

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY
ON MONDAY 14th APRIL 2025 AT 2.30 pm.**

CATHAOIRLEACH:	Cllr. Andrew Reddington
I LÁTHAIR FREISIN	Cllr. Cuniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Killilea, Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Turner.
AS LÁTHAIR	Cllr. McHugh Farag
BAILL OIFIGIGH:	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.

Cllr. Reddington welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Junior Minister Seán Canney, Albert Dolan TD, Peter Roche TD and Louis O'Hara TD for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Cllr. Reddington advised that Rachel Lowe, SE was attending her final meeting as she was moving to Roscommon County Council and said she would be a loss to Galway County Council.

The Councillors congratulated Ms. Lowe and wished her well in her new post, acknowledging the contribution she had made to Galway County Council over 20 years. They referred to her as fair and transparent and referenced the legacy she would leave behind, such as initial stages of the Kilbannon Scheme and purchasing of strategic sites whilst working in the Housing Department. The Minister and TD's present also wished Ms. Lowe good luck and echoed the tributes paid to her acknowledging her commitment and dedication and their good working relationships with her. On behalf of the Tuam Municipal District, Mr. Coyle thanked Ms. Lowe for her outstanding commitment and unwavering support over the years and said her leadership and dedication was inspiring.

Ms. Lowe thanked everyone and said she was genuinely touched by their kind words, she said she enjoyed working in Tuam and Athenry Municipal Districts, and said with democracy under pressure local democracy has never been so important and it was a pleasure to work with all the Councillors. She said she was optimistic about the Galway Ring Road and thanked everyone for their courtesy and respect shown to her.

Cllr. Reddington referred to *MDT250017*.

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. McHugh Ryan highlighted concerns raised by local triathlon and cycling clubs regarding the hazardous condition of hard shoulders throughout the Tuam Municipal District, making them unsafe for cycling. She inquired about potential funding to address the issue. Additionally, she expressed concerns about the dangers near Milltown National School, citing the lack of speed camera measures, and pointed out safety risks at the crossroads in Gardenfield, where parents frequently drop off and collect children.

Cllr. Turner welcomed the attending TDs and discussed several critical pinch points affecting residents and road users. He specifically mentioned the Kilclooney junction on the N17, where a serious accident had recently occurred, as well as safety concerns at the Corofin junction. He also inquired about the Milltown to Gortnagunna Scheme, which has remained unfunded for seven years, and commented on the deteriorating condition of the area between Milltown village and N17 Superstore. Additionally, he emphasized the dangers posed by speeding vehicles outside Milltown National School.

Cllr. Hoade urged that the problems were also addressed on the N84 referring to a serious accident at Balroebuck and dangers at Grange and Cloughanover, with Currandrum another issue raised.

Cllr. Cuniffe highlighted concerns about the junction at Kilclooney, noting that councillors had been contacted by individuals who were felt unsafe, while waiting to turn off from a national route. He warned that a serious accident at the Gardenfield/Marley junction was inevitable and urged local TDs to address these safety concerns, particularly considering reports that the TII had deemed the Kilclooney junction satisfactory.

Cllr. Killilea expressed gratitude to the deputies for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit Tuam and congratulated Minister Seán Canney on his appointment as Super Junior Minister. He recalled that a motion regarding Cloonmore and Corofin was raised in 2015, yet the response remained unchanged. He voiced frustration over the prolonged delays, emphasizing that Galway County Council had no control over the matter and urged the Oireachtas to continue advocating for a resolution.

Additionally, Cllr. Killilea requested an update on the proposed Bus Corridor to Two Mile Ditch, noting that Galway City Council had developed a plan but later shelved it. Minister Canney acknowledged that the issue had been ongoing since 2004 and explained that Galway City Council would need to undertake a Part 8 process. He stated that the matter had been raised with the CEO but could not progress further unless the City Council acted.

MDT250018

On the proposal of Cllr. Killilea seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan the following motion was agreed.

I propose; -

That we write to the CE of Galway City Council and ask them to prioritise the progression of the planned bus corridor at Two Mile Ditch. I understand that works in preparation has been done and its ready to go to Part 8.

Minister Canney said that the road leading into Galway city environs will have to be examined in conjunction with the Galway Ring Road project.

Minister Canney highlighted the need for projects in certain locations, noting that a technical case must be presented for each junction, including those on existing roads like Kilclooney. He pointed out that current legislation prevents the guards from sharing accident information with Galway County Council, necessitating legal changes. Additionally, he expressed concerns about the inadequate funding stream, emphasising that past priorities have focused on other issues rather than road infrastructure.

