

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 19TH MAY 2011, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr Terence Slowey
Cllr Doherty
Cllr Seamus O Domhnaill

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
John Hegarty – Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Brendan O Donnell – NRDO Engineer
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

GEA 80/11 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22nd MARCH 2011

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Doherty, the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2011 were agreed.

GEA 81/11 DEPUTATION – COMHLACHT TRAENACH NA GAELTACHTA LÁIR

The Committee welcomed Oliver Mc Devitt and Thomas Gildea to the meeting.

The Deputation made a presentation to the Committee outlining:

- the historical background of the Fintown Railway
- income, expenditure and current financial status of the project
- plans for upgrading children's facilities on site, and ambitions to develop facilities to encourage visitors to remain in the area.

The Deputation also expressed gratitude to the Council for the provision of funding in the sum of €5000 for improvement works to the train project.

The Community and Enterprise Manager and Roads Engineer informed the Deputation of their availability to assist the Railway Committee. The Committee advised the Deputation of the necessity to enhance attractions and facilities on site to compliment the Railway Project.

GEA 82/11

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION – GLEN ROAD ACTION GROUP

The Committee discussed the submission circulated at the meeting from Eugene Greene representing the above Committee.

The Committee unanimously agreed to receive a deputation from the Committee at the area meeting on the 13th of September 2011.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 83/11

ROADS WORKSHOP

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Doherty the Committee agreed the list of Non-National Roads Schemes to be funded from 2011-2013 Restoration Improvement Grants as detailed hereunder:

		AMOUNT	YEAR
L1783-2	Derrylaconnell (Michael Bonner's to Derryhenny)	67,500	2011
L10631	Dunmore Lane	27,720	2011
L7783-1	Gortnacart from N56 to Eamon Boyle's	52,800	2011
L1403-1	White Cross Road, Ranafast	39,000	2011
L15831	Chapel Road	27,000	2011
L61731	Maghery James Glackin	16,800	2011
R-261-3	Beagh Bridge – Derryness	27,500	2011
L1733	Cleendra	17,500	2011
R253-10	Meenavale towards Tievelough	50,000	2012
R258-1	Gweedore Station from N56	136,400	2012
R252-19	Doochary – Dungloe	64,000	2012
R256-5	Muckish Road, from crying bridge towards Falcarragh	109,200	2012
L2883-4	Leamagowra from top of Glengesh	49,052	2012
L2813	Loughros Point Road	37,000	2011

GEA 84/11

SPEED LIMITS REVIEW

The Roads Manager circulated and presented a report on a review of speed limits on the Carnmore Road, Dungloe and Meenacuing prepared by Fergal Doherty, Road Design Engineer.

84.1

Carnmore Road, Dungloe

The Committee were informed that the NRA have advised that this section of road is not sufficiently built up to warrant the introduction of a 60kph zone or the extension of the 50kph limit. The NRA have advised that they are willing to consider a further proposal for the introduction of an 80 kph limit over this section of roadway.

84.2

Meenacuing

The Committee were informed that the NRA have advised that this section of roadway is not sufficiently built up to warrant the introduction of an 80kph limit to the picnic area.

In response to queries from the Committee, the Roads Manager undertook to (i) liaise with Stephen Lambert, Road Safety Officer in relation to the Lidl junction, Dungloe and Meenacuing road safety concerns, (ii) clarified that the NRA have complete decision making powers in respect of national roads. Cllr. Doherty also requested the Council to liaise with local groups in respect of safety concerns at Glassagh, Coshcladdy and Dunlewey.

GEA 85/11

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2011

Members welcomed the progress update on the 2011 Road Works Programme circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager, detailing the status of (a) Community Assisted Schemes, (b) Restoration Schemes and (c) Surface Dressing Schemes.

GEA 86/11

GLEN ROAD

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager outlining the status of this route linking Loughanure and Annagry and also carrying airport traffic to Carrickfinn.

The Roads Manager informed Members that the current 3 year programme (2011-2013) has allocated €96,600 for Glen Road improvements as first priority on the 2012 list, and that the estimated cost of overlaying the entire route is €320,000.

Cllr. Alcorn requested that a copy of the report issue to the Glen Road Action Group.

GEA 87/11

NRDO UPDATE

Brendan O'Donnell, NRDO circulated and presented a report at the meeting in relation to the Dungloe-Kilraine 27km, Type 3 Single Carriageway road type.

Members were advised that (i) the environmental assessment of the final alignment has been completed and that publication of the CPO and EIS is due towards the end of 2011, (ii) Part 8 planning process is due for consideration at the May Council meeting, (iii) it is hoped to commence construction of a section of the scheme (Cloughwolie-Boyoughter) in 2011 in advance of the main project subject to approval of Part 8 planning and acquisition of lands by agreement.

Members requested that directional signage on the approach to Kilraine Junction be reviewed and enhanced.

GEA 88/11

ROAD MAINTENANCE

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher, the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with relevant personnel in relation to maintenance requirements on roads bordering the Donegal Electoral area.

GEA 89/11

OWENTOCKER BRIDGE –REHABILITATION WORKS

Cllr. Slowey commended Roger Ryan and his team for their contribution to the success of this project.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 90/11

MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Water Services Manager circulated and presented a report outlining the status of:

- (1) Dungloe & Glenties Sewerage Schemes
- (2) Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme
- (3) Gortahork Water Supply

GEA 91/11

GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager.

The Committee welcomed the commencement of the Magheraroarty Pipe Replacement Scheme and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to implement a plan of action to minimise any disruption arising from bursts during the project.

