

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam meeting held
on 15th October 2018

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT TUAM
COUNCIL OFFICES, HIGH STREET, TUAM ON 15th OCTOBER, 2018, AT 3.00 P.M.**

I LÁTHAIR:

BAILL:

Cllr Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr Tom McHugh

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Karey McHugh

Cllr Des Joyce

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cllr Billy Connelly

Cllr Pete Roche

OIFIGIH:

Ms Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Planning & Environment & Emergency Services.

Mr Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations Unit.

Ms Rachel Lowe, Senior Executive Engineer, Tuam Municipal District.

Mr John Coyle, Acting Executive Engineer, Tuam Municipal District

Mr Jack Houlihan, Assistant Engineer, Tuam Municipal District.

Ms Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Roads, Transportation, Marine and General Services Unit.

Ms Geraldine Mulkerrins, Executive Technician , Infrastructure and Operations unit

Mr Dáithí Flood, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Donagh Killilea

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on Monday 10th September 2018

MDT18040

On the proposal of Cllr Hoade and seconded by Cllr Cunniffe, the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 10th September, 2018 were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Cunniffe referred to his request at last month's meeting of Tuam Municipal Council to have a co-ordinated response from An Garda Síochána, Galway County Council and the relevant housing bodies when dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour where housing tenants are involved. In response to his query regarding his request that a member of the local Gardai attend the meeting, Ms Heffernan advised that correspondence had been issued to An Garda Síochána, but that no response had been received yet. Cllr Roche advised that the matter of a coordinated response to anti-social behaviour had been raised at the Joint Policing Committee meeting earlier today. He said that there should be no ambiguity in dealing with these anti- social issues. He noted that the Council approve people for participation in the Housing Assistance Payment scheme and that payment should be ceased by the Council if the tenant was involved in anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. T. Mc Hugh stated that the landlord of relevant properties should be in a position to knock on the door where tenants are involved in anti-social behaviour to sort out the problem.

Cllr K. McHugh stated that there are stringent rules when making an application for consideration under the HAP scheme and as the Local Authority is providing the funding, the rules that are in existence under the scheme should be enforced.

Review of Speed limits

MDT18041

Cllr Keaveney welcomed Mr Dáithí Flood, Executive Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit and Ms Geraldine Mulkerrins, Executive Technician, Infrastructure and Operations Unit to the meeting. Mr Flood presented a Draft of the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws 2018. He said that in February 2018, Municipal Districts had been advised that a review of the Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws for the County was taking place. He confirmed that the Draft Bye-Laws were prepared and put on public display in August 2018, with submissions invited up to the 7th September 2018. He noted that the statutory guidelines (DTTAS Mandatory Guidelines) set out the default speed limits and the factors for determining speed limits.

He advised that 56 submissions from the public were received, 23 of which related to Tuam Municipal District. The Tuam submissions consisted of 13 relating to Milltown (N17), 4 relating to Derreen (N63), 3 relevant to Tuam Town (Galway Road), 2 relevant to Kilconly (L2220) and 1 relating to Abbeyknockmoy (N63). He said that to implement all the changes

included in the Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws would involve the purchase and installation of 317 new speed limit signs.

A series of maps were circulated to the members, which included details of all speed limits in the Tuam MD, including those already in existence which were not being changed and the new proposals. A discussion took place on the proposals.

Mr Flood outlined the following proposed changes requested in the submissions:

Milltown – The reduction of speed limit from 100kph to 80kph from N17 Superstore on Northside of Milltown Village. Proposals also included the introduction of periodic speed limits at Milltown National School, with a reduction in speed limit from 100kph to 60kph during school opening and closing hours.

Dereen - Proposals requested the implementation of 50kph speed limit where the present speed limit is 100kph. He noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland proposes that a speed limit of 80kph is provided.

Mr Cullen Director of Services clarified that speed limits on the National roads can only be made with the consent of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Galway Road, Tuam - Mr Flood stated that the submissions received in relation to this stretch of roadway mainly related to the speed of vehicles exiting off the Motorway at this location. He advised that this is an enforcement issue, as the speed limit is already set at 50kph.

Kilcroan NS - Cllr Joyce asked when periodic speed limit signs will be installed at Kilcroan National School. Mr Flood stated that he expected signage to be in place by March or April 2019 depending on the finalised agreed period of implementation.

Abbeyknockmoy - Proposals requested periodic speed limit be introduced reducing speed from 80kph to 50kph outside the school. Mr Flood advised that the road from Abbeyknockmoy to Derreen is to remain at 80kph, and the speed limits in the village remain unchanged. Cllr Roche requested that digital flashing lights advising motorists of their speed be provided in the town centre.