In relation to Milltown school, Minister Canney stated that a location for the school in the actual village would have been safer and said that they need to work with the board of management regarding a set down area. He advised that the TII cannot provide land for a set down, it needs to be sourced by the school and board of management or alternatively approach the Department of Education to relocate the school. Mr. Coyle advised that Milltown NS are involved in the Safe Routes to Schools under the Active Travel but that the school may apply for Clár funding for a set down area.

Minister Canney explained that a lack of overall of funding is contributing to the poor state of the national roads. He noted the absence of a facility where members can engage with TII and emphasised the need to improve communication. Processes can be too long and cumbersome, and he is looking at introducing a section in the Department to review the method and duration of projects.

He highlighted the need for further road safety educational plans for school students and road users.

Speeding, distraction, and impaired driving due to alcohol or drugs are major contributors to road accidents. Minister Canney referenced a recent presentation he attended with transition year students, which effectively captured their attention and conveyed an important message. He emphasised that this initiative should be expanded to reach a wider audience.

Pete Roche, TD, said the junctions referenced had enough width for slipways and traffic calming measures. He said it is also down to the local Gardai to enforce the law. Stating that the TII are quite complex, and interactions are difficult as they are not accepting of local knowledge as case history and the data is linked with a necessity of funding. Mr. Roche suggested a priority list was compiled and presented, and a definitive timeline sought for its delivery.

Albert Dolan, TD, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside others and voiced his hope that discussions would begin on finding a solution. He acknowledged the road safety concerns raised by constituents, which are clearly visible when driving. He emphasised the need for representatives to assess whether the current process is effective and questioned where ultimate responsibility lies—whether it falls under the Roads Project Office or is managed separately. He committed to bringing this issue to the Dáil and inquired whether funding applications had been submitted for each concern raised.

Louis O'Hara, TD, expressed thanks for opportunity to attend the meeting and said understood the frustrations after a serious accident and cannot wait for more. He stressed the need for increased engagement and stated that, in his view, Galway County Council should be actively collaborating with TII. He called for a faster process, the implementation of clear timelines, and a comprehensive update on the status of each project.

Mr. Coyle advised as part of his role is involved with TII on maintenance. Since 2013, €17 million worth of additional funding was secured but there has been a significant reduction in the last couple of years.

He advised that he is dealing with TII regarding funding for defects around the county. However, he noted that the previous three-year programme for such repairs is no longer in place.

Mr. Coyle stated that he holds quarterly meetings with Tuam Gardaí. He emphasised that improvements depend on securing the necessary funding, with a list of planned upgrades currently in progress. He noted that certain junctions may require land acquisition for upgrades, potentially necessitating a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Additionally, he highlighted that many incidents are occurring but are not being reported, stressing the importance of documenting each case to ensure accurate data collection.

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Ms. Lowe explained that there are two road authorities: the Local Authority and TII, each with distinct responsibilities. She noted that TII focuses on safety, working alongside Local Authorities and the National Roads Project Office to identify safety concerns and relay information upward. TII is responsible for prioritising projects, while the NRPO office staff, employed by Galway County Council, carry out implementation under TII's direction.

Minister Canney stated that Minister Darragh O'Brien oversees funding and, while involved in other departmental areas, will collaborate on efforts to secure an increase. He emphasised the importance of submitting proposals for individual projects to seek funding and suggested that all seven Councillors work together on a collective submission.

MDT250019

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

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

Matters Arising:

Cllr. Hoade requested an update in relation to the outdoor staffing needs and the filling of the General Operative (GO) posts. Mr. Owens advised that to date 45/80 additional posts had been filled as identified under the staff review. He advised that a further 10 GOs were yet to be recruited. Presently 4 of these posts were offered and accepted, 4 posts awaiting, and 2 posts not yet accepted.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired if the policing committee were any further along in approving bye laws regarding outdoor drinking. Mr. Owens said that there was no further progress made since the last meeting and further guidance was awaited from the department.

Cllr. Reddington said in relation to the General Operative positions he feared that with the requirement to offer the posts to Irish Water Staff there was a fear that the movement would cause replacement of existing staff. Mr. Owens advised that there is a requirement that any suitable post advertised must be offered to water services staff until 2026.

MDT250020

2. – To consider and adopt the 2025 Annual Schedule of Works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Tuam Municipal District.

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed by all. Thanks was given to all involved in its preparation.

MDT250021

3. - Beaupark, Tuam, Co. Galway – Taking in charge (Declaration to be a public road) Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Killilea and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Ryan it was **agreed that Beaupark, Tuam, Co. Galway be declared a public road as follows.**

Road Description for Beaupark as follows:

Point A-B

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- Road commencing at its junction with the L-6113 in the townland of TOWNPARKS (5th Division) and extending north a distance of 59M and ending at point B in the Townland of TOWNPARKS (5th Division)

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Killilea and seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan and agreed by all.

