

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

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**Members Present:** Cllr. David Alcorn  
Cllr. Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr. Brian Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Pearse Doherty  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. Enda Bonner

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Michael Gyo – Executive Architect  
Charles Sweeney – Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
Garry Martin – Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise  
Jeremy Smith – Walking & Trails Development Officer  
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Virginia McLoone – Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services  
Berni Gallagher – SO, Corporate Services  
Eunan Quinn – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

**GEA 131/06 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

On the proposal of Cllr. Enda Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Pearse Doherty, Cllr. David Alcorn was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee.

**GEA 132/06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 were agreed.

**GEA 133/06 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Enda Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the report from the Workshop on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 was agreed.

**GEA 134/06 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Terence Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the report from the workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2006 was agreed.

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

### **GEA 135/06 EU CO-FINANCED PROJECTS 2007**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda, and the Roads Manager updated members in relation to the draft proposal for the EU Co-Financed Projects for 2007.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the Committee agreed the following priority projects ;

<u>PRIORITY</u>		<u>LOCATION</u>
1	R251	Glenveagh – Dunlewey
2	R262	Frosses – Glenties
3	R252	Mill Wheel – Ballybofey
4	R257	Magheroarty – Derrybeg – Dore
5	LP2863	Ardara – Donegal (Wood Road)

### **GEA 136/06 CRITERIA FOR THE TAKEOVER OF NON-COUNTY ROADS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding the policy for takeover of non-county roads.

Cllr. Bonner expressed disappointment that the Roads Service had previously refused to take over roads on the grounds that a policy did not exist.

The Roads Manager advised that he will write to Members detailing information required in respect of non-county roads that are proposed for takeover, so that a Workshop can be arranged in advance of the next meeting.

### **GEA 137/06 ROAD MAINTENANCE**

The Committee highlighted roads, bridges, drainage, hedge-cutting and public lighting, concerns throughout the electoral area that require maintenance and repairs and requested the Roads Service to address these issues.

### **GEA 138/06 MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS**

The Committee requested the Roads Service to establish a system to promptly respond to any representations that Members submit to the Council and Cllr Alcorn complimented the Roads Service on the recent steps taken in relation to the management of representations.

## HOUSING AND BUILDING

### **GEA 139/06 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme as at the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 and the Housing Manager and Executive Architect responded to the Committees queries.

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding community proposals for the development of a playground in the area known as 'Pat's Plot', the Housing Manager acknowledged interest in the location by a number of community groups but also informed Members of the significant number of people on the waiting list for housing in the Dunfanaghy area.

The Housing Manager undertook to communicate with the DOEHLG in relation to the necessity for sheds to be provided with all Council houses.

Members reiterated the necessity to provide playgrounds in all Housing schemes.

### **GEA 140/06 SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee welcomed the updated progress report on SI cottages in the electoral area and the Housing Manager replied to Members queries in respect of individual SI's.

Cllr. Slowey expressed disappointment at continuing delays in processing Disabled Persons Grant applications.

Cllr. Alcorn complemented the Housing Service for improvement works carried out on the rented houses on Tory & requested that similar works be carried out on the Arranmore Scheme.

### **GEA 141/06 CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with the Gardaí in situations where anti social behaviour is discouraging prospective tenants from taking up residency in certain locations.

### **GEA 142/06 CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the status of this programme, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that a report is awaited in respect of tenders submitted.

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 143/06 REQUEST FOR MEETING FROM COISTE FORBARTHA CROITHSHLÍ**

The Committee discussed the correspondence circulated with the agenda from Coiste Forbartha Croithshlí and the Corporate Manager advised Members that she has yet to receive a submission from the Group.

It was agreed that the Roads Service would meet the Coiste on site and that a report would be available for the next meeting.

**GEA 144/06 BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

The Corporate Manager advised Members of ongoing improvements to the Public Service Centre Building. Members welcomed works to install automatic entrance doors and proposals to improve acoustics in the Chamber.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty recommended that the Council become proactive in improving disability accommodation and access to Council Services and requested a report on this issue and Members also requested a report for the next meeting addressing the issues listed hereunder:

- Inadequate car parking facilities
- Inadequate car parking and vehicular access for the disabled
- Overgrown shrubbery

The Committee also requested the attendance of the Building Control Manager at the next meeting to discuss issues in relation to the P.S.C.

**GEA 145/06 INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Councils I.S department to provide Internet Access in the Council Chamber.

Cllr. Slowey asked that Members be supplied with a CD containing all Council application forms.

