

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

02 Aibreán 2004

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 29 Marta, ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Déardaoin, 8 Aibreán 2004, ag **10.30am ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniú (RÚNAI CONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of
Meetings
Administrator
County House
Lifford

02nd April 2004

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 29th March, 2004 will be held on Thursday 08th April, 2004, at 10.30am, 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.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAINED THEIR ORIGINAL ITEM NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE MARCH MEETING)

3. Filling of Casual Vacancies

- (a) Filling of casual vacancy in membership of the Council arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.
- (b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.
- (c) Filling of casual vacancy in membership of County Donegal Vocational Educational Committee (vacancy arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.)

MOTIONS

(L)- Local

(C)-County

(O)-Other

Motions in the name of Clr. J. Harte and Clr P McGowan deferred from Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 06th February, 2004

Roads & Transportation

- 15. Clr J Harte
“That the Council make good the stretch of road from St Eunan’s N.S. to the Vocational School in Raphoe as a matter of urgency.”(L)
- 16. Clr P McGowan
“That this Council extend the 40 mile per hour speed limit on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey immediately and to review the location of all other 30/40 mile speed limits in the county

in light of the mile per hour changing to kilometers per hour”(C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

17. Clr Marian McDonald
That this Council move immediately to protect the shore walk in Moville (L)

Community & Enterprise

18. Clr Rena Donaghey
“That the status of the Lough Swilly Car Ferry be established immediately, to enable marketing to take place for the incoming season, given that the government granted €600,000 to the North West through Fáilte Ireland for marketing”(L)
(Already dealt with at Council Meeting held on 29th March, 2004)

Planning & Economic Development

19. Clr. B. McGuinness
“That the Council discuss its policy on Special Development Charges under Section 48(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and also the Minister’s recent announcement on One Off Housing.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

20. Clr. A. Doherty
“That this Council (Sanitary) release immediately monies agreed to re-instate roads in the Carndonagh area following the sewerage scheme works and ensure also that the Council (planning) release funding accrued in Carndonagh and the Buncrana environs (including existing development charges)

for provision of carparking and to improve and assist infrastructure in the stated areas.”

Miscellaneous

21. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council discuss the Garda Siochana Bill and its implications for local authorities particularly regarding community policing”. (O)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

22. Clr D Larkin
“That this Council discuss the roll out of our recycling facilities (e.g. the kerbside collecting system, weighing bins, bin separation etc)” (C)

Planning & Economic Development

23. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council discuss the delay in making a plan for the lands known as “McDougal’s Land” in Lifford.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

24. Clr J McHugh
“That this Council provides as a matter of urgency funds for replacement and upgrading of the rapidly deteriorating services and infrastructure in Rathmullan and district, and that the work commence forthwith on the implementation of the agreed Village Renewal Plan – all works to be completed before 2007.”(L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

25. Clr. D. McHugh
“That this Council support a revised layout of the Carrickboy Road, Ballyshannon in conjunction with the Ballyshannon By-pass works.”

Miscellaneous

26. Clr. T. Pringle
“That Donegal County Council urges the Taoiseach and the Government to recognise the exclusion of Irish citizens resident in the six counties from exercising their rights to participate in Presidential Elections and to bring forward the necessary legislation to allow them to vote in elections to the office of president of Ireland.” (O)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

27. Clr.P.McGowan
“That this Council in conjunction with community groups in Ballybofey and Stranorlar area move immediately to identify a suitable site in Brogans land Stranorlar to build much needed community facilities.” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

28. Clr P Kelly
“That Donegal County Council discuss procedures re invalid planning applications”(C)
(Already dealt with at Council Meeting held on 29th March, 2004)

Community & Enterprise

29. Clr T Slowey
“That Donegal County Council make a submission reflecting the concerns expressed by the members and officials of this Council to the Bacon review of the strategy for the development of the Forestry Sector from 2004 onwards. Please note that Mr Bacon will report to the Minister for Agriculture in the autumn of 2004”(O)

30. Clr. T. Gildea
“Because of the importance of agriculture to county Donegal, that Donegal County Council fully and absolutely support the farming community at large, in the whole county and in so supporting give full recognition to the diverse forms of farming in the county.” (C)

Housing

31. Clr. E. Bonner
“That Donegal County Council consider applications for housing for Donegal natives who presently reside outside the county and that a number of houses be provided in all future Council Housing Estates for returned emigrants particularly those who are elderly and may be suffering hardship.” (C)

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

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Water Environment & Emergency

32. Clr Marian McDonald
“To ask this Council what the current position is in relation to Movice Fire Station; when it is envisaged that an application will be forwarded for funding and what the timescale is for moving the situation along”?

33. Clr Rena Donaghey
“What is the possibility of having a main sewer in the Cleagh area of Clonmany? Including Gortfad and the new Day Centre etc this is now a heavily populated area and I believe it should be serviced by a main sewer”

Roads & Transportation

34. Clr Marian McDonald
“To ask this Council what the current plans for developing a safer access for both pedestrians and cars along the Movice/ Derry Road, given the increase of the volume of traffic?”

35. Clr Rena Donaghey
“Was there any correspondence between the Department of the Marine and the county or urban council in August of 2003 regarding the dredging of the Bunrana Harbour, if so was it followed up and what is the current and up to date position on the Dredging of Bunrana Harbour?”

36. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What proposals does the Council have for the up-grading and improvement of the Tooban to Bridgend Road (R238) and what assurances can be given to residents in Burnfoot regarding the further development of the village before the construction of a bye-pass would be considered?” (L)

37. Clr. A. Doherty
“What signage (no of) was erected recently and where in the peninsula indicating directions to Malin Head and what signage exists in the county to guide visitors et al to Malin Head – Ireland’s most Northerly headland?” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

38. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What changes will be made to our County Development Plan in order to accommodate the new directive on Once off Housing as announced by the Minister for Environment and Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen?” (C)

39. Clr. B. McGuinness
“How much money has been collected under the Special Development Charges in (a) Carndonagh, (b) Moville (c) Buncrana and (d) Inishowen Electoral Area since they were introduced in the year 2000 and how much has been returned to each of these since then?” (L)

Housing

40. Clr. B. McGuinness
“Give a chronological report on S.I. 6497.” (L)

41. Clr. A. Doherty
“How effective is the current policy and procedures when the Council wishes to purchase houses from a developer(s) and/or when a developer(s) wishes to sell houses to the Council and how is the general public informed?” (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

42. Clr Dessie Larkin
“When will the Council be putting in place the green and white safety bollards at the junctions of Corkey, Manor and Lurgybrack?” (L)

43. Clr. G. Crawford
“What does the Council intend to do to improve the extremely bad road conditions on the Glentown to Ardagh Road, St. Johnston?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency

44. Clr Dessie Larkin
“What actions are this Council taking to bring a regular water service to the people of the Woodlands area?”(L)
45. Clr. G. Crawford
“What progress has been made to provide sewerage treatment for St. Johnston?” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

46. Clr J McHugh
“Will this Council investigate the bridge at Hyrell’s, Killymarney?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency

47. Clr J McHugh
“Will this Council consider proposing an independent solution to the Glenvar Water Problem?”

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

48. Clr. T. Pringle
“Can the County Manager clarify that the planning authority is pursuing a developer for failing to comply with planning permission while the Council has awarded the same developer a lucrative contract in the Inishowen peninsula for a turnkey development and does the Council think this is the best practice?” (C)

Corporate Services

49. Clr. T. Pringle
“What progress has been made in implementing the “Fair Trade” policy which was adopted by the Council last year?”
(C)

Housing

50. Clr. D. McHugh
“What plans do this Council propose for providing further social housing in the Ballyshannon area?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

51. Clr. S. Campbell
“What is the latest update on repairs to the Stranakirka Bridge near Meenaneary, Carrick?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

52. Clr. S. Campbell
“Can the Council give an indication of when they expect to have water in the pipes of the Meentinadea/Meenachan Group Water Scheme?” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

53. Clr. P. McGowan
“What is the delay in progressing the voluntary housing scheme in Convoy along with a site for a new community facility?” (L)

Corporate Services

54. Clr. P. McGowan
“What progress is there with the permanent one stop shop office accommodation for Ballybofey?” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

55. Clr T Slowey
“What specific plans do Donegal County Council have to meet the Public Sector employment target of 3% for people with a disability and what percentage are presently employed by Donegal County Council?” (O)

