

Municipal District of Tuam – 17th April 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 17th April 2022 AT 12:30 pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Keaveney
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan & Cllr. Reddington
AS LÁTHAIR	
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Paul Connolly – Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan – Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer, Steve Dolan – CEO Galway Rural Development, Liz McDonnell & Sean Broderick - Galway Rural Development, Sharon O’Grady – Arts Officer, Sinéad O’Reilly – Arts Council, Damien McGlynn – Director of Create Ireland,

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed everyone to the meeting and with agreement of all present he moved agenda items 7 and 8 before Item 1 so that the presentations could be given first.

MDT220050

7. –Presentation by Galway Rural Development.

Steve Dolan, CEO, Galway Rural Development thanked the Elected members for providing them with the opportunity to address the meeting introducing his colleague, Sean Broderick. Mr. Broderick outlined the role and importance of the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and TÚS schemes in the local community. He highlighted the impending crisis the schemes are facing. He set out issues such as a shortage of participants in the schemes and the need to align supervisors pay rates and conditions with those of similar roles under CE schemes getting 15% higher pay. The GRD are urging that the top up payment for participants of the RSS Scheme is increased from €27.50 to €50 per week and that the eligibility criteria is expanded allowing more people to apply for the scheme.

Mr. Broderick appealed to the Elected Members to support their requests by speaking to the relevant Minister and lobbying the Government and Local TDs to encourage immediate meaningful engagement and action, to bring change in addressing key issues which are threatening the continuation of the scheme.

The Elected members thanked Mr. Broderick for his presentation, and all unanimously supported the GRD. Cllr. Roche also suggested that a united motion was made by the plenary council meeting which would have stronger standing and a more united front with the support of all the MD’s.

MDT220051

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

I propose; -

That Galway County Council correspond with the Minister for Social Protection to outline concerns facing the Rural Social Scheme and TÚS with regard their viability and unnecessary bureaucratic differentials

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which make RSS and TÚS less attractive than that of other community employment. That the minister address the concerns and unfairness identified in the attached document.

MDT220052

6. –Presentation from the Arts Council – Creative places Tuam.

Sinéad O'Reilly from the Arts Council gave a presentation on Creative Places Tuam, a project funded by the Arts Council with investment of €500,000 to build local arts programmes. It was launched in 2020 for 3 years and was extended for 1 year in 2023. She highlighted examples of works under the Creative Places initiative such as "For Our Grand Mothers" – A song for Gilmartin Road and "Opening of a Blue Door" bringing the Town Hall space to life once again. She advised the members that the Creative Places contract expires in January 2024 and that the next phase is to build on a succession plan to keep it alive within the community.

The Elected Members thanked Ms. O'Reilly for her presentation and for all the work that the programme has achieved to date. Cllr. McHugh Farag spoke of the importance of its legacy and messaging and the need to plan to continue to keep momentum in the community. Cllr. Reddington referred to his engagement with Johanna on the project with Youth Reach and in the booklet and mural preparation which engaged with the young people of Tuam. Cllr. Sheridan commended the works done stating that €500 in the right hands can go very far, referencing money provided to a group for mini film which has 152k views on You tube.

Damien McGlynn, Director of Create Ireland then addressed the meeting praising the project advising that at the outset it was difficult to tell people what the project was but with all the behind the scenes work it has now become more visible, stressing that the focus must be on how to build support for a locally owned approach to the project to ensure sustainability.

Cllr. Roche questioned the references to the Opening up the blue door in the town hall to a facility that appeared to be closed and queried what kind of interaction or engagement was with this facility. Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer replied referring to local artists being successful and securing funding and progressing forward under the project. She advised that Tuam Creative places are using the ground floor of the Town Hall since it has been vacated by the Department of Social Protection, stating it was an amazing space and it was important that there was correct infrastructure in place for the management of it.

Cllr. Keaveney advised the team to return with a proposal to the executive regarding the allocation of resources to fulfil the criteria to use the space to its potential and requested an update from the Director in relation to progress on development of the Town Hall. Mr. Pender advised that there was an issue in timing of the approval of the Part 8 planning and would speak to colleagues and have an update for the next meeting. Mr. Connolly added that the impending appointment of the Town Regeneration Officer which would lead to the creation of a Town Team which may include Elected Members giving them a chance to be involved in the direction of the Town Hall.

Ms. O'Reilly thanked the members for their time and advised that herself and Damien may come back to a future meeting with an evaluation and impact update of the 4-year project and details of its succession plan.

