

Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting held at 1.00pm
on the 22nd May 2006 in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public
Services Centre.

Members Present:

Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr John Boyle,
Cllr Thomas Pringle,
Cllr Jonathan Kennedy,
Cllr Tiernan Brady
Cllr Billy Grimes

Officials in Attendance

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Edel O'Donnell, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads / Transportation
Brendan O'Donnell, Senior Executive Engineer, DNRDO
Thomas Fox, Executive Engineer, DNRDO
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building
John McCarron, Executive Engineer, Housing & Building
Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, Marine Section/ Roads – Estates Takeover
Niall McCafferty, Technician, Roads – Estates Takeover
Alison Steele, Clerical Officer, Roads – Estates Takeover
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Paul Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment
Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager
Eamonn Canney, Divisional Manager, Housing

Apologies

Cllr Sean McEniff
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment

DEAC	14.00 Corporate Services
-------------	---------------------------------

DEAC	14.01. Consideration of Minutes
------	---------------------------------

Consideration of minutes of meeting Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 13th March 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the minutes of the meeting Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 13th March 2006 were adopted.

It was further agreed that matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the various service headings.

Consideration of minutes of Workshop on Ballyshannon Bypass held on the 13th March 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the minutes of the workshop on Ballyshannon Bypass held on the 13th March 2006 were adopted.

Consideration of minutes of workshop on Ballyshannon/Bundoran Fire Stations held on the 13th March 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the minutes of the workshop on Ballyshannon/Bundoran Fire stations held on the 13th March 2006 were adopted.

DEAC	14.02 Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC
------	--

Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC

Members noted the activity reports for the Donegal PSC up to the end of April 2006 circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services.

DEAC	14.03 Request for a deputation from United Fish Industries
------	--

Request for a deputation from United Fish Industries

Members noted the correspondence in relation to a request for a deputation from United Fish Industries, circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Gilroy.

On the proposal of Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Byrne, Members agreed to receive the deputation from United Fish Industries at the July meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

DEAC Committee	14.04 Correspondence from Drimark Residents
-------------------	---

Correspondence from the Drimark Residents Committee.

Members noted the correspondence from the Drimark Committee, circulated with the Agenda, in relation to a request for their Chairperson to address the area committee. Members confirmed that it was practise to limit the number of deputations to Electoral Area meetings to one per meeting. Following a short discussion, on the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Grimes, it was agreed that arrangements be made for Members and the appropriate Council Officials to hear first hand the concerns of these residents at an early date.

DEAC

14.05 Electronic issue of Agenda

Electronic Issue of Agenda to Members

Mr. Gerry Gilroy informed Members that it was intended to begin issuing Members with the Agendas for Electoral Area Committee meetings with effect from the July 2006 meeting onwards using an 'extranet' system which is currently under development in the Council. Hard copy Agendas will continue to issue along with the electronic version for Members.

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes in relation to the electronic issue of Agendas to Cathaoirleach of the Town Councils, Mr. G Gilroy informed Members that the Town Clerks are already be receiving the Donegal Electoral Area Agenda in electronic format. Town Clerks will also be invited to attend area meetings from July onwards and that if an e-mail address is provided to Corporate Services, the Council would endeavour to facilitate the Cathaoirleach of the Town Councils.

DEAC

14.06 Transfer of SPSV Licences to Taxi Regulator

Transfer of SPSV licences to Taxi Regulator.

Mr. E Monaghan informed Members that, the Taxi Regulator would be taking over the function of issuing SPSV Licences from the Local Authorities including Donegal County Council from July 2006. He advised that the NCT Centres would be carrying out this function on behalf of the Taxi Regulator.

The main changes he advised would be as follows:

- New Licence numbers – as this is a national system, new number will be allocated to all licences.
- Discs on front and Rear windows will replace the 'yellow plates' on Hackneys
- Licences may be renewed 12 weeks prior to expiry (similar to NCT test) but will attract a penalty of €500.00 if application is made to renew after expiry.
- The Taxi Regulator will be writing to all Licence Holders to advise them of the new arrangements from records already forwarded on from the Council.
- After the 26th June 2006, Donegal County Council will no longer be authorised to issue SPSV Licences.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle as to why the contract for the issue of the SPSV Licences had gone to the NCT Centres, Mr. Monaghan informed Members that the advantage to the Customer is that it saves the customer going to the NCT first for vehicle test and cert of suitability and then coming to the Local Authorities as they will be able to transact all the process at the NCT Centres.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle if there was any change in relation to Taxi Ranks, Mr. Monaghan informed Members that this still remained a function for the Local Authorities.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle in relation to enforcement procedures, Mr. Monaghan informed Members that there is no change to enforcement procedures but that the Taxi Regulator intends to recruit a number of their own inspectors to assist with enforcement in this area.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle if there was any change in relation to the procedure for issuing a PSV Driving Licence, Mr. Monaghan informed Members that this has not been changed but he understood that the Taxi Regulator would be carrying out a review of this process in 2007, which may result in changes.