Community & Enterprise

56. Clr T Slowey
“What plans have Donegal County Council to respond to the issues raised and debated at meetings of the youth Council?”.(O)
57. Clr. T. Gildea
“Could I get a breakdown on the total cost to Donegal County Council of the report on fresh water angling generally referred to as “The Bonner Report”?” (O)
58. Clr. T. Gildea
“In view of the fact that I did not get answers to the four questions that I asked when the delegation from City of Derry Airport made a submission to the members of Donegal County Council last November may I have the answers please?” (O)

Roads & Transportation

59. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the speed limit review that has been promised each Autumn for the last 3 years be carried out?” (C)

Planning & Economic Development

60. Clr. E. Bonner
“What effect will the decision of the courts in relation to the casual trading site in Ballybofey have on sites identified by Councillors in Dungloe and Falcarragh?” (L)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

61. ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL
“That Ennis Town Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of Ireland’s E.U. Presidency and the accession of ten new member states in May 2004, to insist on the Irish Language having the same status within the enlarged EU as Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Slovene and Maltese native tongues.”
62. OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
“That Offaly County Council call on the Minister for Communications to review the criteria for his latest broadband proposals to :
- (a) reduce the number of users required to qualify for group broadband scheme
 - (b) reduce qualifying town population figures from 1500 to 1000.”
63. CLONES TOWN COUNCIL
“Article 2 of the Constitution states: “It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland.” In the spirit of this article, that Clones Town Council calls on the Government to put in place arrangements, to extend the voting rights in the 2004 Presidential Election, to citizens living in the North of Ireland.”
64. KILKEE TOWN COUNCIL
“That local authorities throughout Ireland inform themselves of the implications of implementation of the next round of the Hanley Report for their communities, and if averse to the implications, that these Councils join with others-similarly affected-to oppose the elements of democratic deficit inherent in the report”.
- “That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union.”

65. CORK CITY COUNCIL
“That Cork City Council would support the motion that the official Irish National Anthem, where appropriate, be played on all occasions when Irish teams are competing internationally in all sporting codes.”
66. FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
“That this Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China and that their persecution ceases, and all prisoners held unlawfully be freed.”

“Fingal County Council calls on the Government to use its position as Chair of the EU – China Human Rights Dialogue taking place in Dublin this month, to demand that the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China is ended and all prisoners immediately released. In particular that pressure would be put on to secure the return of Dun Laoghaire students, Liu Feng and Yang Fang, to complete their studies in Ireland and that this motion would be brought to the attention of the Minister.”
67. SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
“That South Dublin County Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China, calls for an end to their persecution and unlawful imprisonment, and urges the Chinese Government to permit Mr Liu Feng & Ms Yan Fang to return to Ireland to continue their studies here”
68. SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL
“That this Council strongly urge the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to strike out the regulation requiring non-party candidates for the local elections to bring along fifteen assentors or guarantors, complete with photographic identification, on nomination day as this provision is discriminatory, divisive, insulting and belittling and has no justification whatsoever.”

69. GALWAY CITY COUNCIL
“That Galway City Council call on the Government to take all necessary steps to introduce an access certification process for buildings.”
70. DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL
“This Council views with concern the intention by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government to review the 1997 Electoral Act to increase the amounts of financial donations from the corporate sector to political parties and that this Council further agrees that any such review will further diminish public trust in the democratic system. That this Council conveys by letter to the Minister its outright opposition to any such proposed increases in corporate donations.”
71. CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The proposed limitations on the borrowings of local authorities will greatly inhibit the development of infrastructure, services and amenities. I will call on the Government not to introduce this limitation at this time.
72. KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL
That Killarney Town Council call on the appropriate Minister to modify the requirements of the NCT testing process in the interests of fairness to motorists
73. LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL
That we call on all Local Authorities in the County to appoint one member to a committee to support the Guards in efforts to get more resources.

That this Council does not support the call for the legalisation of cannabis
74. CASHEL TOWN COUNCIL
That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union (E.U.)

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON THE 08TH
APRIL, 2004

C/152/04 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Alcorn, Cathaoirleach, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, A. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, J. Harte, P. Kelly, P. Kennedy, D. Larkin, M. McDonald, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, J. McHugh, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid, U. Sheridan and T. Slowey.

C/153/04 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs. D. McHugh and S. McEniff who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/154/04 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. McLoone, County Manager, Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director Housing, Mr. F. Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. S. Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. J. Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. P. Thomas, Senior Engineer, Mr. M. McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Mr. G. Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. K. Browne, S.O.

C/155/04 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Reid, Ms. Una Sheridan was co-opted as a member of Donegal County Council to fill the casual vacancy arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.

In proposing Mrs. Sheridan, Clr. McGuinness acknowledged her bravery in accepting the position so soon after the untimely death of her husband, Jim. He acknowledged her background in politics and expressed his good wishes to her and his confidence that she would fulfil her duties well on behalf of the people of Inishowen.

Clr. Reid also expressed his good wishes to Clr. Sheridan and his confidence in her abilities. Clr. Alcorn, Cathaoirleach, then called on all the members of the Council

to welcome Clr. Sheridan to the Council and he assured her of his full co-operation.

Clr. Donaghey, Leas Cathaoirleach, Clr. A. Doherty, on behalf of Independent Fianna Fail, Clr. Gildea, on behalf of Independents and Clr. Conaghan on behalf of Fianna Fail, welcomed and congratulated Clr. Sheridan on her co-option to the Council.

Clrs. McDonald, J. McHugh, P. Doherty and Harte also congratulated and welcomed Clr. Sheridan to the Council.

Mr. M. McLoone, County Manager welcomed Clr. Sheridan on behalf of the management and staff of Donegal County Council. He assured Clr. Sheridan of the full co-operation of both himself and all the staff.

Clr. Sheridan then addressed the meeting. She expressed her thanks to Clrs. McGuinness and Reid for proposing and seconding her and all the members for their kind welcome and good wishes. She expressed her pride at being co-opted as a member of the Council and pledged to work tirelessly for the people of Inishowen to bring the necessary improvements and developments to the area. She further pledged to represent the people of Inishowen to the best of her ability.

C/156/04

FILLING OF CONSEQUENTIAL VACANCIES

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Reid, it was resolved that Clr. Una Sheridan fill the following consequential vacancies on Council Committees arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan:-

- Inishowen Electoral Area Committee
- Port and Sea Transportation Committee
- Coiste na Gaelige
- Assembly of European Regions (Substitute Representative)
- Inishowen Rural Development Ltd.
- Bunrana Urban Renewal Monitoring Committee
- Donegal Local Sports Partnership
- Water, Environment & Emergency Services SPC

C/157/04 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON V.E.C.

On the proposal of Clr. P. Doherty, seconded by Clr. J. McHugh, it was resolved that Clr. Una Sheridan fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the County Donegal Vocational Educational Committee.

The Cathaoirleach then adjourned the meeting for ten minutes to allow Clr. Sheridan to meet fellow members and staff.

When the meeting resumed the Council unanimously resolved at the request of Clr. J. McHugh to deal with his motion at this stage.

C/158/04 UPGRADING OF SERVICES IN RATHMULLAN – IMPLEMENTATION OF VILLAGE RENEWAL PLAN.

On the proposal of Clr. J. McHugh, seconded by Clr. J. Harte, the following motion was adopted: -

“That this Council provides as a matter of urgency funds for replacement and upgrading of the rapidly deteriorating services and infrastructure in Rathmullan and district, and that the work commence forthwith on the implementation of the agreed Village Renewal Plan- all works to be completed before 2007”

Clr. McHugh thanked the members for allowing his motion to be brought forward.

Clr. McHugh spoke at length in relation to his motion, raising the following issues:-

- Replacement of water supply pipes
- Poor state of repair of roads and footpaths in Rathmullan
- Increased strain on sewerage system by increased number of housing developments.
- Potato Store- Clr. McHugh acknowledged that this was a contentious issue but advised that the consensus among the people of Rathmullan was to have it abolished. He suggested that the private entrepreneurs who had expressed interest in the potato store should be facilitated by the Council to find premises elsewhere in the area.

- Where monies raised by development charges in Rathmullan over the years had been spent and he felt that it was important to redistribute this money locally.
- That in 2007 an International Festival to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Flight of The Earls would be held in Rathmullan.
- The importance of ensuring the signing of the contract for the Rathmullan-Buncrana Car Ferry before the deadline.

