkin to look at and advise on what can be done to improve safety at O’Flaherty’s Cross and Balroebuck. Mr. Pender said that funding for a full upgrade for the N84 from the City Boundary to Clonboo is under consideration. A Strategic Assessment Report initiates the process commencing with traffic counts.

Mr. Pender said that verge trimming on health and safety grounds can overrule the nesting requirement where it is deemed essential and he would refer this to Mr. Coyle A/SEE for attention.

Mr. Pender advised the members that the works at Twenty Minute Hill were retendered following discovery of a typing error in the original documents. The new tenders were reviewed and forwarded to T.I.I. for approval. It is anticipated that works will commence mid-to-end of Quarter 3 2021.

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Mr. Pender said that traffic counters were in place at Cloughanover Cross, but due to Covid restrictions on travel, a true reflection on traffic flow was not obtained. With the lifting of restrictions traffic flow and counts are now back up to 90% and works will be considered to address issues highlighted. Mr. Pender said that he would advise the members of funding for Old Water Pumps at the next meeting.

Cllr. McHugh Farag sought an update on having a concession stand at the Palace Grounds.

Mr. Coyle A/SEE replied saying that the issue was raised at a previous meeting. Consideration was given as to the effect the proposed concession stand would have on existing facilities given that the proposed location is beside the Leisure Centre where teas/coffees are already available. This request will be reconsidered.

Cllr. Hoade queried whether the Cathaoirleach is present at the opening of tender documents. In reply, Mr. Pender D.O.S. said that there were some changes, with etenders and agreed to give further clarification on this at the next meeting.

The Cathaoirleach was advised by Cllr. Sheridan of outstanding items from previous meetings for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting and requested that an update be given on the Outdoor Dining Initiative.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Archbishop of Tuam Reverend Michael Neary well in his retirement and thanked him on behalf of all the members for his dedicated service to the people of Tuam.

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of sympathy to the Hynes family in Tuam on the death of Paddy, R.I.P, acknowledging his contribution as a long serving businessman in Tuam.

**MDT210032**

### **Item no. 4 – Tuam Directors Business**

Mr. Pender, D.O.S. congratulated the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach on their appointment and looks forward to working with everyone in the year ahead.

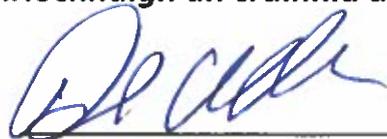
He confirmed approval was received from the Department for the appointment of a Technician to the Tuam MD, noting that the new employee will be a welcome addition to the team.

Mr. Pender outlined to the members details of funding received for the Palace Grounds and other areas such as Climate Adaption, Lough Corrib Pier, Active Travel, Cycling Facilities, Signage, Pedestrian Crossings. He acknowledged and commended the work of the Technical and Administrative staff of the Tuam Area in securing funding.

The Cathaoirleach joined Mr. Pender in thanking the staff of the Tuam MD for their continued work.

***Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 13.10 p.m.***

Approved by:



Date:

14/3/2021

Cllr. D. Killillea  
Cathaoirleach

## COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

MDT210033

**CLLR. M. HOADE (seconded by Cllr. C. Keaveney)**

I propose that the TII immediately carry out safety audit of the N84 junctions from Ballindooley to Cloughanover and provide some safety measures at the Grange.

### **Written Response:**

Since the last Tuam Municipal District meeting, Galway County Council with approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, has appointed a full-time Road Safety Inspector (RSI) who is based in the National Roads Project Office in Ballybrit. The role of the RSI is multi-faceted in terms of carrying out road safety inspections along the entire length of the national road network in the county of Galway. Locations that are deemed worthy of intervention will be prioritised and any remedial works can then be designed and tendered in house which will expedite the process. The N84 has been prioritised and inspections have commenced.

**D. Pender, A/Director of Services  
Infrastructure & Operations**