

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
22 Feabhra 2011

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 28 Feabhra, 2011, ag
11.00 r.n. in Áras an Chontae, Leifear

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

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

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

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinnithe(RÚNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
22nd February, 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28th February, 2011, at
11.00am in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

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

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

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31st January, 2011.

MOTIONS

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

2. Clr. O'Neill

"That Donegal County Council discuss and confirm the date for the commencement of the Car Park development in Ballyshannon as previously discussed and agreed at previous meetings." (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Community Culture and Enterprise

3. Clr. McGowan

"That this Council discuss the implications of the new regulations governing registration of Rights of Ways, both for Councils services and walk ways etc as it is imperative that work begins to have all public right of ways registered before 2012." (C)

Roads and Transportation

4. Clr. McBrearty

"I am demanding that the SEA is given more funding for roads and that the government is lobbied by the County Manager in order to receive more funding which is desperately needed." (L)

5. Clr. Crawford

"That this Council discuss the undue delay in having Public Lighting powered on at Gallows Lane Lifford which have been in place now for 15 months." (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Finance

6. Clr. Alcorn

"That this county council discuss the 2nd Home Charge of €200 in County Donegal, the total amount collected for 2010, and what specifically is done with this substantial funding i.e. How is it spent?" (C)

7. Clr. M.T. Gallagher

"That this Council discuss the effect of the revaluation of premises by the valuation office, in the context that DCC have reduced the rate, and yet businesses rates bills have increased dramatically, so that this council can call on the incoming government to address the unequal and unsustainable valuations that are in place in Donegal." (C)

Corporate

8. Clr. Slowey

"That this Local Authority discuss the provision of front line Council Services to the people of Donegal." (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate

9. Clr. Larkin

"That Donegal County Council creates along with all interested stakeholders a special app for Donegal." (O)

Roads and Transportation

10. Clr. McBride

"That this Council take measures to ensure that adequate supplies of salt are available to our County to cater for future severe weather conditions." (C)

Community and Enterprise

11. Clr. McGarvey

"That this Council organise a meeting between this Council and all the Cross/Border agencies ie Icban and the other three similar Agencies who at present have responsibility to promote Crossborder Development at every level." (O)

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

- a) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of Craft Units by way of lease at the Craft Village, Lurganboy, Donegal Town to the tenants named in report of 10/02/2011, circulated .
- b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land by way of lease at Railway Road,

- Stranorlar, to Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company Ltd, Lower Main Street, Ballybofey.
- c) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of land through the re-transfer of site (S.I. 5489) at Castletown (Casheltown), Dunkineely, Co Donegal to the Legal Personal Reps of the Late Chrissie (Mary Christina) Murray.

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

- a) To approve carrying out of works with regard to the demolition of an existing building and replacement with a similar sized 'Gallery and Training Room including Toilet Facilities' at Barrack Hill Park, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.

14. Corporate

To note the renewal of the General Personal Accident Insurance Scheme B-Level 2 – Elected Members for 2011.

15. Housing and Building

To approve the raising of loan of €2,000,000.00 to fund Donegal County Council's commitments to the payment of Shared Ownership Loans (Mortgage Equity).

16. Water and Environment

To adopt the Bye Laws made under Sections 13, 39 and 40 of The Control of Horses Act, 1996 and the Local Government Act 2001 (Bye-Laws) Regulations 2006.

17. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of the Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 13th July, 2010.
- b) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 16th November, 2010.
- c) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2010.

18. Conference Reports

Clr. Terence Slowey – The Local Government Budget 2011 held 10th to 12th December, 2010.

19. Authorisation of representation at a Seminar, Meeting or Event

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

- Carlow Tourism – 9th National Tourism Conference to be held Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th March, 2011 at the Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Employment Law and Insurance Issues “The consequences for you and your Local Authority” to be held Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March, 2011 at the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City.
- Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Equal Status Legislation and its effect on service provision in Local Authorities to be held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March, 2011 at the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, County Mayo.
- Association of County and City Councils – Annual conference to be held Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March, 2011 at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly.
- The Institute of Professional Training – “Changing Trends in Drug and Alcohol Abuse to be held from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th March, 2011 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Department of The Environment – Training for Elected Members on the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, to be held Friday 8th April, 2011 at St Angela’s College, Sligo.

20. Mayor's Business

21. Manager's Report

QUESTIONS

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Finance

22. Clr. O'Neill

"How much was spent on all capital contracts through Public Tendering across all departments in 2010 and that I be furnished with a breakdown of all figures and names of companies awarded all contracts?" (C)

Community and Enterprise

23. Clr. O'Neill

"Will Donegal County Council immediately issue a rental agreement to Ballyshannon Regeneration Group for the rental of the office for the purposes of a New Tourist Office at the Bridge, Ballyshannon?" (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Water and Environment

24. Clr. McGowan

"Will this Council prioritise the Emmett Park Estate Castlefin for pipe/valve replacement as proposed by the Stranorlar area Councillors, so that residents are not left without water for over a month as was experienced during the recent severe weather." (L)

Roads and Transportation

25. Clr. McGowan

"Please give a report on progress to date on surveying and taking corrective measures on the raft of surface water breaches spilling onto county roads especially in the Stranorlar area, as agreed at previous meetings of this Council, as investment in our roads over the last decade and more are being literally wasted away by neglect of waterways and unregulated discharge of surface water causing flooding and destroying road surfaces everywhere." (C)

