

Minutes of AGM of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held at 2.00pm
on 25th July 2006 in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public
Services Centre.

Members Present:

Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr John Boyle
Cllr Thomas Pringle
Cllr Jonathan Kennedy
Cllr Sean McEniff
Cllr Philip McGlynn
Cllr John Meehan

Officials in Attendance

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Sharleen Tinney, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Garry Martin, Divisional Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building
Paul Christie, A/Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
John McCarron, Executive Engineer, Housing & Building
Paul Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment
Mary Daly, Town Clerk, Ballyshannon Town Commissioners
John Hegarty, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment

Apologies

Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment
Joe McNulty, Town Clerk, Bundoran Town Council
Barney McLaughlin, Administrative Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

Cllr. Byrne welcomed the two new Members to the meeting, Cllr. McGlynn, Cathaoirleach, Bundoran Town Council and Cllr. Meehan, Cathaoirleach, Ballyshannon Town Council.

He also welcomed Ms. Mary Daly, Town Clerk, Ballyshannon Town Council to the meeting of Donegal Electoral Area.

Mr. G Gilroy advised that the County Council is anxious to improve communications with the Town Councils within the county and where possible to bring about a closer coordination in work programmes to provide a better service to the citizens of Donegal. Therefore, Town Clerks are invited to meetings of the Electoral Area Committee, initially to acquaint themselves with the Council's work-programmes, which affect their areas. Apologies were noted from Mr. Joe McNulty, Town Clerk, Bundoran Town Council who was on leave.

DEAC 21.00	Election of Cathaoirleach
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DEAC 21.01	Election of Cathaoirleach
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Nominations were sought for Cathaoirleach of the Donegal Electoral Area. Cllr. McEniff proposed Cllr Byrne remain as Cathaoirleach for another year. Cllr. Kennedy seconded this.

Cllr. O'Neill was proposed by Cllr. Boyle and seconded by Cllr. Meehan.

Cllr O'Neill requested a recorded vote and members voted as follows;

Cllr. Boyle Cllr. Meehan Cllr. O'Neill voted for **Cllr. O'Neill**
Cllr. McEniff, Cllr. Kennedy, Cllr. McGlynn, and Cllr. Byrne voted for **Cllr. Byrne**

Cllr. Pringle – was not present when the voting took place.

Cllr. Brendan Byrne was re-elected by four votes to three as Cathaoirleach for Donegal Electoral Area.

Cllr Byrne thanked Members for nominating and re-electing him as Cathaoirleach for another year.

Cllr O'Neill wished Cllr Byrne every success as Cathaoirleach.

DEAC 22.00	Corporate Services
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Congratulations were conveyed to Cllr Jonathan Kennedy on his recent marriage to Stephanie.

Cllr. Byrne also congratulated John McCarron, Executive Engineer, Housing on his marriage to Elaine.

Cllr. O'Neill congratulated Cllr. Byrne on his recent engagement to Carmel and wished them all the best.

DEAC 22.01	Consideration of Minutes
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Consideration of minutes of meeting Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on 22nd May 2006

On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Boyle, the minutes of the meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on 22nd May 2006 were adopted.

DEAC 22.02	Matters arising from the minutes
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Rosstown Community Council

Cllr O'Neill referred to the follow-up on issues raised at the previous Electoral Area Meeting where a deputation was received from Rosstown Community Council. Mr. G Gilroy advised Members that he had responded to a query from a member of the deputation and advised that the issues raised would be dealt with by the relevant services. He pointed out that Mr. B McLaughlin's report confirms that he had responded to the particular issues as detailed in Item 1 of the report for Community, Culture and Enterprise.

Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation informed Members that he had been on leave for much of the time since the previous meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee and would be responding to the Rosstown Community Council in respect of issues they had raised pertaining to his service as a matter of urgency

'Car Showroom' at Picnic Area along Donegal Road, Ballyshannon

Cllr. O'Neill referred to his previous request for action to be taken regarding the 'car showroom' at the Picnic Area at Donegal Road, Ballyshannon. Cllr. Meehan stated he was advised on the morning of the meeting that the situation had now been addressed.

Advertising on footpaths

In response to Cllr. O'Neill's request that action be taken on the obstruction caused by sandwich board advertisements outside businesses, Mr. P Thomas advised Members an update would be provided for the next Meeting of the Electoral Area.

DEAC 22.03	Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC
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Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC

Members noted the activity reports for the Donegal PSC up to the end of June 2006 circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services.

DEAC 22.04	Date of Next Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area
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Members noted that the agreed date for the next Donegal Electoral Area Committee meeting was - **11th September 2006.**

DEAC 23.00	Housing & Building
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DEAC 23.01	Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme
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Housing Capital Programme.

Members noted the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme as at 14th July 2006 circulated with the Agenda. Ms. M Hannigan informed Members a contractor had been selected and work will be commencing shortly on the Frosses and Laghey Schemes. She also referred to the Drumrooske Scheme, where it was envisaged to let the 46 social houses with offer letters to issue by the end of August 2006. The Council would then advertise the 12 affordable houses thereafter.

Housing in Frosses

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle on the up to date position on the housing situation in Frosses, Ms. M Hannigan informed the meeting a contractor had been selected and a start would be made on the site shortly.

Housing development in Dunkineely

Mr J McCarron, in response to a query from Cllr. Boyle advised Members that Part 5 did not apply to the proposed housing development in Dunkineely.

DEAC 23.02	Progress Report - Social Housing
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Progress Report - Social Housing

Members noted the progress report as at 14th July, 2006 on Loans and Grants circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. M Hannigan.

Land at Ballyshannon

In response to Cllr. O'Neill's query on acquiring land at Ballyshannon for Social housing, Ms. M Hannigan advised the Council were actively pursuing land bank and that she was aware of the great need for housing in the area. She also advised that recommendations from Members in this respect would be welcomed.

'Part 5' Housing Developments in Killybegs

In response to Cllr. Pringle's query regarding Part 5 applications, Ms. M Hannigan advised Members that developers of multiple housing developments are obliged to come to Housing first and sign the declaration before submitting their Planning application. She confirmed developers are adhering to this procedure at present.

Mr. J McCarron informed Members, the Council were actively looking for housing units rather than cash payments, however it was difficult to get agreement. The Council have secured some units in the Ballyshannon area. Cllr. McEniff stated the Council were not paying enough to the developers for these units for social housing, resulting in the difficulty of obtaining units. He accepted that the Department must authorise the level of payments and suggested the Council make a strong case for an increase in the level of payments allowed to developers for housing units.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill, it was agreed the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking a deputation be received to discuss this issue.

Ms. M Hannigan undertook to make comparisons with other Counties and advise Members at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area.

DEAC 23.03	Casual Vacancies
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Casual Vacancies

Members noted the casual vacancy report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. M Hannigan.

DEAC 23.04	Other Housing Matters
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Drimark Proposal

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposed Traveller group housing scheme on the old NRA site at Drimark. Members made reference to the discussion on the previous day with the Drimark Committee and the written submission received from them outlining twenty reasons why the group felt this site was completely unsuitable for this purpose. Members indicated their agreement with the objections raised by the Drimark committee and their support for their call that this proposal be withdrawn.

On the proposal of Cllr. Boyle, seconded by Cllr. McEniff, Members recommended that the application be withdrawn and not be included on the agenda of the September meeting of the full Council.

Ms. M Hannigan noted Members concerns and request. She undertook to convey the recommendation from the Donegal Electoral Area Committee to the Director of Housing and the Senior Engineer. She advised Members however that it was likely that the legal process, which had started, would have to be completed and therefore this item may have to be included on the agenda at the September meeting. She confirmed it was a matter for the elected members at that stage.

In response to questions as to why the site was selected in the first instance, Mr. J McCarron advised Members that from a technical point of view, the site was deemed to have no fundamental flaws. This had been confirmed by preliminary technical reports submitted by the Planning, Sanitary Services and NRDO sections.

