

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
14 Iúil, 2020

## FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

### DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

#### A Chara

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain, 20 Iúil 2020, ag **11.00am in in Ionad Fóillíochta an Aura, Salach an Ghráin, Leitir Ceanainn.** Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an chruinniú

#### Mise, le meas



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Seosamh Ó Piobla  
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

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## DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
14<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

### NOTICE OF MEETING

### TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Dear Councillor

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, at **11.00am in the Aura Leisure Centre, Sallaghagrane, Letterkenny.** The agenda for the meeting is attached.

The Register of Chief Executive's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

#### Yours sincerely



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Joe Peoples  
Meetings Administrator

# AGENDA

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

## **2. Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000**

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of a plot of land including Units 1, 2 and 3 as constructed thereon at Lisnennan Industrial Estate, Letterkenny by way of lease to Watson Clarke Hire Ltd.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of a plot of land including all structures thereon at Fort Dunree, Buncrana to Fort Dunree Military Museum Company Limited By Guarantee, Dunree, Buncrana.
- c) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 – to dispose of property at Doaghmore, Kindrum, Fanad to Mr John Carr.

## **3. Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 Part 8**

- a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey 4-bed rural Dwelling Ref S.I. 10026 at Knockamany, Malin, Co Donegal in the Inishowen Municipal District.
- b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 19 No. Residential Units at Trusk Road, Ballybofey in the Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal District.
- c) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 29 No. Residential Units at Gallows Lane, Lifford in the Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal District.
- d) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the R263 - Fintra Bridge and Road Realignment in the Donegal Municipal District.
- e) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the R267 - Donegal Town Public Service Centre Junction in the Donegal Municipal District.
- f) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the Letterkenny Traffic Management Project in the Letterkenny - Milford Municipal District.

## **4. Corporate**

- a) To fill casual vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Frank Mc Brearty Jnr.

- b) To fill casual vacancy on Coiste na Gaelige arising from the resignation of Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty.
- c) To approve the nomination of Cllr Terry Crossan to fill casual vacancy on the Donegal County Council Mica Redress Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Jack Murray.
- d) To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020, in accordance with Section 134 (a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

#### **5. Roads & Transportation**

To approve the 2021 - 2023 Capital Plant Replacement & Refurbishment Plan.

#### **6. Finance**

- a) To approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €156,262,007 as set out on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €156,959,499 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2019) for all divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.
- b) To consider the report on irrecoverable rates for year ending 2019 in accordance with Section 26(2) of the Local Government Financial Procedures & Audit Regulations 2014.

#### **7. Economic Development**

- a) To note the update on Scheme for Outdoor Spaces during a time of physical distancing.
- b) To note the report on uptake of Covid-19 Business Supports provided through the Donegal Local Enterprise Office.
- c) To note and consider the report on the submission made by Donegal County Council to the National Tourism Recovery Taskforce.
- d) To note the report on Border Enterprise Development Fund approval of €3.7m grant to Alpha Innovation Centre.

#### **8. Planning**

- a) County Development Plan 2018-2024: Chief Executive's Two Year Review Report – Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- b) Adoption of Regional Spatial Strategy (RSES) (Jan 2020), and implications for the County Development Plan 2018-2024 (CDP)
- c) Section 13 CDP 2018-2024 variation in respect of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project (Donegal).
- d) To consider Update Report from Regeneration & Development Unit on Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) and Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)

**9. Community and Enterprise**

To note the nomination of the Donegal Intercultural Platform nominee, Mr Billy Banda to fill the vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing Committee.

**10. Endorsement of Minutes**

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.
- b) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
- c) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

**11. Conference Reports/ Reports in respect of other Bodies**

**Cllr John O' Donnell**

"First- time Home Buyers Incentives Conference" in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth from the 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**Cllr Nicholas Crossan**

"First- time Home Buyers Incentives Conference" in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth from the 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**AILG Plenary Members Activity Report (May 2020)**

**MOTIONS**

**LETTERKENNY - MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Corporate/ Cultural Services**

**12. Cllr Donal Coyle**

"That this Council seek to have Saint Colmcille's own handwritten book "The Cathach" and the case which contained the book "The Cumdach" brought on loan to Donegal County Museum in Letterkenny as part of the 1500th Anniversary Celebration of the birth of Saint Colmcille".

**13. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey**

"That this Council request that Section 140 Motions be restored in full so that Councillors can fulfil their obligation to the electorate and their needs".

**Water & Environment**

**14. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle**

"That this Council calls on the new Coalition Government to restore responsibility for water and sewage treatment back to Local Authorities and that we write to the new Environment and Housing Ministers calling on them to set up a grant scheme to help Local Authorities address the many failed and abandoned mechanical sewage treatment plants polluting our Towns and Villages".

## DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Water & Environment**

15. Cllr Michael Mc Mahon

"That this Council change their policies for all the lifeguards on Donegal beaches as regards their start date."

16. Cllr Noel Jordan

"That this Council call on Irish Water to give clarification and a commitment to their Capital Project Plan for our county"

### **Community Development**

17. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

"That Donegal County Council investigates the issues of Community and Voluntary Group insurance. To work through the LCDC and the PPN network to compile a listing of insurance costs and the companies involved and then to establish an umbrella group of insurance for these groups who are individually crippled by these costs".

### **Corporate**

18. Cllr Barry Sweeny

"That Donegal County Council:

Supports the establishment of an annual national "Make Way Day" taking place this year on the 25th September 2020,  
Will write to An Taoiseach, and to each individual Minister and Minister of State, calling on them to support, establish, fund and resource an annual national 'Make Way Day' which would be localised in each region,  
Will annually support and promote a local "Make Way Donegal" campaign as part of the wider 'Make Way Day'.

## LIFFORD-STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Roads & Transportation**

19. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That this Council requests the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport and the Minister for Infrastructure in Stormont to conduct a feasibility study and identify preferred route options for the establishment of a rail link to the North West".

### **Community Development**

20. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

"That this Council outline what plans there are to develop the old railway from Ballybofey to Donegal Town and which if any of the current funding schemes are being targeted and who in the Council is leading out".

## GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Water & Environment**

21. Cllr John S. O' Fearraigh

“Calling on Donegal County Council to provide funding for boardwalks on the Wild Atlantic Way, on sand dune areas so as to entice more visitors to the scenic area of the western seaboard, which would also protect the environment and the dunes”.

### **Information Systems**

22. **Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty**

“That this Council discuss the utmost need for adequate Broadband throughout Donegal as it is clear that coverage is haphazard in many areas of the county, and in light of the events of recent months comprehensive coverage is needed for educational and job creation purposes”.

## **INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Roads & Transportation**

23. **Cllr Jack Murray**

“That this Council calls on the new Government to address regional inequality, recognising that the Northwest of Ireland is the only region in Ireland without access to rail or motorway, and commits to funding the A5 as a priority - an essential infrastructural project for the people of Donegal”.

### **Community Development**

24. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure improvements:

“That Donegal County Council confirm and secure a fast track funding programme from Government for the North West Greenway initiative to ensure county-wide greenway extensions, additional town and village inclusion, the delivery of safer pedestrian footways and trails, the provision of safe cycle-ways and cycle lane town loops and ensure that the domestic and north south tourism potential of the project is positively promoted by all Council Directorates”.

### **Corporate**

25. **Cllr Terry Crossan**

“I propose, that in light of the ongoing proliferation of oyster trestles on the western shore of Lough Foyle which is having a severe detrimental effect on both the environment and society in that community, that Donegal County Council communicate to the Minister the need for the Government to engage with the U.K. Government and seek to resolve the jurisdictional issues that are inhibiting aquaculture regulation. The main overriding regulatory issues are:

- The lack of a licence and authorisation by a competent authority.
- The lack of spatial considerations-foreshore Licence / leases etc.
- The lack of assessed impact on designated features of the Foyle Natura 2000 sites.

The knock on effects of the lack of regulations in terms of environmental and socio economic concerns can be mostly attributed to:

- Lack of enforcement
- Lack of traceability
- Lack of accountability”.

### **Water & Environment**

#### 26. Cllr Martin Mc Dermott

“To call on the Council to make representations to the Department to extend the grant for boring a private well to new homes as the cost of taking mains water to homes is so excessive that it can’t be done”.