Cllr. Keaveney requested that the meeting then pause for a moments silence with respect to the recent tragedy that took place in the Headford area, and his sentiments were seconded by Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. Reddington. The Elected Members conveyed their sympathies to the Bohan and Joyce families with Cllr. Hoade commending the emergency services and the staff at Headford School for all their work throughout

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the tragedy and thanking GCC and the community for all the offers of support made. Mr. Pender wished to be associated with the conveyance of sympathy on behalf of the Executive, the Municipal District and on a personal level.

A discussion then followed between Cllr. Roche and Cllr. Keaveney in relation to the time given for the presentations of items 6 and 7 on the agenda with Cllr. Roche declaring that the presenters were not given enough time to present, he said the meeting should have commenced earlier and requested this did not happen again. Cllr. Keaveney stated that the speakers received their requested proportion of time. Mr. Pender reminded the members that they are representing GCC, and the meeting continued.

MDT220053

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 20th February 2023.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 20th February 2023 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Reddington requested an update regarding public consultation on the Traffic Management Plan in Headford. Cllr. Hoade enquired on plans to expedite the Headford Traffic Management Plan advising that it is very important that the public feed into it and suggested that the consultants involved would facilitate an information evening. Mr. Pender advised that there will be public consultation, and everybody will get an opportunity to engage

Cllr. Reddington expressed his disappointment that his request at the meeting held on 20th February 2023 that Paula Higgins, SEE, would do a presentation on the Active Travel projects going forward had not been met. Mr. Pender advised he would request that Ms. Higgins make a presentation to the next meeting.

MDT220054

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

I propose; -

That a presentation is given to the Tuam MD for an update on Active Travel projects and any regulation in relation to any future active travel updates.

Cllr. Hoade expressed her dissatisfaction as she understood from the meeting on 2nd March, 2023 that a person would be appointed to the GO post in Headford and it was not good enough that this had not happened to date and pleaded with Mr. Pender to try and get it over the line.

Cllr. McHugh Farag looked for the feasibility study on the Greenway. Mr. Pender advised feasibility report is gone to TII and awaits its return.

Cllr. Killilea asked Mr. Pender if a conversation had taken place with the new Safety Inspector in Tuam regarding Tinkers Hill. Mr. Pender advised he is awaiting a response to his request.

MDT220055

2. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 2nd March 2023.

Cllr. McHugh Farag told the meeting that she had noticed the backs left open on a number of speed signs throughout the county where batteries may have been stolen and Mr. Connolly said he would examine

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this issue further to see if a security device can be retrofitted to the units going forward as a possible security measure.

Cllr. Reddington welcomed the dedicated patcher in Tuam MD which he said was a positive move for Tuam.

Cllr. Sheridan queried with their limited resources if GCC would consider it feasible to look at short term contracts, bringing in local crews that have the required experience and training and could work alongside GCC's own crews. Mr. Pender responded by stating that the works programme had changed dramatically over the last number of years and at present they were having difficulty in recruiting full time staff therefore it may prove even more difficult to get seasonal staff.

MDT220056

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

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Roche and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag it was **agreed** that **Brooklodge, Ballyglunan, Tuam, Co. Galway** be declared a public road as follows;

Road commencing at 546567E, 740615N in the townland of Ballyglooneen and finishing at 546503E, 740727N in the townland of Ballyglooneen.

MDT220057

4. – Declaration of a Road to be a public road – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993 – Deerpark, Headford, Co. Galway.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Reddington and **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade it was **agreed** that **Deerpark, Headford, Co. Galway** be declared a public road as follows;

Point A-B

- Road commencing at its junction with the L-6128 in the townland of Deerpark and extending southwest for a distance of 126M ending at point B outside house No. 21 in the Townland of Deerpark

Point C-D

- Road commencing outside house No. 1 and extending east a distance of 168M to point D in the Townland of Deerpark.

Point E-F

- Road commencing outside house no. 27 and extending east a distance of 57M to point F in front of house no. 18 in the townland of Deerpark

Point G

- Road extending south a distance of 14M from the intersect with the road delineated E-F to the open space Townland of Deerpark

Point H

- Road extending north a distance of 12.4M from the intersect with the road delineated C-D to the open space in the townland of Deerpark.

MDT220058

5. – Amendment to Tuam MD Standing Orders to review frequency of Tuam MD Meetings – from bimonthly to monthly.

