

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 9th MARCH AT 1.30pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. McHugh Ryan/Cllr. Hoade
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Killilea & Cllr. Reddington.
AS LÁTHAIR	Cllr. McHugh Farag
BAILL OIFIGIUGH:	Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Mr. Conrad Harley - SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Peter Lally – EE, Geraldine Byrne, Meeting Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer, Ms. Marie Nicholson – Community Safety Co-Ordinator, Josephine Mullins – Community Safety Administrator, Daithi Flood – SE, Enda Gallagher, SEE.

Before the meeting commenced, the Elected Members received a deputation from two members of the public concerning proposals for a cycleway in Tuam.

MDT260006

2 – Draft Drinking Bye Laws for Tuam Municipal District – Presentation

Ms. Nicholson gave a presentation to the Elected Members in relation to the purpose of the Byelaws which will;

- Aim to provide tools for authorities to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behavior.
- Give authorities opportunity to enforce law before incidents escalate to public order offence.
- Protection for users of public areas and improved cleanliness of public area

She advised that the bye laws are required as existing laws do not adequately address persistent public drinking and related disruptions in communities. Early intervention will work as a proactive and preventative measure so that situations do not escalate.

Ms. Nicholson advised that Gardaí and authorised officers can direct individuals to stop unlawful drinking or leave peacefully. Enforcement includes confiscating alcohol and Gardaí have the power to arrest individuals when offences occur. It is proposed that there will be a fixed payment notice system - A €75 fine can be paid within a set period to avoid prosecution, supporting a graduated enforcement approach.

She advised that the statutory process must run for two months with the public notice in the newspaper on 18th March and the draft bye-laws available for public inspection in Tuam MD Office and Library and written submissions may be made to the LCSP Coordinator. The Byelaws are a reserved function formally made by the elected members of the Tuam MD and may be adopted with or without consultation related amendments, it is hoped that they will be in effect for July this year.

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The councillors welcomed the draft byelaws and thanked Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Mullins for progress to date. Cllr. Killilea asked if it was for the full Tuam MD or town specific. Ms. Nicholson advised it was on all Galway County Council owned land, and parks are considered a public space; she said locations would be made clear to all groups and a list given to the Guards.

The publication of the Draft Drinking Bye Laws for Tuam Municipal District for public consultation was PROPOSED by Cllr. Cunniffe, SECONDED by Cllr. Killilea and AGREED.

MDT260007

3 – Housing Capital Projects update.

Mr. Flood gave the Elected members an update in relation to the current Housing Capital Projects for the MD area. He said Farnamartin housing development was expected to commence in June delivering 62 units with a forecasted project delivery date of Q4 2027.

He stated that the Sun Street project will provide 65 affordable units and 60 social housing units by the fourth quarter of 2027, expressing hope that onsite work will commence in the first quarter of 2027. He noted that the Sun Street development will feature several two-bedroom units designed for future attic conversions, thereby allowing for potential extensions. The elected members expressed their support for these initiatives. Councillor Killilea drew attention to two derelict houses on Vicar Street; however, Mr. Flood informed the group that confirmation of funding from the Department is currently awaited for these properties.

A discussion arose in relation to a mix of social and affordable housing together in one area as proposed for Sun Street and sustainability and perception issues for potential buyers. Cllr. Killilea advised there were examples of this provision already in the town that works at An Tuairin and The Pottery in Tuam.

MDT260008

1 – Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 12th January 2026.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Turner and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 12th January 2026 were **agreed**.

Matters Arising

Cllr. McHugh Ryan welcomed Conrad Harley, Senior Engineer Roads and Transportation to Galway County Council and Peter Lally, Executive Engineer to Tuam MD Office and wished them well in their positions.

Cllr. Reddington requested an update on Headford Courthouse.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked if it was possible to facilitate an extension of the current 2-hour parking window.

He asked for an update on the Active Travel scheme on the Dublin Road and if there was a decision if it would continue to Highway garage.

He also asked for an update on the Correlea Court Hotel and if there had been any response from the Department of Justice.

