

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9TH MAY, 2005 IN THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES
CENTRE:**

Councillors Present:

Councillor Francis Conaghan
Councillor Philip Diggin
Councillor Rena Donaghey
Councillor Marian McDonald
Councillor Denis McGonagle
Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn

Officials Present:

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services:

Ms. Aideen Doherty, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development Officer

Corporate Services:

Mr. Eunan Kelly, Area Manager
Ms. Marie Deeney, Staff Officer

Housing & Building Services:

Mr. Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager

Planning & Economic Development Services:

Mr. Frank Sweeney, A/Area Manager
Mr. Francis Coyle, Director of Service

Roads & Transportation Services:

Mr. Pat Gillespie, Area Manager
Mr. Jim McLaughlin, Executive Engineer
Mr. Donal Walker, Executive Engineer

Water, Environment & Emergency Services:

Mr. Con McLaughlin, Area Manager

Other Officials:

Mr. Paddy Kennedy, Staff Officer

Youth Council:

Anne McGeever, Youth Council Co-Ordinator

Lizanne O'Keefe, Youth Councillor

Carol Kearney, Youth Councillor

North West Tourism:

Maire Aine Gardiner

Cllr Denis McGonagle chaired the meeting.

The members paid tribute to the late Gaye Moynihan, Senior Executive Planner, R.I.P, for her dedicated service to Donegal County Council and also her involvement in Inishowen.

05/21 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr. Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr. Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on 7th March, 2005 were agreed.

05/22 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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22.1 Take-Over of Housing Estates:

Vincent Lynn informed the members that final proposals had been drawn up on the "Take Over of Housing Estates" and had been submitted for consideration to a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group. The Corporate Policy Group considered this Document in March, 2005 and he is awaiting the minutes of this meeting to be circulated.

Cllr Francis Conaghan confirmed that a lot of work has been done to advance the Take Over of Private Housing Estates and that it is moving forward.

The Committee recommended that the Housing Estate in Carndonagh be transferred from "Parked" to "Active" in the Take Over of Housing Estates Programme.

22.2 Barrack Hill, Carndonagh:

Francie Coyle circulated a report and updated the Members on the development of lands at Barrack Hill, and the proposals to progress this project. In his report Francie Coyle informed the Members of the following: -

- ❑ That expressions of interest to develop sites at Barrack Hill were sought from members of the private sector.
- ❑ Members of the Council have agreed, in principle that a portion of the Council owned lands at Moss Road could be disposed off to fund the development of lands at Barrack Hill.
- ❑ It is also proposed to arrange meetings with community groups and the private sector prior to a public consultation meeting to discuss their proposals, assess how far they are advanced and what finance is available.
- ❑ Carndonagh Community & Rural Development Association submitted an application to Leader for funding to carry out a Feasibility Study. This funding has been agreed in principle, and this work will be carried out over the next few months.
- ❑ It is anticipated that a Project Engineer will be appointed shortly to deal with the larger Economic Development Projects. Arrangements will then be made to bring a further report to the Members setting out the timescale for the public consultation and the phased development of the lands.

22.3 Merville/Greencastle Shore Walk:

Frank Sweeney informed the Members that a planning application has been received in relation to the lands at Merville/Greencastle Shore Walk. Members were of the firm view that there should be no further development along the Shore Walk on the seaward side of the Merville/Greencastle Road and recommended that any decision on any future planning applications should take into account An Bord Pleanála decision for this land.

Francie Coyle confirmed that the revised Control Points would be included in the Draft County Development Plan.

22.4 Planning Statistics:

The Committee were informed that copies of the Recent Refusals were available for any Member who wished to view them.

22.5 Unauthorised Developments:

Cllr Francis Conaghan asked what the policy was on following up on Unauthorised Developments and on ensuring compliance with Planning Conditions. Frank Sweeney outlined the Enforcement Process to the meeting.

Francie Coyle confirmed that the Council is presently addressing the situation in relation to providing additional assistance to deal with Unauthorised Developments on a countywide basis, in the not too distant future.

22.6 Muff Local Plan:

The Committee unanimously recommended that the proposal to develop the Kilderry Woods, as contained in the Muff Local Area Plan, should be supported.

22.7 Council Land at Killea:

At the request of Cllr Francis Conaghan, it was agreed to examine the possibility of providing an Open Space/Recreational Area on Council land at Killea.

05/23 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

23.1 Road Design - Schedule of Works for 2005:

Pat Gillespie agreed to request Road Design to provide a schedule of works for Inishowen for 2005. He will present same at the next EA meeting.

23.2 Development Charges:

The Committee recommended that a Roads Meeting be held on 23rd May, 2005 in order to agree on the allocation of Development Charges and Clár Roads.