### **27. Cathaoirleach’s Business**

### **28. Chief Executive’s Management Report**

## **QUESTIONS**

### **LETTERKENNY – MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

### **Economic Development**

#### 29. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Will Donegal County Council organise and keep in contact with all relevant agencies in Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Belfast with the view after Brexit to having a shared plan for the provision of a better future for all our people?

### **Roads & Transportation**

#### 30. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

Can this Council carry out a check on the many harbours and waterways to ensure the safety of all users?

### **Housing**

#### 31. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

What is the average cost of per month of providing homeless emergency accommodation across each MD in each of the following instances?

- Emergency hostel accommodation for a single person.
- Private emergency accommodation for a family
- Deposit supports given to acquire Private Rented Accommodation for those in need of housing?

### **Planning**

#### 32. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can I have an updated report on the schedule for the review of the County Development Plan?

#### 33. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many of the Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plants servicing residential estates across this county are currently abandoned and or not functioning properly and can I have locations of them MD by MD?

## DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Community Development**

34. Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
How many playgrounds in the county are insured by Donegal County Council and where are these playgrounds located?

### **Corporate**

35. Cllr Niamh Kennedy  
Have we a date set yet for our meeting with Comreg and the EPA for a meeting regarding the concerns of 5G?

### **Roads & Transportation**

36. Cllr Michael Mc Mahon  
Will Donegal County Council undertake a survey of our Piers and Harbours to identify those in most need of serious repair?
37. Cllr Barry Sweeney  
Can Donegal County Council write to the new Minister requesting additional funding for LIS and CIS schemes in the county of Donegal?

## LIFFORD - STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Housing**

38. Cllr Martin Harley  
Can this Council give me list of all the housing needs in the County?
- a) All the housing needed in each town in the county.
  - b) How many 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses are needed in each area?
  - c) How many people are in H.A.P accommodation in each town in county?
39. Cllr Gerry Crawford  
How many housing schemes are currently under construction county-wide at present and when might they be ready to allocate?

### **Corporate**

40. Cllr Gerry Crawford  
What plans does this Council have for the Prior Building at the Barracks Complex in terms of Council use going forward?

### **Economic Development**

41. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan  
Can I have the latest population census for each town and village in the county and a detailed explanation on how a town's population is calculated using the five largest towns in the county as an example?



**Water & Environment**

42. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

Can the Council give details of water mains replacement works ongoing this year in Donegal and clarification on who decides on which sections are priorities as areas such as Castlefin are experiencing extremely dirty brown water or very low pressure most of the time?

**Information Systems**

43. Cllr Gary Doherty

What role does this Council play in assisting residents who are unable to get connected to broadband because of a refusal of service providers to extend the line to their property?

**GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Water & Environment**

44. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

Would Donegal County Council consider installing taps at all beaches throughout the county in light of Covid-19 under safety reasons ?

45. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

Can the Council consider banning all cars bikes, quads etc on all our Donegal Beaches as these are causing real problems in some cases and not called for?

**INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Finance**

46. Cllr Jack Murray

Can the Council give assurances that all projects outlined in the Capital Plan are ring-fenced and will go ahead as planned?

**Housing**

47. Cllr Jack Murray

Can ongoing criminal activity, anti-social behaviour or instances of any other nature which negatively impact on the local community lead to the cessation of a council tenancy and how often has this happened in the last 5 years?

48. Cllr Albert Doherty

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is aware of the scale of the impact of MICA on Council housing stock and the Council has advised the Department that it would be making a submission for funding to carry out the requisite remedial work on the houses.  
(Part of response received following my question to the Council September 2019) What funding has been sought and secured since Sept 2019? and will the Council now seek significant funding from Government to allow essential remedial works to commence on council homes in 2020 and allay the health and safety fears of council tenant families?

### **Cultural Services**

#### **49. Cllr Albert Doherty**

How will Donegal County Council implement the cross directorate All Ireland Pollinator Plan and biodiversity-related activity in 2020? and what role in the implementation of the plan will each Directorate and staff play in progressing the plan and sharing and promoting its benefits to Tidy Town committees and interested community groups?

### **Water & Environment**

#### **50. Cllr Terry Crossan**

Since the onset of the Covid 19 restrictions how many prosecutions has Donegal County Council initiated against individuals for fly tipping/illegal dumping in the county?

#### **51. Cllr Terry Crossan**

How much did Donegal benefit from "The Anti Dumping Initiative Fund" and what proportion was allocated per Municipal District and is there still money available?

### **52. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

#### **CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

"This Council condemns the action of the PSNI in disrupting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest in Guildhall Square in Derry on June 6<sup>th</sup> by issuing fines and threatening court action against organisers and participants.

The organisers of the protest, the North West Migrants' Forum, enforced strict rules to maintain social distancing. Very clear social distancing marks were drawn on the ground, in the same way many stores manage crowds queuing.

Council notes that Amnesty International and the Northern Committee on the Administration of Justice have expressed concern about the way application of the regulations arising from the Covid 19 pandemic were altered on the evening prior to the Black Lives Matter protest, clearly suggesting that the point of the changes was to facilitate the PSNI in taking action against protesters.

Council backs the call for a full review of how policing was conducted at the BLM events. Council supports the demand for a public apology to the BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) Community. Council calls for the withdrawal of all fines and threats of court action against BLM protesters.

Council will send a copy of this motion to every Council, North and South, in this country."

#### **GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL**

"That Galway County Council support the motion passed on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Dáil Éireann that calls for the provision of Personal Assistance Services to be legislated for as a right for people living with disabilities."

#### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“To ask Kerry County Council to write on behalf of the members to the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Tourism asking that the VAT rate on the tourism industry be reduced to 0% to try and alleviate the pressure on related businesses and attempt to avoid the complete decimation of this sector. This is not a decision for the next Government. It is a decision that needs to be made now.”

#### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we write to the appropriate Minister regarding people objecting to planning who are not from the area. They should be 10km from the proposed development.”

#### LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Leitrim County Council calls upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.

I ask that a copy of this motion be circulated to all the other 30 councils.”

#### LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City and County Council support the National Small Business Recovery Plan in order to protect the thousands of jobs that SMEs provide throughout County Limerick and that Limerick City and County Council write to the Government and, in particular, Mr Leo Varadkar, TD, the new Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to fund and immediately implement the findings and recommendations of the National Small Business Recovery Plan; and that Limerick City and County Council circulate this Motion to all other Councils.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“I propose that local authorities be funded by the Government, in order to maintain the services to make good the rates shortfall in a similar manner in which Government have supported SMEs with regard to Covid payments.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“A huge proportion of the lands in Ireland have no registered rights of way. In the most recent book of Mr Peter Bland SC on the area it appears there is an anomaly in the legislation regarding the registration of rights of way in The Property Registration.

At the moment you may assist a right of way by prescription in that the right of way has been used as a right, without permission, without secrecy and without consideration for in excess of 12 years in an application form but you may declare that the right is not a right of way of necessity for them to be able to consider the application. This obviously precludes most applications.

I call on Sligo County Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture and the

Minister for Justice to amend the legislation to permit the Property Registration Authority to include rights of way by necessity in their remit which are surely the simplest to adjudicate from map inspections and should be kept away from costly court proceedings in order to free up the courts or to set up an Independent adjudicator with these matters quickly.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Sligo County Council bans the use of official and unofficial Bathing places and sale of at any location within the county of inflatable dinghies and all dangerous inflatable products, and that the Council write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to seek a nationwide Ban on these dangerous products before more young lives are lost.

These products have consistently warned of the dangers of these products and have been described by Irish Water Safety as “Floating Killers”.

#### WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council support SIPTU and the “Big Start Campaign” which demands adequate investment in the Early Years services to make it affordable, accessible with high quality with professional pay for childcare workers, and further calls on the Government to fully support the campaign”

#### WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council in recognising the stress, uncertainty and worry of the Leaving Certificate Class of 2020 discuss possible options of assisting these students pursue their chosen career this autumn, where some may want to attend Third Level Education and others follow the apprenticeship of their Choice.

The proposal of “First Choice for All” should be accommodated as much as possible.”

