

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
24 Márta 2009

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl **Dé Máirt, 31 Márta, 2009**, ag **12.00 meán lae in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

**DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

**A Chara**

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

**Mise, le meas**

**A. MacSuibhne**

**Riarthóir Cruinnithe(RÚNAI CHONTAE)**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
24<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009** at **12.00 noon in the County House, Lifford.**

**TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Dear Councillor**

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

**Yours sincerely**

**E. Sweeney**

**Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)**

## AGENDA

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Island Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.
- b) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.
- c) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.
- d) Confirmation of Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

## MOTIONS

- (L) Local  
(C) County  
(O) Other

## LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

### Roads and Transportation

#### 2. Clr. Larkin

"That this Council update me on progress made on my motion to remove the cones and demark properly the Rashedock junction."

(L)

### Finance

#### 3. Clr. Harte

"That this Council reject any move to introduce a residential tax on Family Home." (O)

### Corporate Services

#### 4. Clr. Brogan

"I call on this council to support my motion in asking the Department of Finance to introduce an appeals mechanism whereby if customers feel that they are not getting fair treatment with the banks that they can appeal to an arm of the Financial Regulator considering the Investment that Government made in banks in recent times." (O)

### Community and Enterprise

#### 5. Clr. Harvey

"That Donegal County Council welcomes the report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Sports, Tourism, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Committee entitled 'Awakening the West - Overcoming Social and Economic Inequality', and calls on this Government to bring forward proposals for the implementation of the recommendation of this report." (O)

## DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water and Environment and Emergency Services*

6. Clr. Pringle

"That Donegal County Council deal with outstanding Bills for metered consumers and reach reasonable agreements with them regarding wastage taking into account that in many cases readings were taken months before bills issued." (C)

### *Roads and Transportation*

7. Clr. O'Neill

"That this Council discuss the Requirement for the Proposed Town Centre Car Park to proceed to construction as soon as possible and address the current status of the CPO process." (L)

### *Housing and Building*

8. Clr. McEniff

"That this Council be advised of the up to date position on the transfer of a portion of ground at Magheracar, Bundoran to Mr Oliver McSharry." (L)

## MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

### *Community and Enterprise*

9. Clr. McBride

"That this Council write to the Minister for Environment and Local Government urging him to dramatically increase the number of Community Employment schemes in Donegal." (C)

### *Roads and Transportation*

10. Clr. McGarvey

"That this Council deal with the very dangerous conditions that exist at the Quay in Ramelton." (L)

11. Clr. Blaney

"That this Council pipe the 'burn' that runs between the GAA Centre and the Beach Hotel from the main road to the shore in Downings." (L)

## STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

### *Community and Enterprise*

#### 12. Clr. Reid

"That Donegal County Council urgently undertake renovation works to the old Fire Station building in Stranorlar in order to establish business advice clinics, to house relevant professionals to act as advisors to new and small businesses in the Finn Valley area, to help encourage and nurture development and enterprise and such a scheme be examined to be implemented County wide." (L)

#### 13. Clr. McGowan

"That the Council move immediately to set up The County Donegal Joint Policing Committee given the recent disturbances and breakins through out the County highlighting the need for a coordinated approach to identify and agree a way forward where the community can participate in preventing such crimes and help catch and prosecute these criminals." (C)

## GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water and Environment and Emergency Services*

#### 14. Clr. Slowey

"That this Council Maintain an Effective Litter Warden Service across the County so as to counteract illegal dumping and protect our lovely County of Donegal." (C)

#### 15. Clr. Bonner

"That Donegal County Council forward the tender Documents for the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes to the Department of Environment without further delay." (L)

### *Community and Enterprise*

#### 16. Clr. Gallagher

"That this Council go into negotiations with GARC and Glenties Parish Council to consider the future of the site on which the old fire station was located in Glenties, considering the community have studies and recommendations to develop this site which

incorporate a Library and other community amenities to create much needed employment in the parish." (L)

**Corporate Services**

17. **Clr. Kelly**

"That this Council reviews the manner in which its Corporate Services issues communications and insists that such communications are conducted respectfully."

18. **Clr. Alcorn**

"That this Council discuss the issuing of water account bills of €400.00 to business premises that do not have any water connection from Donegal County Council." (C)

**INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA**

**Roads and Transportation**

19. **Clr. Donaghey**

"That Donegal County Council ensure that all roads which have been prioritised and agreed in the 3 year plan in the Inishowen Area be completed as our funding allocation is similar to last year as was anticipated." (L)

**Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

20. **Clr. McDonald**

"That this Council ensure that the current situation in relation to having water and sewerage schemes for East Inishowen so that residential and commercial opportunities can be availed of, given the need for basic infrastructure to drive employment particularly in times of financial difficulties." (L)

**Corporate Services**

21. **Clr. McGuinness**

"That the Council discuss the effect in services due to the reduction of staff and also explain the proposal to change revenue collection." (C)

22. **Clr. MacLochlainn**

"To celebrate the fact that 2009 marks the centenary of the foundation of the ITGWU, the first major Trade Union in Ireland which later amalgamated to SIPTU, and in recognition of the role played by the Trade Union movement in the advancement of

workers rights in County Donegal and across our country, Donegal County Council afford a reception to acknowledge each Trade Union that has a branch in our county." (C)

**23. Motion adjourned from January Council Meeting pursuant to SO 55**

"That this Council officially name the Ramelton Recreation and Amenity Area Project as "The Dave Gallaher Park". (L)

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

- a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Proposed Road Realignment L1125 Meenaneary Road in the Townlands of Meenaneary and Carrick Upper.
- b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Proposed Road Realignment L1085 Slieve League in the Townlands of Shanbally and Aghragh.
- c) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Proposed Road Realignment R245 Letterkenny to Ramelton Road in the Townlands of Aghangaddy Glebe and Glenleary.

**25. Disposal of Land – Section 211 Planning and Development Act, 2000**

- a) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land at Cranford, Letterkenny, Co Donegal to Mr Hugh McBride, the Legal Personal Representative in the Estate of the late Michael McBride.
- b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to provide easement on Council owned lands at Milford to Mr & Mrs Michael & Louise McBride.
- c) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land at Gortnagole, Ballindrait, Lifford to Lifford Rifle and Pistol Association.

**26. Corporate Services**

To consider annual report from the Audit Committee.

**27. Finance**

To note Local Government Audit Report, including where appropriate County Manager's Response, on the Audited Accounts of Donegal County Council for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007.

## **28. Conferences**

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001 and S.I. No 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006:-

### a) **HOME**

- Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly, The National Spatial Strategy: Is it Delivering Balanced Regional Development? to be held Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009 at The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon Town.
- Training Seminar for Councillors, Environmental Management: Challenges & Opportunities for Local Government to be held Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Killashee House Hotel, Killashee, Naas, Co. Kildare.
- Transport Ireland Conference “Transporting Ireland’s Economy” to be held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin.
- LAMA, Annual Spring Seminar, to be held Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- Irish Rural Dwellers Association, 4<sup>th</sup> IRDA Planning Conference, to be held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009 at The Brehon Hotel, Killarney.
- Irish Planning Institute, National Planning Conference 2009 to be held Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Whites Hotel, Abbey Street, Co. Wexford.

## **29. Mayor’s Business**

## **30. Manager’s Report**

### QUESTIONS

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

### **LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA**

#### **Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

31. Clr. Larkin

"Will the Council furnish me with an update on the measures to reduce the hardness of the water being used in Letterkenny?" (L)

32. Clr. Larkin

"Will this Council update the councillors on all matters pertaining to the Letterkenny Civic Amenity site, e.g. opening, collection details, operating hours, talks with Town Council and costing to public etc?" (L)

33. Clr. Brogan

"Is everything in order to open the new Civic Amenity Site in Letterkenny and could council confirm opening date again?" (L)

**Roads and Transportation**

34. Clr. Brogan

"When will the reduced speed limit be implemented from Dry Arch Roundabout to the Port Bridge and what has been the delay in this to date." (L)

**Housing and Building**

35. Clr. Harvey

"What procedures does Donegal County Council have in place for their tenants if tenants report that they are being victimised?" (C)

**Community and Enterprise**

36. Clr. Harvey

"Has Donegal County Council made representation to the IDA around their policy of directing foreign direct investment towards gateway towns such as Letterkenny and Sligo which undermines the substantial investment of the Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS) across Donegal in towns such as Ballybofey and Stranorlar?" (O)

**DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA**

**Housing and Building**

37. Clr. McEniff

"Will Donegal County Council support Cluids application re the purchase of 26 Turnkey Houses at Newtown, Bundoran for social housing? (L)