During the discussion a number of alternatives were suggested and the view was expressed that similar objections will be received for alternative sites. It was felt that a Workshop should be arranged to consider all options before the Council agree a way forward or an alternative site is selected.

DEAC 24.00	Roads and Transportation
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DEAC 24.01	Local Improvement Schemes 2006
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Local Improvement Schemes 2006

Mr. P Thomas informed Members of some changes made to the list of Local Improvement Schemes as follows;

ID – 3173 – John Cassidy, The Rock, Ardeskin, Donegal – **withdrawn**

ID – 3429 – Patrick Gallagher, Drimcoe, Mountcharles, Donegal P.O. – **withdrawn**

ID – 3775 – Eugene Haughey, Roxborro, Kilcar - **withdrawn**

Replaced by 4431 – Michael Curristin, Tullnagrena, Letterbarrow of the replacement list.

Members noted confirmation of funding was awaited from Clar and this would be required prior to proceeding with the Clar list.

DEAC 24.02	EU Co-funding
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EU Co-funding

Mr. P Thomas referred to the agreed Countywide Priority List for EU Co-funded projects, which was to be reviewed for 2007. Last year projects within the Donegal Area had been agreed at either end of the electoral area as follows; in the West, the Killybegs /Malinbeg Road and the Industrial Estate Road in Killybegs, in the South, the Rossnowlough Link Road and the Laghey/Pettigo Road. As the Rossnowlough Link had now been completed he proposed that the Ballintra to Rossnowlough Road replace it, and the others remain the same.

Cllr O’Neill proposed that the Carrickboy/Sminver road be included on the list, particularly the area around the dangerous corner near the old Halting site. Cllr Meehan seconded this. Mr. Thomas advised Members he would have to enquire with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government if that particular road qualifies under the criteria for this scheme and undertook to revert back to Members and that a Workshop would be held to discuss options to improve this Road. Members agreed that if the Carrickboy/Sminver road meets the criteria to include it on the priority list. If not members agreed to add the Ballintra/Rossnowlough road.

DEAC 24.03	N 15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update
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N 15 Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update

Members noted the N 15 Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update Report circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr O'Neill expressed his disappointment on the current status of the land acquisition and in particular that only 105 landowners out of a total of 139 had agreed and signed up. He also expressed his disappointment that the lights on the new bridge on the Bypass were not operational.

Members also discussed the disposal of unused land at Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass and felt that the original owners be offered this land back.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill, it was agreed that the surplus land at the Bundoran/Ballyshannon By-pass be sold back to the original landowners.

Cllr O'Neill requested a Member of staff from the Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass and the Donegal National Roads Design Office be in attendance at the next Electoral Area meeting. Mr. P Thomas undertook to convey the request to both offices.

Archaeology discovery at By-pass, Ballyshannon

Cllr. O'Neill expressed his disappointment with the manner in which the skeletal remains, which were discovered as a result of work at the by-pass in Ballyshannon were dealt with, including the erection of an inappropriate mesh fence at the site, which was unsightly. He also referred to the absence of parking and information in relation to the Old Church in spite of the promise of €80,000 funding. He requested that remedial works be carried out at this site as was previously undertaken.

Request for an Official Opening of new footbridge over the river Erne at Ballyshannon

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Meehan it was agreed to hold an official opening of the footbridge at the Erne, Ballyshannon. Mr. P Thomas undertook to contact the appropriate officials to arrange this.

DEAC 24.04	N 56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme.
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N 56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update

Members noted the N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update Report circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC 24 .05	Other Roads Matters
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Roundabout at Bundoran

Cllr McEniff expressed his concern regarding caravans illegally parking adjacent to the roundabout on the Bypass. Many complaints were received from the residents in the area, which was both dangerous and untidy.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. Meehan, Members agreed that more stones be placed at the particular area to prevent this unauthorised parking. Cllr McEniff advised that the local landowners were in agreement with this proposal. Mr Thomas undertook to look into the matter and revert to Members.

Pedestrian Crossings, Donegal Town

In response to the request from Cllr. Kennedy for upgrades to be made to the crossings on the Diamond and at Quay Street, Donegal Town, Mr. Thomas advised Members he would update Members fully at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

Take-over of storm water drain at Ardeskin

Referring to storm water drain at Ardeskin, Donegal Town (pl 03/967 Liam & Sean McCann) which the residents had requested the Council to take-over, on the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, Members agreed to take over this storm water drain. Mr P Thomas indicated that the Council was in favour of taking-over this drain and undertook to progress the matter.

Reconstruction of wall at the Market Yard, Ballyshannon

In response to a query from Cllr. Meehan as to when the wall at the Market Yard, Ballyshannon would be replaced, Mr. Thomas advised Members the matter was currently being dealt with by Mr. D Gillespie, Executive Engineer.

Road Markings in Ballyshannon

Cllr Meehan requested that the lines on the junction boxes in Ballyshannon be renewed; Mr. Thomas agreed to look into the matter.

Illegal Parking at Millstreet, Pettigo

Cllr. Pringle referred to his previous request that action be taken with regard to cars parking illegally on the footpaths at Millstreet, Pettigo, advising that a child was knocked down there recently. Mr. Thomas agreed to write to the Superintendent and request action be taken.

Class 3 Tertiary Roads

Cllr. Pringle referred to previous discussion in relation to the road to Battery Hill, which had been prioritised and asked if any funding had been allocated for this work under Class 3 Tertiary Roads.

Mr. Thomas advised there was no funding allocated to date and agreed to follow up on the matter.

Signage

In response to a query from Cllr. Pringle, Mr. Thomas confirmed that if brown finger posts were provided for the Maritime Centre in Killybegs and Catherine's Well, they would then be erected by the Roads Department.

Cllr O'Neill requested a sign be erected outside the Old Democrat Offices in Ballyshannon stating 'No overnight parking' at that particular location was permitted. Mr. Thomas undertook to have a sign erected.

Cllr McEniff requested signage be erected on the Rossnowlagh road directing traffic to Enniskillen, Belleek and Omagh to assist the current flow of traffic. Ms. M Daly advised that Ballyshannon Town Council had been told that an agreement had been made to have temporary signs erected following consultation with the Road Design Office in Lifford. It was also noted that signage on the Ballyshannon Bypass is to be reviewed now that the road had opened.

Footpath between Station Road and Belleek Road, Ballyshanon

Cllr. O'Neill referred to the decision at a previous area meeting to construct a footpath between Station Road and the Belleek Road in Ballyshannon. This matter was raised again by him at yesterday's meeting of the County Council.

Cllr O'Neill requested that this matter be discussed immediately with the E. S. B., whom he advised would make the land available to construct the footpath. He also requested that provision be made in the Road Works budget for this work.

Mr. P Thomas undertook to look into this matter and to report to the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

Ballintra Junction

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for repairs to be carried out at the Ballintra Junction, Mr. P Thomas undertook to look into this matter with a view to progressing same.

Flooding in Ballintra

Cllr McEniff raised his concerns regarding surface water from the street flooding a public house in Ballintra following heavy rain, and the ongoing problems as a result of it. In response to the concerns raised, Mr. Thomas who advised he was not familiar with the difficulty, but undertook to look into the matter and revert to Members.

DEAC 25.00	Planning & Economic Development
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Apologies were noted from Mr. D Kelly, Area Manager, Planning and Economic Development who was on annual leave. Mr. P Christie, Acting Area Manager was representing Mr. D Kelly.

DEAC 25.01	Consideration of Recent Refusals
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Consideration of recent refusals

Members noted the recent refusals report for the period up to 30th June, 2006 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC 25.02	Planning Enforcement
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Planning Enforcement

Members noted the Planning Enforcement – current status – summary report as at 14th July 2007 circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr O’Neill raised the issue of unauthorised development occurring at the weekend and the need for staff to be available to deal with any such activity.

