

Oifig Riathóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

02 Deireadh Fómhair 2007

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall a bhí ar athró ó 24 Meán Fómhair ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain 08 Deireadh Fómhair 2007 ag **10.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

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

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

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne
Riathóir Cruinniú (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford

02nd October, 2007

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 24th September, 2007, will be held on Monday 08th October 2007 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

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

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

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney
Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

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

AGENDA

8. **Roads & Transportation Programme**
 - (a) To consider and adopt the preferred route for the N56 Mountharles to Killybegs.

9. **Community, Cultural & Enterprise**
 - (a) London Olympics 2012 – Progress Report.

12. **County Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

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

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Culture & Enterprise

13. **Clr. Reid**
"That the Council prepare and submit an application for CCTV for the Twin Towns and act as Data Controller." (L)

Finance

14. **Clr. McGowan**
"That each Director of Service present a full programme of planned expenditure including staffing numbers at each Electoral Area Committee Meeting between now and budget day to be presented both in a county wide and electoral area format."(O)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

15. Clr. Alcorn
"That this Council discuss Student Support Higher Education Grant for mature students (over 23 years) and the conditions are all outlined to the members."(O)
16. Clr. Slowey
"That this Council request (and facilitate) the nine members of the Houses of the Oireachtas to give an annual verbal report in person to a Special Meeting of this Local Authority."

Roads and Transportation

17. Clr. E Bonner
"If National Roads Office in Donegal Town has not sufficient staff to prepare design work on the N56 at Meenacarn Bends, the work should be given to outside consultants to enable design work and purchase of land at least be completed and paid out of €900,000 allocation by NRA in January 2007."(L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads and Transportation

18. Clr. McDonald
"That this Council investigate the possibility of purchasing land for a carpark in Merville." (L)
19. Clr. Conaghan
"With national commitments now being made on construction of motorways between Dublin and Donegal/Derry, that this Council make a serious effort to attract the necessary funding for key link roads in the County e.g. Inishowen 100."(C)

Planning & Economic Development

20. Clr. McGuinness
"Because of the delay in the review of the County Development Plan, that this Council discuss the number of planning applications

being refused because of "backland, haphazard and tandem development" under the 2006-2012 Plan."(C)

Corporate Services

21. Clr. MacLochlainn
"That this Council calls on Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney to immediately commence talks with her northern counterpart, Minister Michael McGimpsey to progress plans for a Satellite Radiotherapy Unit based in the North West to serve cancer patients on both sides of the border."(O)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Programme

22. Clr. McDaid
"That this Council seeks to secure funding to ensure the retention and provision of adequate space for future development of parking facilities at the County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny for both staff and the general public in light of the proposed sale of the adjacent Old Fire Station." (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

23. Clr. Larkin
"That this Council explain why Letterkenny the largest town in Donegal still does not have a Civic Amenity Site given our reported recycling figures."(L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

24. Clr. Brogan
"To propose that Donegal County Council enter into discussion with Office of Public Works with regard to the Courthouse in Letterkenny with a view to providing library services"(L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

25. Clr. Byrne
"That this Council include the village of Frosses in the small schemes programme for waste water treatment"(L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

26. Clr. O'Neill
"That this Council honours the memory of Rory Gallagher to mark the 60th Anniversary of his birth in Ballyshannon, Co Donegal on March 2nd 2008, with the erection of a statue in his honour."(L)
27. Clr. McEniff
"That this council support the proposed new service from Belfast to Heathrow." (O)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

28. Clr. McGarvey
"Will this Council ask the Department to discuss our future role in Waste Management for the future"(L)

QUESTIONS

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

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

29. Clr. Reid
"Who authorised the transfer of €1 million NRA maintenance monies from the Stranorlar Electoral Area and where was it spent?" (L)
30. Clr. Reid
"Why has Director of Service (Roads) not met with Dorita McGee, Killygordon, regarding safety of her house as promised on several occasions?" (L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

31. Clr. McGowan
"Can a detailed report be given on all projects which received the 1% for art funding in the Stranorlar area since the scheme began including all income and expenditure?"(L)
32. Clr. McGowan
"What plans has this Council along with its partner agencies on the County Development Board to bring jobs and economic regeneration back to Ballybofey, Stranorlar and the rest of the Finn Valley, and please give details along with progress report on unemployment figures and persons at work?"(L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

