

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD AT  
THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM, TUAM, COUNTY GALWAY  
ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 AT 4.00 pm.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Andrew Reddington

**I LÁTHAIR FREISIN** Cllr. Cuniffe, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. McHugh Ryan, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. McHugh Farag, Cllr. Killilea was logged on remotely.

**AS LÁTHAIR**

**BAILL OIFIGH:** Mr. Michael Owens, D.O.S., Liam Hanrahan, D.O.S., Mr. John Coyle – SEE, Mr. Sean Kennedy – EE, Mr. Tom Regan – EE, Ms. Sinéad Naughton – Staff Officer.

Cllr. Reddington welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr. McHugh Farag expressed her condolences to Michael Owens, DOS on the passing of his mother Mary, RIP on behalf of herself and all the elected members. Liam Hanrahan, DOS, welcomed Mr. Owens back to work and extended his sympathies to him on behalf of the executive. Mr. Owens thanked everyone for their words of sympathy.

Cllr. Reddington with agreement by all said that item no. 2 on the agenda would first be heard.

**MDT250027**

**2. –Tuam Station House Part 8 – Consideration of Chief Executives Report**

Mr. Hanrahan introduced Ronan Conway, A/SEE, Urban & Rural and Regeneration team. Mr. Conway advised that in advance of the meeting he had circulated the Chief Executives Report in respect of the Tuam Station House Part 8. The report recommends the granting of permission subject to 10 no. conditions. The report was accompanied by a package of updated CGI renderings of the proposed development in addition to the proposed plans and elevations.

He advised that subject to approval by the members, an application for capital funding to progress the project will be made on Friday May 30<sup>th</sup> to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Funds 'THRIVE' programme.

The elected members welcomed the development and enquired whether the legacy parking issue was taken into consideration. Mr. Conway advised they were working behind the scenes on the wider project of the station quarter where parking would also be considered and expected over the next few months to be holding a workshop for the elected members to develop the next stage – he said that the Station Quarter was a catalyst of the project, and the remainder will be a natural progression.

Cllr. Cuniffe enquired if the internal partitions could be deconstructed easily. Mr. Conway advised that the design follows the original footprint, that there is flexibility within the building and that it is intended to liaise with the potential occupants before the process is finalised. Cllr. Cuniffe questioned the access to the building by the community and who would look after same. Mr. Conway advised that there would be a business and administrative officer employed to manage and operate these buildings such as that in Portumna Courthouse and Loughrea Town Hall.

Cllr. Killilea enquired about the timeframe and when would they know if funding application was successful. Mr. Conway advised the expected cost was 6.5 million and would hope evaluation would be

complete and a green light received to bring the project forward by the end of the Summer. He said it would be 100% funded and no match funding would be required .

This agenda item was proposed by Cllr. McHugh Farag and seconded by Cllr. Cunniffe and agreed.

Mr. Conway gave thanks and acknowledgement to all the team involved in its preparation.

Cllr. Cunniffe enquired when works were likely to commence on the Town Hall and J.P. O'Carroll, Senior Executive Technician said expected the project to go to tender Q1 2026 with 14 months contract.

**MDT250028**

### **1. – Confirmation of the Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam held 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. McHugh Ryan and **seconded** by Cllr. Cunniffe the minutes of the meeting of the Tuam Municipal District held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were **agreed**,

#### **Matters Arising:**

Cllr. Cunniffe raised concern re the ongoing issue of the dumping at the clothes banks in Tuam town outside the swimming pool. He said people are not attempting to put the clothes in the banks but leaving them outside and putting a drain on the resources of the CE scheme having to clean up daily. He said the only solution is to get CCTV Cameras and some prosecutions to deter people and public awareness created.

Cllr. McHugh Farag said that CCTV had been bought to the plenary twice and cannot be fixed in the short term due to GDPR limitations and queried other options. Cllr. McHugh Farag said that the charities that own the bins should be maintaining them, suggesting if they could not be maintained clean and tidy they should be removed.

Mr. Coyle advised that it is dumping that is occurring at the clothes bins, that 9 out of 10 times the clothes bins are not full. He said that the charities are collecting when full. He said anything not in bins must be removed and put in the compressor or dumped.

