

Municipal District of Tuam – 21st February 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES, TUAM, CO. GALWAY ON 21st FEBRUARY 2020, AT 2.30P.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Mary Hoade
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr. Joseph Sheridan, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag
AS LÁTHAIR	-
BAILL OIFIGIH:	Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Service, Mr. John Coyle, Acting S.E.E., Tom Regan, Assistant Engineer, Ms. Jennifer O'Neill, A.S.O, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure & Operations.

MDT200001

Item no. 1 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of Municipal District of Tuam on 9th December 2019

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Sheridan the minutes of the Budget meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 9th December 2019 were **AGREED**.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. Killilea asked for an update regarding funding on the R333 Belclare Road. Mr. John Coyle said there were further surveys to be done.

Mr. Mitchell wished to commend the staff of Galway County Council for their outstanding work over the last few weeks during the storms. He updated the members regarding the current road closures. There are 6 roads closed in the Gort area with no immediate danger to houses. The Clonfert Cottages in Ballinasloe area had previously sought OPW funding but didn't meet the cost base analysis and are now under threat, Galway County Council is currently working with them. The station road in Ballinasloe is currently being monitored as there is a threat to houses along this road. The N84 is being monitored also and action will be taken if needed.

Cllr. Hoade wished to add her thanks to the staff for their work during the storms. She informed the members she was concerned that the Clare River is very high adding that this could lead to serious flooding along the road at River Oaks in Claregalway. In reply Mr. Mitchell confirmed this road in is with the T.I.I at the moment to decide whether it will progress as an overlay or if the council was to implement part 8. Cllr. Hoade added that this needs to be expedited immediately.

Cllr. Killilea refereed to Millstream Park on the Weir road and expressed his concern as the water levels have risen again, he added that Council staff are out every second day to Kilbannon clearing drains, we need to be proactive and something needs to be done.

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Cllr. Killilea asked for an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant and Mr. Mitchell stated this would be reverted to Irish Water.

Cllr McHugh Farag thanked the executive for providing a storage place in the centre of town for the Christmas lights.

Cllr. Roche referred to the ongoing flooding in various villages, roads are beginning to unravel and there is serious erosion due to running water, he also referred to recent flooding on the N63 at the newly aligned road at Culliagh and how local people have expressed concern. He queried if additional gullies could be put in place at the junction to Monivea where a house was previously flooded.

In response Mr. Mitchell stated that no emergency funding was available. The allocation is from the roads work programme and we have to make do with this allocation. In the event of an emergency if additional funding is allocated, we can then look to recoup the costs but at the moment no additional funding has been available.

Cllr. Roche raised concern over recent flooding in the vicinity of the Abbeyknockmoy to Liss re alignment scheme, urging the Council to look closely at how this community was challenged with flooding. Mr. Mitchell replied that this would be brought to the Design Team who would follow up with the T.I.I.

In reply to Cllr. Reddington's query regarding public lighting at Gardenfield. Mr. Mitchell stated that this had been referred to Mr. Enda Mulryan who is currently getting a costing on this scheme. Cllr. Reddington also queried what progress was made on his proposal at the last meeting that Galway County Council work with the T.I.I. to investigate the possibility of putting turn off lanes at Cloghanover junction. This is currently being looked at under a T.I.I. scheme.

Cllr. Sheridan referred to flooding at Killooney, Dunmore and asked if some alleviation works could be put in place at this location before next winter.

Cllr. Keaveney asked if the OPW or waterways Ireland could be approached to put a maintenance plan in place for tributaries in the area. The Clare and the Nanny River levels are particularly high today and this needs to be discussed.

Cllr. Keaveney referred to the Service Level Agreement which is in place at the recycling centre on the weir road, due to the change of ownership the new owners no longer accept domestic waste from the public who have no waste collection service provider. In reply Ms. Ruane clarified that the permit didn't facilitate household waste collection at present but that a tender was being prepared so all sites would take all waste including household waste.

Cllr. Reddington wished to thank Stephen Quinn and his crew for all his help recently in the Headford area.

In response to a query from Cllr. Keaveney for an update on safety traffic control measures from the West Wing to the Weir Road, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that this could be looked at as a specific scheme under low cost accident funding.

Cllr. Hoade wished to congratulate Cllr. Killilea and Cllr. Roche on their fantastic performance in the General Election and wished them well in the future.

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Item no. 2 – Members Briefing on the upcoming review of the Galway County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

Ms. Ruane apologised for the lack of attendance from Planning at this meeting but explained they were currently attending the Galway City Ring Road oral hearing and a briefing note updating the members will be circulated shortly.

MDT200003

Item no. 3 – To consider and adopt the 2020 Annual Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District

Mr. Mitchell gave an overview of the Roads Programme for 2020 and thanked all the staff for their hard work and contributions to same.

Cllr. Hoade thanked Mr. Mitchell for the presentation and wished to express her disappointment at the lack of funding for works on the N84 between Headford and Shrule at Mirehill. This location has had many accidents over the years and has continuously been reported at previous meetings. She is aware that a contractor had been appointed and had been given a commitment that works would be carried out. She added that the contractor was completing another job in Galway city so as, yet no progress has been made. She appealed that these works would go ahead.

Cllr. Reddington said he had been told that an update on Mirehill from the T.I.I. was due in March.