**GEA 146/06 AISTEOIRÍ GAOTH DOBHAIR**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Glenties Area Committee to organise a Civic Reception on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Aisteoirí Gaoth Dobhair during October 2006.

The Corporate Manager advised the Committee to raise this matter at Head Quarters for delegation to the Area Committee.

<b>PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GEA 147/06 PLANNING REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the report on Planning Refusals circulated with the agenda.

**GEA 148/06 PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting in relation to Planning Statistics.

**GEA 149/06 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that the County Development Plan will come into force on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 and that any decisions made during that week will be based on the new Plan.

**GEA 150/06 DUNFANAGHY PLAYGROUND**

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty, regarding the provision of a suitable playground site in Dunfanaghy, the Planning Manager advised the Committee that a report will be presented at the next Corporate Policy Group meeting and will be circulated to Members thereafter.

**GEA 151/06 STAFFING**

In response to Members complaints regarding difficulty in gaining access to Planners, the Planning Manager informed the Committee that a panel of executive planners had recently been established and that additional staffing resources have been demanded to cope with the increasing workload. Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Pádraig Doherty requested the implementation of a system to promptly respond to any submissions from Elected Representatives.

Cllr. Alcorn also requested the Planning Service to revert to Members regarding any 'problem' applications on which they have made representations prior to a final decision being made.

**GEA 152/06 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

In response to a query from Cllr. Alcorn regarding income generated by the Development Contribution Scheme, the Planning Manager undertook to liaise with the Director of Planning.

<b>COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE &amp; CULTURAL SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 153/06 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

Garry Martin circulated a report at the meeting and made a presentation to the Members in relation to the distribution of funding during 2006 arising from income received under the Development Contribution Scheme.

Projects to be funded during 2006 are as follows:

Playgrounds (Arranmore, Tory)	83,000	(Co-funding –An Roinn)
Playground(Ballina Residents Assn)	12,570	(Co-funding –PEACE 11)
Teach Chathail Ui Shearcaigh	125,000	
Walking Routes	9,000	(Additional 4k -PEACE II)

The Senior Executive Officer also referred to other draft project proposals which will be debated and discussed by Members in the near future.

Members expressed disagreement with the distribution of DCS monies to Electoral Areas based on income generated from the Scheme in the Electoral Area.

The Committee also requested the Council to expedite the provision of library services in Ardara and Glenties.

**GEA 154/06 WALKING ROUTE DEVELOPMENT**

The Walking Trails Development officer updated the Committee on work in progress to develop walking routes in the County.

**GEA 155/06 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

**GEA 156/06 FUNDING UPDATE**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

**GEA 157/06 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding ongoing preparations for Flight of the Earls 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

**GEA 158/06 COUNTY STRATEGY**

Members noted the report previously circulated in respect of County Strategy sectoral developments.

**GEA 159/06 RESEARCH & POLICY**

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding the mapping of community infrastructure in County Donegal.

**GEA 160/06 DOE CASTLE**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to implement a plan to promote Doe Castle as a tourist attraction.

<b>WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 161/06 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES**

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Water and Sewerage Services Investment Programme 2005-2007. The Water Manager apologised to the Committee for the inability of John McElwaine, Sanitary Engineer to attend the meeting but advised that a presentation will be made at the September meeting in relation to the Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Council to arrange a meeting with the Department Inspector in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr. Alcorn asked that an updated report be prepared in relation to Burtonport Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to expedite the provision of an improved water supply to Fintown and also to link up the Killybegs and Ardara Water Supply schemes.

**GEA 162/06 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES**

The Committee noted the progress report on Small Capital Schemes circulated with the Agenda.

**GEA 163/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members noted the progress report previously circulated.

**GEA 164/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

The Committee noted the progress report on Group Water Schemes Under Construction as at the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2006.

**GEA 165/06 BEACH MAINTENANCE**

The Committee praised the Water & Environment Service for their prompt actions in dealing with beach maintenance issues in Magheraroarty and Portnoo.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty requested the Council to address litter disposal at Magheragallon, Glassagh and Cúl Trá in Magheraroarty.

Cllr Bonner asked the Environment Manager to liase with Liam McCarron in relation to attaining Blue Flag status for Dooey Beach

**GEA 166/06 BEACH SIGNAGE**

The Area Manager informed the Committee that the Council are in discussion with the Irish Water Safety Association regarding appropriate signage to be erected on beaches.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the immediate erection of warning signs at Magheraclogher beach.

**GEA 167/06 NON-DOMESTIC METERING PROJECT**

Cllr. Slowey informed the Committee that part time B&B owners are concerned at the imposition of water charges as a result of this project.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**