Seconding the motion, Clr. Harte asked that the people of Rathmullan should be given the support they deserved. He felt that the removal of the Potato Store and landscaping of the area would help. He also called for the infrastructural work to be completed.

Clr. Larkin also supported the motion, expressing particular concern at the contamination of the beach at Rathmullan by sewerage, due to the absence of a sewerage treatment plant in Letterkenny. He declared the support of I.F.F. for the development of Rathmullan and stated that the decision of the members not to introduce increased development charges should not affect the development of Rathmullan.

Clrs. P. Doherty and McGuinness also expressed their support for the motion. Clr. McGuinness stated that the development charges being collected in the area were not being spent there and he did not accept that the lack of development was a result of the non-introduction of the development charges.

Mr. F. Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development advised the members as follows:-

The decision to demolish the potato store had already been taken and that the Council would provide support to anyone wishing to start a business in Rathmullan.

He reminded members that at the Capital Programme Workshop on 29th March, the members had agreed that Rathmullan should be prioritised. However, it was important to have a public consultation with the people of the town to decide what should be done and prioritise same.

Clr McHugh suggested that the Rathmullan 21 Action Group should nominate a person to liaise with the Council in order to prioritise work. He also thanked the members for their support of the motion.

C/159/04 REPAIR OF ROAD FROM ST. EUNANS N.S. TO VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, RAPHOE.

On the proposal of Clr. Harte, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council make good the stretch of road from St. Eunan’s N.S. to the Vocational School in Raphoe as a matter of urgency.”

Members were informed that this stretch of roadway was to be resurfaced by the developer who was building the houses in this area as part of his planning conditions. The Council had been in touch with the developer with a view to getting these works done as quickly as possible and were awaiting his programme, but the Council would expect to have it done within the next couple of months.

Clr. Harte stated that repeated promises had been made in relation to the commencement date for this work and called for a fixed date to be set.

Clr. Larkin stated that he also supported the motion and requested as a member of the Board of Management of Deele College, that the Council work in conjunction with the schools on this stretch of road to get the work done as soon as possible.

Mr. P. Thomas, S.E., advised that the Area Engineer would talk to the developers responsible for completing this work and get a date for completion of same.

C/160/04 EXTENSION AND REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council extend the 40 mile per hour speed limit on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey immediately and to review

the location of all other 30/40 mile speed limits in the county in light of the mile per hour changing to kilometres per hour.”

Members were informed that the Minister for Transport, Seamus Brennan had ordered a review of speed limits to be carried out nationwide before the end of September, 2004 when speed limits would be changed to Km/h. The review in County Donegal would be co-ordinated centrally from Lifford and would take into account all submissions (such as this) to hand before making recommendations. The review would evaluate each submission on their merits and make recommendations having considered a number of issues such as Road Safety, Planning & Development etc. NRA would be consulted on proposed speed limits on National Routes prior to recommendation being made. Any changes to this speed limit would require the consent of the NRA.

Clr. McGowan called on the Council to extend this speed limit immediately rather than continue to wait for the review by the NRA and Gardai.

Clrs. A. Bonner, Crawford, E. Bonner, Slowey, P. Doherty and McGuinness all spoke in support of the motion and expressed their concern at the delay countywide in reviewing the speed limit signs and the impending replacement of mph signs with kilometre per hour speed limit signage.

Mr. P. Thomas, S.E. advised the members that he would pass their concerns on to Mr. J. McLaughlin, Director Service, Roads & Transportation and acknowledged that every road in the county would be affected by the change in speed limit signage.

Clr McGowan acknowledged that this review was a huge body of work but it had also been awaited for many years now and he would like to get it started now. The Cathaoirleach requested that a memo be circulated to all the Councillors giving them an up to date report on the situation regarding the review.

C/161/04 PROTECTION OF SHORE WALK IN MOVILLE

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council move immediately to protect the shore walk in Moville.”

Members were informed the statutory review of the County Development Plan 2000 would commence in early July this year. The protection of the Shore Walk in Moville would be considered in the context of the review of the Plan.

In proposing the motion, Clr. McDonald outlined the background of the walking route to the members. She also called for a “greenbox” to be introduced around the area to protect and preserve the natural amenities. She stated that a developer was hoping to build a number of holiday homes along this route and she called for the support of the other Councillors in preventing this development.

Clrs. McGuinness A. Doherty, Donaghey and Sheridan spoke in support of this motion and called for immediate action to protect the area.

Mr. F. Coyle acknowledged that he had received a submission from Clr. McDonald in relation to this matter and advised that he would discuss same with Mr. G. Richards, Senior Planner to see what option the Council had in relation to reviewing/making a variation on the development plan.

At the request of Clr. McGuinness, Mr. Coyle agreed that the Senior Planner would instruct the planners to bring any planning application in this area to the attention of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

C/162/04 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES UNDER SECTION 48(2)(C) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness the following motion was moved for debate:-

“That the Council discuss its policy on Special Development Charges under Section 48(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and also the Ministers recent announcement on One Off Housing.”

Clr. McGuinness expressed his concerns that these charges for sewerage, water and roads were being imposed to compensate for the lack of funding coming from Central Government. He called on Mr. Coyle to explain the directive on these sustainable development charges as it was unclear. He expressed his concern at individuals being charged for long leads for water supply and then other developers being allowed to connect to this supply at no cost to themselves or reimbursement to the individual.

Clr. Larkin stated that no-one was happy with these charges; however, the County Development Plan already had provision for the charges and they had been in place since the early 60's. He felt they could be of benefit where, for example, a developer was willing to put in footpaths etc. in an area outside the control limit. He felt the motion was revisiting what was already decided by the Council.

Clr. Conaghan offered his support for the motion and referred to the reply on special development charges. He felt that the work being charged for would have to be clearly identified. He called for a submission to be made to the Minister for the Environment on this matter based on the County Development Plan.

Clr. Slowey stated that the development charges were now in place, although they may not be at the level that the Executive wanted. He stated that people felt the new system was unfair and that a system where “everyone paid a little so no-one would have to pay a lot” would be better.

Clr. J. McHugh spoke in support of Clr. McGuinness's motion and stated that the inequitable nature of these taxes was unfair. He asked how the Council intended to ensure that common sense would prevail when applying these charges.

Clrs. A. Bonner, E. Bonner, McGowan also spoke on the motion. Clr. McGowan stated that these charges were nothing new and felt that the charges were an improvement

as the new method was a fair and transparent system that would show not only how much would be charged and why but also where the money would be spent.

Mr. F. Coyle stated that the Development Contribution Scheme had first been brought before the members as far back as November 2003, since then at public meetings and workshops, and that the members had adopted the Scheme. He stated that the Strategic Policy Committee was examining the issue of long leads and would report to the GP Committee to with a view to agreeing a policy on this issue. It was agreed to discuss the issue at the next GP Meeting.

C/163/04 RELEASING OF MONIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN CARNDONAGH.

On the proposal of Clr. A. Doherty, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council (Sanitary) release immediately monies agreed to reinstate roads in the Carndonagh area following the sewerage scheme works and ensure also that the Council (planning) release funding accrued in Carndonagh and the Buncrana environs (including existing development charges) for provision of carparking and to improve and assist infrastructure in the stated areas.”

Members were informed that agreement had been reached between roads and sanitary based on a detailed schedule for the permanent reinstatement of the road in question. At total of €2,544.61 was collected for carparking in the Carndonagh area. The Carndonagh environs (Carndonagh, Glentogher and Glenagannon DEDs) raised general roads charges of €8,458.58, while the Buncrana environs raised a total of €264,038.02. Release of monies on foot of the general roads charge could be arranged and an analysis of charges imposed was underway to facilitate this. Any such transfers must also have regard to operational costs and sums set aside for “take over” of housing estates.

Clr. A. Doherty raised his concerns at works not completed and felt that the Council should be releasing money to complete same and he requested an update on the matter of playground.

Clr. McGuinness spoke in support of the motion and requested that the members be given a report on the up to date situation in relation to this matter.

C/164/04 ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING.

As it was now 2.15, the Cathaoirleach suggested an adjournment for 30 minutes for a lunch break and also adjournment of the General Purposes Committee Meeting until completion of the business of the meeting.

