

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam meeting held  
on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT TUAM  
COUNCIL OFFICES, HIGH STREET, TUAM ON MONDAY**

**19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 2.30p.m.**

***I LÁTHAIR:***

***BAILL:***

Cllr Donagh Killilea

Cllr Tom McHugh

Cllr Pete Roche

Cllr Des Joyce

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Karey McHugh

***OIFIGIGH:***

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

Mr Michael Owens, Director of Services, Housing Unit

Mr Michael Timmins, A/Director of Services, Planning and Environment Unit

Mr Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit

Mr Derek Pender, Senior Engineer, National Roads Project Office

Ms Rachel Lowe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal District of Tuam

Mr John Coyle, A/Executive Engineer, Municipal District of Tuam

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

Ms Hazel Fox, Assistant Planner, Planning and Environment Unit

Ms Mary Dunne, Assistant Staff Officer, Municipal District of Tuam

Apologies were noted from Councillors Connelly and Cunniffe.

Cllr Killilea welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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**Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.**

**MDT18008**

On the proposal of Cllr T McHugh, seconded by Cllr Roche, the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, were agreed and adopted.

It was requested by Cllr Killilea and agreed to discuss item 5 on the agenda – Draft Tuam Local Area Plan in the first instance.

**Draft Tuam Local Area Plan**

**MDT18009**

Ms Fox gave a brief summary of the status of the Draft Tuam Local Area Plan, she advised the members that since the last meeting the Draft Plan has been published and is currently on display from 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. She reiterated that anyone who previously made a submission at the pre-draft stage and wishes to have their comments considered for the draft plan stage need to make a submission again. She explained that submissions could be made by emailing forward planning directly, or alternatively could post, or drop of, a written submission to the Forward Planning Section, she advised that the closing date for submissions or observations is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 at 4.00pm. She said that the public drop in session was held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018, approximately 50 people attended and there was very positive feedback from same. She stated that any concerns that were raised by people on the day were noted and they were also advised to lodge submissions to the Forward Planning Section in relation to same. She highlighted that 12 weeks from when the draft plan first went on display the Chief Executives Report on submissions received will be made available to members. She outlined that the purpose of today's meeting is to see if there are any concerns or if anyone needs something clarified in relation to the Draft Plan. She also explained that there will be a special meeting arranged to discuss the Chief Executive's Report at a later date.

Cllr T McHugh raised concerns in relation to the road going through St. Jarlaths College proposed as the main relief road. He explained that the College wish to develop these lands for recreational and amenities. He made comment that he would insist on this being removed as its obstructing the development of the lands. He feels that there is no need for this as there are public lands which could be used instead. He summarised that as part of the review process he wants same removed. Cllr Killilea also stated that there will be support on this matter and explained it could be discussed at the special meeting in the coming weeks.

Cllr Roche queried what was proposed in relation to walking and cycling routes as he would like to see something more definite being introduced in relation to this matter as the public should be able walk and cycle around the town.

Cllr K McHugh pointed out that a high speed charging point for electric cars should be provided in the town, future proofing the town for electric cars.

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Cllr Killilea firstly pointed out that he was looking forward to the special meeting in order to discuss the concerns of the members. He thanked Ms Fox and the staff at the Forward Planning Section for arranging the public drop in session as there was such positive feedback in relation to same. He made comment that people are not happy with the scale of the town boundary and feels it should be extended further out. He queried if there was a date arranged for the special meeting. Ms Fox explained that the closing date for submissions is the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 so the Chief Executives Report should be available a couple of weeks after this so the meeting could be arranged for the end of March but she stated she would confirm a date at a later stage.

**Declaration of Roads to be public roads, Tuam Municipal District – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993 – Details as follows:** **MDT18010**

**a. Ard Aoibhinn, Monivea, Co. Galway**

Description:

Main link road pavement and footpath commencing at public road L- 31089 – 0 and extending East at its junction for approximately 39m opposite house no 7, then South for approximately 61m to the cul –de- sac at house no 1, then North for approximately 136m and ending at cul- de -sac near house no 16. (All in the townland of Glennagloghaun North).

On the proposal of Cllr T Mc Hugh and seconded by Cllr Peter Roche the road was declared a public road.

**b. Millbrook Estate, Milltown, Co Galway**

1- Point A to B. Main link road pavement and footpath commencing at public road L-2212 and extending South East for approximately 138m and ending opposite house No. 18.  
(All in the townland of Milltown)

2- Point L to D. Road pavement and footpath commencing at public road N17 and extending North for approximately 164m and ending opposite house No. 57.

(All in the Townland of Milltown)

3- Point J to K. Road pavement and footpath commencing near house No. 19 and extending South East for approximately 70m ending opposite house No. 1.

(All in the Townland of Milltown)

4- Point E to F. Road pavement and footpath commencing near house No. 61 and extending east for approximately 76m and ending near house No. 55.