33. Clr. Alcorn
"What plan have the County Council for providing extra car parking adjacent to Burtonport Pier i.e (near slipway that was damaged recently?" (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

34. Clr. Alcorn
"How many Tenders were received for the new Civic Amenity Site at Dungloe and what is the overall cost of the project and when will construction work be completed?" (L)
35. Clr. E Bonner
"What is the current status of the preparation of tender documents for the Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes which were approved by Minister Dick Roche in April, and notified to Donegal County Council on 4th May 2007?"(L)
36. Clr. Slowey
"What length of water piping has been actually put in place to date under the Major Pipework Refurbishment Programme announced some years ago and when will the water pipeline between Ardara and Glenties be upgraded?"(L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

37. Clr. Slowey
"When will the County Manager honour his promise to the people of Ardara by restoring a County Library to the town?"(L)

Planning & Economic Development

38. Clr. E Bonner
"What is the present status of review of the County Development Plan?"(C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

39. Clr. McDonald
"How many people have been fined for littering offences in Inishowen and how many fines have been paid?" (L)
40. Clr. McDonald
"When will Inishowen have a full time Litter Warden?" (L)

41. Clr. McGuinness
"What efforts have the Council put in place to ensure that the blue flag at Culdaff beach be restored in 2008?"(L)
42. Clr. McLochlainn
"Has any Council Department accepted responsibility for the ongoing problems in Lower Mount Marion, Milford, relating to sewage flooding and water flooding that has occurred and if so what short term plan is in place to ensure that this does not happen in the coming months, and if they could outline the long term solution?"(Milford Electoral Area)
43. Clr. McLochlainn
"What is the timescale for delivering a Civic Amenity Site to Buncrana as agreed under the existing Donegal Waste Management Plan?"(L)

Roads and Transportation

44. Clr. McGuinness
"When will the car park at St Boden's Tce be resurfaced?"(L)
45. Clr. Conaghan
"What plans have this Council in place to re-surface the back lane and repair footpaths at Killea Cottages?"(L)

Planning & Economic Development

46. Clr. Conaghan
"Is the Planning Office now in a position to allow the village of Tooban grow in a sustainable way, and will current and future planning applications in the area be looked on constructively?"(L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

47. Clr. McDaid
"Has this Council any plans to re-open the public toilets in Lifford?" (L)

48. Clr. Larkin
"Given the recent report showing the poor recycling figures in Donegal is the Manager thinking of reviewing HIS County Waste Management Plan?" (C)

Corporate Services

49. Clr. Larkin
"What plans have the Human Resources Department of the County Council to fulfil the commitment given at the opening of the Letterkenny Public Services Centre for Crèche Facilities for staff in said offices?" (L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

50. Clr. McDaid
"Will the Branch Library in Raphoe remain open during next year?"(L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

51. Clr. Brogan
"What is the current status on the sewerage treatment plant D.B.O. for Letterkenny?"(L)

Road & Transportation Programme

52. Clr. Brogan
"What is the current status of phase 3 of the N56 from the Mountain Top to Termon, and has the design been completed on the Bluebanks phase on this project?"(L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Housing & Building

53. Clr. Byrne
"What is the delay in obtaining planning permission for the Glencolmcille Firestation?"(L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

54. Clr. Byrne
"Why are some townlands/areas left out of the South West Donegal Water Improvement Plan despite these areas having no adequate water supply"(L)
55. Clr. O'Neill
"Will Donegal County Council proceed with works to provide Sewerage Treatment at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon with the provision of a pumping system to serve the houses inside the town boundary that have been excluded from the new multi million euro town scheme?"(L)

Roads & Transportation Programme

56. Clr. O'Neill
"Will Donegal County Council and the NRA engage in a meeting to discuss the development of the N3 National Road at Cloghore, between Ballyshannon and Belleek?"(L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

57. Clr. McGarvey
"When will the proposed watermain be laid to Portlean"(L)
58. Clr. McGarvey
"What is the present position of County Council on reservoir and dams at Cloughantree, Ramelton now or for the future?(L)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

59. LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL
"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice, Department of Justice and Department of Finance to make available all the resources necessary for equipment and training for drug testing of drivers and random drug testing of all road users. In view of the success of random breath testing it is essential to support the Gardai in extending the law to cover drugs. Please send this to other local authorities and to T.D.s and Senators in the BMW Region."

