

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th February 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE HARDIMAN HOTEL, EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY ON 20th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2.00 pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Keaveney

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Roche, Cllr. Sheridan & Cllr. Reddington

Cllr. Hoade attended the meeting remotely via Teams.

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGH: Mr. Derek Pender D.O.S. - Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Paul Connolly – A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan – Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne - Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

MDT220041

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 14th November 2022.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Keaveney and **seconded** by Cllr. Roche the minutes of the budget meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 14th November, 2022 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Hoade queried progress on the Traffic Management Plan for Headford. Mr. Pender advised that the process would be expedited with the appointment of Systra and anticipated completion by the end of Quarter 3 as Headford had been bundled with Kinvara.

Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. Reddington expressed concern with staffing shortages in the Headford area, requesting an update in relation to the filling of the General Operative post. Mr. Pender advised that the offers for this post were gone out and they were waiting for acceptance of the position.

Cllr. Reddington queried new constraints being introduced under the Active Travel funding stream for 2023 in comparison with previous years with requirements changing and queried if funding (€60k) allocated for Headford under Active Travel was lost.

Mr. Pender advised that not all these factors would be applicable to every scheme under Active Travel and that the NTA will be requiring more planning and policy making to be involved where Active Travel funding is being sought. Mr. Pender advised he would look into the referenced monies allocated to Headford and revert back to Cllr. Reddington.

Mr. Pender also advised GCC had approval for 6 active travel staff and that this team was nearly complete with an offer made to fill an Executive Engineer position.

Cllr. Sheridan requested an update on the falling debris on Bridge Street, Dunmore. Mr. Connolly advised that this incident has been reported and referred to the Environment section. In relation to Dunmore Town Mr. Pender advised that GCC were awaiting a brief from consultancy firm O'Connor Sutton and

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th February 2023

Cronin before they could go to the market and procure the services needed for the development of the street before buildings could be demolished.

Cllr. Sheridan referenced 18 incidents on Tinkers Hill that remain unreported to the Gardaí querying if there was any way to convert this figure into data that could be recorded. Mr. Pender advised that if the incidents were not reported on the pulse system they would not be captured. Cllr. Killilea asked if the DOS could liaise with the Gardaí in Tuam and ask if record could be kept of the near misses on that stretch of road.

Cllr. Killilea referred to Tuam Local Area Plan and requested confirmation of what cycle of meetings were put in place. He requested that there were regular meetings throughout the LAP process, referring to an application made from the presentation sisters of Tuam that was refused for a Homeless centre and stressed the importance that the town centre is zoned correctly.

Mr. Pender advised that there would be public consultation on the LAP including a public information event in the Tuam Civic Offices on 6th March between 2.30 – 7.30 pm and a Webinar event on 9th March at 6 pm.

Cllr. McHugh Farag looked for an update on the next section of the Milltown to Gortnagunnad Scheme Mr Pender advised that the CPO was approved and that the next step was Notice to Treat which would be an invitation for landowners to engage and GCC would be appointing Valuers to act on their behalf. Adding he is hopeful that contract documents may be completed, and tender awarded before the end of the year.

Cllr. McHugh Farag requested feasibility study update on the proposed Athenry to Milltown Greenway asking when elected members may see the plans. Mr Pender advised that the Greenway has been recognised as a feasible scheme and that GCC have passed it up the line to the TII and are awaiting a report back and hopes to the TII peer review complete.

Cllr. Keaveney requested an update on the Burial ground strategy for Tuam in relation to other religious denominations, to accommodate the change in cultural aspect of Tuam and its community. Mr. Pender advised that Eileen Ruane, DOS, was hoping to bring the proposed burial ground bye- laws to the Plenary Council Meeting in Quarter 2. There would be an opportunity for public consultation possibly at that point.

Cllr. Roche expressed serious concerns with staffing resources of GCC, which he described as the biggest challenge facing the new CEO of GCC while managing all the challenges facing GCC. He enquired when the vacancy for permanent Senior Executive Engineer would be filled in Tuam MD. Mr. Pender advised that the staffing at SEE level is dealt with by the Public Appointments Service and a panel was formed in early 2023. He advised a letter was written to PAS to make 4 offers of SEE posts, one of which was Tuam but advised that recruitment can be a lengthy process where candidates may be employed by other Local Authorities.

Cllr. Roche queried the frequency of Tuam MD Meetings, proposing that a monthly meeting be held. Mr. Pender advised that the frequency of the meetings was set out by the Standing Orders.

Cllr. Sheridan enquired if GCC need to seek permission from TII to reduce speed limits. Mr. Pender advised that the TII were a statutory consultee in relation to speed limits on national roads and he had circulated guidelines regarding same after the last meeting.

MDT220042

2. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender advised that there has been progress in relation to the Kilbannon project with land transfer documents sent out to the landowners with their return awaited. He advised that funding is available, but GCC cannot award a contract until all the required documentation is in place.

