

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 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 OIFIGIH: Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., SE, Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Geraldine Byrne – Meeting Administrator, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Prior to the MD Meeting Ms. Eithne Murphy, SEE and Ms. Ciara McDonagh, Executive Architect, Housing Department and together with their colleagues gave an update to the Tuam Municipal District councillors regarding the proposed Local Authority Housing Developments for Tuam MD. Ms. Murphy advised of proposed residential developments at Sun Street and High Street, both at design phase as well the Parkmore infill development. Ms. McDonagh presented two projects that have progressed to planning stage at Vicar Street and Galway Road. The elected members welcomed and thanked the Housing Department for the presentation and there was an opportunity for them to ask questions regarding the developments.

MDT250012

1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam held 10th February 2025.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Ryan the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 10th February 2025 were **agreed**,

Matters Arising:

Cllr. McHugh Farag requested an update from the court services regarding the parking at the front of the building. Mr. Owens advised the OPW had reverted regarding the courthouse and the reply remains the same. They are currently working with the OPW in relation to the roof and any proposals in relation to the carpark have been placed on hold. They advised that long term proposals would be reliant on appropriate funding and at present court services do not have these funds.

Cllr. Killilea asked if Galway County Council had the authority to CPO the courthouse. Cllr. McHugh Farag asked if a dereliction notice could be enforced. Cllr. Cuniffe suggested that Galway County Council invite the OPW to the next MD meeting. Mr. Owens advised he was not aware that the Court House was on the derelict sites register. He said in general the local authority has powers to CPO, but they need to be very clear on where the funding of same would come from and the CPO purpose in the first instance. Mr. Owens advised he would revert to the MD with an update on the derelict sites register.

Cllr. Killilea suggested that Galway County Council write to the OPW to enquire if it can be purchased. Mr. Coyle suggested it may be possible to suggest a rental agreement for minimal fee for 5 years and details such as resurfacing and carparks could be discussed. Cllr. Killilea suggested writing to the OPW and ask if A) they are interested in handing over the building or B) a joint venture. Mr. Owens advised

Municipal District of Tuam – 10th March 2025

that first clarity was required on funding source to acquire the building and the basis for any proposal relating to a joint venture. He said that any indication that the local authority is seeking a joint venture indicates funding is available and this must be considered.

MDT250013

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

That the MD office write to the OPW, Court Service and Galway East TD's to request a meeting regarding the old court site on Dublin Road and the loss of the carparking facilities.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan requested the timeline for the Active Travel Project on the Dublin Road and queried when it would go to public consultation, as she had been contacted from concerned locals regarding children's safety. Mr. Coyle advised that it is at preliminary design phase by Systra, as per presentation given in January it will be aligned with the new school campus and all plans will be complimentary. There will be a public consultation, that consultants and the active travel team will look at viability. He said he will seek an update from the AT team regarding specific dates for a public consultation.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan queried if there had been any audit on traffic lights around the town since the Storm Eowyn. Mr. Coyle advised that its hoped the traffic lights at Ballygaddy Road will be upgraded this year, that there were plans to upgrade the Weir Road and the Dublin Road would be looked at in line with Active Travels plans.

Cllr. Hoade also asked if NOM monies had all been allocated to Sylane and if a start could be made on works required. Mr. Coyle advised that currently 6 out of 7 Councillors had made the commitment to have the funding allocated and would need to have funds allocated before commencement. Cllr. Hoade asked if the MD will be writing to the board to say that the Sylane project will be progressing. Cllr. Reddington suggested that if everyone had allocated their NOM that a letter could then be issued. Cllr. Hoade queried what the process would be if only 6 Councillors allocated monies would it proceed. Mr. Owens advised that the full costing would have to be allocated, and it will be a matter for the Councillors to decide how to make up any shortfall.

Cllr. Hoade referred to the works required in the Court House in Headford and asked if there is any indication of provision of the funding required so that it will be operational. Mr. Owens advised there has been engagement, a basic structural survey was completed but they don't have a detailed costing. He advised that it has been confirmed that if the building is to be reused for community use there will not be a requirement of change of use for planning, therefore no Part 8 process will be required.