38. Clr. Byrne

"Has this Council considered imposing a levy on derelict buildings throughout the County as set out in the "Derelict Sites Act 1990" as a means of generating revenue and a stimulus to improving derelict sites and buildings?" (C)

39.Clr. Byrne

"Can this Council confirm that no such policy exists whereby applicants who have applied for a SI house are encouraged to take Scheme Houses instead?" (C)

40.Clr. Byrne

Can this Council buy land for housing in Carrick as it currently has no land bank in the village? (L)

**Roads and Transportation**

41.Clr. Pringle

"When will the rock slide at the 'Screig Mor' Gleann Cholm Cille be removed from the road?" (L)

**Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

42.Clr. Pringle

"What is the current position on the tender for the Killybegs Sewerage outfall and network contracts?" (L)

43.Clr. O'Neill

Will this Council make available the necessary funding to provide a New Sewerage Pumping Station at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon for the established houses that are inside the Town Boundary but have been omitted from the Current Capital Scheme that is under construction?" (L)

**Community and Enterprise**

44.Clr. O'Neill

"Will Donegal County Council seek to explore the possibility of developing a Community Playground at Ballintra?" (L)

**MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA**

**Roads and Transportation**

45.Clr. McBride

"Has this council put plans in place to re-employ the temporary road workers so that the necessary roads programs can be carried out this year?" (C)

**Corporate Services**

46. Clr. McGarvey

"How much money was spent by this Council in Legal Fees in 2008?" (C)

**Planning and Economic Development**

47. Clr. McGarvey

"What is the update on Milford Town Renewal?" (L)

48. Clr. Blaney

"When does this Council intend to commence works on the carpark and Environmental Improvement Scheme in Milford town?" (L)

**STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA**

**Roads and Transportation**

49. Clr. Reid

"Have the Council plans to undertake a review of road safety in the County with a renewed emphasis on pedestrian safety given the recent increase in late night accidents involving pedestrians?" (C)

**Corporate Services**

50. Clr. Reid

"What action is Donegal County Council planning to take in relation to security along the border region given the recent barrack closures coupled with an increase in violence in Northern Ireland to ensure the safety and security of the County?" (C)

**Community and Enterprise**

51. Clr. McGowan

"Please can the Council outline what progress there is in developing community facilities in the North and West Housing lands in Convoy?" (L)

52. Clr. McGowan

"Please can the Council/CDB present a detailed list of all Community Developments Projects, Family Resource Centres etc located through the County outlining what if any criteria is used by agencies and funders when deciding how and where to allocate resources." (C)

## GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water and Environment and Emergency Services*

#### 53. Clr. Slowey

"When can the people of the town of Glenties expect to have a new working Sewerage Treatment Plant put in place?" (L)

### *Planning and Economic Development*

#### 54. Clr. Slowey

"Will Donegal County Council Planning Department initiate action to enforce planning conditions against a developer who refuses to resurface a small section of the N56 at Hillhead Ardara. The Planning References are 06/31131 Condition 19 and 08/30822 Condition 7. (L)

### *Roads and Transportation*

#### 55. Clr. Gallagher

"What were the cost incurred on this Council in 2008 regarding members and officials going on official meetings/delegations representing the Council?" (C)

#### 56. Clr. Gallagher

"Has there been any progress made on appointing a harbour master for Aran Mor island?" (L)

#### 57. Clr. Alcorn

"How many applications for estimates for Sceim Na mBoithre Aise Grants have not been returned by Donegal County Council to An Roinn Gnothai, Pobal Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, and why is there such a long delay with these estimates?" (C)

#### 58. Clr. Alcorn

"When does Donegal County Council intend to commence work on Roads where various types of Grants have been allocated for in 2009 i.e. strengthening, surface dressing etc., especially in account of the very favourable weather conditions in March 2009?" (C)

## INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

### *Roads and Transportation*

#### 59. Clr. McGuinness

"Give a chronological report on the proposal to surface dress the carpark at St. Boden's Terrace, Culdaff from start to date?" (L)

60. Clr. McDonald

"Will the Council ensure that safety for pedestrians (including those attending the Community College) and road users alike is a priority in the commencement of works on the road out of Movice?" (L)

**Community and Enterprise**

61. Clr. McGuinness

"What response/action has the Council taken regarding my questions to the last council meeting?" (O)

62. Clr. MacLochlainn

"What progress had Donegal County Council made in advancing the intent of the recent motion calling for the tourism and heritage potential of Grianan of Aileach to be maximised? (L)

**Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

63. Clr. MacLochlainn

"What progress has been made in sourcing a location in Buncrana for a Civic Amenity Site in line with commitments made in the present County Waste Management Plan?" (L)

64. Clr. Donaghey

"What is the current position in relation to the advancement of the Buncrana Sewerage Scheme through the planning stage and has the preliminary report been submitted to the Department for approval?" (L)

65. Clr. Donaghey

"When will Phase 3 of Lagan Valley Water Scheme for Desertegney be completed?" (L)

66. Clr. McDonald

"What effort has Donegal County Council done to ensure that Dog fouling bins are provided along the Sli Na Slainte route in Movice and other walkways in the area?" (L)

END

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD  
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009**

C/125/09     MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. G. Crawford, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M.T Gallagher, J. Harte, C. Harvey, J. Kelly, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. Mc Bride, M. Mc Donald, S. Mc Eniff, I. McGarvey, D. Mc Gonagle, P. Mc Gowan, P. Mac Lochlainn, B. O' Neill, T. Pringle, G. Reid, T. Slowey

C/126/09     APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr. A. Bonner who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/127/09     OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director of Housing, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr. Seamus Neely, Director Water, Environment and Emergency Services, Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community Culture and Enterprise, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Mr Eunan Sweeney Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/128/09     CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLAND COMMITTEE HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Kelly, the Minutes of Meeting of Island Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, were adopted.

C/129/09     CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Kelly, the Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, were adopted.

C/130/09 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, were adopted.

C/131/09 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. Boyle, the Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, were adopted.

C/132/09 REMOVAL OF CONES AND DEMARCATION RASHEDOCK JUNCTION

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council update me on progress made on my motion to remove the cones and demark properly the Rashedock junction."

Members were informed that:-

“At the July 2008 meeting in response to Cllr Larkin’s motion it was noted that "Road Design and Area Staff have recently agreed to re assess the junction with a view to providing a satisfactory solution within the existing land in the control of the Council. As soon as this new design is to hand an estimate will be prepared and at that stage funding will have to be identified".

A design was completed for the junction in late 2008. Following review it was agreed that this design along with an alternative design would be costed to ascertain whether it can be carried out within the Council's available budget for the Electoral Area. This review and costing is anticipated to be complete within the coming weeks at which time further announcements will be made.

An independent review of the design solution is also to be carried out. The Council is anxious to see final works

completed at this junction. However, the matter of funding and agreement on the cost and implementation of the final solution is particularly important.”

Member’s requested that the work in question be carried out by the end of August or at least before the advent of the New Road Works Programme. They highlighted the need to look at signage and demarcation issues, particularly in relation to hidden dips in the road.

The Director of Service, Mr John McLaughlin advised that further consideration would have to be given to the funding formula. It was agreed that an update in relation to the Design Selection would be presented to the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee.

C/133/09

REJECTION OF ANY MOVE TO INTRODUCE A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX ON THE FAMILY HOME

On the proposal of Clr. Harte, seconded by Clr. McBride, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council reject any move to introduce a residential tax on Family Home."

Members were in agreement that every effort should be made to reject any proposals for the introduction of a residential tax on family homes.

Clr. Harte asked that the motion be circulated to relevant government officials and the Oireachtas Members in the county.

C/134/09

INTRODUCTION OF AN APPEALS MECHANISM FOR BANKING CUSTOMERS

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted.

"I call on this council to support my motion in asking the Department of Finance to introduce an appeals mechanism whereby if customers feel that they are not getting fair treatment with the banks that they can appeal to an arm of

the Financial Regulator considering the Investment that Government made in banks in recent times."

It was agreed to circulate the motion to all councils, the County Development Board and Enterprise Ireland.

A number of members highlighted the need for the introduction of definitive measures to provide credit and financial support for small businesses.

Clr. MacLochlainn expressed his support for the motion, but proposed, seconded by Clr. Marie Therese Gallagher, that the motion be amended to include protection for customers seeking loans and in particular small business interests.

Clr. Brogan agreed to amend his motion accordingly and the following motion was unanimously agreed:-

"I call on this Council to support my motion in asking Department of Finance to introduce an appeals mechanism whereby if customers feel they are not getting fair treatment with the Banks that they can appeal to an arm of the financial regulator, considering the investment that Government made in banks in recent times, and calls on the government to ensure that the tax payers investment in various banks is utilised so as to ensure that customers seeking loans for sound investments are given access to the appropriate funds."