DEAC	15.00 Deputations
------	-------------------

DEAC	15.01 Attendance of Deputation from Rosstown Community Council
------	--

Deputation from Rosstown Community Council.

Cllr Byrne welcomed Mr. Gerry Doherty and Mr. Bob Kennedy from Rosstown Community Council who were in attendance as representatives from Rosstown Community Council.

Members noted the submission, circulated in advance of the meeting and presented by the deputation. Mr. Bob Kennedy informed Members of how the Community Council came to be formed which came about in an effort to represent the Rosstown Community, after the changes, which took place last summer at Rosstown Beach. The aim of the Community Council is to strengthen the sense of Community in Rosstown and to progress a number of issues, which the community has listed.

Mr. Gerry Doherty confirmed that the community council were trying to build working relationships with the Agencies to address the concerns listed in their submission and in particular the following:

1. The immediate concern is the Beach Management Project at Rosstown. He advised that the community council felt that the project was poorly implemented last summer and that there was insufficient consultation with the local community. He advised that there was a need for individual input as locals knew what would work and what wouldn't and requested that the Council be consulted in relation to the Beach Management Project.
2. Mr. Doherty requested as per submission that safety measures be introduced in the area from the Beach to the Smugglers Creek on the cliff side to prevent accidents.
3. In relation to the Surf Club (on Sandhouse slipway), Mr. Doherty advised Members that an arrangement had been made with Donegal County

Council for the Council to use part of the premises as a store with the Council to assist with the upkeep of the building. While the Council have been availing of the storage facility, no assistance with the upkeep of the building has been received to date.

4. In relation to the Rosstown Sewerage Scheme, Mr. Doherty requested that the plans for the scheme be put on display and that information on how long the scheme would take, how the works will fit together, and when works would commence, for the information of the Community Council/residents.
5. Mr. Doherty advised Members that the Community Council were hoping to set up a community office but that they had no funding, while they have located a premises adjacent to the Friary at Rosstown. He asked if the Council could assist them with developing an office.

Mr. Kennedy informed Members that if the lack of information could be addressed through a community office it would be of immense benefit to the area. What the community council is seeking is to work with the various agencies to improve information flow and to engage in the issues affecting the area.

Cllr Byrne thanked the deputation for their presentation and asked Members for comments / question for the deputation.

Cllr Grimes welcomed the presentation from the deputation and confirmed that he was aware of some of the concerns, in particular the request for a community office and issues in relation to the Sewerage Scheme. He suggested that through the offices of the Town Council in Ballyshannon, the plans for the scheme could be put on display for the information of all concerned and other queries may be able to be dealt with through the Ballyshannon Town Clerk.

Cllr Pringle thanked the deputation for their presentation and wished them luck with their initiatives. He considered that it would be useful for regular meetings to be held with the various sections and the community council to progress the issues.

Cllr O'Neill thanked the deputation for their presentation and advised that it was a worthwhile presentation, they had prepared. He also stated that it was good to have one body to bring together the issues for the area. In relation to the Beach Management Project, he informed the meeting that he has yet to be advised of what would happen this year, although this was the 22nd May 2006. He asked the deputation was the traffic management plan the main difficulty with the Beach Management Programme in 2005.

Mr. G Doherty confirmed to Members that traffic flow was indeed the main concern in relation to the Beach Management Project. He stated that no thought had been given to parking. There were difficulties in how cars would get to and from the beach and referred to the public right-of-way, which existed on the beach and the compromise arrived at in 2005, which he stated was ignored. He referred to a service at 4.00pm on a Sunday in the Friary when cars trying to leave the Friary together with traffic leaving the beach met great difficulty as a result of the one-way-system, which resulted in major traffic jams. He stated that the plan was being enforced without

consultation. Public meetings were held to advise the public of the plan and these were to be followed up with consultations, but this did not happen. Mr. Kennedy advised that no cars allowed on the beach might be a good idea if other parking was available. In relation to surveys, which they had carried out, both young and old were in favour of allowing cars onto the beach and felt that the one-way system was unworkable. The implementing of the one-way system on the ground had not been a good advertisement for the beach from a tourist point of view.