Mr. Connolly provided an update in relation to the workings of Tuam MD, with the Roads Programme finalised, works on Wier Road imminent and works being carried out on water tables and potholes throughout the MD where roads were in bad condition after the winter months.

Mr. Connolly advised that monies queried by Cllr. Reddington under Active Travel were not lost but that the Traffic Management Plan in Headford needed to be finalised so that no work completed prior to the plan would have to be undone if they were not in accordance with the plan. Advising that this would lead to a better outcome for Headford in the long term and that existing footpath's that are causing a risk to the public will be repaired this Summer.

Cllr. Reddington enquired if there would be a Low-Cost Accident scheme in Caherlistrane and hoping that Cave Caherlistrane could be looked at.

Cllr. Hoade was concerned that there was no movement on works at Caherlistrane GAA Club to which Mr. Connolly responded advising that the pedestrian crossing was delayed as GCC were waiting on a number of parts, which has been since been received and are hoping to start in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Killilea enquired when the LIS scheme will open for new applications. Mr. Pender advised that 91 schemes remained on a priority list and does not anticipate opening up to new applications prior to 2025, adding that GCC cannot go outside the terms of the scheme but if urgent areas of concern existed, they should be brought to the attention of the MD.

Cllr. Reddington expressed his concern and disappointment over no investment from the TII on the Curraghline and put forward a motion;

MDT220043

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

That the Tuam MD ask the National Road Project Office for an update on any plans for upgrade of the N84 or any plans to upgrade any of the dangerous junctions on this road.

Cllr. Roche sought an update on the new cemetery in Brooklodge and the proposal to take the road in charge and if it is on the roads programme for 2023. Mr. Pender advised it would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

MDT220044

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

Cllr. Keaveney pleaded GCC to respond quicker to assist in the provision of services and facilities for those escaping the war in Ukraine to better integrate them into society. He referred to the dangers of incorrect information being spread on social media which destroys and darkens efforts being made to assist those escaping torture in their war-torn country, stating that GCC have a role in bringing the community along

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th February 2023

and showing leadership. Mr. Pender advised that GCC's Housing Department has been providing support and leadership with a dedicated team in place.

Cllr. Killilea concurred with the sentiments of Cllr. Keaveney speaking of the serious safety issues in relation to the provision of accommodation to the Ukrainian Refugees and the importance of limiting accessibility to the accommodation which these vulnerable people have been provided, suggesting that a log of visitors be kept, and a strict policy required surrounding same.

MDT220045

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

I propose; -

That Tuam Municipal District provides fiscal assistance to Dunmore Twinning Committee in celebrating 40 years of European partnering with Guerre in France with regard to

- Video/Audio Presentation
- Audio/visual recital on the night
- Presentation of passing to the Mayor on the day of Celebration in April/May 2023.

Cllr. Keaveney enquired if there was money in the Twinning budget and Mr. Pender advised there was a budget in place, but it was exhaustive as funding was also required for Twinning with Straubing and Headford.

Cllr. Killilea asked if the next meeting could be an Ordinary Meeting and advised that there would be some deputations coming into the next MD meeting from Tuam Cycling Club regarding safety awareness

Cllr. Killilea also proposed a vote of sympathy the family of Keith Mannion, RIP and acknowledged his work as Tuam Cemetery Caretaker.

MDT220046

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

I propose; -

That as a Municipal Authority make a submission under the current speed review, that all speeds approaching all National Schools and Secondary Schools be reduced to 50KM during school hours.

Mr. Pender advised that this is a reserved function and has already been implemented in certain areas of the county.

Cllr. Roche wished to register his thanks for the works completed at Barnaderg town and village renewal scheme with lights on and enquired when can expect to see traffic calming in place to which Mr. Connolly replied that he hopes to see works commence next week.

Cllr Roche asked if any idea where next year's Town and village scheme may be directed and Mr. Connolly said he would follow up with Eimear Dolan, AO Economic & Rural Development Officer in relation to same. Cllr. Roche said it was important to look at all towns and surrounds to ensure even distribution of funds within the Tuam MD and to consider areas that may not have public representation. Mr. Connolly suggested that proposals for future Town and Village Renewal Schemes be brought to Tuam MD.

Mr. Connolly advised that the Draft Local Transportation Plan was open for consultation, that suggestions for cycling and walking routes can be submitted now and that he would circulate correspondence on how to comment on the Draft Local Transportation Plan.

Municipal District of Tuam – 20th February 2023

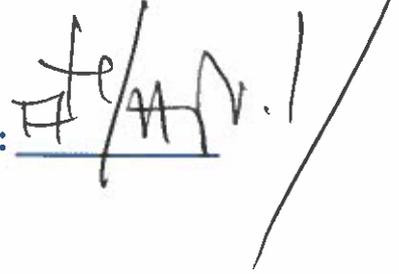
Mr. Pender advised that there would be an MD meeting held regarding the Roads Programme and AOB and expected it to be next week.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15.17 pm

Approved by:



Date:



Cllr. Keaveney, Cathaoirleach.