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Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the CCTV in the public areas of the town. He asked for an update on Tuam Town Hall

He referred to the Shambles project being put on hold as it does not qualify for RDF funding and asked the DOS for an update as to an alternative funding stream.

It was agreed that all the above would be dealt with under Cathaoirleach's business.

MDT260009

4 – Project update – Bridge Street, Dunmore.

Mr. Coyle apologised that Liam Hanrahan; DOS was unable to attend. Mr. Coyle advised that a three-stage process was agreed

- 1- Regeneration Plan – Part 8 Review, Sean Whelan, SE is reviewing elements of the plan including viability of proposed solutions and re-evaluating the existing options, monitoring RRDF funding and seeking TII commitment, identifying constraints, impacts of Architectural Conservation Area, planning communication with community groups. Engage with relevant parties to confirm design viability.
- 2- Short Term Measures – Technical inspections were carried out and it has been agreed to upgrade the road signage and line markings on bridge street and approaches.
- 3- Derelict Sites- Engineers reports completed regarding same and Section 8(2) Notices being prepared.

Mr. Coyle stated that a meeting was held on Wednesday, 13th March with the Directors of Services concerned. Councillor Killilea inquired whether there were immediate plans regarding council-owned properties and emphasized that the council should demonstrate a proactive approach with its own buildings before issuing dereliction orders to other property owners.

Councillor McHugh Ryan inquired whether previously available funding streams would continue to be accessible. Councillor Cunniffe requested information regarding the project timelines. Councillor Turner commented that adopting a broader approach encompassing both the bridge and road could prove advantageous. It was noted with approval that several property owners are taking steps to ensure safety, and it is equally important that Galway County Council follows suit.

It was requested that the DOS provide an update at the plenary meeting prior to the next MD meeting, which is scheduled for May. Mr. Coyle indicated that definitive dates have not yet been determined and emphasised the importance of addressing all outstanding concerns. He assured the elected members that updates will be communicated as additional information becomes available.

MDT260010

5 – N17 Killooney Junction – TII Correspondence

Mr. Coyle advised that Galway County Council roads staff met with Philip Durkan Regional Road Safety Engineer with TII to review the layout, signage and recent accident data and identified no safety issues that would warrant a design solution. He advised that there were 13 High Collision Locations (HCL's) identified and the Killooney junction was not included.

Councillor McHugh Ryan inquired about the criteria for identifying high collision locations. Mr. Harley responded that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) reviews all road accident statistics provided by the Road Safety Authority (RSA). Based on these statistics, TII applies a threshold, and if a location exceeds

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this benchmark, remedial works may be undertaken. Additionally, Mr. Harley noted that TII carefully assesses the risks associated with carrying out such works versus not proceeding with them.

Cllr. Reddington noted that public correspondence indicates a scheme must be formally requested by the council before TII can take action, and inquired about the specific proposals Galway County Council should submit to the minister. Cllr. Cunniffe responded that Galway County Council has already nominated the junction for consideration and requested that Gardenfield junction also be included. The elected members conveyed their concerns, emphasising that they do not wish to wait for a serious incident before TII reviews the junction. Cllr. Turner stated that there is clear justification for reducing the speed limit and restricting overtaking in the area, given the proximity of Milltown NS and the petition signed by 1,000 local residents.

Cllr. Hoade asked if a presentation from the TII is required at MD level as there seems to be several junctions that have safety concerns and all the responses coming back are the same.

Mr. Harley clarified that the TII is the authority responsible for the National Road Network, and their approval is necessary before project advancement. He noted that while the NRPO office operates on behalf of Galway County Council, ultimate decision-making lies with the TII. The initial step involves establishing criteria indicating when works are required; if reports demonstrate that these criteria are not met, the project does not proceed further. Mr. Owens added that NRPO staff are employed by Galway County Council, with their salaries reimbursed by the TII.

Councillor Killilea proposed returning to the NRPO office to compile a report and forward it to TII. Mr. Harley added that, on a positive note, collaboration on various projects continues with them; they are receptive and engage constructively with Galway County Council. While there is substantial funding available—potentially earmarked for this particular site—it is important to note that approval decisions may not always be affirmative.