23.3 Unauthorised Signs:

The Members discussed the issue of unauthorised signs and queried as to what the long-term policy was. Frank Sweeney stated that there is a need to examine the policy, which is currently under review in the County Development Plan. Frank agreed to check as to where the fees received from unauthorised signs are allocated.

23.4 Bridge Waiting List:

The Committee considered the Draft Inishowen E.A. Bridge Waiting List which was circulated with the agenda and on the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey seconded by Cllr Marion Mc Donald the Committee recommended the following priority list: -

INISHOWEN EA - BRIDGE WAITING LIST

DONAL WALKER

DRAFT
amended and approved

1. MAJOR BRIDGE WORKS

Area

Priority	Road no.	Bridge	Area	Work Summary
1	R238-10	Cockhill	Inishowen South	Replace / widen
2	R238-19	Cleagha Shamrock Bar	Inishowen South	Replace
3	R237-2	Argony Pipe	Inishowen South	Widen / repair
4	Buncrana	Wilson's Bridge	Inishowen South	Widen/ repair
5	LS7981-2	McCombe	Inishowen South	Replace / widen
6	L2021-2	Mannertown	Inishowen South	Widen
7	LS7081-3	Duffy	Inishowen South	Replace
8	LS6901	Fullertons	Inishowen South	Replace
9	R238-3	Burnfoot	Inishowen South	Widen

2. BRIDGE STRENGTHENING WORKS

Area

Priority	Road no.	Bridge	Area	Work Summary
1	R238-18	No1 Minahaw	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
2	R238-18	No2 Minahaw	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
3	R238-18	Graham Drumfries	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
4	R238-15	Paddy Rock Drumfrees	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
5	L1721/2	Cleenagh	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
6	R238-18	Paddy Moore	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
7	R238-1	Moynes	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
8	R238-6	Gort, Fahan	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
9	R237-1	Killea	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
10	R-236-6	Cloughan No1	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
11	LP1631-1	Castleross	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
12	R244-5	Joe Doherty	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
13	R244-4	Ballinlough	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen

14	R244-4	Mountain Road	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
15	LS7591-1	Upper Fahan Chapel	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
16	LS7391-1	Millbrook	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
17	LP1721-3	Druminderry	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
18	LP1131-1	Ballyliffin Golf Course	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen
19	LP1381-4	Turk-Illies	Inishowen South	Repair / strengthen

DRAFT
amended and approved

JIM McLaughlin

1. MAJOR BRIDGE WORKS

Area				
Priority	Road no.	Bridge	Area	Work Summary
1	R238/40	Moville (48)	Inishowen North	Widen
2	LT18913	Kilderry Lane	Inishowen North	Replace/Widen
3	R238/29	Strawbridge (40)	Inishowen North	Widen
4	R241/3	Greencastle (123)	Inishowen North	Widen and Repair
5	LP1271/1	Glenagannen (129)	Inishowen North	Widen
6	LP1061/2	Lagavallan (112)	Inishowen North	Widen & Straighten
7	R240/4	Galwolie (70)	Inishowen North	Widen, Repair
8	LP1211/2	Corvish (112)	Inishowen North	Widen
9	LS5331/1	Portaleen 2 (218) pier	Inishowen North	Widen
10	Malin Town	Br to Millbrook Ctgs	Inishowen North	Widen
11	R244/2	Drumnageeragh (94)	Inishowen North	Widen
12	LS5121/1	Tully 2 (215)	Inishowen North	Replace

2. BRIDGE STRENGTHENING WORKS

Area				
Priority	Road no.	Bridge	Area	Work Summary
1	LP1731/6	Meenaharnish Rd	Inishowen North	Strengthen. Cracked
2	LS6161/1	Mount Scurge	Inishowen North	Strengthen. Cracks
3	LS5571/1	Lish Br	Inishowen North	Strengthen.
4	LP1811/1	Aught	Inishowen North	Strengthen
5	R238/50	Muff	Inishowen North	Silt removal
6	LT65611/1	Shroovehead	Inishowen North	Strengthen
7	R238/33	Oldtown Gleneely	Inishowen North	Repair Parapet
8	LP1321/2	Falmore	Inishowen North	Strengthen
9	LP1040/1	Hugh Roes	Inishowen North	Repair Parapet
10	R238/47	Quigley's Point	Inishowen North	Strengthen/Scouring

23.5 Meenaharnish Bridge

The Committee recommended that Coillte be contacted and requested to cover the cost of repairs of the damage to Meenaharnish Bridge.

