

NEWSLETTER

TUAM

**GALWAY EAST
AUTUMN 2019**



INDEPENDENT

**SEÁN
CANNEY_{TD}**

Welcome to my Tuam Newsletter.

As the biggest town in the Galway East, Tuam reflects my ambitions and vision for the whole constituency.

The people of Tuam have the skills, creativity and work ethic to help the town achieve its full potential. My job is to deliver on the plans that will create a vibrant economy and an environment which we can be proud of.

We need to grow our businesses and enterprises so that we will have more jobs, greater prosperity and a better standard of living for all our people.

We must also protect the vulnerable. No one should be left behind.

This newsletter is a good opportunity to update you on the progress so far and the work that is still to be done.

My constituency office is here to help and advise on a whole range of issues for individuals, clubs and organisations.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The details are at the bottom of this page.

Best Wishes.

Seán Canney TD

Minister for Rural Affairs,

Natural Resources and Digital Development

THE FUTURE FOR TUAM



Meeting Action Tuam with Minister for Trade, Business and Enterprise Pat Breen TD Left to right Paddy Coyne, Chairperson Action Tuam, Minister Seán Canney TD, Lisa Cooley, Manager AIB Tuam, Minister Pat Breen TD and David Burke, Editor of the Tuam Herald

We have had great news on many fronts over the past few years with more jobs for Tuam, a roadmap for primary education for the next 40 years, plans to regenerate the town centre and a major investment in our health care facilities.

As a member of the Government, I am working in close co-operation with my fellow Ministers to advance the interests of our constituency, for example the negotiations for the 32 Educate Together school.

As Minister of State in the Department of Rural and Community Development, I am responsible for many of the supports that are vital to Rural Ireland.

The Department manages the Rural Regeneration Fund, the Town and Village Fund, LEADER funding, CLÁR funding, the Outdoor Recreation Fund and the Local Improvement Scheme for roads.

These funds are crucial for the regeneration of towns like Tuam but also provide much-needed funding for the many thriving community associations and sports clubs in the town and its surrounding areas.

GALWAY EAST

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HEALTH MATTERS

More than €35 million has been invested in health care in Tuam.

The Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and the Minister for Health Simon Harris have both visited the town to witness the progress that has been made.

We have a new **Primary Care Centre** offering a range of services and I am continuing to press for additional facilities. We have funding of €700,000 allocated for the introduction of X-ray facilities and I am working to bring this to fruition.

After ongoing discussions I held with Minister Harris, we recently received the excellent news to confirm that the **Mental Health Day Hospital** at the **old Grove Hospital** and the new **Community Nursing Unit** to replace the existing facilities at **Aras Mhuire** have been given the go-ahead.

The Mental Health Day Hospital will include a unit for people with disabilities. The project has been developed, planning is in place and it is ready to go to tender.

We will be bringing a derelict but iconic building back into use in the heart of town, which will provide a first class health facility for Tuam and the surrounding areas.

The new 50-bed community nursing unit, for which the late Joe O'Toole gave a €7 million donation, is also ready to go.

The HSE will provide the necessary additional funding and planning permission has been lodged. The facility will include a 10-bed special care unit.



Tuam Primary Care Centre.

ON THE ROAD

The opening of the **M17 to Athenry** has been a game-changer for Tuam. It brings huge investment opportunities and I am working with the IDA to highlight the potential for Foreign Direct Investment now that this major transport corridor is in place. We now have rapid links to Dublin via the **M6/M4** and to Limerick and the south via the **M18**.

Galway County will receive nearly €29 million for regional and local roads this year, up €6 million on last year - €4 million was allocated for Tuam Municipal District roads in 2018, including €1.4 million for upgrading the **N17** through Tuam, while €125,000 has been allocated to improve the **R333 Tuam to Headford road**.

The Local Improvement Scheme continues to offer opportunities for people living on roads that are not County Council roads to access funding for improvements. This year the County received €856,959 under the scheme, up 24% on the previous year. Anyone needing guidance on eligibility and how to apply should contact my constituency office.

I am also pleased that Galway County Council is to carry out a safety audit on a section of the **N17** outside Tuam.

The survey will cover the N17 from the motorway roundabout to the Weir Road.

JOBS FOR TUAM



Announcing new jobs at Valeo.

We had some great news on the jobs front this year with Valeo's €44 million investment in its research and development arm in Tuam creating 50 new jobs.

The decision by the French-based company to invest in Tuam was a huge endorsement of the town and its potential.

Since I was first elected in 2016, we have also seen the creation of 60 jobs at **Steeltech** and another 12 jobs were created when the old health centre became home to the regional social care team.

As chairperson of the **Atlantic Economic Corridor Task Force**, I am focussed on promoting the economic potential of our region by ensuring that we continue to develop our transport and digital infrastructure, while identifying and promoting opportunities for new businesses.

Tuam also enjoys the benefit of many long-established businesses that continue to provide much-needed employment in the town.

RURAL BROADBAND

I am determined that the **National Broadband Plan** will deliver to all our citizens. It is vital for the balanced development of our country that rural areas benefit from the same level of service as Dublin.

Over the next 25 years in Galway we will be investing **€152 million** in high-speed broadband. The national plan will deliver fibre to 1.1 million people in 540,000 homes, 56,000 small and medium businesses, 44,000 farms and 670 primary schools.

The NBP will transform communities and the economic benefits will be immense for Rural Ireland.

As chairperson of the **Mobile Phone and Broadband Task Force**, I am working to ensure that all our broadband and mobile networks are mapped and improved to achieve the best possible standards.