26. Clr. Crawford

"What is the present update on a solution to flood prevention in Raphoe?" (L)

27. Clr. Crawford

"Will this Council carry out a safety audit on the area of road known as the quarry in Porthall, Lifford in relation to the present measures which exist to prevent a vehicle leaving the road and entering the deep water at this location?" (L)

Corporate

28. Clr. McBrearty

"What external organisations or agencies does Donegal County Council routinely receive the Minutes of their meetings for information purposes and filing?" (O)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

29. Clr. Alcorn

"What is the present position regarding the moving of the 50 km speed limits from the G.A.A. pitch on Carnmore Road, Dungloe to the Little Bridge-Cronashallog as agreed?" (L)

30. Clr. M.T. Gallagher

"Will this council consider providing a roads maintenance allocation to Arann Mor Island, and that the local co-op would provide the service?" (L)

Corporate

31. Clr. Slowey

"What do Donegal County Council classify as front line services and will the Council specify the number of both full and part time staff in each of the service areas in each year from 2005 to date?" (C)

Housing

32. Clr. Slowey

"Will Donegal County Council provide details of the Turnkey Development of 28 houses at Dungloe to include: Cost of the Project; the Contractor and the Timescale for completion of these houses?" (L)

Water and Environment

33. Clr. Alcorn

"Could I have a detailed report on the present position re the proposed swimming pool at Kilclooney in the Portnoo area?" (L)

34. Clr. M.T. Gallagher

"Will this council provide a detailed analysis of the present position of the DBO for Dungloe and Glenties Sewage Scheme and does this council have funding to proceed with this project?" (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

35. Clr. Larkin

"How much money was allocated to DCC last year from the PRTB and how many private rented accommodation units were inspected?" (C)

Water and Environment

36. Clr. Larkin

"Do we know how many dogs there are in Donegal and how does it correspond with the number of licenses issued?" (C)

37. Clr. McBride

"What is the up to date situation on the proposed upgrade works to the Churchill water supply?" (L)

Planning and Economic Development

38. Clr. McBride

"What is the final account likely to be for the environmental improvement works in Milford, to include land purchase, construction of car park, works to main street and church road?" (L)

Roads and Transportation

39. Clr. McGarvey

"What or who has responsibility to deal with lighting funded by this Council, is there any monitoring of obligations and by whom?" (O)

40. Clr. McGarvey

"Can we expect any additional funding due to the adverse weather conditions already faced by this Council in Road and Water damage?" (C)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 2011

C/45/11 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. Cora Harvey, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. Farren, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, D. Larkin, F. McBrearty, N. McBride, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. Mc Guinness, S. O' Domhnaill B. O'Neill, M. Quinn, J. Ryan and T. Slowey.

C/46/11 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Corporate and Housing, A/Meeting Administrator, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water and Environment, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Culture and Planning, Mr. Garry Martin, A/Head of Finance & Director of Emergency Services, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/47/11 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Clr. Larkin proposed, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan to adjourn the meeting until all remaining business on the agenda of the Adjourned January Council Meeting had been completed.

C/48/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31ST
JANUARY, 2011

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 31st January, 2011 were adopted.

C/49/11 CONFIRMATION OF THE COMMENCEMENT DATE
FOR THE BALLYSHANNON CARPARK

On the proposal of Clr. O' Neill , seconded, by Clr Mc Brearty the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council discuss and confirm the date for the commencement of the Car Park development in Ballyshannon as previously discussed and agreed at previous meetings."

Members were informed that:-

“Currently, the Council are in discussions with the ESB as to the works and costs associated with the removal and relocation of their services which is a major part of the overall project. It is expected that physical works will commence sometime in late March or early April. This will depend on the outcome of the discussion with the ESB and the scheduling of the works. The Council is pleased with the progress and agreements reached on this car park in recent months.”

Clr. O’ Neill welcomed the reply and thanked all who had been involved in developing the project. It would be advised to be of enormous benefit to the town of Ballyshannon.

C/50/11 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL SERVICES AND WALKWAYS - REGISTERING RIGHT OF WAYS BY 2012

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Gowan, seconded by Clr. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the implications of the new regulations governing registration of Rights of Ways, both for Councils services and Walk Ways etc as it is imperative that work begins to have all public right of ways registered before 2012."

Members were informed that:-

“The Council shall subject to available resources work towards reviewing all existing walk ways and seek to have them registered by end of 2011.

The Water Services have rights to access to public services infrastructure under the Water Services Act 2007.”

Clr. Mc Gowan expressed disappointment at the brief nature of the reply, given that the matter had wide ranging implications for the Council as a whole. There were he advised many anomalies in the legislation, particularly in relation to Group Water Schemes and access to third party lands. Members outlined the need for a specific template

going forward and called for a comprehensive audit of all Rights of Ways within the Council's remit. It was acknowledged that the matter needed also to be considered in the context of the County Development Plan.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise advised that a review would be carried out to determine the implications of the legislation and that the results would be presented to members through the workshop/meetings process.

The County Manager outlined the significant impact the legislation would have on Public Rights of Ways and Rights of Access to properties used for environmental purposes. Extensive work it was acknowledged was required to update the Register of Lands, a task he indicated which had considerable resource implications.

In conclusion Clr. Mc Gowan affirmed that the purpose of his motion had been to highlight the importance of the new legislation governing the registration of Rights of Ways. He asked for a definitive report on the matter and called for information to be made available through the Donegal County Council Website.