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN  
THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY ON 20<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2020**

**C/66/20 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs R Donaghey (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, M Farren, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M Mc Mahon, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, J Murray, M Naughton, J O'Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

**C/67/20 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael McGarvey, Director of Water & Environment, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

**C/68/20 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Naughton the minutes of the May Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 were adopted.

**C/69/20 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE,  
2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr T Crossan, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 were adopted.

**C/70/20 DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND INCLUDING UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 AT  
LISNENNAN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LETTERKENNY**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Crawford, it was resolved to dispose of plot of land including Units 1, 2 and 3 as constructed thereon at Lisnennan Industrial Estate, Letterkenny by way of lease to Watson Clarke Hire Ltd, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

**C/71/20 DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT FORT DUNREE, BUNCRANA**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Crossan, it was resolved to dispose of plot of land including all structures thereon at Fort Dunree, Buncrana to Fort Dunree Military Museum Company Limited by Guarantee, Dunree, Buncrana, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

**C/72/20 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT DOAGHMORE, KINDRUM, FANAD TO MR JOHN CARR**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was resolved to dispose of property at Doaghmore, Kindrum, Fanad to Mr John Carr, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

**C/73/20 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE STOREY 4 BED RURAL DWELLING REF SI 10026 AT KNOCKAMAN, MALIN, CO. DONEGAL .**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of a single storey 4-bed rural dwelling, Ref. S.I. 10026 at Knockamany, Malin in the Inishowen Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

**C/74/20 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 19 NO. RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT TRUSK ROAD, BALLYBOFEY**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Harley said that this was an excellent development. He called on the Council to meet with the Trusk Road residents as soon as possible in relation to the development.

On the proposal of Cllr Harley seconded by Cllr G Doherty, the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 19 no. residential units at Trusk Road, Ballybofey in the Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

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Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate, & Cultural Services said that he would arrange a meeting with the residents, members and officials.

C/75/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORK WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 29 NO. RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT GALLOWES LANE, LIFFORD**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, the carrying out of work with regard to the construction of 29 no. residential units at Gallows Lane, Lifford in the Lifford - Stranorlar Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/76/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE R263 – FINTRA BRIDGE AND ROAD REALIGNMENT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, the carrying out of works with regard to the R263 – Fintra Bridge and Road Realignment in the Donegal Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/77/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE R267 – DONEGAL TOWN PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE JUNCTION**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Naughton, the carrying out of works with regard to the R267 – Donegal Town Public Service Centre Junction in the Donegal Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

C/78/20 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE LETTERKENNY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROJECT.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan , seconded by Cllr Mc Bride, the carrying out of works with regard to the Letterkenny Traffic Management Project in the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) was approved.

Cllr Brogan outlined the need for additional funding so as to ensure the overall completion of the project. This, he said, would help alleviate traffic congestion within Letterkenny and its environs.

It was noted that the Letterkenny – Milford Municipal District Committee had invited Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport to Letterkenny to look at the ongoing roads issues and the need for adequate funding to address same.

**C/79/20 TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNTY DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FRANK MCBREARY JNR**

On the proposal of Cllr N Crossan, seconded by Cllr McClafferty, it was resolved that Cllr Kennedy fill the casual vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Frank Mc Brearty Jnr.

**C/80/20 TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY ON COISTE NA GAELIGE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MICHAEL MCCLAFFERTY.**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Crossan, it was resolved to defer the matter to the September Council meeting.

**C/81/20 TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF CLLR TERRY CROSSAN TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL MICA REDRESS COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR JACK MURRAY**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved that Cllr Terry Crossan fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal County Council Mica Redress Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Jack Murray.

**C/82/20 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2020**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, members approved the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 in accordance with Section 134(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

**C/83/20 TO APPROVE THE 2021-2023 CAPITAL PLANT REPLACEMENT & REFURBISHMENT PLAN**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

A number of issues were raised including

- Whether or not the acquisition of plant would allow for the gritting of additional roads.
- Clarity requested with regards the funding source and whether or not the five electric vans would be allocated on a Municipal District basis.



- Suggested that consideration be given to the leasing of the electric vans.
- Query as to the lifespan of the proposed new chip spreader.
- Position with regard to the provision of a small street sweeper in Bundoran.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that a workshop would be held in early autumn to look at winter maintenance issues and the associated plant requirements.

He drew attention to the fact that there was a typing error in the report and that there were in fact sufficient funds available to purchase electrical vehicles and associated charging stations in the 2021-2023 plan.

It was noted that a number of years ago the Council had rented a chip spreader but that currently there were few available to rent and the rental costs involved were excessive.

It would be possible, he advised, to further assess the need for a small street sweeper in Bundoran and that this could be considered at the forthcoming workshop.

Mr Mc Laughlin said that the plan was to proceed with the buying of electric vans over the three year period of the plan but that certainty was needed as to whether the plant in question would be able to cover the distances required. If suitable, he confirmed that the vehicles in question would be distributed around charging points at the Council's own premises.

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Mc Clafferty the 2021-2023 Capital Plant Replacement & Refurbishment Plan was approved.

C/84/20 **REPORT ON THE OUTTURN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr N Crossan it was resolved to approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €156,262,007 as set out in Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €156,959,499 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2019) for all Divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

Cllr Blaney asked that a report be provided on the Project Development Fund Reserve and the augmentation of same by €1.291m.

C/85/20 **REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE RATES FOR YEAR ENDING 2019**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to approve the report on irrecoverable rates for year ending 2019, in accordance with Section 26(2) of the Local Government Financial Procedures & Audit Regulations 2014.

C/86/20 **UPDATE ON SCHEME FOR OUTDOOR SPACES DURING A TIME OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Blaney, members noted the update on the scheme for outdoor spaces during a time of physical distancing.

Cllr A Doherty asked that members be provided with information in relation to the number of Section 254 applications received to date by the Council.

Cllr Sweeny called for ongoing collaboration with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding a number of projects in South Donegal.

C/87/20 **REPORT ON UPTAKE OF COVID 19 BUSINESS SUPPORTS PROVIDED THROUGH THE DONEGAL LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Brogan, members noted the Report on Uptake of Covid 19 Business Supports provided through the Donegal Local Enterprise Office.

93% of the Donegal border it was noted was with Northern Ireland and that a co-ordinated approach was necessary to ensure that the relevant supports were in place for businesses in the region.

There was general acknowledgement that support was needed for those businesses struggling to pay commercial rates and that additional support structures needed to be put in place at national level.

Tribute was paid to staff in the Local Enterprise Office who continued to provide assistance and support to small and medium enterprises on a day to day basis.

Members highlighted the need for some sort of initiative or stimulus package for small and medium business enterprise sector together with the continued promotion of the online voucher scheme.

C/88/20 **REPORT ON THE SUBMISSION MADE BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO THE NATIONAL TOURISM RECOVERY TASKFORCE.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Cllr Brogan acknowledged the huge and co-ordinated effort undertaken by the Economic Development Section and the Council in general over the past few months in facing the many challenges presented by the Covid-19 crisis.

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Brogan, members noted the report on the submission made by Donegal County Council to the National Tourism Recovery Taskforce.

Members asked that they be provided with an update in relation to the status of the application.

There was further acknowledgement that a reduction or suspension of the tourism VAT rate was needed to ensure the survival of the tourism industry in Donegal..

C/89/20 **TO NOTE THE REPORT ON BORDER ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND APPROVAL OF €3.7M GRANT TO ALPHA INNOVATION CENTRE.**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, members noted the report on Border Enterprise Development Fund Approval of €3.7m grant to Alpha Innovation Centre.

The significance of the Border Enterprise Development Fund was noted with members outlining the need to have economic development as standing item on all agendas going forward. This, they contended needed to be considered in the context of Brexit and the implications for the county overall.

C/90/20 **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S TWO YEAR REVIEW REPORT**

Members considered and noted the report on the County Development Plan 2018-2024: Chief Executive's Two Year Review Report – Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and circulated with the agenda.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Of Community Development & Planning Services noted that Members of the Council had raised concerns in relation to a number of specific policies and their overall implementation. It was hoped, he confirmed, to address these concerns in more detail at a workshop.