Mr. Pender set out that under Section 16 Schedule 10 of Local Government Act 2001 one half of the total no. of members must agree to the change in the Standing Orders for Tuam MD with Standing Order No. 1 in question.

Cllr. Killilea wanted it recorded for the purposes of the records that no one was against monthly meetings and that the elected members do work hard together in the main and on a regular basis for the people of Tuam, having met 11 times in 2022 and anticipating 22 meetings in 2023.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Roche it was **agreed that Tuam MD would hold monthly meetings instead of bimonthly meetings going forward.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would therefore be scheduled to take place on Monday, 8th May, 2023.

Cllr. Sheridan questioned if a monthly meeting was money well spent, using the time of the Engineers in the room and said that he would not endorse the motion.

MDT220059

8. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender updated the members regarding the Tuam Local Area Plan which had come off public display on 23rd March, 2023, with 62 submissions received and a report may be brought before the councillors at the next meeting.

The members queried the delay in the report and requested a strategic timelining of events indicating that a special meeting should be organised for the LAP if required. Cllr. McHugh Farag suggested that the elected members themselves meet also in an informal non statutory meeting regarding the LAP.

Mr. Pender commended Mr. Connolly on the very informative update that he circulated to the members in relation to ongoing works in the Tuam MD which was welcomed by the Elected Members.

Mr. Connolly gave a brief update on ongoing works and a special mention to the CES Scheme who took on carried out a wonderful refurbishment on "Tuam Martyrs Memorial" at the site of the former workhouse in Tuam. Cllr. Killilea commended Lorraine Cooney previous CES supervisor on her works done around the palace grounds. Mr. Connolly advised that the CES Supervisor role had been advertised but that there was someone acting in the position in the interim.

He also referred to the success of the "An Choill Beag (AnCB) initiative" from An Taisce where 55 transition year students helped An Taisce plant 200 native trees at the Palace Grounds.

Cllr. Killilea enquired if anyone had been appointed to this post of Tuam Cemetery caretaker, Mr. Connolly advised that he thought an appointment had been made but he would investigate further and confirm same.

Mr. Pender referred to discussions that took place at the Budget meeting held in November where it was proposed to transfer 2k funding from Community Grants into Twinning projects and advised that he could organise same with finance if that was still the direction from the members. He enquired if the 2k should

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be divided by the 3 towns involved in the twinning. The Elected members agreed that as it was a 40-year milestone that it would be in order to put the €1,200 towards Dunmore.

MDT220060

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

I propose; -

That Tuam MD allocate €1,200 to the provision on an An Dulúe content mini movie on “40 years of Dunmore and Querrin partnering in European cross boundary twinning. This is in conjunction with a Creative Tuam partner and Volunteer Organisation “Cairdé Mól” and Local community council for the permission of a celebration and acknowledgement of this long-standing friendship.

Cllr. Roche voiced the concern of residents in the area from Tuam Stars training centre to Highway garage in Tuam and queried if it were possible to install flashing lights or ramps to curtail speeding. Cllr. Keaveney spoke of increased concern surrounding aggressive driving and that GCC needed a strategy in relation to this and to lead from the front regarding same. Mr. Pender said he would take on board these comments and look at speed reduction measures but advised that a road user has a duty and obligation to obey the law and speeding enforcement was a matter for the An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. Keaveney accepted that people must obey the law but added that that does not get GCC off the hook and safety measures need to be in place. Cllr. Roche called for a centred approach to focus on this pinch point that needs attention.

Cllr. Reddington sought an update in relation to the speed review as he had sent submissions to Tom Prendergast. Mr. Pender advised that at the plenary meeting there has been a process provided and encouraged him to continue to forward submissions to Mr. Prendergast. He also advised there was Executive Engineer interviews scheduled for May and expected one of the successful appointments would be working on the review.

Cllr. Killilea advised the members that the annual Straubing visit will be 17th August 2023 and wished to confirm the number of people that would be in attendance.

Cllr. Killilea requested the expected date for the cutting of grass on the roundabouts in Tuam. Cllr. Keaveney requested that GCC look for a plan from the TII in relation to their maintenance. Mr. Pender advised that the maintenance of the roundabouts is controlled by TII.

Cllr. McHugh Farag queried the plan for upgrade the design of the roundabouts and Mr. Pender advised that some information has been received in relation to sculptures in conjunction with the arts council, but it is something that is being looked at nationally.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 14:34 pm

Approved by:



Cllr. Keaveney, Cathaoirleach.

Date:

