

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riartóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
Leifear
24 Bealtaine 2022

FÓGRA CRUINNITHE

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Beidh Cruinniú de Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Luain 30 Bealtaine 2022** ag **11.00am in in Ionad Fóillíochta an Aura, Salach an Ghráin, Leitir Ceanainn.** Tá Clár an chruinnithe leis seo. Seolfar nasc leictreonach chuig an chruinniú i gcomhfhreagras eile.

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

Mise, le meas



Pádraig Ó Laifearaigh
Riartóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
24th May 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 30th May 2022, at **11.00am in the Aura Leisure Centre, Sallaghagrane, Letterkenny.** The agenda for the meeting is attached. An online link to join the meeting will issue separately.

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

Yours sincerely



Patsy Lafferty
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th March 2022.
 - b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th April 2022.
 - c) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th May 2022.

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 by way of lease property at Main Street, Carrigart to Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC.

3. **Taking of decision pursuant to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001**
 - a) To approve the carrying out of infrastructure works adjacent to the R238 in the Inishowen Municipal District in the townlands of Ardmore, Drumskillan, Ture, Aught and Three Tree in respect of the Muff to Quigley's Point Greenway.

4. **Corporate**
 - a) To agree date for the 2022 Annual General Meeting.
 - b) To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Report 2021 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
 - c) To approve twinning arrangements between the Lifford/ Stranorlar Municipal District and Valladolid in Spain.
 - d) To nominate members to the Working Group on Constitutional Change. (10 No. Elected Members)
 - e) To nominate Members from each Municipal District to the Peace Plus Partnership.
 - f) To fill casual vacancy on the Brexit Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Frank Mc Brearty.
 - g) To fill casual vacancy on the Donegal Heritage Forum arising from the resignation of Cllr Martin Farren.
 - h) To fill casual vacancy on the Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Strategic Development Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Marie T Gallagher.
 - i) To fill vacancy on the Climate Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
 - j) To fill casual vacancy on the Letterkenny Theatre Management Company arising from the resignation of Cllr Kevin Bradley.
 - k) Nomination of Donegal County Council representative on the Board of Comhar na nOileán CTR.

- l) To note update report on allegations of corruption made at Budget 2022 Meeting.

5. **Roads & Transportation**

That Donegal County Council resolves to enter into an agreement with Louth County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) in order for Louth County Council to administer the installation of Rapid Electric Vehicle Chargers in Donegal together with all associated works.

6. **Finance**

To approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €180,153,026 as set out on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €182,921,981 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2021) 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.

7. **Planning**

- a) Proposed Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan: Revised Text & next steps.

- Members to clarify their position in relation to the submitted Proposed Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan (incorporating Member's proposed amendments to the version submitted to the March 2022 Plenary Meeting) as contained in the document submitted with this report (the "Proposed Draft Plan")
- Authorise the Executive to further edit the Proposed Draft Plan where such requirements are identified and where any such edits would be non-material in nature.
- Approve the formal commencement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes, and completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment processes in respect of the approved Proposed Draft Plan.
- Approve, subject to the outcome of the screening processes for SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and AA (Appropriate Assessment), the preparation of an Environmental Report (for SEA) and Natura Impact Report (for AA).

- b) Review of County Development Plan 2018-2024 – To agree dates for Plenary Workshops.

8. **Community Development**

To note the nomination of Shauna Mc Clenaghan to fill the vacancy on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

9. **Environment**

- a) To note "Allocation of EU Life Programme funding towards the establishment of a NW Regional Energy Agency (€570,000)".
- b) To allow the Draft Bye-Law Amendment known as the Regulation

and Control of Certain Beaches (Amendment) Byelaws 2022 (Prohibition of Dogs on Blue Flag Beaches) to go out to public consultation.

10. **Endorsement of Minutes.**

- a) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 21st March 2022.
- b) To note minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 12th May 2022.
- c) To endorse the minutes of the meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge held on 25th February 2022.

11. **Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event**

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014(as amended)

Training

- ALLG Members Training – WoMeN's Regional Caucus Training Day Programme to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday 1st June 2022.

Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR Representative at the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on the 16th June 2022 in Helsingborg (Skåne, Sweden).
- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the European Municipal Authorities Annual Forum Meeting on the 26th and 27th June 2022 in Katowice, Poland.

12. **Report on attendance at Conference/Event**

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Commemoration of the Blitz of Clydebank in 1941 at the invitation of West Dumbartonshire Council from 19th- 22nd November 2021

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Report on visit to Islington, London at the invitation of the Irish Ambassador to the UK, Adrian O' Neill to attend a function in honour of the Irish contribution to the Borough of Islington from the 1st to the 2nd March 2022.

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Report on visit to Rudolsadt in Germany for the St Patrick's Day Events from the 15th -21st March 2022.

Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Report on visit to Rudolsadt in Germany for the St Patrick's Day Events from the 15th -21st March 2022.

MOTIONS

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

13. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan

That a dedicated housing section is set up immediately to acquire land in our main towns so as to expedite social and affordable house building which is not progressing well at present, and that local environment lands that surround our town centres are immediately changed to "Opportunity Lands" to allow for well-designed small scale private residential housing clusters.

14. Cllr Frank Mc Brearty

I am requesting Donegal County to supply members with the following information:

1. As of the 14th March 2020, 720 applications have been received by DCC to the 90/10 DCB grant scheme. How many of these 720 applications have a test suite c or a sulphate attack report classed as a test suite c attached to their application.
2. How many applications are from Petro Lab in Cornwall, UK and can you list the other Labs used and can you attach the number of tests conducted from each that are in these 720 applications. Example say Petro Lab have 200 homes tested which leaves 520 others to be numbered to their Lab with a total number for each Lab.
3. How many Test suite B results from Petro Lab are showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides such as Pyrrhotite above 0.1% Example, my parents Petro Lab test suite b results are showing a visual estimate of 1-2% of Iron Sulphides in the Defective Concrete Blocks samples tested by Petro Lab.
4. How many other Labs are showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides above 0.1% in their test suite b, if any and can I have the name of each of these Labs and the number attached to each Lab. Example Test suite b results with Lab (a) has 100, Lab (b) has 150 and so on.
5. What date did the first test suite b showing a visual estimate of Iron Sulphides above 0.1% come into the application section.
6. What date did the first test suite c come into the application section showing the percentage of Iron Sulphides such as Pyrrhotite, Rare Pyrite, Minor Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Marcasite, or any other sulphide minerals.
7. How many applications in the SI 25, 90/10 DCB grant Scheme will be forwarded and processed on the evidence from their Lab results without the Building Condition assessment undertaken by a Building Condition assessment professional in the new enhanced grant scheme.
8. What is the estimated time for the new enhanced scheme to open and what is the timeline for the new bill to passed into law?

We the members of DCC are entitled to the answers to these questions. I am not requesting anyone's private data and I hope that this motion outlines properly what I am requesting on behalf of the members and the electorate we serve, which is the numbers of different Labs being used, their names, number of test suite b results showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides, number of test suite c results showing percentage of Iron Sulphides, the latest figures for applications received to date and if there has been any change to the figures at stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3 as of the 25th of April 2022.

Corporate

15. **Cllr Gary Doherty**

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Irish Government to unequivocally condemn the actions of Israel in brutally attacking the funeral of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and to support calls for an independent investigation into her death".

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

16. **Cllr Barry Sweeny**

"That Donegal County Council write to Minister Heather Humphreys, Department of Social Protection, Rural and Community Development to request that recently arrived Ukrainian Nationals would qualify for the TÚS scheme. There is currently a shortage of participants available on the scheme to assist various community groups and the inclusion of Ukrainian Nationals can have many benefits for both the community groups and the participants themselves".

That this motion be circulated to all other Councils.

17. **Cllr Michael Mc Mahon**

"I call on this Council to make representation to the Department of Foreign Affairs with the proposal to look at opening a regional office for passport applications and renewals".

Roads & Transportation

18. **Cllr Noel Jordan**

"I am calling on this Council to provide the necessary funding package to repair the crash barriers throughout our county and also provide for new crash barriers where needed"

Planning

19. **Cllr Niamh Kennedy**

"That Donegal County Council will engage with all property owners with vacant and derelict properties in the towns and villages to help the owners, and discuss options of repurpose, reuse, lease, retrofit and or rebuild much needed and sought after accommodation for the County. To engage with the community groups involved with the engagement in the Local Economic & Community Plan and future Local Area Plans".

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

20. Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty

"Donegal County Council asks that the Garda authorities to:

- Outline how many Gardaí are required to police Donegal and thus data be supplied on a station by station basis outlining where vacancies or shortfalls in manpower exist.
- Provide the number of patrol vehicles taken out of service in Donegal since January 2021 and confirm whether a replacement has been provided for patrol cars and vans that have been decommissioned.
- Outline what additional resources will be made available to police the significant increase in population in the county during the holiday season and ask clarification as to whether the increase in population is catered for in the policing plan for the county"

21. Cllr Marie T Gallagher

"That Donegal County Council agree to request a meeting with the Minister for Education and officials in that Department to discuss the funding streams available to primary, post primary and childcare facilities for outdoor recreation/sports/play areas available to them".

Corporate

22. Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

Go n-athdhearbhaíonn Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a tacaíocht láidir don pholasaí fadbhunaithe neodracha a bhí ag na Sé Chontae is Fiche agus gur mhaith linn a chur ar an taifead go bhfuil muid i gcoinne aon iarracht chun an seasamh s'againn ar an cheist thábhachtach seo a athrú. Lena chinntiú go leanfaidh na Sé Chontae is Fiche orthu ag cloí leis an chuspóir tábhachtach seo, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar an Taoiseach freagra a thabhairt ar an iarratas uainn go gcuirfear an neodracht isteach sa bhunreacht trí reifreann".