In response Mr. Mitchell stated that he wasn't aware that a contractor had been appointed and he would investigate this matter and revert to her.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the programme but noted the limited budget, he queried if the Road programme could be drawn up in Nov/Dec and the works scheduled for springtime, rather than the current position where there is a rush to get roads done by the end of year. Mr. Mitchell said that they had looked for a rolling contract which would make carrying out the works more manageable, but this was the way the programme was allocated.

Cllr. Keaveney stated there was a need for a dedicated bus route from Tuam to Galway and is aware of some private firms who are willing to contribute to funding same. Cllr. Keaveney suggested that this may be considered for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Mitchell agreed to meet with prospective financiers and said he would be delighted to advance this project.

Cllr. Roche requested an update on the signage on the Tuam to Gort Motorway, he is still waiting on the signs. He stated that flooding has occurred as a consequence of the realignment at Ballyglunin Crossroads. He also queried the bridge allocation and sought clarification if this was for the Mill Bridge. He welcomed the Community Involvement scheme at Claddagh Lavally junction which will improve sight distance.

Cllr. Reddington reported that the Driver Feedback sign in Headford is working well. He added that he was happy that Mr. Paul Connolly had agreed to look at the Slieve Rue roads next year.

Cllr Keaveney echoed Cllr. Hoade's disappointment with the lack of works on the N84 and stated that we need to look at how we contract works and that specific time conditions should be put into

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contracts when awarded. He acknowledged the dedication of staff and welcomed the bridge rehabilitation on the R328 at Richmond Clonberne.

Cllr. McHugh Farag stated that at some locations around Belclare and Ballyglunnin the road surface has worn away where its seals with the set back area and queried if the road be finished up to the wall. In reply Mr. Mitchell informed the meeting that in future it is proposed that a new planning condition be drafted that the set back area would have a similar foundation structure as the adjacent roadway and hence reduce the risk of this occurring.

Cllr. McHugh Farag stated that with the turnover of Community Employment staff, some workers with special stone masonry skills have moved on. Mr. Mitchell said we can look at the skills of people who are applying.

In reply to her query regarding staff changes with the new boundary area, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that Mr. Tom Maloney's crew has moved to the Ballinasloe Municipal District, and the Tuam Municipal District has currently 22 outdoor staff.

Cllr. Sheridan said he was aware Tipperary County Council have a TCM system in place where works can be flagged throughout the year and he suggested this could be of benefit to Galway County Council. He asked could there be more water table works, which could incorporate clearing of culverts and minor drainage works. Mr. Mitchell welcomed more information on this.

Cllr. Sheridan also queried if car-pooling could be promoted more, or if it would be possible for any vehicle with more than 4 passengers to use the bus lane, he said he would bring this up with the next minister for transport.

Cllr. Reddington requested an update on the bus stop in Headford and he was informed that discussions are being held with the National Transport Authority.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Killilea and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Keaveney the 2020 Annual Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District was **ADOPTED**.

MDT200004

Item no. 4 – Cathaoirleach's Business

Following a discussion on the 25% rates levy on vacant properties, the Cathaoirleach advised that this issue is Finance related and should be discussed at Plenary.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to the unfinished landscape areas of the new houses on Gilmartin Road. Mr. Mitchell said that site works will be finished when the weather allows it.

She added that she was disappointed to see RG Data have blocked progress with the proposed Aldi store in Tuam which has been referred back to An Bord Pleanala.

Cllr. Roche expressed concern regarding safety at the intersection of at the Dublin road, and asked that this be investigated.

Cllr. Roche wished to thank the staff on the ground and Rachel Lowe, John Coyle & Damien Mitchell for the cost-based analysis and land acquisition.

Cllr. Keaveney referred to numerous accidents on the 29th January on a stretch of the Tuam to Gort Motorway at the Abbeyknockmoy junction. Mr. Mitchell stated he had spoken to the operator and

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that speed is a huge factor in this. A VMS regarding hail stones has been put on the motorway but realistically people need to take personal responsibility when driving.

Cllr Reddington queried the situation regarding the car park in Headford. Mr. Coyle said a report has been carried out and is being reviewed.

MDT200005

Item no. 5 – Director's Business

None

MDT200006

Item no. 6 – A.O.B

Cllr. Roche asked for an update on what schemes are in the pipeline for consideration.

Cllr. Roche queried what progress had been made at Twenty Minute Hill, in reply Mr. Coyle said they had a verbal agreement and are awaiting the processing of a written agreement.

Cllr McHugh Farag requested that the members be updated by Paul Hogarts Consulting, in July on any progress made in relation to the Towns regeneration plan.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 6th April 2020** at 12.30 in the afternoon

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:30

Approved by:

Mary Hoade

Date: *14/3/2020*

Cllr. M. Hoade
Cathaoirleach

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

MDT200007

CLLR. C. KEAVENEY (seconded Cllr. D. Killilea)

I propose that G.C.C./Tuam Municipal District invite the O.P.W. to engage with the Tuam Municipal District with a view of agreeing critical maintenance works of Tuam area rivers. This joint meeting will afford an exchange between the agencies to alleviate any risk of flooding.

Written reply as follows:

The OPW are responsible for most of the channel maintenance in the Tuam MD and carryout works in them on a 3year cycle. The only channels the Council are responsible for are in the Shrule Drainage District with works carried out as required.

The link http://www.floodinfo.ie/map/drainage_map/ shows the waterbodies the Council (in red) and OPW (blue) are responsible for.

If the Elected Members wish to provide details of any channels not included in the above, we can arrange a survey of them and maintenance carried out under the OPW Minor Works Scheme, if feasible.

Fiona Holland, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure & Operations Unit