C/135/09

REPORT OF THE OIREACHTAS JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON ARTS SPORTS, TOURISM, COMMUNITY, RURAL  
AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE –  
AWAKENING THE WEST – “OVERCOMING SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY”

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council welcomes the report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Sports, Tourism, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Committee entitled 'Awakening the West - Overcoming Social and Economic Inequality', and calls on this Government to bring forward

proposals for the implementation of the recommendation of this report."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council was glad of the opportunity to make a detailed submission to the Oireachtas Report on the regeneration of the west coast of Ireland in October 2008. The submission outlined the key potential sectors for development in the region and summarised the work which the Donegal County Development Board has been advancing to progress the social, cultural and economic development of the county. Donegal County Council welcomes the report of the Oireachtas committee on overcoming social and economic inequality in the west, which further highlights the need to promote balanced regional development and promote social, cultural and economic development to address inequality.”

Clr. Harvey further proposed, seconded by Clr. Gallgher, that the author of the report (Senator Pearse Doherty) be invited to address the Council.

It was agreed that a request, by Senator Doherty to address the Council should be submitted in accordance with normal protocol and included on the agenda of the next Council Meeting for consideration.

C/136/09 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to 2.15pm for lunch.

C/137/09 METHOD OF DEALING WITH OUTSTANDING BILLS FOR METERED CONSUMERS

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council deal with outstanding Bills for metered consumers and reach reasonable agreements with them regarding wastage taking into account that in many cases readings were taken months before bills issued."

Members were informed that:-

“The metering of Non Domestic Consumers has assisted in the timely identification of leakage and wastage of water in most cases where same arises. The meter reading process has the facility to automatically draw the council’s attention to increased consumption and enables the Council to alert the consumer of the matter so that leakage or wastage can be addressed. In circumstances where leakage has been established (and where consumers have prioritised its elimination) the Council is prepared, on an individual case basis, to review the circumstances with a view to making a 'one-off' concession following repair of the problem and payment of the 'normal' bill arising.”

A number of specific cases were highlighted and members asked that these be further investigated and treated in a fair manner. They suggested that where appropriate arrears be ringfenced and specific queries dealt with on a case by case basis.”

Concern was expressed by a number of members in relation to the efficiency of the collection system. Mr Seamus Neely, Director of Water Environment and Emergency Services informed members that the collection system was on track and operational and was he noted capable of reacting to the situation on the ground. The logistics of installing a metering system would, he advised, always give rise to some problems, particularly in relation to the issuing of bills.

The issuing of such bills was, he confirmed, now becoming much more efficient, and there was an excellent management system in place to trace calls as they came in.

Mr. Neely reminded members that the Non Domestic Water Metering System was a valuable revenue source for the Council and that there were a significant number of customers out there without issues who needed to pay their bills. He agreed to liaise with members in relation to their individual concerns.

C/138/09 PROPOSED TOWN CENTRE CAR PARK IN BALLYSHANNON

On the proposal of Clr. O'Neill, seconded by Clr. Boyle, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council discuss the Requirement for the Proposed Town Centre Car Park to proceed to construction as soon as possible and address the current status of the CPO process."

Members were informed that:-

“Construction of a new car park is very important for Ballyshannon. The Council has prepared Compulsory Purchase Order documents and those are currently being reviewed.

In order to publish the CPO, it will be necessary to identify a funding source for at least the cost of the lands and ideally a funding plan for the full construction of the car park. It is difficult in the current economic circumstances to identify suitable funding. Options such as car parking charges, loans, development charges and own resources are being considered; however, no final decisions have been made at this time.”

Clr. O'Neill highlighted the potential of generating income through off street carparking and asked that the matter be given more detailed consideration.

C/139/09 INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES IN THE COUNTY

Clr. McBride proposed, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion:-

"That this Council write to the Minister for Environment and Local Government urging him to dramatically increase the number of Community Employment schemes in Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

“The community employment schemes are administered by FAS, the State Training Authority, under the Department of

Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Council can correspond with FAS to ascertain if they are to expand or increase the existing Community Employment Schemes. The Council can also correspond with the Department seeking an increase in the numbers engaged through these schemes in the County given the increasing numbers becoming unemployed.”

The importance of increasing the number of employment schemes in the county was deemed extremely necessary particularly in the current economic climate.

It was acknowledged however that such schemes very often did not accommodate the needs of the newly unemployed and those in the younger age brackets.

Clr. MacLochlainn expressed his support for the motion and proposed, seconded by Clr. Reid, that the motion be amended to provide for all categories of the unemployed.

Clr. McBride agreed to amend his motion accordingly and thus it was unanimously agreed.

“That this Council write to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government urging him to dramatically increase the number of Community Employment Schemes in Donegal as part of an overall programme aimed at helping the unemployed in the County.”

C/140/09

DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AT THE QUAY IN  
RAMELTON

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. McBride, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council deal with the very dangerous conditions that exist at the Quay in Ramelton."

Members were informed that:-

“Public lighting is required at a cost of €5,500 to make the area more safe. No money is presently available for this. A galvanized handrail has been recently erected by the Marine

Section which is causing local concern. Further discussion will take place locally with those concerned with this issue.”

The Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to look at the possibility of painting the galvanized handrail. The road surfacing issues would have to be considered within the context of the 2010 Roadworks Programme.

C/141/09 PIPING OF BURN BETWEEN THE GAA CENTRE AND THE BEACH HOTEL

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council pipe the 'burn' that runs between the GAA Centre and the Beach Hotel from the main road to the shore in Downings."

Members were informed that:-

“The "Burn" in question has a history of silting up and has been cleaned in the past. However cleaning is now much more difficult due to the erection of a fence along the GAA centre.

In this case piping of the drain is not recommended as it would be very likely to be blocked by silt and lead to ongoing maintenance problems. However, it is proposed to examine methods of gaining access to have the silt cleaned out.”

It was agreed that the Local Area Engineer would provide a detailed report on the matter outlining the relevant options to the Members of the Milford Electoral Area Committee.

C/142/09 ESTABLISHMENT OF BUSINESS ADVICE CLINICS

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council urgently undertake renovation works to the old Fire Station building in Stranorlar in order to establish business advice clinics, to house relevant professionals to act as advisors to new and small businesses in the Finn Valley area, to help encourage

and nurture development and enterprise and such a scheme be examined to be implemented County wide."

Members were informed that:-

"The old fire station is located at Main Street, Stranorlar and is in a good business location within the town, with ample car parking adjacent.

However, the existing condition of the building is poor and necessitates extensive construction work, if it is to be brought up to an acceptable standard for office type work. It is envisaged that the renovation costs would be in a region similar to new build cost.

It should be noted that the capital funding provided by the Department, for the recently constructed Fire Station, included for the realisation of the asset value of the old station, which was estimated at €250,000.

With regards to business supports for existing or prospective business' within this area, the Donegal County Enterprise Board, based in Letterkenny but with a County-wide remit, have advised while Donegal CEB executives make every effort to meet existing and "new " business people at their place of work the Board also currently provides outreach services to centres where demand has arisen e.g.

Carndonagh, Donegal Town and Killybegs. To date the CEB has not received demand for holding such outreach clinics in Ballybofey/Stranorlar but would be amenable to do so if demand arose.

You could also make reference to the plan being undertaken in Ballybofey/Stranorlar through BASIC."

It was generally acknowledged that the setting up of Business Advice Clinics on a countywide basis would provide a much needed stimulus for the small businesses sector.

Mr Garry Martin, S.E.O. agreed to liaise further with Mr Michael Tunney, CEO, County Enterprise Board and other Local Development Companies in relation to the above matter.

C/143/09

SETTING UP OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the following motion was adopted.

"That the Council move immediately to set up The County Donegal Joint Policing Committee, given that recent disturbances and break ins through out the County highlight the need for a co-ordinated approach to identify and agree a way forward where the community can participate in preventing such crimes and help catch and prosecute these criminals."

Members were informed that:-

“Proposals have been prepared for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) in Co. Donegal in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. A meeting of relevant Directors of Service is scheduled to take place on 31 March 2009 to agree proposals and in particular the timeline for the establishment of JPCs in Donegal. It is proposed that JPCs will be established in each local authority area i.e. Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Buncrana and Letterkenny (already established as part of pilot phase) and in the County. It is envisaged that proposals will be presented to the next Council meeting for consideration and approval.”

A lengthy debate ensued with members advocating the need to set up a Joint Policing Committee in the county as soon as possible. Concern was expressed in relation to the spiralling crime rate with members noting that various attempts over the years to liaise with Gardai Authorities had not yielded any significant results.

The Mayor expressed disappointment at the lack of Garda coverage in the eastern border region of the county and asked that this matter be followed up with the relevant authorities.