"That Donegal County Council reaffirms its strong support for the 26 counties long established policy of neutrality and wishes to place on record its opposition to any attempt to change our position on this crucial issue. In order to guarantee the 26 counties ongoing observance of this cherished objective, this Council calls upon the Taoiseach to answer our request that neutrality be inserted into the constitution through the process of a referendum".

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

23. **Cllr Albert Doherty**

"That this Council discuss and define the Local Authority's "Delivery Action Plans" to address social housing need and to end homelessness and that the council ensure the delivery of a sustained and efficient house building programme that adequately responds to the growing housing demand and need in the county"

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cultural Services

24. **Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh**

"That we write to the Department and ask that they consider changing Culture Night in September to Culture Weekend for future years, and that we circulate the motion to the other councils"

Corporate Services

25. **Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle**

"That this Council supports the "Save Your Community Post Office" campaign led by the Independent Postmasters Group and now calls on the Government to implement the Private Members Motion Passed in the Dáil in November 2016 which sets out an Action Plan to enable the sustainability of our local community Post Offices Network into the future"

Economic Development

26. **Cllr Ciaran Brogan**

"I propose that this Council initiate a Tourism Master Plan in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland for Donegal, so as to help identify the strengths and opportunities in so many different areas from current product development to future product development and to explore the opportunities for private sector engagement with our capital investment moving forward".

Housing

27. **Cllr Ian Mc Garvey**

"That this Council discuss jointly with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government the need for housing in Donegal going forward".

28. Cathaoirleach's Business.

29. Chief Executive's Management Report.

QUESTIONS

LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Development

30. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Can the Council employ two playground stewards to do general maintenance and police playgrounds for anti-social behaviour across the County especially in the spring and summer months in response to ongoing concerns by parents?

Roads

31. Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Can the Council ensure that LIS farmer lane grant applications are dealt with on a first come basis across the County as many of the 2017 and 2018 applications are being left behind unfairly?
32. Cllr Gerry Crawford
What areas within the county have been included in any application for accident prevention works in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023?

Housing

33. Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
How much has DCC spent on homes 1-5 An Crannla, Gransha Road, Buncrana re maintenance works during the 11-year lease period (2010-2021) and what have they spent-on top of the 68,650 Euro given by the Department as part of the acquisition completed in March 2021 to the present day on further maintenance?
34. Cllr Frank Mc Brearty
How many properties owned by DCC have now been cored and tested for Deleterious Materials and Iron Sulphide Minerals (Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite) and how many Test Suite A and B results are back from Petro Lab and what are the results showing up?
35. Cllr Gary Doherty
What facilities have been put in place to allow for clinics where members of the public can attend to ask and get questions answered on Mica and related issues?

Finance

36. Cllr Gerry Crawford
What projects county-wide have been impacted and to what extent by the increase in costs to deliver such projects?

Environment

37. Cllr Gerry Crawford
Can we have a report please on the progress on the provision of public toilets throughout the county?

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

38. **Cllr Niamh Kennedy**

What is the status and or progress on the multi-denomination/non denominational graveyards for this County and do we have any update please?

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development

39. **Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty**

What are Donegal County Councils plans regarding better facilities locally for our camper vans such as disposing of their toilet cassettes and supplying disposal points for this purpose?

40. **Cllr Marie T Gallagher**

Has any progress been made on SF proposal at both budget 21 and 22 on the tourism initiative of the seven wonders of Donegal?

Environment

41. **Cllr Michael Mc Clafferty**

There is a huge dog fouling problem within our County, on beaches footpaths etc with irresponsible dog owners, who either don't or refuse to clean up after their dog. What steps do the Council intend to take to try and address this issue county-wide at present?

Housing

42. **Cllr Marie T Gallagher**

Considering the crisis in housing in this county could I have information on the following:

- Do DCC plan to hire in-house legal personnel to directly deal with housing?
- Why are we not purchasing houses on the market?
- Has the Housing Section received a response from planning regarding the provisions within the county development plan for multiple build modular homes?

43. **Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig**

Cá mhéad teach atá i ngach Ceantar Bardasach i gContae Dhún na nGall agus cá mhéad acu sin atá ina dTithe Saoire?

How many houses are there in Donegal per Municipal District and how many of these are Holiday Homes?

44. Cllr Micheál C Mac Giolla Easbuig

Cén freagra a bhí ag an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais ar mo rún maidir le Liam Campbell a eiseachadh go dtí an Liotuáin agus ar fhoilsigh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall an freagra agus mura ndearna, cén fáth?

What was the response of the Department of Justice & Equality on my motion relating to the extradition of Liam Campbell to Lithuania and did Donegal County Council make public the response and if not why not?

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development

45. Cllr Albert Doherty

Will Donegal County Council contact again the Department of Infrastructure and Derry City and Strabane District Council and seek their support to complement connectivity, tourism promotion and shared marketing of the North West City Region through the erection and provision of road signage and information directions to Municipal Council Public Service Centre towns in Donegal?

Follow up to Motion 20004 adopted July 2017 and Question 01005 Jan.2020.

Corporate

46. Cllr Albert Doherty

Following the Council adoption in Sept.2019 of my motion (04039) calling on the Courts Service, Minister of Justice and OPW to ensure restoration of Court Services and refurbishment of courthouses closed in Donegal, Will the Council contact all related parties again and seek the commencement of necessary works and the restoration of court services in Donegal?

Planning

47. Cllr Terry Crossan

To ask Donegal County Council to list the Estates that have been adopted in the past ten years and to outline if there is a policy in regard to weighting geographical areas to ensure fairness in the process throughout the county and to outline mechanisms which exist to provide assistance to communities for addressing issues arising from the problems associated with unfinished estates such as road and street light maintenance?

LETTERKENNY/MILFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Environment

48. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

How many publicly operated toilet facilities do we own and operate and where are they located?

49. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

What definitive plans does the OPW have to deal with the flooding problems that exist in Donegal?

Housing

50. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Why has our policy of buying private homes by our Housing Capital Unit to meet the growing demand to provide social housing been put on hold and when will this embargo be lifted?

51. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we get an updated report on the steps being taken by Housing Capital to address the housing list, i.e. land acquisition, social housing, affordable housing, and a time frame for same?

Corporate

52. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Can we get a updated report on the staff within our organisation to include a breakdown by each directorate, vacancies in each area, temporary contracts, and areas where we don't have panels in place to replace staff that have retired from the Council ?

Roads & Transportation

53. Cllr Donal Coyle

When will the CPO's pertaining to the TEN-T Project be published?

54. **Motions from Other Councils/Bodies**

Cavan County Council

"That Cavan County Council oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf"

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"In response to the call from Dmytro KUBELA, Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs, that this Council call on the Minister for Justice to propose legislation forthwith to criminalise the use of the Z symbol as a way to publicly support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Z means Russian war crimes, bombed out cities, thousands of murdered Ukrainians. Public support of this barbarism must be forbidden."

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"Clare County Council request the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to initiate an independent review of the grossly under resourcing of the National Ambulance Service, the suitability, effectiveness, efficiency of the current dynamic deployment system used by the NAS for deployment of services in Rural Ireland."

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"This week we became aware that Ennis General Hospital has the second highest wait time for gynaecology appoints in the country."

Figures released to the Dail show the average wait time for an outpatient gynaecology appointment at the hospital is close to one year and five months and is second only to Tallaght Hospital nationwide. Waiting times at University Hospital Limerick are around half that number, averaging out at 291 days. 599 women are currently waiting for such appointment in Ennis, along with a further 1,455 at UHL. On foot of this information we request the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly to approve and allocate funding for both equipment and the recruitment of appropriate personnel for the Gynaecology Department in Ennis. This needs to be done as a matter of urgency.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government and the Minister of Social Protection to find a solution which would allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“We ask Clare County Council to immediately make contact with the Department of Transport with a view to insisting that Dublin Airport Authority diverts spare capacity traffic to the like of Shannon Airport particularly as Dublin has clearly been unable to cater for what it has while Shannon needs more passengers.”

DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

“In the interests of good planning and upholding the integrity of the County Development Plan in the minds of Citizens, this Council agrees to write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to withdraw the Specific Planning Policy Requirements provisions that enables Ministerial Guidelines to override such plans and lead to the probability of An Bord Pleanala continuing to ignore democratically agreed County Development Plans. The Council further agrees to circulate this motion to all councillors to encourage a united approach on this issue.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council call on all banks to immediately assist in setting up cashless transaction and issue Debit cards at low-cost fees, to all OAP and Credit Unions, so that they are allowed to enter to a competitive banking market and allowed to have current account so as to be able to issue Debit/Credit cards to their account holders. This is in response to the huge amount burglaries many with violence been carried out across the country on our senior citizens. I ask this motion be circulated to all local authorities across the country. I ask it be forwarded to our Finance ministers and our minister for Justice.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“To ask that Killarney Municipal District would write to the appropriate Ministers to obtain the proper answers to the happenings in the Stardust Fire. This fire happened 41 years ago and claimed 48 lives, the families of which need answers. We as a country must and will help them. If this

motion is passed, please arrange to circulate to all local authorities in Ireland.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City and County Council put in place a working system for signing GDPR consent forms. The current system is not manageable in any event, especially emergencies; and that this Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to intervene; and that this Motion be circulated to all local authorities.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council corresponds to all relevant Government Departments requesting a further reduction of taxes on fuel as the escalating costs are having a serious impact on farming communities, industry and the public as they go about their daily lives, and that such reduction be passed on in full to the customer.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council would write to Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland, requesting permission for Bord na Mona to allow Contractors to harvest turf due to the urgent need for fuel, in light of the War in Ukraine”.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to introduce financial assistance to assist in the removal of asbestos from residential dwellings. And if passed, that this motion be circulated to all local authorities in Ireland.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“In the interests of fairness, competition and value for money, this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and the Commissioner for Energy Regulation to ensure a transparent, robust and thorough procurement process be applied to next Supervisory Body of Electrical Contractors agreement to ensure that all contractor’s views are taken into account and that consideration for two bodies be considered to avoid monopolistic dominance of the market. Upon passage this motion is circulated to all local authorities.”

