

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY, 2007 IN
THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

Councillors Present:

Councillor Francis Conaghan
Councillor Rena Donaghey
Councillor Marian McDonald
Councillor Denis McGonagle
Councillor Bernard McGuinness
Councillor Joe Doherty, Mayor Buncrana Town Council

Buncrana Town Council:

Paul Doyle, Town Clerk

Officials Present:

Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:

Aideen Doherty, C.E.D.O.

Corporate Services:

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager
Marie Deeney, Acting Senior Staff Officer
Una Cresswell, Acting Staff Officer

Planning & Economic Development Services:

Clare Cronin, Area Manager

Roads & Transportation Services:

Pat Gillespie, Area Manager

Water, Environment & Emergency Services:

Con McLaughlin, Area Manager

Apologies:

Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager

07/01 WELCOME ADDRESS

The Chairman, Cllr Francis Conaghan welcomed the 2no. members of the public and the media to the meeting. The Chairman also advised that the meeting had to be postponed on a number of occasions previous due to unforeseen circumstances.

07/02 VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee passed a vote of sympathy in respect of Eithne McLaughlin, sister of Councillor Peter McLaughlin, Buncrana Town Council.

03.1 Housing Agenda

Due to the absence of Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, the Members agreed that the Housing Agenda would be dealt with at the IEAC Meeting in Buncrana on 23rd February, 2007.

03.2 Congratulations

The Chairman, Cllr Francis Conaghan extended congratulations on behalf of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee, to Patsy Lafferty on the recent birth of his baby daughter.

04.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November, 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Denis McGonagle, seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2006 were agreed.

04.2 Burnfoot By-Pass

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that the Council is now moving forward in relation to the Burnfoot By-Pass and is proceeding with the variation of the Burnfoot Local Area Plan.

04.3 Traffic Islands

Pat Gillespie advised the Members that there are a number of issues in relation to the ESB and that a meeting needs to be arranged with the Members, ESB and Officials. Pat Gillespie agreed, however, to again contact the ESB regarding the lights on the traffic islands on the N13 with a view to having same repaired as soon as possible. It was also agreed that all kerbing on traffic islands be painted yellow.

04.4 Traffic Lights at Merville

Following a request from Cllr Marian McDonald, Pat Gillespie agreed to follow up on the traffic lights at Merville.

04.5 Take-Over of Roads

It was agreed that a report on the "Take-Over of Roads" would be presented at the Roads Workshop in Buncrana on 23rd February, 2007.

04.6 Car Parking in Merville and Carndonagh

Pat Gillespie agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss any issues in relation to the provision of car parking in both Merville and Carndonagh.

04.7 Slow Signs at Merville

In response to a query from Cllr Marian McDonald regarding "Slow" signs to be erected in the vicinity of schools and at Bath Terrace Lane, Merville, Pat Gillespie advised that these signs would be erected within the next few months.

04.8 Buncrana Outer Relief Road

It was agreed that a Workshop would take place between the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee and Buncrana Town Council on 23rd February, 2007, after the Roads Workshop, to discuss issues in relation to the Buncrana Outer Relief Road.

04.9 St. Mary's Road, Buncrana

Cllr Joe Doherty raised the condition of St. Mary's Road, Buncrana, which is in a very bad state following the installation of broadband, and has subsided outside the Cinema, Pat Gillespie stated that this is a major issue and agreed to explore funding options available for improving this road.

04.10 Mill Bridge

Cllr Joe Doherty asked when construction works would commence at Mill Bridge. Pat Gillespie confirmed that it is presently with the Department for approval and advised that he would follow up on same.

04.11 Footpath and Minor Works Schemes

Members agreed that the priority list of footpath and minor works schemes in Inishowen would be dealt with at the Roads Workshop on 23rd February, 2007.

04.12 Development Charges Collected in the Environs of Buncrana

Pat Gillespie presented a report to the meeting in relation to Development Charges collected in the environs of Buncrana, in which he outlined the following issues raised by Buncrana Town Council:-

- (a) Allocation of monies collected within the Buncrana environs, allocated to Donegal County Council but drawing on Town Council Services. The level of roads charges was raised in the context of the level of roads allocations being provided by the County Council in the environs of Buncrana.
- (b) Breakdown of how monies are allocated within Inishowen vis a vis the rest of the county.

Pat Gillespie advised the Members that the total amount of Roads Development Charges collected in the environs of Buncrana to April, 2006 was €625,726.

