

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2006, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

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

APOLOGY: Cllr Enda Bonner

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise &
Cultural Services
Traolach Ó Fionnáin – Arts Development Officer
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Roisín Mitchell – A/Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services
Berni Gallagher - SO, Corporate Services

APOLOGY: Virginia McLoone – Area Manager, Corporate Services

GEA 204/06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPT 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Pádraig Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 19th September 2006 were agreed.

GEA 205/06 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 19TH SEPT 2006

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Pádraig Doherty, the report from the Workshop on the 19th of Sept 2006 was agreed.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 206/06 RECEPTION FOR AISTEOIRÍ GHAOTH DOBHAIR

The Committee noted the report from the Corporate Manager regarding an official reception for Aisteoirí Ghaoth Dobhair.

GEA 207/06 REQUEST FROM DUNGLOE TIDY TOWNS FOR MEETING WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Terence Slowey, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Dungloe Tidy Towns Committee at the next area meeting.

GEA 208/06 GLENTIES & DUNGLOE FIRE STATIONS – OFFICIAL OPENINGS

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Pádraig Doherty, the Committee agreed that the Mayor of County Donegal, Cllr. Bonner perform the official opening of the new Dungloe fire station in the presence of Minister Gallagher.

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill, the Committee agreed that Minister Gallagher perform the official opening of the Glenties Fire Station in the presence of Mayor Bonner.

GEA 209/06 COSHCLADY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Committee discussed the correspondence from Coiste Forbartha Cois Cláidi circulated with the agenda.

Members agreed that relevant managers meet with the group and report back to the Committee at the next area meeting.

GEA 210/06 DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE

Cllr Slowey complimented the work carried out to improve acoustics in the Chamber and Cllr Alcorn also welcomed the car park improvements.

HOUSING AND BUILDING

GEA 211/06 TIDY ESTATE PRESENTATIONS

Cllr Alcorn presented cheques to the successful participants in the above competition and congratulated them on their dedication and commitment to the betterment of their local areas.

Small Estates	Fairhill, Dungloe	€400
Medium Estates	Ard Connell, Glenties	€500
Large Estates	Ballina, Falcarragh	€800

GEA 212/06 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Housing Manager updated the Committee on the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Capital Programme as of 10th November, 2006. Members were advised that 95% of the Doochary scheme is complete and that the Housing Service are hoping to let the scheme prior to the year end.

The Housing Manager also advised Members that

- 1) the Central Heating Programme is ongoing and that 18 no. houses have been completed to date
- 2) a further programme of remedial works to the value of €250,000 has been submitted to the Department for approval.

In response to a query from Cllr Pearse Doherty regarding promotion of the Social & Affordable Housing Scheme, the Housing Manager advised Members that 8 no. units in the proposed 36 no. units in Dungloe will be set aside as affordable units.

GEA 213/06 SOCIAL HOUSING

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated in relation to the above matter.

Cllr Slowey expressed disappointment with the report and also with the number of DPG applications awaiting referral to the Occupational Therapist.

Cllr O Domhnaill expressed annoyance at the inability of the Housing SPC to address the manner in which current SI policy discriminates against single male applicants.

Cllr Pearse Doherty and Cllr Alcorn requested the attendance of the Director of Housing at the next area meeting to discuss the above issues and also the decentralisation of the SI Programme from Lifford.

GEA 214/06 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding casual vacancies as at 10th November, 2006.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 215/06 ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding the allocation of further funding in the sum €400,000 from the NRA for schemes at (1) Crollly Village - €150,000 and (2) Cronnashallog – Doochary Junction - €250,000.

GEA 216/06 LIS 2006 UPDATE

The Committee noted the report previously circulated by the Roads Manager.

GEA 217/06 DEVELOPMENT CHARGE MONIES – IMPROVEMENT WORK

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 218/06 INNOVATIVE MAINTENANCE MONIES

Members noted the report previously circulated with the agenda.

GEA 219/06 DRAFT “TAKEOVER OF NON-COUNTY ROADS” APPLICATION FORM

The Committee discussed documentation circulated with the agenda regarding the above issue.

Cllr Pearse Doherty suggested that the current policy requirement of two houses existing on the road be amended to provide for the takeover of link roads and that legal opinion be sought regarding the Councils position in respect of public liability claims arising subsequent to any takeovers.

GEA 220/06 BRIDGES

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Council to address the structural deficiencies in many bridges throughout Donegal and to revisit the priority list of bridges in need of repair as the two recent bridge collapses in the Glenties Electoral Area were not on this list.

In response to queries from Cllr Slowey and Cllr Alcorn, the Roads Manager advised Members that 5% of maintenance monies in 2006 were allocated to bridge repairs and that the Road Design Service have a county wide budget for the structural repair of bridges.

GEA 221/06 PUBLIC LIGHTING

The Committee criticised the inefficiency of the ESB in the erection and maintenance of public lighting. The Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the ESB to request the attendance of ESB officials at the next area meeting.

GEA 222/06 ROAD MAINTENANCE

Members informed the Roads Manager of locations throughout the electoral area in need of urgent maintenance and expressed dissatisfaction at the methods used to fill potholes. The Roads Manager advised Members that a pothole repair machine had been tested previously, but that Council methods were found to be more effective.

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Roads and Water Services at Senior Management level to discuss work programmes to prevent situations arising as in Crolly, where repaired roads are dug up to install piping at a later stage.

GEA 223/06 REFUSE BINS

Cllr Brian O Domhnaill requested the Council provide bins from the Main Street in Falcarragh to the Secondary School.

Cllr Pearse Doherty asked the Roads Manager to schedule the emptying of bins in Gweedore as a matter of urgency.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
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GEA 224/06 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the status of the Water and Sewerage Investment Programme 2005-2007.

Cllr Alcorn expressed disappointment that the Director of the Water Service did not respond to his correspondence in relation to the proposed Burtonport Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr Pearse Doherty welcomed Council proposals to engage in public consultation prior to the commencement of the planning process for the treatment plant in Dungloe and requested that this policy be implemented prior to the development of all future treatment plants.

Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Council to arrange a focus meeting in Gweedore to update and inform interested parties of the status of this scheme.

GEA 225/06 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES

Members discussed the report previously circulated in relation to the small capital schemes programme. In response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding the status of the Fintown Water Supply Scheme, the Area Manager advised Members that consultants are investigating alternatives to achieve a longterm solution.

GEA226/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the progress report on Group Water Schemes and the status report on group water schemes under construction circulated with the agenda.

GEA 227/06 LITTER WARDENS

Members commended the litter warden for his efforts to address litter pollution throughout the Electoral Area.

Cllr Pearse Doherty asked the Environment Services to publicise the amount of fines that are being issued and Cllr Slowey requested this report for the next meeting.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill highlighted the increasing number of illegal dumping sites that are being discovered and requested the Environment Service to pursue offenders through the courts to recoup any costs incurred by the Council.

GEA 228/06 DUNGLOE CIVIC AMENITY SITE

Cllr Alcorn advised the Committee of a possible expansion to a factory on the industrial estate in Dungloe and asked the Environment Service to inform relevant personnel involved in designing and locating the proposed civic amenity site.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 229/06 STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011

The Arts Development Officer made a presentation to Members regarding the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the Cultural Services Division which includes the Library Service, Arts Service, Regional Cultural Centre, Public Art, Museum, Archives, and Heritage Services. The Arts Development Officer informed Members that the Public Consultation Document Circulated with the agenda contained five goals.

- To increase access to and participation in culture
- To maintain and develop a high quality service
- To promote and develop the educational benefit of culture
- To promote excellence and innovation
- To promote the importance of culture and protect cultural inheritance

Members were advised that the consultation period will run from the 27th of November to the 10th December 2006, and that a public consultation event will be held in the Dungloe PSC on the 4th of December at 7.30.

GEA 230/06 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / LIASION

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and the Administrative Officer updated Members on the status of proposed playground developments. Cllr Slowey expressed his appreciation to the Administration Officer for assisting representatives of the Ardara Childcare Group.

GEA 231/06 FUNDING UPDATE

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda, regarding the Members Development Fund.

GEA 232/06 INTER ORGAINATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Members noted the report circulated previously.

GEA 233/06 COUNTY STRATEGY

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and congratulated all participants in the Youth Council Elections.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill and Cllr Pearse Doherty requested that

(i) Correspondence issue to the elected candidates in the Glenties Electoral Area to congratulate them on their success &

(ii) A protocol be adopted to ensure that Youth Councillors and Members of the Area Committee meet during the year.

Cllr Slowey advised Members to direct correspondence to Youth Councillors via the school principals.

GEA 234/06 CULTURAL SERVICES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 235/06 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the report circulated previously regarding the 2006 Action Plan Progress Report.

GEA 236/06 PROVISION OF LIBRARY FACILITIES IN GLENTIES

Cllr Slowey and Cllr Alcorn supported the provision of library facilities in Glenties and requested the Council to consider utilising the old fire station as a library centre.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 237/06 PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda detailing planning refusals during the period from September 9th to November 8th 2006.

GEA 238/06 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report on planning statistics circulated with the agenda.

GEA 239/06 LOCAL AREA PLAN – ARDARA

Cllr Slowey requested the Planning Service to progress the preparation of this plan and to investigate the construction of a structure on the river bank which will hinder the development of a walkway at this location.

GEA 240/06 CASUAL TRADING – DUNGLOE

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn regarding an appeal lodged against the designated area for casual trading in Dungloe, the A/Area Manager advised Members that a hearing has been listed in Dungloe District Court on the 8th December 2006.

GEA 241/06 STAFFING CHANGES

The A/Area Manager advised Members that Frank Sweeney has been appointed Area Planning Manager and that Sinéad McClafferty will be replacing Graham Diamond as Assistant Planner in the Glenties Electoral Area. Members congratulated the A/Area Manager for the recent improvements in the Planning Service and for her co-operation with Members. The Committee also expressed gratitude to Graham Diamond for his assistance to Members.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.