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 08TH
OCTOBER, 2007

C/481/07 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, R. Donaghey, M. Gallagher, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, T. McDaid, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, P. MacLochlainn, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle and T. Slowey.

C/482/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Clr. John Boyle, Deputy Mayor, Clr. J.J. Reid and Clrs. A. Bonner, J. Harte, N. McBride, M. McDonald, D. McGonagle and P.O'Dochartaigh who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/483/07 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing & Building, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Peadar MacRory, A/Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Annmarie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/484/07 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Mr. Liam Kelly advised that he was standing in for the County Manager who was out of the county on business.

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, it was resolved to elect Clr. Slowey to Chair the meeting on the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner seconded by Clr. Conaghan.

Sympathy was extended to the following:-

- The family of the late Michael Flanagan, Ballybofey
- The family of the late Pavel Szczepanski
- The family of the late Ciara Durkin

C/485/07 ADOPTION OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE N56-MOUNTCHARLES TO KILLYBEGS.

On the proposal of Clr. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. McEniff, it was resolved to defer further consideration of this item to the November Council Meeting.

C/486/07 LONDON OLYMPICS 2012-PROGRESS REPORT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer advised that every effort would be made to maximise potential funding opportunities. He noted that an audit of all available facilities in the county had been undertaken.

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved that the Mayor should be involved in any future meetings with Derry City Council and that a meeting should also be arranged with the Mayor of Derry to discuss potential benefits for both counties.

Members requested that the Olympic 2012 Response Team address a future meeting of the Council and advised that the Mayor of the day should also be included in this grouping. A full progress report on the matter was also deemed necessary.

C/487/07 COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Assistant County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly presented the County Manager's Report.

MOVILLE-GREENCASTLE SEWERAGE SCHEME

Clr. McGuinness expressed concern that a number of suggestions he had made were not included in the submission forwarded to the Department. He asked that the scheme be looked at again and consideration given to relocating the project further away from the existing houses. Concern was expressed that members were not being informed of developments in the project given the timeframe involved. Reference was made to a serious wastage of public monies particularly in relation to the E.I.S. Scheme.

Members called for greater co-operation from the Executive and requested that a full briefing be provided at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting

Mr. Peadar MacRory advised the meeting that he regretted the turn of events and the ensuing delays with the sewerage scheme. He noted however, that the opinion of officials and the Consultant Engineers had been that an EIS was necessary in this instance.

The Consultant Engineers had, he advised, been appointed according to EU and National guidelines and retained specifically for their skill and competence.

Mr. MacRory acknowledged that there were alternative proposals for the scheme but noted that, in the long run, the most cost effective procedures had to be used. He apologised for the fact that the official in attendance at the Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting had not been fully briefed.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn, it was agreed that a Working Group comprising the Inishowen Electoral Area Councillors and relevant officials would meet to discuss the issues involved.

Motions and Questions

A number of members expressed concern that member's business was being dealt with in a flippant manner and called for motions and questions to be included as the first item of business on the Council agenda.

Social Inclusion Units

Clr. McDaid requested a progress report on the work of the Social Inclusion Unit or, if applicable, a plan of what the unit intended to do over the year.

Abbey Centre

Clr. McGowan enquired as to progress in relation to his numerous representations on behalf of the Balor Theatre, Ballybofey.

He suggested that the Executive was now ignoring the wishes of the Elected Members and making no attempt to progress the future development of the Balor Theatre. It was agreed by Mr. Garry Martin that a response would issue to Clr. McGowan's query.

Flight of the Earls

Clr. E. Bonner stated that he was disappointed that only Milford Electoral Area members had been invited to the recent events in Rathmullan.

Mr. Liam Kelly, in response to a request from Clr. Bonner, advised that an overall report on the success of the project would be presented to members in due course.