**MINUTES OF MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
30TH MAY 2022**

C/158/22

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs J Murray, 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, R Donaghey, M Farren, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M McBride, M McClafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N McGarvey, P McGowan, J McGuinness, M McMahan, G McMonagle, M Naughton, J O Donnell, J S Ó'Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

Online: MT Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, A Molloy.

C/159/22

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John Mc Laughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services, Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services, , Bryan Cannon, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Paul Christy, Senior Executive Planner, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, William Colvin, Assistant Communications Officer, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/160/22

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH MARCH 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Crawford the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 28th March 2022 were adopted.

C/161/22

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 6TH
APRIL 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Canning the Minutes of the Adjourned March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th April 2022 were adopted.

C/162/22

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 13TH MAY 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr N McGarvey, seconded by Cllr J S O' Fearraigh the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th May 2022 were adopted.

C/163/22

**DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY AT MAIN STREET,
CARRIGART TO DONEGAL 2040 STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
DAC**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crawford, it was

resolved to dispose by way of lease property at Main Street, Carrigart to Donegal 2040 Strategic Development DAC 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/164/22

CARRYING OUT OF INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS ADJACENT TO THE R238 IN RESPECT OF THE MUFF TO QUIGLEY'S POINT GREENWAY

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

On the proposal of Cllr T Crossan, seconded by Cllr Canning, the carrying out of infrastructure works adjacent to the R238 in the Inishowen Municipal District in the townlands of Ardmore, Drumskillan, Ture, Aught and Three Trees in respect of the Muff to Quigleys Point Greenway 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 Canning congratulated all involved but queried the need for an archaeology report as the stretch of land alluded to was not virgin soil and had already been worked on when the roads infrastructure was being updated. He said that he was fearful that this would hold the project back.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director of Roads & Transportation said that this was consistent with the requirements of the Part 8 process and the need to consult with statutory consultees. He advised that the Development Applications Unit of the Department of the Environment , Heritage & Local Government were obliged to review the documentation and to make various recommendations as part of the process, after which the Council is then obliged to incorporate into the Part 8 process. He accepted that the stretch of land in question was not virgin ground but confirmed that the Council was bound to accepting the aforementioned recommendation. It was not, he said, a particular burden and should not impact on the works in question.

C/165/22

TO AGREE DATE FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting for 2022 on Monday 27th June at 3pm in the Aura Leisure Centre.

C/166/22

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Farren, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Annual Report for 2021 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).

- C/167/22 **TO APPROVE TWINNING BETWEEN LIFFORD/STRANORLAR MD AND VALLADOLID IN SPAIN**
 On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, it was resolved that the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District enter into a twinning arrangement with Valladolid in Spain in accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).
- C/168/22 **TO NOMINATE MEMBERS TO THE WORKING GROUP ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE (10 NO. ELECTED MEMBERS)**
 On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to defer the matter to later in the meeting.
- C/169/22 **TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FROM EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT TO THE PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP.**
 It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting.
- C/170/22 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE BREXIT COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MCBREARTY**
 It was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting of the Council. Cllr Mc Brearty contended that he had not agreed to sit on this committee.
- C/171/22 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR FARREN.**
 On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved that Cllr Kennedy fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Heritage Forum.
- C/172/22 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & EMERGENCY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARIE T GALLAGHER.**
 On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty seconded by Cllr A Doherty, it was resolved that Cllr Terry Crossan fill the casual vacancy on the Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Strategic Development Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Marie T Gallagher.
- C/173/22 **TO FILL VACANCY ON THE CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**
 It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to later in the meeting.
- C/174/22 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE LETTERKENNY THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMPANY ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR KEVIN BRADLEY.**
 On the proposal of Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr N Crossan it was resolved that Cllr O'Donnell fill the casual vacancy on Letterkenny Theatre Management Company Ltd.

C/175/22

**NOMINATION OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD OF COMHAR NA NOILEAN
CTR**

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

On the proposal of Cllr N McGarvey, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott it was resolved that Cllr Molloy continue as the Donegal County Council representative on the Board of Comhar na nOileán CTR for the lifetime of this Council.

C/176/22

**TO NOTE UPDATE ON ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION MADE AT
THE BUDGET 2022 MEETING**

Members considered the report dated the 30th May 2022 from the Chief Executive in relation to the above.

The Chief Executive proceeded to outline the main aspects of his report and said that the Council took allegations of corruption very seriously. These, he said, would follow-up in line with the relevant policies and procedures.

He alluded to the legal provisions involved and the fact that the law on corruption was mainly covered in the Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act, 2018. Members were advised that a copy of same and the associated explanatory memorandum were attached to the report for their information.

The matter in question, he noted, had stemmed from contributions made by Cllrs Mc Brearty and Mac Giolla Easbuig at the Council Budget Meeting on the 25th November 2022 which had been streamed live and was available in the public domain. Recognising the seriousness of the situation, both the Cathaoirleach and himself, he added, had commented at the Budget Meeting and at subsequent meetings on the seriousness of the allegation and the need for appropriate follow-up.

He alluded to the fact that the relevant transcripts from the Budget Meeting were also attached to the report as circulated.

A joint letter from both the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach, it was noted, had issued to the two councillors concerned requesting that the supporting information and evidence of the allegations in question be submitted for investigation. Members attention was drawn to Attachment No's 6 & 7 which confirmed that the end of January 2022 had been set as the deadline for the submission of all relevant information regarding the allegations.

The Chief Executive confirmed that no response had been received to date from Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig and that the reply from Cllr Mc

Brearty had been in the form of a Whatsapp message with no supporting documentation.

He acknowledged that Cllr Mc Brearty has since separately indicated that a block of Whatsapp messages sent from himself in mid-November 2021 regarding the purchase of the five houses in Buncrana were to be taken as evidence of the alleged corruption within the Council and as such constituted the supporting information and evidence required.

Concluding, the Chief Executive said that whilst Cllr Mc Brearty had not particularised specific allegations of corruption or the basis for same, the Cathaoirleach had nonetheless forwarded details received from Cllr Mc Brearty to the Gardaí for their attention.

Attention was drawn to the fact that an independent review had been commissioned in relation to the purchase of the five houses and that a report on same was expected to be available in the very near future.

He expressed concern that over the past number of months there had been widespread and repeated allegations made against a number of Council staff and members without any regard for the reputation of the individuals affected and the impact on their good names. All allegations, he said, warranted due process but needed to be dealt with in a fair manner and within the appropriate boundaries.

Cllr G Doherty said that a response was warranted from those members who had made the allegations given that they had been asked to supply all and any information available on the subject. He noted that there had been no response to date in relation to the allegations which had been made in full view of the general public staff, the executive etc. This was not good enough, he said, and called on the members concerned to come forward and fully substantiate such claims and to make available any evidence of corruption that they may have.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he stood over every accusation made and had completed his findings which were now compiled in a volume encompassing the evidence that he had obtained under Freedom of Information. There would be further evidence, he confirmed, arising from the proceedings taken by Donegal County Council and when he himself moved to put in his defence to the accusations made in relation to the High Court affidavit dated 17th February 2022. A submission made that day by the Donegal County Council's Chief Executive's legal team would be entered in his defence, he added, when statement of claim in the proceedings was supplied to him. In his own opinion and based on his own legal experience, he contended, that the Chief Executive had today stepped outside of the realms of these proceedings which had been served on him at his own home on the 14th February 2022 and which had given him only 24 hours to enter a high court affidavit in defence to what he termed a false and malicious

affidavit entered by the Chief Executive and signed off by the Director of Housing.

He said that he could stand over every allegation made and as the FOI file requested was incomplete a request had been made to the FOI Commissioner to investigate same.

He noted that the Council and the members had asked the Chief Executive to take the proceedings against him, but queried this decision based on the fact that the Chief Executive had now interfered in the process which is currently with the High Court and to which he was entitled to enter a defence. He affirmed that he had not received a statement of claim within the statutory 21- day period. He offered to submit to the Chief Executive the document on which he had been working on in relation to the five houses and said that it was more or less complete minus the index and content listing plus the criminal complaint to the Garda Commissioner.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that self- investigation was not the way to go and that there was plenty of evidence of systemic corruption in Local Government in Ireland as evidenced by the Mahon report. He was, he said, entitled to defend himself given that the Council were now clearly trying to discredit him and had maliciously slandered him in the public eye. He would, he confirmed, stand over the allegations of systemic corruption regarding senior staff members. His motion today, he added, dealt with corruption of this nature and highlighted the fact that iron and sulphite minerals were the predominant problem in Donegal not just mica. He would, he advised, get full discovery on what he was looking for and in relation to the information omitted under Freedom of Information.

His legal team, he added, should not be underestimated and he was, he confirmed, well able to defend himself and prove that systemic corruption was at play.

