

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2009 IN
THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

Councillors Present:

Councillor Francis Conaghan

Councillor Rena Donaghey

Councillor Pdraig MacLochlainn

Councillor Marian McDonald

Councillor Denis McGonagle

Councillor Bernard McGuinness

Councillor Dermot McLaughlin, Mayor Buncrana Town Council

Officials Present:

Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer

Corporate Services:

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager

Una Cresswell, Staff Officer

Housing & Building Services

Patsy Lafferty Area Manager

Planning & Economic Development Services:

Paul Kelly, A/ Area Manager

Roads & Transportation Services:

Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer/ Area Manager

Jim McLaughlin, Executive Engineer

Trevor Gordon, Executive Engineer

Myrtle Quinn, Clerical Officer

Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer

Water, Environment & Emergency Services:

Eamonn Barr, Executive Engineer

Apologies

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager

Seamus Canning Town Clerk, Buncrana

Marie Deeney, A/Senior Staff Officer

09/01 PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were agreed.

01.1 Update Report

Members noted the update report as circulated with the Agenda in relation to matters arising from the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on 1st December 2008.

01.2 Council Lands at Cassey Road/Rockytown, Buncrana

Paul Kelly advised the Members that this has been discussed with the Town Clerk in Buncrana as the land is within the Buncrana Town Council functional area. It is understood from the Town Clerk that the Town Council is presently in the process of identifying a suitable member of staff to co-ordinate:

1. A Draft and Preliminary site survey for the purpose of guiding future development of these lands by means of a Masterplan.
2. To co-ordinate the consideration and assessment of any development proposals or expressions of interest in the subject lands.

He also advised that the Planning Authority has given a commitment to the Town Clerk and Town Engineer to provide any necessary planning advice, guidance and assistance to the process at all times and had expressed a desire to be included formally in any site survey or draft Masterplan of the subject lands. He also stated that it has been suggested that the Town Engineer from Buncrana Town Council, would be the most appropriate person to coordinate the project.

01.3 Footpaths at Inishowen Co Op Site

Following on from a query the last Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting, Paul Kelly advised the Members that Planning Permission granted to Inishowen Co Op does not include any requirement to extend footpaths or provide a footbridge in Carndonagh. The terms of the permission granted required the Co-Op to construct a footpath along the public road frontage length of their site which is established practice.

The Members requested that options for funding a footbridge should be examined in consultation with the Roads Service.

01.4 Local Area Plans and Policy UB1

Paul Kelly advised the Members that Policy UB1 as set out in the County Development Plan 2006-2012 did not apply to areas that are the subject of an adopted Development Plan or Local Area Plan. The C.D.P. specifically states in respect of Policy UB1 that "this policy excludes settlements that are the subject of adopted Development Plans or Local Area Plans and those settlements that have a plan adopted during the life of the C.D.P.

He confirmed that he would bring the Members concerns/issues regarding this to the attention of the Forward Planning Unit in Lifford.

01.5 Enforcements - Third Party Objections

Paul Kelly clarified at a previous meeting that if a Freedom of Information Request is rejected and then appealed by an applicant the decision is out of Donegal County Council's hands. Cllr Rena Donaghey questioned who deals with such an appeal. Paul Kelly stated that a Commissioner deals with it.

01.6 Pre Planning Enquiry Meetings

Paul Kelly advised the members that there would be no changes in the way pre planning arrangements are carried out until Senior Management decides to introduce changes on a countywide basis. He added that owing to budgetary constraints and the electoral area boundary review, it is unlikely that this would happen for some time.

01.7 Upgrading of Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme

Paul Kelly advised the Committee that he understood that Newtowncunningham S.T.W. requires an expansion of capacity and that it is intended to address this through the Part 8 process. In the interim a Special Development Charge of €5,000 per house is imposed in respect of applications for multiple developments as a contribution towards the required wastewater improvement works.

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried whether there was any progress on the expansion of the Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme and if there were any Development Charges collected in respect of the scheme that could be used.

Patsy Lafferty stated that Social Housing Schemes are exempt from Development Charges. Some discussion took place on how the expansion of the scheme will be funded and there was a suggestion by the Members

that levying Development Charges on Voluntary Housing Schemes should be considered.

Eamonn Barr stated that he but would look into it and report back to the Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

01.8 Inishowen Rugby Club

The Members discussed a request from the Inishowen Rugby Club to lease 8.7 acres of Council owned lands at Moss Road Carndonagh for playing fields. The Inishowen Rugby Club was also looking at options for developing a permanent base there, including all weather facilities. The Members suggested that the club be invited to attend the next Electoral Area Meeting to discuss their plans to develop facilities.