Dunmore Road Tuam - In reply to Cllr Cunniffe, Mr. Flood confirmed that there are no changes to the speed limit on the R923 from Sharkey's service station to the entrance to Valeo. Cllr. Cunniffe referred to representations he previously made on speed at this location. He proposed that a 50kph is extended to the junction with Bobby Burke Road. He stated that there is a lot of both residential and industrial development at this location. Ms Mulkerrins advised that Local Authorities are bound by the DTTAS Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits. She advised that under the guidelines there is a need to have the area designation of an urbanised setting and this stretch of roadway doesn't meet the criteria to have a 50kph installed. She stated that the Council need to analyse the amount of residential development at this location. She agreed to look at the proposal to determine if there is adequate development to substantiate the proposal.

Annagh Hill - Cllr K McHugh made a proposal as follows :

“I propose that the section of road from Annagh Hill junction to the end of the cul de sac running past Annagh Hill National School is reduced from 80 kph to 50 kph. If that is not possible I would ask 60kph to be used”

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Roche.

Ms Mulkerrins stated that they will look at this to identify if the criteria along this stretch of road meets the criteria set out for 50kph, and if it doesn't meet the criteria with regard to urbanisation and development, periodic speed limits could be considered at the school. Cllr K McHugh asked if she could submit a letter from the Board of Management in relation to the safety concerns of the school. Ms. Mulkerrins stated that the final date for submissions has passed. Ms Mulkerrins said that no submissions were received with regard to the school, within the required timeframe, and the rural speed limit of 80kph is applied at this location. She noted that drivers are required to drive at an appropriate speed on all roads. Mr Cullen advised that the final speed limits, when adopted, must be signed off on by a chartered engineer, as being in compliance with the mandatory DTTAS Speed Limit Guidelines.

Mr Flood advised that the maps circulated at the meeting will need updating when the revised speed limits are complete.

In reply to questions relating to the cost implication of installing the proposed new speed limits, Mr. Cullen replied, that subject to adoption at the Plenary Council, it is intended to have signs installed early next year. He advised that signage on national roads will be funded by TII. He said that new signage on Non-National roads will require funding to be provided from the Council's own resources in the 2019 budget and that he expects it to cost in excess of €100,000. He confirmed that funding for periodic signage at the two national schools Kilcronan and Ballinderry, on Non-National roads must be funded by Galway County Council.

Cllr Roche stated that he was concerned that no additional safety measures, apart from the periodic speed limit signage, was being implemented at Milltown National School. Mr Coyle replied that a safety officer at TII had advised that periodic speed limits should be installed initially with a subsequent review of their effectiveness after a period of time. He stated that the possibility of developing a back entrance to the school should also be pursued. Ms Lowe stated that there is a clear recommendation from the TII that does not recommend other additional measures at this time. She agreed that TII would be in favour of putting the periodic signs in place, and allow time for them to "bed down". She also reiterated that TII would be in favour of a right turning lane on the roadway and the provision of a back entrance to the school. In reply to a query from Cllr T McHugh, Ms. Lowe stated that the periodic speed limit signs are in place but not yet turned on at Milltown National School.

Ms. Heffernan confirmed that signage can be activated no sooner than one month after the revised speed limit scheme is adopted.

The adoption of the Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Co. Galway Bye-laws 2018 was proposed by Cllr Roche, seconded by Cllr Joyce and agreed by all members.

Consideration of the Draft three year Roads Programme 2019-2021

MDT18042

Ms Lowe Senior introduced the draft three year roads programme for the Municipal District of Tuam for the period 2019-2021. She stated that this programme is a high level overview of the roads to be done. She said that members will have opportunities later to make representations

to have additional roads added to the individual Annual Roads Programmes and changes made if necessary. Cllr P Keaveney referred to the impending changes to the Municipal Districts, and queried if roads planned for improvement under the Municipal District of Tuam 3 year programme could miss out. Mr Cullen confirmed that this will not happen and that it is likely that next year's roads programme will be delivered in the same way as the present years roads programme that is based on the existing Municipal District boundaries. He stated he will have more information on this matter at the end of the year.

Ms Heffernan confirmed that this draft roadworks programme includes all Non-National roads and does not refer to National roads.

In reply to Cllr T. McHugh, Ms Heffernan stated that the budget for each year of the 3 year programme is based on the same allocation provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2018 for road restoration improvement works on Non-National roads.

The Draft 3 years roads programme 2019 to 2021, as presented, was proposed for adoption by Councillor T. McHugh, seconded by Cllr Roche and agreed by all members.

Cllr T. McHugh complimented the engineering and supervisory staff on the great work done on the roads. Cllr. Keaveney acknowledged the good work by Ms Lowe, Mr Coyle and Mr Houlihan on the preparation of the draft 3 year roads programme 2019-2021.