C/51/11

ROADS FUNDING IN THE STRANORLAR.
ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Brearty, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, the following motion was adopted:-

"I am demanding that the SEA is given more funding for roads and that the government is lobbied by the County Manager in order to receive more funding which is desperately needed."

Members were informed that:-

"The distribution of overall funds made available at "County level" under any heading where there is a discretionary element involved is a matter to be determined by the Full Council. Historically in Donegal, the policy has been to distribute such funding based on road mileage.

During the past year we have been successful in getting extra funding for National Primary pavement schemes in

particular. This year we are again targeting extra funding for National Roads over and above the €19.5m announced in January this year.

In regard to Regional and Local roads it has traditionally been more difficult to attract extra funding although we have had success in different years - usually towards the end of the Financial Year when the Department may have unspent monies available to it.

Clr Mc Brearty advised that he was extremely disappointed with the reply and that the bottom line was that the Stranorlar Electoral Area had serious infrastructural problems compounded by a major funding deficit.

Members in the Stranorlar Electoral Area, he confirmed, received numerous representations in relation to the road conditions and the volume of same was now becoming increasingly embarrassing.

He noted that income in the region of €29m was generated in motor tax receipts, yet road conditions on local and regional roads remained deplorable. The Local Authority, he advised, was ultimately responsible for the state of the roads and that as far as he was concerned the buck stops with the County Manager and his staff who are obliged to ensure that the road network was maintained to adequate safety standards. Cllr McBrearty called on members of the public to sue the Local Authority in cases where the road conditions had contributed to a road traffic accident.

Responding the County Manager advised that it was not in his remit to distribute national monies or decide the distribution of discretionary funding, as this was ultimately a reserved function.

He was, he confirmed, clear as to his own role. He indicated that he was happy to take on board, the agreed views of the members and articulate same at national level as appropriate. It would, he affirmed, be inappropriate for Management to assist one Electoral Area obtain a greater share of the funding, given the infrastructural deficiencies in the county as a whole, otherwise than in accordance with the agreed evidence for same.

Clr. Brogan noted that serious views had been expressed in relation to the role of Donegal County Council and called for the meeting to be adjourned so that legal advice could be obtained in relation to Donegal County Council's position in the event of a road accident.

After a number of heated exchanges, the Mayor called on members to proceed with the business in a mannerly fashion. Thus on the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Byrne it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for ten minutes until 2.45pm.

On resumption Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation outlined the various funding options and reminded members that they had approved the grant selection method and mode of distribution. It was imperative he noted, given the range of issues raised that all concerned were clear in relation to the systems in use. Donegal County Council, he affirmed, had a responsibility to manage allocated resources, and could only work with the funds it was given.

It was intended he added to fix at first the roads most severely damaged by the recent severe weather conditions. It was acknowledged also that considerable funding had been allocated and spent on national roads in the Stranorlar Electoral Area.

In conclusion the Mayor indicated that members in the Stranorlar Electoral Area were no longer willing to accept the existing method of distribution. While there was much discussion on the overall subject of funding distribution, no decision was made to alter the existing arrangements.

C/52/11

CALL FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE DELAY IN
HAVING PUBLIC LIGHTING POWERED ON AT THE
GALLOWS LANE LIFFORD

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

"That this Council discuss the undue delay in having Public Lighting powered on at Gallows Lane Lifford which have been in place now for 15 months."

Members were informed that:-

“Lights are now lit. Problems of communication and responsibilities existed between Airticity Solutions and ESB Networks and it took extensive communication from the Council to bring this matter to a conclusion.”

Clr. Crawford acknowledged the efforts of the Roads Section in resolving the matter.

Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation agreed to liaise with Clr Crawford in relation to additional problems at St Jude’s Court, Lifford. He confirmed that an update in relation to the new county-wide lighting programme would be provided at the next Electoral Area meeting together with an update on the ongoing problems in Emmett Park, Castlefin.

C/53/11

CALL FOR A DISCUSSION BY THIS COUNCIL ON THE 2ND HOME CHARGE AND HOW IT IS SPENT

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn , seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this county council discuss the 2nd Home Charge of €200 in County Donegal, the total amount collected for 2010, and what specifically is done with this substantial funding i.e. How is it spent?"

Members were informed that:-

“Gross collection figures for Donegal Local Authorities as at 18th February 2011 are shown below:

2009	€3,068,940
2010	€3,019,480
Total	€6,088,420

The above figures include penalty charges collected. The above figures represent the combined amounts of money collected for Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council, Bundoran Town Council and Buncrana Town Council. The above figures are gross of deductions associated

with the national and local administration costs of the scheme.

NPPR income is used to fund the revenue expenditure of Donegal Local Authorities across all expenditure headings, including Roads, Housing, Planning & Control, Emergency Services, Water & Environment, Community & Culture, Library Services, local democracy and the promotion of the county as an attractive place to visit and do business. The income collected from NPPR benefits residents of County Donegal and those availing of local authority services in Donegal.”

Clr Alcorn outlined the necessity of issuing adequate notice of the charges. A number of members called for the more equitable distribution of the proceeds on an Electoral Area basis, a feature which they noted would allow for greater transparency and give some recompense to the tax payer.

It was acknowledged that there were difficulties in relation to the payment of fees with a number of members suggesting that the Department be contacted re same.

A number of anomalies were identified particularly in relation to home ownership and issues relating to the leasing and renting of accommodation.

