

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM – ROADS
PROGRAMME HELD AT**

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH AT 3.00PM.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. McHugh Farag
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. McHugh Ryan
AS LÁTHAIR	
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	Mr. Michael Owens – Director of Services, Mr. Uinsinn Finn - Director of Services, Mr. Conrad Harley - Senior Engineer, Mr. Tom Prendergast – Senior Engineer, Mr. John Coyle – Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Sean Kennedy – Executive Engineer, Mr. Peter Lally – Executive Engineer, Ms. Geraldine Byrne- Meetings Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton - Staff Officer.

Cllr. McHugh Farag welcomed everyone to the meeting with a single agenda item.

MDT2600017

1. – To consider and adopt the 2026 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District

Mr. Finn advised that Galway County Council welcomed an overall increase in the 2026 allocation with 1% nationally and 15% increase for Galway County Council.

He thanked Geraldine Byrne, Marian Donoghue and all the team in County Hall and all the team in the Tuam MD for all their work compiling the roads programme. Mr. Harley welcomed the programme bringing €79 million across different funding agencies with 500km of road being improved across the county, with 78KM in Tuam Municipal District. Mr. Coyle presented an overview of the Draft Roads Programme for 2026 to the Elected Members and provided maps to the members highlighting works to be completed under Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance schemes in the Tuam MD area.

The Elected members acknowledged and thanked the work of Galway County Council's staff in the Roads & Transportation Department in preparing the Roads Programme.

Cllr. Killilea queried why Galway County Council only drew down €134,000 of the €500,000 funding allocated in 2025 under Active Travel for Bus Stops, enquiring if the unspent balance was still available. He noted that there was €500,000 allocated for 2026 and sought confirmation that this will be drawn down and utilised.

Mr. Harley advised that there was a similar situation arose across the county where €500,000 was issued unannounced in May and stated that time constraints were a contributing factor but assured that the funding for 2026 will be fully expended. Mr. Finn advised that there was a

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Section 38 consultation currently ongoing in relation to a number of bus stops throughout the county and proposed an update from the Active Travel team be requested and put on the agenda for the next MD meeting.

Cllr. Killilea commended the Tuam MD and Galway County Council on maintaining a reasonable road network, noting it compared favourably with other counties. He queried whether, given the current circumstances and uncertainty around fuel and bitumen prices, Galway County Council would need to curtail the number of kilometres planned under the Roads Programme.

Mr. Harley advised that the intention is to proceed with the Roads Programme as planned. He noted that if price pressures continued, this would become a national issue, and that in similar circumstances previously the Department had provided supplementary funding.

Cllr. Hoade requested the overall Roads budget figure, and Mr. Harley advised he would revert with same. She also queried whether there was a specific reason no funding was available for bridges in the Tuam MD.

Mr. Prendergast advised that planned works are selected on a priority basis across the county, and that over a five-year period there is an even distribution of works. He further noted that there are two funding sources under which bridges in Tuam are addressed through discretionary expenditure.

Cllr. Hoade expressed her disappointment with the lack of funding for the N84, noting in particular that there was no funding for Corrandulla. Mr. Coyle advised that there was €500,000 funding expected under defects which is being finalised with TII.

Cllr. Hoade requested that a list of the Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) be provided when available. She also raised concerns regarding pothole repairs, stating that there are reports of potholes being filled and then requiring repair again within two days. She queried whether this was due to the level of rainfall or the materials/substances being used.

Mr. Coyle advised that the effectiveness of pothole repairs is largely influenced by the location and weather conditions and stated that over the next few weeks the road crews should have caught up on all required repairs. Ms. Byrne advised that all applicants for CIS and LIS will be contacted in the coming weeks, and that once the lists are finalised, they will be circulated.

Cllr. Reddington wished to express his thanks and praise for 8 jobs completed by NOM funding by local crew and described the work as top class and thanked Philip Keane, PJ McHugh and Frank Dolly and their respective teams for their standard of work.

He asked that in relation to the Safe Route to Schools programme, that the team link in with Kilcoona Crèche. Mr. Harley said he would revert to the Active Travel team re same. He referred to the Balrobbuck road where road resurfacing had been carried out but the road now requires the works to be redone. Mr. Kennedy said this road will be reviewed again.

Cllr. Cunniffe referred to road works where road levels are being raised and requested that Galway County Council ensure such works do not create drainage problems for residents as a

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consequence. Mr. Coyle advised that where a road requires raising, Galway County Council will monitor the works being carried out by both contractors and Council crews and will ensure that appropriate drainage measures—such as gullies and soak pits—are provided as part of the works.

He asked when the Active Travel project on the Dublin Road would start and will it be resurfaced. Mr. Coyle advised that the project is at final design stage and expects that once through all required stages that funding will be available in 2027.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan said she is eager to see completion of the Dublin Road Active Travel project and asked if a timeline was available in relation to the Safe Routes to School funding for Educate Together, adding that the €13,000 allocated would be very welcome. Mr. Harley said he would revert on the matter. She referred to complaints from cyclists in relation to the hard shoulder from Belclare towards Tuam and said that they avoid the area because of the condition of the hard shoulder. Mr. Coyle advised there was a full scheme planned in a few years for this area but would take time to progress.

Cllr. Turner asked whether, where works are being planned, residents and local communities would be notified in advance. Mr. Harley advised that the Council would endeavour to provide advance communication where possible, noting that in many cases the crews would be visible on-site in advance of works as preparations commence.

Cllr. Turner further enquired whether there was any scheme under which a landowner could have potholes on a private driveway repaired. Mr. Harley advised that Department-funded works apply to public roads only and cannot be used for private roads/driveways.

Mr. Finn welcomed the acknowledgement of the condition of the county's roads, adding that NOAC indicators also demonstrate that they are in great condition. He noted that while the Council may complete fewer roads annually, the quality of works is improved, which delivers better value and "pays back" in the long run. Mr. Finn further advised that Galway County Council received almost €1 million in additional funding last year across the various programmes, which was fully spent, and stated that the Council will continue to seek additional funding opportunities whenever they arise.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Reddington and **seconded** by Cllr. Mc Hugh Ryan, the 2026 Annual Schedule of proposed Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District was agreed.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 15:59pm

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____

Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cathaoirleach