

10th November, 2020

To: Each Member of Donegal County Council

I hereby give notice under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001, having received a requisition from the Cathaoirleach pursuant to Paragraph 6(1) (a) of said schedule, that a Special Meeting of Donegal County Council shall be held at 11am on Monday 16th November, 2020, in the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny, to transact the following business. A copy of the requisition is attached.

AGENDA

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

1. To approve the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the SEED Project: A regeneration project to strengthen, engage, enable and deliver transformational change in Ballybofey & Stranorlar.
2. To approve the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the Carndonagh Town Centre Regeneration Project with the aim of addressing physical and social regeneration targets in the town through repurposing vacant or derelict buildings.



Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE LETTERKENNY ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2020**

C/222/20

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs R Donaghey (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, M Harley, J Kavanagh, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, B McGuinness (online), G Mc Monagle, J Murray, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

C/223/20

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Sean O'Daimhin, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

C/224/20

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Farren who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/225/20

SEED PROJECT: A REGENERATION PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN, ENGAGE, ENABLE AND DELIVER TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN BALLYBOFEY & STRANORLAR.

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, the carrying out of improvement works to facilitate the SEED Project: A regeneration project to strengthen, engage, enable and deliver transformational change in Ballybofey & Stranorlar 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.

Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Regeneration & Development Team in relation to the project. They complimented Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services, Mr Paul Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Ms Sinead Mc Cauley, Executive Planner and Ms Claire Mc Callan, Development Officer together with the local community for their collective efforts in progressing the project.

The proposed works, they noted, were timely and could be tied in with the Bypass Project which would serve to maintain an air of vibrancy in the towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar whilst encouraging investment from the private sector.

C/226/20

CARNDONAGH TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECT

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr M McDermott, the carrying out of works so as to facilitate the Carndonagh Town Centre Regeneration Project with the aim of addressing physical and social regeneration targets in the town through repurposing vacant or derelict buildings 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.

Cllr Mc Dermott thanked the Chief Executive, Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Mr Paul Kelly, Senior Executive Planner and his team for their dedicated work and efforts over the past number of years. He paid tribute also to Spraoi agus Sport whose input had been invaluable. The project, he noted, whilst challenging would reinvigorate the streetscape of Carndonagh and would be of massive benefit to north Inishowen.

Members advised that the project would help address issues such as dereliction which had been specifically identified in the Local Area Plan and was in keeping with objectives identified in the County Development Plan, the Rural Regeneration & Development Plan, Ireland 2040 Plan- National Planning Framework and the Town & Village Renewal Programme.

The project, it was acknowledged, would in the long-term build on and ensure the preservation of the economic history of Carndonagh whilst embracing changes necessary for the revitalisation of this proud market town.

Cllr Mc Brearty asked that a full briefing/presentation on any proposed Part 8 works be provided in advance of the relevant council meeting. This was necessary, he contended, as all members of Council had a role in the decision process. He noted that there had been controversy in the past when members of the public objected to particular works following the ratification of a Part 8 at plenary level.

Cllr A Doherty alluded to ongoing concerns regarding the blocking of a popular walkway in Carndonagh and the fact that native hedgerows had been taken out without proper consultation. He acknowledged the intent of the Planning Enforcement Section and said that whilst it was encouraging to see progress, there was a need also to look at preservation issues. He asked that an update be provided in relation to the safety aspects involved.

C/227/20

PEAT SLIPPAGE MEENBOG

Members alluded to the events that had taken place at Meenbog on the 13th November and said that the full impact of the slippage had yet to be seen. The Council as the Planning Authority, they said, needed take a serious look at the situation.

It was noted that Donegal County Council had in this case refused the application which was subsequently granted by An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr Mc Gowan said that the Finn Valley Wind Action Group had highlighted in a previous submission the possibility of such an event

occurring. This, he stated, highlighted the necessity of having a genuine input from groups such as these.

Cllr G Doherty said that the ecological impact of the slippage was vast and that the full picture had yet to emerge. There were concerns also, he said, regarding the safety of drinking water from Lough Mourne. He proposed, seconded by Cllr Harley that Donegal County Council as the Planning Authority put a stop on all works at the windfarm until an investigation is carried out and works to mitigate further slippages are carried out. It was noted that there were implications also for the Mournebeg River which flows into the river Derg in Co Tyrone.

There was general agreement that the Council having been mandated by the people should have some form of input into An Bord Pleanála decision process.

Cllr Mc Garvey called for the restoration of the Section 140 process.

The Cathaoirleach thanked members and staff for their co-operation and input noting that it had been a combined effort to get both projects to this stage. Funding, she said, was paramount and all options would now be explored to ensure that both projects got off the ground.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community & Planning Services acknowledged the appreciation of the members and said that he would convey same to the staff involved. Every effort would be made, he added, to work with all the relevant authorities to ensure that the projects were progressed.

Concluding Cllr G Doherty alluded to the fact that the developer in question when seeking permission had submitted to An Bord Pleanála an undertaking that they would voluntarily stop works in the event of a slippage and commence immediately the relevant mitigation works.

This concluded the business of the meeting.