The Water Services Manager informed Members that

- (i) Calhame Bridge to Carrickfinn Crossroads pipe replacement is in progress and
- (ii) Tender documents are being prepared for pipe replacement on the Meenbanad to Sheskinarone line.

Cllr. Doherty requested a pipe replacement scheme for the Crollly Derrybeg area and additional storage tanks at Lough Keel. Members commended the Water Services Manager for his attendance at a public meeting in relation to Water Supply in the Crollly area.

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher, the Water Services Manager informed Members, that a study has been completed highlighting problematic areas on the Caravan Road, Dungloe and that funding applications are being processed.

GEA 92/11

PRIVATE SOURCE GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager.

GEA 93/11

PUBLIC TOILETS

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting detailing the commencement of the Part 8 planning process in respect of public toilets in Burtonport.

In response to a query from Cllr Doherty, regarding the provision of temporary toilets at Bunbeg Harbour, the Water Services Manager undertook to liaise with the Marine Service.

Cllr. Gallagher informed the meeting that a local community group is interested in providing public toilets in the Dungloe area on provision of an adequate budget.

GEA 94/11

WAITING ROOM – BURTONPORT

Members welcomed the provision of a waiting room in the existing ice plant building in Burtonport.

GEA 95/11

ENVIRONMENT

95.1

Illegal Dumping

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services & Environment Manager. Cllr Ó Domhnaill highlighted the issue of illegal dumping in the proximity of the bottle banks.

Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to devise a strategy to counteract illegal dumping and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested a national policy to address the situation whereby approximately half of all households do not subscribe to a refuse collection service.

Cllr Gallagher also reiterated her previous requests for the Council to collect and dispose of asbestos from dumps in the Dungloe area.

In a response to a query from Cllr. Doherty regarding community clean up campaigns, the Water & Environment Manager requested the various representatives to liaise with the local environment office to determine the availability of skips or other forms of assistance.

95.2

Recycling Centres

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the operation of this facility in Dungloe, the Water & Environment Manager informed the Committee, that the Council have invited expressions of interest from the private sector in respect of all civic amenity facilities in the County.

GEA 96/11

GORSE FIRES

The Committee requested that a letter issue to Bobby Mc Menamin expressing Members' gratitude to all units of the Fire Service for their magnificent response to tackling recent gorse fires throughout the electoral area.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 97/11 PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

GEA 98/11 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Planning Manager detailing up to date planning statistics.

GEA 99/11 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Members noted the report on enforcement statistics as at the 31st of March 2011, circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

GEA 100/11 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Committee expressed anxiety in relation to guidelines produced by the BMW Regional Authority in relation to rural housing applications. Members expressed a fear that imposition of regional guidelines in Donegal will signal the decline of rural and Gaeltacht areas of Donegal.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Planning Manager to report to the next meeting on the percentage of single rural housing applications submitted in respect of the Glenties Electoral area.

GEA 101/11 DUNGLOE PLANNING OFFICE

In response to queries from Members regarding the staffing of the Dungloe Planning office, the Planning and Corporate Managers advised the Committee that any definitive proposals will be brought to the full Council on completion of consultations with Staff and Unions.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 102/11

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 as at the 5th of May 2011.

(i) Lettermacaward

The Housing Manager advised Members that it is anticipated that letting of the 13 no. units will commence at the end of June.

Cllr Alcorn reiterated previous requests to upgrade public lighting at the scheme and to repair the Chapel Car Park opposite the new Scheme.

(ii) Dungloe

The Housing Manager informed Members that work is in progress on the 28 no. unit turnkey scheme in Dungloe.

(iii) Long Term Leasing

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that schemes in Gortahork and Dunfanaghy have been let under the long term leasing programme and that a process of compliance is being undertaken in respect of individual long term leasing submissions received.

Cllr. Slowey welcomed the submission of multiple long term leasing proposals in the southern end of the electoral area.

(iv) Specific Instance Cottages

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager, detailing progress in respect of 4 no. Specific Instance Houses.

The Committee requested a report on the status of the SI Programme for the next meeting and expressed concern at the apparent decline of this programme.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Glenties Electoral Area has taken up the largest percentage of SI houses in the County and that the Council has to adhere to Departmental Guidelines in respect of Capital Funding.

Cllr Alcorn requested an updated Housing List per town within the electoral area.

GEA 103/11**SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the Social Housing Programme as at the 5th of May 2011.

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn regarding prohibitive age restrictions in relation to Housing Grants the Housing Manager advised that any deviation in the criteria will have to be adopted by the Housing S.P.C.

GEA 104/11**CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee discussed the report on casual vacancies as at the 5th of May 2011, circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager.

Members welcomed the reduction in the casual vacancy list and the prompt reallocation of vacancies.

GEA 105/11**BALLINA ESTATE, FALCARRAGH**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding the necessity to repair the road within the estate, the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with the Roads Manager on this issue.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 106/11

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

Members also welcomed the 'Plain English Style Writing Guide' circulated at the meeting.

The Community & Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that Mayor Harvey will be launching a seminar in Letterkenny on the 27th of May entitled 'Making the future Happen – Employment Opportunities in Donegal'. Cllr. Slowey commended the Council's participation in the Cultural Diversity Programme of Activity.

GEA 107/11

TOURISM

Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to take the lead role in producing a mapping guide for all tourism initiatives in the County. Cllr Alcorn commended the Community & Enterprise Section for their leading role in the 'Donegal Live' events in Glasgow and Dublin.

GEA 108/11

CULTURAL SERVICES

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager.

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn, regarding the opening of the library in Aislann Gaoth Dobhair, the Community and Enterprise Manager undertook to liaise with the County Librarian in this regard.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING