

03rd December, 2004

TO: EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of Donegal County Council, requisitioned by the Cathaoirleach, will be held on *09th December, at 10.00am* in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford, to consider the appended Agenda.

You are hereby requested to attend.

E. Sweeney
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. To make the “Road Traffic (Speed Limit)(County of Donegal) Bye-Laws 2004”
2. Disposal of Land- Section 211 Planning & Development Act, 2000 Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of land at Sallaghagrane, Letterkenny to Letterkenny Town Council

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 09TH
DECEMBER, 2004

C/561/04 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. P. McGowan, Cathaoirleach, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pdraig Doherty, R. Donaghey, D. Larkin, N. McBride, M. McDonald, I. McGarvey, P. MacLochlainn, T. Pringle and J.J. Reid.

C/562/04 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer, Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Mr. Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, Mr. Fergal Doherty, Executive Engineer, Mr. Laurence Hegarty, Chief Technician, Mr. Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator, Ms. AnnMarie Crawford, S.O. Corporate Services.

C/563/04 TO MAKE ROAD TRAFFIC (SPEED LIMIT) (COUNTY OF DONEGAL) BYELAWS 2004.

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

Mr John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, advised that there would be an opportunity to deal with problem issues during the course of the meeting.

Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, confirmed that the additional material circulated to members at the start of the meeting contained revision maps for Ballyshannon, An Machaire, Gort an Choirce, Gleneely and Doneyloop plus sixteen pages of erratum to the proposed byelaws with further erratum discovered to be documented in these minutes.

Clr. A. Bonner stated that development was being hampered in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area by the close proximity of the 30 and 40mph speed zones. She called for the boundary to be extended so as to reflect the original designations agreed by members at the Electoral Area Meeting.

Mr. Michael McGarvey reminded members that the major issues which had arisen in each Electoral Area were matters

which had been dependant on N.R.A. decisions. Members views had been taken on board he added with individual submissions on each area forwarded to the N.R.A. for consideration.

The feedback received from the NRA indicated that consideration would be given to each case again on receipt of individual safety reports.

The Cathaoirleach expressed disappointment that there would be no change in relation to N.R.A. roads and advised that this situation had been ongoing for a number of years.

A number of members highlighted the need to discuss and condemn the attitude of the N.R.A. in relation to National Roads. It was essential, they added that the roads engineers agreed with and backed members on a range of safety issues. The N.R.A.'s refusal to provide footpaths and lighting in certain rural areas, had, they affirmed clearly shown that they were not willing to address the safety issues. Clrs. Brogan and A. Bonner suggested that the meeting be postponed until members had an opportunity to meet with the N.R.A. and discuss their concerns.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, stated that considerable effort had been put into the preparation of the byelaws and that members were now being invited to have the final say. The 1994 Road Traffic Act dictated that changes to the speed limits on National Roads required the consent of the N.R.A. The N.R.A. had, he noted, confirmed that there would be no more changes on National Roads other than those which were already agreed. Any further amendments would, he advised, require submissions of a safety report, for consideration by the N.R.A.

Mr. Michael McGarvey affirmed that the Roads Division had at all times made every effort to express members views to the N.R.A.

The N.R.A., he advised, had suggested that Advance Advisory signs could be erected to give advance warning of specific speed limits.

Clr. Brogan proposed, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, to adjourn the meeting until proper discussion on the matter could take place with the N.R.A.

A number of members however indicated that it would be more feasible to focus on issues that the members could change and noted that the impending deadline for the switchover to Metric Signs was also looming.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the members now had two options :-

1. To abandon the meeting
2. To proceed with the process

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, reminded those present that a number of the current speed limits were outdated and that metrication would go ahead, therefore it was essential that signs were in the correct locations. There would be an opportunity to review speed limits in 2005 with the advent of new guidelines, he added. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that if members postponed the adoption of the byelaws, then the Department of Transport would automatically change the current byelaws, thus, it was imperative that members amend limits etc. where possible. He stated that he had consulted with the Council's Solicitor who had advised that it was not possible to adopt partial byelaws. Where there was a lack of consensus the old paragraphs from 1997 byelaws would have to be inserted.

Clr. E. Bonner queried the nature of the N.R.A's response to individual submissions and requested that the definitive replies be made available.

Clr. Conaghan stated that the time was now ripe to address funding issues, particularly in relation to traffic calming measures and noted that speed limits did not always provide security. The provision of footpaths and improved public lighting, it was agreed would go a long way in alleviating many of the problems.

Clr. Alcorn added that such issues could be added to the agenda for the January Meeting with the N.R.A.

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that a specific safety report could be done on each individual location initially and that

there would be a review of National Roads in the Springtime.

At this juncture Clr. Brogan agreed to withdraw his motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin referred to the forthcoming meeting with the N.R.A. in January and confirmed that before a letter of consent to the meeting would issue, he would personally request that all members of Donegal County Council meet directly with the N.R.A. in relation to the issues raised today.