The County Manager confirmed that Budget 2011 had not allocated income from the NPPR Charges to specific projects, but rather provided for the monies generated to be incorporated into the general income of the Council.

C/54/11

CALL FOR DISCUSSION ON THE SYSTEM OF VALUATIONS OF PROPERTIES

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the effect of the revaluation of premises by the valuation office, in the context that DCC have reduced the rate, and yet businesses rates bills have increased dramatically, so that this council can call on the incoming government to address the unequal and unsustainable valuations that are in place in Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

“Local authorities are obliged to submit all rateable property to the Valuation Office for valuation. Properties that have a rateable valuation and have undergone material change (a change of use or extension for example) are required to be submitted for revaluation. Donegal County Council has no input into the valuation process as carried out by the Valuation Office. Property is valued in accordance with the Valuation Acts. A representative from the Valuation Office outlined this process in a workshop for Members in May 2010.

Under the Valuation Act 2001 provision was made for the revaluation of all commercial and industrial property in Ireland. The process began in 2005 and has continued on a phased basis since then. The purpose of a revaluation is to bring more equity and fairness to the local authority rating system. It is intended, following revaluation, that there will be a much closer and uniform relationship between the current rental values of property and their commercial rates liability. There is as yet no set date for the revaluation of commercial and industrial property in the local authority areas of County Donegal.

Donegal County Council Council has now reduced the Rates multiplier applicable at a County level for two successive years, 3% in 2010 and a further 3.5% for the current year, 2011. The 2011 reduction was the largest, by some distance, of all local authorities in the Country.

Donegal County Council recognises the challenging trading environment in which businesses currently operate. The Finance Directorate of the Council continues to work closely with Commercial Rates customers and has entered into extended payment plans with customers where a bona fide need has been identified. A number of different payment options are available, including Direct Debit, that allow for the rates liability to be discharged over the course the year. Revenue Collection Staff are available locally and at Lifford HQ to discuss outstanding balances with any customer.”

It was acknowledged that the present system was punitive, unequal and inadequate, requiring comprehensive reform at national level. The case for reform members suggested, could be examined and progressed under the auspices of the Audit Committee.

Clr. Gallagher asked that the incoming government be informed of the difficulties facing rate payers in Donegal.

Members identified the need to examine specific exemption criteria together with the provision of incentives for certain businesses and start-up ventures. Consideration of the county's cross-border trading situation was also deemed necessary.

Mr. Garry Martin, A/Head of Finance stated that there were huge challenges facing the business community. He urged businesses facing difficulties with rate repayment to get in touch with the Council, indicating that they would be dealt with in a fair and consistent manner.

Mutual consideration was, he advised, necessary if revenue buoyancy was to be maintained

C/55/11 DISCUSSION ON THE PROVISION OF FRONT LINE COUNCIL SERVICES

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

"That this Local Authority discuss the provision of front line Council Services to the people of Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

Local Authorities are responsible for the delivery of front line services across a wide range of areas. It is the case that all staff working for a local authority are either directly employed to provide front line services or are employed to support the delivery of front line services. Front line services in the context of the directorates within Donegal Co. Council would include:

Housing & Corporate Services

Direct housing provision, Adaptation grants, Maintenance of housing stock, Traveler accommodation, Disability access

certificates, Motor taxation, Driving licenses, Higher Education Grants, Electoral register, Collection of commercial water charges,

Roads & Transportation

Roads Maintenance and repairs, Traffic Warden Service

Water & Environment

Water Supplies Maintenance and operation, Waste Management, Civil Defence, Inspections of Abattoirs etc

Community, Culture & Planning:

Planning application process, Planning Enforcement, Casual Trading, Library Services, Engagement with all community groups

Finance & Emergency Services

Collection of Commercial Rates, Payments to all Council Suppliers, Retained Fire Service, Fire Safety Certificates

The above lists are not exhaustive.

“As members are aware, Donegal County Council is currently undergoing a major programme of reorganization of the management and staffing structure within the Council. This programme has become necessary in view of the current economic climate and the significant reduction in many of our income streams. A major part of this process is to review the provision of front line service and to restructure this provision to meet the needs of the citizens within the County in a manner which is efficient, effective and affordable. These plans are at an advanced stage. The engagement with the elected members in the process of preparing the budget for 2011 was a critical part of the Council’s work to restructure its operations – particularly in the context of setting affordability thresholds and the consequent impact of that on service delivery. This process centers initially on finding expenditure efficiencies of circa €4 M across our € 153 M revenue budget spend. It is intended to engage systematically with Elected Members as this work continues.”

A lengthy debate ensued with members expressing dissatisfaction with the current staffing moratorium. A number of examples were provided in relation to operational difficulties at both local and county level.

It was agreed that a definitive list of frontline services needed to be drawn up.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Garvey, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan it was resolved that a request to lift the current embargo on recruitment be lifted in respect of frontline staff and forwarded to the incoming government.

The County Manager informed members that there was €100,000 less per day in funds available to run the Council compared to the same period in 2008. Whilst acknowledging that there were indeed difficulties, it was important he added to note that the Council was not haemorrhaging debt, and continued to cover costs on an operational level. Welcoming the constructive nature of the discussion he advised that the restructuring of Council Services would necessitate considerable change and that he would be engaging with the members on an ongoing basis.

C/56/11

VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan it was resolved to vary the order of business and deal with items 12, 14 and 15 at this juncture.