He advised that expressions of interest for the reuse of the building for community groups wishing to use it will likely be on consult.ie and all groups registered with the PPN will be notified. He said it will require a Section 183 in relation to any lease, and there will be conditions in relation to same. He said the next step is the expression of interest to local community groups.

Cllr. Reddington said they had already sent in a licence application encompassing all the ideas from community groups and uses and queried if this application was already made why there was a need to do so again.

Cllr. Reddington said that a transport study for Headford was completed in 2020 by O'Connor Sutton and Cronin, and asked where progress is on the transportation study as people are frustrated. Mr. Coyle advised he was meeting the AT team tomorrow and he would talk to Paula Higgins, SEE in relation to

Municipal District of Tuam – 10th March 2025

same. He said that any info compiled by OCSC would have been shared with Systra. Cllr. Hoade asked of the Systra report superseded the OCS report and Mr. Coyle said that this survey was originally requested by the MD to gather information.

Cllr. Hoade reported illegal dumping of two mattresses on the side of the road on the N84 on Saturday and Sunday night she said illegal dumping is a huge blight on our countryside and asked what actions can be taken by the Local Authority. Mr. Coyle advised that dumping was a plague across the county, that reports were investigated by the community wardens and enforcement was brought forward where possible, but it can be very hard to find evidence. Cllr. Hoade asked if there were any chances of installing CCTV cameras at these dumping spots. Mr. Owens advised that covert CCTV was no longer permissible under GDPR but overt is. He said there is proposals for CCTV at the Palace Grounds and will check the position on the N84. Mr. Coyle added that such projects were very costly and there was a lot of data protection requirements to also be complied with.

Cllr. Cunniffe asked for an update re the outdoor drinking Bye law and if there had been progress on the Local Community Safety Partnership. He said after all the work done around the Mill area it was disappointing to see the unruly behaviour there and asked for it to be prioritised. Mr. Owens advised that bye laws have been flagged and members of staff have been contacted but unfortunately it has been advised that the Minister does not have the power to appoint the Chair as originally thought, therefore they must wait for further guidance from the department in relation to same. Mr. Owens said it was a matter for the safety partnership to appoint a chair and has no time frame for same at this time.

MDT250014

2. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

No business arose.

MDT250015

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

Cllr. Reddington said there would be a residential land tax briefing at the next plenary meeting. He advised the members that as agreed at meeting held in February the members will decide on allocation of their LPT funding at the April meeting, advising the members to engage with the Engineers and agree potential works.

Cllr. Reddington referred to a road in Caherlistrane where road works were completed by contractors and within 8 months were falling apart. Cllr. Reddington said that he wanted to be clear that the own roads team do perfect work but said that if Galway County Council are spending money on contractors, they need to ensure standards are satisfactory.

Cllr. Killilea sought an update as to when works would be complete in the park to repair the storm damage. Mr. Coyle advised that works had commenced in the Palace Grounds, and they would be looking at opening sections over the next few days when it was deemed safe to do so. He said he was liaising with the Biodiversity Officer regarding native species back in at the back of St. Josephs Park.

Cllr. Killilea asked if they Cllrs could give NOM to have trees removed and replanted in some estates where required.

MDT250016

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

Municipal District of Tuam – 10th March 2025

That the Tuam MD office write to invite Minister of Health and HSE CEO Bernard Closter, to ask them to immediately open the new day care centre at the Joe and Helen O'Toole CNU. The day care centre at Toghermore was closed 6 weeks ago with no contingency plan in place to bridge the gap.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the recruitment of outdoor staff in the MD and asked if there was any additional GO's in Headford and Tuam and asked if appointment dates were imminent. She requested that if retirees advise of their intention to retire their posts should be backfilled as a priority. Mr. Owens advised that 80 additional staff were coming on board from the strategic workforce plan to include 10 new additional GO's in the areas 2 per 5 MD's and Mr. Coyle added that there was a replacement commencing in the coming weeks for a retiree in Tuam MD, he said there would also be one additional GO in Headford and one in Dunmore.