MDT260011

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

That the NRPO section from Galway County Council give the Tuam MD a presentation at the next MD meeting about any safety works planned on the National Roads within the Tuam MD.

MDT260012

6. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens reported that Creative Places has been operating since 2000, and that Galway County Council has submitted an application to the Arts Council for €180,000 to advance strand three in the growth phase. He noted that the outcome is anticipated in April and expressed his gratitude to Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady as well as the local residents and organizations of Tuam for their valuable contributions to the project's success thus far.

He further indicated that efforts are ongoing to regularize the site at Headford Courthouse, with boundary clarification and rectification underway in collaboration with the OPW and Law Agents. The consultation phase is scheduled for May this year. Cllr. Hoade and Cllr. Reddington both welcomed these advancements concerning the courthouse.

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Mr. Owens presented a response regarding the IPAS centre located within the hotel, expressing gratitude to the elected members for their interest. He advised that any concerns should be directed to Tulsa or An Garda Síochána, noting the presence of a safeguarding statement and other safeguarding measures and protocols.

Mr. Owens reported he had been contacted by representatives from the Straubing, who regretted postponing their visit because of local elections; the incoming mayor will have the opportunity to attend on a new proposed date.

Regarding the Brown's field site, Mr. Owens shared a follow-up communication from the GAA, which he intends to circulate. The correspondence discussed the potential inclusion of the site in the Tuam Station Quarter Regeneration Masterplan and proposed extending the proposed lease to a 99-year term. He confirmed his willingness to advance discussions if supported by the Municipal District. Cllr. Killilea stated his desire to see negotiations move forward, though he found deficiencies in the letter received and emphasized that its development is unrelated to the station quarter, which is owned by Irish Rail and subject to Thrive funding. He encouraged the GAA to demonstrate stronger support for Tuam from Galway GAA in relation to Brown's field, and Mr. Owens indicated his intention to follow up with the GAA and provide updates at the next meeting.

Mr. Owens recognised the forthcoming 20th anniversary of Tuam Leisure Centre in 2026, scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd, and extended an invitation to all members to participate. He thanked Coral Leisure for their contributions, while the elected representatives conveyed their appreciation for Coral Leisure's efforts and offered best wishes for continued success.

Mr. Coyle reported that the Headford Active Travel plan is currently at the detailed design stage, supported by €157,000 in funding allocated by the NTA. Additional funding for road overlay will be incorporated into the 2026 Roads Programme. Cllr. Hoade expressed gratitude to Tom Coleman for his work on the Active Travel scheme alongside Headford residents.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Dublin Road scheme is progressing through phase two, with approval from the NTA. Design and development activities led by Systra are slated for phase three. Contractors have been engaged by the MD office to cover the route from Tuam Stars to the Rugby Club, with further developments planned and additional funding secured under the Roads Programme.

He also confirmed that the Milltown to Gortnagunne realignment project is in phase two, with site clearance ongoing until 13th March. The full scheme is expected to proceed to tender in Q3.

Mr. Coyle advised that the N84 Corrandulla, a high accident location, will receive funding through HD28 from TII, with tendering set to commence next month.

Regarding the Tuam Traffic Management Plan, Mr. Coyle noted he had emailed all Councillors seeking suggestions for potential car park locations but received no responses; he will provide an update at the next meeting.

Cllr. Hoade voiced concern over recurring changes in public consultation dates for the Headford Transportation Plan and highlighted issues with the condition of certain footpaths, formally noting these concerns to pre-empt any incidents.

Cllr. Reddington commented that Systra, in relation to traffic management, has yet to engage with local residents or seek local knowledge prior to public consultation, and urged Systra to present a comprehensive plan before proceeding to the consultation stage.

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He said maintenance of footpaths is a big problem and asked where the discretionary maintenance funding goes and asked where the budgets there were previously under Active Travel for footpaths where gone.