MDT250022

4. - Approval of Tuam Municipal District LPT Fund 2025

Mr. Owens circulated a circular in relation to proposed allocation of €92,000 of the allocated €143,590 funding allocated to Tuam MD under the Tuam Municipal District LPT Fund 2025 as below.

PROJECT	Funding
Public Lighting at Caherlistrane	€55,0000
Public Lighting at Kilcloghans, Tuam (Ducting if required)	€25,000 (€15,000)
Match Funding for the Gateway to the Corrib ORIS Project – Cycle Route (Signage) at Clarin, Headford	€2,000
Tuam MD LPT Community Fund 2025	€10,000
Total Funding	€92,000 (€107,000)
Balance	€51,590 (€36,590)

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe Ryan and agreed by all.

MDT250023

5. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business

Mr. Owens advised correspondence issued from the OPW since last meeting in relation to the Court House on the Dublin Road. He said that the OPW have been required to do work and to complete a structural survey of the two buildings to determine their present condition.

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Separately Mr. Owens said a discussion on the courthouse being placed on the derelict sites register had taken place and he has requested a report on it which would initiate the process. Cllr. Sean Cunniffe referenced a previous discussion regarding the façade, querying if it was only the façade being a protected structure or if it was the whole building, Mr. Owens advised it would be the entire building as once its listed it includes everything. Mr. Owens said engagement will take place with the Conservation Officer.

Mr. Coyle circulated an update to all elected members regarding current and ongoing works in Tuam MD.

Referencing the Kilbannon Scheme which he advised has moved to Tender with a closing date in early March. He said a contractor has been identified and further sanction is required from the Department before works can commence.

In relation to the Palace Grounds, he advised works have recommenced in the sensory garden, it is envisaged that the dog park will be open in May and works are to commence in the coming month on the installation of the basketball court.

Mr. Coyle stated that Galway County Council is working to revitalise the design and planning submission process for the N83 through Dunmore in collaboration with the current consultants. He noted that the public realm aspect of the scheme will be available on Consult.ie in the coming days and proposed bringing the project to the planning stage in May.

Cllr. Killilea asked if public consultation had closed for Ballygaddy Park and what was the next step. Mr. Coyle said it was on the list for re-examination with another number of projects which will be reviewed in due course.

Cllr. Killilea requested if some time could be set aside to consider renaming of the town streets at the next MD meeting.

Cllr. Reddington emphasised the need for a response regarding Corofin Road and requested that all relevant parties be copied in. Mr. Coyle explained that they are awaiting one final detail before posting the information on Galway.ie and assured that a follow-up email with clarification will be sent.

It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for Thursday 29th May at 4.00PM.

MDT250024

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

Cllr. Hoade enquired if the monies were all now allocated for Sylane. Mr. Coyle said he would clarify and when finalised that the GSS will mobilise a team. Ms. Lowe suggested that the intention to take in charge was advertised now.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan enquired if there were any plans to repair footpaths at Farnamartin Estate which are in a bad state of repair all the way into Tuam on right hand side. Mr. Coyle advised that currently there was no funding available but would review. The issue has been discussed with the Minister to explore the possibility of securing separate funding for local offices to meet their specific needs.

Cllr. Turner requested when applications would be available for community funds. Mr. Owens said once it is published, he would send notice of same.

Cllr. Killilea said that business people in the town were frustrated with the level of ticketing when dropping off supplies to their premises. He said the spirit of the rules is to keep the traffic flowing through the town and asked if there is any way business owners can be facilitated. Ms. Lowe advised there a business

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owners permit did not exist, but one-hour free parking was going before the June meeting of the SPC for Ballinasloe. Mr. Owens advised that in relation to parking, there are bye laws in place for off street parking in each MD, but one bye law for on street parking is applicable for the county. Cllr. Killilea requested that grace was given by the wardens, stating that he is not giving out about the wardens but that the bye laws should give scope. Cllr. Cuniffe said that the whole spirit is to keep the town flowing and enquired if a permit may be an option for business owner.

MDT250025

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

I propose; -

That the Tuam MD revert to bi-monthly meetings from the June Meeting 2025 and to amend standing orders of such. Standing orders allow for meetings to be called where items of importance need to be raised.

MDT250026

On the proposal of Cllr. Turner seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan the following motion was agreed.

I propose; -

The installation of a permanent fixed speed camera on the N17 at Milltown National School.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 16:34

Approved by:

 **Date:** 29/05/2023

Cllr. Reddington