C/57/11

DISPOSAL OF CRAFT UNITS BY WAY OF LEASE AT THE CRAFT VILLAGE LURGANBOY DONEGAL TOWN TO THE TENANTS NAMED IN THE REPORT OF 10/02/2011

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

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved to dispose of Craft Units by way of lease at the Craft Village, Lurganboy, Donegal Town to the tenants named in report of 10/02/2011 circulated in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/58/11

DISPOSAL OF LAND BY WAY OF LEASE AT RAILWAY ROAD STRANORLAR TO BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY

COMPANY LTD, LOWER MAIN STREET,
BALLYBOFEY

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

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Harley, it was resolved to dispose of land by way of lease at Railway Road, Stranorlar to Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company Ltd, Lower Main Street, Ballybofey, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/59/11 DISPOSAL OF LAND THROUGH THE RE-TRANSFER
OF SITE (S.I. 5489) AT CASTLETOWN
(CASHEL TOWN), DUNKINEELY, CO DONEGAL TO
THE LEGAL PERSONAL REPS OF THE LATE
CHRISSIE (MARY CHRISTINA) MURRAY

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

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to dispose of land at Castletown (Casheltown), Dunkineely, Co Donegal to the Legal and Personal Reps of the late Mrs Chrissie (Mary Christina) Murray, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/60/11 TO NOTE THE RENEWAL OF THE GENERAL
PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME B-
LEVEL 2 – ELECTED MEMBERS FOR 2011

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn the Council noted the renewal of the General Personal Accident Insurance Scheme B-Level 2 in respect of the Elected Members for 2011.

C/61/11 APPROVAL OF LOAN OF €2,000,000.00 FOR THE
PURPOSE OF SHARED OWNERSHIP LOANS
(MORTGAGE EQUITY)

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

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (No 2) Act, 1960 and Section 27 of the

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, to authorise the borrowing of a loan in the sum of €2,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of payment of Shared Ownership Loans (Mortgage Equity)

C/62/11

CREATION OF A SPECIAL APP FOR DONEGAL INCLUDING ALL STAKEHOLDERS

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

"That Donegal County Council creates along with all interested stakeholders a special app for Donegal."

Members were informed that:-

“During 2011 it is intended to re-develop a number of Council related websites including the County Development Board site (www.donegalcdb.ie), the Donegal Libraries site (www.donegallibrary.ie) , the Council main site (www.donegalcoco.ie) and a County Portal (www.donegal.ie)

As part of this process the opportunities presented by social networking media and mobile web access will be fully exploited. The Council is already using Social Networking media for communication purposes at www.facebook.com/donegalcouncil and www.twitter.com/donegalcouncil.

A Smartphone App has been developed to permit members of the public to communicate with the Council on service issues and this application is currently at testing stage.”

Clr. Larkin advised that a mobile phone app would allow the public to utilise the services of Donegal County Council more efficiently. It would in the long run he noted be cost effective given the in-house capability to deliver the project. The need for a Tourism and Irish Language App was also considered. He asked for a report on the matter.

Mr. Liam Ward, Director Corporate and Housing acknowledged that there were significant developments on this front with the Council planning to re-develop a number of its own websites. It was hoped he added to continue with

this work thus creating the circumstances under which a special app could be developed.

In response to a query from Clr. O' Domhnaill he agreed to look into the possibility of allowing members access the Council's internal e-mail system through the medium of Blackberries/I Phones.

C/63/11 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders and continue with the meeting so as to complete the remaining items on the agenda.

A show of hands was taken by the Meetings Administrator , with the majority of members in favour of completing items 10, 11, 13, 16 17, 18 , 20 and 21 on the agenda.

C/64/11 AVAILABILITY OF SALT SUPPLIES TO CATER FOR FUTURE SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Bride , seconded by Clr Mc Gowan., the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council take measures to ensure that adequate supplies of salt are available to our County to cater for future severe weather conditions."

Members were informed that:-

“Discussions have already commenced with the NRA to ensure the problem experienced recently of salt shortage does not reoccur. It is expected that there will be satisfactory outcomes to these discussions.

There has been no national decision made, as far as we are aware, on the continuation of the NRA purchasing salt for the country.

It would appear that the Council would not be prevented from purchasing salt outside any national frameworks; however, this could mean that the Council would have to pay for the salt itself whereas last year, the NRA paid for the salt and supplied it to the Council free of charge.

Separately, we are also currently in discussions with the NRA about the possibility of paying for and constructing an additional large salt barn that could possibly provide sufficient storage for Donegal and also serve as a regional store. These discussions are at an early stage.”

Members unanimously supported the motion.

Clr. Mc Bride proposed, seconded by Clr. Larkin that an additional salt barn be built in the county .

Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation agreed to update members on a regular basis in relation to the situation regarding salt supplies and the provision of an additional salt barn.

C/65/11

REQUEST TO ORGANISE A MEETING BETWEEN
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND ALL OTHER
CROSSBORDER AGENCIES CHARGED WITH
CROSSBORDER DEVELOPMENT

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Garvey , seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council organise a meeting between this Council and all the Cross/Border agencies ie Icban and the other three similar Agencies who at present have responsibility to promote Crossborder Development at every level."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council places a very strong emphasis on cross border networking and activity. Donegal County Council is represented through nominated elected members on: 1. NWRCBG - Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness (chair), Cllr. John Ryan, Cllr. Charlie Mc Conalogue, Cllr. Martin Farren, Cllr. Pdraig Mac Lochlainn, Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan. This meeting is also attended by the County Manager, Micheal O hEanaigh, Director of Services and Maria Ferguson (EU Unit).

