

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2025 AT 2.00 pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Andrew Reddington

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Cuniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. McHugh Farag, McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Turner.

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGIGH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., SE, Ms. Rachel Lowe – SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

MDT250001

1. – Election of Cathaoirleach for the Municipal District of Tuam January to June 2025.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan proposed Cllr. Reddington as Cathaoirleach and this was seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed by all. Cllr. Hoade and Mr. Owens, D.O.S, thanked Cllr. McHugh Farag for taking on the role of chairing the meetings of the Municipal District following the election of Cllr. Roche to Dail Eireann.

Cllr. Reddington expressed his condolences to Geraldine Byrne, Meeting Administrator on the death of her uncle, RIP and to Cllr. McHugh Farag and her family also on the death of her uncle, RIP.

Cllr. Reddington with the agreement of the Members commenced the MD Meeting with a presentation by Ms. Donna Gibbons, Executive Engineer on the R332 Dublin Road Active Travel Project.

Ms. Gibbons advised that the project had now commenced phase two which was concept design and options selection stage. The elected members welcomed the presentation and Ms. Gibbons took their questions and advised that she remained available for any follow-up and subsequent queries.

MDT250002

2. – Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of Municipal District of Tuam held on 9th December 2024

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh Farag and **seconded** by Cllr. Killilea the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 9th December 2024 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Killilea requested an opportunity for the Elected members to get together in camera to discuss the possibility of hosting awards for local heroes and to discuss the naming of streets and roundabouts in the town. It was agreed to have a meeting in camera after the MD meeting had concluded.

Cllr. Cuniffe asked if there was any update from Action Tuam and Mr. Owens advised that they had not yet received a positive reply for attendance at a future meeting and that he would reach out again. He

advised that as queried at the last meeting the most recent payment to this group from Galway County Council was in early February 2022 in the form of a grant for Christmas Lights.

MDT250003

3. – Three Year Roads Programme including the 2025 Annual Road Resurfacing Programme.

Ms. Lowe advised that the Tuam MD had drafted the 2025 - 2027 Three Year Roads Programme based on the 2024 Restoration Improvement Allocations, as required by the Department of Transport. She advised that this Programme has been undertaken since 1996 and that it helps the Council and Department of Transport in respect of strategic planning. She advised that she was seeking the Councillors agreement for the Three-Year Programme.

Ms Lowe further advised that an early draft of the 2025 Roads Resurfacing Programme is being presented today, again based on the 2024 allocations, for Councillors consideration and to give an indication of the intended works for 2025 in respect of resurfacing. Ms Lowe stated that no Roads programme allocations had been announced yet for 2025 and that when allocations were received end of February/March there would be a more detailed and comprehensive plan for 2025 (covering all Road Grants); which would be presented to the Councillors as part of the Schedule of MD works for their adoption. Today's objective is to secure approval for the Three-Year Roads Programme and to gain preliminary agreement on the draft 2025 roads resurfacing plan.

Ms. Lowe expressed her hope that roadwork allocations would increase in 2025, allowing for more extensive projects. She noted that presenting the 2025 resurfacing programme to councillors ahead of time would enable earlier tendering for certain works, potentially allowing for more time to complete the projects.

Ms. Lowe advised that while the Three Year Programme is a strategic plan indicating the pathway forward for the next three years the Roads section is cognisant that at times changes may have to be made and therefore there is an element of flexibility when sometimes there may be a need to react quickly to occurrences or factors affecting road conditions such as flooding, or rapid deterioration for some reason.

All the elected members expressed their thanks to Mr. Coyle and his team for their work put together the Roads Programme and said that they hoped in an emergency they could still contact the team regarding requirements if they occurred. Mr. Coyle advised that overall, the roads were not in bad condition in the MD but that some potholes may have occurred with the recent inclement weather, and they would be looked after in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Killilea said he would like to propose the three-year programme and Cllr. McHugh Farag seconded it. The Councillors also confirmed agreement in principle to the draft 2025 Roads resurfacing programme.

Ms. Lowe reiterated that the Department of Transport and TII have not yet provided any road allocations. Once these allocations are made, the complete Roads Programme will be presented to the Councillors for their review as a reserved function.

MDT250004

2. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens advised that Michael Hegarty, Manager of Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark has made contact seeking to update Tuam MD councillors with a presentation about progress

towards UNESCO Global Geopark status for Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark at either the February or March Meeting. Cllr. Hoade proposed they attend the February meeting and Cllr. Killilea Seconded this proposal. All members were agreeable to same.

Mr. Coyle gave an update on the Kilbannon Scheme and said that the Department had given their approval to proceed to tender which will have a closing date of early March. He advised that further sanction will be required from the Department of Transport in due course and all land compensation must be processed before any construction works commence. Ms. Lowe said it was positive to get this news so early in the year.

Mr. Coyle advised that works on the Sensory Garden in the Palace Fields would recommence in the coming month when the weather conditions improve with an anticipated official opening in April. He advised that they were hoping to have the Dog Park opened in late February and that funding was secured from the Participation Nation Outdoor Fund for the installation of a Basketball Court with expected works for this installation to take place in the coming months.

Mr. Coyle advised that regarding Bridge Street in Dunmore he was meeting with the consultants tomorrow. He said that new ecological surveys will be required and that it is proposed to bring the scheme to planning in May. Cllr. McHugh Farag asked how long the surveys may take and Ms. Lowe advised it was anticipated that the project would go to planning in May and therefore surveys would need to be completed prior to then.

Mr. Coyle also advised that safety schemes were being worked on with Ballygaddy Road Junction in design phase with works to commence in Q2. Corofin Road is also in design and expected to have public consultation in Q2 and the R333 Caherlistrane to Headford scheme will be completed in February.

