

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

19 Meitheamh, 2007

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall a bhí ar athró ó 15 Meitheamh ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain 25 Meitheamh 2007 ag **9.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clár Ordaithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniú (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford

19th June 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 15th June 2007, will be held on Monday 25th June 2007 at 9.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAIN THEIR ORIGINAL
ITEM NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS
ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE MAY MEETING)

AGENDA

3. **Disposal of Land – Section 211 Planning & Development Act, 2000**
 - (b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of 0.054 acres of land to Mr David Love, Killylastin, Letterkenny.
 - (c) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of a building and plot of land (Circa 4.36 acres) at Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal to Dermot Gidea, John Gildea, Terence Gildea, Conal Gildea, Patrick Gildea and MBC Building Contractors Limited at Meenglass, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.

5. **Date for Annual General Meeting**

To agree date of Annual General Meeting 2007.

11. **Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services Programme**
 - (c) Report on Regional Cultural Centre.

MOTIONS

- (L) Local
- (C) County
- (O) Other

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

15. Clr. Pringle
“That Donegal County Council provide traffic calming in Dunkineely on the N56 approaches.” (L)
16. Clr. Kennedy
“Can this Council instruct Bus Eireann to arrange their pick up and drop off service over at their own bus station in Donegal Town thus reducing the traffic congestion in the town centre.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

18. Clr. McGarvey
“That members of Group Water Schemes be exempted from development charges for water as they are currently being asked to pay twice for the service.” (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Housing & Building

19. Clr. Reid
“That this Council purchase and demolish dwelling house at dangerous junction in Killygordon.” (L)
20. Clr. A. Bonner
“That this Council makes the Ballybofey and Stranorlar One Stop Shop a priority for the next 12 months and give the

people of the Stranorlar Electoral Area a sense of first class citizenship to this county as we are the only Electoral Area with no public service building.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

21. Clr. McGowan
“That this Council begin work on planning and designing a new bridge for Castlefin and in the meantime carry out some works on the adjacent roads to cater for lorries and other large vehicles.” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

22. Clr. O’Domhnaill
“That Donegal County Council provide public lighting at all piers and slipway structures in Donegal to improve safety provisions.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

23. Clr. Slowey
“That this Council make available to the elected members of this Local Authority the report sent to the Environmental Protection Agency on the substandard drinking water supplies in County Donegal.” (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Housing & Building

24. Clr. Donaghey
“That Donegal County Council together with Buncrana Town Council immediately appoint a dedicated person to progress work on Council land at Lisowen, Buncrana for the relevant interested community groups.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Housing & Building

25. Clr. Larkin
“That we review the present County Library with regards to an extension or move to a green field site.” (C)
26. Clr. Crawford
“That this Council discuss its plans for phase 2 works to the County House.” (C)

Corporate Services

27. Clr. McDaid
“That this Council seeks to examine models of good practice in other local authorities within the 32 counties, the U.K. and Europe that have significantly addressed the under representation of women in politics.” (O)

QUESTIONS

- (L) Local
- (D) County
- (O) Other

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

28. Clr. Pringle
“What progress has been made on the Killybegs Sewerage and preparation of contract documents for the network?” (L)
29. Clr. Pringle
“What is the update on the Frosses/Inver Water Scheme upgrade and when is it expected that work will be completed?” (L)
30. Clr. Kennedy
“What is the update with the Old Fire Station in Donegal Town?” (L)

Housing & Building

31. Clr. Kennedy
“What has the Council planned for the temporary halting site in Donegal Town?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

32. Clr. O’Neill
“Will Donegal County Council immediately convene a Special Meeting with the NRA to discuss their lack of action in landscaping the three roundabouts along the Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass that was opened 12 months ago?” (L)
33. Clr. O’Neill
“Will Donegal County Council host a public dedication ceremony in renaming the new landmark bridge in Ballyshannon “Red Hugh O’Donnell Bridge” as proposed by

Ballyshannon Town Council on Friday 13th July 2007 to coincide with the Flight of the Earls 400th celebration in Ballyshannon?" (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

34. Clr. McGarvey
"When will Ramelton Reservoir Start?" (L)
35. Clr. McGarvey
"When will work on Portlean pipe replacement start?" (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