2. ICBAN Network - Cllr. David Alcorn and Cllr. Brendan Byrne. Colin Mc Nulty, Community & Enterprise Division also attends. There are various sub-groups attached to ICBAN also, including the Roads to Opportunity Group,

Interreg IVA Reference Group and Spatial Planning Interreg IVA project, which members and executives also attend.

3. Donegal County Council is also involved through the Donegal County Development Board on the North West Partnership Board which brings together Donegal CDB and Derry Strategy Board representatives and which has identified priority goals for the region in the context of the NWGI and the Derry-Letterkenny Gateway. This board is co-chaired by the chairman of the Donegal CDB Cllr. Dessie Larkin. The County Manager is also a member.

4. Strong links have also been established with the COMET Partnership (representing the Belfast Metropolitan Council areas) and the North East Partnership Network representing north Antrim councils, in terms of a range of relevant projects, e.g. Gobbins / Sliabh Liag Interreg IVA project.

5. Elected members and council staff are also currently participating in the Interreg IVA crossplan spatial planning training programme for the north west gateway area, which is led by the ICLRD (International Centre for Local and Regional Development).

Part of the strong emphasis placed on this cross border activity relates to projects for which cross border funding has been attained. Examples of these projects are Gobbins / Sliabh Liag project; Urban and Village Project; spaceial project; SAILWEST marine tourism initiative, Women Into Public Life project.

The Council has now established an EU/Interreg Unit which has a very strong cross border focus in terms of seeking funds which can assist in the development of County Donegal and the border region.”

The need for ongoing collaboration was widely acknowledged with members outlining the need to hold a workshop/information day to showcase the activities of the cross-border organisations including ERNACT. It was suggested that contact also be made with personnel from the Committee of the Irish Regions Office.

C/66/11 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING AND REPLACEMENT WITH A SIMILAR SIZED 'GALLERY AND TRAINING ROOM INCLUDING TOILET FACILITIES' AT BARRACK HILL CARNDONAGH, CO DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Doherty, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the demolition of an existing building and replacement with a similar sized 'Gallery and Training Room including Toilet Facilities' at Barrack Hill Park, Carndonagh.

C/67/11 ADOPTION OF BYE LAWS MADE UNDER SECTION 13, 39 AND 40 OF THE CONTROL OF HORSES ACT, 1996 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (BYE-LAWS) REGULATIONS 2006

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to adopt the Bye Laws made under Sections 13, 39 and 40 of the Control of Horses Act, 1996 and the Local Government Act, 2001 (Bye-Laws) Regulations 2006.

C/68/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH JULY, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee held on the 13th July, 2010.

C/69/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 16th November, 2010.

C/70/11 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 17th November, 2010.

C/71/11 TO NOTE CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following Conference Report was noted:

Clr. Terence Slowey – The Local Government Budget 2011 held 10th to 12th December, 2010.

C/72/11 AUTHORISATION OF REPRESENTATION AT A SEMINAR, MEETING OR EVENT (ITEM (9))

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 & 2010 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to authorise the attendance of members at the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance and complying with the legal requirements.
3. The submission of a Conference Report by any member attending a conference.
 - Carlow Tourism – 9th National Tourism Conference to be held Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th March, 2011 at the Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow.
 - Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Employment Law and Insurance Issues “The consequences for you and your Local Authority” to be held Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March, 2011 at the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City.
 - Elected Member’s Training Seminar – Equal Status Legislation and its effect on service provision in

Local Authorities to be held Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March, 2011 at the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, County Mayo.

- Association of County and City Councils – Annual conference to be held Thursday 24th and Friday 25th March, 2011 at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly.
- The Institute of Professional Training – “Changing Trends in Drug and Alcohol Abuse to be held from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th March, 2011 at the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny.
- Department of The Environment – Training for Elected Members on the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, to be held Friday 8th April, 2011 at St Angela’s College, Sligo.

C/73/11 MAYOR’S BUSINESS

The Mayor thanked members for their co-operation during the meeting.

C/74/11 MANAGER’S REPORT

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and addendum circulated during the meeting.

The following Questions and Replies were noted:

C/75/11 AMOUNT SPENT IN 2010 BY THE COUNCIL ON ALL CAPITAL CONTRACTS THROUGH PUBLIC TENDERING ACROSS ALL DEPARTMENTS

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

"How much was spent on all capital contracts through Public Tendering across all departments in 2010 and that I be furnished with a breakdown of all figures and names of companies awarded all contracts?"

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“The substantial detail requested is currently being compiled by the various Service Directorates.

A detailed response will issue in this regard in the near future.”

C/76/11 ISSUING OF A RENTAL AGREEMENT TO
BALLYSHANNON REGENERATION GROUP FOR THE
RENTAL OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A
NEW TOURIST OFFICE AT THE BRIDGE,
BALLYSHANNON

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

"Will Donegal County Council immediately issue a rental agreement to Ballyshannon Regeneration Group for the rental of the Office for the purposes of a New Tourist Office at the Bridge, Ballyshannon?"

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

"Donegal County Council are awaiting essential information from Ballyshannon Regeneration Group to enable the Council to proceed with the lease as required."