Any other Business

MDT18043

Cllr Tom McHugh acknowledged the excellent work done on the new fire station, which was delivered on time in a most professional manner and is of a high standard. He also acknowledged the taking over of the maintenance of the roundabouts on the Tuam Bypass by TII. He noted the provision of footpaths at Tubberjarlath Tuam and asked if there was any possibility that the footpaths from the Motorway in to Demense Cottages could be included in Maddens Contract. Ms Lowe stated that she would pursue the case with TII and revert back to him.

Cllr Roche stated that he is pleasantly pleased that the N63 re-alignment works are near completion and he is amazed at the number of people using the walkway and cycleway provided. Cllr Roche complimented all the good work done on the roads. In reply to Cllr Roche with regard to the possibility of widening the R332 at Kilbannon. Ms Lowe advised that the project is not suitable to be considered under a Low Cost Accident Scheme but rather a Strategic Infrastructure Grant and she is working on an application for this, with a view to submitting it to TII by the end of October. She said that traffic counters were currently in place, the results of which will be circulated to all Councillors and residents in the area.

Cllr Roche enquired on the progress of OPW Minor Works Schemes at Ardskeaghmore and Feagh East. Ms Lowe stated that the initial design of the scheme at Ardskeaghmore and a screening report had been completed, with a hydrological report to be done by Christmas. She confirmed that works would be done in 2019. In relation to proposals for a scheme in Feagh East, Ms Lowe advised that these works would also be done in 2019, that the design of which is yet to be finalised.

In reply to Cllr Roche regarding verge trimming Ms. Lowe stated that verge trimming is ongoing with three machines working in a row. Cllr Hoade enquired if there is a facility for Councillors to nominate money for verge trimming. Ms Lowe confirmed that this is available and all NOM funding for such works would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr Keaveney welcomed Mr Jack Houlihan to the Tuam Municipal District.

Cllr Karey Mc Hugh proposed the following motion –

“Following on from the seconded amended motion that was passed at the monthly plenary council meeting in September 2018. This was the motion relating to application for funds to carry out a greenway strategy for County Galway and taking into consideration the recent announcement from the C.E.O and Executive in Galway County Council that the feasibility strategy is going to look at a greenway route from Athenry to Milltown. I would also like to note that full support was received from all members of the Tuam Municipal District regarding the first amended motion to carry out a feasibility study for a greenway along the disused western rail corridor from Athenry to Milltown. I proposed that only route to be taken into consideration for the feasibility study from Athenry to Milltown is along the disused Western Rail Alignment.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr Cunniffe.

Cllr K McHugh stated that she was asking for the support of the members for the route that is wanted by the people of Tuam. She said that the support of her proposal would provide clarity for the people of Tuam.

Cllr Cunniffe asked if Councillors have any other proposal for Greenways that they bring them forward for consideration. He stated that the proposal he is supporting is readymade for a Greenway, that the route is unbroken along publicly owned land along the alignment of the railway line.

Cllr T McHugh said that the Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations, and the Chief Executive Officer have committed to seeking funding for a feasibility study for a Greenway between Milltown and Athenry.

Mr Cullen advised the members that the Council can only implement what was voted on at the Plenary Council meeting, that a Municipal District cannot change what is decided by the Plenary Council. Mr Cullen confirmed that the feasibility study will explore options, including the complimentary use of land by railway and Greenway.

Cllr Connelly said that the proposal made refused to acknowledge that a rail review is about to take place. He said that if the rail review decides that there is a future for the railway line that there will be a whole new debate and that he cannot agree with the motion being put forward today until the result of the review is known. He stated that he believed that County Galway can have both and that he is 100% behind the need for a Greenway but wants the rail review to be completed first. Cllr Cunniffe said that all previous reports on the railway unanimously agreed that the development of the railway was not viable and that all the people of Tuam are in favour of the development of the Greenway.

Cllr Peter Roche stated that this is a very emotive, divisive issue. He said that it has to be explicitly stated that the feasibility study be carried out along the route of the railway. Cllr T

McHugh said that people have differing points of view and that the CEO and DOS have agreed to apply for funding for a feasibility study. Cllr Hoade referred to the correspondence received from the CEO and reiterated that the power of the Municipal District to coneract the motion of the Plenary Council does not exist.

Mr Cullen stated that a feasibility study is a high level early assessment. He confirmed that the Council would be making an application for a Greenway between Athenry and Milltown and also an application for a Greenway in Conamara for which planning permission is already in place.

It was agreed by the members that they are all in favour of the preparation of a feasibility study for a Greenway along the alignment of the railway line from Athenry to Milltown.

Cllr T McHugh proposed that the Annual Budget Meeting for Tuam Municipal District would be held on the 24th October 2018 at 10.00a.m. in the Council Chamber. Cllr Joyce seconded the proposal and it was agreed.

CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.

Approved by:

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Tuam