Mr. Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer informed the meeting that given the short life of the present Council it might be more prudent to establish the Committee at the

Annual General Meeting in June. Acknowledging members concerns in relation to the pressing need for a Joint Policing Committee, he agreed to bring a comprehensive information document to the next Council Meeting.

C/144/09 MAINTENANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE LITTER WARDEN SERVICE

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council maintain an effective Litter Warden Service across the County so as to counteract illegal dumping and protect our lovely County of Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council is committed to maintaining an effective Litter Warden service across the county and has made the necessary provisions in the adopted Budget 2009 to maintain the employment of the Litter Wardens. The provisions of the 2009 adopted Budget are framed on the basis that Litter wardens will in 2009 also play a central role in managing the Council’s Recycling facilities.”

Members welcomed the reply but warned that there would be serious implications for litter control if wardens were spending more and more time on the recycling aspect of the job.

The Director of Water Environment and Emergency Services advised that this new role for litter wardens was part of a wider approach to dealing with the recycling issue and had in fact been highlighted to members in the 2009 Budget documentation.

C/145/09 TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEMES

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Gallagher, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council forward the tender Documents for the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes to the Department of Environment without further delay."

Members were informed that:-

“Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes are currently at tender document stage. The final tender documents will be delivered to the Council by the end of March 2009 and the Council will be submitting them to the Department with the required supporting documentation in April 2009.”

Clr. Bonner welcomed the reply but expressed disappointment at the slow progress of events. He thanked all relevant staff who had been involved in progressing the matter to its current stage..

C/146/09 DEVELOPMENT OF SITE AT THE OLD FIRE STATION  
GLENTIES

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council go into negotiations with GARC and Glenties Parish Council to consider the future of the site on which the old fire station was located in Glenties, considering the community have studies and recommendations to develop this site which incorporate a Library and other community amenities to create much needed employment in the parish."

Members were informed that:-

“The County Librarian, Senior Librarian for the Glenties EA, and C&E Area Manager for Glenties EA will arrange to meet with the GARRC Group to discuss plans for the site.”

Clr. Gallagher outlined the necessity of progressing the matter so as to provide much needed facilities in the area.

C/147/09 ISSUING OF CORPORATE SERVICES  
COMMUNICATIONS

Clr. Kelly informed the meeting that he wished to withdraw the following motion:-

"That this Council reviews the manner in which its Corporate Services issues communications and insists that such communications are conducted respectfully."

C/148/09 ISSUING OF WATER ACCOUNT BILLS OF €400 TO BUSINESS PREMISES THAT DO NOT HAVE ANY WATER CONNECTION

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council discuss the issuing of water account bills of €400.00 to business premises that do not have any water connection from Donegal County Council."

Members were informed that:-

“The Council fixed a charge of €400 for 2008 where connections are not metered in cases where there is a public water supply to a property and a business is being carried out at the property.”

Members highlighted a number of instances where businesses with no connections were being charged.

The Director Water, Environment and Emergency Services advised that where there was no connection there would be no charge and that in the case of a domestic supply where there was some element of business use then charges would occur.

The Director of Service agreed to follow up in relation to the specific case outlined by Clr. Alcorn.

C/149/09 PRIORITISATION OF ROADS IN THE INISHOWEN AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. McDonald, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council ensure that all roads which have been prioritised and agreed in the 3 year plan in the Inishowen Area be completed as our funding allocation is similar to last year as was anticipated."

Members were informed that:-

“The Roads and Transportation Directorate has commenced work on the 2009 Roadworks Programme and is in the process of issuing tenders for schemes to be carried out by contractors. Works are at various stages of progress dependent on the area and shall be completed over the year in the normal way.”

Clr. Donaghey outlined the necessity of ensuring that all the roads prioritised by the Inishowen Electoral Area members were included in the programme.

C/150/09

NEED FOR THE PROGRESSION OF WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES IN EAST INISHOWEN

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. McGonagle, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council ensure that the current situation in relation to having water and sewerage schemes for East Inishowen so that residential and commercial opportunities can be availed of, given the need for basic infrastructure to drive employment particularly in times of financial difficulties."

Members were informed that:-

“The relevant schemes on the Departments Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009 are Inishowen Regional Water Supply and Merville Greencastle Sewerage Scheme. The Council is doing its utmost to progress these schemes towards construction but it is not solely within its remit to do so. In this regard budget approval to progress Inishowen Regional Water Supply is awaited from the Department, and Approval of Compulsory Purchase Order and the development proposed in the Environmental Impact Statement for Merville Greencastle Sewerage scheme is awaited from An Bord Pleanála.

In the interim the Council is working with developers to progress developer led schemes which may lead to development and infrastructure opportunities.”

Members outlined the necessity of progressing the Inishowen Regional Water supply scheme in terms of

infrastructural needs and the associated employment benefits.

C/151/09 RECEPTION FOR TRADE UNION BRANCHES IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted.

"To celebrate the fact that 2009 marks the centenary of the foundation of the ITGWU, the first major Trade Union in Ireland which later amalgamated to SIPTU, and in recognition of the role played by the Trade Union movement in the advancement of workers rights in County Donegal and across our country, Donegal County Council afford a reception to acknowledge each Trade Union that has a branch in our county."

Members were informed that:-

"If the motion is passed by the Council, the members of the Corporate Policy Group will be asked to consider the most appropriate means of implementing the motion."

It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

C/152/09 NAMING OF RAMELTON RECREATION AND AMENITY AREA PROJECT

Clr. Blaney proposed, seconded by Clr. Mc Donald, that "This Council officially name the Ramelton Recreation and Amenity Area Project as "The Dave Gallaher Park".

Clr. Mc Bride sought on a point of order clarification on whether members had the authority to name the facility or if it was in fact a recommendation to the Executive. The County Manager outlined the process for naming such public facilities/amenities pointing out that the Executive sought to operate on the basis of consensus in such matters. He clarified that in law if a function not specified as Reserved it was deemed to be a matter for the Executive. Members from the Milford Electoral Area proceeded to outline from their

individual perspectives the chronology of events and acknowledged the need for a speedy resolution to the matter.

A lengthy debate ensued with a number of possible solutions put forward to progress the matter.

An Amendment was proposed by Clr. O' Neill, seconded by Clr. Brogan, To officially name the Ramelton Recreation and Amenity Area Project as "Pairc Ui Ghallachoir"

Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator advised that in accordance with "Standing Orders" a vote would be taken firstly in relation to the Amendment.

A recorded vote on the Amendment resulted in 7 voting for with 9 against. There were 3 abstentions.

Those voting in favour were: -

Clrs Boyle, Brogan, Mc Bride, Mc Garvey, O' Neill, Reid and Slowey. (7)

Those voting against were: -

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, E. Bonner, Crawford, Donaghey, Harte, Mc Donald, Mc Gonagle and Mc Gowan.

Clrs Harvey, Larkin and Mac Lochlainn abstained.

The Mayor declared the Amendment lost.

A recorded vote was then taken on the Motion resulting in 8 voting for with 6 against .

There were 5 abstentions.

Those voting in favour were: -

Clrs Alcorn, Blaney, Crawford, Donaghey, Harte, Mc Donald, Mc Gonagle and Mc Gowan. (8)

Those voting against were: -

Clrs Boyle, Brogan, Mc Bride, O' Neill, Reid and Slowey. (6)

Clrs E. Bonner, Harvey, Larkin, Mc Garvey and Mac Lochlainn abstained.

The Mayor declared the Motion carried.

C/153/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED ROAD REALIGNMENT – L1125 MEENANEARY ROAD

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

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. O'Neill, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed Road Realignment – L1125 Meenaneary Road in the Townlands of Meenaneary and Carrick Upper, was approved.

C/154/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED ROAD REALIGNMENT – L1085 SLIEVE LEAGUE ROAD

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

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. O'Neill, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed Road Realignment – L1085 Slieve League Road in the Townlands of Shanbally and Aghragh, was approved.

C/155/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED ROAD REALIGNMENT – R245 LETTERKENNY TO RAMELTON ROAD

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

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed Road Realignment – R245 Letterkenny to Ramelton Road in the Townlands of Aghangaddy Glebe and Glenleary, was approved.