MDT250005

5. - Municipal -District of Tuam Cathaoirleach's Business

Cllr. Cuniffe thanked the Tuam MD outdoor staff for their work in the big freeze by keeping the salt boxes in the estates topped up and the excellent care that was taken of the town. Cllr. Hoade wished to be associated also with the words of thanks to staff for all the challenging work that was put in over the period of harsh weather.

Cllr. Cuniffe enquired if the MD members could expect a presentation on the Railway Quarter. Mr. Owens advised that the regeneration officer was currently on a period of extended absence, and this would happen pending availability.

Cllr. Turner thanked the team for the salt bins provided in Dunmore but questioned the prices for the provision of same and suggested local suppliers may provide the bins at a better price. Cllr. Reddington concurred with same and referred to Cork County Council having a grant available to provide bins to communities at a cost of €50. Ms. Lowe advised that it was not just the provision of the bin, but considerations were given to the cost of replenishing stocks to the bin thereafter. She said we needed to build resilience into local communities and perhaps they could assist in stocking of bins or maybe grant schemes are a conversation that could be had with the Community and Rural Department.

Cllr. Hoade reported receiving complaints about dangerous potholes on the N84 between two bridges in Cloonboo. Mr. Coyle advised that contractors were scheduled to return in the next few weeks and would seek to get this repaired and that surveys also would be carried out on the national routes to identify any defects.

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Cllr. Hoade sought an update in relation to Headford courthouse at the next meeting. She advised that a survey had been completed and provided to Galway County Council before Christmas and awaiting confirmation if it will be considered as a public space and if so, how will the necessary funding be sought to do the required works. She also called for public engagement with residents in the area regarding same. Mr. Owens advised that he come back to February meeting with an update.

Cllr. Reddington referred to an HSA inspection in Headford Library and were advised that Galway County Council could not assist as they did not own the building but the library services and Headford hall lack funding for works required and advised that progress is being held up as they are waiting for insurance to come.

Cllr. Hoade requested that the weeds and grass growing at the Townhall area in Tuam would be addressed. Mr. Coyle advised they would request the outdoor crew to do a full clean up in the area when possible.

Cllr. McHugh Farag called for a fix for the ongoing issue with the Birmingham Road and said that Uisce Éireann (UE) were meant to fix it and have not come back. Cllr. Reddington referred to a similar issue with UE in Headford. Cllr. Cuniffe asked if UE required a road opening licence that they need to be held to account. Ms. Lowe advised they are required to do a road opening licence; they can operate without notice but then must apply retrospectively. She said she would be raising this issue again with the Road Management Office in Donegal.

Cllr. McHugh Farag raised the issue of car parking in Tuam town as she advised that the Cathedral carpark was full daily and often at maximum capacity and queried where people could then park if there was a funeral etc in the town. She asked if there was a means to facilitate workers on a daily rate of parking in the town.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan agreed with Cllr. McHugh Farag referring to the carpark at the old courthouse that remains closed and asked if a conversation could take place to get this car park reopened.

Ms. Lowe advised she had a contact and would follow up regarding same.

MDT250006

On the proposal of Cllr. McHugh Ryan seconded by Cllr. McHugh Farag the following motion was agreed I propose; -

That Galway County Council Tuam MD write to the Courts Service/ Department of Justice about either releasing or selling the front section of the plot of land where the parking was to GCC/Tuam MD.

Cllr. Killilea proposed a motion to raise awareness of an infrastructural lag in Garda Stations in the west of Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea seconded by Cllr. Turner the following motion was agreed I propose; -

That we write to the new "County Policing Committee" to ask that better investment in patrol cars for Tuam/Dunmore/Headford garda stations.

Cllr. Killilea referred to the bring centre and a number of bags that were dumped at the swimming pool outside the recycling area and asked for an update on the CCTV becoming operational. He also asked if

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the executive could contact those responsible for the service and review the current service being provided.

Mr. Owens advised that there are GDPR requirements to be met and that the Palace Grounds was one of four locations to be the subject of public consultation on the provision of CCTV. He confirmed that funding was in place to provide the cameras once the necessary public consultation process concluded. Mr. Owens outlined that he anticipated that CCTV could be operational by Q2 2025.

This was welcomed by the elected members with Cllr. Cunniffe stating it was important that the bins are emptied regularly. Mr. Coyle said it was unfortunate that the dumping had occurred and would review the clothes bank service. He said there is also a waste facility out the Athenry Road and that he is currently working on a Litter Management plan for the town, which will have contact names and numbers on it and will be brought before a future meeting.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan referred to a 4km stretch of walk in the town from St. Joseph's Park right around to the swimming pool that many people walk and there are no bins on the length of this walk to dispose of dog foul. Mr. Coyle advised that each bin takes resources to empty, and the onus is on the dog owner to take the rubbish home with them.

Cllr. Killilea asked the Director of Services, to obtain a report on the inner relief road of Tuam to see what stage it is at.

Cllr. Hoade referred to a commitment made two years previous for NOM to be given towards works required at Sylane and asked that these commitments now follow through as promised. A discussion then arose between the members as not all were present and elected members at that time. Cllr. Hoade asked if it would be possible to give NOM over a two-year period. A motion was proposed on this basis that a previous commitment was given by DOS, Derek Pender to allow NOM to be given over the two-year period and Mr. Owens said he was happy to give that commitment but first he would get clarification regarding same.

MDT250007

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade seconded by Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. Cunniffe, Cllr. Reddington, Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Turner the following motion was agreed

I propose; -

That Tuam LEA Councillors allocate the NOM to have works carried out at the Mass Path Road at Sylane NS as agreed.

It was agreed that Monday 10th February would be the date for the next MD Meeting

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:00

Approved by:



Date: 

Cllr. Reddington