

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam meeting held
on 21st May 2018

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM OFFICES, TUAM, CO GALWAY ON MONDAY
21ST MAY 2018 AT 3.30 PM**

I LÁTHAIR:

BAILL:

Cllr Donagh Mark Killilea

Cllr Tom Mc Hugh

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Shaun Cunniffe

Cllr Des Joyce

Cllr Peter Roche

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cllr Billy Connelly

Cllr Karey McHugh

OIFIGIH:

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

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 Bernie Treacy, Assistant Staff Officer, Municipal District of Tuam

Ms Rosina Joyce, Community Warden, Galway County Council

**Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 16th April
2018.**

MDT18025

On the proposal of Cllr Hoade seconded by Cllr Connelly, the minutes of the meeting of the Municipal District of Tuam held on 16th April 2018, were agreed and adopted.

In response to a query raised by Cllr T. McHugh, Ms Ruane, informed the members that the Draft Tuam Local Area Plan is currently going through the Appropriate Assessment screening

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process, which is a 14 week process. Following the conclusion of this process the Draft Tuam Local Area Plan, with amendments, will be put on public display again.

Declaration of Roads to be public roads, Tuam Municipal District – Section 11 of Roads Act 1993. **MDT18026**

Carrigweir Estate, Tuam, Co Galway.

Description:

- 1. Point A to B:** Main link road pavement commencing at public road L-2105 – 133 and extending North East for approximately 207m and ending near house no 65. (All in the townland of Killaloonty).
- 2. Point CFE G:** Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction opposite house no 81 and extending North West for approximately 60m opposite house no 23, then South West to the cul- de- sac approximately 32m near house no 19, then North East for approximately 220m and ending near house no 40. (All in the townland of Killaloonty).
- 3. Point BLN:** Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction near house no 84 and extending South East for approximately 96m, then North East for approximately 128m and ending near house no 114. (All in the townland of Killaloonty).
- 4. Point H to K :** Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction near house no 140 and extending North East for approximately 239m and ending at apartment no's 106 to 113 (All in the townland of Killaloonty).
- 5. Point J to M:** Road pavement and footpath commencing at junction near house no 122 and extending South East for approximately 47m and ending at house no 116 (All in the townland of Killaloonty).

On the proposal of Cllr Hoade and seconded by Cllr Connelly the road was declared public.

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Town & Village Enhancement Scheme.

MDT18026

Ms Lowe informed the members that the town enhancement works are nearing completion in Headford. She said that the work has been carried out to a high standard by the contractors, Gibbons Building & Civil Engineering Ltd. She noted that the contractors will be moving shortly to Dunmore to commence enhancement works there which should be completed within 6 to 8 weeks. She said that the installation of footpaths has commenced on the Clonberne Road in Dunmore.

Cllr Hoade paid tribute to Ms Lowe, the contractors and particularly the foreman, Mr Eoin Delaney, for being very amenable and available to the residents during the last 12–14 weeks while the works were in progress. Cllr T. McHugh spoke about concerns raised regarding the reduction of car parking spaces in Headford and hoped that such an issue would not arise in Dunmore. Cllr Hoade said that only two parking spaces were lost in the reconfiguration of the parking at the town centre, to provide two disabled parking spaces, which are available at either end of the town. She noted that no offstreet parking is available in the centre of Headford town and that identifying and acquiring a suitable site for the provision of a car park is proving difficult.

Cllr Connelly said that the works were carried out very professionally and agreed that long term car parking spaces are needed in Headford. Cllr Roche said that the end result was a very appealing, attractive town centre. He noted that the first draft of the plan for the works in Headford were put on public display, but that the amended plan had not been put on public display.

Ms Lowe informed the members that the implementation of the Headford town enhancement scheme was well flagged with the public and some people came on board while others didn't engage with the consultation process. She highlighted that a lot of work went into delivering these schemes successfully. She said that she hoped that people would welcome both the Headford and Dunmore town enhancement schemes.

Cllr Keaveney said that a lot of money had been invested in both schemes and commended the enhancement works carried out.

Cllr Karey McHugh complimented the installation of bollards at Tullinadaly which are well received by the residents.

Traffic Management Measure Tuam

MDT18027

Ms Lowe said that the Council would like to introduce a Traffic Management Measure for Tuam to address some traffic issues causing problems. She said that this measure would be limited in scope as there is no funding available to do a full review of the Traffic Management Plan, but minor amendments could be made to the existing plan and should eliminate some

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problems. She suggested a couple of items that could be reviewed – the taxi rank at the Abbey Tavern - which is not generally used by taxis, the double-yellow lines at the Ivy Boutique on Dublin Road. She advised that any proposed Traffic Management Measure would be advertised and there would be a period for submissions and said that she would consult the members of the Municipal District prior to the measure being advertised.

Cllr T. McHugh said that he hoped that the Council staff would liaise with the taxi drivers and that the new arrangements would be of benefit to the constituents. Cllr K. McHugh welcomed the initiative as it would facilitate parents dropping children off at the schools. Cllr Killilea highlighted that the taxi drivers had requested, at a previous deputation, periodic taxi ranks after close of business. He also said that there is a need for a loading bay in the Square. Cllr Cunniffe said that there is no cycling lane so parents have to transport children to school and there is no suitable place to park. Ms Heffernan confirmed that a request for the provision of funding for cycle lanes in the town of Tuam had been sent to Minister Ross, but that no response had been received to date.