36. Clr. Reid
"When will work start and completion date on the Stranorlar car park?" (L)
37. Clr. A. Bonner
"When will this Council prioritise directional signs for Ballybofey from the Letterkenny, Lifford and Castledearg direction?" (L)
38. Clr. A. Bonner
"When is this Council proposing to commence traffic calming at Navenny, Ballybofey as traffic is travelling too fast on this stretch of road and is an accident waiting to happen?" (L)
39. Clr. McGowan
"Can the Council work with the Gardai in stopping speeding vehicles on all our county roads especially at the entrance to our towns and villages and design traffic calming measures or ramps?" (C)

Housing & Building

40. Clr. Reid
“How many turnkey social houses have the Council purchased in the last ten years including the Urban Councils and the total cost?” (C)

Community, Culture & Enterprise

41. Clr. McGowan
“Will the Manager personally give some time to advance work on projects in Ballybofey and Stranorlar or appoint a dedicated person to advance the North West Regional Sports Centre at the Finn Valley Centre lands in Stranorlar showing the proposals for swimming pool, Centre of Excellence for Sports in the region, Community Enterprise Centre and develop playgrounds for the area etc.?”(L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

42. Clr. O’Domhnaill
“Can Donegal County Council develop a programme to provide public toilets at island piers in conjunction with Island Committees and Udaras na Gaeltachta also can public toilets be provided at the county’s beaches over the summer months?” (C)
43. Clr. Slowey
“ When will the long promised chlorination system for the Ardara water supply at the reservoir be put in place?” (L)
44. Clr. Slowey
“Have Donegal County Council identified all the historical landfill sites in Donegal and can you name them and outline the time frame for their reclamation and the projected cost of this work and how it will be paid for?” (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

45. Clr. Larkin
“When will work start on the Lisnennan Road to the Old Woodlands School as it is in a terrible condition?” (L)
46. Clr. Crawford
“What monies were provided from our resources for Non National Roads maintenance for years 2006 and 2007 and how much of these figures was for Area Office costs?” (C)
47. Clr. Crawford
“What plans exist to put in place a footpath from Beechwood Grove, Lifford to Curraghlane Lifford?” (L)
48. Clr. McDaid
“Will this Council consider the provision of adequate traffic calming measures at Main Street, St. Johnston in the interests of public safety due to the large number of heavy vehicles now using the street?” (L)

Corporate Services

49. Clr. Larkin
“Will the Council give the Elected Members a breakdown of staffing levels under each Director of Service in each of the Area Offices and Lifford?” (C)

Community, Culture & Enterprise

50. Clr. McDaid
“Will this Council seek funding to produce a guide for people with disabilities which gives an accurate overview of the provision of access to all arts, culture, heritage, leisure and community venues in the county with a view to promoting universal accessibility?” (C)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

51. SHANNON TOWN COUNCIL
“That Shannon Town Council call on all Local Authorities in the West to campaign in favour of a strong Western corridor from Letterkenny to Cork to counter balance the Eastern corridor from Belfast to Rosslare. This campaign should begin by the local authorities of the west coming together to form a joint action group consisting of the Cathaoirligh/Mayors and Managers of Cork City and County, Limerick City and County, Galway City and County and Counties Kerry, Clare, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal to make this happen.”
52. NAAS TOWN COUNCIL
“That this Council supports the efforts of everylifecounts.com in their efforts to have just one day each year, 21st September, World Peace Day, where there won’t be any deaths on television for entertainment purposes.”
53. FERMOY TOWN COUNCIL
“That this Council should express its abhorrence of this Government’s Policy of purchasing carbon credits and insist it stops immediately.”
54. LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL
At a recent meeting of Limerick County Council, a Prime Time programme on the sexual abuse of children by teachers was discussed.
In the course of the discussion, a resolution was adopted by the Council calling on the Minister for Education to accept responsibility for the sexual abuse of children by teachers and not pursue the victims for compensation who seek redress through the courts.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2007
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD

- C/290/07 MEMBERS PRESENT
Clrs. E. Bonner, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, J. Harte, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. McBride, T. McDaid, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, B. McGuinness, Pádraig O' Dochartaigh, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle and J.J Reid
- C/291/07 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Clrs. M. Mc Donald and T. Slowey who were unable to attend the meeting.
- C/292/07 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE
Mr. Michael McLoone County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture and Enterprise, Mr. Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.
- C/293/07 DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT KILLYLASTIN, LETTERKENNY, TO MR. DAVID LOVE.
Members considered updated report circulated during the meeting. Clr. Mc Garvey advised that he was unhappy with the explanation provided and thus it was agreed to refer the matter back to the Milford Electoral Area for consideration.
- C/294/07 DISPOSAL OF A BUILDING AND PLOT OF LAND AT PEARSE ROAD , LETTERKENNY TO DERMOT GILDEA, JOHN GILDEA, TERENCE GILDEA, CONAL GILDEA, PATRICK GILDEA AND MBC BUILDING CONTRACTORS LIMITED AT MEENGLASS, BALLYBOFEY, CO DONEGAL.
It was noted that a decision had been taken at the meeting on 28th May, 2007, to defer a decision pending consideration of the matter by the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee and that meeting had not, as yet, taken place.

C/295/07 TO AGREE DATE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. McGarvey, it was resolved to hold the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council on Friday 29th June, 2007 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford.

C/296/07 REPORT ON REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The County Manager advised that this report had been presented to Members at a recent workshop. He advised that the Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise was due to meet with the members of the Letterkenny Electoral Area in relation to this matter, after which it was intended to bring a report to the July Council Meeting.

C/297/07 TRAFFIC CALMING IN DUNKINEELY

The following motion submitted by Clr. Pringle, was moved on his behalf by Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. McGarvey and adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council provide traffic calming in Dunkineely on the N56 approaches.”

Members were informed that:-

“The NRA has plans to traffic calm all the towns and villages along the N56. This year Bruckless is being done and it is hoped to include Dunkineely on the programme for 2008. It is preferred to complete these schemes by direct labour or at least through the Area Engineer’s Office as this provides for more flexibility during the construction phase to facilitate local demands and requests and for that reason the programme is being rolled out over a period of time across all the affected electoral areas.”

C/298/07 BUS STATION, DONEGAL TOWN

On the proposal of Clr. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the following motion was adopted:-

“Can this Council instruct Bus Eireann to arrange their pick up and drop off service over at their own bust station in Donegal Town thus reducing the traffic congestion in the town centre?”

Members were informed that: -

“It is understood that the Council do not have a function in instructing Bus Eireann on location and use of bus stops. Regarding this particular matter in Donegal Town, we have asked our Road Safety Engineer to examine the matter and options to help solve the situation. It would be anticipated that any solution would be discussed with the Bus Company in a cooperative manner.”

Clr. Kennedy advised that the situation in Donegal Town was becoming particularly dangerous and that it was posing major problems for the Emergency Services. He requested that Donegal County Council investigate the possibility of introducing traffic byelaws to alleviate the situation. Mr. John McLaughlin advised that he would ask the Road Safety Engineer to assess the situation and have the matter further debated at Electoral Area Level.

C/299/07

EXEMPTIONS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. McBride, the following motion was adopted:-

“That members of Group Water Schemes be exempted from development charges for water as they are currently being asked to pay twice for service.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Development Contribution Scheme (DCS) provides a mechanism for the Council to raise funds to meet co-financing obligations under a number of programmes, as listed in the DCS. Where Group Water Schemes avail of water supplied from a public scheme they are required to make their fair contribution towards the development or improvement of those schemes. If they were to be exempted,

that contribution would need to be collected from others. Such cross-subsidies are not in accordance with the Government's Pricing Policy."

It was generally agreed that the situation required immediate attention and a review was also required in relation to the general operation of Group Water Schemes.

The County Manager indicated, however, that any changes in the payment of such charges would have to be initiated under the auspices of the review of the Development Contribution Scheme. He confirmed that a report on the matter would be presented to members before the end of the year.

C/300/07 DWELLING HOUSE AT DANGEROUS JUNCTION IN KILLYGORDON

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the following motion was adopted:-

"That the Council purchase and demolish dwelling house at dangerous junction in Killygordon."

Members were informed that:-

"It is understood that the house referred to is the one where a vehicle on the side road crashed into the gable a couple of years ago. At that time, the area engineer provided bollards at the junction to help control traffic. The Council is currently examining an option of traffic lights at this junction in conjunction with the NRA Road Safety Engineer. In addition, it is expected that the new N15 Lifford to Stranorlar Realignment Project will reduce traffic at this junction significantly even though that project is some years away.

A decision of the Council to purchase and demolish this house would most likely set a precedent and would require specific funding to be identified.

The Council staff have agreed to meet the house owner and this is expected to happen shortly when the relevant information is gathered."

Clr. Reid stated that he was extremely unhappy with the reply and requested that the County Manager himself should further assess the situation.

C/301/7

BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR ONE STOP SHOP

On the proposal of Clr. A. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Reid, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council makes the Ballybofey and Stranorlar One Stop Shop a priority for the next 12 months and give the people of the Stranorlar Electoral Area a sense of first class citizenship to this county as we are the only Electoral Area with no public service building.”

Members were informed that:-

“That Council has been endeavouring to have a Public Services Centre progressed as quickly as possible. However, the pace of the project was dependent on the progress with the HSE and now that they have recently been approved to put the project on their capital programme, it should be possible to have the project progressed to tender stage without further delay. This is conditional on a successful outcome in the ongoing discussions between the HSE and the Butt Hall Committee.”

Clrs. A. Bonner and Reid stated that they were unhappy with the reply and disappointed at the lack of progress on the matter.

The County Manager reminded members that the land was in the ownership of the Health Service Executive and they were, therefore, managing the project. There was, he confirmed, a back to back agreement to take whatever accommodation requirements Donegal County Council needed.

In response to Clr. A. Bonner’s comments that she had been unaware of such developments, the County Manager confirmed that a letter from the Minister had been circulated to members confirming that the HSE was taking the lead in the project. It was unfair, he advised, to say that Donegal County Council had not progressed the matter satisfactorily given that it was not possible to develop a project on lands that the Council did not own.

Clr. A. Bonner requested that a progress report on the status of the Stranorlar One Stop Shop be included on the agenda of all future Council Meetings.

The County Manager advised that a report would be provided for the next Stranorlar Electoral Area Meeting and that all the interested parties would be invited to attend i.e. the HSE and the Butt Hall Committee.

C/302/07 NEW BRIDGE IN CASTLEFIN

The following motion submitted by Clr. McGowan was proposed by Clr. A. Bonner and seconded by Clr. Reid:-

“That the Council begin work on planning and designing a new bridge for Castlefin and in the meantime carry out some works on adjacent roads to cater for lorries and other large vehicles.”

Members were informed that:-

“The funding and prioritisation of Castlefin Bridge is the main issue to be addressed in relation to progressing this project. It is expected that this will be discussed next month when prioritising the EU Co-Financed Projects for 2008.

C/303/07 PUBLIC LIGHTING AT PIERS AND SLIPWAYS

The following motion submitted by Clr. O’Domhnaill, was moved on his behalf by Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. Alcorn and adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council provide public lighting at all piers and slipway structures in Donegal to improve safety provisions.”

Members were informed that:-

“Public lighting at all piers and slipways would require significant capital investment and ongoing running costs. There are around 150 piers and slipways in the county of which approximately 15 are currently lit to various standards. There is no specific budget for this lighting improvement in the current Budget Book 2007 and if this

motion is adopted then a specific budget will need to be identified.”

C/304/07 DRINING WATER SUPPLIES IN COUNTY DONEGAL

The following motion submitted by Clr. Slowey was proposed by Clr. McGuinness and seconded by Clr. Reid:-

“That this Council make available to the Elected Members of this local authority the report sent to the Environmental Protection Agency on the substandard drinking water supplies in County Donegal”

Members were informed that this matter would be dealt with in the County Manager’s Report.

C/305/07 LAND AT LISOWEN, BUNCRANA

The following motion in the name of Clr. Donaghey was not moved:-

“That Donegal County Council together with Buncrana Town Council immediately appoint a dedicated person to progress work on Council land at Lisowen, Buncrana for the relevant interested community groups.”

C/306/07 REVIEW OF COUNTY LIBRARY SITE

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the following motion was adopted:-

“That we review the present County Library with regards to an extension or move to a green field site.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Central Library in Letterkenny serves the population of the town as a public library and also supports the network of libraries throughout the county in its role as the central repository for local studies resources and reference materials.

The Library opened to the public in 1995 and is now struggling to provide adequate levels of service due to size and staffing constraints. As a rapidly expanding gateway city, an extended library service is already required. This infrastructural need will be even greater as the town and its

hinterland develops in terms of population, facilities and other infrastructure in line with its gateway status.

Improved facilities would add greatly to and complement existing and planned developments in the area of cultural, social and leisure services, bringing each up to gateway standard.

Enhancement of the Central Library is an identified priority and has been added to the list of capital projects recently approved by the CCC&E Strategic Policy Committee. It is also a key component of the emerging 5-year Cultural Services Strategic Plan.

A new Cultural Services Headquarters in Letterkenny has been on the capital buildings priority list since 1984. Two buildings are currently rented to facilitate the functions undertaken and the space available is still inadequate to serve this developing countywide service. An application for funding was submitted to the Department in July 2001.

The old Urban District Council site is currently under consideration for the provision of a multipurpose centre, combining youth, culture and community functions. The inclusion of the Cultural Services Headquarters within this centre would ensure effectiveness in networking and create synergies with other organisations working towards the expansion of the services required by a gateway city. The Cultural Services Headquarters will combine the management functions of the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council for libraries, countywide Arts, Museum, Archives and Heritage.”

Clr. Larkin advised that he was looking for a firm commitment in relation to the appointment of a Project Manager for this project. He cited the need to look at overall staffing levels and indicated that an overall review needed to be carried out given that the Council’s annual budget was now in the region of €70million. He expressed concern at the amount of money currently being paid for rented accommodation. As regards the funding aspect, he noted that Donegal County Council was at a crossroads in terms of the sale of assets. This project, he noted, could be partly funded through the realisation of assets.

A number of members expressed opinions that funding for the project should not be generated from the disposal of assets in other areas of the county. The County Manager reminded members that the overall building programme and provision of suitable accommodation for all Donegal County Council Services was dependent on the sale of unused office space.

C/307/07

PHASE II WORKS ON COUNTY HOUSE

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss the plans for phase 2 works to the County House.”

Members were informed that:-

“Following the completion of Phase I of the County House and the provision of the new Public Services Centres in 5 locations (between 1999 and 2003) to serve the five Electoral Areas, the upgrading of accommodation at Headquarters (County House Phase II) was examined during 2004/2005 taking into account the level of new accommodation which had been made available (through leasing etc). The provision of an Area Office for the Stranorlar Electoral Area was also considered as part of our accommodation building programme arising from the establishment of this 6th Electoral Area. However, priority was given to reduce loan charges on borrowings (used to fund County House Phase I and the five Public Service Centres) in light of the references made in various audit reports to the need to reduce our accumulated deficit/loan charges. As a consequence, the Council was not in a position financially to proceed with Lifford Phase II and Stranorlar in 2005/2006. Progress has been made in 2004, 2005 and 2006 through the disposal of assets to effect the retirement of loans (€5.1m in 2006) and the reduction of loan charges (€483,000 in 2006) and it is planned to redeem a further €1m to €2m of both mortgage and non-mortgage related loans in 2007. These reductions in loan charges in association with the reduction of our accumulated revenue

deficit (by €800,000 per annum for the past 3 years) will create a much more favourable financial position in 2008 for the Council to consider funding options for County House Phase II.

The recent decision of the HSE to take the lead in providing a new Public Service Centre in Stranorlar will also help the Council as we will have options in relation to funding our share of this accommodation.

To commence the preliminary planning of County House Phase II, an audit of staff (permanent, temporary and those on project related contracts) and their accommodation needs at headquarters and in each area office, is being prepared and a range of options will be considered to meet our outstanding accommodation needs. This will enable a realistic schedule of accommodation to be prepared for County House Phase II and the estimated cost to be calculated. When the cost estimate is ready I will revert to the CPG/full Council with a proposal on how we should fund the project within a realistic planning/construction timeframe. This will obviously include a full review of leased accommodation/rental costs.”

Clr. Crawford highlighted his ongoing concern in relation to the location of the County Archives Centre in Lifford and lamented the lack of progress on the matter. Given that the Council Headquarters were based in Lifford, it was imperative, he added, that Phase II works proceed as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the last paragraph of Mr. Kelly’s reply would provide an excellent template for moving the matter forward. Members noted that facilities in the Council Chamber were inadequate, particularly in relation to the press and public seating areas. Access, and in particular disability access, needed to be further reviewed they confirmed.

The County Manager stated that there was an ongoing review of accommodation needs and that he hoped to have a progress report on the scope and scale of the extension for the July Council Meeting.

C/308/07 UNDER REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN
POLITICAL LIFE

The following motion submitted by Clr. McDaid, was moved on his behalf by Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty and adopted:-

“That this Council seeks to examine models of good practice in other local authorities within the 32 counties, the UK and Europe that have significantly addressed the under representation of women in political life.”

Members were informed that:-

“If the motion is agreed, it is suggested that the matter be taken up by the Community, Culture and Corporate SPC.”

THE FOLLOWING REPLIES TO MEMBERS
QUESTIONS WERE NOTED.

C/309/07 KILLYBEGS SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What progress has been made on the Killybegs sewerage and preparation of contract documents for the network?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Contract Documents are currently being prepared for the sewer network, industrial collection system and land/sea outfall. We expect these to be complete in July.”

C/310/07 FROSSES/INVER WATER SCHEME UPGRADE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What is the update on the Frosses/Inver Water Scheme Upgrade and when is it expected that work will be completed?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“A contractor had been selected, contracts are being prepared and the contractor is mobilising. We expect the contractor to commence works in June, 2007 and to complete in mid 2008.”

C/311/07 OLD FIRE STATION IN DONEGAL TOWN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Kennedy:-

“What is the update with the Old Fire Station in Donegal Town?”

Clr. Kennedy was informed that:-

“The grant allocated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the construction of the new Fire Station at Donegal Town was nett of the value of the site of the old fire station. Donegal County Council is required to realise the site value in order to meet the full capital cost of the new station.

C/312/07 TEMPORARY HALTING SITE IN DONEGAL TOWN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Kennedy:-

“What has this Council planned for the temporary halting site in Donegal Town?”

Clr. Kennedy was informed that:-

“On the 04th May, 2007, the County Manager signed an order formally closing the indigenous emergency halting site in Donegal Town. A contractor has now been employed and is presently onsite carrying out the necessary works to decommission the site. The Council are presently pursuing the acquisition of this site from the Health Service Executive with a view to developing it in the future for housing purposes in light of the fact that the Council have very little landbank left in Donegal Town.”

C/313/07 SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE NRA

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

“Will Donegal County Council immediately convene a Special Meeting with the NRA to discuss their lack of action in landscaping the three roundabouts along the Ballyshannon-Bundoran Bypass that was opened 12 months ago?”

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

“This matter will be raised with the NRA in a meeting next week.”

C/314/07 RENAMING NEW LANDMARK BRIDGE IN BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

“Will Donegal County Council host a public dedication ceremony in renaming the new landmark bridge in Ballyshannon “Red Hugh O'Donnell Bridge” as proposed by Ballyshannon Town Council on Friday 13th July 2007 to coincide with the Flight of the Earls 400th celebrations in Ballyshannon.”

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

“The Roads Department currently have no plans for this ceremony.”

C/315/07 RAMELTON RESERVOIR

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“When will Ramelton Reservoir start?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The long term water services infrastructure needs for the Ramelton area will be examined as an extension of the scope of the Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme which is currently on the Water Services Investment Programme as a

scheme to advance through planning. Shorter term needs, including a new reservoir, will have to be funded/part funded from local special development contributions. We are unable to commit to any commencement date for such works.”

C/316/07 PORTLEAN PIPE REPLACEMENT

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey: _

“When will work on Portlean Pipe replacement start?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that tender documents have been finalised and the tender invitation process is about to commence. Work could commence within three months of return of tenders, i.e. in the fourth quarter of 2007.

C/317/07 STRANORLAR CAR PARK

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“When will work start and completion date on the Stranorlar Car Park?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“June 2007 is the projected start date for this car park project. Full funding to complete the car park has not been identified and this makes it difficult to forecast the completion date. However, the local area will be trying to complete the project as quickly as possible.”

C/318/07 DIRECTIONAL SIGNS FOR BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“When will this Council prioritise directional signs for Ballybofey from the Letterkenny, Lifford and Castlederg direction?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“Signage on the National Primary Roads is a matter for the NRA and this will be discussed with them. The roads area will assist in whatever way possible with the erection of

these signs assuming appropriate funding is made available to do so.”

C/319/07 TRAFFIC CALMING AT NAVENNEY, BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“When is the Council proposing to commence traffic calming at Navenny, Ballybofey as traffic is travelling too fast on this stretch of road and is an accident waiting to happen.”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“There are no specific “traffic calming” proposals for this road. However recent works on the Navenny Bridge have improved pedestrian movement along the road. The construction of the Drennan Bridge has removed considerable vehicular numbers, leaving the area safer. The local roads area are continuing works on road markings and signage which will also have a positive affect on road safety.”

C/320/07 WORKING WITH GARDAI TO STOP SPEEDING VEHICLES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Can the Council work with the Gardai in stopping speeding vehichles on all our county roads especially at the entrance to our towns and villages and design traffic calming measures or ramps?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The Road Design Office currently provides An Garda Siochanna with maps highlighting accident locations. Road sections measuring about 5-8 kilometres are then identified as having a particular propensity for collisions and are categorised on a descending basis from Red, Amber to Green. The roads sections are referred to as “Collision Prone Zones”. Garda resources are then focused on these roadways as a more “intelligence led” approach to enforcement. A full list can be accessed on the Garda website www.garda.ie..

This information will also be used to locate the safety/speed cameras due to be introduced later this year.

In relation to speed limits, countywide review was conducted on all speed limits by the Council during 2004/2005. This review was carried out in full consultation with An Garda Síochána.

Engineering measures are considered under the Collision Prevention Programme. This programme consists of regular meeting between Council's Area Engineers and members of An Garda Síochána. Accidents are discussed using CT68's accident report forms and if necessary remedial action is undertaken using the Low Cost Accident Remedial Programme.

C/321/07 TURNKEY SOCIAL HOUSES PURCHASED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“How many turnkey social houses have the Council purchased in the last ten years including the Urban Councils and the total cost?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“The procurement of social housing units through Turnkey Contracts began in 1999. To date the Council has acquired 898 social houses by this method involving some 56 different schemes of various sizes throughout the county. The total cost involved including land costs, construction and design costs is €108,803,787.00 which gives an average cost per dwelling of €121,162.00. The above items do not include turnkey projects acquired by the Town Councils of Letterkenny and Buncrana which involve approx half dozen schemes.

C/322/07 ADVANCEMENT OF VARIOUS PROJECTS IN BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR.

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Will the Manager personally give some time to advance works on projects in Ballybofey and Stranorlar or appoint a dedicated person to advance the North West Regional Sports Centre at the Finn Valley Centre lands in Stranorlar showing

the proposals for swimming pool, centre of excellence for sports for the region, community enterprise centre and develop playgrounds for the area etc.?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The Area Manager for Community & Enterprise for the area is already supporting the community company in its pursuance of a community enterprise centre for the area. They are furthermore trying to obtain agreement with regard to the siting of a playground in the area. The obtaining of consensus from the community is proving difficult with regards to a location but attempts are ongoing in this regard. Opportunities to obtain co-funding to facilitate the development of the wider area as a centre of sporting excellence and recreation and amenity are also being pursued by both the Community & Enterprise and Planning Directorates and progress will be reported to members on an ongoing basis.

The Community & Enterprise Division will also assist with the lead Directorate in identifying potential co-funding for the swimming pool.”

C/323/07

PUBLIC TOILETS AT ISLAND PIERS AND BEACHES

The following question was submitted by Clr.

O’Domhnaill:-

“Can Donegal County Council develop a programme to provide public toilets at island piers in conjunction with Island Committees and Udaras na Gaeltachta, also can public toilets be provided at the county’s beaches over the summer months?”

Clr. O’Domhnaill was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council is open to proposals for the development of public toilets in partnership with bodies such as Udaras na Gaeltachta. One example is the facilities developed at Magherarorarty pier. Sustainability in terms of security, operation, upkeep and maintenance is a key consideration in all cases.

The marine section of roads and transportation service, the marine and water leisure section of the community and

enterprise service and the water and environment service all have an interest in such developments.

The Council's water and environment service provides toilet facilities at a total of 13 beaches. These beaches are either blue flag beaches or popular bathing beaches. There are permanent toilet facilities at five beaches (Narin, Magherawarden, Lisfannon, Downings and Marblehill). Temporary toilets are provided at the remaining beaches during the summer (i.e. Culdaff, Shroove, Rathmullan, Killahoey, Carrickfinn, Fintra, Murvagh, Rosstownlough)."

C/324/07 CHLORINATION SYSTEM FOR ARDARA WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"When will the long promised chlorination system for the Ardara water supply at the reservoir be put in place?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

"The contractor for the proposed secondary chlorination system at Ardara reservoir has been appointed and work will commence shortly. The system should be complete and operational within 6 months from commencement."

