

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY
ON 1st MARCH 2021 AT 2PM**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. Joe Sheridan

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN

Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington,
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. Peter Roche

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH:

Mr. Jim Cullen, D.O.S., Infrastructure & Operations, Mr.
Damien Mitchell, Mr. John Coyle, A/S.E.E., Mr. Paul Connolly,
E.E., Mr. Tom Regan E.E., Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings
Administrator, Ms. Mary Dunne, A.S.O.

MDT210001

Item no. 1 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 7th December 2020

On the **proposal** of Cllr. K. McHugh Farag and **seconded** by Cllr. M. Hoade the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 7th December 2020 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Roche commended the Litter pick that is done by community groups and questioned if there was any update from the Data Commissioner with regard the possible use of CCTV for illegal dumping. He also queried if the footage of illegal dumping captured by CCTV put in place by private individuals could be used for prosecution purposes.

Mr. Cullen advised that the legislation has been drafted and is expected to be finalised in the next few months. Regarding footage captured by privately operated CCTV, he stated that while he couldn't give a categoric answer on this, but his personal belief was that it was unlikely that it could be used.

In response to Cllr. Hoade, Mr Cullen advised that as a Public Service Organisation under Level 5 restrictions, Public Health Advice overrules all activities and at the moment the Council cannot encourage people to gather for litter picks under any circumstances and therefore cannot provide the service of collection rubbish gathered by community groups.

Registrations for assistance with clean-ups can be made online at www.nationalspringclean.org on the proviso that volunteers only carry out clean-ups with their own household/support bubble and within their 5km radius, volunteers are asked to use their own household bins to dispose of bags at this stage.

Municipal District of Tuam – 1st March 2021

In reply to Cllr. Reddington regarding a motion proposed by him at the last meeting Ms. Curran advised that she is awaiting a reply from Irish Water.

Mr. Cullen advised the members that the Tuam Regeneration plan is being finalised and it is hoped to have it before the members at the next Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Roche made reference to portion of the €1 million allocation to Galway County Council available to the Tuam Municipal District (€180,000) and suggested that the members hold off on putting forward proposals for schemes until the Council receives confirmation of allocations approved for funding under the Climate Action and Active Travel Schemes.

Cllr. Hoade advised that the circular from the Department states that only tangible projects should be considered, including its use for the provision of staff. She stated there is a serious issue regarding staff shortages and that a lot of work ends up going to contract because of this.

Cllr. Hoade stated that she had been contacted by a Community Group in Caherlistrane and she proposed that €40,000 be allocated from the funding towards the provision of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing in an area serving the local Primary School, football pitch and local businesses. Cllr. Keaveney seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Keaveney added that it was important to point out that the allocation for the Tuam Municipal District will be €180,000 and when choosing projects to be considered for funding the members should take into account hazards where they exist and take cognisance of the fact that some Community Groups may not be eligible for funding under other schemes.

Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag stated that the funding should be used to bring meaningful tangible projects to a Community and would like to see the provision of amenities that wouldn't otherwise be provided e.g. hot desk for community use or other such amenity and not be used for projects that could otherwise have a possible source of funding e.g. Road grant funding.

Cllr. Roche stated that while he recognised the fact that there are staff shortages, he would have reservations in having the funding used to employ staff if the staff involved were let go when this funding ran out.

Cllr. Killilea stated he was also approached by Caherlistrane Community Council and he wholeheartedly supports Cllr Hoade's proposal.

Cllr. Reddington stated that while he supports the proposal, he wanted to point out that funding was already provided in Caherlistrane in 2020 under the Active Travel Scheme.

A discussion took place and Cllr. Hoade agreed that part of the works was funded under the Active Travel Scheme but that works at Kilvolan junction was done under a Community Involvement Scheme and land was provided by the local community.

Cllr. Reddington stated that he has been contacted by the Community Council in Claran seeking the provision of a pedestrian Crossing in that locality.