MDT260012

On the proposal of Cllr. Reddington seconded by Cllr. Hoade, the following motion was agreed I propose; -

That the Tuam MD are given an update in relation to the community transport study for Headford before it goes out on public consultation. I propose that this presentation be made at the May meeting.

Councillor McHugh Ryan raised questions regarding funding for footpaths, noting that NOM funding alone is insufficient. She inquired about possible upgrades or existing improvements. Mr. Coyle responded that many footpaths require repair, which is achievable through internal funding; some councils have considered allocating Local Property Tax (LPT) funds for this purpose. He emphasized the necessity of prioritizing resource allocation due to the pressing need for pothole repairs, drainage enhancements, and hedge maintenance.

Councillor Killilea referenced a hazardous and narrow turn near the swimming pool, mentioning a recent incident involving a bus and a car. He asked whether, similar to works completed in Headford, a pedestrian bridge could be constructed within the existing structure to provide a wider and safer passage for users.

Mr. Coyle also addressed enquiries regarding CCTV, confirming that the town's system is fully operational and that law enforcement may request footage. However, he noted that there is no CCTV coverage in the palace grounds at present.

Councillor Turner requested guidance regarding the LPT fund. Mr. Owens explained that members can allocate LPT funds for necessary projects, provided proper advice and estimates are made available. Regarding community initiatives, he stated that efforts are underway to streamline processes and will present updates to the management team, with further information to be shared at the next Municipal District Meeting.

MDT260014

7. - Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

No matters were discussed.

MDT260015

8. - Recommencement of Countrywide Speed Limit Review to be followed by Q&A Session.

Mr. Gallagher gave the elected members an update on the Countywide speed review preliminary draft proposals. He said works are currently underway as part of Phase 2: For built up and urban areas / centres it is recommended that default speed limits of 30km/h are introduced (including urban schools) and seeking to be Operational by 31st March 2027.

He advised that as part of next phase (Phase 3) they will be looking at the National Secondary Road network and new guidelines for national routes will be introduced at that time. Therefore, no national routes, outside of existing urban speed limits, will be examined under this review.

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He said phase 4 of the national Speed Limit Review proposes to look at the introduction of speed limits at schools in rural locations. He said under examination Tuam, Headford and Dunmore satisfy the criteria for Urban Centres, i.e. will have Urban Speed Limit Zones with Tuam and Headford both having 30km/h core. He advised that a total of 199 submissions are being examined under this review 26 of these submissions relate to Tuam MD.

Mr. Gallagher advised that Phase two is a reserved function and that it was intended to have a workshop for the Elected Members in relation to same. The workshop was welcomed by all members, and it was proposed to hold it at 4.00pm on 31st March by Cllr. McHugh Ryan and this was seconded by Cllr. Reddington and agreed by all.

A discussion then arose in relation to the amending of the duration for parking and of free parking in the Clifden area prior to 11am in the morning and Cllr. Killilea called for it to be the same throughout the County, Cllr. Hoade said this was a matter for Plenary and not under the remit of Tuam MD.

Mr. Owens said he would clarify that the bye laws for on street parking are for the entire county and therefore regulated at plenary but those for car parks are within the remit of the relevant MD and if a change was being requested, it could be referred as appropriate for consideration and to commence the process.

As a point of order Cllr. Killilea said on street parking bye laws are countywide, but Clifden was different to Tuam, he said this has been raised previously and that there should be a fairness across the county.

Mr. Owens wished to clarify that changes to existing on street parking cannot be changed within the remit of the MD.

MDT2600016

On the proposal of Cllr. Cunniffe seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan the following motion was agreed I propose; -

That the maximum time for parking in council car parks in Tuam be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours with immediate effect.

Mr. Owens said this Motion will have to be referred to the Director of Services of the section and the statutory process needs to be completed. Cllr. Cunniffe requested that the process commence.

Councillor McHugh Ryan proposed Tuesday, 31st March at 3:00 pm as the date for the annual roads programme meeting. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hoade and unanimously approved by all members.

The next MD meeting scheduled for 11th May 2026.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:24

Approved by:

 Date: 11/05/26
Cllr. McHugh Farag