
Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE GCCA / GC/CSO
Title:	Galway County Council - Water Services / Capital Sewerage Schemes / Maps, Plans, Drawings / Tuam Town Sewerage Scheme
Dates:	1928-1945
Level of description	Item
Extent:	15 items

CONTEXT

Creator(s): Galway County Council

Administration History/ Biography

Tuam Town Sewerage Scheme

In 1880 the Tuam Town Commissioners proposed applying to the Board of Works initially for a loan of £7,000 and then for £5,000, for the construction of waterworks in Tuam (TTC1/2, 5 February 1880), and asked the Board of Guardians, as the Rural Sanitary Authority, to join them in the application to the Board. About this time they also requested Mr Edward Townsend, Civil Engineer, to prepare the required plans and estimates for the project. However, the question regarding the Commissioners' legal status, not being an Urban Sanitary Authority, was questioned. And it fell to the Board of Guardians to pursue the loan and the provision of the waterworks.

Many years later the Commissioners petitioned the Board of Health on a number of occasions for better sanitary conditions for the town. For instance, in 1932 it resolved that *'The Public Health of Tuam is in constant danger, owing to the absence of a proper sewerage system and the development of the area by private enterprise is seriously prejudiced for the same reason'* (TTC/1/8, p43). In July 1933 a sub-committee of Commissioners met with the Minister of Local Government regarding the need for a sewerage scheme, following which they asked the Board of Health to prepare plans, specification and estimate for a scheme for the Town (TTC/1/8, p93).

In October 1934 the Commissioners again called attention to the *'bad condition of the sewerage system of the town of Tuam, particularly at the Old Road where the sewerage is flowing along the public Road, from houses recently erected in that area, pointing out that unless steps are taken forthwith by the responsible authority the public health of the town is in serious danger...'* (TTC1/8, p180).

In July 1936 McCaffrey and O'Carroll, Contractors for the Tuam Sewerage Scheme, advised the Tuam Town Commissioners that they were in a position to *'connect the Town Commissioners new houses with*

the new sewerage if they, (the Commissioners) would in return supply them with any water they might require from time to time for testing the pipes free of charge... (p79).

In 1944 when the Commissioners were discussing post-War planning water and sewerage improvement schemes were considered priorities. Galway County Council raised a loan of £15,800 for improvement to the waterworks and £4,310 for the sewerage scheme (TTC/1/11, 4 Dec 1944).

In 1947 the Commissioners were advised that Lady Cusack Smyth *'had consented to the signing of agreement for the letting of the Water Rights for Waterworks Improvement'* (TTC/1/10, 6 Oct 1947). Improvement works were expected to commence by March 1948. A special meeting was held on 23rd March to discuss the water crises in the town. The Town Surveyor advised the Commissioners that the contract amount of £20,000 for the improvement works had been accepted and that the *'...delay in commencing the work as due to a technical point'*. It was decided to write to the Minister for Industry and Commerce to request an *'increase in fuel oil,'* to help improve the distribution and maintenance of the water supply (TTC1/10, 23 Mar 1948). In May the Commissioners learned that the improvement works were unlikely to commence before September, as the contractor, Mr R. M. Burke, was *'not in a position to supply pipes necessary for the Scheme'*, which had to be imported from England (3 May 1949). Various representations were made, such as to Senator Robert M. Burke and others, to help expedite matters, so much so that by the beginning of June it was hoped that work could commence the following month (TTC1/10, 7 Jun 1948).

In the early 1960s the Commissioners was advised that the Town water supply was filthy, and requested that the water be filtered (TTC1/14, p212).

Archival History

Official Transfer from GCC to Archives in 2018

Archivist's Note

Listed by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2018.

Scope and Content

Various outside drawings relating to the sewerage scheme in Tuam town.

Arrangement

Chronological

Allied Material

Tuam Poor Law Union, Board of Guardian minutes, GPL5/
Tuam Town Commissioners, Minutes, TTC/1
Galway County Council Minutes, GC1/

Access

Open

Language

English

Drawings relating to various works carried out by the Board of Health

GC/WS/12/1/1 1928-01-24

Tuam Sewerage Scheme: Details of Manholes. Flush Tanks etc. Signed by Engineer 24 January 1928.
Scale 4 ft - 1".

GC/WS/12/1/2 1933 - [July] - 04

Tuam, Proposed Sewerage Scheme, Drawing no. 1, Ref. No. IM4. Includes red line [indicating extension of pipe work]. Produced by Nicholas O'Dwyer, BE, Consulting Engineer, Dublin.
Scale 25.344 inches to 1 mile.