The Cathaoirleach informed members that the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004, would have to be adopted area by area with a review of the speed limits on National Primary Roads being carried out county wide over the next few months.

In reply to Clr. Conaghans request regarding the incorporation of safety measures, Mr. John McLaughlin advised that he would initiate safety reports and a speed limit review of National Primary Roads from March 2005 onwards.

He also agreed to liase with Planning Officials.

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

The following erratum relating to speed limits in the Inishowen Electoral Area were noted by Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer:-

1. The 30mph limit on the Craig Road extends to the junction with the Racecourse Road in Muff, and a 140m section to the Racecourse Road falls within the 30mph limit
2. 40mph limit on the Malin Road in Carndonagh to remain in current location.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to make the “Roads Traffic (Speed limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004 in respect of the Inishowen area.”

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to make the “Road Traffic (Speed Limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004, in respect of the Letterkenny area subject to the following amendments:-

1. The 40mph limit on the Lisnennan Road to be moved out by approx 650m,
2. The 30mph limit on the Churchill Road to be moved to by approx 110m
3. The Leck Road and Dromore Road to be included in a new 40mph limit zone
4. In Ballindrait, the 30mph limit on the L2444 to be moved out by approx 180m
5. In Lifford the 30mph limit on the Stranorlar Road to be relocated to current location”

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. A. Bonner, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved to make the “Road Traffic (Speed Limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004 in respect of the Stranaorlar Electoral Area, subject to the following amendments:-

1. In Crossroads, the 40mph limit on the L306-6 to be moved out by approx 150m
2. In Liscooley, the 40mph limit on the L2464-1 to be moved out by approx 190m

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, noted the following erratum relating to speed limits in the Donegal Electoral Area:-

40mph limit sign incorrectly shown to the East of junction with the L-6605-1 on the Killybegs Road in Donegal Town, are to the West of same junction.

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Boyle, it was resolved to make the “Roads Traffic (Special Speed Limit)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004 in respect of the

Donegal Electoral Area, subject to the following amendments:-

1. In Killybegs, the 40mph limit on the R263-2 was to be moved out approx 220m and the 30mph limit on the R263-3 was to be moved out approx. 130m,
2. In Malainn Bhigg (Donegal E.A.) the 30mph limit on the R263-17 was to be moved out approx. 50m”

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Pádraig Doherty, it was resolved to make the “Roads Traffic (Special Speed Limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004 in respect of the Glenties Electoral Area subject to the following amendments:-

1. In An Clochan Liath, the 30mph limit on the R259-2 to be moved out approx 900m and the 30mph limit on the L1583 to be moved closer to town by approx. 470m,
2. In Min Na Leice a new 30mph limit zone to be introduced on the L5673-2 of approx 400m,
3. In Glasha, a new 30mph limit zone of approx 520m to be introduced on the R257-9,
4. In Ardara, the 30mph limit on the N56-19 to be relocated to current location”

Clr. Pádraig Doherty proposed, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, that the 60mph speed limit be retained on the Back of Errigal Road.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that Regional Roads were subject to Government Policy and that nothing could be done to amend speed limits until after the 20th January, when the new metrication speed limits come into force.

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McGarvey, it was resolved to make the “Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits)(County Donegal) Byelaws 2004, in respect of the Milford Electoral Area, subject to the following amendments:-

1. In Churchill the 30mph limit to be brought towards Churchill by approx 40m,
2. In Rosnakill the 30mph limit on the L1092 to be moved beyond the junction with the L10925 (approx 150m)
3. In Ramelton the 30mph limit on the Rathmullan Road to be moved out by approx 155m”

Members raised a number of concerns in relation to the NRA’s attitude towards speed limit signs in rural areas. Clr. E. Bonner stated that it was essential that a commitment was forthcoming from Donegal County Council Engineers to bring representatives from the N.R.A. to each Electoral Area so that further discussions on rural speed limits could take place.

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Byrne, it was resolved unanimously, in accordance with Section 46 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 (as substituted by Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994), having first considered written representations received from the public, the Garda Commissioner, Town Commissioners and Town Councils, and obtained the consent of the National Roads Authority in relation to National Roads affected, to make the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits)(County of Donegal) Bye-Laws 2004 in accordance with the draft Bye-Laws thereof posted to the members of the Council on the 04th day of December, 2004, the erratum circulated at this meeting, the additional erratum noted and recorded at this meeting, and the changes proposed and seconded by the members of the Council at this meeting and that the Seal of the Council be affixed to the said Bye-Laws.

C/564/04 DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT SALLAGHAGRANE, LETTERKENNY

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

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to dispose of lands at Sallaghagrane, Letterkenny to Letterkenny Town Council, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