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, it was resolved to adjourn the General Purposes Committee Meeting until after the completion of business of the Council meeting and to adjourn the Council Meeting for a 30 minute break.

C/165/04 COUNCIL TIES

The Cathaoirleach advised members that Council ties were available for each member and could be collected from the County Secretary's Office

C/166/04 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was extended on behalf of the members, management and staff of the Council to the family of the late Mr. Eugene Boyle, Former Finance Officer, Donegal County Council, who had died recently.

The County Manager paid tribute to the late Mr. Boyle, acknowledging the respect in which he was held by the staff who knew him and his total dedication to the Council and noting that even in his retirement he still took an interest in the Council.

C/167/04 IMPLICATIONS OF GARDA SIOCHANA BILL ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss the Garda Siochana Bill and its implications for local authorities particularly regarding community policing.”

Members were informed that Section 31 of the Garda Siochana Bill, which was currently before the Oireactas, provided that the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform may issue guidelines for the establishment and maintenance by a local authority (which was defined as a city or county council) and the Garda Siochana of a joint policing committee. These guidelines may relate to the composition of such committees, which may include elected representatives, including members of Dail Eireann. Section 32 of the Bill provided for enhanced co-operation between the Garda Siochana and local authorities through the establishment of joint policing committees. Their principal function was to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on such issues as the patterns and levels of crime and factors underlying and contributing to the crime and anti-social behaviour. The Committee may also, with the consent of the Garda Commissioner, establish local policing for specific neighbourhoods to discuss relevant crime issues and make recommendations to the Committee.

Clr. Conaghan stated he felt that the Council should be making a submission on how it should proceed and who should be on it and report to the Minister. He also felt that the Council should set out their strategy now and this report should be broad and inclusive. He stated that Community Policing was the way forward and would afford elected members the opportunity to work with the community and police and have a real impact on community policing.

Clr. Larkin, in seconding the motion, raised the issue of exclusion of Town Councils from the Board and felt that this matter should be included in the Council's submission.

Clrs. Slowey and Gildea welcomed the motion and the opportunity to make a submission regarding same. Clr. Gildea expressed his concern at the introduction of non trained personnel being used on the streets for community policing.

Clr. McGowan also welcomed the motion and stated that Community Alert Groups were under a lot of pressure and needed support, he felt that this voluntary force could

provide the support they needed. He called for a proper spread of representation on this Committee including border and rural areas and suggested that the Youth Council could also be brought on board.

Clr. Donaghey welcomed the motion and agreed that the Council should make a submission. She also suggested that the bigger towns and border areas should have representation on the Committee.

Clr. E. Bonner suggested that an independent body should be set up to investigate issues that arise.

Other members added their support for the motion.

Clr. Conaghan thanked the members for their support and stated that it was important that the Council send out the message that it wanted proper representation on the Committee and that the Council fully supported the Gardai.

C/168/04 EXCLUSION OF IRISH CITIZENS (SIX COUNTIES) FROM THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council urges the Taoiseach and the Government to recognise the exclusion of Irish Citizens resident in the six counties from exercising their rights to participate in Presidential Elections and to bring forward the necessary legislation to allow them to vote in elections to the office of president of Ireland”

C/169/04 ROLL OUT OF RECYCLING FACILITIES

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss the roll out of our recycling facilities (eg. the kerbside collecting system, weighing bins, bin separation etc.)

Members were informed that Mr. Martin Cullen, TD, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, announced on 22nd March that he had set 1st January 2005 as a date for the completion nationally of the changeover to

pay-by-use waste charges for all households. From January 1st next, public and private waste collectors in every local authority area would be required to offer a weight or volume based waste collection service to households. Waste Collectors would have discretion in terms of the precise type of pay-by-use waste system they choose.

Options under the pay-by-use waste charge system included:

1. Pay by weight
Wheelie bins were weighed at the collection point by the waste operator with the householder billed for the amount of refuse collected.
2. Pay by tag
Wheelie bins when fully ready for collection, were tagged with prepaid tags by the householder. Waste Collectors then serviced the tagged bins.
3. Pay by Bag
Refuse bags would be tagged with pre-purchased tags by the householder. Waste Collectors would then service accordingly.

A number of collectors already offer pay by volume service and some offer kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclables. Officials of Donegal County Council, Water and Environment Service, would be meeting with collectors on Wednesday 31st March to discuss this and other matters. It was intended to move towards pay-by-use and also kerbside collection through revision of Waste Collection Permits during 2004.

Clr. Larkin stated that it was important that the Council push the waste collectors to introduce the “pay by weight” scheme and he also welcomed the allocation of funding for the Civic Amenity Site in Letterkenny. He raised the issue of outstanding monies owed by waste collectors and money to be paid from the Corporate Fund. He felt it was important to avail of the pilot schemes for kerbside collection and called for the introduction of a waiver system for people with low incomes.

Clr. A. Bonner expressed her support for the motion and congratulated Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, T. D. on the allocation of €1.6m for Civic Amenity Sites in the county. She queried when work would commence on the Stranorlar Civic Amenity Site.

Clr. McGowan welcomed the funding and raised the question of a scheme for end of life cars and stated that the onus was on everyone to make it work and drive it forward.

Mr. J. Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services advised members that he had met with waste collectors on 31st March and that an item in relation to same would be discussed at the General Purposes Committee Meeting following the Council Meeting. He stated that the Council was pleased with the allocation of funding for Civic Amenity Sites but advised members that a further .€m would have to be provided from this years budget to complete this years project. He further advised that members that the land acquisition in Letterkenny had not been finalised; however, it was underway and planning permission, tender documents and contracts would then follow.

Clr. Larkin thanked members for their support of his motion. He further suggested that the Council write to the Minister to review the tax on chewing gum and to introduce it.

C/170/04

**IDENTIFICATION OF SITE IN BROGANS LAND,
STRANORLAR FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council in conjunction with community groups in Ballybofey and Stranorlar area move immediately to identify a suitable site in Brogans land Stranorlar to build much needed community facilities.”

Members were informed that the Council produced a masterplan for Brogan’s land and the adjoining land in 2003 following a lengthy period of public consultation. The masterplan outlined indicative proposals for a variety of projects including the following:-

- Extension of the Regional Training Centre
- Finn Harps Stadium
- Training Pitches
- Leisure Centre
- Carparking
- Office/Commercial/Retail Use
- Town Square
- Tennis Courts
- Community Resource Centre

The Council had also identified a site for a Civic Amenity Site on the lands.

A number of the projects were dependant on the acquisition/exchange of lands. At present the Council had made a number of offers in this regard and a decision was awaited from the landowners concerned. Until such times as these matters were dealt with it would be premature to engage in identifying sites/lands for such purposes, as there may be implications for some of the projects outlined.

Clr. McGowan congratulated the County Manager and Mr. F. Coyle for buying the land and stated that the people of the area were pinning their hopes for job creation, tourism and development of youth facilities on this development. He requested that the Council meet with community groups with a view to making co-ordinated applications for funding and for development of the Roads.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Council were awaiting exchange of lands and this was key to moving the masterplan ahead.

C/171/04 MCDOUGAL'S LAND, LIFFORD

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss the delay in making a plan for the lands known as McDougal’s land in Lifford.”

Members were informed that at the Budget 2004 meeting (page 160 of Budget Book) the members were informed that it was proposed to prepare a masterplan in relation to the

land and that expressions of interest would be sought regarding its development. An indicative masterplan was produced for the land; however, due to the very heavy workload in planning over the last few months no progress was made. It had been necessary to allocate all available resources to planning control and this was set to continue in the short to medium term. The Council would be reviewing the position in early April.

Clr. Crawford gave a background on the acquisition of the land and proposed that this issue should take precedence in the Electoral Area.

Clr. Larkin in supporting the motion stated that he felt a masterplan for the area was needed.

Clr. A. Bonner also supported the motion.

Mr. F. Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development advised that the Council would be moving ahead with the masterplan over the next few weeks and he would be happy to meet with the members to discuss same.

C/172/04

STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Gildea, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council make a submission reflecting the concerns expressed by the members and officials of this Council to the Bacon Review of the Strategy for the development of the Forestry Sector from 2004 onwards. Please note that Mr. Bacon will report to the Minister for Agriculture in the Autumn of 2004.”