C/91/20 **ADOPTION OF REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSES) (JAN 2020), AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 (CDP).**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Brogan, it was resolved to proceed with the preparation of a Draft Variation to the County Donegal Development Plan, 2018-2024, including Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment as required on foot of the adoption of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy in January, 2020.

C/92/20 **SECTION 13 CDP 2018-2024 VARIATION IN RESPECT OF THE TEN-T PRIORITY ROUTE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DONEGAL).**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services advised that members were now being asked to :-

Note the contents of the working draft of the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 2018-2024 in respect of the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project and endorse the commencement of the formal processes related to the variation, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Appropriate Assessment, and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Publication of the variation would, he confirmed, be a matter for members at the anticipated Special Plenary meeting in early September.

A lengthy debate ensued with members raising the following issues:

- Whether or not it was possible to carry out work outside the Preferred Route Corridor as there was evidence of ground works being carried out away from the PRC.
- What plans if any existed to connect the existing Convoy road with a new road to the roundabout at the top of Lurgybrack.
- Concern that changes were being made to link /service roads and that these were not detailed on the maps.
- Clarification sought re the proposed public consultation phase and whether or not members would see the submissions prior to them being acted upon.
- The need for further workshops.
- Explanation sought as to why the route at Tullyrap/Feddyglass had been changed, given that the area in question was clearly not a breeding ground for swans. Clarity sought as to why this section of the route had changed, the reasons for same and confirmation as to who was actually responsible for the decision in question.
- Issues with the routes selected in the Ballybofey and Stranorlar area.
- Need to ensure that all landowners are adequately compensated.

- Why planning permission had been granted along the route in the first place given that many landowners would now be faced with Compulsory Purchase Orders.
- Suggested that there be an independent judicial process to look at the overall route selection process.
- Call for those responsible for the development of the project to meet with members and address the various issues raised.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation advised that there were two different processes in operation here. One, he said, was the design of the route involving the National Road Design office and the various Consultant Engineers. The other, he confirmed, was the process to initiate the variation of the County Development Plan 2018-2024 so as to bring the County Development Plan in line with the current information.

Responding to queries on boreholes, he said that the landowners in question were aware that these were being drilled and were being compensated for the works in question. He would, he said, follow up on issues at specific locations identified by the members.

He confirmed that it would also be possible to look at changes within specific corridors to accommodate landowners. Members, he said, should get in contact with him if they were aware of instances where works had strayed outside the designated route corridor.

It was clarified that there were no plans to go out the Convoy Road.

With regards the issue of the route change and swans at Tullyrap/Feddyglass , he said, that if better information became available then the Council would look to work with that. Responding to queries from Cllrs Crawford and Mc Bearty, he said, that he would check again in relation to both townlands and respond.

It would also be possible, he advised, to hold a further workshop to facilitate members who had ongoing concerns in relation to the matter.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that in order to move to Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the project the necessary planning framework had to be in place. This, he noted, involved varying the County Development Plan 2018-2024 and endorsing the commencement of the following formal processes related to the proposed variation.

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (including preparation of an Environmental Report).
- Appropriate Assessment (including preparation of a Natura Impact Report).
- Strategic Flood Assessment (including preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Report).

The publication of the variation was something, he said, that members would be obliged to consider at the anticipated Special Meeting in early September.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle, it was resolved to hold a workshop on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 to review issues arising from the two year review of the County Development Plan, 2018-2024.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle, it was resolved following consideration of the reports made available to Members at the Council meeting to;

1. Note the proposed wording in relation to the proposed Variation (Working Draft) to the CDP 2018 -2024 in terms of Text, Policies, Objectives and Maps to facilitate the Ten-T Road Projects
2. Approve the commencement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Report, Appropriate and Flood Risk Assessments
3. To hold a Special Meeting of Donegal County. Council on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept at 11 am for the purposes of considering and approving the Draft Ten-T Proposed Variation Documents for Public Consultation.

C/93/20 **UPDATE REPORT FROM REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT UNIT ON URBAN REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF) AND RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF).**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan, members noted the report on the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) and the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF).

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that significant effort had gone into preparing the projects in question given that the Part 8 planning process had to be adhered to. It was noted that there was one change to the report which had circulated at Municipal District level and that the final list of locations was as follows:-

- Ballybofey/Stranorlar
- Ballyshannon
- Carndonagh
- Rathmullan
- Burtonport

Cllr Sweeney congratulated all involved with the establishment of the Regeneration Unit and said that this initiative would prove to be a valuable link for community groups throughout the county.

Members asked for a further briefing on the matter at the next round of Municipal District Meetings in September.

C/94/20 **TO NOTE THE NOMINATION OF THE DONEGAL INTERCULTURAL PLATFORM NOMINEE, MR BILLY BANDA TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE COUNTY DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE.**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Brogan, members noted the nomination of the Donegal Intercultural Platform Nominee, Mr Billy Banda to fill the vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing committee.

C/95/20 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Brogan, the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 were noted.

C/96/20 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Brogan, the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 were noted.

C/97/20 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2020.**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Brogan, the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 were noted.

C/98/20 **CONFERENCE REPORTS/ REPORTS OTHER BODIES**

Members noted the following Conference Reports:

**Cllr John O'Donnell**

"First-time Home Buyers Incentives Conference" in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**Cllr Nicholas Crossan**

"First-time Home Buyers Incentives Conference" in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**AILG Plenary Members Activity Report (May 2020).**

C/99/20 **THAT THE COUNCIL SEEK TO HAVE ST. COLMCILLE'S OWN HANDWRITTEN BOOK BROUGHT ON LOAN TO THE DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM IN LETTERKENNY.**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council seek to have Saint Colmcille's own handwritten book "The Cathach" and the case which contained the book "The Cumdach" brought on loan to Donegal County Museum in Letterkenny as part of the 1500th Anniversary Celebration of the birth of Saint Colmcille”.

Cllr Coyle received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Coyle welcomed the reply and said that such an exhibition would be an excellent way of commemorating the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St Colmcille and his association with many sites throughout the county.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services advised that contact would be made with the Royal Irish Academy/National Museum regarding the loan of “The Cathach” and “The Cumdach” at some date in the future. A further update would be provided to members in due course, he confirmed.

C/100/20 **RESTORE SECTION 140 MOTIONS IN FULL**

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle the following motion submitted by Cllr I Mc Garvey was moved:-

“That this Council request that Section 140 Motions be restored in full so that Councillors can fulfil their obligation to the electorate and their needs”

Cllr Mc Garvey received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Culture in relation to the above

C/101/20 **MOTION 1 THAT THE COUNCIL CALL ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER AND SEWAGE TREATMENT BACK TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**MOTION 2 CAPITAL PROJECT PLAN FOR DONEGAL**

It was unanimously agreed at this juncture to take Motions 14 and 16 together.

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council calls on the new Coalition Government to restore responsibility for water and sewage treatment back to local authorities and that we write to the new Environment and Housing Ministers calling on them to set up a grant scheme to help local authorities address the many failed and abandoned mechanical sewage treatment plants polluting our towns and villages”.

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.



He expressed concern in relation to the current level of engagement with Irish Water and said that Elected Members were finding it increasingly difficult to get in contact with Irish Water regarding routine matters.

This, he contended, had major implications for the future development of towns and villages throughout the county. Ongoing problems with the many failed and abandoned mechanical sewage treatment plants should not, he said, be the responsibility of residents or homeowners.

There was no opposition to the motion.

He asked that the motion be forwarded to the relevant Government Ministers and the responsibility for water and sewage services returned to local authorities.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr McMonagle it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council call on Irish Water to give clarification and a commitment to their Capital Project Plan for our county.”

Cllr Jordan received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

He said that clarification was needed in relation to a number of projects in the county. Alluding in particular to the provision of a new water treatment Plant in Mountcharles, he asked for an update in relation to the status of same and clarity as to why the project had not appeared in the Capital Project Plan.

This, he said, was of particular concern as the EPA had raised concerns in relation to a number of treatment plants that were not fit for purpose at this juncture

He also highlighted the difficulties faced by members in getting information on a number of these capital projects.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment said that he would contact Irish Water in relation to the issues raised by members. He said that Irish Water hoped to resume their councillor clinics in September and that they would also try to facilitate a series of meetings at Municipal District level.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that a meeting once a year at MD level was not enough and that the clinics themselves were not working as anticipated.

