

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19th January, 2005
IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

Members Present: Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Pearse Doherty
Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
Cllr. Brian Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. David Alcorn

Officials in Attendance:

Paul McGill, Area Manager, Housing & Building
Brendan Mc Fadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan O'Donnell, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Berni Gallagher, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Michael Rowsome, SSO, Corporate Services
Charles Sweeney, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water & Environment
Eoin Kerrane, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment
Jim Harley, Divisional Manager, Planning & Economic Development

Apologies: Virginia Mc Loone, Area Manager, Corporate Services

**GEA 01/05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23rd
NOVEMBER 2004**

On the proposal of Councillor Terence Slowey, seconded by Councillor David Alcorn the minutes of meeting of the 23rd November 2004 were agreed.

GEA 02/05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF WORKSHOPS

On the proposal of Councillor Terence Slowey, seconded by Councillor David Alcorn, the minutes of: -

- (a) Workshop held on 21/09/04
- (b) Workshop held on 23/11/04
and
- (c) Workshop held on 06/12/04
were agreed.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 03/05 COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding the above. The Community & Enterprise Development Officer informed Members of the positive response received from the Community and Voluntary Sector to the advertisement inviting expressions of interest in the Playground Development Programme.

Councillor Alcorn requested an update on this Programme for the next meeting.

Members also requested a more detailed report in respect of the provision of Youth Workers in Gweedore.

GEA 04/05 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Members discussed the report previously circulated and requested the Council to liaise with Siúlóid Fríd na Glúnta and Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair to pursue funding for the development of a walkway in Derrybeg and a community centre in Dore.

GEA 05/05 FUNDING UPDATE

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 06/05 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding inter organisational local development projects

GEA 07/05 COUNTY STRATEGY

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing work in progress on County Strategy initiatives.

Councillor Pádraig Doherty requested the preparation of a detailed report in respect of the Donegal Seafish Study for the next meeting.

Councillor Bonner highlighted the continuing decline in the fishing industry and requested the Council to engage with the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation to assist in the preservation of employment in the fishing industry.

GEA 08/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

08.1/05 Dyslexia Association

Members highlighted the excellent work carried out by the various groups in the county and welcomed funding to support activities in this regard.

08.2/05 Falcarragh Carnival Group

Councillor Ó Domhnaill requested the C&E Unit to liase with the above group to assist with the financing of their appearance at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 09/05 MOTOR TAXATION & CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the level of business transacted in the Dungloe Public Service Centre during 2004.

Members congratulated staff on the level of service provided but expressed disappointment at the low usage of the Irish language.

GEA 10/05 GWEEDORE FIRE STATION

Members discussed the report previously circulated in relation to this issue.

Councillor Pearse Doherty criticised the inordinate delay in the Department of the Environment and Local Government responding to the specific application for approval in principle in respect of Gweedore Fire Station, which was submitted in May 2001.

Members requested an updated report to clarify if there had been alterations to the application submitted in May 2001.

GEA 11/05 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION FROM COISTE MHUIRE BUNBEG / DERRYBEG

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty it was agreed that this deputation would be received at the next area meeting.

GEA 12/05 ACOUSTICS IN CHAMBER

Members requested the immediate commencement of work to address ongoing difficulty with acoustics in the Chamber.

GEA 13/05 WORK PROGRESS CHARTS

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda detailing the status of: -

- (i) Large Capital Schemes
- (ii) Small Capital Schemes
- (iii) Group Water Schemes

Members requested further information in relation to: -

- (1) Water Supply Schemes at Fintown, Ardara and Tory Island
- (2) Sewerage Schemes at Gweedore and Gortahork
- (3) Group Schemes at Meenatotten and Meenabool

The Committee also requested the attendance of Peter Donaghey, Sanitary Design Engineer at the next area meeting.

**GEA 14/05 RESPONSE TO QUERIES RAISED AT AREA MEETING - 23rd
NOVEMBER 2004**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting.

Members requested that an alternative site be identified to enable the immediate relocation of the Dungloe bottle bank facilities.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Environment Service to provide primary and secondary schools with paper recycling facilities.

GEA 15/05 BLUE FLAG BEACHES

Members requested as a matter of urgency, a report on this issue.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted, for the attention of the Environment Service, the lack of toilet, safety and car parking facilities at Port Arthur, Magheraroarty and Falcarragh beaches.

GEA 16/05 PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE AT MEENABOLL

Cllr. Bonner highlighted the inability of bridges in the vicinity of the proposed site to cope with increased volumes of traffic and also requested confirmation from the Council's Chemist that the River Finn will not become contaminated.

HOUSING & BUILDING PROGRAMME

GEA 17/05 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in respect of the above.

The Area Manager responded to Members queries regarding the Housing Capital Programme.

GEA 18/05 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members discussed the report previously circulated in relation to Social Housing.

The Committee requested: -

- (1) The attendance of Eamonn Canney, Divisional Manager at the next area meeting to discuss the S.I. Programme

- (2) That the S.I. report be updated

Members also requested that processing of D.P.G. and E.R.G. applications be expedited and that the Council consider the employment of an occupational therapist to alleviate delays in the application process.

GEA 19/05 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda listing casual vacancies as at the 7th of January 2005.

Cllr. Alcorn asked that the Council ensure that any Council houses being re-let are maintained to an acceptable standard condition.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 20/05 PLANNING REFUSALS

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to planning refusals and the Area Manager agreed to revert to the Committee in response to specific queries.

GEA 21/05 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report previously circulated in relation to planning statistics.

GEA 22/05 CONTROL OF QUARRIES AND ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES

The Area Manager presented a report to the Committee informing them of the commencement of Section 261 of the 2000 Act on the 28th of April 2004.

Under this section all owners / operators of quarries coming within the scope of the sections are required to provide specific information to the Council by the 27th April 2005 via a new registration system.

GEA 23/05 INVALID APPLICATIONS – MEETINGS WITH AGENTS AND ARCHITECTS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and welcomed the consultation underway between the Planning Office and Agents / Architects.

GEA 24/05 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW 2005

Mr. Jim Harley, Senior Planner circulated Members with a report and map in respect of the above.

Mr. Harley made a presentation to the Committee setting out: -

- (a) Timescale for publication of Draft County Development Plan
- (b) Guidelines for Government Policies on Rural Housing as detailed in the consultation paper “Sustainable Rural Housing” which identifies three broad rural areas namely: -

- (i) Weak (ii) Strong and (iii) Urban generated rural housing areas.
- (c) Recommendations for the protection of the scenic amenity of all rural areas
- (d) Policy implications for rural areas
- (e) Proposals for the modification of rural service centres
- (f) Recommendations in relation to holiday home developments

Members highlighted a number of issues that were of concern to them:

- Basis for determination of category of rural area should be based on map utilised for Clár purposes
- Planning policy too restrictive
- Planning process extremely complicated for applicants

GEA 25/05 DUNGLOE FORESHORE PLAN

In response to a query from Cllr. Alcorn, the Area Manager advised the Committee that a discussion document was being prepared for circulation to Members.

The Area Manager also undertook to liaise with the Dungloe Boxing Club regarding their proposals for development on the foreshore.

GEA 26/05 GWEEDORE LOCAL AREA PLAN

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the Area Manager stated that he would request an update from the Central Planning Unit.

GEA 27/05 BUNBEG PIER

The Area Manager informed the Committee that he would arrange a meeting with concerned parties to resolve planning issues on the Pier.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 28/05 PROGRESS REPORT ON 2004 WORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and complimented Roads staff for their efforts in ensuring the success of the 2004 Programme.

Cllr. Alcorn expressed concern at limited staffing resources available to the Roads Service to adequately cope with maintenance issues. The Area Manager advised the Committee of ongoing discussions in this regard.

The Committee praised the Roads Service for the success of the Winter Maintenance Programme and requested that the Rannafast route be added to the gritting programme.

Members also highlighted various road maintenance issues for the Manager's attention.

GEA 29/05 SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME

The Area Manager informed the Committee of the process involved in completing the above list and requested Members submissions.

This concluded the business of the meeting.