Members were informed that the Council had been successful in obtaining funding under the Operational Programme for Peace to facilitate, inter alia, the development of the forestry industry in Donegal to facilitate greater value being returned to timber producers, to assess the multi purpose use of the timber product, to work towards the creation of greater amenities through existing and proposed forestry/park/green areas and to assist in better informing

current developments in the forestry sector. As part of this, there was a proposal to have a specific workshop for the elected members of the Council over the coming months and it was felt that this could provide a forum for the collation of the various concerns and issues that the members of the Council may have in relation to the development of the forestry sector in the country.

Clr. Slowey requested that the Council explore the scope for maximising the return from forestry by looking at processing within the county. He suggested that the Council review and make a submission looking at planning permissions for forestry and stated that he would welcome a workshop on this matter, he requested that the executive provide a report for same and this report could then form the basis of the Council's submission.

Clr. Gildea urged the Council to make strong representations to the Bacon Commission in relation to the lack of controls on afforestation and stated that harvesting was causing problems in damaging roads. It was important, he stated, to try to control this and to get financial return from the companies responsible to repair damage to roads.

A number of other members expressed their support of the motion.

C/173/04

SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION TO THE DIVERSE FORMS OF FARMING IN THE COUNTY.

On the proposal of Clr. Gildea the following motion was discussed: -

“Because of the importance of agriculture to County Donegal, that Donegal County Council fully and absolutely support the farming community at large, in the whole county and in so supporting, give full recognition to the diverse forms of farming in the county.”

Members were informed that the Agricultural Sectoral Forum of the Donegal County Development Board, which included representatives from Donegal County Council, acknowledged the evolving nature of the Agricultural Sector in the county and also in the ever changing demands and

pressures that were placed upon farmers within the county. Among the actions being taken by the Sectoral Forum was a proposition to obtain funding to explore opportunities for non food uses of land in the North West Region of Ireland (Interreg IIIA) as a viable alternative option for farm enterprises in the Region. This was in recognition of the fact that farming in the North West Region generally was experiencing dramatic change associated with, amongst other issues, the decoupling of EU payments from the levels of production and the reduction in EU supports for dairy products. Members should make submissions through the Agricultural Sectoral Forum of the CDB in relation to this or indeed any other actions which they felt should be highlighted.

Clr. Gildea stated that this motion arose from his concern at a report compiled by Community & Enterprise Section and circulated at Local Area Meetings. He felt that the report was selective in its statistical reporting and not in the best interests of the farming community.

The County Manager agreed that the report should be modified after consultation with Clr. Gildea and the people he represents and be brought back to the General Purposes Meeting for discussion.

Clr. McGuinness supported the motion and suggested that the report be circulated and a special meeting held to discuss it.

Clrs. Alcorn, O'Doherty, Slowey, E. Bonner and McGowan supported the motion and called for the Council to examine the procedure in relation to the circulation of reports to ensure that all members were in receipt of reports relevant to their Electoral Area.

Clr. Boyle also supported the motion and called for a report to be put on the agenda of the Agricultural Committee Meeting and discussed there.

C/174/04

HOUSING NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY, RETURNED EMIGRANTS AND DONEGAL NATIVES.

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council consider applications for housing for Donegal natives who presently reside outside the county and that a number of houses be provided in future Council house estates for returned emigrants particularly those who are elderly and may be suffering hardship.”

Members were informed that Donegal County Council in conjunction with the Voluntary Housing Sector assisted in the provision of accommodation for elderly emigrants wishing to return to Donegal.

The Safe Home Programme, St. Brendan’s Village, Mulranny, County Mayo, which already had a co-ordinating role in relation to services provided by welfare agencies for emigrants, co-ordinate arrangements in relation to accommodation provided for emigrants under this scheme. It assessed the applicants against the eligibility criteria, compiled a list of eligible candidates and liaised with individual voluntary housing bodies and local authority in relation to accommodation in projects.

To qualify for accommodation provided under the amended terms of the Scheme, applicants must be elderly persons who emigrated from Ireland to another country and be either in existing social housing (e.g. local authority, housing association etc.) or private rented accommodation in their country of residence, and their circumstances must be such that they could not provide suitable accommodation for themselves out of their own resources on returning to this country.

Apart from this assistance through the voluntary sector, given the extent of the Council’s existing waiting list, it was unlikely that Council housing would be available for this purpose until applicants were resident in the county.

Clr. E. Bonner stated that Donegal had no provision for returned emigrants or migrants to the county to be placed on the housing list. He suggested that one or two houses should be set aside in housing estates for emigrants.

Clr. A. Bonner supported the motion and stated that this matter should be looked at in each Electoral Area and stated that she felt a voluntary project in each Electoral Area could

address the issue. Clr. Bonner also raised the issue of young men on the housing list and their difficulty in getting housed.

Clr. McGowan supported the motion and stated that he would welcome a workshop/strategy for returned emigrants to the county. He suggested that as a pilot scheme, a house should be allocated from a future housing scheme to a returned emigrant to assess the problems and processing required.

Clr. Gildea proposed that the Council send a delegate to one of the homeless programmes in Britain to see, first hand, the difficulties these people have.

Clr. McGuinness stated that some provision should be made for them, and that immediate action should be taken to allow emigrants to be put on the Council's Housing List. He suggested this should be done through voluntary/community groups in Britain in order to help those most in need. Also that a taskforce should be set up in the county to do this.

Clr. Alcorn stated he felt the matter should be brought to the Housing SPC and requested the County Manager to take an interest in it as it would continue after the lifetime of the present Council.

Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director of Housing agreed to bring the issue to the Housing SPC, that they would research the matter further and revert to members.

The following questions and replies were noted:-

C/175/04

UPDATE ON MOVILLE FIRE STATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald: -

“To ask this Council what the current position is in relation to Moville Fire Station, when it is envisaged that an application will be forwarded for funding and what the timescale is for moving the situation along?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that a new Fire Station for Merville formed part of the Fire Station Replacement Programme for County Donegal supported by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

A specific application for approval in principal in respect of a new Fire Station for Merville was submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November, 2003. A response was awaited. A site had been identified. However, purchase was conditional to planning permission being granted for a Fire Station.

It was expected that a planning application would be lodged with the planning office very shortly.

Locating a suitable site for this Fire Station within the designated area of the town (i.e. within the 30 mile speed limits) had been immensely difficult. Over the last few years numerous sites (at least 15 no) had been examined and rejected for one reason or another.

Planning permission would enable the acquisition of the site to be progressed. It was planned to be in a position to submit a report in relation to this aspect of the proposed development to the Meeting of the Council scheduled for May, 31st 2004.

In other respects, progress on the project would be dictated by the timing of the granting of the usual staged approvals by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

C/176/04

SEWER IN CLEAGH, CLONMANY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“What is the possibility of having a sewer in the Cleagh area of Clonmany?”

Including Gortfad and the new Day Centre etc. this is now a heavily populated area and I believe it should be serviced by a main sewer.

Clr. Donaghey was informed that Clonmany Sewerage Scheme had been included on a list of schemes proposed for inclusion in the Council’s Assessment of Needs which was currently under review. The Inishowen list would be presented to Inishowen Electoral Area Councillors as soon

as a meeting could be convened. The county wide list would be brought before the full Council members.

The Assessment of Needs informed the Water Services Investment Programme which was reviewed by the Department annually.

C/177/04 SAFER ACCESS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CARS ALONG MOVILLE/DERRY ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what the current plans are for developing a safer access for both pedestrians and cars along the Merville/Derry Road, given the increase of the volume of traffic?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that Donegal County Council would continue to use EU Co-Financed funding to improve the Merville Derry Road.

It was understood that this question mainly related to the stretch of roadway near Merville Community College. At a recent Electoral Area Meeting, the members agreed that this section of road would be best advanced with EU Co-Financed monies in conjunction with the development charges to be paid by the VEC.

The plans were ready and planning permission had been granted to widen the road and construct a new footpath together with some traffic calming measures.

C/178/04 DREDGING OF BUNCRANA HARBOUR

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“Was there any correspondence between the Department of the Marine and the county or Urban Council in August of 2003 regarding the dredging of the Bunrana Harbour, if so was it followed up and what is the current and up to date position on the dredging of Bunrana Harbour?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that correspondence between Donegal County Council and the Department of the Marine was contained in the separate report being circulated today. Two letters, dated 28/01/04 and 18/11/03, were written by the Town Clerk, Bunrana to the Department of Marine in relation to the dredging at Bunrana.