He said that in many instances planning was stalled because of the inability of Irish Water to articulate where they were intending to carry out remedial works or provide new capital investment.

Cllr Jordan reiterated the need for an update in relation to the water treatment plant in Mountcharles.

**C/102/20 EMPLOYMENT OF BEACH LIFEGUARDS**

On the proposal of Cllr McMahon, seconded by Cllr Sweeny it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council change their policies for all the lifeguards on Donegal beaches as regards their start date."

Cllr McMahon received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

He said that whilst Covid-19 had been an issue this year, there was sufficient evidence available to substantiate the need for lifeguard training earlier in the year. Local secondary schools, he contended, could be contacted with regard to the availability of suitable candidates.

Cllr Sweeny seconding the motion said that safety issues were a concern and that the timely introduction of lifeguards on our beaches was necessary to avoid a serious incident taking place. He noted that the Environment Section had put a lot of effort into securing staff this year but that the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis had impacted on the placement of staff.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment acknowledged that the implementation of Covid-19 related measures had impacted on the recruitment and training of beach lifeguards along with the delay in the opening of the bathing season from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

With 21 designated beaches in the county and 41 trained lifeguards to be recruited, it was understandable, he said, that there were service delays. He said that 11 different operating guidelines had to be put in place before the staff in question could begin their placement.

It was hoped, he added, to get back on track for the 2021 bathing season.

Cllr Naughton said that cognisance needed to be taken of the fact that there was generally better weather in April /May and that this needed to be factored into the process.

Cllr Mc Mahon concurred with this statement and cited the need to amend existing practices so that this could be factored into the overall recruitment process. He said that lifeguards could be sourced at local level through second level schools, the RNLI etc.

**C/103/20 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUP INSURANCE.**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr N Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That Donegal County Council investigates the issues of Community and Voluntary Group insurance. To work through the LCDC and the PPN network to compile a listing of insurance costs and the companies involved and then to establish an umbrella group of insurance for these groups who are individually crippled by these costs”.

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

She said that excessive insurance costs were crippling many of the small community and voluntary groups who carried out valuable and worthwhile services in the community. Without volunteers many of these groups, she said, would not survive. It was imperative, she added that the matter was taken on board by the LCDC and the PPN Network so that a database of groups could be built up and realistic insurance provided to this umbrella grouping.

Cllr Crossan seconding the motion said that it was essential that a review of the commitments of the community and voluntary sector was carried out so that the groups in question could function more efficiently.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services acknowledged the valuable contribution made by such groups and said that he would be happy through the Local Community Development Committee to engage with the Public Participation Network to carry out a survey of the insurance commitments of the various community and voluntary groups involved. A report, he advised, could then be provided to members.

#### **C/104/20 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch.

#### **C/105/20 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANNUAL NATIONAL “MAKE WAY DAY.”**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That Donegal County Council:

supports the establishment of an annual national “Make Way Day” taking place this year on the 25th September 2020,  
Will write to An Taoiseach, and to each individual Minister and Minister of State, calling on them to support, establish, fund and resource an annual national 'Make Way Day' which would be localised in each region,  
Will annually support and promote a local “Make Way Donegal” campaign as part of the wider 'Make Way Day”.

Cllr Sweeny received a reply from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He informed members that this initiative was being driven by the Disability Federation of Ireland and aimed to create general awareness of disability issues and to ensure the provision of basic rights for people with disabilities.

Welcoming the response he asked that the motion be forwarded to the Taoiseach, and each individual Minister and Minister of State.

Cllr Kavanagh supporting the motion said that it was a superb initiative that aimed to bring communities together.

There was no opposition to the motion.

It was thus resolved that the Council would write to the Taoiseach and all Government Ministers requesting funding to support an annual national "Make Way Day".

C/106/20 **MOTION 1 FEASIBILITY STUDY IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PREFERRED ROUTE OPTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAIL LINK TO THE NORTHWEST-**  
**MOTION 2 FUNDING FOR THE A5**

It was resolved to take Motion No 19 and 23 together at this juncture.

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Murray, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council requests the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport and the Minister for Infrastructure in Stormont to conduct a feasibility study and identify preferred route options for the establishment of a rail link to the North West".

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He said it was imperative that a study was carried out and route options identified. A rail link connecting Donegal – Derry to Dublin and the Belfast line would, he confirmed, have a transformative effect on Donegal, thus ensuring increased connectivity and inward investment for the county. This was crucial now more than ever, he added, in terms of reducing our carbon footprint and in ensuring that Donegal was at the forefront of any development initiatives.

Cllr Murray said that he was in agreement with this assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council calls on the new Government to address regional inequality, recognising that the North West of Ireland is the only region in Ireland without access to rail or motorway, and commits to funding the A5 as a priority - an essential infrastructural project for the people of Donegal”.

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He said that there was clearly an inequality in terms of road and rail linkages in the Northwest and that this void was having a detrimental impact on the area generally. The general population of the Northwest Region alone (250,000 approx) warranted greater intervention at this juncture, he said.

He asked that a copy of the motion be forwarded to all local authorities along the route of the A5.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that the motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks & Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D together with the Minister for Infrastructure (NI Assembly), Ms Nicola Mallon MLA and the relevant authorities outlined above.

C/107/20 **PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD RAILWAY FROM BALLYBOFEY TO DONEGAL TOWN**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Crawford, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council outline what plans there are to develop the old railway from Ballybofey to Donegal Town and which if any of the current funding schemes are being targeted and who in the Council is leading out”.

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Community Development in relation to the above.

He said that it was important that this initiative was followed up given the current plans for the Barnesmore Gap Greenway and impact of same on the tourism footprint. It was imperative, he said, that the project which traversed two Municipal Districts was planning and shovel ready when and if monies became available.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that he was happy to take Cllr McGowan's comments on board and suggested that the matter be followed up in terms of initial scoping through the Carbon Tax Fund Initiative and under the Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

C/108/20 **FUNDING FOR BOARDWALKS ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY**

On the proposal of Cllr O'Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“Calling on Donegal County Council to provide funding for boardwalks on the Wild Atlantic Way, on sand dune areas so as to entice more visitors to the scenic area of the western seaboard, which would also protect the environment and the dunes”.

Cllr O'Fearraigh received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

It was important, he said, that small community groups were drawn into the tourism process and that the development of a boardwalk along the Wild Atlantic Way would encourage active community participation. He alluded to a project of this nature the “Corlea Trackway” in Longford which, he confirmed, was an excellent facility for young and old alike.

Cllr Doherty supporting the motion said that the provision of a boardwalk was an excellent way of looking after our sand dune areas and could be used to combat the effects of coastal erosion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment said that the motion was indeed timely and that the matter could be progressed through the Climate Action & Environment SPC with updates provided to members at Municipal District level.

Cllr O' Fearraigh thanked members for their support and advised of the need for partnership and co-operation with local groups so that the matter could be progressed further.

C/109/20 **NEED FOR ADEQUATE BROADBAND THROUGHOUT DONEGAL.**

On the proposal of Cllr McClafferty, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council discuss the utmost need for adequate Broadband throughout Donegal as it is clear that coverage is haphazard in many areas of the county, and in light of the events of recent months comprehensive coverage is needed for educational and job creation purposes”.

Cllr McClafferty received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

He said that in light of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the provision of adequate broadband was essential. It was noted that there were particular difficulties for third level students who needed access for study purposes.

Cllr Kennedy concurred with this assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services said that the broadband capacity in Donegal had developed strongly over the last decade, but that there were connectivity issues remaining outside the rural fibre network. The new Programme for Government, he said, was committed to accelerating the roll out of the National Broadband Plan with the aim of supporting digital initiatives in rural areas. He alluded to the excellent broadband coverage in many of our public libraries and cultural centres and said that the use of same should be encouraged going forward.

The Council would, he confirmed, work to influence policy in whatever way it could so that Donegal would benefit as much as possible from the National Broadband Plan in the months and years ahead.