23.6 Bridge Between Carrigans & St. Johnston

At the request of Cllr Francis Conaghan, Pat Gillespie agreed to investigate if repairs have been carried out at the bridge between Carrigans and St. Johnston, and if not, to include on the Bridge Waiting List.

23.7 Carndonagh Inner Relief Road

Cllr Denis McGonagle queried as to what progress had been made with the Department in relation to the Carndonagh Inner Relief Road. Pat Gillespie responded that initial approval has now been received from the Department and final documentation was being sent to the Department before it can be put out for tender. It is hoped that tenders will be advertised in the next few weeks.

23.8 Special Speed Limit Review 2005

Pat Gillespie agreed to request Road Design to examine the following roads to ascertain if the carriageway is 7m wide and edge clearance of at least 2m, with a view to increasing the existing Speed Limit to 100km/hr: -

- Umricam to Cockhill
- Muff to Quigley's Point to Redcastle
- Birdstown to Muff
- Bunrana to Bridgend
- Movice to Ballybrack

23.9 Footpath at Movice

At the request of Cllr Marian McDonald, Pat Gillespie agreed to follow up with landowners in connection with the purchase of land to provide a footpath at Movice Community College, and, if necessary, consideration should be given to C.P.O. the land.

23.10 Traffic Parking By-Laws

Pat Gillespie informed the Members that it was proposed to introduce Car Parking By-Laws in certain towns, Bunrana and Carndonagh being the towns proposed for the Inishowen area.

23.11 Golf Course Road, Ballyliffen

The Committee recommended that possible sources of funding for improving the access road to Ballyliffen Golf Club would be explored, with the possibility of

Development Charges being examined. The Committee also recommended that the Golf Club be approached for matching funding for the access road.

23.12 Buncrana Harbour

Vincent Lynn advised the Committee that there is now more silt in the harbour than when the dredging was carried out last year and that this is consistent with the rest of the coastline. Agreement in principle has been reached with the R.N.L.I. not to carry out any further dredging and the R.N.L.I. will examine as an interim proposal for 1 - 2 years a "swinging mooring" at Ned's Point on the basis that a Breakwater is constructed, which should solve 75% of the problem. There is no funding available in the current year to construct a Breakwater which could cost in region of €500,000 to €600,000. If funding is approved for this, matching funding will be required from the Council.

All marine projects are subject to matching funding being provided by the Council. He also advised the Committee that other projects may be approved by the D.O.M.N.R. subject to matching funding being provided by the Council, which may not be available.

There will always be a requirement for some dredging and he is seeking approval for plough dredging, but this is unlikely.

The Committee recommended that a costing be prepared for a Breakwater and an application for funding submitted to the D.O.M.N.R.

The Committee also recommended that approval be sought in respect of licence for Plough Dredging in the harbour.

Vincent Lynn also confirmed that the Ferry would be able to operate with the existing silting.

23.13 Dredging at Greencastle

The Committee recommended that an application for funding be made to the Department for dredging at Greencastle Harbour.

23.14 Lagg Beach

Vincent Lynn informed the Members that a fruitful meeting took place with the University of Ulster in relation to the erosion at Lagg Beach. Proposals for a "Soft Options" approach have been recommended on a pilot basis.

The Committee recommended that the "Soft Option" be implemented on a pilot basis and that the University of Ulster be retained for advice on Lagg Beach.

23.15 Inch Causeway

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that funding be identified in relation to the coastal erosion at Inch Causeway.

23.16 Ludden Beach

In response to a query from Cllr Rena Donaghey, it was agreed that the Priority List for Coastal Erosion be revisited to include Ludden. Vincent Lynn agreed to request the University of Ulster to inspect Ludden beach next year.

23.17 Ballybegley, Newtowncunningham

The Committee recommended that costing should be prepared in respect of marine works at Ballybegley, Newtowncunningham.

23.18 Old Fire Station Site Carndonagh

The Committee recommended that a report be presented at the next IEAC meeting on the options available for the site.

05/24 COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE
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24.1 Inch Lake

Aideen Doherty updated the Committee in relation to the proposals for Inch Lake. It has been agreed that a meeting should now take place in early June with Joe Gatins, National Parks and Wildlife and Donegal Creameries to discuss the development of Inch Lake. Members unanimously agreed that Pat Gillespie should also be involved in the meeting with National Parks and Donegal Creameries.

Aideen also stated that she was hopeful that a Working Group would be established by September and agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress on Inch Lough.

24.2 Playgrounds

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that it is proposed to develop a playground in Moville this year.

24.5 Harry P. Swan Collection

Cllr Philip Diggins requested that the application for funding to extend Buncrana Library to house the Swan Collection be progressed. Aideen Doherty agreed to follow up on the matter and to report back.