It was proposed by Cllr. O’Neill, seconded by Cllr. Meehan that the Council make provision for emergency cover to be provided over the weekend period to deal with any unauthorised development.

DEAC 25.03	Planning Statistics
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Planning Statistics

Members noted the planning statistics report for the period up to the 30th April 2006, circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC 25.04	Other Planning Matters
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Ballyshannon Town Plan.

In response to a query from Cllr O’Neill as to when the public consultation process for the Ballyshannon Town Plan would commence, Mr. P Christie advised Members it was anticipated work on the Plan would commence the end of September/early October in the Central Planning Unit.

DEAC 26.00	Water, Environment & Emergency Services
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Apologies were noted from Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Paul Lyons attended in his place.

DEAC 26.01	Group Schemes
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Group Schemes

Members noted the update report on Group Schemes as circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC 26.02	South West Donegal Water Supply
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South West Donegal Water Supply

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and that the site investigation contracts have commenced. It was acknowledged that some complaints had been received from residents in the Teelin area regarding traffic difficulties.

Mr. Lyons informed Members the issue was being addressed.

Cllr. Byrne raised concerns that the preliminary report does not propose that the scheme will serve all the rural areas. Mr. Lyons confirmed the Braid and Boggin areas are not included in the current proposals. He undertook to convey the Members concerns on the matter and advise Members of the up to date position.

DEAC 26.03	Major Capital Programme
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Major Capital Programme

Members noted the report on the Major Capital Programme circulated with the Agenda.

Doonan Capital Extension

Mr. John Hegarty, Water Capital Services Section circulated a map and outlined to Members a proposal seeking their approval for a Special Development Charge to be agreed which would help fund an extension of the main sewer to the Doonan area in Donegal Town. The extension would include a single pumping station with a total estimated cost of the project to be in excess of €1m. If this extension to the main sewer were not provided the Council would have to refuse any further development in this area.

Funding could be raised from three sources, i.e.

A charge on the 61 existing houses at €5,000 per unit.

Funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, under the Serviced Land Initiative, which would cover up to 40% of the project cost.

The balance of an estimated €423,000 by way of Special Development Charge.

A levy of an additional €2,000 per housing unit was required to make up the balance of the necessary funding. On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr.

Kennedy, Members unanimously approved the proposal.

DEAC 26.04	Laghey Civic Amenity Site
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Laghey Civic Amenity Site

Members noted as per report circulated at the meeting that the contractor has started on site and removal of large quantities of rock on the site were proving time-consuming, but the good spell of weather recently was an advantage to works being carried out.

DEAC 26.05	Other Water & Environment Matters.
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Mr. P Lyons highlighted to Members that due to the good spell of weather recently, a number of areas were experiencing a shortage in water supply, e.g. Bundoran and Rossnowlagh. He stressed how important it was that all consumers were vigilant in relation to leaks and used the public water supply sparingly.

Rossnowlagh Leg of the Ballyshannon/Rossnowlagh Water Scheme

Cllr McEniff referred to ongoing difficulties in relation to water supply in the Rossnowlagh area and in particular to correspondence he had received from the Rossnowlagh Amenities Association. This submission set out proposals for consideration by the County Council and included an offer to underwrite the estimated cost of €200,000 to lay a 6in water-main for a length of 2 kilometres above the sewer pipe which is to be laid at the Hollow road, as part of the Donegal Bay Waste Management Scheme. It was felt that this would ensure a continued water supply in the area when this work is ongoing and reduce the number of times this road will have to be dug up. Mr. P Lyons informed Members that waste water contractors are onsite at present.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill it was agreed to advise the County Manager, Mr Michael McLoone, Mr Jim Holohan, Director of Water Services and Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads, of Members full support for this proposal.

Water Main at Church Road, Bundoran.