C/110/20 **CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr T Crossan, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure improvements:

“That Donegal County Council confirm and secure a fast track funding programme from Government for the North West Greenway initiative to ensure county-wide greenway extensions, additional town and village inclusion, the delivery of safer pedestrian footways and trails, the provision of safe cycle-ways and cycle lane town loops and ensure that the domestic and north south tourism potential of the project is positively promoted by all Council Directorates”.

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community Development in relation to the above.

He said that he had submitted the motion on the basis that the County Development Plan 2018-2024 clearly provided for pedestrian footways, cycle lanes etc as an alternative to car use.

He alluded to the proposals for the development of cycle loops in Carndonagh and Buncrana initiatives which, he contended, were safer for locals and tourists alike.

The new Government, he noted, had committed €360m in funding for cycling and pedestrian projects. This, he contended, presented an opportunity for the Council to apply for additional funding for pedestrian and cycling projects, walkways etc going forward.

Cllr Crossan supporting the motion welcomed the efforts being undertaken to deliver a number of cross-border Greenway routes.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, confirmed that considerable work had gone into developing a prioritised list of routes.

Cllr Doherty concluding said that on the basis of the €360m funding provision allocated by Government, each local authority was immediately mandated to carry out an assessment of their road network to see where space could be reallocated to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. They were also encouraged, he said, to promote cycling and pedestrian safety through improved design, increased separation and better signage and marketing.

#### **C/111/20 OYSTER TRESTLES ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF LOUGH FOYLE**

On the proposal of Cllr T Crossan seconded by Cllr A Doherty, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“I propose, that in light of the ongoing proliferation of oyster trestles on the western shore of Lough Foyle which is having a severe detrimental effect on both the environment and society in that community, that Donegal County Council communicate to the Minister the need for the Government to engage with the U.K. Government and seek to resolve the jurisdictional issues that are inhibiting aquaculture regulation. The main overriding regulatory issues are:

- The lack of a licence and authorisation by a competent authority.
- The lack of spatial considerations-foreshore Licence / leases etc.
- The lack of assessed impact on designated features of the Foyle Natura 2000 sites.

The knock on effects of the lack of regulations in terms of environmental and socio economic concerns can be mostly attributed to:

- Lack of enforcement
- Lack of traceability
- Lack of accountability”.

Cllr Crossan received a response from the Director of Housing Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that there were approximately 60,000 unregulated oyster trestles on the western shore of the Foyle from Muff to Moville.

These he said were having a detrimental effect on the unique ecosystem of the area which was natural area of habitat for native and migratory birds. He thus called on the Governments in both jurisdictions to act now and preserve the shores of Lough Foyle. He was not, he said, against aquaculture but supported the need for it to be properly regulated.



Cllr Doherty referring to the 25km Foyle coastline noted that the Brexit discussion had revived the ongoing territorial dispute. There was now an onus on both Governments, he said to resolve same.

People, he said, needed to know what regulations were being adhered to as the real tourism and fishery potential of Lough Foyle was not being utilised.

He said that all those bodies with an interest in the Foyle, namely the North South Ministerial Council, the Loughs Agency, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Foyle Fisheries and Derry City Piers and Harbours etc needed to sit down and assess the situation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Crossan concluding outlined the need for proper authorisations/ licensing of activities along the Foyle.

C/112/20 **EXTENSION OF THE GRANT FOR BORING PRIVATE WELLS**

On the proposal of Cllr McDermott, seconded by Cllr Naughton, it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“To call on the Council to make representations to the Department to extend the grant for boring a private well to new homes as the cost of taking mains water to homes is so excessive that it can't be done”.

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

Many people in rural Donegal, he said, were having difficulty getting water connections as the connection costs provided by Irish Water were becoming more and more excessive.

People were being asked to pay up to €50,000, he added, for a connection to a mains line and often in areas where there was no group water scheme.

It was unfair, he contended, that the revised scheme for well grants effectively discriminated against people building new houses and he thus called for the 7 year ruling to be removed immediately.

Cllr Naughton supporting the motion said that the connection fees were extortionate and that one particular applicant had been given a quote of €60,000 for a mains connection.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director of Water & Environment said that he would write to the Department outlining the concerns raised by members, noting in particular the issue with the 7 year construction period requirement.

C//20 **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

*CE Schemes – Motion agreed March 2018*

It was unanimously agreed that the following motion agreed at Plenary Council in March 2018 be resubmitted for the attention of the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection, Ms Heather Humphreys, T.D.

"That this Council call on the Government to review the way CE schemes are being negatively affected by changes introduced over the last few years."

*Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- John Morrow, Mobile Litter Unit on the death of his father, James Morrow.
- Paul Timoney, Building Supervisor, Donegal PSC on the death of his mother, Mary Timoney.
- Brendan Moyne, Merville RSS Inishowen MD Roads Section on the death of his mother, Margaret Moyne.
- Winston Stewart, Water Services, Stranorlar on the death of his father and mother, Samuel (Sam) Stewart and Meta Stewart.
- The death of our former colleague, John A McLaughlin, retired Revenue Collector, Carrowmenagh, Lecamey, Merville.
- The death of Francis Brennan, Main St. Glenties, former County Councillor and father of Micheál, former employee of the DLDC based in Donegal PSC.
- Anne Marie Conlon, Head of Economic Development on the death of her sister Eilish Conlon.
- Gerry Gallagher, Water & Environment Section, Donegal PSC on the death of his mother, Mary Rose Gallagher.
- The death of our former colleague Terry O'Doherty, Coneyburrow Road, Lifford, father of Aidan O'Doherty (retired colleague) and brother of the late Gerry O'Doherty (deceased colleague).
- The death of our former colleague Hughie Gallagher, former Plant Operator and father of John Gallagher, Waterworks Caretaker, Ballyshannon.
- Geraldine Havlin, Planning Department on the death of her mother, Sydney Carlin.

- Paul Duddy, Letterkenny PSC, Peter and Martin Duddy, Water Services, Milford on the death of their mother, Rita Duddy.
- Martina McCollum, Letterkenny PSC on the death of her mother, Rose Crawford.
- Jeanette Longwill (Library Assistant) on the death of her brother, Steven Doherty.
- The death of our former colleague Hugh Conaghan, father of Francis Conaghan, Community Development and Planning Services, Letterkenny and Milford MD.
- Mary McGill, Roads, Stranorlar MD on the death of her sister, Nuala Allan.
- Adrienne Kelly, Community Development and Planning Services on the death of her mother, Kathleen Kelly.
- Liam Anthony Friel, Waterworks Inspector, Letterkenny MD on the death of his mother, Eileen Friel. Sister of Patrick Dorrian, Roads Services, Letterkenny MD.
- Eddie Doherty, Sub-Station Officer, Carndonagh Fire Station on the death of his father and our retired colleague Thomas Doherty (The Miller).
- Eileen Hoey, Roads Office, Donegal PSC on the death of her mother, Mary Catherine (Mae) Hoey.
- Bridin McGinty, Customer Service Centre, Milford on the death of her father, Patsy McGinty.
- Caroline Cutliffe, Library Services, Inishowen MD on the death of her husband, Gary Cutliffe.
- Shaun Paul Murphy, Community Development on the death of his sister, Marsha Mc Connell.

#### *Congratulations*

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher on the birth of her baby daughter.

#### *Meetings Schedule*

The following Schedule of Meetings from July to September was noted:-

- 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 - Online Roads Workshop to commence at 11am.

- 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 - Special Council Meeting to consider and approve the Draft Ten-T Proposed Variation Documents for Public Consultation to be held at 11am in the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny.
- 14<sup>th</sup> September – Planning Workshop in respect of the review of the County Development Plan 2018-2024 to be held at 11am in the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny

*Committee Meeting Dates.*

Members requested that meeting dates for the committees established at the 2019 AGM be provided as soon as possible.

*Business Restart Grants*

The Cathaoirleach referred to the impact of Covid-19 on businesses generally and the tourism and hospital sector in particular. She acknowledged the role played by Donegal County Council in supporting local businesses over the past few months and noted that €3.4m had been paid to date to 800 applicants. The closing date for applications was the 31<sup>st</sup> August, she said, and it was imperative that all eligible businesses applied for funding at this stage.

*Tourism Promotion*

The efforts of the Donegal County Council Tourism Team were to be commended, she said, and in particular their efforts to encourage “Staycations” in Donegal. There were plans also, she added, to move forward with an extensive marketing campaign in September aimed at the domestic and Northern Ireland market.