24.6 Wolfe Tone Pageant

At the request of Cllr Philip Diggin, Aideen Doherty agreed to investigate funding for the Wolfe Tone Pageant in Buncrana in 2007, however she pointed out that the Council is committed to supporting the Flights of the Earls Commemoration in 2007.

24.7 Kilderry Woods

Following a request from Cllr Francis Conaghan, the Committee unanimously agreed to support the proposal to develop Kilderry Woods as contained in the Muff Local Area Plan.

24.8 Buncrana/Rathmullan Ferry

The Committee recommended that the tickets for the Buncrana/Rathmullan Ferry should be made available in the Buncrana Tourist Office and the introduction of return and monthly tickets for the ferry should be examined.

It was proposed by Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Denis McGonigle that consideration should be given to relocating the Ticket Office.

Aideen Doherty agreed to refer the matter to Garry Martin, Divisional Manager, C & E and for him to advise the Committee on the outcome.

24.9 Buncrana Tourist Office

The Chairman welcomed Maire Aine Gardiner, North West Tourism to the meeting.

Maire Aine Gardiner advised the Committee that nationally all Tourist Offices in the country have had a downturn of 60% in the last two years, with the Buncrana Office making a loss of €17,000 annually in the last few years. Overseas Visitors do not appear to be using Tourist Offices anymore and also tend to come to main access points for short breaks, indigenous tourists do not tend to use local Tourist Offices either.

Buncrana Tourist Office is open two days per week for 30 weeks and 6 days per week for 22 weeks. She advised that 37 visitors used the office in April this year and she does not think that extending opening hours will bring in more visitors.

She also advised that North West Tourism does not have the facility to increase opening hours, but are presently seeking partners to provide a complimentary and diversifying service and to extend opening hours. The trade must take ownership of marketing the area for it to be successful. She pointed out that Accommodation Providers in Inishowen do not currently have a Website.

Cllr Philip Diggin expressed his dissatisfaction and said that a "Touch Screen" outside any Tourist Office is very limited and impersonal.

Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn enquired if North West Tourism would accept an "All Ireland" approach, with a Cross-Border agreement between Derry and Donegal. Maire Aine responded that in order for this to take place, trade in Derry and Donegal must take ownership, with co-operation on both sides.

Maire Aine agreed to liase with Barney McLaughlin, C.E.D.O and discuss the facilitating of a further Workshop with Inishowen Main Tourism Service Providers to agree packages, rates etc, and to report back to the Committee.

24.10 Grianan of Aileach

At the request of Cllr Francis Conaghan, Aideen Doherty agreed to clarify the opening hours of An Grianan of Aileach to the public during daylight hours during the summer months.

05/25 INISHOWEN E.A. YOUTH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Anne McGeever, Youth Council Co-Ordinator, Lianne O'Keffe and Carol Kearney, elected representatives for Inishowen EA Youth Council, to the meeting.

Both Lianne and Carol updated Members on the projects in which the Inishowen Youth Council has been involved in to-date. The projects included are as follows: -

- Meeting with Lough Swilly Bus to discuss the on-going deteriorating conditions of the school buses.

- Donegal Youth Audit.

- Teaming up of Donegal Youth Council with Fermanagh Shadow Youth Council.

- Two members of Donegal Youth Council to sit on Young Peoples Forum Guidelines for Community and Voluntary organisations should they want to have youth representatives on their committees.

- Request from Youth Participation project for members of Youth Council to sit on its steering committee.

- Attended Dáil na nÓg (the National Youth Parliament of Ireland)

- Joined An Taoiseach and Sile DeValera, T.D. at National Youth Conference in Dublin.

Future projects planned by the Youth Council for the Summer/Autumn 2005 included: -

Donegal Youth Council to meet with Garda Siochana
Have made a joint application for funding to host a conference for young people on rights and entailments.
Party in the Park, Music Event for young people
Peace Building Training for all youth councillors.

The Chairman thanked Lizanne and Carol for a very informative update

At the request of Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn, Anne McGeever agreed to update Members on the outcome of the meeting between An Garda Siochana and Members of the Youth Council.

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that the Youth Council would discuss the problem of Anti Social Behaviour, and stated that any proposals that they considered should be included in policy would be welcomed.

Anne McGeever, Lizanne and Carol departed from the meeting.

Aideen informed the Members that the funding required for Anne McGeever's post, which is 100% funded by Peace and Reconciliation, expires on 31st December, 2005, and that no additional funding has been approved for 2006. The Committee unanimously recommended that alternative sources of funding should be investigated.