MOTIONS

C/488/07 PROGRAMME OF PLANNED EXPENDITURE FOR PRESENTATION AT ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. McEniff, the following motion was adopted:-

“That each Director of Service present a full programme of planned expenditure including staffing numbers at each Electoral Area Committee Meeting between now and budget day to be presented both in a county wide and Electoral Area format.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Corporate Policy Group has decided to establish a Finance Advisory Working Group which will take a lead role in determining the most effective way of preparing, presenting and adopting the Annual Budget. The Group is due to hold its first meeting shortly and the motion, if adopted, will be referred to it for consideration.”

Clr. McGowan advised that he was very disappointed with the reply. He called for a breakdown to be provided by Electoral Area so as to allow members sufficient time to explore various opportunities and explore match-funding options. He asked that this be included on the agenda of the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

C/489/07 HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FOR MATURE STUDENTS

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss Student Support Higher Education Grant for mature students (over 23 years) and the conditions are all outlined to the members.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council administers Higher Education Grants on behalf of the Department of Education and Science, in accordance with the criteria laid down in the scheme for the year in question.

A mature candidate is defined as a candidate who is at least 23 years of age on the 01st January of the year of entry or re-entry to an approved course. The 2007/2008 Higher Education Grants Scheme identifies two types of Mature Candidate.

1. “Independent Mature Candidate” means a mature candidate who was not ordinarily resident with his/her parents from 01st October, 2006, and can provide proof of same. He/she must have been living within the administrative area of the Local Authority concerned.
2. “Mature Candidate dependent on parents” means a mature candidate who was ordinarily resident with his/her parents from 01st October, 2006, in the administrative area of the Local Authority concerned.

Independent residency has to be established in the case of independent mature candidates. Thus documentary evidence is required in relation to the candidate’s permanent/ordinary address as from the 01st October 2006. This can include evidence of registration with the Private Residential Tenancies Board, utility bills such as telephone, gas, E.S.B. etc.

The Higher Education Grant is a means tested grant, and eligibility is assessed on the basis of income received in the previous tax year (2006). In the case of an independent mature candidate, the reckonable income is determined to be that of the candidate and his/her spouse.

Dependent mature candidates are assessed on the basis of both parental and their own income.

A lengthy debate ensued with members calling for a review of the methods used to assess independent mature candidates, particularly in relation to the submission of

utility bills as proof of address. It was felt that a sworn affidavit should be sufficient in instances where no utility bills were available. Concern was also expressed that students under 23 living independently were unable to claim the grant in their own right and had to be assessed under their parent's income. A review of the 15 miles radius applicable for adjacent rate students was also deemed necessary. It was also felt that a mechanism should be put in place to deal with individual hardship cases. It was noted that Top Up Grant eligibility also needed to be reviewed together with the introduction of measures to alleviate the undue pressure suffered by fee-paying students attending college in Northern Ireland. It was agreed that all of the concerns raised should be forwarded to the Department of Education and Science for deliberation.

Mr. Sean Sheridan reminded members that the terms and conditions of the scheme were laid down by the Department of Education and Science and there were plans to transfer all student support grants to the V.E.C. for the 2008-2009 academic year. He noted that there was no provision in the current scheme for dealing with hardship cases, but that students did have the option to appeal to the Department of Education and Science. Mr. Sheridan acknowledged members concerns and advised that all of the issues raised would be forwarded to the Department for consideration.

C/490/07

ANNUAL MEETING WITH OIREACHTAS MEMBERS

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

“That this Council request (and facilitate) the nine members of the Houses of the Oireachtas to give an annual verbal report in person to a special meeting of this local authority.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 237a) Regulations 2003 provide that the County Manager and the Mayor are required to meet at least annually with local parliamentary representatives as a group to facilitate good communications and update on developments. A number of such meetings have been held since the Regulations came

into force, and it is planned to hold the next such meeting in the near future.

It should be noted that the 2003 Regulations also provide that an Oireachtas member is entitled to attend any meeting of a local authority or of a committee, but the Regulations do not provide an entitlement to participate at the meeting. If the motion is adopted, it will be discussed with the Oireachtas members at the next meeting with them.”