02.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were agreed

02.2 Updates and Various Issues

Patsy Lafferty updated Members in relation to various issues previously raised and drew the Members attention to Loans, Grants and the Casual Vacancy Reports.

02.03 Social Housing in Rural Areas

Patsy Lafferty advised the Members that an application for approval of the Carrowmena scheme was with the Department and that the Council were also awaiting the Departments decision on the Gleneely Scheme.

02.4 Cottages at Burnfoot.

After some discussion by the Members, it was agreed that options be explored for improving the roads at Burnfoot Cottages from the Remedial Works Funding. It was agreed that the Housing Service in conjunction with the Roads Service would explore these options.

02.5 Affordable Housing in Buncrana

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, advised the Committee that agreement had been reached to acquire five units in Buncrana. He added that subject to contracts being signed, it is envisaged that the units will then be allocated within a few months.

02.06 Social Housing in Greencastle

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that Letters of Offer issued to the successful applicants for the eight-house scheme Pairc Uí Nuallain in Greencastle before Christmas. It was expected that the new tenants would be getting keys shortly.

Cllr Marian McDonald stated that she was very pleased with the new scheme in Greencastle and asked that a name plate be erected. Patsy Lafferty agreed to arrange the erection of a nameplate/sign as soon as possible.

02.6 Voluntary Housing

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that the scheme by Newtowncunningham Housing Association was now at an advanced stage and was expected to be completed in the coming months. This scheme will provide 34 units of sheltered accommodation for elderly people in this area.

He also advised that a similar scheme is also nearing completion in Muff via the Muff Sheltered Housing Association.

02.8 Remedial Works & Regeneration Programme 2008

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that works on the 2008 Remedial Works & Regeneration Programme commenced in September and was almost complete. He also advised the Members that owing to the pressure on the Internal Capital Receipts, funding for Remedial Works in 2009 could prove difficult. He stated that he would keep the Members informed at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting. It was agreed that if funding became available that Burnfoot Cottages would be a priority area for consideration, in conjunction with the Roads service.

02.09 Central Heating Programme 2008

Patsy Lafferty advised the committee that this programme had now been completed and was now at an end.

02.8 Disposal of Land at Eleven Ballyboes, Greencastle

Patsy Lafferty distributed details of a proposal for disposal of land at Greencastle. The Committee had no objection to this and recommended that this be included on the Agenda for the next County Council Meeting under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

02.09 Request for Disposal of Land to Bob Wilson, Colehill, Newtowncunningham

Cllr Francis Conaghan submitted a request on behalf of Bob Wilson, Colehill, Newtowncunningham who wished to purchase a portion of land adjacent to his house. It was agreed that this request be examined.

09/03 WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

03.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Marion McDonald, seconded by Cllr Pádraig MacLochláinn, the minutes of the meeting held 1st December 2008 were agreed.

03.2 Civic Amenity Site in Buncrana.

Cllr Rena Donaghey expressed her frustration over the lack of a Civic Amenity Site in Buncrana. She enquired as to which private operators offering Civic Amenity Facilities in the town.

Eamon Barr, Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on her queries and bring a full report on Buncrana Civic Amenity Site at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting.

03.3 Recycling Banks in Merville

Cllr Marian McDonald stated that she welcomed the transfer of the Bring Banks to the Business Park in Merville but requested that signs be erected at the former location to advise the public that the Bring Banks had been moved to the new location. She informed the meeting that items are still being disposed at the old site.

Eamon Barr agreed to follow up on this request.

03.4 Provision of Bins in Merville

Cllr Marian McDonald expressed her concerns over the problems associated with dog excrement on the Merville to Greencastle Shore Walk. She asked that the possibility of providing bins be looked at.

Eamon Barr agreed to look into measures to address the problems.

04.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were agreed.

04.2 Update Report

Stephen Flynn circulated an Update Report to the Members on issues raised at the previous meeting.

04.2.1 Dooish Road/Churchtown Road

Following on from discussions at the last meeting, Stephen Flynn advised the Members that he would have an update at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting in March.

04.2.2 Gortree Road

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that discussions with the landowners are ongoing. He added that a meeting was to take place on Monday next and that it was hoped that a solution be in place soon. Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that this work be advanced including the removal of the dead trees.

04.2.3 White Wall, Merville

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that the collapsed section of the White Wall in Merville would be replaced.

