

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY AT 2.17pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Killilea.

Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Reddington – remotely logged on.

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Liam Hanrahan, D.O.S., Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Geraldine Byrne, Meeting Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Prior to the meeting the Elected Members received a deputation from three members of the public representing Dunmore Community Group expressing their concerns in relation to the withdrawal of the Part 8 process for the regeneration of Bridge Street Dunmore.

A second deputation was also heard from for two members of the public from DAFTS – Development Advocates for Tuam Stadium.

MDT260001

1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 10th November 2025.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Hoade and **seconded** by Cllr. Turner the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 10th November 2025 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising

Cllr Hoade proposed the suspension of standing orders and this was seconded by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by all, to allow 3 members of the public from Dunmore Community Group to attend the meeting, without prior notice.

Cllr. Turner thanked John Coyle, SEE and all the team for all the work in relation to the Dunmore regeneration. He referred to the deputation and the concerns that were raised and said that he was anxious to hear the update from Hazel Fox, Town Regeneration Officer when it was available. He said he will be looking for confirmation of a commitment from Galway County Council to expedite the project.

Cllr. Hoade concurred stating all the elected members had received communication and on foot of same and asked for a clear explanation of events and to be provided with a timeline if possible.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan echoed her colleagues, she said she was aware of the frustration and that the process needs to be fast tracked. Cllr. Cunniffe said that the main feeling was there was a vacuum of information and requested that a detailed written explanation was given to the people of Dunmore. Mr. Hanrahan

informed the members that Mr. Coyle had already circulated a written submission to the Elected Members.

Cllr. McHugh Farag asked what specific information was missing that prevented the progression of the Part 8 and if it was expected that the Part 8 design would be the same as that previously advised. She asked for clarification on the referenced derogation process and what it involved.

Mr Hanrahan explained that there were several areas of concern, which collectively made it more appropriate to withdraw the Part 8 rather than proceed. Noting that, in addition to issues relating to the environmental report, the team felt that the consultants had restricted the scope of what should have been included.

Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that it has been agreed to continue progressing the project as a joint initiative with the Regeneration Team. Along with Hazel Fox, Town Regeneration Officer, the team intends to develop a comprehensive master plan to ensure the project's long-term viability and its integration with surrounding infrastructure and continue progressing the project.

The Town Regeneration Officer will work closely with the new Senior Engineer in the Project Management Office. This combined team will provide additional technical capacity, particularly where specialist reports are required. A complete and more adequate timeline for the project is expected to be available in February.

Mr. Coyle reported that the project is facing planning challenges, particularly relating to environmental requirements and architectural conservation obligations. Explaining that the team will be reviewing the overall scheme, and that the intention is to proceed with demolition once the project has successfully passed through either the Part 8 or Part 10 planning process. The project will then move forward to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) stage.

He further advised that he is scheduled to meet with the consultants next week and will bring their findings and recommendations back to the wider team in the coming weeks. He stated that the office is fully behind the project and will remain fully involved in bringing it forward.

Cllr. Killilea requested that Director of Services confirm that Galway County Council are committed to the project. He understood that a new planning process had to take place, but that safety was the main concern in relation to the route. He asked for a commitment from the Environment section to address the safety concerns to ensure those travelling to and from school etc were protected from injury.

Cllr. Killilea said it was reported that concerns were raised that an IPAS centre may be being developed at one of the properties. Cllr. McHugh Farag suggested a letter to the department to request clarification in relation to same. Mr. Owens confirmed that there is an established process regarding communication with the Local Authority prior to opening of an IPass centre and he confirmed that no notification or communication has been received by Galway County Council in relation to a proposed IPAS centre.

Cllr. Turner said that he would urge the Team to open dialogue with the residents to keep them informed during the process. He said the biggest issue is the accumulation of dirt and moss in the gutters of the existing buildings and asked if the Environment Department could arrange to have them cleared out. Mr. Hanrahan said he will liaise with colleagues in Environment to see what work is required. He confirmed that Galway County Council were fully committed to the Dunmore Regeneration Project but could not give a definitive timeframe at this point.

Mr. Coyle advised they will keep the elected members updated with each step.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the Headford Traffic Management Plan. Mr. Coyle advised that the Active Travel team are considering all elements and reviewing before it can go on consult.ie. He said he will follow up with TJ Redmond, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel for a date.

Cllr. Hoade referred to the Active Travel plans for Headford and thanked Derek Troy, Senior Engineer for agreeing to extend the public consultation date as it resulted in increased submissions being received. She also thanked Tom Coleman, Executive Engineer, who went over and above going out to meet the local residents. She said the main concern is loss of car parking, the scheme is positive overall, but the team need to look at keeping the existing car park to facilitate the school and large funerals. Mr. Coyle advised that the AT Team would be reviewing and considering the submissions and would indicate the next steps. Mr. Troy said that the AT team were working diligently to have completion this year.

Cllr. Hoade sought an update on the courthouse in Headford. Mr. Owens advised that the title is currently being regularised.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan sought an update on the Kilclooney junction. Mr. Coyle advised there was still no data provided from the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and that this was an ongoing issue countrywide. He said he reached out to An Garda Síochána in Tuam, and they have provided incident data for the last few years. He said discussions have taken place with Philip Durkan, Safety Engineer TII and Galway County Council are proposing a scheme under type D road safety improvement which has been forwarded to the NRPO office to make a proposal to the TII.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan sought an update on the provision of additional car parking in Tuam. Mr. Troy advised that they were examining at all options of private parking in Tuam that could be leased. Current options being considered were the large multi storey car park and the SuperValu car park. He said the multi storey is almost at capacity and asked the members are there any further options they could consider. He said they will look at all feasible options before they reengage with parties they had spoken to previously.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan asked for an update on the timelines for the Active Travel project on the Dublin Road. Mr. Coyle explained that the AT team had engaged through consult.ie and were currently reviewing the feasibility of the submissions received, after which they would revisit the proposal with the NTA. Mr. Troy added that all Active Travel project applications across the county had been submitted to the NTA, but no notifications had yet been issued. In response to Cllr. Cunniffe's query about whether Galway County Council must apply for AT funding each year—given the belief that funding for the Dublin Road scheme had already been secured—Mr. Troy clarified that funding is allocated annually based on the specific works required within that year.

Mr. Coyle advised research is ongoing regarding the Tuam Traffic Management Plan and rather than develop a completely new plan there will be an overhaul of the existing plan seeking to make minor changes in the interim as there is a lot of key infrastructure planned for Tuam to include the Courthouse, Town Hall Regeneration, Shambles Market and Station Quarter and they need to get these projects completed before full revision of the traffic management plan.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired how soon the traffic management plan can be revisited – in particular the two-hour window for parking which can be a deterrent for customers and asked when suggestions could be got together to get it progressed. Mr Coyle advised that they examine the 2-hour parking window and said would like to reiterate that Galway County Council do not clamp vehicles. He said they will examine the location of disabled bays and age friendly spaces, and other minor amendments where required.

Cllr Cunniffe asked for a timeframe and Mr. Coyle anticipated before the summer but that the Roads programme would take priority.

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Cllr. Killilea referred to anti-social behaviour in Parkmore where a young student was attacked and said he was disappointed that there was no follow up made with the family by the Housing Department or the Housing liaison officer. Cllr. Killilea indicated that he will put forward a motion of no confidence if not addressed. Mr. Owens said he would follow up directly on the matter.

He referred to the ongoing problem of people continuing to dump clothes outside the clothes banks in Tuam even when there is room in the banks. Mr. Coyle advised it was an issue county wide and an update on CCTV policy is awaited.

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the Milltown to Gortnagunne realignment scheme. Mr. Coyle advised that sightlines have been cleared and TII funding allocation is awaited, and he would revert for a timeline.

Cllr. Killilea asked if there was an update on a plan for sponsorship of the roundabouts. Mr. Coyle advised that this project proved more complex than initially anticipated.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked for an update on the Gardenfield junction, referencing frightening speed that drivers overtake at those locations and highlighted that there is no solid white line coming up to the roundabout.

Cllr. Cunniffe thanked the Director for following up with the Department of Justice regarding the Correlea Court. He called for staff from IPAS to be invited to attend a meeting and to address questions and queried the length of contract.

Mr. Owens advised that he reverted to Department of Justice last week and advised that the members concerns remain with regards operations at the Correlea Court in Tuam and that required attendance of a senior official at the next meeting and is still waiting for a reply.

Cllr. Turner enquired regarding funding for Christmas lights and suggested a timelier request when applying for next year. Mr. Owens advised it would be followed up with Minister for 2026 lights.

Cllr. Turner requested an update on Milltown safe routes to school. Mr. Coyle advised that following agreement from the school's Board of Management, received on 7th January, DBFL Consultants are now exploring alternative options for an off-road staff parking and drop off facility within the school grounds. These alternatives seek to avoid the existing septic tank and percolation area which were found to impact on the original preliminary design.

Elizabeth Keane, County & City Librarian gave a presentation to the Elected Members regarding their 5-year strategic plan facilitated by Amicitia social enterprise to shape the future vision of the library service.

She advised that the engagement has identified a perception gap in the work that goes on within the libraries and how this is valued or perceived beyond the library. She advised that to help address this they are reviewing a new evaluation model for services with the aim of reaching more of the non-users of the service. With the overall aim that for library "to become a 21st century third space...a non-commercial space outside home where people gather, where ideas are born, where the county comes together"

The elected member thanked Ms. Keane for her presentation and all the work done within the library services. Commending the work of the library staff throughout the county and that of the mobile library service, Cllr. Hoade praised the Headford library though it is not open all the time she said issues of constraint need to be looked at first. Cllr Turner said there may be merit in increasing the library opening hours and examining how often visits from local schools are accommodated as it is important to sew the seed at a young age.

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Ms. Keane advised there is also a buildings audit and technical audit being completed. She thanked the Elected Members for their time and said she is excited and looks forward to working with it and welcomes any communication from them in relation to the plan.

MDT260002

2. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Coyle advised that the Environment Section has been liaising with the Planning Department regarding the redevelopment of the Byrnes bookshop site. Following the initial grant of planning permission in April 2025, a boundary issue required the submission of revised plans. These were lodged and subsequently approved on 16 December 2025. As the planning approval was only granted before Christmas, no commencement notice has been submitted to date. It is anticipated that this will take several months, with work on construction drawings scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. A fire safety certificate has been drafted and will be submitted to the DAC shortly.

He said that as the building is located within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and is a Protected Structure. The Environmental Section has instructed the client to ensure that all materials associated with the property, particularly those adjacent to the public footpath, are secured to prevent any hazard to the public. A further review will be carried out end of March if construction has not commenced.

Mr. Coyle said that the current vacant post of Executive Engineer in Tuam MD will be filled next month.

He advised that the official signing of the contract for Kilbannon scheme will take place on Monday next 19th of January in County Hall and commended the work done by Padraic Flaherty and Aisling Murphy to get 29 landowners signed up, describing it as a major project in Tuam with 2km of realignment planned.

Cllr. Killilea commended John Coyle for all the work in the background and the phenomenal work done by Padraic Flaherty, Executive Technician. He described the impending works as a gamechanger for the local school that will reinvigorate the area and thanked everyone locally for having the time and patience to see the project through to this stage.

He hoped that it would give rise to opportunity down the line for new cycle or walkway out as far as the bridge and connecting Catlegrove eventually.

MDT260003

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

Cllr. McHugh Farag advised that draft plans were being made for the delegation of representatives from Strabing due to arrive in April.

Any Other Business

Cllr. Killilea referred to two properties on Vicar Street that Part 8 was approved for and asked when it is expected that works will commence. He also requested an update on Tuam Town Hall redevelopment and the Shambles Car Park. Mr. Owens said he will follow up with the Housing Department and the Regeneration team in relation to same and advise at the next meeting.

Cllr. Cunniffe queried why there was no specific allocation in the budget for the maintenance of footpaths, saying it needs to have an allocation of €100,000 annually. Cllr. Mc Hugh Farag suggested that a line item was created for plenary.

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Cllr. Hoade requested a brief update on the LPT funding asking for an update on the Caherlistrane Project. Mr. Kennedy advised that they were currently finalising and waiting for the code to be set up and it would be progressed.

Cllr. Turner highlighted an ongoing series of power outages affecting Dunmore, Glenamaddy, and Clonberne. He noted that there have been 19 outages in the past 12 months and referenced discussions with ESB regarding a persistent fault on the Glenamaddy line. He stated that he intends to raise the issue at the Plenary meeting and expressed hope that Galway County Council would commit to supporting any necessary ESB works, given that the problem is also impacting parts of the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Cllr. McHugh referred to the deputation from DAFTS – Development Advocates for Tuam Stadium – and sought clarity on the process required to progress the transfer of Brownfield land. She requested a follow-up on the matter and asked whether any grant funding might be available to assist DAFTS with the match-funding requirement. She commended the group for the significant improvements already made to Tuam Stadium within their existing budget and stressed the importance of Galway County Council providing support in whatever way possible.

MDT260004

**On the proposal of Cllr. Turner seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed.
I propose; -**

To allocate €750 to Dunmore Twinning for their annual trip to France.

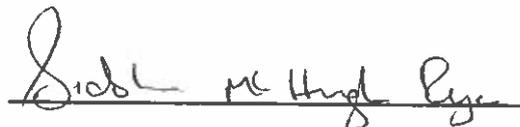
MDT260005

**On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea seconded by Cllr. Turner the following motion was agreed.
I propose; -**

That we allocate €750 to Tuam Town Twinning group in preparation for their 2026 activities

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15:98

Approved by:

 Date: 9/3/2026

Cllr. McHugh Farag