To-date, €161,000 has been spent on footpaths, pedestrian crossing and road surfacing in and around Buncrana and Cockhill, with a further €44,000 is earmarked for the realignment of the Causeway Road/Cockhill Road junction.

Any Roads Development Charges collected prior to the introduction of the Development Contribution Scheme in March, 2005 must be spent in the DED, however, any Roads Development Charges collected since the introduction of the Development Contribution Scheme are restricted to the Electoral Area in which they have been collected. Accordingly, therefore, Roads Development Charges collected in Inishowen can only be spent in Inishowen.

04.13 Pedestrian Crossing at Muff

Pat Gillespie advised the Committee that a public consultation has now been carried out and submissions received have been forwarded to the Road Design Office for their comment prior to a recommendation being made.

At the request of Cllr Francis Conaghan, Pat Gillespie agreed to examine the possibility of providing a second Pedestrian Crossing at Muff, and to report back to the Members.

04.14 Public Lighting

Pat Gillespie advised the Members of lights which have been ordered in the Inishowen Electoral Area under the Public Lighting Infill and Extension programme budget from 2006.

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that the allocation for the Public Lighting Programme for 2007 be included on the Agenda for the Roads Workshop on 23rd February, 2007.

It was also agreed that the following be included on the Agenda for the Roads Workshop:-

- Location of lights included in the Infill Programme
- Policy/Criteria on locations for erecting Public Lights
- Delays in erecting and repairing Public Lights

At the request of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Pat Gillespie agreed to contact the ESB once again regarding the delays experienced in repairing

and erecting public lights, and also to invite Paul Doherty to attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

04.15 St. Mura's Church, Fahan

Following a request from Cllr Francis Conaghan in relation to the provision of public lighting at St. Mura's Church, Fahan, Pat Gillespie agreed to contact Paul Doherty, ESB, regarding this matter and to report back. Cllr Rena Donaghey also expressed her support of Cllr Conaghan in this matter.

04.16 Ballymacarthur, Moville

Pat Gillespie up-dated the Members in relation to the damage caused by lorries using the Quarry at Ballymacarthur, Moville. The road will be closed to facilitate the carrying out of major works on 5th and 6th February. This work is being completed and funded by the Quarry in question.

04.17 Tober, Carrigans

Following a request from Cllr Francis Conaghan regarding problems with quarries using roads at Tober, Carrigans, Pat Gillespie agreed to investigate same.

04.18 Nurses Lane, Tooban

In response to a query from Cllr Rena Donaghey regarding works to be carried out at Nurses Lane, Tooban, Pat Gillespie agreed to follow up on this matter.

04.19 Malin to Culdaff Road

Cllr Bernard McGuinness raised the issue on the policy of raising road levels significantly in order to carry out necessary improvement works and not raising the verges accordingly. This is causing problems for both motorists and pedestrians and needs to be examined. Cllr McGuinness requested that a report be brought to the Roads Workshop on the 23rd February in relation to this matter.

04.20 Speed Limit at Redcastle

Cllr Marian McDonald advised the meeting that the residents at Redcastle have requested that the existing speed limit at Redcastle be retained.

04.21 Quigley's Point F.C.

The Members requested that the response in relation to the widening of the access road and piping of drain on access road to Quigley's Point Football Club grounds, and the erection of public lights be included on the Roads Workshop Agenda on 23rd February.

04.22 Sign at Coolcross

The Committee agreed that the location of the sign erected at Coolcross be discussed at the Roads Workshop on the 23rd February 2007.

05.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November, 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2006 were agreed.

05.2 Follow-Up Report

The Members considered the report from Con McLaughlin dated 19th January, 2007 (Appendix 1) in relation to follow-ups and various issues raised at the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 13th November, 2006.

05.3 Illegal Dumping at Dunduffsfort

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried if a site meeting could be arranged with Paul Strawbridge/Litter Warden in relation to illegal dumping at Dunduffsfort.

05.4 Illegal Dumping in Moville Town

Cllr Marian McDonald raised the issue of illegal dumping in Moville Town. Con McLaughlin indicated that the matter would be passed to the Litter Warden to investigate.

05.5 Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme

Members requested that the Water, Environment & Emergency Services Capital Design Office and the Road Design Office meet in relation to the location of the Burnfoot Sewerage Treatment Works. The site is presently sitting in limbo and a developer who has already paid the necessary charges is awaiting guidance.

05.6 Carrigans Sewerage Scheme

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried if in the context of new developments at Carrigans could improvements be made at Carrigans Sewerage Treatment Scheme, Con McLaughlin agreed to investigate this matter and to report back to Members.

05.7 Culdaff Sewerage Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the Committee recommended that the 2no. Sewerage Treatment Plants in Culdaff be upgraded.

05.8 Glengad (Glentooskert) G.W.S.S.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his delight to see progress in relation to the take over of the Glengad (Glentooskert) Group Water Supply Scheme, and queried the position regarding the proposed reservoir. Con McLaughlin responded that a site for the reservoir has been secured and that the Scheme is on track for construction later this year. Con McLaughlin also suggested that Promoters of the proposed Portaleen GWSS should be progressing their plans in readiness.

05.9 Buncrana Sewerage Scheme

Cllr Rena Donaghey requested a total review of Buncrana and the Environs of the existing infrastructure in relation to sanitary facilities. Con McLaughlin agreed to contact Water Services Design regarding the upgrade of Buncrana Sewerage Treatment Works and Network.

05.10 Development of Boreholes

Cllr Rena Donaghey queried the up-to-date position in relation to boreholes. Con McLaughlin in response, clarified the matter to refer to private developers wishing to develop private water supplies for public use in multi-housing developments. He noted concern that the Council would have in that regard, for such things as the sustainability of the development in term of water quality and quantity, but also the capacity of developers to meet the associated responsibilities, which they would attract as 'water service providers'.

Cllr Donaghey stated that a developer in the Quigley's Point area, who is constructing a development of 100 houses, has been requested to bring an 8" pipe the length of 11km (approx. 6 miles). Con McLaughlin responded that he was unaware of this particular case and agreed to check out this matter and to report back to Cllr Donaghey.

05.11 Malin Sewerage Scheme

Following a query from Cllr Denis McGonagle in relation to Malin Sewerage Scheme, Con McLaughlin advised that work is due to commence on the Malin Sewerage Scheme in April, 2007.

05.12 Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant

Cllr Bernard McGuinness tabled correspondence in this regard requested clarification/details of costings on the following in relation to the Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant:-

- Relocation of Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Works 150m back on the site and should be as far as possible from dwellings.
- Locating of Outfall Pipe north-east of Greencastle.
- Relocation of proposed pumping station at Lafferty's lane.
- Provision of back-up pumps and stand-by generators at all pumping stations.
- Confirmation that the Draft EIS will come before the Members prior going to public consultation or An Bord Pleanala.

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that all of the issues raised by the Members be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement, and that a presentation on the EIS be made to the Members prior to publication.

05.13 Illegal Dumping at Quigley's Point Recycling Banks

Cllr Marian McDonald requested that the Council erect, a "No Dumping" sign at Quigley's Point Recycling Banks.

05.14 Illegal Dumping at Ardagh, Clonmany

Cllr Denis Mc Gonigle raised the matter of illegal dumping at Ardagh, Clonmany.

05.15 Munn's Field, Lisfannon

Cllr Rena Donaghey queried in the context of estates takeover the problems/issues currently experienced with the Sewerage Treatment Works at Munn's Field, Lisfannon. Con Mc Laughlin agreed to investigate.

05.16 Lagan Water Supply Phase 3

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried in the context of residents at Gortree the procedure in relation to the Lagan Water Supply - Phase 3. Do people now need to apply? Con McLaughlin agreed to report back to Cllr Conaghan on this matter.

06.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November, 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2006 were agreed.

06.2 Follow-Ups

The Members considered the report dated 1st February, 2007 circulated by Clare Cronin in relation to follow-ups and various issues raised at the Electoral Area Meeting held on 13th November, 2006

06.3 Planning Staff

Clare Cronin advised the Members that she is presently preparing a report in relation to staffing issues. Planning staff are currently very stretched due to the large volume of planning application being received.

06.4 Workshop with Agents

Clare Cronin informed the Committee that it is anticipated that a Workshop will be held with the agents in late February. The workshop will address the County Development Plan and also brief agents in relation to the new planning regulations.

06.5 Planning Technician

Clare Cronin informed the Members that it is expected that a new Planning Technician will be in place in the Planning Office within the next few weeks.

06.6 Barrack Hill

It was agreed that the project team in relation to Barrack Hill, Carndonagh, would attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting and make a presentation on the development of Barrack Hill.

06.7 Variations to County Development Plan

Following a request from Cllr Francis Conaghan that a review of the County Development Plan commence immediately to discuss anomalies in relation to Policy UB1, and also to include variations in towns with Local Area Plans in Urban Generated Areas at the same time, Claire Cronin agreed to follow up on this matter. Cllr Bernard McGuinness also expressed his support of the Chairman, Cllr Conaghan on this matter.

06.8 Specialist Project, Birdstown

Cllr Rena Donaghey raised the issue of a proposal from the business sector to submit a planning application for a specialist project in Birdstown which would employ 10/15 people. This area is presently a black spot area for unemployment. The project, however, would require 3 phase power. Clare Cronin agreed to up-date Cllr Donaghey on this matter.

06.9 Quarries

Following a request from the Members, Clare Cronin agreed to have the quarries at Tooban and Moville inspected and the appropriate action taken.

07.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November, 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Joe Doherty, seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2006 were agreed.

07.2 Colgan Hall, Carndonagh

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that there is currently a funding issue in relation to the development of the Colgan Hall, Carndonagh.

07.3 Playgrounds

Aideen Doherty updated the Members in relation to playgrounds. There are currently 18 playgrounds for completion in the county. A review of the current Playground Policy is presently being conducted in advance of the new playground programme to be rolled out 2007 - 2010. A further update will be given at the next IEAC Meeting.

07.4 Public Arts Selection Panel

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that a nomination was required for one Elected Member to represent the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee on the Public Art Selection Panel. On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the Committee recommended that Cllr Marian McDonald represent the IEAC.

07.4 Flight of the Earls

Aideen Doherty agreed to keep the Members updated on progress regarding the Flight of the Earls project.

07.5 Inch Lake

Aideen Doherty informed the Members that good progress was being made on Inch Lake Development and was very encouraged with the amount of local interest in the project.

07.6 HEART Project

An update was given by Aideen Doherty in relation to the HEART Project. A local consultation was held on 6th November, 2006 regarding the HEART Project and was the largest attended public meeting in the County. The up-take on the shop front scheme for Moville is three.

07.7 Rehab People of the Year Awards

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that the closing date for receipt of nominations in relation to the People of the Year Awards is Monday 5th February, 2007. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled to take place in Letterkenny on 31st March, 2007. Members were requested to advise Aideen of their interest in attending the ceremony.

07.8 Malin Head & Grianan of Aileach

The Chairman, Cllr Francis Conaghan noted the requests received from Cllr Pádraig MacLochlainn, regarding the following:-

- The purchase of land at Malin Head.
- The possibility of establishing a working group on developing the potential of the fort at an Grianan of Aileach.

The requests were passed to Aideen Doherty for her attention.

07.9 Movice Bye-Laws

A final draft of the Movice Bye-Laws 2007 was distributed by Aideen Doherty, who advised that a public notice must now be published in the local papers in relation to the Movice Bye-Laws.

Aideen also requested the nomination of one Member for inclusion in any proposals for Movice Bye-Laws. On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the Committee recommended that Cllr Marian McDonald be nominated.

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr. Rena Donaghey, the Committee recommended that the final draft of the Movice Bye-Laws 2007 be considered at a County Council Meeting.

07.10 Movice Ferry

Aideen Doherty informed the Members that the Movice Ferry Company has just advised her that the ferry will be closed for 1 no. weeks for the annual servicing/essential maintenance/repairs. The Members expressed their dissatisfaction at the suspension of the ferry service and requested Aideen to contact the Movice Ferry Company regarding this matter and to report back to the Committee.

07.11 Inishowen Partnership/IRDL

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that both the Inishowen Partnership and the IRDL would make presentations at the next IEAC Meeting.

08.1 Ballyliffin Development Group

Eunan Kelly conveyed the apologies from the deputation of the Ballyliffin Development Group who were unable to attend the meeting, and advised that the deputation would attend the next IEAC Meeting.

08.2 Requests for Deputations

Eunan Kelly informed the Committee that requests had been received from the following in respect of deputations at the next IEAC Meeting:-

- Fahan Community Council
- Foyle Fisherman's Co-Op Ltd
- Naomh Padraig GAA Club, Uisce Chaoin

The Members agreed to receive the deputations from Fahan Community Council and Foyle Fisherman's Co-Op Ltd at the next IEAC Meeting due to be held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, on 23rd February, 2007.

It was also agreed to receive the deputations from the Ballyliffin Development Group and Naomh Padraig GAA Club, Uisce Chaoin, at the IEAC Meeting in the Carndonagh PSC on 12th March, 2007.

08.3 Progress Report

The Members noted the statistics in the Progress Report for the year 2006.

08.4 Outreach Office in Buncrana

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried the current position in relation to the proposed Outreach Office in Buncrana. Eunan Kelly agreed to investigate the matter and progress the opening.

08.5 Schedule of Meetings 2007

The Schedule of Meetings for 2007 was agreed as follows:-

12th March, 2007

14th May, 2007

17th July, 2007

10th September, 2007

12th November, 2007

07/09

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee will take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Monday 12th March, 2007 commencing at 10.00 am.

Appendix 1

WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES Report to Inishowen EAC Meeting 26th January 2007

AGENDA Item No.1 - consideration of minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 13th November 2006

AGENDA Item no.2 - Update reports from previous meeting:
From minutes of previous meeting 13th November 2006, using same notation

56.3 Merville/Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant

At previous meeting, I advised the Committee that a presentation on the Environmental Impact Statement for Merville/Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant would be made to the Members prior to publication.

Subsequent queries raised by Members were referred to the Capital Design office for follow-up, Paul Kilcoyne, S.E. has noted that the subject letter from the DoEHLG, which was copied to all the Members confirms that the Department will not influence the process of site selection as an independent statutory process EIS is involved.

He also confirmed that DCC have answered CFCEs letter from last year, which was the subject of their complaint to the Ombudsman. There is one further letter to answer relating to CFCEs incorrect interpretation of the letter from the Department dated 16 October 2006 concerning a site above 100m altitude. CFCEs letter states 'We note confirmation from the DOE that they do not pose any economic restrictions on the selection of sites at higher altitudes' whereas the Departments letter actually states 'it appears that the site selection report follows an objective approach' and 'it is not appropriate for the Department to influence the process and certainly not to influence it based on economic criteria in isolation, particularly as in this case an independent statutory process (EIS) is involved.'

The Council therefore intends to complete the EIA for the current preferred site.

56.6 Illegal Dumping opposite Rock Bar

Issue has been referred to relevant staff for follow-up / progress reporting later.

56.7 Milltown & Ballymacarry SLI's

At previous meeting, calls were made for advance funding to be sought from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government under the Buncrana SS project on the WSIP, in order to progress sewers at Milltown and Ballymacarry, our Capital Design office has advised that whether this is

considered as an individual scheme or as part of a bigger scheme the same water services pricing policy is applied by the DEHLG, i.e. for existing un-serviced areas, the DEHLG will provide 40% for servicing future domestic if DCC are in a position to provide 60%. At present DCC are not in a position to provide 60%. In other words the only way there will be advance works here is if there is development demand

56.8 Buncrana Sewerage Scheme

Our Capital Design office has advised that the Draft Brief that was submitted to the Department in relation to Buncrana Sewerage Scheme will be available for inspection when we have feedback from the Department on the draft document.

56.9 Ned's Point, Buncrana

The Council are presently examining the strategic requirements for water / wastewater infrastructure in the Buncrana area. As part of that, consideration will be given to the application of a special development contribution on future multiple housing developments towards funding the deficiencies noted.

56.10 Outline designs for sewerage schemes:

Requests for outline designs to be done for towns / villages which would help steer development of future sewerage schemes has been referred to the Capital Design office. Feedback suggests that available resources would have a bearing on such a general approach. However, if a significant development was proposed for a particular village that offered the opportunity to fulfill the policy in the County Development Plan concerning plants for multiple housing in villages, OR if the Local Area Plan was progressing, we would look in more detail and identify collection corridors and a site /zone for a future WWTW.

56.11 Malin Sewerage Scheme

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government have informed DCC that they are prepared to pay 80% of the total cost of the scheme, leaving DCC with a liability of €0.5M. A decision by the Council has now to be made on the affordability of the DCC contribution.

47.12 Glengad (Glentooskert) G.W.S.S.

Bernard Cuning, S.E.E, advises the following updated position. It is intended that the Glengad pipeline (servicing DCC housing) will be renewed as part of the planned upgrading and take-over of the Glentooskert private water supply.

Currently an Archaeologist's Report on the proposed Reservoir site is being prepared for submission as part of the Part 8 Planning process. Land negotiations for a pumping station site are also at an advanced stage. The upgrading work will go out to tender shortly with construction work planned to commence in mid-2007.

AGENDA Items no. 3-4 - Progress Reports:

See updated progress reports circulated with agenda for

Rural Water Programme:

Group Scheme Programme & Small Capital Schemes

C.McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,
Area Manager, Water and Environment Service,
19th January 2007