Mr. Cullen advised that the CPG have outlined the type of projects which would be suitable and advised that projects would be in the region of €40,000 and 4 good projects could be considered in the Municipal District which would show a clear and obvious output for the use of the funding. His understanding of the allocation is that it's once off funding and he advised that the projects need to be agreed quickly as the successful projects will have to be included in the Councils work programme and a decision will have to be made at the April meeting of Tuam Municipal District.

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Cllr. Keaveney suggested that an in-house meeting be held before the next meeting to discuss this matter. Cllr Sheridan agreed that a meeting be held amongst the members in house in the last week of March 2021 to decide what the funding will be used for. This was agreed by all the members.

MDT210002

Item no. 2 – To consider the Draft Standing Orders Regulating Proceedings and Meetings of the Municipal District.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Roche, **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag, the amended standing orders regulating proceedings and meetings of the Tuam Municipal District were **adopted**.

MDT210003

Item no. 3. – To consider and adopt the 2021 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of the maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District.

Mr. Mitchell, presented the Draft 2021 Roads programme to the members. He outlined the allocations for National and Non National Roads for 2021. He stated that the Council have not yet received the 2021 Local Improvement allocation and that all applications on file are currently being updated.

He advise that a submission has been made by Galway County Council under the Active Travel measure in the region of €5.6 million and expect to know in approx. 3 weeks with regard funding approval.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the engineering and administrative staff of the Tuam Municipal District and Ms E. Curran, Infrastructure and Operations Department for the work involved in putting the Roadworks Programme together.

Cllr. Killilea thanked Mr Mitchell and his team for the level of progress on Road improvements since 2014 and stated that it was down to the quality of staff and stated he was very happy with the service All the members concurred and thanked the staff for the significant work put into the preparation of the Roads Programme.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the level of funding for roads allocated across all the Municipal Districts and queried why Tuam M.D generally received the second lowest allocation in most categories. He queried why allocations cannot be made available in October/November for the following year to enable the municipal district to organise their work Programme earlier in the year and procure contractors.

Cllr. Roche queried why the bridge at Derreen was included in last year's Roads programme but repairs weren't carried out and it is now included in 2021 programme and he also questioned why 20 minute Hill was not pushed as Emergency works as this is the third year that traffic lights are in place at the location. Also, he questioned if there was any plan received from the T.I.I. for improvements on the N84 at the junction where the slipway leads into the village of Balroebuck.

Mr Mitchell clarified that due to an over run on another bridge project in 2020, it wasn't possible to carry out the repairs on the Derreen Bridge, therefore it is included for funding in 2021. He stated that works at Balroebuck are part of a HD17 Scheme and funding is made available this year.

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Mr Coyle stated that a chief executive order has recently been signed appointing a contractor for works at 20 minute hill.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade's query Mr Mitchell stated that funding has been included in this year's Roads programme for works in Claregalway.

In response to Cllr Killilea, Mr Cullen clarified that the Road allocations in the Municipal Districts are allocated based on length of roads in the municipal district. Road lengths in the Tuam Municipal District decreased in 2020 when part of the area transferred to the Ballinasloe District.

Cllr. Reddington queried if a bond was held from the company who installed the Fibre Optic cable at Liss Headford as the road is left in a bad state of repair and needs resurfacing.

Mr Coyle replied that he would get in touch with the Contractor who was granted the Road opening licence and seek to have the issues resolved.

In reply to Cllr. Killilea regarding the payment received from Virgin Media in respect of the installation of fibre broadband, Mr Mitchell confirmed that this money goes into the central fund but would not form part of the Road Grants.

Cllr. Killilea referred to discussions at previous meetings asked for the update on the current position regarding the Roundabouts in Tuam Town.

Mr Coyle stated that the Council are awaiting a National Policy for Roundabouts to be provided by the T.I.I. He stated Biodiversity will form part of that plan. He will be seeking to have the maintenance of the Roundabouts sponsored by interested local businesses.