*Outdoor Spaces Initiative*

She welcomed this scheme which facilitated additional outdoor dining and seating areas and the fact that normal licence fees had been waived until the end of 2020.

C/114/20 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. An update was provided in relation to the following:-

**1. Community Development & Planning Services**

Ferry Services

- Buncrana – Rathmullan (Swilly) Ferry Service 2020
- Greencastle – Magilligan (Foyle) Ferry Service 2020

2020 Community Development Schemes

- Town & Village Renewal Scheme - Accelerated Measure
- Round 1 and 2
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020
- CLÁR Scheme 2020
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

2021 Community Funding Scheme Approach

- Community Enhancement Programme

## **2. Finance**

Local Property Tax 2021 – Public Consultation

Business Restart Grant – A Fund to Reconnect Small and Micro Businesses

## **3. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems**

Tourism Unit Update

- Supporting Recovery of the Tourism & Hospitality Sector in Donegal
- Fáilte Ireland led Destination Recovery Task Force
- Marketing Campaigns
- Donegal, Discover what's on your doorstep
- Working with Donegal Tourism Trade
- An integrated marketing campaign
- Upcoming Campaigns

## **4. Roads & Transportation**

Roads Works Programme Update

Roads Management Office

Donegal National Roads Office

- *TII National Road Allocations 2020*
- *Key National Roads Projects*
- *National Roads Pipeline projects at early stage scope and appraisal*
- *Major Construction Works 2020*
- *National Road Bridges*
- *National Road Pavement Works*
- *National Road Safety*
- *Summary July 2020 National Roads*

Central Technical Services Division

- *Bridges*
- *Piers & Harbours*
- *DAFM 2020 Programme*
- *Public Lighting*
- *Machinery Yard*

## North West Greenway Network

### **5. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services**

#### Housing Capital Update

- *Social Housing Developments*
- *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
- *House Acquisition Programme*
- *Specific Instance (SI) Houses*
- *Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes*

#### Cultural Services

- *Creative Ireland Programme 2020*
- *Library Service*
- *Arts Service*
- *Regional Cultural Centre*
- *Museum*
- *Archives*
- *County Donegal Heritage Office*

#### ***Tributes to Seamus Neely, Chief Executive on his term in office***

Cllr Brogan addressing the meeting said that it was now well known that the Chief Executive Seamus Neely's term in office was ending shortly. It was important at this juncture, he said, to recognise his outstanding contribution to Donegal County Council as Chief Executive and before that as Director of Service in Water & Environment.

Despite the many challenges over the years, he had, he confirmed excelled in the role of Chief Executive, faced the many challenges head on and where possible had made a huge effort to ensure that the Elected Members wishes were pursued.

He alluded to a vast array of projects all of which had come to fruition under his stewardship (from iconic tourism projects to developments such as the TEN-T initiative) and to the fact that time and time again Donegal was ahead of other local authorities in terms of getting specific projects off the ground.

Cllr Harley acknowledged the Chief Executive's contribution and work with the North West Regional Development Group and his work in a number of cross-border initiatives all of which served to put Donegal in a strong position from both an economic and social point of view. He thanked the Chief Executive for his assistance over the years and the fact that he had at all times been readily accessible to members.

Cllr Nicholas Crossan said that he wished to be associated with the above comments and that Mr Neely should be extremely proud of his

achievements to date. He thanked him in particular for his help and support over the period of his own term in office as Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Gary Doherty referred to the many outstanding achievements of the Council in the last ten years and said that it was disappointing that he could not continue with this work into the future. He wished him all the best and hoped that his departure would allow him spend more time with his family.

Further tributes were paid by all the members present.

The Cathaoirleach said that the Chief Executive should be proud of the legacy that he was leaving and that his competent and steady handling of the organisation through many difficult times had served the county well. His dedication, she advised, had come at a cost not least the impact on his own personal family time. She wished him good health and every success with his future plans.

Mr Neely thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members for their kind words. The last few days he noted had given him an opportunity to reflect on his journey with the Council and one that saw him work with a number of dedicated teams.

He said that he was appreciative of the fact that successive Councils had trusted him with the various recommendations put to them. He alluded in particular to the resolution put to Council in the early days of his term seeking to borrow €50m as a long term measure aimed at stabilising the Council's finances. Approval of same, he said, had made many of the outcomes referred to today a possibility.

Collaboration with other organisations such as Derry City & Strabane District Council, and the North West Regional Development Group, had afforded Donegal a major opportunity to play major league in the development of the Island.

He acknowledged the excellent relationship which had been forged with Letterkenny LYIT and the fact that this had worked for the collective good of the community.

He was, he confirmed, particularly proud of developments in the roads infrastructure and the evolution of a definitive tourism product over the last number of years. It had been, he said, an honour and privilege to serve the people of Donegal.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation thanking the Chief Executive said that he had been a genuine friend to the Senior Management Team and the staff in Donegal County Council. He was he confirmed well respected in Dublin and by the various Government departments and had never been afraid to take an initial hit so as to achieve a greater outcome. The organisation, he said, had flourished under his leadership and was in a strong position to deal with the challenges

going forward.

The following questions were noted.

C/115/20 **DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES WITH A VIEW AFTER BREXIT TO HAVE A SHARED PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE**

Cllr Mc Garvey submitted the following question:-

“Will Donegal County Council organise and keep in contact with all relevant agencies in Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Belfast with the view after Brexit to having a shared plan for the provision of a better future for all our people?

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Economic Development in relation to the above.

C/116/20 **CHECK ON THE MANY HARBOURS AND WATERWAYS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL USERS.**

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

Can this Council carry out a check on the many harbours and waterways to ensure the safety of all users?

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/117/20 **WHAT IS THE COST PER MONTH OF PROVIDING HOMELESS EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

“What is the average cost of per month of providing homeless emergency accommodation across each MD in each of the following instances?

- Emergency hostel accommodation for a single person.
- Private emergency accommodation for a family
- Deposit supports given to acquire Private Rented Accommodation for those in need of housing?

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/118/20 **UPDATED REPORT ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can I have an updated report on the schedule for the review of the County Development Plan?



Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning in relation to the above.

C/119/20 **HOW MANY OF THE MECHANICAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS SERVICING RESIDENTIAL ESTATES ARE CURRENTLY ABANDONED OR NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERTY**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

“How many of the Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plants servicing residential estates across this county are currently abandoned and or not functioning properly and can I have locations of them MD by MD?

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning in relation to the above.

C/120/20 **HOW MANY PLAYGROUNDS IN THE COUNTY ARE INSURED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Kennedy submitted the following question:-

How many playgrounds in the county are insured by Donegal County Council and where are these playgrounds located?

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning in relation to the above.

C/121/20 **HAVE THE COUNCIL A DATE SET YET FOR THE MEETING WITH COMREG AND THE EPA REGARDING THE CONCERNS OF 5G**

Cllr Kennedy submitted the following question:-

Have we a date set yet for our meeting with Comreg and the EPA for a meeting regarding the concerns of 5G?

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/122/20 **WILL THE COUNCIL UNDERTAKE A SURVEY OF OUR PIERS AND HARBOURS.**

Cllr McMahan submitted the following question:-

Will Donegal County Council undertake a survey of our Piers and Harbours to identify those in most need of serious repair?

Cllr McMahan received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/123/20 **CAN THE COUNCIL WRITE TO THE NEW MINISTER REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR LIS AND CIS SCHEMES**

Cllr Sweeny submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council write to the new Minister requesting additional funding for LIS and CIS schemes in the county of Donegal?

Cllr Sweeny received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/124/20 **CAN THE COUNCIL GIVE A LIST OF ALL THE HOUSING NEEDS IN THE COUNTY**

Cllr Harley submitted the following question:-

Can this Council give me list of all the housing needs in the County?

- d) All the housing needed in each town in the county.
- e) How many 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses are needed in each area?
- f) How many people are in H.A.P accommodation in each town in county?

Cllr Harley received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/125/20 **HOW MANY HOUSING SCHEMES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION COUNTY WIDE**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How many housing schemes are currently under construction county-wide at present and when might they be ready to allocate?

