MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER AT 2.15pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Hoade
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. S McHugh.
AS LÁTHAIR	
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	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, Mike Melody – SEE, Tom Coleman – EE.

Cllr. Hoade welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr. Steven McHugh who was co-opted in for Cllr. McHugh Farag and congratulated her and her husband Trevor on the birth of their son.

On behalf of Tuam MD area Cllr. Hoade expressed her sympathies to the families of Andrew Carney and Adrian Connolly, RIP. Each elected member in turn wished to be associated with the words of sympathy for both gentlemen, describing it as a painful time for Tuam and surrounds and a devastating loss for their families and communities. Mr. Owens conveyed his sympathies on behalf of the Executive and Tuam MD.

Cllr. Hoade proposed a 5-minute adjournment as a mark of respect. The meeting recommenced at 14.28pm.

With agreement by all item no. 4. was taken first

MDT260039

4 – Safe Route to Schools – Round 3 schools

Mr. Coleman advised the meeting that the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye Laws 2026 were live for public consultation with 2 additions to be included in the draft Bye Laws which were at two schools at Cuanas NS Headford and Corrandrum NS, Corrandrum the speed limit was being defaulted from 60kph to 50kph. He advised if any issues of submissions to put them forward as these amendments would be approved with others at the end of the consultation period.

Cllr. Killilea asked if it was possible to send out a hard copy to the MD Councillors and if it was possible to still amend the plans. Mr. Harley advised that if it had any amendments it would have to go out to public consultation again.

The members thanked Mr. Coleman for his work, and the agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Reddington, seconded by Cllr. Killilea and agreed by all.

Cllr. Hoade wished to thank Mr. Coleman for all his work on the active travel scheme in Headford and sincerely thanked him for his communication and public consultation skills. Cllr. Reddington concurred.

MDT260040

3 – To consider and approve Part 8 Planning Permission for Muslim Burial Space at Tuam Burial Ground

Mr. Melody advised he had circulated the planning report prior to the meeting and circulated the related drawings to all present.

He advised that, in November 2025, representatives from Environment, Management and the local area met with the Muslim community to identify a site that met its specific requirements, including space for uncoffined burials. A suitable site was identified and presented to the community before proceeding through the Part 8 planning process. The proposal was submitted in May 2026, and the planning report recommended approval. It was now before the Municipal District for consideration.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan welcomed the news, thanked everyone involved and said it reflected Tuam MD's inclusive community.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked whether Galway had other Muslim burial grounds, noting those in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. He said he would like to see the plans for what will happen when the existing Tuam Cemetery is at capacity and queried if this development would affect the future planning of Tuam Cemetery. Cllr Hoade advised Tuam MD can only deal with what is proposed in own jurisdiction and have no control over other areas. Cllr Killilea discussed integration in the communities.

Mr. Melody advised that there is a Muslim burial ground in Rahoon, Galway City and in Ballyhaunis Co. Mayo. He advised that there was space in Tuam's existing cemetery for 440 new plots which is approximately capacity for over 20 years so that need to extend is not current but suggested that a condition could be added to the planning that an operational plan must be in place.

A further discussion followed in relation to the Part 8 proposal, and it was decided that the passing of the agenda item to approve the Part 8 Planning would go to a vote.

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Cunniffe		X	
Cllr. Hoade	X		
Cllr. Killilea		X	
Cllr. McHugh			X
Cllr. McHugh Ryan	X		
Cllr. Reddington			X
Cllr. Turner	X		
Totals	**3**	**2**	**2**

The vote carried to approve, and the Part 8 was passed. Mr. Melody was thanked for all the work involved in the process to date.

MDT260041

1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 8th June 2026 and Matters Arising.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Reddington and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 8th June 2026 were **agreed.**

Matters Arising

Cllr. Killilea asked the Director of Service whether the Tuam Town Hall project could be expedited. Mr. Owens said a date could not yet be provided, as registration of the Town Hall title was with Tailte Éireann. Once completed, the project could progress. Research on the fire safety certificate was also under way and would proceed with testing.

Cllr. Reddington requested an update on Headford Courthouse. Mr. Owens advised that four design options had been identified and that an application to regularise the title was with Tailte Éireann. Initial structural and cost surveys were under way, with results expected by October. These would determine the cost and inform the preferred option; however, certainty on the building's title was required before a funding application could proceed.

Cllr. Reddington also requested an update on the Headford Transportation Plan. Cllr. Hoade called for public consultation and an informal evening meeting in the community hall to allow local residents to discuss the plan. Mr. Coyle advised that it would shortly proceed to public consultation.

Mr. Harley said meetings are ongoing and he will clarify what the next stage is and when it is ready to go to public consultation.

Cllr. Reddington noted that four accidents had occurred in the previous three weeks. He expressed concern that, despite expenditure on public consultation, no action had resulted from the original report, and it remained unclear what measures could be taken. Cllr. Hoade agreed, highlighting serious parking problems in the town, with vehicles parked on both sides of the street causing significant traffic difficulties.

Cllr. Cunniffe requested updates on the Tuam Traffic Management Plan and the proposal for standalone parking bye-laws. Mr. Harley advised that Director of Services Uinsinn Finn had confirmed that Tuam could not introduce standalone bye-laws, as parking regulations were county-wide and must be addressed through the county process. Funding would also be required to develop a Traffic Management Plan for Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan referred to the further loss of parking with the development planned for the Shambles and requested an update on additional parking required for Tuam town.

Cllr. Killilea advised that Tuam MD were seeking to come away from the county wide and have standalone byelaws to future proof the needs of the town. Mr. Owens advised that the existing bye laws predated the establishment of the Municipal Districts and that an amendment to County wide bye laws would first be required for this to happen and would have to come before plenary and he would confirm same.