Cllr. Hoade expressed disappointment that €50,000 was allocated for the N84 under the National Secondary minor works programme for the stretch of roadway Galway to Curramore only and queried if there was any extra funding expected for the far side of Headford.

Mr. Coyle replied that this was for design only. He stated that additional funding has been sought from T.I.I. for defects and crash barriers where required on the full stretch of the N84.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Hoade the 2021 Annual Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs for the Tuam Municipal District was **adopted**.

MDT210004

Item no. 4 – Municipal District of Tuam – Cathaoirleach Business

Cllr K McHugh Farag queried if a concession stand could be erected in the Palace Grounds in Tuam similar to the facility at Rinville park Oranmore with funds generated by it ringfenced for maintenance of the park. Cllr. Mc Hugh stated that the facility in Rinville is a great success and a litter management plan is implemented to deal with litter produced.

Cllr Killilea stated that he didn't agree or disagree with the proposal but advised that no diesel or petrol generators should be used due to the noise produced and also stated that litter management would be an issue which would have to be addressed as at present 20 or 30 bags of litter are generated in the Palace Grounds every weekend.

Mr P. Connolly stated that he the Council have applied for funding under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure scheme and agreed to investigate the feasibility of this proposal if funding was provided. He added that the Council have applied for Green Flag funding also for the Palace Grounds.

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Mr Cullen agreed that this proposal could be investigated adding that the County Council have already committed costs in relation to the Leisure Centre and any other service would have to be considered in light of the affect it may have on that facility.

Cllr. Killilea asked if in light of the high number of deaths from Covid 19 in Tuam if consideration of a memorial wall could be erected in their memory.

Cllr. Roche proposed a vote of sympathy to the O'Donoghue family in Abbeyknockmoy on the death of Eithne, R.I.P, acknowledging her huge involvement in the Community of Abbeyknockmoy. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Sheridan .

Cllr. Killilea proposed a vote of sympathy to Tom Reilly and Shaun Cunniffe and their families on the death of Patsy Kealy, R.I.P., and her husband Ken R.I.P, who passed away 6 weeks previously .

Cllr. Roche extended his best wishes to Mr Kevin Kelly on his appointment as Chief Executive with Mayo County Council. He raised concerns regarding the number of good staff who are leaving Galway County Council to take up permanent positions in other Counties as promotions are not available in Galway County Council.

MDT210005

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

None

Item no. 6 – Councillors Notice of Motions

MDT210006

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sheridan proposed a motion to be brought forward to Plenary Council as follows:

This Council recognises the importance of community participation in the energy transition and supports the installation of rooftop solar power for community buildings, particularly school buildings. The council notes that while residential, commercial, industrial and business buildings benefit from an exemption to planning permission for the installation of solar panels covering less than 50% of the roof area (S183/2007, S1235/208), community buildings and schools are not subject to the same exemptions, and this creates an unfair burden and significant additional cost on schools and community buildings seeking to install solar panels.

I will propose:

The Council will formally request of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to include, as a matter of urgency, schools and community buildings in the exemptions from planning permission for the installation of solar panels.

Seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag, a resolution was passed by the members to put forward the motion to Plenary Council.

MDT210007

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Sheridan **proposed** the following motion, **seconded** by Cllr. D. Killilea

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That Tuam MD request the Minister for Finance to engage with B.O.I. Executive as to the putting in place of a “Just Transition” to assist our vulnerable and ageing communities deal with the Branch closures of Dunmore Ballygar and Oughterard leaving communities without banking during testing and trying times of Covid and post Covid

Cllr D. Killilea proposed the following motion seconded by Cllr. Andrew Reddington that Galway County Council-Tuam Municipal District make a submission to Dept. of Agriculture - Repts public consultation to allow farmers tackle invasive species on their land as part of the new R.E.P.S. Programme.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15.38

Approved by:


Date: 12/4/2021

Cllr. J. Sheridan
Cathaoirleach