He said a CCTV oversight committee has been set up within the council with himself and various other department representatives, it is looking at roles and responsibilities and the GDPR requirements. Mr. Coyle said that they need to work through a county wide CCTV policy, but it will be a significant cost.

Mr. Owens suggested that consulting with colleagues in the Environment Department in the first instance to have the bins removed for a temporary trial period may be an option and review again. It was agreed that Mr. Coyle would contact the Environment section regarding same.

Cllr. Reddington requested that the bins in Headford were also reviewed as the openings could be more restrictive to prevent litter being spread by birds. Mr. Coyle said he would review the matter.

Cllr. Reddington requested that the N84 needs to be funded. Cllr. Hoade referred to a submission made to have the N84 considered as part of the National Development Plan and that it was put forward to the North and Western Regional Assembly.

Cllr. Hoade requested an update on taking in charge at Sylane. Mr. Coyle advised that funding for this year had been allocated and works would be done this summer and that it was currently going through the taking in charge application process.

Both Cllr. Reddington and Cllr. Hoade requested an update on the Corofin road and said that the residents were seeking an update. Mr. Coyle advised that he has been in contact with the consultant and that they

hoped that a design would be available on consult.ie within a fortnight which would give an opportunity for public consultation and that it is then intended to apply for Low-Cost Accident funding for the scheme.

Cllr. Turner asked for an update on the Kilclooney junction. Mr Coyle advised that it is under the remit of the TII and he will be in contact with the relevant safety officer. Mr. Coyle said he is also due to meet with local Gardaí on the collision prevention programme to gain access to data regarding safety concerns and intends to forward data the TII with a view to getting a scheme moving with next 12 months. Cllr. Cunniffe asked if there was a centrally held database on accidents. Mr. Coyle advised that there was some data captured on the pavement management system – major, minor injuries and fatalities but this was removed due to issues with data protection.

Cllr. Turner referred to near fatality at R332 at Castlegrove where Coillte owned property and a tree came down on a car, and asked was there anything that the council could do as there are 2 or 3 obvious trees that are dangerous on Coillte owned property. Mr. Coyle said he had emailed Coillte and has not received a response to date. Mr. Coyle advised that under the Roads Act landowners must take responsibility, they need to maintain roadside trees and that they are found to be liable should anything happen. There is a notice placed in the paper to this effect

Cllr. Hoade asked if there was any storm follow up reports available. Mr. Coyle said he will follow up with the Director. Mr. Coyle advised that trees were an issue, and he will circulate a document regarding landowner responsibility to the elected members.

**MDT250029**

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

That Galway County Council invite Coillte to a meeting of the Tuam MD to access how they will manage their property which are on the roadside.

**MDT250030**

**3. - Hazel Court, Farrannamartin, Tuam Co Galway – Taking in Charge (Declaration of a road to be a public road)**

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Cunniffe and **seconded** by Cllr. McHugh Farag it was **agreed that Hazel Court, Farrannamartin, Tuam Co Galway be declared a public road as follows.**

Road Description for Hazel Court, Farrannamartin as follows:

**Point A-B**

- Road commencing at its junction with the R939 (formerly N17) in the townland of KILLALOONTY and extending south a distance of 180.5M and ending at point B in the Townland of FARRANNAMARTIN

**MDT250031**

## **4. - Adoption of the revised the Tuam Municipal District Standing Orders**

It was agreed by all members to amend standing order no. 1 that the frequency of meetings held should be changed from monthly to bimonthly

1. Unless upon any occasion when it is otherwise fixed by statute or by resolution of the municipal district members, Ordinary Meetings of the municipal district members shall be held bimonthly at 14.30pm on Monday of the second week of the month. A schedule of Ordinary Meetings of the municipal district members for the ensuing year shall be approved at each Annual meeting.

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

**MDT250032**

## **5. - Municipal District of Tuam Director's Business**

Mr. Owens referred to the Community Safety Partnership. He said that the Minister has issued draft regulations, and the process is due to close for feedback to the Department tomorrow. He said that the safety partnership coordinator are due to meet to finalise terms of reference for a committee to be formed. Mr. Owens advised it will then be a matter for the Safety Partnership to appoint their own chair from the membership.