The separate report gave the up to date position regarding Buncrana dredging.

C/179/04 UPGRADING OF R238 AND CONSTRUCTION OF BYEPASS.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What proposals does the Council have for the upgrading and improvement of the Tooban to Bridgend Road (R238) and what assurances can be given to residents in Burnfoot regarding the further development of the village before the construction of a bye pass would be considered.?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that Donegal County Council had plans for a realignment of the R238 from Tooban towards Burnfoot Village. This plan was approved through the planning process a few years ago. Grant funding to the value of €300,000 had been made available this year and land purchase would shortly be beginning. On the Bridgend side of Burnfoot funding had been provided for the surfacing of the carriageway and the hard shoulder.

With regard to the proposed by-pass, a proposed line for a by-pass had been marked on drawings associated with a proposed Local Area Plan for Burnfoot. This plan was currently in the public consultation phase and the matter would then be presented to the Council for approval. The line shown on the map was simply to ensure that there was a route available for the provision of the by-pass whenever it was required. The investment required would be substantial and before Donegal County Council would commit to such expenditure traffic studies would be carried out to show what difficulties the residents and traffic were experiencing in the village and what volume of traffic would prefer to use a by-pass.

In the meantime Donegal County Council would continue to carry out improvement works in the village to ensure the safe passage of both pedestrians and vehicles through the village.

C/180/04 SIGNAGE IN MALIN HEAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. A.Doherty:-

“What signage (no.of) was erected recently and where in the peninsula indicating directions to Malin Head and what signage exists in the county to guide visitors et al to Malin Head-Ireland’s most Northerly Headland?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the Regional Road Signage Programme was currently underway and would involve over 1000 signs. Design was not yet complete and, therefore, the actual number was not known precisely.

Malin Head was mentioned in the R238 (Carndonagh-Moville-Muff) on the following five different signs: -

- (a) Quigleys Point (2 no. signs)
- (b) Templemoye (2 no. signs)
- (c) Doon Bridge (1 no. sign)

This route had been covered on Phase 2 and were currently being erected.

It was also covered on the R242 (Carndonagh-Malin) on 24 different signs. This route was also covered on Phase 4 which was currently at design stage. It was hoped to erect the Phase 4 signs later this year.

In addition, Malin Head was mentioned on signs on the National Road at Bridge End and Lifford.

C/181/04

NEW DIRECTIVE ON ONCE OFF HOUSING

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan: -

“What changes will be made to our County Development Plan in order to accommodate the new directive on Once Off Housing as announced by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Martin Cullen?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that the Ministerial Directive “Sustainable Rural Housing” recently published as a consultative draft, was to be implemented with immediate effect. The Minister had asked that submissions on the draft be returned to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government by 30th April, 2004. It was proposed to discuss the Directive with the members at the next General

Purposes Committee Meeting so that their “input” could be included in the submission to the Department.

C/182/04 MONEY COLLECTED IN SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES IN INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA.

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“How much money has been collected under the Special Development Charges in (a) Carndonagh (b) Moville (c) Buncrana and (d) Inishowen Electoral Area since they were introduced in the year 2000 and how much has been returned to each of these since then?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that the total charges collected for roads in the Inishowen Electoral Area under the general charges since 2000 was:-

- (a) Carndonagh (Carndonagh, Glentogher, Glengannon DED's) = €8,096.95
- (b) Moville (Moville DED) = €8,096.95
- (c) Buncrana (Buncrana Rural, Illies DED's) = €64,038.02
- (d) Reminder of Inishowen Electoral Area = €23,489.36

These totals included “specific” charges for individual cases, which must be spent at those locations. Release of monies on foot of the general roads charge could be arranged and an analysis of charges imposed was underway to facilitate this. Any such transfers must also have regard to operational costs and sums set aside for “take over” of housing estates.

C/183/04 CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT ON S.I. 6497

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“Give a chronological report on S.I. 6497”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that this applicant was approved for re-housing on the 14th February, 2001.

Site report received August 2001
Site layout/location and planning documentation completed in January 2002
Advertised for planing in February 2002, permission granted July, 2002
Site agreement form sent to applicant, October 2002, returned signed by landowner March, 2003.
Rent agreement forms sent to applicant April, 2003, returned signed to this office April, 2003.
Application sent to solicitors for transfer of site July 2003.
O.L.R. map received from applicant in July, 2003 was marked up by the drawing office and sent to solicitors for completion of transfer July 2003.
Advertised for tender November, 2003.
In late November, 2003 a letter was received from VP McMullin asking the Council to hold on this application until grant of easements had been obtained with regard to right-of-way and sight lines.
Meeting had taken place on site between Solicitor and Area Engineer. A grant of easement had been requested from the Diocesan Trust as a matter of urgency before the contractor was appointed.

C/184/04 POLICY WITH REGARD TO PURCHASE OF HOUSES FROM DEVELOPERS

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Doherty: -

“How effective is the current policy and procedures when the Council wishes to purchase houses from a developer(s) and/or when a developer(s) wishes to sell houses to the Council and how is the general public informed?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the Council utilised a variety of methods of social housing provision under the 2000-2003 multi-annual housing programme including turnkey contracts, house purchases, design/build contracts and direct build contracts. Proper procurement procedures were followed and all contracts were awarded following public advertisement etc.

The various methods of provision enabled the Council to complete the requisite number of housing starts within the

currency of the programme. In procuring the schemes the Council had taken steps to determine that developers had appropriate teams available for design and development of the proposed schemes. Prior to contract the Council ensured that tax clearance certificates, and requisite insurances were in place. The form of contract used required developers and design teams to certify that the development had been completed in accordance with planning permission and the building regulations. The elected members, through the Electoral Area system, were informed of the location and types of schemes being provided. It should be noted that under the provision of Part V of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 that mixed house estates would be more the norm and this was in line with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's policy of promoting social integration.

C/185/04 SAFETY JUNCTIONS CORKEY, MANOR AND LURGYBRACK

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“When will the Council be putting in place the green and white safety bollards at the junctions of Corkey, Manor and Lurgybrack.”

Clr. Larkin was informed that, based on discussions with the NRA Safety Engineer, the Council expected to receive confirmation of funding for these bollards in late April/early May. These junctions had been the subject of much previous discussion regarding public lights. The Council intended to erect the bollards as quick as possible after receiving confirmation from the NRA.

C/186/04 IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD CONDITIONS AT GLENTOWN TO ARDAGH ROAD, ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What does this Council intend to do to improve the extremely bad road conditions on the Glentown to Ardagh Road, St. Johnston”

Clr. Crawford was informed that damage to this road had been caused due to increased activity at the Ardagh Slate

Quarry. The developer had been approached by the Executive Engineer for the area and had undertaken to employ a contractor to put down a bitmac surface on this area.

C/187/04 REGULAR WASTER SERVICE TO WOODLANDS AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“What actions are this Council taking to bring a regular water service to the people of the Woodlands area?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that the Woodlands area of Letterkenny was served by the Woodlands Group Water Supply Scheme. This scheme was over twenty years old and had been extended over the years to supply other group schemes. The supply area now extended to Killykreen and Ramelton. There had been unprecedented growth in housing development in the areas supplied by the scheme in recent years. People living at high elevations in the Woodland area of the scheme had suffered increasing water pressure problems in recent years as increasing connections were made to the scheme and its further supply area.

The elevation of the reservoir at Mountain Top, which supplied Woodlands GWSS, was lower than the topmost elevations in the Woodlands area. There had always been a number of houses at these high elevations that had been unable to avail of the supply from the scheme. These residents had come together and formed the Upper Woodlands Group Water Supply Scheme which was approved to proceed to construction in 2003. Construction of that scheme was due to start in April 2004. A new high level reservoir would be provided as part of that scheme. The scheme would serve many of the existing houses currently experiencing reduced pressure problems as well as bringing a mains water supply to the higher level residents for the first time.

A number of other steps had been taken by Water Services staff to improve pressure and supply to the area. Pumps had been added at the outlet from the Mountain Top reservoir to boost the supply pressure in the scheme. Water Services staff in the area had undertaken active leak detection to ensure that losses from the network were minimized. One

stretch of pipeline along the Lisnennan Road had been upgraded to a larger diameter. There were plans to upgrade further stretches of main to higher diameter in the future. Negotiations were ongoing currently with landownere to agree access and route for this upgrading.