- C/156/09 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CRANFORD, LETTERKENNY  
MR HUGH MCBRIDE, THE LEGAL PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE ESTATE OF THE LATE  
MICHAEL MCBRIDE  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride, it was resolved to transfer a plot of land at Cranford, Letterkenny to Mr Hugh McBride, the legal personal representative of the late Michael McBride, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- C/157/09 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MILFORD, TO MR & MRS  
MICHAEL AND LOUISE MCBRIDE  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride, it was resolved to provide an easement on Council owned lands at Milford to Mr & Mrs Michael and Louise McBride, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- C/158/09 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT GORTNAGOLE,  
BALLINDRAIT, LIFFORD, TO THE LIFFORD RIFLE  
AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to transfer a plot of land at Gortnagole, Ballindrait, Lifford to Lifford Rifle and Pistol Association, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- C/159/09 TO CONSIDER ANNUAL REPORT FROM AUDIT  
COMMITTEE

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

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the Annual Report from the Audit Committee was adopted.

C/160/09 TO NOTE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT, YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2007.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the contents of the Local Government Audit Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 was noted.

C/161/09 CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

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 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
  2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly, The National Spatial Strategy: Is it Delivering Balanced Regional Development? to be held Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009 at The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon Town.
  - Training Seminar for Councillors, Environmental Management: Challenges & Opportunities for Local Government to be held Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Killashee House Hotel, Killashee, Naas, Co. Kildare.
  - Transport Ireland Conference “Transporting Irelands Economy” to be held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin.

- LAMA, Annual Spring Seminar, to be held Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- Irish Rural Dwellers Association, 4<sup>th</sup> IRDA Planning Conference, to be held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009 at The Brehon Hotel, Killarney.
- Irish Planning Institute, National Planning Conference 2009 to be held Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at The Whites Hotel, Abbey Street, Co. Wexford.

C/162/09 MAYORS BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The family of the late Martin Tourish.
- Marie Guthrie, Finance on the death of her mother Susie Mc Elchar.
- Mairead Shields, Corporate on the death of her father Pat Sheilds.
- Naul Mc Cole on the death of his wife Claire McCole.

Regional Planning Guidelines

Clr. Larkin proposed, seconded by Clr. Crawford, that Mr. Pádraig Maguire, Implementation Officer, Regional Planning Guidelines, Border Regional Authority be invited to address the Planning SPC on the 7th April, 2009 in relation to the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region.

Sceim Scoláireachtai

It was agreed that the awards would be presented on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford.

Garda Mc Callion

Members expressed shock at the recent incident in Letterkenny in which Garda Robert Mc Callion was seriously injured and asked that their concerns be conveyed to the relevant Garda Authorities. The Mayor proposed, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, and it was resolved that good wishes for a speedy recovery be extended to Garda Mc Callion.

### Tullyowen Junction

The Mayor welcomed the update provided by the Director of Service and asked that every effort be made to rectify what is now a dangerous exit.

### Basketball Ireland League Finals

It was agreed to forward a letter of congratulations to Mr. Vincent O' Brien, Chairman of Letterkenny Blaze Basketball Team for the excellent work involved in the staging of Basketball Ireland League Finals in the Aura Leisure Centre.

### Extension of Planning Applications

It was agreed that correspondence seeking further clarification should again be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the granting of an extension of time in respect of those planning applications granted under the old Planning Guidelines.

### Undocumented Irish

The Mayor read into the record correspondence from Mr. Sean O' Neachtain, MEP in relation to the plight of the undocumented Irish in America.

Clr. Crawford proposed, seconded by Clr. Larkin, and it was resolved, that Donegal County Council contact the President of the United States, Barak Obama, the American Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton and the American Ambassador to Ireland, Dan Rooney outlining members concerns in relation to the large number of undocumented Irish in America.

It was agreed that a copy of Mr. O' Neachtain's letter would be circulated to all Members.

### Cloughaneely Band

Congratulations was extended to the Cloughaneely Band on winning the best Marching Band Title at the recent St Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia.

### Inspire Summer Gala Ball

Members were informed that the Inspire Summer Gala Ball in aid of the Letterkenny's Cancer Unit would be held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Harvey's Point, Donegal Town.

C/163/09 MANAGERS REPORT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, and addendum circulated at the meeting. The County Manager outlined the main points of his report.

**The following Questions and Replies were noted:**

C/164/09 REDUCTION OF HARDNESS IN LETTERKENNY WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Will the Council furnish me with an update on the measures to reduce the hardness of the water being used in Letterkenny?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

"In April 2008 Donegal County Council commissioned a new source of water to augment the Letterkenny public water supply. The new source is from groundwater extracted through boreholes. It is a hard water, with different characteristics from the soft lake-water abstracted from Loughs Keel, Salt and Greenan. The new supply is a high quality water, which is treated and meets the requirements of EU Drinking Water Quality standards before entering supply. Much of the supply area continues to receive an exclusively lake-water supply. Parts of Letterkenny town centre and south Letterkenny receive a mixed supply from groundwater and lakewater sources.

Whereas the Drinking Water Regulations impose no limit to hardness in water, it is considered desirable to minimize this feature for aesthetic reasons and to reduce the incidence of limescale. Two measures have been taken to date to this end. The proportion of groundwater to lake-water has been kept to a minimum by expanding the supply area and drawing in as much lake-water as possible. The mix currently stands at 65 : 35 (groundwater : lake-water). This has had a beneficial effect. In addition, the type of chlorine used in the treatment of the groundwater water has been changed. This change has also yielded improvements. Further measures are under consideration and will be advised if they come to pass."

C/165/09

LETTERKENNY CIVIC AMENITY SITE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Will this Council update the councillors on all matters pertaining to the Letterkenny Civic Amenity site, eg opening, collection details, operating hours, talks with Town Council and costing to public etc?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The new Civic Amenity Sites in Letterkenny, (and Dungloe and Milford) will open to the public on Thursday 16th April 2009. The sites will be open three days a week, as follows:  
Thursday – 12.30pm to 7.00pm  
Friday - 8.30am to 2.00pm  
Saturday – 8.30am to 2.00pm.

The sites will cater for a wide range of waste materials, which will be charged as follows:

There will be no charge for the deposit of the following recyclable items: glass bottles/jars; food and drink cans; textiles; fluorescent tubes; batteries; waste electrical and electronic equipment.

A charge of €10 will apply for private vehicles (without trailers) and €20 for private vehicles with small car trailers depositing a combination of the following waste for recycling: paper; cardboard; plastic; milk & drinks cartons; engine oil; cooking oil; mixed metals.

A charge of €10 per item will apply for the deposit of the following bulky items: single mattress; single bed; crate; kitchen or garden chair; toilet; cistern; sink; curtain/blind and similar sized items.

A charge of €20 per item will apply for the deposit of the following bulky items: double bed; double mattress; sofa;

armchair; chest of drawers; wardrobe; table; carpet and similarly sized items.

The Council will publish a detailed list of the items accepted at the sites and the corresponding charge in the local papers in the coming weeks. Information leaflets will also be distributed. The Council's website will be updated to include full details of the services and charges.

Members of the public who wish to use the sites will be able to purchase tickets from local shops. A list of these shops will be published in advance of the opening of the sites. Customers will also be able to pay at the sites by credit or debit card.

It should be noted that the Council's Civic Amenity Sites are for the use of householders only. Customers using vehicles with large, agricultural, silage or livestock trailers will not be allowed access to the sites. Construction and demolition wastes, such as windows, fireplaces, ceramic tiles, slates, roof tiles and timber, will not be accepted at sites. Where people have large volumes of waste and bulky items, they can avail of skip or other collection services provided by the permitted waste collectors.

Discussions have taken place with Letterkenny Town Council specifically in relation to the Letterkenny site. These discussions are ongoing with a view to examining the feasibility of that's Councils potential involvement in / association with the running of the Letterkenny site."

C/166/09

LETTERKENNY CIVIC AMENITY SITE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

"Is everything in order to open the new Civic Amenity Site in Letterkenny and could council confirm opening date again?"

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

"The new Civic Amenity Sites in Letterkenny, (and Dungloe and Milford) will open to the public on Thursday 16th April 2009. The sites will be open three days a week, as follows:

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allowed access to the sites. Construction and demolition wastes, such as windows, fireplaces, ceramic tiles, slates, roof tiles and timber, will not be accepted at sites. Where people have large volumes of waste and bulky items, they can avail of skip or other collection services provided by the permitted waste collectors.

Discussions have taken place with Letterkenny Town Council specifically in relation to the Letterkenny site. These discussions are ongoing with a view to examining the feasibility of that's Councils potential involvement in / association with the running of the Letterkenny site."

C/167/09

IMPLEMENTATION OF SPEED LIMIT FROM DRY ARCH ROUNDABOUT TO THE PORT BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

"When will the reduced speed limit be implemented from Dry Arch Roundabout to the Port Bridge and what has been the delay in this to date?"

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

"The process for the reduction of the speed limit from the Dry Arch Roundabout to the Port Bridge has not been completed as yet. It cannot therefore be implemented at the moment. However, we are looking at re-examination of the previous process with the NRA.