Cllr O'Neill commented that there should not be a recurrence of the project in the same manner this year. He advised that people felt invaded last year and the compromise proposals were not implemented as the Members had wished. He also referred to the lack of information to Members in relation to this matter for 2006.

Cllr O'Neill also stated that the Land Owner and the Council would need to meet to discuss and agree how best to deal with the request that a barrier be erected on private lands adjacent to the road from the beach to the Smugglers Creek and that this matter needed to be addressed.

Cllr Grimes referring to the difficulties experienced last year in relation to the beach management project stated that while we can do nothing about that now, it would be important to focus on what can be progressed from here on, and implement what can be implemented as soon as possible. He also added that the pressure must come from within the group.

Cllr Byrne again thanked the deputation for their presentation and confirmed that the relevant sections of the council would be in contact with the deputation in regard to their submission.

DEAC	16.00 Roads / Transportation
-------------	-------------------------------------

DEAC	16.01 2006 Road Works Programme
------	---------------------------------

2006 Roads Work Programme

Members noted the Roads Work Programme circulated with the Agenda as presented by Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads / Transportation and confirmed their agreement to same. The programme totals works to the value of €8.7m and includes 250 projects in the Donegal Electoral Area.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle if scheme 33DL was included under the restoration programme, Mr. P Thomas confirmed to Members that it was.

Cllr Boyle stated that the Council should level roads prior to surface dressing. In response to this Mr. P Thomas informed Members that the purpose of surface dressing is to save the condition of a road and the restoration programme was in place to improve the shape and structural condition of a road. He indicated that the intention of the Council work programmes is to improve the roads first and then surface dress them and confirmed that he would bear Cllr Boyle's suggestion in mind.

Local Improvement Schemes 2006

The Draft Local Improvements Scheme 2006 was circulated at the meeting and Mr. P Thomas informed Members that some funding had come from CLAR in relation to these schemes. On the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr O'Neill Members confirmed their agreement to the Local Improvement Scheme 2006 as presented. Mr. Thomas informed Members that the applicants would be written out to immediately and that they would endeavour to progress as many of the schemes as possible during this years Roads Work Programme.

DEAC Report	16.02 N 56 Mountcharles to Killybegs Route Selection
----------------	--

N 56 Mountcharles to Killybegs Route Selection Report

Mr. Brendan O'Donnell, Senior Executive Engineer, DNRDO referred to the N 56 Mountcharles to Killybegs Route Selection Report, previously circulated to Members. He confirmed that the process the DNRDO wished to follow was:

- Proceed with preferred route selection
- Look for National Roads Authority Approval for the Route
- Include in County Development Plan
- Maintain 100m to each side of the route selected
- Commence preliminary design phase
- Proceed to Part 8 planning Phase later in 2006 while progressing with the preliminary design work

Cllr Boyle, supported by Cllr Pringle indicated that because the preferred route differed greatly from earlier proposals they would not be in a position to confirm their agreement with the route selected at this time. Whilst they were not against the preferred route, they wanted the public to have an opportunity to consider the current proposals before the Council moved on to the next stage.

In response to the concerns raised, Mr. Thomas Fox, Executive Engineer, DNRDO confirmed to Members that the DNRDO would organise a Public Information Session in the coming weeks which would allow the public comment on the proposed route. Members indicated that this would alleviate their concerns and confirmed agreement to proceeding along the lines outlined above.

DEAC	16.03 N 56 Five Year Plan
------	---------------------------

N 56 Five Year Plan

Mr. Brendan O'Donnell, Senior Executive Engineer, DNRDO referred to the N56 5 Year Plan previously circulated to Members. He confirmed to Members that it was the DNRDO's intention to submit this plan to the National Roads Authority for funding and asked for Members comments in relation to it.

Members confirmed their agreement to the plan being submitted as is to the National Roads Authority for funding.

DEAC	16.04 N 15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update
------	---

N 15 Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update

Members noted the N 15 Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update Report circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	16.05 Take over of Private Estates
------	------------------------------------

Take Over of Private Estates.

Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, Roads, circulated and presented a number of reports at the meeting as follows:

- An up to date report in relation to the pre 1996 private estates
- A copy of The Private Housing Estate Document (updated by Electoral Area)
- A copy of The Adopted Policy Document on Private Estate Take-over and The certified Minutes of the Co. Council meeting of the 26th September 2005.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding Ashbrooke Drive, Ballyshannon, Mr. V Lynn informed Members that this estate was not on the list but that they would have a look at same and undertook to revert to Members in the matter.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding 'The Mall' Ballyshannon, Mr. Lynn undertook to clarify the position, as there are two estates involved at this location.

In response to a query regarding the Town Parks Estate, Ballyshannon, Mr. Lynn informed Members that this estate is ready for takeover.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle if it was the developer who had to apply to the Council for an estate to be taken over or could the residents make the application, Mr. Lynn informed Members that the best way forward is for the developer to make

the application, as it is the developer who owns the land. If the developer is gone then cases can be progressed by agreement. In response to a further query from Cllr Pringle if Compulsory Purchase Order might be necessary in cases where the developer is gone, Mr. Lynn informed Members that all pre 1996 estates have so far been progressed by agreement. In cases where there is no agreement, it is difficult to progress.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle as to what would happen if one resident in an estate, objects to the take over of services, Mr. Lynn informed Members if it was pre 1996 then the Council would not get involved. If for example the sewer ran through a garden, then without consent access could become an issue. However, he advised that each case would be looked at on its merits.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill if it was Council Policy at present not to take over the mechanical / Electrical elements of the treatment works in Private Estates, Mr. V Lynn informed Members that the policy is there at present for Members consideration and that there were pros and cons in relation to taking over the electrical / mechanical equipment of the estates.

Cllr Grimes queried if it was the Council's intention to close the list of pre 1996 files, which had been listed as a final list and if so would the contractors be advised. Mr. V Lynn informed Members that in relation to the pre 1996 estates, many of the contractors are no longer in existence. He also confirmed that it would be up to the members to decide regarding a closing date but that it was his intention to recommend a closing date to Members at a later stage. He also advised that any estates 'parked' could be resurrected if required. He also confirmed that Developers are being encouraged to apply to take over estates and that the standard of estates had improved considerably over the last number of years.

In response to a suggestion from Cllr Grimes that information on housing estate takeover be supplied to applicants in the final stages of the planning process, Mr. V Lynn informed Members that this suggestion would be considered.

DEAC	16.06 Other Roads Matters
------	---------------------------

Road Repairs in Ballyshannon

In response to a request from Cllr Grimes regarding the need for repairs to be carried out at Ballyshannon and in particular at the Abbey Road, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that there was no additional funding available for the Donegal Electoral Area and asked that a list of the urgent works requested be sent into his office and that he would do his utmost to deal with the urgent repairs within the budget provided.

Picnic Area at Donegal Road, Ballyshannon

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for some action to deal with the issue of the Picnic Area at Donegal Road, Ballyshannon being turned into a 'car showroom', Mr. P Thomas undertook to look into this matter with a view to addressing same and to report to the next meeting of the Donegal EA Committee.

Bollards between Beleek and Clyhore

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill to have the Bollards replaced between Beleek and Clyhore as a matter of urgency as they have become unsightly over the past 7 months, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members in the matter.

Replace Wall at the Market Yard

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill as to when the wall at the Market Yard, Ballyshannon would be replaced, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that these works were included in this years Roads Work Programme. In response to a query from Cllr Grimes, Mr. P Thomas confirmed that the wall would be replaced with the original store.

Proposed naming of New Roundabout at Ballyshannon – 'The Frank O'Kelly Roundabout'

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Boyle, Members requested that the new roundabout at Ballyshannon be named after the late Councillor Frank O'Kelly. Members were advised that their request would be forwarded to the Place Names Committee for their consideration.

Finger Posts at Clyhore (to Pettigo)

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle that 2 fingerposts to be erected at Clyhore 'for Pettigo', Mr. P Thomas undertook to follow up on this as a matter of urgency.

Request for a Work Programme for Speed Ramps

Cllr Pringle proposed that the Council put together a work programme for the introduction of speed ramps at specified locations and that a funding source be sought. In response Mr. P Thomas informed Members that he would look into same but referred to the difficulties speed ramps themselves can cause in terms of noise and safety.