Concluding he said that the report as circulated had effectively interfered with his right to defend himself in the proper forum i.e. the courts, given that accusations had been made in the document which was now in the public domain and which clearly accused him of wrongdoing.

The Cathaoirleach said that he would look forward to reading the document as this was what had been asked for originally.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that if due diligence had been taken when reading the Whatsapp messages submitted in late 2021 then it would have been clear what was to be investigated.

The Cathaoirleach noted that those had already been sent to the Gardaí.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he would not be co-operating with the Donegal Gardaí as they had close relationship with Donegal County Council, and this was something that he had made clear to the Garda Commissioner.

Cllr Kennedy asked for a public apology from the two councillors concerned.

Cllr Farren concurred and said he was quietly confident that Donegal County Council had acted in good faith and that it was imperative that these false allegations were refuted. There was a cloud hanging over this Council, he said, and it was essential that there was no further interruption to the business of the Council going forward.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that members were suffering as a result of the allegations and that an apology was warranted.

Cllr Mc Gowan called for the matter to be brought to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Cllr Mc Brearty at this juncture called on the Chief Executive to publish the terms of reference for the self-investigation into his own organisation.

The Chief Executive affirmed that Donegal County Council was fully committed to investigating all allegations of corruption and would take the necessary steps to deal with the findings within the parameters of the law. Members would, he advised be kept updated as the information became available. The report on the purchase of the five houses would be brought to members, he added, after the auditors concerned had completed their work. The Council, he noted had an open mind and the specifics would be left to the audit team involved.

He said that allegations of this nature affected the Donegal brand and that the Council was committed to working through the process regardless of the outcome.

C/177/22

AGREEMENT WITH LOUTH COUNTY COUNTY TO ADMINISTER THE INSTALLATION OF RAPID ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS IN DONEGAL

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

A lengthy discussion ensued during which members raised the following issues:

- The need to extend charging points to as many locations as possible county-wide.
- Who had selected the points alluded to in the report/

- Detail requested in relation to the contractor, the financial charges involved and the effective start dates.
- Clear lack of provision in South Donegal.
- What are the plans for provision in the Glenties Municipal District?
- Cognisance needs to be taken of the need to provide charging points along tourist routes with particular emphasis on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Members must be kept informed of all developments.
- What information is available in relation to installation and ongoing cost of providing such services.
- Given that the locations chosen have been selected on the basis of their proximity to 50kw voltage supplies, what are the possibilities for expansion going forward?
- Cognisance must be taken of the need to install charging points at our Blue Flag beaches, along the Inishowen 100 and at all appropriate tourism signature points.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Roads & Transportation said that Donegal County Council had availed of the opportunity to participate in this project which was Interreg funded and in would operate in co-operation with other authorities in the Border Counties, in Northern Ireland and in Scotland. Louth County Council it was noted was the lead authority. Mr Cannon confirmed that Donegal County Council's involvement in the project would ensure that there was a better understanding of the demands involved and would go a long way in answering many of the questions raised by members.

With regard to the capacity issue, the two locations selected, he said were the two most preferable sites at this initial stage.

The Department of Transport, he advised had an ongoing consultation campaign in relation to EV Charging across the country. The provision of EV infrastructure, he noted, involved a number of parties including local authorities, private businesses and the homeowner with the vast majority of people charging at home. It was important, he said, that sufficient provision was made for non-residents so that the tourism industry could be accommodated. Cognisant of the issues raised by members, he committed to providing further information at the next round of MD meetings and to ensuring that regular updates were made available. The issues raised by members would, he confirmed, be incorporated into the Council's submission.

C/178/22

APPROVAL OF GROSS EXPENDITURE FIGURES FOR 2021

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Farren members approved the actual gross expenditure figure of €180,153,026 as set out on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the Revised Budget of €182,921,981 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases in funding received for 2021) 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.

C/179/22

PROPOSED DRAFT LETTERKENNY PLAN AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: REVISED TEXT AND NEXT STEPS

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

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that the reports included changes made as a result of amendments made by members at the Adjourned Meeting on the 6th April 2022.

Cllr Mc Bride thanked the Planning Service for their efforts and work to date and proposed, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle to:

- Proceed with the Proposed Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan (incorporating members proposed amendments to the version as submitted to the March, 2022 Plenary Council meeting.
- To authorise the Executive to further edit the approved Proposed Draft Plan where such requirements are identified and where any such edits would be non-material in nature.
- To approve the formal commencement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes and completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and TRAFFIC AND Transport Assessment Processes in respect of the Approved Proposed Draft Plan.
- To approve subject to the outcome of the screening processes for SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and AA (Appropriate Assessment) the preparation of an Environmental Report (for SEA) and Natura Impact Report (for AA).

C/180/22

REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024 – TO AGREE DATES FOR PLENARY WORKSHOPS

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr G Doherty, it was resolved to hold a Plenary Workshop in relation to the review of the County Development Plan 2018-2024 on 8th June 2022 at 10am in the Aura Leisure Centre.

C/181/22

CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members noted the nomination of the Inishowen Development Partnership nominee Ms Shauna Mc Clenaghan to fill the casual vacancy on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee arising from the resignation of Mr Andrew Ward.

C/182/22

ALLOCATION OF EU LIFE PROGRAMME FUNDING of €570,000 TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NW REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

Members noted the allocation of EU Life Programme funding of €570,000 towards the establishment of a NW Regional Energy Agency

C/183/22

TO ALLOW THE DRAFT BYE-LAW AMENDMENT KNOWN AS THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF CERTAIN BEACHES (AMENDMENT) BYELAWS 2022 (PROHIBITION OF DOGS ON BLUE FLAG BEACHES) TO GO OUT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved in accordance with Section 199(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001 that the Draft Bye-Law amendment known as the Regulation and Control of Certain Beaches (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2002 to provide for the prohibition of Dogs on Blue Flag Beaches proceed to public consultation.

Cllr N Crossan acknowledged that there were many responsible dog owners out there but that there were anomalies in that less responsible owners could still walk their dogs outside of the designated times. The issue here, he advised, was how this could be policed. Cllr Bradley concurred with this assessment.

Cllr Mc Mahon expressed concern in relation to a recent pollution incident which occurred approximately 1 mile from the beach in Donegal Bay. There were questions to be asked, he said, regarding the Council's ability to deal with problems of this nature and the lack of specialised equipment for dealing with same. He cited the need for ongoing contact with Sligo and Leitrim County Council's and called for an investigation into the matter so that the relevant safeguards could be put in place.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig alluded to a bathing incident that had taken place in the Glenties Municipal District and stressed the importance of ensuring that adequate staffing resources were in place and that an overall plan existed for the Donegal Islands.

Cllr T Crossan thanked the Director of Service, the Senior Executive Chemist, and Inland Fisheries, Ireland for their assistance in relation to a recent fish kill on a small tributary of the Skeoge River.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, A/ Director Water & Environment acknowledged the comments made by members and said that there were a number of positives to be garnered from the amendment. It was, he added, important also to note that dog owners could still walk their dogs on all bar two of the Blue Flag beaches outside of the designated timing schedule. The approval today, he stated, was only in relation to the implementation of the public consultation and that there would be further opportunity to discuss prior to the adoption of the byelaws. The process, it was acknowledged, was not due to be completed until the

end of 2022 and in advance of the 2023 bathing season. It was confirmed that the Climate Action & Environment SPC would be kept updated in relation to the matter.

C/184/22 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 21ST MARCH 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 21st March 2022 were noted.

C/185/22 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 12th May 2022 were noted.

Cllr A Doherty requested that a briefing be provided to members in respect of the Council's contact with the Oireachtas members regarding the reduction of the co-funding requirement.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a report would be provided to members in due course.

C/186/22 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COISTE NA GAELIGE HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr T Crossan the minutes of the meeting of Coiste Na Gaeilge held on 25th February, 2022 were endorsed.

C/187/22 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006-2021 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr N Crossan, seconded by Cllr McGowan, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences/ events, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report.

Training

- AILG Members Training – WoMeN's Regional Caucus Training Day Programme to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday 1st June 2022.

Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR Representative at the CPMR Political Bureau meeting on the 16th June 2022 in Helsingborg (Skåne, Sweden).

- Attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the European Municipal Authorities Annual Forum Meeting on the 26th and 27th June 2022 in Katowice, Poland.

Cllr N Crossan asked for clarification in relation to the situation whereby a member did not use their training allocation and the overall allocation of the training budget given the need for members to continually upskill in light of ongoing developments at local and national level.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that he would check the details and revert.

C/188/22

REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE/EVENT

Members noted the following conference/events reports.

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Commemoration of the Blitz of Clydebank in 1941 at the invitation of West Dumbartonshire Council from 19th- 22nd November 2021

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Report on visit to Islington, London at the invitation of the Irish Ambassador to the UK, Adrian O' Neill to attend a function in honour of the Irish contribution to the Borough of Islington from the 1st to the 2nd March 2022.

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

Report on visit to Rudolsadt in Germany for the St Patrick's Day Events from the 15th -21st March 2022.

Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

Report on visit to Rudolsadt in Germany for the St Patrick's Day Events from the 15th -21st March 2022.

C/189/22

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for a brief recess.

C/190/22

DEDICATED HOUSING SECTION TO ACQUIRE LAND IN OUR MAIN TOWNS

It was unanimously agreed to take Motion 27 as submitted by Cllr I Mc Garvey together with Motion No 23 as submitted by Cllr A Doherty.at this juncture.