C/77/11 PRIORITISATION OF EMMETT PARK ESTATE
CASTLEFIN FOR PIPE/VALVE REPLACEMENT AS
PROPOSED BY THE STRANORLAR AREA
COUNCILLORS TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS TO THE
WATER SUPPLY DURING SEVERE BAD WEATHER

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Will this Council prioritise the Emmett Park Estate Castlefin for pipe/valve replacement as proposed by the Stranorlar Area Councillors, so that residents are not left without water for over a month as was experienced during the recent severe weather."

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

"In relation to the problems experienced in Emmet Park during the severe weather, a comprehensive report is being prepared which will include suggested remedial works that would be necessary to prevent reoccurrence in future. It is expected that this will be completed over the coming weeks. Both the Housing and Water & Environment Directorates will then examine the report with a view to firstly agreeing the works and secondly, identifying if there is any potential

funding sources available which would enable the works to be undertaken.”

C/78/11 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SURVEYING AND CORRECTION OF SURFACE WATER BREACHES ON COUNTY ROADS PARTICULARLY IN THE STRANORLAR AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Please give a report on progress to date on Surveying and taking corrective measures on the raft of surface water breaches spilling onto county roads especially in the Stranorlar area, as agreed at previous meetings of this Council, as Investment in our roads over the last decade and more are being literally washed away by neglect of waterways and unregulated discharge of surface water causing flooding and destroying road surface every where?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“Following the Pilot Project on Discharge of Surface Water undertaken in the old Milford Electoral Area all Roads Areas have now been asked to carry out a similar survey in their areas. This will include requesting landowners, and individuals who have planning conditions to comply with in relation to drainage, to implement corrective measures where necessary.

Work has just commenced on these measures in the Stranorlar Electoral Area. It is hoped to provide updates at Electoral Area Meetings on progress on this item.”

C/79/11 UPDATE ON A SOLUTION TO FLOOD PREVENTION IN RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"What is the present update on a solution to flood prevention in Raphoe?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“The OPW have completed the pre-feasibility study of the flooding in Raphoe. The next stage of work to be completed

is the feasibility study itself. This essentially covers the extent of the flooding problem in Raphoe, i.e. the Rivers and areas affected and potentially affected. It will explore a range of solutions to tackle these affects and identify the preferred solution. The OPW, who are in charge of this study, have confirmed that funding is available this year. They have also indicated that work on the study will begin in May. Donegal County Council are assisting the OPW with any work they require in this regard. Donegal County Council and the OPW senior staff met in Raphoe in February to highlight the range of flooding issues in Raphoe to be considered as part of the study.”

C/80/11 CARRYING OUT OF A SAFETY AUDIT ON THE AREA ROAD KNOWN AS THE QUARRY IN PORTHALL, LIFFORD TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM LEAVING THE ROAD AND ENTERING THE DEEP WATER AT THE LOCATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Will this Council carry out a safety audit on the area of road known as the quarry in Porthall Lifford in relation to the present measures which exist to prevent a vehicle leaving the road and entering the deep water at this location?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Road Design will carry out a Road Safety Check at this location. The Road Safety Check will look at the existing site, looking at geometry, accident history, and safety options available. The Road Safety Check will then make a recommendation, if anything is required, at this site. The Road Safety Check will be completed and issued by end March.”

C/81/11 MINUTES FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"What external organisations or agencies does Donegal County Council routinely receive the Minutes of their meetings for information purposes and filing?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“It is understood that where Donegal Co. Council has elected, nominated or appointed any of its members to an outside body, it is the duty of that member(s) under Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001, to present a report to the Council, annually or at any time, if requested by the Mayor, on the activities and operation of that body. Members are reminded of this obligation at each AGM. Elected Members and Staff who are representatives or directors of external organisations would receive minutes from that organisation or agency. This would include North West Cross Border Group, North West Partnership Group, ICBAN, Road Safety Working Group, Donegal County Enterprise Board Ltd., Donegal County Enterprise Fund Ltd., Donegal Local Development Co. Ltd., Ballyshannon Leisure Management Co. Ltd, Fort Dunree Military Museum Ltd. Abbey Arts Centre Ballyshannon, Donegal Ancestry Ltd., Donegal Citizens Information Service Ltd., Donegal Community & Cultural Development Company Ltd., Earagail Festival Management Company Ltd., ERNACT EEIG, Letterkenny Theatre Management Co. Ltd.”

C/82/11

UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF 50KM SPEED LIMITS FROM THE GAA PITCH ON CARNMORE ROAD, DUNGLOE TO THE LITTLE BRIDGE-CORNASHALLOG

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"What is the present position regarding the moving of the 50 km speed limits from the G.A.A. pitch on Carnmore Road, Dungloe to the Little Bridge-Cornashallog agreed?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“There is a speed limit review underway at 5 locations around the county.

Carnmore road in Dungloe is one of these locations.

During the review, details will be presented at a forthcoming Local Area Meeting. It is expected that the proposal for a

revised location will be submitted to the NRA in the next week or so based on the internal review completed to date.”

C/83/11 CALL FOR THE PROVISION OF A ROADS MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION FOR ARANN MOR ISLAND TO PBE PROVIDED THROUGH THE LOCAL CO-OP

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"Will this council consider providing a roads maintenance allocation to arann mor island, and that the local co-op would provide the service?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Aranmore Island has been receiving a roads maintenance allocation for a number of years now. The amount each year is agreed with the Glenties Electoral Area Members.

