

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2010, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE,
DUNGLOE**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Pádraig Doherty
Cllr Séamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr Terence Slowey

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services
John Gallagher –Area Manager Water & Environment, S.E.E
Frank Sweeney –Area Manager, Planning & Economic
Development
Brendan Mc Fadden–Area Manager,Roads & Transportation, S.E.E
Brendan O’Donnell – NRDO Engineer
Rodney Irwin – NRDO Engineer
Michael Rowsome –SSO, Corporate Services

APOLOGIES: Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community, Enterprise &
Cultural Service

**GEA 165/10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
13th JULY 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Slowey the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th July 2010 were agreed subject to the inclusion of Minute **GEA 164/10**;

“COMMERCIAL RATES

Cllr Gallagher requested that a meeting be convened to discuss and address:

- (i) The declining rate collection levels in the Glenties Electoral Area as a consequence of business closures &
- (ii) Assistance that can be provided to businesses.

Cllr Gallagher requested that senior finance staff in the Council, all Public Representatives and Economic Development Bodies be invited to attend the meeting.”

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 166/10

PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning statistics.

GEA 167/10

PLANNING REFUSALS

Members noted the report previously circulated in relation to planning refusals during the period from 6th July 2010 to 3rd September 2010.

GEA 168/10

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager outlining enforcement statistics for the period from 1/01/2010 to 31/07/2010.

In response to Cllr Ó Domhnaill's request to develop a strategy to address illegal developments the Planning Manager advised Members that the Council have systems in place to adhere to the statutory obligation to pursue all offenders and that delays in the court system are an ongoing problem.

GEA 169/10

REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2012

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the level of local area involvement in the review process the Planning Manager detailed the role of the area planning office in the collation of information for revision of the County Development Plan.

GEA 170/10

EXTENSION OF DURATION

The Planning Manager advised members that the Planning & Development Amendment Act 2010 has introduced changes that extend the grounds on the basis of which the duration of a planning permission may be extended. The Committee were informed that the execution of substantial works are no longer a necessity and that an extension of duration may be submitted where there are considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature beyond the control of the applicant which substantially militated against either the commencement of development or the carrying out of substantial works. Members were further advised that the extension must comply with current County Development Policy.

GEA 171/10

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

In response to recommendations from Cllr. Doherty and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill to reduce the level of charges imposed on indigenous members of local communities, the Planning Manager outlined the basis of the adopted charging structure, and agreed to prepare a comparative report on the development contribution scheme in other Gaeltacht counties.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 172/10

2011 SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager, outlining a revised priority list as a consequence of damage to the bridge at Mulantyboyle/Gortnamucklagh outside Glenties.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee agreed the priority list detailed hereunder:

1. R259 Crolly – Carrickfinn €250,000
2. L2693-1 Mulantyboyle/Gortnamucklagh Bridge €100,000
3. R251 Back of Errigal

Cllr. Slowey requested the Roads Service to liaise with the Gardai in relation to diversionary routes onto minor roads.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Council take the initiative to apply to the DOE for a fund of money solely dedicated to the restoration of bridges.

Cllr Gallagher requested the attendance of an official of the OPW at a future meeting to ascertain their remit and also to discuss OPW funding of repair works at Mulantyboyle/Gortnamucklagh Bridge due to incidents of flooding at this location.

GEA 173/10

ROAD SAFETY

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that he will arrange a meeting to be attended by the Road Safety Officer and requested the submission of all road safety issues.

GEA 174/10

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager. The Committee commended the work carried out by the Roads Service in the delivery of the Programme to date.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Roads Service to enforce hedge-cutting regulations in locations where land ownership cannot be ascertained.

GEA 175/10

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to withhold maintenance monies from the service provider until lights are switched on and properly maintained. The Roads Manager informed the Committee that a meeting has been scheduled with Eirtricity.

Members agreed to allocate €3700 to Lunniagh Public Lighting and the Roads Manager undertook to expedite this project.

GEA 176/10

MEENACUING SPEED LIMITS

The Roads Manager undertook to convey Members issues to Road Design.

GEA 177/10

ROAD GRITTING PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager agreed to a request from the Senior Engineer with responsibility for Winter Maintenance that a set of Maps be circulated to each Member showing the routes contained within the Priority Gritted Routes.

GEA 178/10

MULTI ANNUAL ROADWORKS RESTORATION 2011 - 2013

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee agreed the Multi Annual Roadworks Restoration Programme for 2011 –2013, which was circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager.

GEA 179/10

N56 DUNGLOE TO GLENTIES (KILRAINE)

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Brendan O'Donnell, NRDO Engineer in relation to the design and construction of approximately 27km of new National Secondary Road from Dungloe to the Kilraine junction and also including the provision of a cycle track.