C/491/07

DESIGN WORK ON N56 AT MEEACARN BENDS

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

“If National Roads Office in Donegal Town has not sufficient staff to prepare design work on the N56 Meeacarn Bends, the work should be given to outside consultants to enable design work and purchase of land at least be completed and paid out of €900,000 allocation by NRA in January 2007.”

Members were informed that:-

“Procurement of outside consultants for this type of project takes approx. 3 months and also uses up NRDO resources drafting tender documents, contracts, assessing tenders, interviewing consultants, preparing tender reports, recommendations, approvals etc. Proper day to day management of consultants is also time consuming. Also, for smaller schemes like the Meenacarn Bends project the use of consultants tends not to be cost effective.

The NRDO staff are currently working on the design of this project with a view to having the route options finished and a preferred route identified by the end of 2007.”

Clr. E. Bonner acknowledged the support and assistance provided by Mr. John McLaughlin but noted that there was a lack of enthusiasm for the project among engineering staff. He asked for clarification in relation to the €900,000 funding secured for the project. Clr. Brogan requested that an update be provided by Road Design outlining the range and extent of current projects together with a list of staff dealing with them.

Mr. John McLaughlin agreed to ask the NRDO to provide an up to date report on all projects currently in hand in the Glenties, Stranorlar, Letterkenny and Inishowen Electoral Areas.

Clr. Larkin stated that the Council should have a greater input to how projects were being prioritised and needed better links with NRDO in that regard citing the problems caused by the recent works on Letterkenny-Derry Road. It was agreed that issues in relation to Phase 3 N56 Mountain Top be clarified at the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting.

In conclusion, Clr. E. Bonner noted that had the €900,000 allocation for the Meenacarn Bends been spent the project would be in a better position to avail of NRA in the coming years.

C/492/07

CAR PARK IN MOVILLE

The following motion in the name of Clr. McDonald, was moved on her behalf by Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Crawford and adopted:-

“That this Council investigate the possibility of purchasing land for a car park in Moville.”

Members were informed that:-

“Before purchasing a site for a car park in Moville, the need has to first be identified and, based on that need, a suitable site identified and then land negotiations can begin with the relevant landowners.

The Road Design Section have recently carried out a car-parking survey in the town to identify the current parking patterns and will use this to identify a need and identify an appropriate site. At that stage, land purchase negotiations would begin subject to adequate funding being made available.”

C/493/07

FUNDING FOR LINK ROADS IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the following motion was adopted:-

“With national commitments now being made on construction of motorways between Dublin and

Donegal/Derry, that this Council make a serious effort to attract the necessary funding for key link roads in the county e.g. Inishowen 100.”

Members were informed that:-

“It is true that there has been a huge increase on spending throughout the country on the major inter-urban roadways and other national roads in the past few years under the National Development Plan. In addition, recent announcements on the Derry to Dublin roadway indicate the likelihood of huge spending on this corridor.

The main funding for non national road improvements such as Inishowen 100 and the like has been in the form of the EU-Co Financed Schemes and while very beneficial projects are being done, the allocation has remained relatively steady over the past number of years.

In addition, further improvement monies have been received for the Department of Gaeltacht, Peace and Inerreg.

Further, monies have been received for Mulroy Bay Bridge under the heading of Strategic Non-National Roads.

Every effort will be made to attract the needed funding for the road network that supports the links to the major routes.”

Clr. Conaghan stated that if the NRA were serious about upgrading key link roads and national routes then considerable funding would have to be provided for a number of accident blackspots in the county. The amount of work carried out each year, he noted, was poor in relation to the relevant allocations. He enquired as to the status of a recent submission forwarded to the NRA requesting an upgrade to National Primary for the Bridgend-Buncrana road. There was, he advised, a need to re-examine the funding base for the Regional Roads Network and with the possibility of a motorway being developed from Dublin/Donegal it was imperative that key link roads in the county were adequately maintained so as to link into this artery. He called for the establishment of a dedicated work programme to progress works on these key link roads. It was noted that Inishowen was losing out strategically by not having a National Primary Route.