In response to a query from Cllr. McEniff concerning what stage the development on the water main at Church Road, Bundoran is at; Mr. P Lyons informed members that it was unlikely that the water main on the Church Road, Bundoran would be replaced. He confirmed that it had been anticipated, that these works would be carried out in conjunction with the works on the Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass, however, the works at this location as part of the by-pass works only included footpath realignment and it was therefore unlikely that the water main replacement would be included.

Provision of a skip at the Quay, Donegal Town

Members raised the need to provide facilities for waste disposal for the many visitors to the Quay area, Donegal Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. Kennedy, Members requested a skip be provided at the Quay, Donegal Town, adjacent to the berth for the Water Bus. Mr. P Lyons undertook to look into the matter and to revert to Members.

Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme

With regard to the Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme, Cllr. O'Neill questioned if the scheme would now be extended to include the 12 houses at Carrickboy. Mr. Lyons advised that the details of this matter had been forwarded to the Capital Section. Members will be kept informed of the progress.

Battery Sewerage Scheme

In response to a query from Cllr. O'Neill regarding the Battery Sewerage Scheme, Mr. Lyons advised he would check if the Scheme had been taken-over by Donegal County Council and revert back to Members.

DEAC 27.00	Community, Culture and Enterprise
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Apologies were noted from Mr. Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer who was on annual leave. Mr. Garry Martin, Divisional Manager, Community Culture & Enterprise Services was in attendance to deal with Community, Culture and Enterprise matters.

DEAC 27.01	Report on Community & Enterprise Services
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Report on Community & Enterprise Services.

Members noted the updated report on Community & Enterprise Services circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Martin, Divisional Manager.

Development Contribution Scheme

A detailed report was circulated and presented by Garry Martin on the Operational Update of the Capital Programme for Community, Culture and Enterprise Funded under the Development Contribution Scheme, as of July 2006. Mr Martin stressed that these funds could only be expended on infrastructure owned by the County Council or State agencies.

He confirmed that the Council was looking at a budget of approximately €1.1m across the 6 electoral areas, which broke down to approximately €188k per area. On top of this €0.4m has been allocated towards the provision of a regional cultural centre in Letterkenny. This is a tentative budget for 2006 and a review will be carried out towards year-end to monitor the funding. He confirmed that development of playgrounds had been prioritised by the Council for this funding and that an additional €120k had been received for the County from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for playgrounds. Killybegs has been prioritised for the Donegal Electoral Area and this still has to be completed. Members confirmed their agreement to the playground at Killybegs proceeding.

He also advised some funding would be required to develop a multi annual programme for the provision / improvement of walking routes and Members confirmed their agreement to this.

Mr. Martin advised that the Donegal Town Community Chamber was seeking the Council's support for the development of Enterprise Units in Donegal Town. Subject to Members' agreement in principle to assist the Council would check if the proposal meets the criteria for this funding. He would revert back at a future meeting. Members indicated their support in principle for the proposal and a number of comments/queries were dealt with as follows:

Cllr Kennedy welcomed the proposal and offered his full support for the project. He called on the Community Chamber, the St John Bosco Centre and the Council to work together and for a 'Master Plan' for this area to be prepared, particularly in light of the recent job losses in the area.

Mr. G Martin undertook to convey Cllr Kennedy's request for a 'Development Plan' to be prepared to the Planning & Economic Development Section.

Members welcomed the proposed development of the Enterprise Units in Donegal Town.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding a motion adopted by the Council to provide an Enterprise Centre at Pettigo, Mr. Martin informed Members that the motion had not been overlooked and that the Council is looking to convene a meeting in Pettigo in an effort to progress the matter. He further advised that the key mover for Donegal Town was the funding already allocated from Enterprise Ireland for the Enterprise Centre. He also confirmed that a criteria for the Council in providing assistance to such projects is core funding must be in place by the other development agencies, rather than the Council leading out on funding.

DEAC 27.02	Marine & Leisure Report
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Marine & Leisure Report

Members noted the report on Marine and Leisure as circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Martin, Divisional Manager. Mr Martin confirmed that the assessment of the Pilot project at Rossnowlagh would be considered in detail at a future Area meeting.

