

Municipal District of Tuam – 25th June 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON 25TH JUNE 2020, AT 11.30A.M.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Joseph Sheridan

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington, Cllr. Peter Roche,
Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. Colm Keaveney

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Ms. Eileen Ruane, Director of Service, Mr Damien Mitchell Senior Engineer, Mr. John Coyle, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Mr Paul Connolly, Executive Engineer, Ms. Bernie Treacy, A.S.O, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Mr. Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Ms. Sharon O’Grady, Arts Officer, Mr. Liam Hanrahan, Director of Service Housing.

MDT200017

Item no. 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 14th May 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Hoade and seconded Cllr. D. Killilea the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2020 were agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

None

MDT200018

Item no. 2 – Creative Place Tuam – Update by Ms. S. O’Grady, Arts Officer

Ms. Sharon O’Grady, Arts Officer for Galway County Council circulated a document to the members outlining the progress to date on Creative Places - Tuam, which is a three-year pilot programme funded by the Arts Council for communities who have not had opportunities to benefit from sustained public arts investment. In January 2020 Create was awarded the tender to manage the pilot programme of Creative Places Tuam. Create has appointed Carolann Courtney to the role of Creative Places Tuam Programme Coordinator. Since January 2020 she has been engaging directly with communities, artists and project stakeholders to help realise the programme’s aims and ambitions. Given the reality of social distancing Create are providing online training for both artists and community groups as well as offering bursaries for local artists. The coordinator is currently based in Tuam two days a week. Create is currently looking for accessible accommodation space to home the project in Tuam. It is intended that this space be used for administration offices, meeting spaces, studio and workshop spaces.

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The members thanked Ms. O'Grady for the update and hoped that the legacy of the project would lead to potential future funding for the Arts in Tuam.

MDT200019

Item no. 3 – Housing Update – by L. Hanrahan, Director of Service

Mr. Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Housing gave an update to the members on the current housing status for the municipal district. He informed the members that 500 of the 1600 applicants on the housing list have expressed Tuam as their first preference for accommodation, 50% of which are for Tuam town followed by Headford and North Galway. Mr. Hanrahan said that there are issues around tenancies and anti-social behavior and there is a need to address what is working and what is not working to ensure we have sustainable communities going forward.

In response to a significant demand for one/two bedrooms units, Mr. Hanrahan said that the Department of Housing are looking at new applications for same. He also advised the members that the Housing Department are focusing on town center properties and derelict sites as possible locations to accommodate people. This will entail working with the owners of the properties and our Housing Department with a view to providing such accommodation in Tuam and other smaller towns.

Works at Gilmartin road are near completion, with some fencing and landscaping outstanding.

Cllr. D. Killilea welcomed Mr. L Hanrahan to Galway County Council and wished him well in his new post. He thanked Mr. M. Owens outgoing Acting Director of Services, Housing, for his work particularly in relation to the Gilmartin Road development and Tirboy. Cllr. D. Killilea said a regeneration programme is needed for the Parkmore Housing Estate.

Cllr. Killilea informed the members that he has written to the Strategic Policy Committee to highlight the need to put a cap on the provision of social houses within housing estates. He felt there is a need to create a balance between social and affordable housing.

Cllr. D. Killilea thanked Mr. H. Broderick for his dedication and commitment in his role as Housing Liaison Officer in Tuam and wished him well on his retirement. These sentiments were echoed by all the members.

Cllr. M. Hoade welcomed the prospect of more turnkey developments, however expressed concern on the turnaround time for filling vacant units, which at present is extremely long and would like to see this improved upon.

Cllr. P. Roche advised that there was significant investment made in refurbishing two houses over last 10 years due to them being left in disrepair by previous tenants and would like to see tenants of local authority housing be held account for properties, should there be any damage done to a property. He would also like to see retrofitting of houses as a priority, should funding become available.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. D. Killilea, Mr. L. Hanrahan, informed the members that he has arranged a meeting Mr. D. Mahon, Director of Services, Housing for Galway City Council, to get an update on what their intentions are in relation to any proposed acquisitions in the County as a whole and Tuam Municipal District for the provision of social Housing. He advised the members that Ms. J. Brann, SEO, Housing is currently reviewing a strategy for sustainable communities.

Item no. 4 – National Broadband Programme – update by N. Madden, Broadband Officer

Mr. N. Madden, Broadband Officer gave an update to the members on the National Broadband Programme. National Broadband Ireland have been appointed by the Government to Design, Build and Operate the fibre broadband project.