Members were advised that preliminary alignment design and early environmental assessments have been completed and that preliminary ground investigation site works have been substantially completed.

The Committee welcomed the possibility of starting construction on some 4½ km's of this pilot project in 2011 subject to the lands being available by agreement and approval of a Part 8 planning application.

GEA 180/10

NATIONAL SECONDARY PAVEMENT SURFACING WORKS 2010

The Committee considered the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Rodney Irwin, NRDO Engineer in relation to National Secondary Pavement Surfacing Works, Weather Related Pavement Rehabilitation and 2010 NRA allocations for the Glenties Electoral Area. Members highlighted maintenance issues throughout the Electoral area for the attention of the NRDO office.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 181/10

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Housing Capital Programme.

Members were advised that:

- (i) The Loughanure 12 unit turnkey scheme is 90% complete
- (ii) The Meenaniller 23 unit turnkey scheme is complete and let
- (iii) The contractor has recommenced remedial works on site at the Lettermacaward in house scheme.

The Housing Manager also informed the Committee of the status of proposals for the development of 28 units in Dungloe.

Cllr. Doherty commended the Housing Service for their role in the completion and letting of the Meenaniller Scheme.

Cllr. Alcorn requested a list of Housing Need in the Glenties Electoral Area for inclusion in the Housing Report to the next meeting.

GEA 182/10

SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

Members considered the report on the status of specific instance cottages as at the 1st of September 2010 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill recommended the retention of S.I. Cottage provision as an essential element of Housing Policy.

GEA 183/10

LOANS & GRANTS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager. In response to queries from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill the Housing Manager advised Members that the reduced level of 2010 grant approvals is a reflection of decreased levels of applications. Cllr. Alcorn & Cllr. Gallagher raised concerns about restrictive conditions attached to eligibility for Housing Grants.

The Housing Manager informed Members of the status of the Remedial Works Programme and also of Improvements of standards in Council House Schemes.

GEA 184/10

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

Cllr. Slowey highlighted the increasing need for housing in Ardara and requested the inclusion of R.A.S. provision in future Housing reports.

GEA 185/10**CASUAL VACANCIES**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 1st of September 2010.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to engage the services of private contractors to expedite the letting of vacancies and to also address the issue of damage caused to housing stock by tenants.

Cllr Gallagher requested a report in relation to voluntary Housing vacancies in the Dungloe area.

GEA 186/10**DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**

Cllr. Alcorn extended an invitation to the Director of Housing to attend the next area meeting to discuss the following issues:

- (a) Housing Provision
- (b) Expected completion date of Lettermacaward Housing Scheme
- (c) Road Damage during Construction of Housing Schemes.

Cllr. Slowey expressed frustration at the cost of €65k imposed on the Council to repair road damage arising from construction of the Clos Naomh Conaill Housing Estate in Glenties, which should not have been necessary having regard to the planning conditions pertaining to this development.

GEA 187/10**SECTION 183 DISPOSAL**

The Committee noted the recommendation of the Housing Service to place a Section 183 Disposal of Land adjacent to the Altan Housing Scheme, Burtonport before the full Council.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
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GEA 188/10

MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to the status of the Major Capital Programme.

GEA 189/10

SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of Capital Works in the sum of €200,000 funded under this programme.

GEA 190/10

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

Members noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to Group Water Schemes under construction and private source group water schemes.

GEA 191/10

MAGHEROARTY WATER SUPPLY

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager in relation to disruption experienced by consumers arising from ongoing bursts in the Magheroarty area. The Water Service Manager informed the Committee that the 100mm Asbestos cement pipeline laid in 1960 serves houses extending up to the 80 metre contour level necessitating high pressure. Members were advised that the Council have prepared a detailed submission under Water Conservation Stage 3 Works for funding to carry out pipe replacement to resolve the issue.

The Committee requested the attendance of Paul Kilcoyne, Director of the Water Service at the next meeting to provide an update on this issue.

GEA 192/10

ILLEGAL DUMPING

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher the Water & Environment Manager advised that funding is not available to remove asbestos from illegal dumping sites.

The Committee were informed that the Council are considering the utilisation of mobile CCTV cameras to address ongoing illegal dumping activity.

Cllr. Alcorn requested that a report be prepared for the next meeting detailing;

- (1) Number of litter fines issued
- (2) Number paid
- (3) Amount outstanding

Cllr. Alcorn also acknowledged the assistance provided to Community Groups by the Council's Environment Service.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 193/10

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to Community Enterprise & Cultural Services.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