Cllr Grimes agreed that rumble strips were inadequate and that there was a need for speed ramps at locations and referred to new estates where speed ramps are introduced as part of the construction phase. He referred to the difficulty this presents for residents in older estates. He felt that it was important that Members are in a position to give a clear answer in relation to ramps.

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for speed ramps to be introduced at two locations at The Mall, Ballyshannon, which he advised were being requested by the residents.

Mr. P Thomas undertook to revert to Members at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

Pedestrian Crossings, Donegal Town

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy to upgrade the pedestrian crossings on the Diamond in Donegal Town, Mr. P Thomas undertook to revert to Members at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee. He advised he also had a request for the introduction of a pedestrian crossing at Quay Street.

Sign Post for Tawnawilly Community Centre

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for the erection of a signpost for the Tawnawilly Community Centre, Mr. P Thomas undertook to arrange same.

Sign Post for Leghowney Community Centre

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy that the spelling on the sign post for Leghowney Community Centre be checked to ensure it is correct, Mr. P Thomas undertook to check same to ensure the spelling is correct on the sign.

Sign Posts for Mountcharles

In response to a query from Cllr Byrne regarding the Gaeilge spelling on the signs for Mountcharles, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that the spelling on the signposts was as per the Gaeilge Committee. He also informed Members that it would be helpful if the Gaeilge Committee could source funding for Gaeilge Signposts, as substantial funding is required to erect these signs.

Street Cleaning in Pettigo.

Cllr O'Neill queried how often street cleaning was carried out in Pettigo and requested that a schedule of street cleaning be sent out to Members. In response to the query, Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads / Transportation undertook to look into same and to revert to Members at an early date.

DEAC	17.00 Planning & Economic Development
-------------	--

DEAC	17.01 Consideration of Recent Refusals
-------------	---

Consideration of recent refusals

Members noted the recent refusals report for the period from 25/2/2006 to 30/4/2006 circulated with the Agenda.

A number of queries were dealt with.

DEAC	17.02 Planning Enforcement
-------------	-----------------------------------

Planning Enforcement

Members noted the Planning Enforcement – current status – summary report circulated with the Agenda. Mr. D Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development also informed Members that the issue in relation to the Cashelard Quarry has gone to the solicitors and the process is at an advanced stage.

Cllr O'Neill requested that the Planning Enforcement Officer become more active in the Ballyshannon Area to deal with unauthorised development and also proposed that the Council move more quickly to deal with unauthorised encampments, which are having a strain on the local community. He again requested that the old temporary traveller sites in the Ballyshannon area be sold.

DEAC	17.03 Planning Statistics
------	---------------------------

Planning Statistics

Members noted the planning statistics report for the period up to the 30th April 2006, circulated with the Agenda as presented by Mr. D Kelly.

Cllr Boyle referring to the workloads in the Donegal Electoral Area stated that there was a requirement for an additional planner in the area and a short discussion took place in relation to the present workloads in Planning. Cllr Pringle also referred to the work in the Stranorlar Area and which had to be covered and proposed that Members views that an additional Planner be employed to cover the Donegal Electoral Area be conveyed to the Senior Management Team.
All Members supported this proposal.

DEAC	17.04 Other Planning Matters
------	------------------------------

Casual Trading – Donegal Town

Mr. D Kelly informed Members that licences for three events in Donegal Town had been dealt with. This had generated a huge amount of work and he confirmed that it is difficult getting time and resources to undertake this work. The work undertaken would be fed into the process to regularise Casual Trading in Donegal Town.

Cllr Kennedy referred to the recent Farmers Market in Donegal Town stating that everything should be done to facilitate this kind of function.

Mr. D Kelly advised Members that an issue had arisen in relation to this matter with the different groups having conflicting views and that the 3 dates which had been approved were on a trial basis.

Cllr Pringle also confirmed that the market went well and that the group who organised the market were a cross border / community group who he advised had invited the other groups to join in but they had refused. He felt that the group should get more dates and it would be helpful if the other group joined with the Strabane Farmers Group.

In response Mr. D Kelly informed Members that he would not be getting involved in issues between the groups and that an area in the Town would have to be designated and the full process gone through.