04.2.4 Moss Road Culdaff

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that a Health and Safety Report has recommended additional lining and signing costing approximately €17,500. It is proposed to include these works for inclusion in the Restoration Programme for 2009.

04.2.5 Francistown Junction

Following on from a discussion at the last Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting, Cllr Bernard McGuinness suggested the Council should consider removing the hump in the road, as this would probably cost less than purchasing land or a lengthy Compulsory Purchase Order process. The Members agreed that a site meeting be arranged between Cllr Denis McGonagle, Cllr Bernard McGuinness and personnel from Road Design to explore options.

04.2.6 Cockhill Bridge/Cassey Road Junction

Stephen Flynn and Trevor Gordon outlined the proposals included in the plans circulated with the agenda for traffic management at Cockhill Bridge and the Cassey Road Junction. They explained that they are having difficulty getting additional land for widening the Cassey Road and are considering a C.P.O. They also stated that the Consultants are confident that the proposals for traffic management at Cockhill Bridge will work.

A lengthy discussion took place on the next steps required to advance the plans.

The Committee recommended that the traffic management changes as presented be implemented and that the proposals be made available for inspection in the Town Council Office and Public Service Centre.

Stephen Flynn also advised the Committee that he intends to contact the Town Council regarding the opening of the completed section of new road at Slieve Snacht.

04.2.8 L.I.S.

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that he had referred their concerns raised at the last meeting to his Divisional Manager for consideration at the Roads S.P.C.

04.2.9 Malin Streets and Footpaths

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that it is proposed to carry out the street restoration works in early 2009 when the grants are announced. He also advised that no funding exist for footpath renewal. It may be considered under the DCS for Roads when allocations are made under this programme.

04.2.10 Flooding at Monfad

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that flooding on the Monfad Road be investigated.

02.2.11 Take Over of Roads

The Committee recommended that the Take Over of Roads be included on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

04.3 Development Contribution Scheme

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that although the 2009 Development Contribution Scheme had been agreed in the Budget, the amount allocated to the Electoral Areas had not been allocated. He added that the 2008 scheme runs to 2009 and it is likely that there will be a reduced allocation in 2009.

The Committee recommended that the No. 18 Priority Scheme on the DCS - Clonmany-Ballyliffen Footpath List be advanced.

04.4 Restoration Multi Annual Programme 2008 - 2010

A discussion took place on the Restoration Multi Annual Programme 2008 - 2010. The Members generally expressed their concerns in relation to the possibility of the reduction of grants available.

The Committee requested that a meeting take place between the Councillors, the County Manager and the Director of Roads Service to discuss the allocation of grants for Inishowen.

04.5 Land Disposal at Carrigans

On the proposal of Cllr Frances Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the Committee recommended that the disposal of land at Tonagh, Carrigans be included on the Agenda at the next County Council Meeting.

04.6 Improvement Works at Lisfannon

The Members were advised that works at Lisfannon including realignment, new signage, crash barriers and resurfacing has been completed at Lisfannon.

Cllr Rena Donaghey expressed her appreciation of these works stating that this road had been described as the fourth most dangerous road in the country and that hopefully, there would be fewer accidents as a result of the works.

Cllr Dermot McLaughlin joined at the meeting at this stage.

04.7 Pier in Buncrana

Cllr Dermot McLaughlin, Mayor of Buncrana submitted photographs of the pier in Buncrana. He expressed his concerns over the untidy appearance of the pier and requested details of how the pier is managed particularly in relation to charging for water supplied to boats.

Stephen Flynn agreed to advise Vincent Lynn of his concerns and requests.

04.8 Roads Workshop

It was agreed that a Roads Workshop would take place on 10th February at 2.00pm in the Carndonagh Public Service Centre.

04.09 Members Public Lighting

Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, circulated a Report on Members Public Lights advising the options available to the Members for spending their Public Lights allocation. He advised the Committee that there were discussions at the last number of Roads SPC Meetings on the way forward for Members Public Lighting due to a number of issues including:

- New increased pricing structure from the ESB,
- Division of functions between ESB Contracts and ESB Networks,
- Issues associated with isolated lights,
- Other Commission for Energy Regulations such as ESB Lights on Council poles.

04.09 Refurbishment, Infill and Extensions of Public Lighting Infrastructure

Vincent Lynn also circulated a report on the Refurbishment, Infill and Extensions of public lighting infrastructure.