C/325/07 HISTORICAL LANDFILL SITES IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Have Donegal County Council identified all the historical landfill sites in Donegal and can you name them and outline the time frame for their reclamation and the projected cost of this work and how it will be paid for?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

"Donegal County Council is in the process of identifying historic landfills (sometimes referred to as "legacy landfills") around the county. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set out a four step process involving identification, risk screening, risk assessment and remedial actions (if necessary). Council staff have recently received training and are engaged in the first step "identification". A deadline has yet to be established, but we hope to conclude

this first step during the summer 2007. It is premature to project the scope of remediation works required, cost estimates or time frames for remediation. No commitments have been received about funding these works. The initial work of identification is being carried out by the Council to date.”

C/326/07 WORK ON LISNENNAN ROAD TO OLD WOODLANDS SCHOOL.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“When will work start on the Lisnennan Road to the Old Woodlands School as it is in a terrible condition?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“Planning permissions granted on this road were conditioned to address the condition of the road. To this end, the Executive Roads Engineer for the area is in ongoing negotiations with the various developers involved to agree a programme of works. Maintenance work has been carried out recently. This matter can be discussed further at the local area meeting when the programme is better known.”

C/327/07 NON NATIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE IN ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 2006-2007

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What monies were provided from our resources for Non National Road Maintenance in Road Works Programme for years 2006 and 2007 and how much of these figures was for area office costs?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Budget Book 2006 contains €3,859,400 for Non National Road Maintenance and set aside €601,200 for Area Office administration costs.

Budget Book 2007 contains €4,099,400 for Non National Road Maintenance and set aside €678,100 for Area Office administration costs.”

C/328/07 FOOTPATH FROM BEECHWOOD GROVE LIFFORD TO CURRAGHLANE, LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What plans has the Council to put in place a footpath from Beechwood Grove, Lifford to Curraghlane, Lifford?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“A footpath at this location has been included in the works being funded under the Peace 2 allocation. It is expected that these works will be carried out later in the summer of 2007.”

C/329/07 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT MAIN STREET, ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will this Council consider the provision of adequate traffic calming measures at Main St, St. Johnston in the interests of public safety due to the large number of heavy vehicles now using the street?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“This matter had been referred to the Road Safety Engineer for consideration of measures under Low Cost Accident Type funding if deemed necessary. It can be discussed further at a future Electoral Area Meeting.”

C/330/07 BREAKDOWN OF STAFFING LEVELS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Will the Council give the elected members a breakdown of staffing levels under each Director of Service in each of the area offices and Lifford?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“A breakdown of staffing numbers under each Director of Service, in each Electoral Area and at Headquarters in Lifford is attached. (Appendix 1).

The breakdown is taken from the figures at the end of March 2007, which is the latest reporting period to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the control of staffing numbers.

The breakdown provided includes all office based employees, permanent and temporary and includes contract and part-time employees and employees who are employed on major Capital Schemes. Employees in the Library Service, such as Branch Librarians, under the Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate are included by reference to the Electoral Area in which they are based. The same applies to full-time Fire Officers and Environmental Staff within the Water, Environment and Emergency Services Directorate.

Employees not included are outdoor employees (416 in total) and Retained Firefighters (153 in total).”

C/331/07

GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will this Council seek funding to produce a guide for people with disabilities which gives an accurate overview of the provision of access to all arts, culture, heritage, leisure and community venues in the county with a view to promoting universal accessibility?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“It is proposed that this suggestion be considered by the Disability Strategy Group that is in place to advise and assist the Council creating greater accessibility to Council owned buildings, with the objective of assessing how best such a guide could be prepared and disseminated.”

An addendum to the reply, as follows, was circulated at the meeting:-

“Increasing access to and participation in culture is one of the goals of the new Cultural Services 5 year Strategic Plan (currently in draft form). Identifying and addressing barriers to access is an important objective, with consequent actions to include

- (i) an accessibility audit and implementation of recommendations,
- (ii) accessible training for front line staff in disability awareness,
- (iii) development of specific programmes for target groups, including those who may be or may feel excluded across all cultural services.

It is also planned to create a portal to enable remote access to Cultural Services information and services as far as possible. This will greatly improve access to the whole population, including those with disabilities.

Access to An Grianan theatre was greatly improved in 2006 and it is hoped to make further improvements in 2007. The new Regional Cultural Centre will be fully accessible. Both buildings have enhanced access following funding made available from the Department under the National Disability Strategy.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.