Casual Trading - Ballyshannon

Cllr Grimes referred to casual trading in Ballyshannon, and that the Sunday trading was working satisfactorily. He advised that there was a request in from the 'Car-Booters', who he advised felt they were squeezed out, and advised he was seeking an amendment to allow trading on a Saturday. In response to the request, Mr. D Kelly informed Members that introducing Saturday trading would have implications e.g. reduction in car parking available, possible need for an extension of the Car park etc., and would require a full assessment prior to any changes. He reaffirmed the position in relation to resources to carryout this work and advised Members that he would see what he could do in relation to the matter.

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes in relation to the assertion by some 'Car-Booters' that casual trading licences were bought in block and then resold, Mr. D Kelly informed Members that they would investigate any relevant information submitted and advise Members.

Ballyshannon Town Plan.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill as to when the public consultation process for the Ballyshannon Town Plan would commence, Mr. D Kelly undertook to refer the query to Mr. G Richards, Central Planning Unit with a request that he inform Members of the expected timeframe.

DEAC	18.00 Water, Environment & Emergency Services
-------------	--

Apologies were noted from Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Paul Lyons attended in his place.

DEAC	18.01 Group Schemes
-------------	----------------------------

Group Schemes

Members noted the update report on Group Schemes as circulated with the Agenda.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill if the construction works were completed on the Aughahoo GWS, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the scheme was still under construction.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill as to what was the up to date position in relation to the Corkermore GWS, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that it was up to the promoters of the scheme to kick off the scheme and that there are some matters for them to address in order for this to happen.

Cllr Boyle referred to the Meenacahan/Meentinadea Group Water Scheme and advised that all but two of the promoters of this GWS wished it to be taken over by

the Council. He queried if this would prevent the scheme from being taken over. In response to the query, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that at present it required the agreement of all of the members of a group scheme to allow a scheme to be taken over. However, proposed legislation, which should be enacted in the near future, provided for the agreement of 66% of the members of a scheme in order for same to be taken over. He advised that the Council could carry out some works to 'take the scheme in charge' and referred to problems other GWS had with promoters having passed away etc. He undertook to follow up on this matter and to keep Members informed of progress.

DEAC	18.02 South West Donegal Water Supply
------	---------------------------------------

South West Donegal Water Supply

Members noted as per the report circulated with the Agenda that the direct labour contract was progressing well in relation to the South West Donegal Water Supply.

DEAC	18.03 Major Capital Programme
------	-------------------------------

Major Capital Programme

Members noted the report on the Major Capital Programme circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr Pringle, supported by Cllr Byrne expressed his dissatisfaction in relation to the lack of update information on the Major Capital Programme Report and asked that the Capital Section update this report for every future meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

Frosses/Inver Water Main.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle regarding the need to replace the final 700m – 800m of the worst stretch of the Frosses / Inver Water Main, and if it was proposed to do so shortly, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that in previous years it was possible to replace stretches of the main in conjunction with the Roads Services who were carrying out road works in the area. He also advised Members that there were less bursts in the area since the earlier works had been carried out and therefore it was less financially viable. No funding had been secured to carry out the remainder of the works. Cllr Pringle expressed dissatisfaction that the works had not been completed and asked that Members views be conveyed to the Water Capital section to ensure that this job is completed as early as possible.

Teelin Water Main.

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the contractor is expected on site to lay the Teelin Water Main on the 6th June 2006. He also informed Members that there were clauses in the contract to deal with traffic flow in the summer months and that the contractor was obliged to ensure smooth traffic flow. The works were to be finished by October in order to draw down the funding.

Cllr Pringle stated that he wanted to register his dissatisfaction at the late start of these works. This was the start of the summer season when a large number of tourists would

be in the area. He stated that had the works been completed by direct labour, the work would be well under way by now.

Cllr Byrne referred to communication he had received from Mr. Bernard Cuning, Water Capital Section, where he had queried the extent of the pipe-work being replaced and was advised that only 75% would be replaced. He stated that he had been advised that some of the old pipe work would not be replaced and that a pressure-reducing valve would be installed to reduce the risk of leaks in the old pipe-work. He expressed his deep concern about this and felt it was not satisfactory. In response Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the contract was to supplement the source of the scheme and that the particular area of pipes, which he referred to was not prone to leaks. He confirmed that a substantial extension had been carried out to Carrick Lower Bridge but that it would be difficult at this stage to obtain the funding to replace all of the pipes.