Mr. Coyle advised that the Kilbannon scheme has now been tendered with a contractor identified and further sanction requested from the Department prior to any construction works commencing.

He advised that works are continuing in the Sensory Garden in the Palace Grounds and that works were completed on the installation of the 3v3 Basketball Court.

In relation to Dunmore, he advised that the bat survey is complete. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to carry out the Road Safety Audit with the date to be confirmed and a further preplanning meeting is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, with Part 8 to take place next month. He said a mural will be going on a wall in Dunmore and encouraged the members to come forward with ideas and proposals.

Mr. Coyle referred to an email he circulated to all elected members regarding the requirement for a new Traffic Management Plan for Tuam town and said funding required for same would be in the region of €32,000. He also advised that the Parking Permit application system needed to be reviewed as there is danger of over saturation resulting in limited availability of adequate parking around the town. Cllr. Cunniffe said it may give latitude to talk about permits for Business owners. Cllr. McHugh Farag suggested that discussion groups need to be held and see if it can be raised as a funding item through the councils budget, she suggested it go back to plenary and a budget is put forward for the county.

Mr. Owens said that the Traffic Management Plan is an executive function and that the paid parking would be a reserved function and that it would be a matter for members to consider any change in parking charges.

Cllr. Turner enquired in relation to the LPT fund when groups might apply for this year's fund.

Cllr. Hoade enquired re the timeframe for the transport plan in Headford, with public consultation stage not reached after 3 years. Mr. Coyle advised that he would be meeting with Paula Higgins, SEE Active Travel next week and would seek an update.

**MDT250033**

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

Cllr. Reddington referred to the success of Africa Day in the Palace Grounds and complimented all involved. He acknowledged the renaming of Bru Bride which was officially changed yesterday to what it was recognised as locally.

Cllr. Reddington mentioned that Headfest was starting at the weekend and wished all well and compliments to all involved.

Cllr. Turner advised that he had emailed Eileen Ruane, DOS, regarding absence of a mobile library service in Milltown due to the non-availability of a driver and said there would likely be no replacement for 6 months. He said that the library service was essential to the rural community and requested it be reinstated as a priority.

Cllr. McHugh Farag enquired if they were any closer to getting a bus shelter on the inner relief road. Mr. Coyle advised he would follow up with the Active Travel team. She also requested if it would be possible to have an Urn Wall in Tuam Cemetery as it was previously proposed and asked if it could be an option seeing as so many graveyards are now so close to capacity.

Cllr. McHugh Farag requested an update in relation to the upgrading required on the gates and railings in the cemetery in Tuam. Mr. Owens advised that there was a costing being done and said they would consider what potential funding was available and would look at potential to include the Urn wall in the cemetery.

Cllr. Hoade wished to pay tribute to Edel Talbot, Librarian in Headford on her retirement and thank her on behalf of the people of Headford for her work and said she was happy to see that the library is being kept open in the interim of her replacement.

Cllr. Cunniffe advised that there is a delegation of people that have requested to make a deputation in relation to works in the palace grounds. They wish to come in and give their view on what the park should be.

**MDT250034**

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

That a delegation of local people with regard to the future development of the Palace Grounds be allowed to address the MD prior to our next meeting.

Mr. Owens said there was a commitment given at previous meeting that any future development in the Palace Grounds would be the subject to of public consultation.

Cllr. McHugh Ryan enquired if following on from public consultation in relation to Farranamartin Housing Development would residents get the opportunity to see the changes that have been made. Mr. Owens advised that 30 submissions were received, and we currently being reviewed and said that a Part 8 report would issue to members at the next MD meeting, there would be no further recommendations and members could accept same with or without the amendments.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, at 2.30 was proposed as the date for the next meeting followed directly by the Annual Meeting by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. McHugh Ryan and agreed.

*Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin @ 17:41*

Approved by:

Cllr. Andrew Reddington Date: 16/06/25

Cllr. Reddington