On the proposed of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved to adopt the follow motion:

“That a dedicated housing section is set up immediately to acquire land in our main towns so as to expedite social and affordable house building which is not progressing well at present, and that local environment lands that surround our town centres are immediately changed to “Opportunity Lands” to allow for well-designed small scale private residential housing clusters”.

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

Cllr Mc Gowan said that whilst there was currently a major focus on the mica issue, cognisance needed to be taken of the current housing situation and the implications for the county going forward. He noted that there had been little or no housing provision in the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District over the past number of years. Resources, he noted, were being concentrated, in specific areas such as mica with other areas of housing provision falling behind. It was imperative, he added, that "Local Environment Lands" were rezoned as "Opportunity Lands". There was, he advised, no sense of urgency or real prospect of delivering accommodation at this point in time, and that this needed to be immediately addressed. Often, he said, landowners had no intention of building on these lands and something now needed to be done to address this situation.

Cllr Canning concurred with these sentiments and said that the situation at present reflected bureaucracy at its worst. He said that the current policy was sterilising hundreds of acres of ground within the Settlement Framework of Buncrana, much of which could be used to assist in the alleviation of the current housing crisis. He cited specific examples of same.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion No 27

On the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"That this Council discuss jointly with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government the need for housing in Donegal going forward".

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

Cllr Mc Garvey noted that the number of applicants on the waiting list in the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District far exceeded the level of housing stock available. He noted that the Council could not build accommodation without the approval of the Department and that this was adding to the problems in Donegal.

This county, he said, was the most neglected in the country and he called on the Oireachtas members to work in tandem with the elected members to address these issues. He called on the executive to demand a discussion with the Department so that a proactive and joint approach could be taken going forward.

Cllr Blaney alluded to the fact that there had been a five year wait in one area for one particular housing scheme. There were issues, he

advised, in terms of houses being bought up as holiday homes in a number of seaside locations and with people being passed for HAP yet there was no accommodation available. These towns, he advised, needed to be prioritised in terms of housing development. He said that the layers of bureaucracy needed to be removed and a special exemption sought from the Department to alleviate the crisis in Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion No. 23

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

"That this Council discuss and define the Local Authority's "Delivery Action Plans" to address social housing need and to end homelessness and that the council ensure the delivery of a sustained and efficient house building programme that adequately responds to the growing housing demand and need in the county."

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

Cllr Doherty said that Donegal needed special attention given that future accommodation needs were going to be a major issue for the county going forward. He alluded to the lack of supply in the rental sector and the fact that this coupled with unprecedented demand was setting the scene for a perfect storm in terms of housing supply. Donegal had also, he noted to factor into the equation accommodation issues associated with the mica issue.

He advised of the need to implement dedicated social housing targets backed up by adequate land acquisition measures. He asked what was being done to highlight the changes in housing need and said it was imperative that the message was conveyed to Government that Donegal was now facing a perfect storm in terms of housing provision.

Cllr Crossan concurred with this and noted that in terms of his own locality there was no housing availability whatsoever. The Council, he added, was seen to be creating as many obstacles as possible in terms of housing creation and availability. The urgency to move forward with the acquisition process was noted.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Garvey advised of the need for a collaborative approach

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services acknowledged the contributions and said that

whilst there were significant challenges, Donegal County Council continued to focus and work on solutions to deliver housing.

The Council, he advised was actively working on the implementation of the "Housing Delivery Action Plan" under the Housing for All Programme and a key focus for same was the identification of further suitable lands for housing. He noted that work was ongoing in relation to this task at 32 various locations throughout the county and that this would be progressed through the local area teams with a number at advanced and negotiation stage. In terms of housing progress, it was noted that there were 262 social houses on site or at design stage within the Council's own landbank.

There was, he added, a significant element of work ongoing supplemented by turnkey acquisition with 38 houses recently signed for in Donegal Town. It was confirmed that workshops would be held in each Municipal District over the coming month with a view to updating members on the various options being explored. He acknowledged that there were challenges and an urgency going forward, but that the housing team were working hard to progress all elements of housing provision. The Housing Section, would, he advised, continue to engage locally and work with the Department to progress the issues raised.

Concluding the debate Cllr Mc Gowan said that it needed to be acknowledged that we are in the middle of a housing crisis and that zoning issues needed to be sorted once and for all.

Cllr Mc Garvey reiterated the need for a collaborative approach and immediate action including the necessity bring Department officials to Donegal.

Cllr A Doherty said that a special case needed to be made in terms of the delivery of housing supply into Donegal. In terms of the mica situation, he called on the Government to ensure that full resources were made available and that the families concerned got the information that they required.

He queried the level of cross-agency contact that existed in terms of the HSE, St Vincent De Paul and the various Housing Association Bodies. He alluded to the fact that the Clonmany Health Centre had become vacant and that attempts by the local St Vincent De Paul organisation to develop apartments at the site had not been followed up on. It was noted that little or no consideration had been given to the provision of retirement villages with internal supports and that this was something that needed to be brought to the attention of the Minister and the Government.

C/191/22

INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE DEFECTIVE CONCRETE BLOCKS GRANT SCHEME

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr McBride it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"I am requesting Donegal County to supply members with the following information:

- 1. As of the 14th March 2020, 720 applications have been received by DCC to the 90/10 DCB grant scheme. How many of these 720 applications have a test suite c or a sulphate attack report classed as a test suite c attached to their application.*
- 2. How many applications are from Petro Lab in Cornwall, UK and can you list the other Labs used and can you attach the number of tests conducted from each that are in these 720 applications. Example say Petro Lab have 200 homes tested which leaves 520 others to be numbered to their Lab with a total number for each Lab.*
- 3. How many Test suite B results from Petro Lab are showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides such as Pyrrhotite above 0.1% Example, my parents Petro Lab test suite b results are showing a visual estimate of 1-2% of Iron Sulphides in the Defective Concrete Blocks samples tested by Petro Lab.*
- 4. How many other Labs are showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides above 0.1% in their test suite b, if any and can I have the name of each of these Labs and the number attached to each Lab. Example Test suite b results with Lab (a) has 100, Lab (b) has 150 and so on.*
- 5. What date did the first test suite b showing a visual estimate of Iron Sulphides above 0.1% come into the application section.*
- 6. What date did the first test suite c come into the application section showing the percentage of Iron Sulphides such as Pyrrhotite, Rare Pyrite, Minor Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Marcasite, or any other sulphide minerals.*
- 7. How many applications in the SI 25, 90/10 DCB grant Scheme will be forwarded and processed on the evidence from their Lab results without the Building Condition assessment undertaken by a Building Condition assessment professional in the new enhanced grant scheme.*
- 8. What is the estimated time for the new enhanced scheme to open and what is the timeline for the new bill to passed into law?*

We the members of DCC are entitled to the answers to these questions. I am not requesting anyone's private data and I hope that this motion outlines properly what I am requesting on behalf of the members and the electorate we serve, which is the numbers of different Labs being used, their names, number of test suite b results showing visual estimates of Iron Sulphides, number of test suite c results showing percentage of Iron Sulphides, the latest figures for applications received to date and if there has been any change to the figures at stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3 as of the 25th of April 2022."

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

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he had submitted the motion on the basis that the Council had refused under two separate freedom of information requests to provide members with information that they were entitled to. He cited the importance of the motion and said it was essential that the information held in the mica application section of the Council was handed over so that he could complete his final report to Government and make a submission to the Housing Committee dealing with the Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme.

He contended that this was a defective concrete and concrete block issue caused predominately by the presence of iron/sulphite minerals, pyrrhotite, minor pyrite, chalcopyrite, marcasite etc and other chemicals created out of the iron/sulphite minerals. The predominant cause of the problem, he said, was the presence of iron/sulphite minerals along with mica. He proceeded to read into the record questions 1-8 as outlined in the motion and said that he was entitled to answers to these questions.

He alluded to the fact that there was continuing denial of the fact that the problem was not predominately a mica issue and queried as to why the Head Executive Engineer involved had not brought this issue to the attention of the working group. This, he said, explained the Government's failure to deal with the issue in any meaningful way.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he had written extensively on the subject and had forwarded his findings to all the members, the Oireachtas members, the Housing Committee, the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the Minister for Environment for their information. He said that if these findings were not incorporated into the new bill then there would be High Court proceedings. The failure of Donegal County Council to highlight the findings and the Government's reliance on the Pyrite Scheme which has no relevance for Donegal would, he said, leave no option but to go down this route.

He said that there was in essence no mica study and that it was not possible to create a scheme and a Defective Concrete Block Standard IS465 around something that there was no definitive understanding of, and then use guesswork to publish a fraudulent Irish standard for defective concrete blocks and concrete and an unworkable 90/10 scheme. He called on members to support the motion as the information requested was nothing more than what the public were entitled to. It was vitally important that all the information was released, he added, as this would form the basis of his own final submission to the Department.

Cllr Mc Bride supporting the motion said that all information in relation to mica and related issues should be available to the members so that they were able to respond to queries raised by the public. He asked that an update be circulated every second Friday so that members could be kept up to speed on developments.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services noted that the Council administered the scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. It's primary role, he advised, was to assess the applications in addition to making copies of the engineers report available to the Department to enable further research to be carried out subject to normal GDPR requirements.

He advised that the Council's role was not to extract the technical data from each report but rather to share data with the Department to facilitate the ongoing research. He further advised that this work is already being carried out by other agencies, and therefore the Council does not plan to duplicate the work of those agencies. He did advise that the Council would continue to share the engineer reports with the Department for that purpose.

It was expected, he said, that the new Enhanced Scheme Bill would be published shortly and that more information would be available at that juncture.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that he was extremely disappointed with the response. Donegal County Council, he stated, were responsible for running the 90/10 Defective Concrete Block Grant scheme and the response provided ignored once again the fact that the predominant problem was iron/sulphite minerals and not mica.

The motion, he advised, had now been adopted and he called on the Chief Executive, the Director of Service and the Cathaoirleach to hand over the information to which he was entitled to as a democratically elected member of the Council.

C/192/22 **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.15pm.

C/193/22 **CONDEMNATION OF THE ACTIONS OF ISRAEL IN BRUTALLY ATTACKING THE FUNERAL OF PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST SHIREEN ABU AKLEH**

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

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Irish Government to unequivocally condemn the actions of Israel in brutally attacking the funeral of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and to support calls for an independent investigation into her death".

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

Cllr Doherty alluded to the disgraceful scenes that had taken place at the funeral of Ms Abu Akleh whom, he stated, had been executed in cold blood. She was, he added, a clearly identified veteran journalist who was attempting to flee when she came under fire. This was, he said, a war crime which needed to be investigated and thus called on the Irish Government to lead the way in demanding that a fair and impartial investigation took place.

There was general acknowledgement that the death of Ms Abu Akleh warranted the same level of attention and investigation as atrocities carried out in other jurisdictions.

Cllr Doherty called on the Irish Government to use their position on the UN Security Council to ensure that an investigation is carried out given that the international community has long failed to adequately support the Palestinian people in their fight for justice.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion said that there was continual annihilation of the Palestinian people and a denial of their rights. Alluding to the twinning arrangement in place with Bani Zaid in Palestine, he asked that a letter of condolence and solidarity be forwarded to the Mayor of West Bani Zaid Municipality

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty thanked members for their support and asked that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Simon Coveney, T.D.

C/194/22

UKRAINIAN NATIONALS AND ACCESS TO THE TÚS SCHEME

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

“That Donegal County Council write to Minister Heather Humphreys, Department of Social Protection, Rural and Community Development to request that recently arrived Ukrainian Nationals would qualify for the TÚS scheme. There is currently a shortage of participants available on the scheme to assist various community groups and the inclusion of Ukrainian Nationals can have many benefits for both the community groups and the participants themselves”.

That this motion be circulated to all other Councils.

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

Cllr Sweeny note that great efforts were being made at national and local level to integrate Ukranian nationals into Irish society.

He said that the Tús Scheme was one area that could be utilised to assist with this process and allow them to contribute to their adopted communities. Many local projects could be progressed, he added, and there would be benefits for all concerned.

Cllr Mc Guinness said that the proposal was one that would greatly assist local communities and provide a sense of purpose for all concerned.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Sweeny thanked members for their support.

C/195/22

OPENING OF A REGIONAL OFFICE FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS

On the proposal of Cllr McMahan seconded by Cllr L Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

"I call on this Council to make representation to the Department of Foreign Affairs with the proposal to look at opening a regional office for passport applications and renewals".

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

Cllr Mc Mahon said that the current situation regarding passport applications and the uncertainty with regard to flight schedules was a major cause for concern.

Decentralisation of the Passport Office was needed, he stated, and he suggested that a regional office be established in Donegal. This would, he noted, be of major benefit to the North West as a whole.

Current delays it was acknowledged were unacceptable given the level of technology available presently.

Cllr L Doherty said that the current situation was putting stress on many families and that an office in the North West would go a long way to alleviating some of the current pressures.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/196/22

FUNDING FOR THE REPAIR OF CRASH BARRIERS

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

"I am calling on this Council to provide the necessary funding package to repair the crash barriers throughout our county and also provide for new crash barriers where needed"

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

Cllr Jordan said that he had raised the matter at MD level and at the Roads & Transportation SPC as had several other councillors.

There were instances, he said, where barriers were placed along the shoreline in coastal areas and had been destroyed by the salt water.

The response to date, he affirmed, had been that there was no specific funding package available. He acknowledged that specialist contractors were needed and asked that something be done as a matter of urgency before a serious accident occurred.

Cllr O' Fearraigh concurred with this assessment and expressed concern that there was no specific funding package available to councillors for the maintenance and replacement of barriers.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Roads & Transportation informed members that the specification and guidance with respect to vehicle restraint systems (VRS) i.e. Crash Barriers had evolved considerably over the last number of years. He advised that all current standards and requirements had to be complied with when assessing existing sections of VRS irrespective of when the section of the VRS was installed. It was noted that there was a programme in place in respect of the National Road Network and that the Council collaborated with T.I.I who funded this programme. He said that a new framework was due to come into force over the coming months, but that there was no specific funding for the replacement of existing crash barriers on non-national roads. It was noted that maintenance monies would have to be used in this case.

It would be possible, he said, to contact the Department regarding the provision of a dedicated funding stream.

Cllr Jordan asked that the Department be contacted as soon as possible in relation to the matter.

C/197/22

VACANT AND DERELICT PROPERTIES IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES

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

"That Donegal County Council will engage with all property owners with vacant and derelict properties in the towns and villages to help the owners, and discuss options of repurpose, reuse, lease, retrofit and or rebuild much needed and sought after accommodation for the County.

To engage with the community groups involved with the engagement in the Local Economic & Community Plan and future Local Area Plans"

She received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning services.

Cllr Kennedy called for an audit to be carried out in relation to the number of properties available for reuse and asked that an advisory issue from the Council as what the properties could be reused for. This was an opportunity, she said, to look strategically at the issue and for a joined-up approach from Housing, Planning and the Community Development Section. She said that the various masterplans, town health checks and the local knowledge held by members could provide a valuable insight into the problem.

She acknowledged that the response referred to the role of the Regeneration Team in the matter but contended that an overall collaborative approach was needed so that properties could be identified, and the matter streamlined. Dedicated resources were important, she added, and noted that there was considerable in-house expertise available to progress same. It was also something, she stated which would benefit from discussion at workshop level.

Cllr Crossan supporting the motion advised of the need for some form of financial incentive from central Government.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services acknowledged the sentiment in which the motion had been submitted. He confirmed that there were challenges in terms of resourcing the work, which was detailed and painstaking, and that a dedicated resource unit was needed. It was understood, he said, that resources were to be made available to each local authority. He confirmed that this had commenced with the approval of funding for a Vacant Homes Officer and that it had been referenced that monies would also be available under the Town Centre First Policy for a Town Centre Regeneration Officer. He acknowledged that there was a resource within Council but that this would need to be utilised full-time to make any difference to the situation. It was anticipated, he said, that there would be further direction from the Department regarding the role of the Town Regeneration Officer. He acknowledged the need for collaboration going forward between the Housing and Planning Sections and the Regeneration Office and the fact that the willingness existed to progress same.

Cllr Kennedy thanked members for their support and acknowledged that this was piece of work that required ongoing collaboration. She stressed the need to move forward with proposals for repurposing such

properties as the need was great and there were many older residents who would welcome the opportunity to move closer to town centres.

C/198/22

POLICING AND THE NUMBER OF PATROL VEHICLES IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following motion:

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

“Donegal County Council asks that the Garda authorities:

- *Outline how many Gardaí are required to police Donegal and thus data be supplied on a station by station basis outlining where vacancies or shortfalls in manpower exist.*
- *Provide the number of patrol vehicles taken out of service in Donegal since January 2021 and confirm whether a replacement has been provided for patrol cars and vans that have been decommissioned.*
- *Outline what additional resources will be made available to police the significant increase in population in the county during the holiday season and ask clarification as to whether the increase in population is catered for in the policing plan for the county”*

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

Cllr Mc Clafferty acknowledged the response and said that he wished to amend the motion so that it could be forwarded to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen Mc Entee, T.D. rather than the to the Donegal Joint Policing Committee given that the issues outlined were national directives. This was unanimously agreed, and the motion was seconded by Cllr Kennedy who said that it was important that the detail requested was provided.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Clafferty said that he would await a response and noted that he had on several occasions requested that the Dog Unit be deployed in Donegal with no formal response received to date. He acknowledged that air support was being provided for the duration of the Donegal Rally in June. Concluding he said that the lack of resources in Donegal was alarming and that this needed to be remedied going forward.

C/199/22

FUNDING FOR PRIMARY, POST PRIMARY AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES INCLUDING OUTDOOR RECREATION/SPORTS/PLAY AREAS

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

"That Donegal County Council agree to request a meeting with the Minister for Education and officials in that Department to discuss the funding streams available to primary, post primary and childcare facilities for outdoor recreation/sports/play areas available to them".

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

Cllr Gallagher noted that there were ongoing issues in relation to the provision of outdoor recreation facilities particularly in terms of the funding streams available. Schools, she said, could not provide such facilities unless assistance was provided by the Department. It was not acceptable, she added, that local communities had to step in and raise funds for these projects and that in many cases the costs involved dictated that match funding was not an option.

Cllr A Doherty noted that there were similar issues in the Inishowen area and that very often provision of such facilities fell back on the local communities concerned.

There was no opposition to the motion.

He alluded to his previous motion on the extension of Clár areas to enable schools' avail of additional funding and said that this was relevant also to the current discussion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services acknowledged that there was a huge need in this area and said that a meeting could be requested with the Minister for Education regarding the funding streams available. He acknowledged that the points in relation to Clár funding were valid and that it was not sufficient to cover the overall need and demand for recreational facilities.

There was a huge need he noted in this area and the issues raised regarding the extension of Clár funding would be pursued with the Department.