Municipal District of Tuam Cathaoirleachs Business

MDT18028

Ms Rosina Joyce, Community Warden and a member of the working group in Galway County Council, on the eradication and control of invasive species, gave a presentation on invasive species to the members. She informed the members that the Council are in phase one of the programme which entails raising awareness and identifying the species concerned, namely, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Rhododendrons, Himalayan Knotweed and Giant Rhubarb. She advised that there is a new procedure and system in place whereby any identified infestations of invasive species, are recorded on a mapping system, with relevant details. She advised that there are information leaflets available to the public in hard copy and soft copy to assist them in identifying such species. She said that reports of invasive species, on Council owned property, such as on public roads, would be investigated, recorded and mapped by a Community Wardens. She said that information signage would then be erected at the location advising that no cutting of the invasive species is to take place. She noted that the Japanese Knotweed is the most difficult species to eradicate as cutting it causes it to spread. She advised that phase two of the project will entail an application for funding to eradicate/manage these species. She stated that a herbicide treatment is the most effective way towards eradication/management of the species which is effectively treated as hazardous waste and that the treatment would have to continue on a multi-annual basis.

Mr Coyle informed the members that Transport Infrastructure Ireland have a multi-annual programme in place and ongoing for the eradication/management of invasive species on all National routes.

Any Other Business

MDT18029

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In response to a query from Cllr Cunniffe about the maintenance of the new roundabouts near Tuam Town, Ms Lowe confirmed that the maintenance of the Tuam By Pass in its entirety is under the control of Galway County Council. She advised that the maintenance of the bypass would ultimately be contracted out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, but that at the moment the responsibility lies with the Council. She said that there is a very high level of traffic management required to maintain the bypass in a safe manner, which the Municipal District of Tuam staff would be unable to do with the resources available to it. She said that is looking into getting a contractor as soon as possible to deal with some of the most urgent issues.

In response to a query raised by Cllr Hoade on the realignment of a section of the N84 from Shrule to Headford, Mr Coyle informed the members that the proposal is currently with the National Road Project Office with regard to design and that funding has been requested from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Cllr Killilea informed the members that a deputation from Milltown National School would like to address the July meeting of the Tuam Municipal District to highlight their concerns regarding the current 100 km kph speed limit on the N17 at Milltown National School. Ms Lowe informed the members that Transport Infrastructure Ireland have agreed to the installation of periodic speed limit signs at this location which would reduce the speed limit to 60 kph in the morning and the afternoon to coincide with school start and finish times. Ms Lowe advised the members that the Speed Limit review was ongoing by the Infrastructure and Operations Section, including consultation with An Garda Síochána, with a proposal to go to public consultation in June 2018. She said that she does not envisage any objection to the proposal for a periodic speed limit at Milltown School during the 30 day public consultation, as most people are supportive to the reduced limits at specific times during the day. She advised that it is anticipated that the draft speed limit bye-laws will be on the agenda for the Tuam Municipal District Meeting in September and finally on the agenda of the Plenary meeting for consideration and decision by the Councillors in October 2018.

Cllr K. McHugh extended good wishes to the first female fire fighter candidate appointed to the Fire Service in Tuam.

In response to a query from Cllr T. McHugh on the frequency of accidents at Rooneys corner on the N83, Ms Lowe informed the members that accident reports should be completed by An Garda Síochána so that accident blackspots can be flagged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. She said that accident report forms are submitted by An Garda Síochána to the Road Safety Authority and not directly to the Local Authority, and that they are currently dealing with forms from 2016.

Cllr Joyce asked if there are any measures that could be put in place to curb speeding on the approach to towns and villages.

Cllr Roche expressed concerns with regard to the new procedures adopted by the County Council in relation to volunteer and community activities on Council owned property, in particular on the public road. Ms Ruane acknowledged that the Council cannot do everything

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on its own – that the input of volunteers is essential. She said that she was working on a possible solution whereby insurance cover could be provided to community groups registered on the Public Participation Network.

Cllr Killilea said that there are some trees in the Palace Fields which are in poor condition and need to be trimmed. He also enquired if there was any update on the road traffic data on the R332 before and after the opening of the bypass. Cllr Roche proposed that the realignment of 0.90 km stretch of road on the R332 be included as a Low Cost Scheme. In response to a query from Cllr Roche, Ms Lowe informed the members that an allocation of €71,000 had been secured from the Office of Public Works for Feagh East for a minor works scheme and said that it was hoped to deliver on the scheme in the Summer Months.

Cllr Roche referred to the ongoing Local Electoral Area Boundary Review and said that it would be prudent if some thoughts and submissions were given on the review with regards to Local Area Offices.

Following a discussion of the plans to develop a Farmers Market in Tuam, Ms Lowe said that Galway County Council was very supportive of the plans to develop a farmers market in Tuam. She said that she has spoken with Ms Orla Burke, who has a vegetable stall at the weekly market in the Square, and has carried out research into similar markets in other parts of the country. Ms Lowe advised that Ms Burke has suggested that Ennis is the one currently being looked at as a model for Tuam. Cllr Cunniffe said that the reintroduction of a farmers market at the Shambles was very timely given Galways designation as a Region of Gastronomy in 2018.

CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.

Approved by:

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Tuam