The allocation in 2010 was circa €10,000. Generally, the allocation is spent by the Co-op however the roads service conduct tasks when specialist plant etc is needed.

A workshop is scheduled with the Members on the 03 March 2011 and this item is on the agenda for consideration. It is hoped that a similar arrangement to previous years is adopted as the benefits of this joint approach are numerous.”

C/84/11 STATUS OF FRONT LINE SERVICE PROVISION BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN SAME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"What do Donegal County Council classify as front line services and will the Council specify the number of both full and part time staff in each of the service areas in each year from 2005 to date?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

Vide Appendix 1

C/85/11 TIMESCALE FOR THE COMPLETION OF TURNKEY DEVELOPMENT OF 28 HOUSES AT DUNGLOE AND THE COST OF SAME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Will Donegal County Council provide details of the Turnkey Development of 28 houses at Dungloe to include: Cost of the Project; the Contractor and the Timescale for completion of these houses?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Turnkey Housing Development at Meenmore Dungloe contains 28 units made up of: 2 number four bedroom seven person two storey houses, 12 number three bedroom five person two storey houses, 2 number three bedroom four person two storey houses, 4 number two bedroom four person two storey houses, 2 number two bedroom three person single storey houses and 6 number two bedroom four person apartments, including land costs, design fees, all related site development works, fit for purpose and complete in all respects. The developer is SARK Construction Ltd. The all in cost is €4,812,400.00 and the contract period is 54 weeks.”

C/86/11 UPDATE POSITION ON THE PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL AT KILCLOONEY IN PORTNOO

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"Could I have a detailed report on the present position re the proposed swimming pool at Kilclooney in the Portnoo area?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Kilclooney Swimming Pool at the Dolmen Centre is a scheme that is currently not on any funded programme. The Council is however assisting the Local Group to advance a scheme that could at some point in the future become eligible for public funding. In this regard consultants have now been shortlisted and tender documents for the appointment of a consultant are under preparation. Within 3 months it is expected that a consultant will be appointed to

develop a scheme and advance a planning application for the project. The preliminary design and planning stage will be funded from the local groups own resources.”

C/87/11

UPDATE POSITION ON THE DESIGN BUILD AND OPERATE FOR THE DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES SEWAGE SCHEME AND THE FUNDING OF SAME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"Will this council provide a detailed analysis of the present position of the DBO for Dungloe and Glenties sewage scheme and does this council have funding to proceed with this project?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“The Dungloe Glenties Sewerage Scheme DBO is listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 as a contract to start. This means that it is expected to commence construction during the 3 year period of the programme. The Council received conditional approval of the contract documents for the DBO contract in February 2011 and this now allows the Council to commence the tender process for the contract. The tender process consists of prequalification followed by invitation to tender and it is possible that the Council could be in a position to appoint a contractor early in 2012. The matching funding for the scheme is expected to be less than 14% which has to be met by the Council through non-domestic loans (repaid through water service charges) and own resources (e.g. development contributions). The Councils ability to meet the matching funding will be reviewed in March 2011 in the context of the 3 year capital programme.”

C/88/11

TOTAL OF ALLOCATION FROM THE PRTB FOR 2010 AND THE NUMBER OF RENTED ACOMMODATION UNITS INSPECTED

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"How much money was allocated to DCC last year from the PRTB and how many private rented accommodation units were inspected?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“A total of €105,602 was received in 2010. This is based on a combination of inspections in the second half of 2009 and the first half of 2010. A total of 568 inspections were carried out in 2010.”

C/89/11 NUMBER OF DOGS IN DONEGAL AND THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF DOG LICENCES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Do we know how many dogs there are in Donegal and how does it correspond with the number of licenses issued?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“There are no figures available for the number of dogs in Donegal. For the year ending 31/12/2010 the number of dog licences issued in Donegal was 7282.”

C/90/11 UP-TO-DATE POSITION ON THE UPGRADE WORKS TO THE CHURCHILL WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"What is the up to date situation on the proposed upgrade works to the Churchill water supply?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“Negotiations are ongoing in relation to the purchase of land and it is expected that these will be concluded in the coming weeks. This will enable the proposed works to proceed to the planning process.”

C/91/11 PROJECTED FINAL ACCOUNT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN MILFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"What is the final account likely to be for the environmental improvement works in Milford, to include land purchase,

construction of car park, works to main street and church road?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The total expenditure for Milford Carpark / Link Road & the Environmental Improvements on the main Street and Church Road including Land costs will be approximately € 1,371,388.14.”

C/92/11

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC LIGHTING
PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"What or who has responsibility to deal with lighting funded by this Council, is there any monitoring of obligations and by whom?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

Airtricity has presently the contract for maintaining the public lighting system. The performance of airtricity is monitored by the Roads Directorate with a Senior Engineer assigned the overall responsibility of coordinating this function.

C/93/11

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ROADS AND WATER
DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE RECENT
ADVERSE WEATHER

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Can we expect any additional funding due to the adverse weather conditions already faced by this Council in Road and Water damage?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council received an extra allocation of just over €1.5 million in relation to recoupment of extra costs relating to the severe weather.

Both the National Road grants from the NRA and the Non-National Road Grants from the Department of Transport

have been notified. These notifications did not include any special monies for severe weather damage to roads. However, the DOT grant included a new allocation of €673,000 for winter maintenance in respect of Local and Regional roads.

It is anticipated that further monies for Repairs to the Water System will be made available through the Water Conservation Programme in due course.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.