DEAC 27.03	Cultural Services Report
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Cultural Services Report

Members noted the Cultural Services Report circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr. Meehan requested that the 'Breezy Willow' storytelling event, attended by patients from the Shiel Hospital, which was held in Bundoran Library in July, be held in the Ballyshannon Library in future.

Mr. G Martin undertook to convey the Members request to Ms. E Burgees, County Librarian for her attention.

DEAC 27.04	Donegal Electoral Area Members Fund Allocations 2006
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Donegal Electoral Area Members Fund Allocations 2006

Members noted the Grant Allocation report for the Members allocations for 2006, circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Martin.

DEAC 27.05	County Childcare Committee
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Donegal County Childcare Committee

Members noted the 2006 Action Plan progress report from Donegal County Childcare Committee Ltd. circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr O'Neill referred to a shortfall of funding in the region of €350k, which the Saimer Childcare Group have in relation to the development of their proposed new premises and asked if the Council could assist in bridging this funding gap. Mr. Martin informed Members that while he had no answers today, he would look into it and revert to Members in the matter.

DEAC 27.06	Presentation by Walking Trails Development Officer.
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Mr. Jeremy Smith, Walking Trails Development Officer attended the meeting to update Members on the development of walking routes in the area. Mr. Smith presented a detailed report to Members, which outlined the short and medium term plans for walking routes in the County, and in particular in south Donegal.

Cllr Boyle suggested that the old railway line from Donegal to Killybegs would make a suitable trail for walking if developed. Mr. Smith advised if local groups had the agreement of the landowners, the Council could work to progress the idea in consultation with the local community. In response to query from Cllr Boyle if Clar funding was available to assist with funding walking routes, Mr. G Martin undertook to check and to revert to Members.

Cllr Meehan referred to the proposals in the Ballyshannon Leisure Centre, for the development of a 'green gym' and sought support to promote the project.

Cllr. Byrne, on behalf of members complimented Mr. Smith on his presentation and thanked him for the work carried out to date.

DEAC 28.00	Attendance of Deputation from United Fish Industries, Killybegs.
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Deputation from United Fish Industries, Killybegs.

Cllr Byrne welcomed the deputation from United Fish Industries to the meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee. Mr. Tom Tynan opened the presentation by introducing himself and his colleagues attending on behalf of United Fish; Helge Kosager, John Healy, Ruth Barr and Diarmuid O'Loan. A detailed 'Power-point' presentation was made to the meeting, which outlined the background of United Fish Industries, the presence of IAWS in this area for the past 40 years, together with details of their plan to relocate their fishmeal factory from its current location on the Donegal Road to the Harbour Centre. A copy of the presentation was also circulated to those present. Members were advised that the Group are presently in the process of putting together a planning application for the project.

Cllr Byrne thanked the deputation for their detailed presentation and stated the relocation would be a great benefit to the town of Killybegs.

Cllr. McEniff agreed with Cllr Byrne in support of the move to the new Pier site.

Cllr. O'Neill congratulated the deputation on securing the tender from the Department of Marine and Natural Resources and hoped the project would be widely supported.

Cllr. Pringle welcomed the development in the Killybegs area and queried if there were an increase in the capacity of production would there be sufficient materials. In response, Mr. Tynan advised Members that due to the strategic location of the plant, it was considered that there would be sufficient resources and it was anticipated to develop the market further.

Cllr Boyle also welcomed the development and questioned when the relocation would commence if planning were obtained. Mr. Tynan stated it was anticipated to commence works March/April 2007, with completion targeted for January 2009.

Mr. P Christie, A/Area Manager, Planning suggested and it was agreed to hold a further pre-planning meeting with United Fish Industries prior to them submitting their planning application.

Cllr. Byrne once again thanked the deputation for their presentation at the meeting and wished the group every success with the project.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Gerry Gilroy,
Area Manager,
Corporate Services.

Cathaoirleach,
Donegal Electoral Area Committee