This report advised that the total amount accrued in the Budget for public lights in 2009 was €789,000 of which €437,000 was available for Refurbishment, Infill and Extensions of public lighting infrastructure. The report also included details of costings for two towns in each Electoral Area.

The two towns in the Inishowen E.A. are:

Carndonagh	€84,555.51
Tooban	€20,150.00

These costing do not include for any ESB network charges or any civil works charges.

Vincent Lynn requested the Committee to:

- Prioritise €48,000 to assist the ESB 2009 Low Voltage Programme for Ardara and Donegal Town leaving a balance of €389,000
- Divide the €389,000 among each Electoral Area based on number of Councillors i.e. €13,413 per Councillor
- Prioritise which of the towns in the E.A. they wish this programme to commence with as there was not sufficient funding to carry out both schemes

The Committee agreed to this request and recommended that the Public Lighting Programme funding be spent in Carndonagh and any balance remaining to be spent in Tooban.

The Committee also recommended that the provision of public lighting between Lisfannon and Buncrana be explored.

04.10 Renewable Energy Lighting and Low Energy Lighting Project

Vincent Lynn circulated a report prepared by the Energy Development Officer advising that it is vital that the Council undertake steps in order to reduce energy bills and deliver on sustainable development at local level. The Energy Development Officer is keen to pilot a range of technologies, which can power street lighting and there are a number of options to convert existing lighting to be powered by renewables and options for new or future lighting to be powered by renewables. Options include; stand alone hybrid units, stand alone wind powered units and stand alone solar lighting.

€50,000 had been allocated in the Council's Budget in 2008 to pilot alternative energy lighting strategies.

04.11 Members Lights

Myrtle Quinn circulated an up to date report on each Members individual allocation and asked each Member submit their lights proposals to her before the end of January to enable that the lights requested be erected before June 2009.

She also circulated documentation on costs involved and advised that the cost of a new public light on an existing pole would be €1,142.00 and on a new pole would be €2,252.00.

05.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Denis McGonagle seconded by Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were agreed.

05.2 Report on Community, Culture & Enterprise Services

Aideen Doherty circulated a report to the Members on projects discussed at the previous meetings.

05.3 Barrack Hill

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that final tender information for the playground was being assessed and that it was hoped the tender process would be completed in February when the budget available was confirmed.

05.4 Community & Enterprise Workshop

It was agreed that a workshop would take place on 10th February at 10.00 a.m. in the Carndonagh Public Service Centre to discuss future projects to be carried out in the Inishowen Peninsula. As discussed in the previous meeting, funding of €8.2Million has been made available to Inishowen Development Partnership for projects to be carried out in the Inishowen Peninsula and it was suggested that Council led projects be discussed in context of this funding.

05.5 Art Link Buncrana

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that Art Link Buncrana have applied for a grant from the Access Fund to develop facilities at Fort Dunree. It is expected that the cost of refurbishment of Fort Dunree and associated works will cost in the region of €570,000. Members were also advised that Donegal County Council is examining the mechanism where a lease arrangement may have to be agreed in order for the facility to progress. Aideen Doherty agreed to keep members briefed on developments. Members welcomed this development.

05.6 Library Service

Aideen Doherty informed the Members that the Library at Carndonagh Public Service Centre was operating with just two members of staff. She added that two members of staff had gone on maternity leave and there was no cover for their absences. The Members were also advised that owing to short staff the library was closing earlier on a number of evenings each week.

05.7 Library Facilities in Newtowncunningham

Following on from a request from Cllr Frances Conaghan, Aideen Doherty agreed to request Cultural Services to explore the possibility of providing a permanent library in Newtowncunningham. Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that Newtowncunningham would have a substantial catchment area for a library.

5.8 Mini Pitches at Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that meetings would take place to agree models for use of the mini pitches at Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh in the coming weeks including the use of lighting.

06.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were agreed.

60.5 Marine Water Leisure Workshop

At the previous Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting, it was agreed that as the Marine Water and Leisure presentation, had already been made to the full Council that a date be agreed with Buncrana Town Council for a presentation in Buncrana and IEAC members to be notified. Some discussion took place on why this presentation was carried out at a Buncrana Town Council Meeting.

It was agreed to request MWL Section to make this presentation to the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

60.6 Draft Beach Bylaws

The Committee recommended that a presentation on Draft Beach Bylaws be made to Buncrana Town Council and then to the next Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

08/61 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2009

The following Schedule of IEAC Meeting for 2009 was agreed:

16th March

11th May

13th July

14th September

16th November

