

Municipal District of Tuam – 14th SEPTEMBER 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10.30a.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. D. Killilea
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Sheridan, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Roche
AS LÁTHAIR	Cllr. McHugh Farag
BAILL OIFIGIH:	Mr. Pender D.O.S., Infrastructure & Operations, Mr. Coyle, A/S.E.E., Mr. P Connolly, Executive Engineer, Mr. Tom Regan, Executive Engineer, Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Jennifer O'Neill, A.S.O., Mr. Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co Ordinator

The Members agreed to extend a resolution of sympathy to the following:

Ms. Mary O' Malley & Family on the death of Mr. John O' Malley R.I.P

The family of Ms. Michelle Morris Mullins R. I P.

Cllr Killilea wished to offer a vote of sympathy on the 20th anniversary of Ms. Anne Marie McHugh and acknowledge the work done by the Tidy towns to facilitate the recent commemoration ceremony.

As a mark of respect, the meeting was adjourned, and a minute's silence was held.

MDT210034

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held 14th June 2021.

On the **proposal** of Cllr Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Keaveney the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on the 14th June 2021 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

MDT210035

2. - Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 14th June 2021.

On the **proposal** of Cllr Roche and **seconded** by Cllr. Keaveney the Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 14th June 2021 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Roche asked for an update on the design plan for the Junction at Balroebuck on the N84. Cllr. Hoade appealed that works would be done at O'Flaherty's cross on the N84 and asked for an update on this and

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proposed works from Ballindooley to Clonboo. Cllr. Reddington added that safety audits are needed at many junctions on the N84 including the junction at Luimnagh.

In reply Mr. Pender outlined that GCC had appointed a dedicated road safety inspector for the national roads who would be based in the NRPO. Mr Pender also outlined that inspections are already underway, adding that this inspector will give the County Council greater control over the design and implementation of safety improvement works going forward.

Referring to the works from Ballindooley to Clonboo Mr. Pender confirmed that Galway County Council are the main partners on this project adding that the strategic assessment report is being drafted for submission to T.I.I. Further Information is required in the form of a ground investigation. Once approved by TII it will then be sent to Department of Transport for final sign off.

In reply to queries from Cllr. Sheridan and Cllr Keaveney, Mr Pender outlined that the Part 8 for the N83 Dunmore Rural Regeneration Scheme was currently with the Planners. It is expected that this would be ready by November/December and at that stage a formal presentation/update of the scheme could be made to the Cllrs.

Cllr. Hoade expressed her thanks for the verge trimming on the N84. Mr. Coyle confirmed that a contractor has been appointed and verge cutting will commence on the National and Regional Roads over the coming weeks.

Cllr. Killilea welcomed the appointment of 2 new technical staff for the Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr. Keaveney expressed concerns regarding the Kilbannon scheme and queried if monies were ringfenced for this scheme and a commencement date. Cllr. Killilea asked at what stage negotiations were at with the landowners adding that it was hoped that this scheme would not go to CPO.

Mr. Pender stated that the Property Registration Authority have made changes to the registration process which is now digitalized which added to delays. Mr. Coyle confirmed that once all landowner agreements are in place, the scheme will go to tender. It is envisaged that works will commence early next year.

Mr Pender added that discussions between Landowners and the Councils land valuer are ongoing and that there is a good relationship between officials and Landowners.

MDT210036

3. Outdoor Dining Update – K. Coyne, Economic Rural & Community Development Unit.

Mr. Kieran Coyne updated the members on the Outdoor Dining initiative which was implemented in April 2021. He confirmed that 348 applications were received and 187 have been completed. This grant provides a financial assistance to support businesses where food is sold for consumption and now also includes wet pubs. It is an online system where Businesses who have paid rates up to 2019 (or engage with a payment plan with GCC), can apply for a grant of €4,000. (up to 75% of ex vat cost of equipment purchased). Eligible criteria include outdoor tables and chairs, canopies, heaters, plant stands and windbreakers.

Mr. Coyne confirmed that there had been glitches in the system and that an dedicated email address outdoorspaces@galway.ie had now been set up to help with public queries.

In reply to Cllr. Hoade's query regarding the closing date, Mr. Coyne confirmed that this was the 30th September and that any fully completed or draft applications received by this date will be included.

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Cllr. Roche welcomed this scheme adding that he hoped that any eligible businesses who had been proactive in developing an outdoor area would be facilitated by the planning department and would also be eligible to apply for the grant.

The Cllr's agreed that some businesses may be put off applying for this grant due to the Section 254 Licence which required permission from neighbouring businesses, adding that it could be difficult for some businesses to request permission from their competitors to enhance their own business.

Cllr. Keaveney asked if a motion could be passed at Tuam MD ensuring that Business do not have to pay increased rates for outdoor areas. Mr. Pender advised that such a motion, as it potentially could have financial implications, can only be addressed at Plenary Council.

Cllr. Killilea added that no excessive rates should be imposed and that some sort of a rates waiver should be implemented for any businesses who have carried out these works, he requested if the economic team could put forward some solution to the budget meeting.

MDT210037

4. Looped Walk of Tuam update – J Coyle A/SEE Tuam M.D.

Mr. Coyle made a detailed presentation of the Looped walks & cycle routes of Tuam

Cllr. Keaveney thanked Mr. Coyle for his presentation stating that these walks would be used by runners, pedestrians and families, but he queried what was proposed for areas outside of the 50K speed limit. The plan is welcomed however expressed concern that this plan wasn't serving Tuam well, as investment was also needed in Kilcloghans and Gardenfield areas.

Cllr. Roche stated that similar infrastructure was well used in Abbeyknockmoy for cycling, dog walking and he thanked the staff of Tuam MD for their engagement with community groups and for bringing forward this ambitious plan.

Cllr. Killilea added that the level of footpath infrastructure implemented in the Tuam MD since 2014 was impressive. He stated that the planned change to the inner relief road would sit very well with this plan and this could be brought into play with the Tuam Regeneration Plan. He noted that this plan didn't cover Gardenfield and Kilcloghan Junction and that it was important to take this into account.

Mr. Pender informed the meeting that a National Strategic Plan is coming down the road and that Galway County Council will set up an Active Travel team which will consist of 3 technical staff with administrative support. This team will be in place in 2022 to help deliver these worthwhile projects.

MDT210038

5. Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Pender confirmed that the closing date for receipt of Community Involvement Scheme applications was the 16th September. The priority list for 2022/2023 must be prepared and forwarded to the Department by 30th September 2021.

Cllr. Roche queried if there was a shortfall in C.I.S funding could the balance be met by N.O. M funding, in reply Mr. Pender stated that N.O.M, funding could be used in this instance if the works were roads related.

Mr. Pender stated that the M.D. is to prepare a draft Restoration Improvement Grants programme for 2022/2024 based on an allocation of €2.8m, which will be brought to the October meeting for approval. The Multi-annual programme must be submitted to the Department of Transport by the 29th October 2021.

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Cllr. Roche confirmed that Mr. Aengus Breathnach had presented the 2.4Km realignment scheme from Liss to Derreen and that this project was progressing well with an expected commencement date of 2023. Mr. Pender added that submission to An Bord Pleanála is anticipated by end of Q4, 2021.

Cllr. Hoade queried if there would still be a shortfall in funding if the Councillors pooled together their NOM funding for verge cutting. In reply Mr. Coyle stated that funding for verge trimming was underfunded and would welcome if the members would allocate NOM funding towards same.

MDT210039

6. Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Sheridan proposed that an item be added to the agenda for the next meeting regarding the changing of the name of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach to Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the purchase of a chain of office for Tuam M.D.

Cllr. Roche stated that this discussion was held before and it was not approved and due to the cost of chain.

Mr. Pender clarified that under section 32 1A of the Local Government Act 2014 for members to adopt the name of Mayor the population of the district should be 20,000 and as it stands Tuam has a population of 9571.

A vote was taken whether to place this proposal on the next agenda and the results were as follows:

In Favour	3
Against	2
Absent	2

Members absent at time of vote – Cllr. K. McHugh Farag, Cllr. C Keaveney.

The motion was carried to include said item at the next ordinary meeting of the Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr. Roche wished to thank the staff of Tuam M.D. for their assistance with the Town & Village Enhancement scheme for Killereeran Barnaderg which has gone to the Department for funding approval.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 12.30pm

Approved by:



Cllr. D. Killilea
Cathaoirleach

Date:

11/10/2021

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION

MDT210040

Cllr. Joe Sheridan (seconded by Cllr. Donagh Killilea)

I propose that Tuam Municipal District Engineering office with its new Technical Staff and Active Travel Team assemble a shovel ready funding application for a partially covered/awned public amenity/hospitality & dining and early morning market area for artisan food and local crafts on the “sun trapped” pedestrianised area in Tuam Square. This funding application should be ready for Active Travel, Outdoor Infrastructure Scheme or other such programs into the future.

Written Response

The Active Travel Team being appointed is for the County of Galway as whole and will be working in conjunction with all the Municipal Districts technical staff for the preparation of planned projects should funding become available.

**D. Pender, A/Director of Service
Infrastructure & Operations Unit**