Mr. Harley advised that the availability of parking was Tuam MD's main concern and that additional spaces should be identified. He proposed a joint workshop between Tuam MD councillors and the Executive to consider suitable sites and how they could be delivered.

Cllr. McHugh asked whether the Council would purchase land if required. Mr. Harley advised that using an existing site might provide the quickest solution. Mr. Owens said work had already been undertaken

to identify additional parking and that a medium- to long-term lease had been considered. If this was not viable, purchasing land might be necessary.

Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the pedestrian bridge at the swimming pool and the bus shelter on the Joe O'Toole Road. Mr. Coyle advised that the foundation was complete for the bus shelter installation expected on 21st September.

Mr. Coyle said he is liaising with the active travel team in relation to the pedestrian bridge and they will seek a suitable funding stream possible.

MDT260042

5 – Consideration of the inclusion of the Milltown Station in the Western Rail Council (WRC) Phase 2 Design

This item was proposed by Cllr. Cunniffe and seconded by Cllr. Turner

MDT260043

2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 8th June 2026.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. Reddington the minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 8th June 2026 were **agreed.**

MDT260044

6. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens welcomed the Department funding announcements of €3.6 million funding for the Shambles outdoor market and €150,000 for station quarter project, a multi-million commitment and significant for the future of Tuam.

Mr. Owens recognised the number of awards that the Palace Grounds & Sensory Garden has been nominated for – Age Friendly, Pride of Place and the Chamber Ireland and Local Excellence awards. He commended all involved saying this was all very positive to recognise these works at a national level. He acknowledged work, contributions and support of all involved.

Mr. Owens wished to acknowledge the work of the LGFA, Tuam Stadium and staff of Corporate Services and Tuam MD in organising the homecoming for the victorious Galway Ladies team and said it showed great commitment and dedication from staff in organising a very successful event.

He highlighted Coral Leisure's invitation to attend on Saturday, 10th October, following the full refurbishment of its gym and studio spaces and the installation of solar panels. He added that Galway County Council had invested €500,000 in the Tuam and Ballinasloe centres.

Mr. Owens acknowledged the works of the Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady ahead of events across Tuam MD for Culture night, Friday 18th September 2026

Cllr. Hoade congratulated Ms. Byrne on her new role with the Galway Ring Road project and wished her well.

Mr. Coyle advised that the Kilbannon Scheme was 70% complete and said by early 2027 expects the project to be substantially completed.

Mr. Harley distributed flyers outlining Galway County Council's hedge-cutting policy and landowners' responsibilities and asked members to circulate them. He said the campaign would initially be rolled out through the Municipal Districts before being launched on social media.

MDT2600345

7. - Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Hoade referred to the recent trip to Straubing festival where she was joined by Mr. Owens and Ms. Byrne and said it was an excellent occasion and very important for prolonging and strengthening twinning with Tuam. She said it is hoped that Mayor Pannermayr and a group of delegates will visit Tuam early next year. She said she would like to set up a meeting with the principles of the schools and education sector to ensure that the student exchange programme is put back on the agenda.

Mr. Owens said it was important to focus on strengthening and supporting the twinning with a significant milestone recognising 35 years of twinning. He said it was important to engage with local schools and provide opportunities in that area. He said there was also an opportunity for local employers and local businesses to benefit from exchange programmes and any suitable jobs that may be available here would be helpful.

Cllr. Killilea suggested a workshop for the naming of public places. Cllr. Hoade said it may be possible to facilitate this with the other workshop re identifying parking for Tuam town.

Cllr. Reddington suggested writing a letter from Tuam MD to the young lady who was successful in the idea of setting up Tuam Dog Park to show support, appreciation and congratulate her for her successful proposal.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked who would take responsibility for the Kilbannon Group Water Scheme when the current group stepped down. Mr. Harley said he would ask Rural Water to circulate an update.

Cllr. Turner requested that Bridge Street Dunmore remain a standing item at Tuam MD Meetings and asked for most recent update. He proposed a streetscape project to ensure property owners will keep their properties in reasonable condition and requested an update as to latest developments for the town.

Cllr. McHugh asked if the bat survey had been completed.

Mr. Harley said Dunmore has faced significant Planning, Environmental and Funding challenges. He advised they are trying to progress and solve the road safety concerns and there examining the following issues in the short term:

- Safety improvement works at the Bridge Bar Junction (N83/R360).
- Improved pedestrian access and connectivity within the town.
- Investigation of a new pedestrian bridge linking schools and the town centre.
- Assessment of a new traffic light system to improve road and pedestrian safety in the town centre.

He said this may involve changes to the traffic flow in Dunmore. He said it is a more simplified project focusing on road safety and they have buy in from TII and are hoping to have public consultation. Mr. Harley said difficulties with demolishing the buildings meant road safety was now the priority. Cllr. Turner said there was a sense that the issue had been forgotten and that further public protests before Christmas should be avoided.

MDT260046

On the proposal of Cllr. Turner seconded by Cllr. Killilea the following motion was agreed

That a streetscape project is assigned to Bridge Street Dunmore to allow and encourage property owners on the street to access project funds to make their derelict properties safer and more aesthetic.

Cllr. McHugh suggested having feature walls with images of local heroes to be seen in the towns, if identified suitable spaces where the contribution of local people could be recognised.

Cllr. Hoade also highlighted several green bollards are missing from Corrandulla Cross to Headford. Mr. Coyle advised that this issue will be logged with NRPO as it is looked after by the office in Donegal.

A discussion arose in relation to setting a date for the Budget Meeting, but it was agreed that it would be confirmed at a later date.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:19

Approved by: Mary Hoade **Date:** 5/10/2026

Cllr. Hoade.