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/126/20 **WHAT PLANS DO THE COUNCIL HAVE FOR THE PRIOR BUILDING AT THE BARRACKS COMPLEX GOING FORWARD**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

What plans does this Council have for the Prior Building at the Barracks Complex in terms of Council use going forward?

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/127/20 **CAN I HAVE THE LATEST POPULATION CENSUS FOR EACH TOWN AND VILLAGE IN THE COUNTY AND DETAILS EXPLANATION ON HOW A TOWNS POPULATION IS CALCULATED.**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can I have the latest population census for each town and village in the county and a detailed explanation on how a town's population is calculated using the five largest towns in the county as an example?

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning in relation to the above.

C/128/20 **UPDATE ON WATER MAINS REPLACEMENTS**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can the Council give details of water mains replacement works ongoing this year in Donegal and clarification on who decides on which sections are priorities as areas such as Castlefin are experiencing extremely dirty brown water or very low pressure most of the time?

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/129/20 **WHAT ROLE DOES THIS COUNCIL PLAY IN ASSISTING RESIDENTS WHO ARE UNABLE TO GET CONNECTED TO BROADBAND**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

What role does this Council play in assisting residents who are unable to get connected to broadband because of a refusal of service providers to extend the line to their property?

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Information Services in relation to the above.

C/130/20 **WOULD DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CONSIDER INSTALLING TAPS AT ALL BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY IN LIGHT OF COVID 19 UNDER SAFETY REASONS**

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:-

Would Donegal County Council consider installing taps at all beaches throughout the county in light of Covid-19 under safety reasons ?

Cllr McClafferty received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/131/20 **CAN THE COUNCIL CONSIDER BANNING ALL CARS, BIKES, QUADS ETC ON ALL OUR DONEGAL BEACHES**

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:-

Can the Council consider banning all cars bikes, quads etc on all our Donegal Beaches as these are causing real problems in some cases and not called for?

Cllr McClafferty received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/132/20 **CAN THE COUNCIL GIVE ASSURANCES THAT ALL PROJECTS OUTLINED IN THE CAPITAL PLAN ARE RING-FENCED AND WILL GO AHEAD**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can the Council give assurances that all projects outlined in the Capital Plan are ring-fenced and will go ahead as planned?

Cllr Murray received a response from the Head of Finance in relation to the above.

C/133/20 **HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 5 YEARS HAS ONGOING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OR INSTANCES OF ANY OTHER NATURE LEAD TO THE CESSATION OF A COUNCIL TENANCY.**

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

Can ongoing criminal activity, anti-social behaviour or instances of any other nature which negatively impact on the local community lead to the cessation of a council tenancy and how often has this happened in the last 5 years?

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/134/20 **WHAT FUNDING HAS BEEN SOUGHT AND SECURED FOR THE IMPACT OF MICA ON COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK SINCE MY LAST QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2019**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is aware of the scale of the impact of MICA on Council housing stock and the Council has advised the Department that it would be making a submission for funding to carry out the requisite remedial work on the houses. (Part of response received following my question to the Council September 2019) What funding has been sought and secured since Sept 2019? and will the Council now seek significant funding from Government to allow essential remedial works to commence on council homes in 2020 and allay the health and safety fears of council tenant families?

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/135/20 **HOW WILL DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL IMPLEMENT THE CROSS DIRECTORATE ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN AND BIODIVERSITY RELATED ACTIVITY IN 2020**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

How will Donegal County Council implement the cross directorate All Ireland Pollinator Plan and biodiversity-related activity in 2020? and what role in the implementation of the plan will each Directorate and staff play in progressing the plan and sharing and promoting its benefits to Tidy Town committees and interested community groups?

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/136/20 **SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID 19 HOW MANY PROSECUTIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS FOR FLY TIPPING/ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THE COUNTY.**

Cllr Crossan submitted the following question:

Since the onset of the Covid 19 restrictions how many prosecutions has Donegal County Council initiated against individuals for fly tipping/illegal dumping in the county?

Cllr Crossan received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/137/20 **HOW MUCH DID DONEGAL BENEFIT FROM THE ANTI DUMPING INITIATIVE FUND**

Cllr Crossan submitted the following question:-

How much did Donegal benefit from "The Anti Dumping Initiative Fund" and what proportion was allocated per Municipal District and is there still money available?

Cllr Crossan received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/138/20 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

"This Council condemns the action of the PSNI in disrupting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest in Guildhall Square in Derry on June 6<sup>th</sup> by issuing fines and threatening court action against organisers and participants.

The organisers of the protest, the North West Migrants' Forum, enforced strict rules to maintain social distancing. Very clear social distancing marks were drawn on the ground, in the same way many stores manage crowds queuing.

Council notes that Amnesty International and the Northern Committee on the Administration of Justice have expressed concern about the way application of the regulations arising from the Covid 19 pandemic were altered on the evening prior to the Black Lives Matter protest, clearly suggesting that the point of the changes was to facilitate the PSNI in taking action against protesters.

Council backs the call for a full review of how policing was conducted at the BLM events. Council supports the demand for a public apology to the BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) Community. Council calls for the

withdrawal of all fines and threats of court action against BLM protesters.

Council will send a copy of this motion to every Council, North and South, in this country.”

#### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council support the motion passed on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Dáil Éireann that calls for the provision of Personal Assistance Services to be legislated for as a right for people living with disabilities.”

#### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“To ask Kerry County Council to write on behalf of the members to the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Tourism asking that the VAT rate on the tourism industry be reduced to 0% to try and alleviate the pressure on related businesses and attempt to avoid the complete decimation of this sector. This is not a decision for the next Government. It is a decision that needs to be made now.”

#### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we write to the appropriate Minister regarding people objecting to planning who are not from the area. They should be 10km from the proposed development.”

#### LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“The current National Plan, Project Ireland 2040, promotes an urban hierarchy to the detriment of mostly rural counties like Leitrim. Leitrim County Council calls upon the Government to change it and to devise a National Plan which promotes more balanced development and investment across all parts of Ireland.

I ask that a copy of this motion be circulated to all the other 30 councils.”

#### LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City and County Council support the National Small Business Recovery Plan in order to protect the thousands of jobs that SMEs provide throughout County Limerick and that Limerick City and County Council write to the Government and, in particular, Mr Leo Varadkar, TD, the new Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to fund and immediately implement the findings and recommendations of the National Small Business Recovery Plan; and that Limerick City and County Council circulate this Motion to all other Councils.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“I propose that local authorities be funded by the Government, in order to maintain the services to make good the rates shortfall in a similar manner in which Government have supported SMEs with regard to Covid payments.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“A huge proportion of the lands in Ireland have no registered rights of way. In the most recent book of Mr Peter Bland SC on the area it appears there is an anomaly in the legislation regarding the registration of rights of way in

The Property Registration.

At the moment you may assist a right of way by prescription in that the right of way has been used as a right, without permission, without secrecy and without consideration for in excess of 12 years in an application form but you may declare that the right is not a right of way of necessity for them to be able to consider the application. This obviously precludes most applications.

I call on Sligo County Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Justice to amend the legislation to permit the Property Registration Authority to include rights of way by necessity in their remit which are surely the simplest to adjudicate from map inspections and should be kept away from costly court proceedings in order to free up the courts or to set up an Independent adjudicator with these matters quickly.”

#### SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Sligo County Council bans the use of official and unofficial Bathing places and sale of at any location within the county of inflatable dinghies and all dangerous inflatable products, and that the Council write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to seek a nationwide Ban on these dangerous products before more young lives are lost.

These products have consistently warned of the dangers of these products and have been described by Irish Water Safety as “Floating Killers”.

#### WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council support SIPTU and the “Big Start Campaign” which demands adequate investment in the Early Years services to make it affordable, accessible with high quality with professional pay for childcare workers, and further calls on the Government to fully support the campaign”

#### WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council in recognising the stress, uncertainty and worry of the Leaving Certificate Class of 2020 discuss possible options of assisting these students pursue their chosen career this autumn, where some may want to attend Third Level Education and others follow the apprenticeship of their Choice.

The proposal of “First Choice for All” should be accommodated as much as possible.”

This concluded the business of the meeting

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Cathaoirleach

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Date