Cllr Gallagher said that it was imperative that the struggles faced by local schools were conveyed to the Department of Education. Insurance was another aspect that had become a problem, she noted, for Boards of Managements. A joint way forward was needed, she said, and consideration given to the fact that these facilities should be open outside school hours for the benefit of local communities and thus operate as community-based assets.

C/200/22

IRISH NEUTRALITY

On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig seconded by Cllr G Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:

Go n-athdhearbhaíonn Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a tacaíocht láidir don pholasaí fadbhunaithe neodrachta a bhí ag na Sé Chontae is

Fiche agus gur mhaith linn a chur ar an taifead go bhfuil muid i gcoinne aon iarracht chun an seasamh s'againn ar an cheist thábhachtach seo a athrú. Lena chinntiú go leanfaidh na Sé Chontae is Fiche orthu ag cloí leis an chuspóir tábhachtach seo, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar an Taoiseach freagra a thabhairt ar an iarratas uainn go gcuirfear an neodracht isteach sa bhunreacht trí reifreann”.

“That Donegal County Council reaffirms its strong support for the 26 counties long established policy of neutrality and wishes to place on record its opposition to any attempt to change our position on this crucial issue. In order to guarantee the 26 counties ongoing observance of this cherished objective, this Council calls upon the Taoiseach to answer our request that neutrality be inserted into the constitution through the process of a referendum”.

He received a response for the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said it was imperative that a referendum was held prior to any change in relation to Ireland’s neutrality stance. He cited the need progress same given the current debate on the matter.

Cllr Doherty noted that Ireland was military neutral state and not aligned to any military alliance and that this historical position was the consistent view of the majority of Irish people with 76% in favour of retaining same. Sinn Fein, he stated, were in favour of this being enshrined in the Constitution following a referendum. Ireland, he said, was respected globally and our focus need to be on providing leadership through our position on the UN Security Council and at European level to lead out in the search for peace and ensuring that humanitarian values were respected and promoted across the world.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig thanked members for their support. This was an important issue, he added, and warranted attention given the continual use of Shannon Airport by US troops.

C/201/22

CHANGING CULTURE NIGHT IN SEPTEMBER TO CULTURE WEEKEND FOR THE FUTURE

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

“That we write to the Department and ask that they consider changing Culture Night in September to Culture Weekend for future years, and that we circulate the motion to the other councils.”

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

Cllr Kavanagh said that Culture Night had been an outstanding success since its inception in 2006 and had been particularly successful in Letterkenny. He noted that there were numerous events now taking place on Culture Night and that people were only able to attend a handful. He called for the initiative to be extended over a full weekend to allow for greater participation in the events and to expand the range of events available.

Cllr Sweeny said that this was an excellent idea and he proposed, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh that the motion be forwarded to the Arts Council also for their attention.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Kavanagh welcomed the support for the motion and asked that correspondence issue to the Department and the Arts Council in relation to the request.

C/202/22

SAVE YOUR COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

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

"That this Council supports the "Save Your Community Post Office" campaign led by the Independent Postmasters Group and now calls on the Government to implement the Private Members Motion passed in the Dáil in November 2016 which sets out an Action Plan to enable the sustainability of our local community Post Offices Network into the future"

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

Cllr Mc Monagle alluded to the role of the local post office in rural life and the fact this way of life was continually being eroded as services were withdrawn. He referred to the Private Members motion passed in the Dáil in 2016 which set out an action plan for the sustainability of post offices, and which identified a number of issues and possible solutions for the long term survival of the post office network.

Many of the services referred to had, he noted, been referred to private contractors and this was a worrying development going forward. It was acknowledged that there were many services which could be delivered through the network with community banking facilities an excellent example. He said that there were 933 Community Post Offices in Ireland at present and that it was anticipated that up to 400 of these would be closed by 2024 due to diminished service activity.

The Independent Post-Master Group, he said, had called for the implementation of a five-year plan to make Post Offices more sustainable within local communities. He asked that the motion be

forwarded to the Minister and the Government asked to do everything in its power to ensure that local post offices are maintained, sustained, and service delivery built upon.

Cllr Jordan noted that there had been uproar when several post offices closed in Donegal in 2018 and that nothing had been done in the interim to increase service provision. He said that the New Zealand banking model was an excellent example of what could be done within this sector.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications, Mr Eamon Ryan T.D and that consideration be given to the following:

- One-off capital investment to be provided for the modernisation of the Post Office network.
- The provision of counter services to be tendered on the basis of the relevant economic and social grounds.

C/203/22 **INITIATION OF A TOURISM MASTERPLAN**

It was resolved to defer the following motion submitted by Cllr Brogan:

"I propose that this Council initiate a Tourism Master Plan in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland for Donegal, so as to help identify the strengths and opportunities in so many different areas from current product development to future product development and to explore the opportunities for private sector engagement with our capital investment moving forward".

C/204/22 **TO NOMINATE MEMBERS TO THE WORKING GROUP ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE (10 NO. ELECTED MEMBERS)**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/205/22 **TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FROM EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT TO THE PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP.**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to appoint the following members to the Peace Plus Partnership:

- Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
- Cllr Michael Mc Cafferty
- Cllr Barry Sweeny
- Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr Paul Canning

C/206/22 **TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON THE BREXIT COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to a future meeting of Council.

C/207/22 **TO FILL VACANCY ON THE CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of Council.

C/208/22 **CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The family of the late Willie Browne, former Roads Services Supervisor, Stranorlar Roads.
- Patricia O' Reilly formerly Housing & Corporate Services on the death of her husband Al O' Reilly.
- Cllr Kevin Bradley on the death of his mother, Josephine Bradley.
- Grace Korbel, Local Enterprise Office on the death of her father, Joe Keeney.
- Bernie Jenkins, Roads Central on the death of her father, Tony Jenkins

Freedom of the County- Paul Mc Ginley

Members were informed that Mr Paul Mc Ginley had agreed to accept the Freedom of the County on the afternoon of the 15th August 2022 and that the event would take place in the Rosapenna Hotel, Downings.

C/209/22 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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

1. Finance

- A. Audit Review

2. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Major Projects Division Update
- (i) *Building Control*
 - (ii) *Housing Estate Takeover*
 - (iii) *Capital Projects Delivery Unit*
- B. Donegal Africa Day 2022
- C. Errigal Upland Path Project
- D. Rural Funding Programmes 2022
- (i) *CLÁR*
 - (ii) *ORIS 2022*
- E. Regeneration & Development Team Update

3. Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services

- A. Fire Service Update
 - (i) *Operations*
 - (ii) *Fire Prevention*
- B. Local Enterprise Office Update
 - (i) *Financial Supports*
 - (ii) *Events and Meetings*
- C. Economic Development Unit
 - (i) *Trail Gazers*
 - (ii) *Donegal Caravan, Camping and Campervan Initiative*
 - (iii) *Donegal Remote Working Holiday Campaign*

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- A. Cultural Services
 - (i) *Creative Ireland Programme*
 - (ii) *Library Service*
 - (iii) *Regional Cultural Centre*
 - (iv) *Archives*
 - (v) *County Donegal Heritage Office*
 - (vi) *Colmcille 1500*
 - (vii) *Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022*

5. Roads & Transportation

- A. Donegal National Roads Office Update
- B. TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project Progress Update
- C. Public Works Operations and Maintenance Traineeship-Collaboration with the Donegal Education and Training Board

6. Water and Environment

- A. Litter and Waste Management
 - (i) *The Big Donegal Clean-up Returns for 2022*
 - (ii) *Fly Tipping Prosecutions*
 - (iii) *'Repair My Stuff' – Promotion Campaign*
 - (iv) *Community and Business Environment Awareness Events*
- B. Coastal Management
 - (i) *Beach Lifeguard Service*
 - (ii) *Blue Flag Beach Restrictions for Dog Owners*
 - (iii) *Beach Preparatory Works*
 - (iv) *Respect the Dunes Awareness Campaign*
 - (v) *Coastal Erosion and Flooding Risk Management-Glentias*

MD
- C. Central Laboratory
 - (i) *Public Service Announcements*
 - (ii) *Licence to Discharge Trade Effluent*

(iii) Septic Tanks – National Inspection Plan

(iv) Septic Tank Awareness Raising

The following questions were noted.

C/210/22

EMPLOYMENT OF PLAYGROUND STEWARDS TO DO GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND POLICE PLAYGROUNDS FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Cllr P McGowan submitted the following question:

Can the Council employ two playground stewards to do general maintenance and police playgrounds for anti-social behaviour across the County especially in the spring and summer months in response to ongoing concerns by parents?

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

C/211/22

LIS GRANT APPLICATIONS

Cllr P McGowan submitted the following question:

Can the Council ensure that LIS farmer lane grant applications are dealt with on a first come basis across the County as many of the 2017 and 2018 applications are being left behind unfairly?

He received a response from the A/Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/212/22

WHAT AREAS WITHIN THE COUNTY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FOR ACCIDENT PREVENT WORKS

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:

What areas within the county have been included in any application for accident prevention works in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023?

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

C/213/22

MONIES SPENT ON HOMES 1-5 IN AN CRANNLA, GRANSHA ROAD, BUNCRANA

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:

How much has DCC spent on homes 1-5 An Crannla, Gransha Road, Bunrana re maintenance works during the 11-year lease period (2010-2021) and what have they spent-on top of the 68,650 Euro given by the Department as part of the acquisition completed in March 2021 to the present day on further maintenance?