To that end, I am pleased that commercial providers are also expanding their services, notably Virgin Media in Tuam.

SCHOOL REPORT

We have made great and exciting progress in educational provision for Tuam.

The new Gaelscoil opened thanks to an investment of €6 million; Phase One of **Archbishop McHale College** opened following an investment of €5 million; and there have been facilities upgrades at the **Mercy College**, **Presentation College**, **St Jarlath's** and **St Pat's National School**.

We also have the plan to amalgamate the national schools, **St Pat's**, the **Mercy NS** and the **Presentation NS** into a 32-classroom school on one site, while the **Educate Together National School** will also get a permanent building as part of the plan.

Schools in the Tuam area that have received funding for improvements or extensions include **Sylane NS**, **Gardenfield NS**, **Belclare NS**, **St Colman's NS Cummer** and **Browns Grove NS**, which received €50,000 for car parking and lighting under CLÁR funding from my Department.

NEW SCHOOL FOR ST OLIVER'S



I am delighted that construction is under way for the new €4.3 million building for **St Oliver's Special School**.

The school will be located at the Glebe and will have a floor space of 2,221 sq metres. Construction is expected to take 12 months. On completion, Tuam will have a first class educational facility for students with special needs.

HOUSING

I was pleased that the **Help to Buy Scheme** was extended in the Budget to help young people get their first foot on the property ladder.

This is something I discussed with the Taoiseach ahead of Budget 2020. The extension will be until the end of 2021.

We need to do more to fix the housing market and Galway County Council and Galway City Council's housing **Task Force** has been set up to deliver more housing to the area. I am calling for more incentives to bring vacant properties back into use.

Construction of new housing in **Gilmartin Road**, Tuam, is progressing well. The project will provide 61 modern homes and will greatly enhance this important entrance into the town.

I am pleased that **Lissadyra Housing Estate** recently joined the **Abbey Trinity**, **Woodfield** and **Palace Fields** estates in being taken in charge by Galway County Council.

MASTER PLAN FOR TUAM

Funding granted of €175,000 for the design and planning of major upgrades to the centre of **Tuam** will leave the town ideally placed for the next round of the Rural Regeneration Fund.

The master plan will set out the future use for the **Town Hall**, the **railway station** site, the old **fire station** site and the **Town Centre**.

Separately, the Department of Justice has included **Tuam Courthouse** in its national refurbishment plans, while the Department of Social Welfare intends to bring all its services together with the establishment of the **Old Library** as an **Intreo Centre**. Planning permission for the development was granted earlier this year.

Around the town, we also have the new NCT centre coming on stream at the former Hi-Way Garage site.



Official opening of the new Tuam Fire Station

WESTERN RAIL CORRIDOR

The independent review of the **Western Rail Corridor** two-phase extension from **Athenry to Claremorris** will be completed for Irish Rail within the next few weeks.

The existing line between from **Limerick to Athenry via Ennis** has shown considerable passenger growth thanks to cheaper tickets and greater public awareness. Student numbers in particular have shown significant increases.

The project has gained further impetus with the increased importance of improving public transport links to reduce carbon emissions as part of the Government's **Climate Action Plan**.

As Minister of State in the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, the potential to reduce heavy traffic flows between **Tuam and Galway** is an important factor to be considered.

On a local note, work has been carried out on the pedestrian crossing of the railway line in **Vicar Street** to provide a new footpath. It will provide safer access for pedestrians walking between the Galway Road and the town centre and for students attending the **Gaelscoil**.

CARING FOR CARERS

Supporting carers was a top priority for me in **Budget 2020**. I am delighted that the following measures were included after my representations to Ministerial colleagues:

- **One million additional home support hours funded**
- **Carers' work and study threshold to increase from 15 hours a week to 18.5**
- **Home Carer Tax Credit to increase from €1,500 to €1,600**

FARMING

With Brexit looming, this year has been a particularly tough year for farmers with the beef and lamb sectors under severe financial pressure.

It is imperative that the family farm is supported in these difficult times.

Budget 2020 included the following measures:

- **€85 million for beef farmers for No Deal Brexit**
- **€20 million for suckler farmers**
- **€12.1 million for Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)**

I am also calling for the Department of Agriculture to fast-track the appeals process and release all outstanding farm payments without delay.

SUPPORTING MEN'S SHEDS

I was delighted that my Department, the **Department for Rural and Community Development**, allocated €500,000 from the Dormant Accounts Fund to the **400 Men's Sheds** around the country.

Men's Sheds were set up to address social isolation among our older men. They also make a great contribution to the community in general.

Tuam Men's Shed is thriving and I was delighted to meet members recently at the Men's Shed showcase in Oranmore.



Tuam Men's Shed

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SPORTS FOR ALL



Giving a helping hand fixing the new seats in the terrace at Tuam Stadium.

Tuam Stadium development is progressing and we will have it restored to its former glory in the not to distant future.

A big thank you to the Varden family without whom this would not be possible.

Well done to the **Tuam Stadium Committee** and **DAFTS, Development Advocates For Tuam Stadium**.

Tuam Stadium received €111,500 in **Sports Capital** funding while DAFTS raised more than €170,000 for the development of the Stadium.

This year under the **Sports Capital Programme** Tuam Golf Club received €94,391 and Tuam Rugby Club received €51,746.

Support has also been given in previous years to **Tuam Celtic AFC, Tuam Stars, Sylane Hurling, Milltown GAA, Caherlistrane GAA and Corofin United**.

CLINICS

I hold regular clinics in the Constituency Office in Tuam. Details are available in the local media and at the office.

If you have any urgent issues please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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WORKING HARD FOR GALWAY EAST