In 2006, the council started the legal process for the reduction of the speed limit on the four lane road from 100kph to 80kph. At the time, the measured free speed on the road was approximately 95kph. It was expected that the introduction of a median would have a traffic calming effect and that that 80kph was a realistic speed limit. A reduction in the speed limit could allow for the future construction of a median without having to construct a safety fence. It is NRA policy that a divided national road with a 100kph speed limit must be fitted with a median safety fence.

The speed limit review process involved consultation with the Gardai and Letterkenny Town Council. Their response was then considered at a meeting of Donegal County

Council. This stage was completed. The next stage involved public consultation where the proposed by-laws were required to be put on public display. Again any responses had to be considered by DCC. While the council was finalising arrangements for the public display a separate county-wide legal issue arose and the Council's solicitors advised that the by-law process be suspended pending resolution of the county-wide issue. This part of the process was never completed as, in the interim, the NRA raised some concerns about the council's proposals.

The county-wide issue has since been resolved and the legal process for the reduction of the speed limit on the four lane road can now be revived.

C/168/09 REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR TENANTS WHO REPORT VICTIMISATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"What procedures does Donegal County Council have in place for their tenants if tenants report that they are being victimised?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

"The Council presently employs three Housing Assessment / Tenant Liaison Officers who deal with such matters. Each complaint is examined and investigated to ascertain if a resolution can be found and this often involves liaison with other agencies such as the Gardai and HSE. Regard is also had to the terms of the letting agreement which provides for instances where a tenant is causing a nuisance to other residents.

Under the new Housing Bill, soon to be enacted, the Council will be required to draw up and adopt a formal policy on anti social behaviour which will also provide for such situations."

C/169/09 POLICY OF DIRECTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT TOWARDS GATEWAY TOWNS SUCH AS LETTERKENNY AND SLIGO

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"Has Donegal County Council made representation to the IDA around their policy of directing foreign direct investment towards gateway towns such as Letterkenny and Sligo which undermines the substantial investment of the Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS) across Donegal in towns such as Ballybofey and Stranorlar?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

“The Council meet with the Economic Development Agencies operating within the County on a bi annual basis. At these workshops the Council members have made direct representations to the IDA on their policies and, through their Regional Manager, the IDA'S position has been made clear that under their present national policy they seek to direct investment into the Gateway Towns as identified under the NDP 2007 -2013. This policy does not preclude projects which may wish to locate to other towns and villages being supported. It is the IDA'S experience that Foreign Direct Investors generally seek to locate in the larger towns.”

C/170/09

PURCHASE OF 26 TURNKEY HOUSES AT  
NEWTOWN, BUNDORAN FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

"Will Donegal County Council support Cluids application re the purchase of 26 Turnkey Houses at Newtown Bundoran for social housing?"

Clr. McEniff was informed that:-

“The Council has not received any application from Cluid for the development in question. In relation to Voluntary housing generally, the Department has indicated that the only monies available this year will be to meet existing commitments with no new build permitted other than in exceptional cases of special needs housing. In accordance with the revised arrangements for the assessment of Voluntary Schemes, the Council has held a number of meetings with the HSE to ensure that schemes being pursued have the appropriate support and funding from the HSE in terms of any ongoing services required. The Council already

have significant commitments on a large number of such schemes which far outweigh the level of funding likely to become available. Under such circumstances, the Council is presently not in a position to give any indication of support for new projects.”

C/171/09 LEVY ON DERELICT BUILDINGS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

"Has this Council considered imposing a levy on derelict buildings throughout the County as set out in the "Derelict Sites Act 1990" as a means of generating revenue and a stimulus to improving derelict sites and buildings?"

Clr. Byrne was informed by the Director of Housing:-

A full report on derelict sites, including the levying of charges, was submitted to the GP Committee on 7th July, 2008. I referred to the levy as a means of generating income to sustain a programme of action on derelict sites through the County. I raised the issue of pilot areas based on either towns or villages with development plans or over an agreed population threshold for submission to the Minister for designation as “Urban Areas” under the Act which is required for the imposition of a penal levy on valuations.

The GP Committee requested that the issue be referred to each of the Electoral Area Committees for their views and a report was tabled to each of the Committees in September, 2008. There were varying views at the Electoral Area Meetings regarding how this matter might be addressed with the general view being that the selection of sites or towns for designation by the Minister was premature and the matter should be referred for consideration in the adoption of new Local Area Plans.

It should be noted that until specific towns or villages are nominated by the Council for designation by the Minister that no levy can be imposed in any area other than the Town Council areas which are “Urban Areas” for the purposes of the Act.”

C/172/09 EXISTENCE OF POLICY ON APPLICANTS FOR SI HOUSES TO TAKE SCHEME HOUSES INSTEAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

"Can this Council confirm that no such policy exists whereby applicants who have applied for a SI house are encouraged to take Scheme Houses instead?"

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

"All applicants for social Housing are considered on their merits and the most appropriate form of assistance identified."

C/173/09 LANDBANK FOR HOUSING IN CARRICK VILLAGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

"Can this Council buy land for housing in Carrick as it currently has no land bank in the village?"

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

"The current 1st preference housing need in Carrick is 4, 2 of which are single adults with no dependants. There are schemes reaching completion in Killybegs, Kilcar and Glen Cholm Cille which may well cater for some of this need. Consequently there is no short to medium term requirement for a housing scheme in Carrick. Should therefore the Council proceed to acquire a land-bank in the village it is likely to remain undeveloped for a number of years and the Council would have to carry the expenditure as an unfunded balance on its books in the interim. Under new procedures introduced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government the Council will require the Department's approval for the purchase of any land-bank with one of the main criteria being an acute housing need. Presently the Department are not issuing approvals for any such proposals and will remain unlikely to in the medium term. It is not proposed therefore to acquire any land-bank in Carrick at this time."

C/174/09 REMOVAL OF ROCK SLIDE AT 'SCREIG MOR'  
GLEANN CHOLM CILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

"When will the rock slide at the 'Screig Mor' Gleann Cholm Cille be removed from the road?"

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“A number of options have been considered in relation to removal of rock which has partly blocked the road as a result of pipe laying operations.

Due to the complex geology of the area it has been difficult to quantify the exact nature of works required to leave the area safe.

Consequently there has been a delay in having this rock removed but it is hoped to make a final decision on same in the next 3 weeks and have the rock removed prior to this years tourist season.”

C/175/09 CURRENT POSITION ON TENDER FOR KILLYBEGS  
SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

"What is the current position on the tender for the Killybegs Sewerage outfall and network contracts?"

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Tenders for Killybegs Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Network and outfall were received in September 2008. The lowest tender was deemed non-compliant mainly on technical grounds and the tender assessment and recommendation report was received by the Council in January 2009. The lowest tenderer subsequently contested the non-compliance and the Council responded in February 2009. The Council is currently preparing the Managers Order and supporting documentation for submission to the Department for Budget and Water Pricing approval. The lump sum tender price is €16.3m inc. VAT of which it was

estimated the Council will have to pay at least 23.6% (21% Non-Domestic €2.6% DCS) under Water Services Pricing Policy. Based on recent WSPP determinations it appears that the matching percentage is likely to be considerably higher. The Council is not in a position to commit the project to construction in advance of an acceptable and agreed water pricing and cash flow arrangements being put in place with the Department. It should also be noted that when constructed provision for an additional annual operational and maintenance cost of circa €333,000 will have to be made in the annual Budget process.”

C/176/09 NEW SEWERAGE PUMPING STATION AT CARRICKBOY, BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Neill:-

“Will this Council make available the necessary funding to provide a New Sewerage Pumping Station at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon for the established houses that are inside the Town Boundary but have been omitted from the Current Capital Scheme that is under construction?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“The houses in question are 6 dwellings located at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon, on the southern fringe of the Ballyshannon sewerage network. The network has already been extended in this area as far as can be economically justified.

An additional pumping station would be required to connect these houses to the main sewers. The cost of providing a pumping station, rising main, and collection network is in the order of €100k, giving a unit cost per dwelling of €16k which exceeds the limit of funding deemed economic by the Department which is €10k as per circular letter L7/06. The Council is not in a position to fund the work itself.”

C/177/09 COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND AT BALLINTRA

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Neill:-

"Will Donegal County Council seek to explore the possibility of developing a Community Playground at Ballintra?"

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

"The Council are presently working on bringing to completion their current commitments under this policy area. Upon completion of these, a review will be conducted to establish the gap areas in the County which may be included for consideration for future development."