C/188/04 SEWERAGE TREATMENT FOR ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What progress has been made to provide sewage treatment for St. Johnston?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme was currently on the small schemes programme and serviced land initiative programme. In this context, discussions were ongoing with interested parties/developers locally with a view to securing appropriate sites for pumping stations and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Contract documents were also being advanced in parallel with a view to commencing construction on infrastructural works when those other matters were resolved.

C/189/04 RIDGE AT HYRELL’S KILLYMARNEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. J. McHugh:-

“Will this Council investigate the bridge at Hyrell’s, Killymarney?”

Clr. McHugh was informed that the Council were examining the possibility of replacing this double piped culvert with a box culvert and were considering it for prioritisation in the 2005 bridge repair fund?”

C/190/04 SOLUTION TO GLENVAR WATER PROBLEM

The following question was submitted by Clr. J. McHugh:-

“Will this Council consider proposing an independent solution to the Glenvar Water problem?”

Clr. J. McHugh was informed that the strategic solution identified for the Glenvar/Tirladden area water supply lies with the Fanad Regional Water Supply Scheme, Stage 2. Preparation of contract documents would commence this

month (April 2004) and should be submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government in the second half of 2004 for approval. This approval would be followed by the tender process which required a further approval from the DOELG. While the Council were not in a position to indicate a start date for construction, these procedures and approval were unlikely to be completed before the end of 2005. This situation was explained to the residents of the area at a public meeting held at the end of March, 2004.

An alternative solution had been raised locally by the area engineer and would be examined. It would rely on funding from the Rural Water Programme instead of the Major Capital Programme. The technical and economic viability of this alternative proposal needed to be assessed. This would be done in the coming weeks. Early indications were that water availability was a major constraint. Should the proposal prove viable the question of delivery time scale would be examined.

C/191/04

CLARIFICATION OF PLANNING PERMISSION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle: -

“Can the County Manager clarify that the Planning Authority is pursuing a developer for failing to comply with planning permission while the Council has awarded the same developer a lucrative contract in the Inishowen Peninsula for a turnkey development and does the Council think this is the best practice?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that the same issue was the subject of a recent public statement and allegations regarding the Council awarding a turnkey housing contract to a company at least one of whose directors may be involved with another company which the Council was pursuing as Planning Authority with regard to compliance with a planning permission. That statement also raised questions regarding substandard building practices in the turnkey sector. A copy of the public statement which was issued on the 16th March in response to a press statement on the 15th March was attached.

It was pointed out that the obligations on the Council as Housing Authority with regard to the procurement of

housing must be met in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government including relevant procurement regulations and at the same time the Council as planning authority must comply with the planning law and regulations in dealing with enforcement of compliance with permissions issued. In the cases in question, the Council, as Housing Authority, was satisfied with the manner in which the turnkey project was proceeding and the Council was dealing separately, as Planning Authority, in enforcing the conditions imposed by it. At all times the Council sought to apply the best practice in having developers, whether as contractors to the Council or as private developers meet all relevant regulations.

C/192/04 IMPLEMENTATION OF FAIR TRADE POLICY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What progress has been made in implementing the “Fair Trade” policy which was adopted by the Council this year?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that, through its partnership structures, the Council was arranging with Oxfam Ireland a series of workshops, coffee mornings and presentations of the “Fairtrade” charter to the organisation in the month of May 2004. These events would take place at Lifford HQ and in the Public Service Centres at Carndonagh, Milford, Dungloe, Letterkenny and Donegal Town. Delivered by Oxfam Ireland to the Council’s staff, the workshops would include examples of “Fairtrade” products and an exhibition. A charter would be presented to HQ and each P.S.C. The possibility of involving community groups was being investigated also. In addition to this, the Council was liaising with Fairtrade Mark Ireland (FTMI) with a view to identifying local suppliers of “Fairtrade” products for the Council’s various offices and depots.

C/193/04 SOCIAL HOUSING IN THE BALLYSHANNON AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. McHugh:-

“What plans do this Council propose for providing further social housing in the Ballyshannon area?”

Clr. McHugh was informed that the next phase of social housing in Ballyshannon was to be provided at Camp, with construction hopefully commencing in Autumn 2004. These houses would comprise one special needs dwelling, one lifetime adaptable dwelling, 3 two bedroom dwellings and 2 three bedroom dwellings. Ballyshannon was also one of the towns in the county in which Part V of the Planning & Development Acts 2000/2002 applied and where the Council's Housing Strategy must be complied with i.e. 15% of private developments on zoned land in the town must be set aside for provision of social/affordable housing. It was hoped to source additional housing units in the town using this mechanism and preliminary discussions had taken place with two local developers in this regard.

C/194/04 REPAIRS TO STRANAKIRKA BRIDGE, CARRICK
The following question was submitted by Clr. Campbell:-

“What is the latest update on repairs to the Stranakirka Bridge near Meenanearry, Carrick?”

Clr. Campbell was informed that the Council was in consultation with Roinn na Gaeltachta with regards to funding for this project. As of yet no funding had been made available. It would be an objective of the Councils to have this project completed this year.

C/195/04 WATER PIPES IN MEENTINDEA/MEENACHAN
GROUP WATER SCHEME
The following question was submitted by Clr. Campbell:-

“Can the Council give an indication of when they expect to have water in the pipes of the Meentindea/Meenachan Group Water Scheme?”

Clr. Campbell was informed that Nicholas O'Dwyer & Partners, Consulting Engineers had been engaged on this scheme to evaluate the payment due to the contractor for works done, including all claims submitted for additional payment. The contractor was co-operating with the consultant and had returned to the site to open trial holes to facilitate inspection and measurement of works where claims arose.

Following agreement on the valuation of works it was intended to move onto testing the pipelines laid and completing any outstanding works to allow the scheme to go live as soon as possible.

The consultant had also met representatives of the group scheme to keep them informed on progress.

Unfortunately, the Council were not in a position to commit to a specific date for completion at this time. Completion of the scheme was being treated as a matter of the utmost urgency.

C/196/04 VOLUNTARY HOUSING SCHEME, CONVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“What is the delay in progressing the voluntary housing scheme in Convoy along with a site for a new community facility?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that the formal application for funding for the voluntary housing proposal of 34 units and communal facilities site at Convoy by North and West Housing was received by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s voluntary housing unit on 23rd March. The Department had been advised of the urgency of this proposal and it was hoped that approval of same would issue from the Department as early as possible.

C/197/04 PROGRESS ON PERMANENT ONE STOP SHOP, BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. P. McGowan;-

“What progress is there with the permanent One Stop Shop Office accommodation in Ballybofey:-

Clr. McGowan was informed that, as referred to in the County Manager’s Report for the Council Meeting of 29th March 2004, a meeting took place on the 08th March, 2004 between the County Manager and E. Canney of Donegal County Council with Mr. Pat Harvey, Chief Executive Officer, North Western Health Board and Mr. C. Byrne Project Manager, North Western Health Board.

The meeting was held to review the current status of the PPP Project to provide a Public Services Centre in Ballybofey, currently being led by the Health Board, and a subsequent PPP proposal for same submitted to the Department of Health and Children in November, 2002, and options available in the event that this project was delayed. The Council offered to take the lead in the project using a number of funding options. The first was that the Council could design accommodation for itself only to include a library and other accommodation which would be the subject of grant aid and could be located in Ballybofey. The second was for the Council to also design accommodation for the Health Board and for other agencies subject to back to back agreements being put in place before significant costs were incurred. The North Western Health Board would examine its requirements and current leasing arrangements and revert back to the Council.

Since the preparation of the Manager's Report, a letter had been received by the County Manager from the Chief Executive Officer, NWHB (on 23rd March 2004) which summarised the Health Boards likely position in relation to this project.

- Having consulted with the PPP Unit of the Department of Health and Children, the position was that only two pilot PPP projects (one in SHB and the other in EHRA) would be progressed under the aegis of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in the short to medium term.
- In light of the above and coupled with the ongoing changes taking place under the Health Service Reforms agenda, the progression of this project with the Health Board in the lead role was likely to encounter further delays.
- The Health Board remained fully supportive of the project and confirmed that it had an accommodation need in the area of approximately 2,500 sq meters gross into the future. This accommodation requirement was currently being met by using its own accommodation and combination of leases over the short to medium term.
- The Health Board would also be available to participate actively in any future project team for the development of this project.