05/26 HOUSING

26.1 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2005

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, and seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the Committee recommended that an application for the Regeneration Programme be prepared and submitted to the D.O.H.E.L.G. seeking approval for the following schemes: -

- 1) Bonemaine (Old), Bridgend
- 2) Ballymena Cottages, Glengad.
- 3) Imlick Villas, Carrigans.

4) 3 SI's at Carrigans and Newtowncunningham.

26.2 Landbank at Buncrana

Patsy Lafferty informed the Members that a number of local groups in the Buncrana area have expressed an interest in acquiring part of the Council Landbank in Buncrana, which consists of approximately 8.83 acres. The Committee recommended that the Council should try and facilitate these groups if at all possible.

26.3 Landbank at Burt

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried the possibility of obtaining lands to be included for consideration in the Council's proposals for landbank in the Burt area. Patsy Lafferty agreed to investigate this matter.

26.4 Building Programme

In response to a query from Cllr Francis Conaghan regarding the up-to-date position on the Building Programme, Patsy Lafferty confirmed that while the County had been allocated the number of starts by the Department, these starts had yet to be allocated on an Electoral Area basis. When this was decided upon, he would revert to Members in order to agree a Programme for Inishowen. He anticipated that details may be available for the next E.A. Meeting.

26.5 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 - 2008 Elaghbeg Halting Site, Bridgend

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that the Elaghbeg Halting Site at Bridgend, which has always been used as an indigenous Halting Site, is being considered as a potential permanent Transient Site and he sought approval to advance this proposal to public Consultation. This is consistent with commitment given that any change in status of sites would only be completed following public consultation.

The Committee accepted the recommendation as presented, i.e. Members approval to allow progression to the next stage of public consultation and amendment to development plans.

26.6 Emergency Accommodation Powers

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried the timescale on Halting Sites developed under the Emergency Accommodation Powers. Patsy Lafferty agreed to clarify the matter and to inform Members.

05/27 CORPORATE SERVICES

27.1 Citizens Information Centre

Eunan Kelly informed the Members that Comhairle has agreed an extension of funding for the Citizens Information Centre in Carndonagh PSC to the end of 2005. On this basis staff involved are being issued with new contracts by Donegal Information Services to June 2006.

Work on evaluating the project is also getting underway and the role of the Independent Information Units will be evaluated as part of this.

27.2 Deputation

On the proposal of Cllr. Padraig MacLochlainn and seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, it was agreed to invite a deputation from Community for a Clean Estuary to the July Inishowen E.A. Meeting.

27.3 Outreach Facilities

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan and seconded by Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn, the Committee recommended that the possibility of providing Outreach Facilities in Buncrana be examined.

05/28 WATER ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Con Mc Laughlin circulated Progress Report dated 9th May 2005 (Appendix 1)

28.1 Ballymagan Reservoir

Cllr Philip Diggin expressed his concern regarding the visual effect on the area of Ballymagan Reservoir, and requested that steps be initiated to visit all reservoirs with a view to carrying out landscaping.

28.2 Burnfoot/Bridgend Watermain

Following a request from Cllr Francis Conaghan, the Committee recommended that the possibility of replacing the watermain between Burnfoot and Bridgend as part of the Lagan Water Supply Scheme, Phase 3 be examined.

05.29 Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IEAC will take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Monday 11th July 2005 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES **Report to Inishowen EAC Meeting 9th May 2005**

AGENDA Item no.2 – Update reports from previous meeting:

From minutes of previous meeting 7th March 2005,

Capital Programmes

The members will be aware of the workshop scheduled for the afternoon following the Electoral Area Meeting, where there will be an opportunity to discuss progress on the Capital Programmes including the following schemes in the area, see attached briefing documentation on those listed:

- **Malin Sewerage Scheme**
- **Inishowen Water Strategy**
- **Moville & Greencastle Sewerage Scheme**
- **Bridgend (Burnfoot) Sewerage Schemes**
 - **Lagan Water Supply**
 - **Newtown Sewerage Scheme**

Serviced Land Initiative (SLI's):

(following policy noted at previous meeting by Capital Design Office)

There is a need for clarity on SLI's, their purpose, and the resources and financing required to implement them. Our policy is that no SLI will be considered for advancement unless developers clearly demonstrate the demand for such a scheme through definitive proposals. In this context I have seen no real demand for the advancement of SLI schemes for Ballymacarry and Milltown.

AGENDA Items no. 3-6 - Progress Reports:

See attached updated progress reports for:

Capital Programmes:

- Major Capital Programme
- Service Land Initiative (SLI's)

Rural Water Programme:

- Small Capital Programme
- Group Scheme Programme