C/178/09 PLANS TO RE-EMPLOY TEMPORARY ROAD WORKERS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"Has this council put plans in place to re-employ the temporary road workers so that the necessary roads programs can be carried out this year?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

"Donegal County Council are presently assessing the number of workers required to carry out this years Road Works Programme. This assessment will take into account the grant allocations available under each Road Services Supervisors area and the current workforce employed in that area. In the first instance, permanent staff may be redeployed to match work commitments in respective areas with the intention of keeping our existing workforce fully deployed for the entire year. In certain circumstances it is envisaged that a small number of temporary seasonal workers will be required to complete the Roadworks Programme but not to the same extent as in previous years."

C/179/09 MONEY SPENT ON LEGAL FEES IN 2008

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"How much money was spent by this Council in legal Fees in 2008?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

"Legal bills are submitted by the Councils Solicitors for four monthly periods, in arrears. Bills paid in 2008 cover the periods September 2007 to August 2008, and totalled

€1,232,346.90. This figure, which is in respect of both Revenue and Capital activity, comprises professional fees, outlays (monies paid out on the Council's behalf such as Land Registry & Search Fees, Court Stamp fees, postage etc) plus value added tax. Payments for professional fees are subject to withholding tax @ 20%.

The bills for September to December 2008 were received recently and the amount invoiced is €194,998.40. These have been circulated to services for examination and certification but taking the bills as received the cost for 2008 would be €1,003,835.60.

The foregoing does not include barrister fees, party and party costs or settlement of actions, if any."

C/180/09

UPDATE ON MILFORD TOWN RENEWAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"What is the update on Milford Town Renewal?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

"The Planning & Economic Development Directorate proposes to undertake an Urban Renewal Scheme in Milford consisting of the construction of an off-street car park and an environmental improvement scheme along the Main Street. The tender documentation is currently being finalised and is due for release in April 2009 for the construction of both the Car Park (Phase I) and the Environmental Improvement Scheme (Phase II) along the Main Street. Upon completion of the tendering process, it is anticipated a contractor will be appointed thereafter with the car park works envisaged to commence in June 2009 followed by the environmental improvements works commencing in late 2009/early 2010 for completion in 2010.

The progression of Phase I of the project (the provision of off-street car parking facilities) has been dependent on the acquisition of two separate land holdings. The acquisition of the larger land holding was concluded in May 2008 and agreement for the acquisition of the remaining land holding has now been reached, with the inclusion of a special

condition that the Council agree to the provision of an easement over existing Council owned lands at the proposed Phase I site. This provision is subject to the approval of the Members via a Section 183, which will be sought at the Council meeting today.”

C/181/09 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IN MILFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

"When does this Council intend to commence works on the carpark and Environmental Improvement Scheme in Milford town?"

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

“The Planning & Economic Development Directorate proposes to undertake an Urban Renewal Scheme in Milford consisting of the construction of an off-street car park and an environmental improvement scheme along the Main Street. The tender documentation is currently being finalised and is due for release in April 2009 for the construction of both the Car Park (Phase I) and the Environmental Improvement Scheme (Phase II) along the Main Street. Upon completion of the tendering process, it is anticipated a contractor will be appointed thereafter with the car park works envisaged to commence in June 2009 followed by the environmental improvements works commencing in late 2009 / early 2010 for completion in 2010.

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C/182/09 REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

"Have the Council plans to undertake a review of road safety in the County with a renewed emphasis on pedestrian safety given the recent increase in late night accidents involving pedestrians?"

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

"Pedestrian safety falls within the Education and Engineering pillars of the current Donegal Road Safety Plan 2007-2009 (4 E's - Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation) and is equally promoted by Donegal County Council and the other members of the Donegal Road Safety Working Group. Improving the safety of pedestrians is a key element of the existing plan, which aims to reduce the number and severity of road traffic crashes in the county.

As the current Road Safety Plan expires at the end of December 2009 an evaluation will take place at the end of this year. The outcome of the evaluation along with updated road traffic collision data will then inform the priorities for the next road safety plan to cover the period January 2010 onwards. The Donegal Road Safety Working Group is aware of the increase in collisions involving pedestrian locally, which is mirrored by a national increase.

Ongoing educational initiatives to promote pedestrian safety within the existing Road Safety Plan include:

- 'Be Safe Be Seen' campaign for six weeks after the clocks go back in the autumn each year.
- Distribution of 10,000 free armbands to members of the public in the county each year.
- Distribution of 2,500 leaflets/posters promoting the wearing of reflective material or Hi Viz jackets when walking.

- All road safety Bank Holiday messages warn of the dangers of walking home in the dark after consuming alcohol.
- Distribution of Road Safety Authority Hi Viz jackets (30,000 nationally distributed through 4,200 rural pubs including Donegal)
- Pedestrian safety is taught to primary school children as part of the 'Keep Safe' initiative.

The Road Safety Officer is also involved in the development of a Community Programme with the Road Safety Authority. The resource will enable community groups to deliver the road safety message themselves. One of the themes in the programme is Vulnerable Road Users, which includes pedestrians and cyclists. This programme will be piloted in the north west of the country in the coming months with Muintir na Tir playing a lead role in its delivery."

C/183/09

SECURITY ALONG THE BORDER REGION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

"What action is Donegal County Council planning to take in relation to security along the border region given the recent barrack closures coupled with an increase in violence in Northern Ireland to ensure the safety and security of the County?"

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

"Matters of security are primarily a matter for the Ministers of Justice and Defence, together with the Garda Síochána and the Army."

C/184/09

PROGRESS ON DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE NORTH AND WEST HOUSING LANDS IN CONVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Please can the Council outline what progress there is in developing community facilities in the North and West Housing lands in Convoy?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The Housing Directorate of the Council are presently awaiting North & West Housing solicitors to complete the site transfer to the Council. Upon confirmation of the title being transferred, the Council will proceed, subject to available funding, the procurement of a playground facility at this site in Convoy.”

C/185/09 DETAILED LIST OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES AND CRITERIA USED BY AGENCIES AND FUNDERS FOR ALLOCATING RESOURCES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Please can the Council/CDB present a detailed list of all Community Developments Projects, Family Resource Centres etc located through the County outlining what if any criteria is used by agencies and funders when deciding how and where to allocate resources?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“CDP Name	Address
Action Inishowen CDP	Millbrae Carndonagh Inishowen Co. Donegal
Atlantic View CDP	Main Street Ballyshannon Co. Donegal
Donegal Travellers CDP	Pine Hill Industrial Estate Mountaintop Letterkenny
Donegal Women's Network	10 Donegal Street Ballybofey
Letterkenny CDP	Community House, 2 Errigal Road Woodlawn Letterkenny
Lifford/Clonleigh CDP	Croaghan Heights Lifford Co. Donegal
Pobail Le Chéile CDP	Gort a Choirce Leitir Ceanainn
Rosses CDP,	An Sean Teac Gweedore Road Dungloe

South West Donegal Comm. Unit 8 The Carpet Factory  
Partnership Killybegs

Family Resource Centres (FRC)

Dunfanaghy Community & Family Resource Centre

St. Johnston & Carrigans FRC

Meevagh FRC

Donegal Town FRC

Downstrands FRC

Moville & District FRC

Raphoe Youth & Community Resource Centre

The Forge FRC, Pettigo

Cara House FRC, Letterkenny

It is understood that recent applicants from Co. Donegal to the Family Support Agency, for the establishment of further local centres, have been advised that a stay has been placed on the establishment of any further groupings for the foreseeable future.

The criteria used by any funding body will be based upon the particular criteria required by that body, bearing in mind it's own objectives and, as such, it is not possible to give specific detail regarding general criteria used by all bodies that the above organisation's may apply to for funding from time to time."

C/186/09

GLENTIES SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"When can the people of the town of Glenties expect to have a new working Sewerage Treatment Plant put in place?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

"Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes are currently at tender document stage. The final tender documents will be delivered to the Council by the end of March 2009 and the Council will be submitting them to the Department with the required supporting documentation in April 2009. In the current economic climate it is not possible to accurately

predict when approval to commence the tender process will issue and consequently when the treatment plant will be in place.”

C/187/09 ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONDITIONS  
PLANNING REFERENCES 06/31131 CONDITION 19  
AND 08/30822 CONDITION 7

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Will Donegal County Council Planning Department initiate action to enforce planning conditions against a developer who refuses to resurface a small section of the N56 at Hillhead Ardara. The Planning References are 06/31131 Condition 19 and 08 30822 Condition 7.”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“Following complaints to the Planning Authority a site inspection was carried out by the enforcement officer. It was evident from the site inspection that condition no. 19 of permission granted under 06/31131 requiring overlaying of the N56 had not been carried out. The Planning Authority and Roads Section have had various meetings with the developers since the original complaint was made culminating in a meeting at Dungloe PSC on 23rd March 2009 at which a commitment was made by the developer that agreed works would be carried out within the month. This time frame is considered reasonable. Should agreed works not be commenced within the coming month the Council will recommence enforcement action.”