Cllr. Hoade said she received a few calls in relation to signs being taken down from roads and road numbers replacing them. She said that locals wanted these signs replaced and asked if they could have the name sign as well as the road numbers if they are necessary. Mr. Coyle that this may be national road signage, that he would follow up and revert.

Cllr. McHugh Farag referred to the swimming pool facing a massive overflow with the closing of the Palace Grounds car park temporarily and asked if this can be examined and reopened as soon as possible.

Cllr. Turner referred to the very serious road traffic accident that had occurred recently on the N17 advising that one girl was still in Beaumont in a serious condition. He said that a local woman had taken to getting a petition signed locally to get an island/safety measure added to this turn off at Kilclooney. He said according to the TII there have been no fatalities and have zero reports of incidents occurring there. He said locals have advised of multiple incidents occurring and said its time to act now before there is a fatality.

He asked in relation to the Milltown National School, if it is possible to liaise with the local guards to have a presence along that stretch to deter speed. Cllr. Killiela added he understood that in relation to the speed vans it was determined that some locations along that stretch were not safe for them.

Cllr. Cuniffe reiterated the dangers at the Kilclooney turn off on the N17 and advised that the Gardenfield Marley turn offs are in the exact same situation. He called for major analysis to be done on such a dangerous and very busy crossroads/junction. He asked what action can be taken and if there was any mechanism available to put pressure on TII to get funding.

Mr. Coyle advised speed was a huge issue on the N17 and he understood the frustrations. He said the RSA have vision zero by 2050 and lot needs to be examined, referring to the 7 points of road safety. He said there are huge issues on the road speeding, distraction drunk and drink driving but main issue is reducing speed. He suggested the elected members lobbying the Dept of Transport regarding a permanent fixed speed cameras like Moycullen, which has a visual effect as people are more aware.

Mr. Coyle advised he would be meeting with the Gardai and will get as much data as possible so can get back to the TII to show the requirement. He said he has a meeting with TII on 20th March and would bring the matters raised to their attention then. He advised that he has already spoken to Western Regional Safety Officer who is aware and looking into the issue.

Cllr. Cuniffe said there is a call for traffic calming measures, like those implemented at Knockdoe. Mr. Coyle advised that these must meet criteria, and it was down to safety measures and some traffic calming in unsuitable areas can have a reverse effect.

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

That the Tuam MD office write to invite Minister of State & Transport Sean Canney, Pete Roche, Albert Dolan and Louis O Hara To a meeting to discuss lack of funding for N83 and dangers associated with speed along the N17 and Milltown national School and all National Roads in Tuam MD.

Cllr. Killilea asked if estates don't have a resident's committees or association, how will they fund improvements. He said where landlord's own houses, they are not obliged to give a fee to the resident's association asked if any help can be given. Mr. Coyle suggested that a list of said estates be provided and they would see what is required.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan referred to two sporting groups locally that had recently purchased new equipment and had a query regarding a container for storage and if Galway County Council could provide an area at the Tuam Scout Hall for safe storage of same. Mr. Owens advised that no such facility was provided, and the group would first need to consider if planning permission was required for said container, particularly if placing it on a property owned by a third party.

Ms Byrne advised that she had been in contact with GRETB regarding a course for applying for a General Operative post and that they are interested and engagement at early stages is ongoing.

Mr. Coyle advised that Dunmore River Walk was going to Public Consultation tomorrow 11th March and was available on Consult.ie with the closing date for feedback Wednesday 2nd April.

In relation to the roads programme were still waiting for proposals from the TII nationally and would be following up with them.

Cllr. Reddington thanked all Tuam MD staff for their ongoing work.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:25

Approved by:

Cllr. Andrew Reddington Date: 14/04/2025

Cllr. Reddington