All in the Townland of Milltown)

On the proposal of Cllr K Mc Hugh and seconded by Cllr Killilea the roads referred to above were declared public.

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**c. Cedar Court, Williamstown**

Description:

Road pavement commencing at public road L2205 and extending east and south for approximately 65m and ending at Cul-de-sac opposite house No. 3. (All in the Townland of Corralough).

On the proposal of Cllr Joyce and seconded by Cllr T Mc Hugh this road was declared a public road.

**d. Townland of Durrow**

Description:

Road commencing at junction with regional road R360 (E169578; N271722) in the townland of Durrow and extending West for a distance of 61 metres in the townland of Durrow (E169527; N271758) and finishing at The Lodge (E169527; N271758) in the townland of Durrow.

On the proposal of Cllr Joyce and seconded by Cllr Keaveney this road was declared a public road.

**To consider and approve Municipal District Schedule of Works (SWMD) 2018 to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of Repairs and Maintenance.** **MDT18011**

Mr Cullen introduced the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018 and the Draft Roads Programme 2018 and advised the members that when they were voting, their vote would relate to both programmes. Mr Cullen stated that the National Road allocation is €25 million in 2018 which is an increase of 16% on the 2017 allocation, and the Regional and Local Roads allocation is €23.2 million, an increase of 19% on the 2107 allocation.

Mr Owens presented the details relating to the Housing Programme of Works, 2018. He referred to the allocation of €275,000 for Housing Maintenance in 2018, and stated that to date maintenance is carried out on a response basis which he believes is not the most efficient model. He said that in 2018 it is planned to put a proposal to the Council to approve a loan of €10 million which would be drawn down over a period of approximately 5 years. He advised that the loan would also require Departmental approval. He said that it is proposed that a planned stock survey would be carried out and the Council would determine from the results what work is necessary on the housing units they are responsible for. He stated that the Council has 2,400 housing units which is a significant asset to maintain and that the Council has a statutory obligation to maintain their units to a particular standard.

Cllr T McHugh welcomed the survey as it would determine the need for investment.

Cllr Killilea asked if the €10 million loan would be used for a fact finding mission and also questioned why the Council are considering borrowing €10 million when the Government appears to be providing public funding for housing. In reply, Mr Owens stated that the Council

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has already benefited from national funding for the capital project at Gilmartin Road, Energy Efficiency Programme and Parkmore, Tirboy. He stated that in the absence of a stock survey it is difficult to put a proposal to the Department requesting funding.

In reply to Cllr T McHugh, Mr Owens clarified that the loan for €10 million would be separate from the €8 million capital funding for the Gilmartin Road project. In reply to Cllr Killilea, Mr Owens confirmed that the carrying out of the survey would be outsourced.

The 2018 Draft Roads Programme was circulated. Mr Mitchell, Senior Engineer presented the details of the 2018 Draft Roads Programme. He stated that the total restoration improvement grant for 2018 is €13,216,000 which is an increase of 18% on the 2017 allocation. He noted, that, in 2018, all Local Authorities have the authorisation and flexibility to transfer up to a maximum of 19%, of the restoration improvement grant, to their discretionary grant on request to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. He said that, due to the reduction in the Councils own local road maintenance allocation, it is proposed to transfer 9.2%, a total of €1,216,000 to Regional and Local road maintenance, which leaves an allocation of €12,000,000 available for road improvement works.

He said that the allocation for restoration maintenance works, (surface dressing), is €3,306,000 with a specific allocation for the Municipal District of Tuam of €830,948. He advised that of the total allocation of €900,000 for the repair of Local Tertiary Roads, an amount of €184,617 is allocated for the Municipal District of Tuam.

He said that, on the advice of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, it is proposed to set aside an allocation of €200,000 as contingency monies to address possible severe weather events. He also noted that an allocation of €35,000 is set aside for a survey on the condition of non-national roads. He confirmed that it is proposed that Killimor and Athenry benefit from funding under the Village upgrade scheme in 2018. He noted that Dunmore and Headford, both in the Municipal District of Tuam benefited from this scheme in 2017. He said that an amount of €20,000 is allocated for the recording and management of invasive species in the County and that this year, for the first time in 5 years, the Department has provided an allocation for surface water drainage works, of which €173,428 is applicable to the Municipal District of Tuam.

Cllr Roche raised the matter of concerned parents regarding the 100 kph speed limit in place at the entrance to Milltown National School. He informed the meeting that he and Cllr Joyce will meet representatives of Transport Infrastructure Ireland at the end of the month and committed to prioritising the Milltown school situation with them.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he had raised the matter with Lucy Curtis of TII and was informed that it was not a question of extending the speed limit as this school is treated as a rural school but that periodic speed limits could be rolled out covering school drop off and pick up times, morning and evening. She stated that the issue of traffic speeding is an issue for the Gardai.

Cllr. Roche queried if additional signage or a continuous white line could be put in place. Cllr Joyce queried if double white lining could be provided at the school. Mr. Timmins replied that the road lining is in accordance with the national standard. Cllr Hoade queried if periodic speed limits could be provided at Milltown National School or if it would be necessary to wait until

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the current speed limit review was completed. In reply, Mr Mitchell stated that he could not give a timeframe for the roll out of the periodic speed limits which will have to be introduced as part of the County-side speed limit bye-laws.

Cllr Hoade welcomed the funding for the N84, but stated that it appears to be for pavement overlay and queried if any consideration was given to the widening of the road. Cllr Hoade thanked Ms Lowe for her involvement with the Headford Village Enhancement Scheme.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Hoade, Mr. Mitchell clarified that funding allocated for Traffic Management would cover minor adjustments only. Mr Cullen confirmed that there was no additional funding available for additional Traffic Management Plans in 2018.

Cllr T McHugh thanked all involved in preparing the Roads Programme and referred to the Carranurlaur Road which was omitted and said that it needs urgent attention. He referred to footpath improvements in Tuam and said that he will liaise with Ms Lowe on the matter.

Cllr T McHugh raised the matter of Local Improvement Scheme funding and stated that it would be prudent if the LIS allocation would be provided prior to the commencement of the Roads Programme so that the works could be completed alongside it.

Mr Pender distributed a breakdown of the National Road Grant Allocations for 2018 and the details of same. In reply to Cllr K Mc Hugh, Mr Pender clarified that funding on the N17 related to pavement overlay only. He advised Cllr Roche that funding on the N63 Liss to Abbeyknockmoy re-alignment related to the carrying out of archaeology and ecology assessments. In reply to Cllr Hoade, Mr Pender stated that funding on the N84 re-alignment scheme related to outstanding land settlements. He confirmed to Cllr Keaveney that funding is included for pavement overlay and accommodation works on the N60 Ballymoe North are included. In reply to Cllr K Mc Hugh, Mr Pender stated that TII are adamant that there is no problem with the Ballygaddy Road Bridge.

Cllr Killilea thanked all involved in the preparation of the Roads Programme and wished Mr Pender well in his new position in the NRPO. He also wished Ms Lowe well in her new position in the Municipal District of Tuam.

The adoption of the Tuam Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018, including the Roads Programme was proposed by Cllr Keaveney, seconded by Cllr Roche and agreed by the members.

### **Consideration of Installation of plaque in honour of Tom Murphy**

**MDT18012**

It was proposed by Cllr Roche, seconded by Cllr Keaveney and agreed by the members to invite Ms Máirín Duddy to have a further discussion on this proposal which the members agree with in principal.

### **Municipal District of Tuam Directors Business**

**MDT18013**

Mr Timmins complimented all the staff involved in the preparation of the 2018 programme of works and welcomed the members compliments to the staff of the Municipal District.

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**Any Other Business**

**MDT18014**

Cllr Roche expressed disappointment that the superloo presently situated in Tuam would be transferred to another Municipal District. He said that he would like to have a discussion on this matter. He also voiced concerns regarding the fact that the roads surface dressed over the last number of months are already in disrepair, he acknowledged that the bad weather may have been a contributing factor. Ms Lowe agreed that this should not happen and stated that she is investigating the matter. Cllr K Mc Hugh asked if the Superloo could be included on the Agenda for the next Municipal District of Tuam meeting.

Cllr K Mc Hugh enquired if anything could be done regarding the illegal dumping on the railway line at Tubberjarlath and Athenry Road. Ms Lowe stated that she will follow up on this matter with the Community Wardens.

Cllr P Keaveney enquired in relation to the safety works in Dunmore, and asked if the pedestrian crossing could be moved out to the Tuam Road. Cllr T Mc Hugh stated that residents were concerned regarding the loss of parking spaces. Ms Lowe confirmed that while some parking spaces may be moved, that the number of spaces will not be reduced.

Mr Coyle stated that there is a meeting with the consultants looking after the project tomorrow and that these matters will be discussed. Cllr Killilea asked if the plan could be brought to the Councillors after the meeting with the consultants. Ms Lowe confirmed that the plan will be circulated to the Councillors and the residents informed.

In reply to Cllr Joyce, Ms. Lowe confirmed that under the Roads Act 1993 farmers are obliged to facilitate the run off of water from the road on to their lands. In reply to Cllr Keaveney, Ms Lowe stated that community groups can only be involved in Community Involvement Schemes if the groups meet the Council requirements, the details of which were circulated by e-mail.

Ms Heffernan confirmed that the CIS Funding will be ring fenced so there may be different specifications/conditions attached to it but the Council has not yet received any detailed correspondence regarding the scheme.

**CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN**

**Approved by:**

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**Cllr Donagh Killilea**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Municipal District of Tuam**