Glen/Kilcar Area

In response to a query from Cllr Byrne as to where exactly the €650,000 spent on water / waste water services in the Glencolmcille / Kilcar Area in 2005 had taken place, Mr. P Lyons undertook to compile this information and to revert to Members at an early date.

Northern Route to Glencolmcille

Cllr Byrne referred to the scarce supply of water in the northern route to Glencolmcille and queried what progress had been made to address this matter over the last two years. He felt this was becoming a major health issue and he was not satisfied with the progress being made.

In response to the query raised, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that consultants had been appointed as 'client representative' and they had done some of the preparatory work for the scheme. He advised that tenders had been received for the site investigation works to be completed and that this should commence shortly. Once this was completed it would enable the contract documents to be completed. He advised that subject to no major delays, it was expected that the contract for the scheme would go to tender in November 2006. Mr. P Lyons further informed Members that the main part of these works would be the laying of approximately 12 kms of raw water main and once started, it would take approximately 6 months to complete.

DEAC	18.04 Laghey Civic Amenity Site
------	---------------------------------

Laghey Civic Amenity Site

Members noted as per report circulated at the meeting that this project has been tendered and a contractor has been recommended.

DEAC	18.05 Restoration Programme
------	-----------------------------

Restoration Programme

Members noted the restoration programme report circulated with the Agenda and as presented by Mr. P Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment.

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that it was intended to connect the Cullionbuoy Water Scheme to the Donegal Town Scheme. He advised that a contractor would be appointed shortly to carry out these works.

Ballyshannon Water Supply.

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that a company called T. E. S. Ltd had been appointed to do the work on the Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme.

Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme

In relation to the Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the contract was nearly ready for signing (DBO).

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes regarding the possible inclusion of the additional houses which had been built in Ballyshannon outside of the original area covered by the scheme, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the main elements of the contract were treatment and trunk collection. The trunk collection would be completed with additions to the collection system to be added to at a later stage. He advised that the additions to the trunk collection would have to be funded by such means as Development Contribution Scheme / Serviced Land Initiative or by some other means. He also advised that it would be useful for the existing house owners not included in the collection scheme to write to the capital section either collectively or individually to seek to have their houses included as an addition to the scheme. He also advised that he would not be in a position to give a commitment for new developments.

Cllr O'Neill conveyed his thanks to Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment for arranging the public display for the Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme. He queried why Carrickboy which is inside the Town boundary is not included in the scheme and why Creevy which is outside the Town is included. He stated that through the Development contribution Scheme, the scheme should be extended to include the 12 houses at Carrickboy. In response to the request, Mr. P Lyons undertook to convey same to Mr. Peter Donaghey, Water Capital Section.

Donegal Town.

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that it was unlikely that the water mains would be replaced in Donegal Town as part of this contract.

Water Main at Church Road, Bundoran.

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that it now looked unlikely that the water main on the Church Road, Bundoran would be replaced. He confirmed that it had been

anticipated, that these works would be carried out in conjunction with the works on the Ballyshannon Bundoran Bypass, however, the works at this location as part of the bypass works only included footpath realignment and it was therefore unlikely that the water main replacement would be included.

Bundoran Waste Water Treatment - Pumping Station

In relation to the pumping station as part of the Bundoran Waste Water Treatment project, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that it was his understanding that this was included as part of the planning process.

DEAC	18.06 Removal of Paper and Plastic Recycling Banks at Killybegs
------	---

Removal of Paper and Plastic Recycling Banks at Killybegs.

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda in relation to Paper and Plastic Recycling at Killybegs from Mr. Jim Holohan, Director of Water Environment & Emergency Services. The report informed Members of the reasons requiring the Council to remove this facility from Killybegs in favour of kerbside collection of material for recycling including this being the most effective means of increasing recycling.

Cllr Pringle stated that he was both angry and annoyed at the executive decision to remove the paper & plastic recycling facility from Killybegs. He stated that it was a sad reflection on the Council at the lack of management of the facility and that customers would now be forced to pay for recycling. He asked that this be conveyed to the Director. Mr. P Lyons, Executive Engineer undertook to convey the Member's views to Mr. J Holohan.

DEAC	18.07 Other Water & Environment Matters.
------	--

Recycling Facilities in Ballyshannon

Cllr O'Neill referred to an ongoing litter problem, which occurs at the recycling facilities at Ballyshannon and requested that something be done to address the problem, including availing of the assistance of the Litter Warden in addressing the issue.

In response to the concerns raised, Mr. P Lyons informed Members that there was one Litter Warden, who covered the South of the County and under took to bring the matter to his attention. He advised that once illegal dumping is brought to the attention of the Litter Warden that he will endeavour to deal with same.

Reinstatements of Roads after water leaks are repaired.

Cllr O'Neill referring to leaks to council water mains being repaired where the road has to be excavated, in particular at East Port and at the Roundabout. This leaves the road in poor condition with subsidence etc. and he requested that roads and water service work together to create a budget to cater for these types of repairs. In

response to the concerns raised, Mr. P Lyons undertook to discuss this with the Area Roads Engineers.

DEAC	19.00 Community, Culture and Enterprise
-------------	--

DEAC	19.01 Report on Community & Enterprise Services
------	---

Report on Community & Enterprise Services.

Members noted the update report on Community & Enterprise Services circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer.

Members noted in particular from the report that it was proposed that the Beach Management system in Rossnowlagh would continue as in 2005 until the Council decides on the application of the recommendations in the KPMG report on Beach Management in the County.

DEAC	19.02 Donegal Electoral Area Members Fund Allocations 2006
------	--

Donegal Electoral Area Members Fund Allocations 2006

Members noted the Grant Allocation report for the Members allocations for 2006, circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. M Mc Laughlin.

DEAC	19.03 Cultural Services Report
------	--------------------------------

Cultural Services Report

Members noted the Cultural Services Report circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	19.04 County Childcare Committee
------	----------------------------------

Donegal County Childcare Committee

Members noted the 2006 Action Plan progress report from Donegal County Childcare Committee Ltd. circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	20.00 Housing & Building
------	-------------------------------------

DEAC	20.01 Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme
------	---

Housing Capital Programme.

Members noted the revised Housing Capital programme report circulated at the meeting.

Mr. E Canney, Senior Engineer, Housing & Building, informed Members that the 6 additional houses proposed for Bruckless would not be allowed by Planning at present as the quota for houses in this area has been reached. He confirmed that this matter would be addressed when the new County Development Plan is adopted.

Ms. M Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building informed Members that the houses in Killybegs would be assigned in the next two weeks and asked for any representations Members might have in relation to same to be submitted to her as early as possible.

In response to a request from Cllr Boyle for affordable housing to be provided on the 4-acre site at Dunkineely, Mr. E Canney undertook to consider same in the next phase.

DEAC	20.02 Progress Report - Social Housing
------	--

Progress Report - Social Housing

Members noted the progress report as at the 30th April 2006 on Loans and Grants circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. M Hannigan.

DEAC	20.03 Casual Vacancies
------	------------------------

Casual Vacancies

Members noted casual vacancy report as at the 30th April 2006. In response to a Query from Cllr Grimes as to when no 77 Ernedale Heights would be ready for letting, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members it was hoped the dwelling would be ready for re-letting in 2 months.

DEAC	20.04 Section 183 Notices
------	---------------------------

Section 183 Notices.

Disposal of Land to John & Una Erskine, Bruckless

On the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr Boyle Members agreed to the Section 183 Notice for disposal of a small piece of land to John & Una Erskine, Bruckless, proceeding to the next full Council meeting.

Disposal of Land to Neil Kelly, Ballymore, Teelin

On the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr Byrne, Members agreed to the Section 183 Notice for disposal of a small piece of land to Neil Kelly, Ballymore, Teelin, proceeding to the next full Council meeting.

DEAC	20.05 Other Housing Matters
------	-----------------------------

Drimark Proposal

In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy if there had been any further development in relation to the Drimark proposals, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that the Part 8 was going ahead as discussed at the previous meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee. Cllr Kennedy stated that the residents in the area were not happy and he advised that they did not feel this site was suitable, and that there would be objections to the development.

Ms. Hannigan confirmed to Members that objections would be taking into consideration as part of the Part 8 planning process.

Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager, informed Members that it was hoped that proposal for Drimark would come through the Part 8 Planning Process and that if there were other options these could be considered. Mr. L Kelly informed Members that a roads engineer reviewed the proposal and the design is adequate.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Gerry Gilroy,
Area Manager,
Corporate Services.

Cathaoirleach,
Donegal Electoral Area Committee