Clr. MacLochlainn noted that Transport 21 had not provided for sufficient links between the gateway towns of Letterkenny and Derry and asked that this be re-examined. Mr. John McLaughlin agreed to put together a submission with the aim of attracting funding for Strategic Non-National Roads.

In conclusion, Clr. Conaghan called for a change in the strategic approach to funding and requested that the lack of funding for key link roads in Inishowen be highlighted by the forthcoming NRA delegation.

He called for further clarity in relation to the omission of the Letterkenny-Derry section in Transport 21.

C/494/07

INCLUSION OF FROSSES IN SMALL SCHEMES PROGRAMME FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENTS.

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

“That this Council include the village of Frosses in the small schemes programme for waste water treatment.”

Members were informed that:-

“The prioritisation of schemes to be included for funding on the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme is agreed at Electoral Area level taking into account the significant other demands within the Electoral Area. It should be noted that the Department requires the Council to prioritise water quality deficient schemes for upgrading to comply with drinking water standards through this fund and that the Frosses/Mountcharles area is currently benefiting from significant investment in the water treatment plant under the Small Schemes Programme.

A new small schemes list will be brought to the Electoral Area in the near future and the Frosses Wastewater plant can be considered for inclusion on the programme at that time.

C/495/07

STATUE IN HONOUR OF RORY GALLAGHER

On the proposal of Clr. O’Neill, seconded by Clr. McEniff, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council honour the memory of Rory Gallagher to mark the 60th Anniversary of his birth in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal on March 02nd 2008, with the erection of a statue in his honour.”

Members were informed that:-

“Should the local community make a request, the CC&E Directorate could assist in assessing the feasibility of such a proposal. Any advice and support available from the Directorate will be provided.”

Clr. O’Neill informed the meeting that Rory Gallagher had played a unique part in the history of Donegal and that the Rory Gallagher Festival was now the biggest annual music event in the county.

Mr. Gary Martin advised that he would be more than happy to review this request. He agreed to consult with the Town Manager, Ballyshannon in relation to same.

C/496/07 SERVICE FROM BELFAST TO HEATHROW
On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council support the proposed new service from Belfast to Heathrow.”

C/497/07 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR LUNCH
On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 2.00pm.

C/498/07 PLANNING REFUSALS UNDER THE 2006-2012 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the following motion was adopted:-

“Because of the delay in the review of the County Development Plan, that this Council discuss the number of planning applications being refused because of “backland, haphazard, tandem development” under the 2006-2010 Plan.”

Members were informed that:-

“The term backland identifies that the proposed development is located to the rear of existing buildings. The fact that reference is made to the location of the development as “backland” in the wording of the refusal may at a cursory glance infer that a proposal is not acceptable for this reason. However, the Planning Authority do not refuse permission simply because a development is “backland”. It is the consequence of its location that in certain instances gives rise to negative impact such as, for example, the loss of residential amenity of the occupier(s) of the existing adjacent dwellings due to overlooking, noise nuisance etc. A further issue that does arise in a rural landscape is that the proposal results in the sub-urbanisation of the rural area in a manner which is inconsistent with the rural pattern of the area. It is necessary for development to utilise natural landscape features to enable a proposal to integrate satisfactorily. The Planning Authority made a decision on 6626 planning applications in the period 08/08/2006 to 14/09/2007 and 72 of them (1.08%) were refused with backland issues stated as one of the reasons for refusal. Statistics are not available to establish how many applications in backland scenarios were granted permission, as the computerised system does not have the design function to provide that detail of information.”

Clr. McGuinness requested that a common sense and consistent approach be taken with all planning applications. He called on the Director of Planning & Economic Development together with Senior Planning Officials to investigate a number of individual cases where permission had been refused on the basis of backland, haphazard and tandem development. The problem, he suggested, stemmed from the fact that individual planners had a different interpretation of the Plan from the members.

A lengthy debate ensued with members outlining the necessity of holding a workshop with planning staff to iron out a number of inconsistencies in the Plan. A re-evaluation of the Design Guide was also considered necessary.

Clr. McGuinness, in conclusion, called on Senior Planning Officials to re-examine application 07/70513 and visit the

site in question. He also asked that current difficulties in relation to the acquisition of planning permission for silage sheds be fully investigated. He reminded members that this was their plan and that member interpretations should be given proper consideration.

Mr. Francie Coyle noted that it was intended to hold a series of workshops to deal with various anomalies in the Plan. Every effort had been made, he advised, to improve the Design Guide. The current plan, he affirmed, was only one year old and that it would take time for all concerned to become familiar with the intricacies of the Plan. Work was, he indicated, ongoing in relation to this and it was hoped to advise members of proposed changes at the next scheduled workshop where there were particular issues in relation to the Design Guide, it was, he advised, intended to examine each case individually.

The Deputy Mayor arrived and took the Chair at this juncture.

C/499/07 SATELLITE RADIOTHERAPY UNIT IN THE NORTH WEST.

The following motion was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney to immediately commence talks with her northern counterpart, Minister Michael McGimpsey to progress plans for a satellite radiotherapy unit based in the North West to serve cancer patients on both sides of the border.”

Clr. MacLochlainn acceded to a request to vary his motion and on the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. McDaid, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council welcomes the recent meeting between the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, Minister of State, Pat the Cope Gallagher and her northern counterpart and reiterates its support for a satellite radiotherapy unit to be based in the North West to serve cancer patients on both sides of the border.”

C/500/07 PARKING FACILITIES AT THE COUNTY MUSEUM

On the proposal of Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council seeks to secure funding to ensure the retention and provision of adequate space for future development of parking facilities at the County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny for both staff and the general public in light of the proposed sale of the adjacent Old Fire Station.”

Members were informed that:-

“It is critical for the development of the County Museum that adequate parking for visitors is provided. The current situation is that a small number of car parking spaces exist. However, these are taken up by nearby workers and therefore are unavailable to museum visitors and act as a barrier to accessing museum exhibitions, talks and education programmes. Policing the existing space has also proved impossible. There is no bus parking which makes the museum inaccessible to groups, particularly school children. Public transport to the museum is also inadequate. The number of car parking spaces needs to be increased and bus parking spaces created. These spaces then need to be monitored to ensure they are reserved for genuine visitors to the museum.

Discussions have been ongoing with the Housing Directorate on creating access to the rear of the museum for parking purposes. This would be an interim measure only as the same space is earmarked for the medium longterm extension of the museum building. Ideally, adequate space should be secured adjacent to the museum building that is available now and into the future. This needs to be secured before the old Fire Station is disposed of and negotiations with the Gardai completed. The County Librarian will contact the Housing Directorate to further discuss.”

Members called for the Museum Committee to provide a full account in relation to the viability of this project.

C/501/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE IN LETTERKENNY

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

“That this Council explain why Letterkenny, the largest town in Donegal still does not have a Civic Amenity Site given our reported recycling figures.”

Members were informed that:-

“Commencement of construction of a Civic Amenity facility in Letterkenny has been delayed by land acquisition difficulties. We are confident that these difficulties are on the point of resolution and that the selected contractor can be given the go ahead to commence in the coming weeks.”

Clr. Larkin called on the Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Services to provide within a week a full response from the Director of Estates, H.S.E. as to these difficulties as he wished to see the contractor on site before year end. He asked that members be kept fully briefed on the progress of the matter until such times as the contractor was on site. It was agreed on the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, that a Workshop should be held to discuss and provide a focus for the provision of Civic Amenity Sites across the county.

C/502/07 LIBRARY SERVICES IN LETTERKENNY

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

“To propose that Donegal County Council enter into discussion with Office of Public Works with regard to the Courthouse in Letterkenny with a view to providing public library services.”

Members were informed that:-

“With the development and expansion of Letterkenny as a Gateway for the region, the issue of an expanded library service is under review by the Directorate. It is recognised that there will be a need to develop and expand on the existing central library in order to serve an expanding

population in Letterkenny and environs and to act as a central library resource for the county. This is being reviewed in the context of the emerging Cultural Services Strategy.

In addition, the CC&E Directorate are currently exploring ways in which the Cultural Services Headquarters could be integrated with community and other developments. A specific site is being explored for this at present and if this site does not prove viable all other suitable options will be investigated in order that the optimum site is secured.