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

C/214/22 **HOW MANY PROPERTIES OWNED BY DCC HAVE NOW BEEN CORED AND TESTED FOR DELETERIOUS MATERIALS AND IRON SULPHIDE MINERALS (MICA, PYRITE, PYRRHOTITE).**

Cllr Mc Brearty submitted the following question:

How many properties owned by DCC have now been cored and tested for Deleterious Materials and Iron Sulphide Minerals (Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite) and how many Test Suite A and B results are back from Petro Lab and what are the results showing up?

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

C/215/22 **CLINICS WHERE THE PUBLIC CAN ATTEND TO ASK AND GET QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON MICA AND RELATED ISSUES**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:

What facilities have been put in place to allow for clinics where members of the public can attend to ask and get questions answered on Mica and related issues?

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

C/216/22 **WHAT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE INCREASE IN COSTS TO DELIVER PROJECTS**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:

What projects county-wide have been impacted and to what extent by the increase in costs to deliver such projects?

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

C/217/22 **PROGRESS ON THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:

Can we have a report please on the progress on the provision of public toilets throughout the county?

He received a response from the A/Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

C/218/22 **PROGRESS ON MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL GRAVEYARDS**

Cllr Kennedy submitted the following question:

What is the status and or progress on the multi-denomination/non-denominational graveyards for this County and do we have any update

please?

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

C/219/22 **FACILITIES FOR CAMPER VANS**

Cllr McClafferty submitted the following question:

What are Donegal County Councils plans regarding better facilities locally for our camper vans such as disposing of their toilet cassettes and supplying disposal points for this purpose?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Services & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/220/22 **PROGRESS ON THE TOURISM INITIATIVE - THE SEVEN WONDERS OF DONEGAL.**

Cllr MT Gallagher submitted the following question:

Has any progress been made on SF proposal at both budget 21 and 22 on the tourism initiative of the seven wonders of Donegal?

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

C/221/22 **DOG FOULING PROBLEM**

Cllr Mc Clafferty submitted the following question:

There is a huge dog fouling problem within our County, on beaches footpaths etc with irresponsible dog owners, who either don't or refuse to clean up after their dog. What steps do the Council intend to take to try and address this issue county-wide at present?

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

C/222/22 **HOUSING CRISIS**

Cllr M.T Gallagher submitted the following question:

Considering the crisis in housing in this county could I have information on the following:

- *Do DCC plan to hire in-house legal personnel to directly deal with housing?*
- *Why are we not purchasing houses on the market?*
- *Has the Housing Section received a response from planning regarding the provisions within the county development plan for multiple build modular homes?*

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

C/223/22

HOUSES IN DONEGAL PER MD AND HOW MANY ARE HOLIDAY HOMES

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:

Cá mhéad teach atá i ngach Ceantar Bardasach i gContae Dhún na nGall agus cá mhéad acu sin atá ina dTithe Saoire?

How many houses are there in Donegal per Municipal District and how many of these are Holiday Homes?

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

C/224/22

EXTRADITION OF LIAM CAMPBELL TO LITHUANIA

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:

Cén freagra a bhí ag an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais ar mo rún maidir le Liam Campbell a eiseachadadh go dtí an Liotuáin agus ar fhoilsigh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall an freagra agus mura ndearna,cén fáth?

What was the response of the Department of Justice & Equality on my motion relating to the extradition of Liam Campbell to Lithuania and did Donegal County Council make public the response and if not why not?

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

C/225/22

ERECTION AND PROVISION OF ROAD SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION DIRECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE TOWNS IN DONEGAL

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

Will Donegal County Council contact again the Department of Infrastructure and Derry City and Strabane District Council and seek their support to complement connectivity, tourism promotion and shared marketing of the North West City Region through the erection and provision of road signage and information directions to Municipal Council Public Service Centre towns in Donegal?

Follow up to Motion 20004 adopted July 2017 and Question 01005 Jan.2020.

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/226/22

RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF COURTHOUSES CLOSED IN DONEGAL.

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:

Following the Council adoption in Sept.2019 of my motion (04039) calling on the Courts Service, Minister of Justice and OPW to ensure restoration of Court Services and refurbishment of courthouses closed in Donegal,

Will the Council contact all related parties again and seek the commencement of necessary works and the restoration of court services in Donegal?

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

C/227/22

ESTATES THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:

To ask Donegal County Council to list the Estates that have been adopted in the past ten years and to outline if there is a policy in regard to weighting geographical areas to ensure fairness in the process throughout the county and to outline mechanisms which exist to provide assistance to communities for addressing issues arising from the problems associated with unfinished estates such as road and street light maintenance?

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

C/228/22

HOW MANY PUBLIC TOILETS DO WE OWN AND OPERATE AND WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:

How many publicly operated toilet facilities do we own and operate and where are they located?

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

C/229/22

WHAT PLANS DOES THE OPW HAVE TO DEALING WITH FLOODING IN DONEGAL.

Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:

What definitive plans does the OPW have to deal with the flooding problems that exist in Donegal?

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

C/230/22

EMBARGO ON OUR POLICY OF BUYING PRIVATE HOMES

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:

Why has our policy of buying private homes by our Housing Capital Unit to meet the growing demand to provide social housing been put on hold and when will this embargo be lifted?

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

C/231/22 **UPDATED REPORT ON THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING LIST**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:

Can we get an updated report on the steps being taken by Housing Capital to address the housing list, i.e. land acquisition, social housing, affordable housing, and a time frame for same?

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

C/232/22 **UPDATED REPORT - STAFFING**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:

Can we get a updated report on the staff within our organisation to include a breakdown by each directorate, vacancies in each area, temporary contracts, and areas where we don't have panels in place to replace staff that have retired from the Council ?

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

C/233/22 **WHEN WILL THE CPO'S FOR THE TEN-T BE PUBLISHED**

Cllr Coyle submitted the following question:

When will the CPO's pertaining to the TEN-T Project be published?

He received a response from the A/Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/234/22 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

Cavan County Council

"That Cavan County Council oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf"

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

"In response to the call from Dmytro KUBELA, Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs, that this Council call on the Minister for Justice to propose legislation forthwith to criminalise the use of the Z symbol as a way to publicly support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Z

means Russian war crimes, bombed out cities, thousands of murdered Ukrainians. Public support of this barbarism must be forbidden.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Clare County Council request the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to initiate an independent review of the grossly under resourcing of the National Ambulance Service, the suitability, effectiveness, efficiency of the current dynamic deployment system used by the NAS for deployment of services in Rural Ireland.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“This week we became aware that Ennis General Hospital has the second highest wait time for gynaecology appoints in the country. Figures released to the Dail show the average wait time for an outpatient gynaecology appointment at the hospital is close to one year and five months and is second only to Tallaght Hospital nationwide. Waiting times at University Hospital Limerick are around half that number, averaging out at 291 days. 599 women are currently waiting for such appointment in Ennis, along with a further 1,455 at UHL. On foot of this information we request the Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly to approve and allocate funding for both equipment and the recruitment of appropriate personnel for the Gynaecology Department in Ennis. This needs to be done as a matter of urgency.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government and the Minister of Social Protection to find a solution which would allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“We ask Clare County Council to immediately make contact with the Department of Transport with a view to insisting that Dublin Airport Authority diverts spare capacity traffic to the like of Shannon Airport particularly as Dublin has clearly been unable to cater for what it has while Shannon needs more passengers.”

DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

“In the interests of good planning and upholding the integrity of the County Development Plan in the minds of Citizens, this Council agrees to write to the Minister for Housing and Local Government to withdraw the Specific Planning Policy Requirements provisions that enables Ministerial Guidelines to override such plans and lead to the probability of An Bord Pleanala continuing to ignore democratically agreed County Development Plans. The Council further agrees to circulate this motion to all councillors to encourage a united approach on this issue.”

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council call on all banks to immediately assist in setting up cashless transaction and issue Debit cards at low-cost fees,

to all OAP and Credit Unions, so that they are allowed to enter to a competitive banking market and allowed to have current account so as to be able to issue Debit/Credit cards to their account holders. This is in response to the huge amount burglaries many with violence been carried out across the country on our senior citizens. I ask this motion be circulated to all local authorities across the country. I ask it be forwarded to our Finance ministers and our minister for Justice.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“To ask that Killarney Municipal District would write to the appropriate Ministers to obtain the proper answers to the happenings in the Stardust Fire. This fire happened 41 years ago and claimed 48 lives, the families of which need answers. We as a country must and will help them. If this motion is passed, please arrange to circulate to all local authorities in Ireland.”

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, Limerick City and County Council put in place a working system for signing GDPR consent forms. The current system is not manageable in any event, especially emergencies; and that this Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to intervene; and that this Motion be circulated to all local authorities.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council corresponds to all relevant Government Departments requesting a further reduction of taxes on fuel as the escalating costs are having a serious impact on farming communities, industry and the public as they go about their daily lives, and that such reduction be passed on in full to the customer.”

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Westmeath County Council would write to Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland, requesting permission for Bord na Mona to allow Contractors to harvest turf due to the urgent need for fuel, in light of the War in Ukraine”.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wexford County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to introduce financial assistance to assist in the removal of asbestos from residential dwellings. And if passed, that this motion be circulated to all local authorities in Ireland.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“In the interests of fairness, competition and value for money, this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and the Commissioner for Energy Regulation to ensure a transparent, robust and thorough procurement process be applied to next Supervisory Body of Electrical Contractors agreement to ensure that all contractor’s views are taken into account and that

consideration for two bodies be considered to avoid monopolistic dominance of the market. Upon passage this motion is circulated to all local authorities.”

This concluded the business of the meeting

Cathaoirleach

Dated