The Council (through Housing and Building Services Division) had commenced a comprehensive assessment of the implications of taking the leads role including:-

- The services which it could locate in Ballybofey (apart from decentralised services)
- The potential for Departmental Capital Grant Aid for the Councils part of the building.
- Land acquisition/transfer of interest to the Council
- Interest of NWHB/other agencies in space and their financial capacity to enter into back to back agreements.
- Overall funding/procurement of the project.
- Other significant considerations.

As already agreed, members would be kept informed of progress.

C/198/04 EMPLOYMENT TARGET OF 3% FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey;-

“What specific plans do Donegal County Council have to meet the public sector employment target of 3% for people with a disability and what percentage are presently employed by Donegal County Council.”

Clr. Slowey was informed that Donegal County Council, in line with Public Sector generally, had been set a target to employ people with a disability to equal 3% of overall staff numbers employed. To date, the Council had not reached this target. In the Council’s return to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2003, out of a Wholetime Equivalent Workforce of 1048.5, 8 people with a disability were confirmed as being employed by the Council. This equated to less than 1% of the overall total. The return for 2004 was currently being finalised.

It should be noted that the Council currently employed many more people who fall within the definition of disability in the context of employment as set down by the Department. This was, however, a very sensitive area for employees who may

not wish to be included in a Department Return which classified them as being a person with a disability.

The Council had a record over the years of employing people with disabilities and had sought to provide them with employment that was suitable to their abilities.

The Council was committed to exploring the various options available to provide additional employment to people with disabilities and had initiated consultations with the North Western Health Board in this regard.

One option being explored was the holding of special recruitment competitions specifically aimed at people with a disability. This matter was also currently receiving consideration by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in the context of finalising the Disability Bill, and may require specific regulation to allow such competitions to take place.

C/199/04 ADDRESSING OF ISSUES RAISED AND DEBATED AT MEETINGS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What plans have Donegal County Council to address the issues raised and debated at meetings of the Youth Council?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that the current mechanism employed by Donegal County Council in conveying issues raised by Youth Councillors was as follows:-

Youth Councillors currently attended all Electoral Area Committee Meetings to present the workings of Donegal Youth Council and to discuss any issues or questions the Youth Council may have, eg. skateboarding in Donegal, naming of roads in Stranorlar etc. In some Electoral Areas, meetings were rotated from town to town in order to accommodate and enable youth councillors to attend meetings.

During the first Youth Council countywide meeting in Lifford on 17th February, 2004, Youth Councillors were given the opportunity to address issues with Electoral Area Chairpersons.

It was envisaged that Elections would take place in Autumn 2004. Following the election, the Youth Council may wish

to consult with adult members regarding an appropriate mechanism for raising issues at Council Meetings.

C/200/04 BREAKDOWN OF COST TO DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE FRESH WATER ANGLING REPORT.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gildea:-

“Could I get a breakdown on the total cost to Donegal County Council of the report in Fresh Water Angling generally referred to as the Bonar Report?”

Clr. Gildea was informed that, as part of the Marine Leisure Programme for 2004, Donegal County Council was contributing to a range of Marine & Water Leisure related projects including the Donegal Fresh Water Angling Development Plan. No invoice had yet been received from the Northern Regional Fisheries Board in relation to the ongoing works in relation to this plan, which that organisation was managing but it was understood that a contribution of €3,379.50 would be required from Donegal County Council in relation to this initiative. Donegal County Council had made no other direct contribution to this initiative other than the aforementioned figure.

C/201/04 CITY OF DERRY AIRPORT, ANSWERS REQUESTED BY CLR. GILDEA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gildea:-

“In view of the fact that I did not get answers to the four questions that I asked when the delegation of the City of Derry Airport made a submission to the members of Donegal County Council last November, may I have the answers please?”

Clr. Gildea was informed that the queries raised by all members of the Council at the presentation on 08th December 2003 had all been included with responses as part of the agenda of today’s meeting.

C/202/04 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

“When will the speed limit review that has been promised each Autumn for the last 3 years be carried out?”

Clr. Bonnar was informed that it was hoped to have the countywide speed limit review completed before the introduction of the metric speed limit signs in September, 2004.

The Council had already done a review of all existing speed limits in the county against the existing by-laws in the last few weeks and were about to commence the review/assessment of each speed limit location. In addition, the Council had done a review of the number of signs to be replaced so that the DOE could advertise in the EU Journal for metric signs.

C/203/04 CASUAL TRADING SITES, BALLYBOFEY, DUNGLOE, FALCARRAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

“What effect will the decision of the courts in relation to the casual trading site in Ballybofey have on sites identified by Councillors in Dungloe and Falcarragh?”

Clr. Bonner was informed that the Council was assessing the content of the Judge’s decision to determine the merits of appealing the decision to the Circuit Court. One of the concerns arising from the decision was the anticipated judgements from any appeals by casual traders to the designation of areas in Falcarragh and Dungloe.

C/204/04 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. A. Doherty, the following motions from other Councils were noted:-

ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL

“That Ennis Town Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of Ireland’s E.U. Presidency and the accession of ten new member states in May 2004, to insist on the Irish Language having the same status within the enlarged EU as Estonian, Latvian,

Lithuanian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Slovene and Maltese native tongues.”

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Offaly County Council call on the Minister for Communications to review the criteria for his latest broadband proposals to :

- (c) reduce the number of users required to qualify for group broadband scheme
- (d) reduce qualifying town population figures from 1500 to 1000.”

CLONES TOWN COUNCIL

“Article 2 of the Constitution states: “It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland.” In the spirit of this article, that Clones Town Council calls on the Government to put in place arrangements, to extend the voting rights in the 2004 Presidential Election, to citizens living in the North of Ireland.”

KILKEE TOWN COUNCIL

“That local authorities throughout Ireland inform themselves of the implications of implementation of the next round of the Hanley Report for their communities, and if averse to the implications, that these Councils join with others,-similarly affected-to oppose the elements of democratic deficit inherent in the report”.

“That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union.”

CORK CITY COUNCIL

“That Cork City Council would support the motion that the official Irish National Anthem, where appropriate, be played on all occasions when Irish teams are competing internationally in all sporting codes.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China and that their persecution ceases, and all prisoners held unlawfully be freed.”

“Fingal County Council calls on the Government to use its position as Chair of the EU – China Human Rights Dialogue taking place in Dublin this month, to demand that the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China is ended and all prisoners immediately released. In particular that pressure would be put on to secure the return of Dun Laoghaire students, Liu Feng and Yang Fang, to complete their studies in Ireland and that this motion would be brought to the attention of the Minister.”

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That South Dublin County Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China, calls for an end to their persecution and unlawful imprisonment, and urges the Chinese Government to permit Mr Liu Feng & Ms Yan Fang to return to Ireland to continue their studies here”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council strongly urge the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to strike out the regulation requiring non-party candidates for the local elections to bring along fifteen assentors or guarantors, complete with photographic identification, on nomination day as this provision is discriminatory, divisive, insulting and belittling and has no justification whatsoever.”

GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

“That Galway City Council call on the Government to take all necessary steps to introduce an access certification process for buildings.”

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council views with concern the intention by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government to review the 1997 Electoral Act to increase the amounts of

financial donations from the corporate sector to political parties and that this Council further agrees that any such review will further diminish public trust in the democratic system. That this Council conveys by letter to the Minister its outright opposition to any such proposed increases in corporate donations.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The proposed limitations on the borrowings of local authorities will greatly inhibit the development of infrastructure, services and amenities. I will call on the Government not to introduce this limitation at this time.

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

That Killarney Town Council call on the appropriate Minister to modify the requirements of the NCT testing process in the interests of fairness to motorists

LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL

That we call on all Local Authorities in the County to appoint one member to a committee to support the Guards in efforts to get more resources.

That this Council does not support the call for the legalisation of cannabis

CASHEL TOWN COUNCIL

That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union (E.U.)

C/205/04 OUTSTANDING CIVIC RECEPTIONS

The Cathaoirleach sought approval from the Council to hold the Civic Reception afforded to Margo (O'Donnell) before the expiry of the term of the present Council.

The proposal was seconded by Clr. Boyle and agreed conditional on all Civic Receptions awarded in the lifetime of the present Council, but which had not taken place, being honoured by the new Council. The County Manager agreed to this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