GC/WS/12/1/3 1935-10-08

Tuam: Proposed Sewerage Scheme, Drawing no. 1, Ref. IM4. Includes red line [indicating location and direction of sewers]. With Annotation '*Certified as lodged with Local Government, Nicholas Dwyer, 8/10/1935*'.
Scale ¼ inch to 1 foot

GC/WS/12/1/4 1935-10-08

Tuam: Purification works details, Drawing no. [3], Ref. IM4. Layout plan, detailing Sections, effluent channel etc. With Annotation '*Certified as lodged with Local Government, Nicholas Dwyer, 8/10/1935*'. Prepared by J.H.M., July 1935.
Scale ¼ inch

GC/WS/12/1/5 1935-10-08

Tuam: Pump-house and Sump, Drawing no. 6, Ref. IM4. Detailing Section plan of sumps, elevation of motor room and plan of motor room etc, with slight colour tint. Includes note 'For exact positions of pumps, pipes, switches, motors, etc, see pump contractor's drawings. For reinforcement details see separate drawing. All fillets are omitted for clearness'. With Annotation '*Certified as lodged with Local Government, Nicholas Dwyer, 8/10/1935*'. Prepared by J.H.M., July 1935.
Scale ¼ inch to 1 foot

GC/WS/12/1/6 1937-08-06]

Tuam: Sewerage, Part 2 Sections. IMF4 Drawing 21. Includes for instances, Galway Road branch sewer, Outfall sewer, Dublin Road, O'Keefe's Tec., Church Street, Sewer across fields to Shop St., Etc. Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.

GC/WS/12/1/7 **n/a [1937]**

Tuam: Part 2, Detail of Syphon, Drawing no. 23, Ref. No. IM4. Detailing sectional plan for manholes, storm water overflow pipe to river etc. Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.
Scale: ½ inch to 1 foot.

GC/WS/12/1/8 **1937-08-06**

Tuam: Part 2, Sections, Drawing no. 21, Ref. No. IM4. Includes Galway Road branch sewer, Outfall Sewer, Dublin Road, O'Keeffe's Tec., Church Street, Sewer across fields to Shop St., etc. Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.
Date Stamped 1 July 1938

GC/WS/12/1/9 **1938-05-02**

Tuam: Manhole Details, Drawing no. 22, Ref. No. IM4. Includes plan of manhole on bend, plan of junction manhole, of shallow manhole and various sections. Initialled by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.
Scale ½

GC/WS/12/1/10 **[1944]**

Tuam: Proposed Scheme, Drawing no. 1, Ref. No. IM4. With annotation, 'Existing sewers shown in Green'. Annotation on the back indicating 'Tuam Sewerage Extension 1944'
Produced by Nicholas O'Dwyer, BE, Consulting Engineer, Dublin
Scales to 1 inch.

GC/WS/12/1/11 **1944-09**

Tuam: Extension Scheme, Sections, Drawing no. 2230. Sections for Dublin Road, Ballygaddy Road, Galway Road, Church View, Station etc. Includes notes in pencil. Horizontal Scale 208 ft: 1". Vertical Scale 10 ft: 1". Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.

GC/WS/12/1/12 **1944-09**

Tuam: Extension Scheme, Sections, Drawing no. 2230. Sections for Dublin Road, Ballygaddy Road, Galway Road, Church View, Station, etc. Includes handwritten notes (in pencil). Horizontal Scale 208 ft: 1". Vertical Scale 10 ft: 1". Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.

GC/WS/12/1/13 **1945-10-16**

Tuam: Proposed Extension '45, New Sewers Shown - Red, Drawing no. 1, Ref. IM4. Extension primarily in the Rinkippeen area. Scale 25.344 inches to 1 mile. Date: 16/10/1945 (Revised)

GC/WS/12/1/14 1945-08-02

Tuam: Extensions Scheme 1945, Sections, Drawing no. 2230 (Revised). Sections for various areas such as Ballygaddy Road, Church View Extension, Dublin Road and Station etc.

Horizontal Scale 208 ft: 1". Vertical Scale 10 ft: 1". Prepared by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Engineer.

GC/WS/12/1/15 [1945]

Tuam: Extension Scheme 1945, Sections, Drawing no. 2, Ref: No. IM4. Sections for various areas such as Cloontooa Road, Barrack St, Circular Rad, The Mall, Galway Road etc. Horizontal Scale 25

344 to 1 mile. Vertical Scale 10 ft: 1 inch