C/188/09 COST INCURRED IN 2008 BY MEMBERS AND  
OFFICIALS GOING ON OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND  
DELEGATIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"What were the cost incurred on this Council in 2008 regarding members and officials going on official meetings/delegations representing the Council?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“It is not clear from the question the specific information being sought.

The total expenses paid to elected members for attendance as part of an official Council delegation outside the county was €3298.74 in 2008, and relates to meetings with NRA officials. This figure is based on claims processed and includes some arrears in respect of 2006/2007. Information in relation to Council employees is not readily available at this juncture as it would take time to extract the figures; however, if the member wishes to provide further details every effort will be made to provide the information.”

C/189/09 HARBOUR MASTER FOR ARAN MOR ISLAND

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"Has there been any progress made on appointing a harbour master for Aran Mor island?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Both Leabgarrow and Rannagh piers on Arranmore are included in the first tranche of harbours proposed to be governed by the proposed new harbour bye laws. It was hoped that the council would employ one part time harbour master to enforce the new rules at these harbours. However because of budgetary constraints it has not been possible to obtain funding for a harbour master at this time.”

C/190/09 SCEIM NA MBOITHRE AISE GRANTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"How many applications for estimates for Sceim Na mBoithre Aise Grants have not been returned by Donegal County Council to An Roinn Gnothai, Pobal Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, and why is there such a long delay with these estimates?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The County Council have approx 30 applications on hand for estimation for Scéim Na mBoithre Aise.

However Roinn Na Gaeltachta verbally indicated late last year that they intend to get tenders for these schemes themselves and are considering using private contractors. The County Council have not been requested to carry out schemes that have already been estimated and Roinn Na Gaeltachta have verbally indicated that there is unlikely to be any allocations for Boithre Aise or for that matter any other schemes this year.

In these circumstances it is not considered to be a good use of limited resources estimating schemes where there is no reasonable chance of funding.”

C/191/09 COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS ON ROADS FOR WHICH GRANTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"When does Donegal County Council intend to commence work on Roads where various types of Grants have been allocated for in 2009 i.e. strengthening, surface dressing etc., especially in account of the very favourable weather conditions in March 2009?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Work has already commenced on various projects throughout the county. In particular drainage, verging and patching works has commenced in preparation for the restoration and surface dressing schemes.

It is hoped to increase these works with our direct labour squads in the coming weeks and take advantage of the improving weather conditions.”

C/192/09 CARPARK ST BODEN’S TERRACE CULDAFF

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"Give a chronological report on the proposal to surface dress the carpark at St. Boden's Terrace, Culdaff from start to date?"

Clr. McGuinness was provided with the following reply:-

Date	Meeting	Question
Sep-07	September Council Meeting to be held on 24/09/2007	When will the car park at St Boden's Tce be resurfaced?
Jan-08	January Council Meeting to be held on 28/01/2008	Why was the car park at St. Bodens Terrace, Curragh not resurfaced?
Mar-08	March Council Meeting to be held on 31/03/2008	Why has the carpark at St. Boden's Terrace, Curragh not been resurfaced?
May-08	MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY, 2008 IN THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE	
Jul-08	July Council Meeting to be held on 28/07/2008	When will the carpark at St. Boden's Terrace, Curragh be resurfaced and the drainage problem solved and progress to date. Please provide copies of previous replies to same question.
Jul-08	Minutes July 2008 Inishowen EAM	
Sep-08	MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER, 2008	
Sep-08	September 2008 Report to Members IEAC	

Nov-08	November 2008 Report to members IEAC
Dec-08	MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2008 IN THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE
Feb-09	
Mar-09	

C/193/09 SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS A PRIORITY IN THE  
ROADS WORKS AT MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

"Will the Council ensure that safety for pedestrians (including those attending the Community College) and road users alike is a priority in the commencement of works on the road out of Moville?"

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The Council in carrying out all road works is obliged to ensure the safety of the Public generally on its construction sites and passing through works it is carrying out on any public road. This is done through compliance with the Councils Health and Safety procedures and national guidelines for the Control and Management of Traffic at Road Works. In particular a site specific Health and Safety Plan is being developed for the project which will include provision for pedestrians and road users to pass through the roadworks safely.”

C/194/09 RESPONSE/ACTION TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY CLR.  
MCGUINNESS AT THE JANUARY COUNCIL  
MEETING

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"What response/action has the Council taken regarding my questions to the last council meeting?"

Clr McGuinness was informed that:-

“Donegal County and Limavady Borough Council have contacted the relevant stakeholders in the region to ascertain potential for a round table meeting. Limavady Borough Council has advised that the Minister for the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland, Mr Conor Murphy has also offered to facilitate a round table meeting. The Minister has indicated that he has also spoken to Ms Arlene Foster, Minister for DETI in Northern Ireland and with Minister of Transport Mr Noel Dempsey TD . Letters issued to relevant stakeholders have emphasised the

economic and tourism benefits of the service to the region. It is intended that a meeting will be arranged at the earliest opportunity with all stakeholders.

With regard to the preparation and circulation of a new internal directory, this work is in hand. Its completion has been delayed by the fact that a considerable number of staffing changes are taking place at present, but it is anticipated that a revised listing will be available shortly."

C/195/09

PROGRESS ON THE MOTION TO MAXIMISE THE  
TOURISM AND HERITAGE POTENTIAL OF AN  
GRIANAN OF AILEACH

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"What progress had Donegal County Council made in advancing the intent of the recent motion calling for the tourism and heritage potential of Grianan of Aileach to be maximised?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

"The Council is progressing a number of Tourism and Recreation Development Projects in this area and as per the previous response intends to progress the pursuance of potential development opportunities at the Grianan of Aileach in conjunction with these. A number of these projects are predicated on final approval being made under Interreg IVA and, as such, the Council is awaiting letters of offer in relation to this.

It is envisaged that this issue will be progressed subsequent to this and it is expected that the funding in relation to this initiative will become available in practical terms in the 3rd quarter of this year."

C/196/09 PROGRESS ON LOCATING A CIVIC AMENITY SITE IN BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"What progress has been made in sourcing a location in Buncrana for a Civic Amenity Site in line with commitments made in the present County Waste Management Plan?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Private sector operations providing recycling services to Buncrana have grown in recent years. The development of this service has been observed and monitored through the regulation of Waste Permit sites, and services to the public have expanded. Against this background, and acknowledging the financial constraints facing this Council and Local Authorities generally, the proposal to provide a Council operated Civic Amenity Site in this town has not progressed to the stage where a specific has been site selected.”

C/197/09 ADVANCEMENT OF BUNCRANA SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

"What is the current position in relation to the advancement of the Buncrana Sewerage Scheme through the planning stage and has the preliminary report been submitted to the Department for approval?"

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“The upgrade of the Buncrana Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sludge Treatment Facilities as described in the relevant Environmental Impact Statement was approved by An Bord Pleanala in August 2008. The Department subsequently asked for the Preliminary Report and Water Pricing documents to be updated prior to its submission to the Department. Budget application for this and other work was submitted to the Department in February 2009. The completion of the design review and associated preliminary report documentation is contingent on budget approval. It is

difficult to predict when the Preliminary report submission will be made to the Department but it is unlikely to be until the latter half of 2009.

A brief for the appointment of consultants for the rehabilitation, upgrading, and extension of the Buncrana and environs sewer network was also approved by the Department in 2008. Advertisement to commence the procurement of consultants for this scheme will be placed in April 2009.”

C/198/09 PHASE 3 LAGAN VALLEY WATER SCHEME FOR DESERTEGNEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

"When will Phase 3 of Lagan Valley Water Scheme for Desertegney be completed?"

Clr Donaghey was informed that:-

“The Lagan Desert Phase 3 Scheme is substantially complete save for the completion of a pumping station at Lismoghry which when commissioned will facilitate the replacement of the current Magherabeg Veagh Water Supply. This remaining work is expected to be completed by the middle of 2009.”

C/199/09 PROVISION OF DOG FOULING BINS ALONG SLI NA SLAINTE

The following questions was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

"What effort has Donegal County Council done to ensure that Dog fouling bins are provided along the Sli Na Slainte route in Merville and other walkways in the area?"

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“Sli Na Slainte routes have been provided along a number of public footpaths and footways on the Public Road. The Council has currently no funding sources to provide additional facilities along these routes such as the one in Merville which runs through the Green and along the shore for some distance. It is accepted that dog fouling can be a problem along this path at times. The Council notes the

responsibilities of all animal owners under 13(10) of the Roads Act to avoid their animal fouling these routes and would exhort those dog owners using these routes to clean up after their pets.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