He advised the members that construction is to start in 2020 which will take between 5 – 7 years to complete. Survey works commenced in the Galway/Connemara area in January and proceeding thereafter to Ballinasloe/Loughrea area. He stated National Broadband Ireland are to produce a plan of delivery. An update will be done once the survey work has been completed. Broadband Connection Points (BCP) to be rolled out, which is a fibre class service via wireless technology. There are 11 schools that fall outside BCP programme, however the Department of Education have given a commitment to deliver high speed broadband to these schools that don't have connectivity at the moment.

Mr. Madden informed that National Broadband Ireland (N.B.I.) will give a plan of delivery to the members at a later stage. In response to a query raised by Cllr. Reddington, Mr. Madden said he would seek an update from N.B.I. on when they anticipate surveying will be carried out in Headford.

Irish Fibre Network project is bringing fibre broadband to homes in towns with a population in excess of 1000 people. There are five towns in County Galway nearing completion including Tuam which is 95% completed. Siro are currently providing service in the Oranmore and Bearna areas Open Eir also providing a broadband service in other areas of the County.

Mr. Madden informed the members that each Local Authority could avail of funding under the *WiFi4EU* Scheme. This initiative provides Local Authorities with the opportunity to apply for four vouchers to the value of €15,000 which must be used for the installation of Wi-Fi equipment in public spaces that are not already equipped with a free Wi-Fi hotspot. The Department of Rural and Community Development have agreed to match this figure bringing the total figure to €120,000.

Cllr. Keaveney said that the National Broadband Plan in its current format was unacceptable and no longer fit for purpose given the evolving situation as a result of Covid19. Blended learning and working from home will put an added pressure on demand for services. The current strategy he felt is not working and asked Mr. Madden if he could use his office to relay this back to relevant Government Department.

Item no. 5 – Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. J. Sheridan requested that Deputations be accommodated at each meeting of the Tuam Municipal District and asked for each of the Elected Members to put forward a delegation for each of their respective areas over the coming year.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. M. Hoade, John Coyle informed the members that the junction on the private road coming out onto the newly laid section of road on the N84 at Largan would be looked at when carrying out roadworks under a Local Improvement Scheme in 2020.

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Cllr. A Reddington requested that Galway County Council make a submission under Measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreation & Infrastructure Scheme for a walking trail from Sandybank Lane via the Cong Road onto Ross Errilly into Headford.

MDT200022

Item no. 6 – Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

None.

MDT200023

Item no. 7 – Any Other Business

Cllr. P. Roche thanked the engineering staff for the works carried out on the flood mitigation works at Feigh. Cllr. P. Roche took exception to the fact that Killrerin Historical Society, having received a €300 grant, were advised that planning permission would be necessary to replace existing name plaques.

Cllr. D. Killilea asked if the Kilbannon Residents Committee could be informed of the Municipal District Meeting on the 6th July 2020 to consider the Part VIII Planning for the road realignment on the R332 at Kilbannon.

Cllr. D. Killilea suggested the FCA hall, Community Centre or the old Library could be looked at as a suitable hub for Create Tuam. Cllr. K. McHugh Farag highlighted that the school buildings on Dublin Road could be an option also.

Date of next meeting

Special meeting to be held on Monday July 6th 2020 at 11:00 to consider the Part 8 Planning for the R332 Kilbannon Realignment.

Chriochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 12.45

Approved by:



Cathaoirleach

Date: 11/7/2020

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COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

MDT200024

CLLR. A. REDDINGTON (seconded Cllr. P. Roche)

I propose a motion that Galway County Council write to the NBI to see when Headford town will be surveyed and when will it be delivered.

Written reply as follows:

Mr. N. Madden agreed to issue correspondence to NBI to seek an update with regard the National Broadband Plan and will include the aforementioned proposal.

E. Curran, Meetings Administrator

MDT200025

CLLR. A. REDDINGTON (seconded Cllr. M. Hoade)

I propose that Galway County Council apply under measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreation Grant from Sandybank Lane via the Cong Road onto Ross Errilly into Headford . I firmly believe that this will be as important to Headford as the Greenway in Westport.

Written reply as follows:

Mr. P. Connolly is preparing a proposal for same in consultation with the Economic, Rural & Community Development Unit of Galway County Council.

E. Curran, Meetings Administrator

MDT200026

CLLR. K. MCHUGH FARAG (seconded by Cllr. D Killilea)

I propose that the Tuam Municipal District write to the HSE asking them to review the site of the Old Grove Hospital on Vicar Street. It has been brought to my attention that people are breaking into the building and causing damage to it. We request that the HSE review and secure the site to stop this

Written reply as follows:

Letter issued to the Chief Officer of Community Healthcare West (HSE) on 26th June 2020

E. Curran, Meetings Administrator