Clr. Brogan queried ownership of the Letterkenny Courthouse and the importance to ensure that the building would not be lost to the county.

He requested a progress report on the motion as soon as it was practical to do so. Mr. Gary Martin advised that the matter would be progressed through the Community, Cultural and Corporate SPC.

Mr. Liam Kelly advised that the current situation was that by law courthouses were transferred automatically to the Courts Service.

C/503/07 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL'S ROLE IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

“Will this Council ask the Department to discuss our future role in Waste Management for the future.”

Members were informed that:-

“The role of the Council in Waste Management is specified in Waste Management legislation and elaborated in the Waste Management Plan. We act as operator in some areas (e.g. landfill and Civic Amenity Sites) and as regulator in others (e.g. collection). The Council is subject to direction by the Minister and regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency. Any change in policy set by the Minister or in the regulatory approach of the agency may be subject to discussion with the Council. We have been put on notice that the Minister is minded to issue a policy direction under

Section 60 of the Waste Management Act. Consultation on this proposed direction is ongoing.”

C/504/07 CC TV IN THE TWIN TOWN

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

“That the Council prepare and submit an application for CCTV for the Twin Towns and act as data controller.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council will engage the relevant people to explore how best to move this issue forward.”

MEMBER’S QUESTIONS

C/505/07 MAINTENANCE MONIES STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“Who authorised the transfer of 1million euro NRA maintenance monies from the Stranorlar Electoral Area and where it was spent.”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“There are 18 pavement and minor improvement schemes in various Electoral Areas within the county. Throughout each year project progress is reviewed regularly. Such a review was carried out in the second quarter of this year. Through review of the project progress an assessment is made as to whether the predicted expenditure vis a vis the annual allocation is on target, over budget or under budget. It is normal procedure to balance the over expenditure with the under expenditure within any given year. The reasons for under expenditure are generally lack of staff resources, design issues, external constraints i.e. NRA approvals, land acquisition, predicted over expenditure on other projects under contract, etc.

In the case of the two schemes to which the question refers, N14 Stranorlar-Killygordon and N15 Lough Mourne, it was determined on review that these schemes could not be tendered in 2007 as the design and tender documents were not ready to go to tender. This is mainly due to a lack of sufficient design engineers in the office all year. A similar situation exists on a number of other projects in other areas. In counter balance, a number of schemes on site or about to go to construction are expected to exceed their allocation in 2007.

It makes economic sense to allow allocations that cannot be spent on one project to be transferred to another job where it can be spent rather than lose the money from the county. The Senior Engineer (NRDO) in consultation with the NRA and the Director of Services reviewed the redistribution of scheme budgets on the basis of the ongoing evaluations. A sufficient budget was retained on both these schemes to progress the design and documentation towards the end of 2007 and with the view that these schemes are prioritised and tendered early in 2008.

Every effort is being made to allow a section of pavement overlay to be done on the N13 from McClay's Corner towards Killygordon. The time left for completion and budget available will determine the extent and type of work feasible. This will ultimately determine the location of such work."

C/506/07

MEETING WITH DORITA MCGEE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

"Why has Director of Service (Roads) not met with Dorita McGee, Killygordon regarding safety of her house as promised on several occasions?"

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

"The Council staff had been examining an option of traffic lights at this junction in conjunction with the NRA Road Safety Engineer. In addition, it was expected that the new N15 Lifford to Stranorlar Realignment Project would reduce traffic at this junction significantly even though that project is some years away and consideration was being given to

advancing the link road to the N15. It was intended to meet the homeowner after it was clear how the Council would be proceeding and so the situation would not be confused.

However, at the Council May Meeting, the elected Council adopted a motion to “purchase and demolish dwelling house at dangerous junction in Killygordon”.

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

The adopted motion cannot be implemented until money for its purpose is provided and the wider implications of it are dealt with. In the meantime, staff are in the difficult position of not knowing which solution will now be the one to be implemented and as such this makes it difficult to have a clear meeting with the homeowner.

Despite these difficulties, an effort will be made to meet the homeowner to let her know the position”

C/507/07 1% ART FUNDING FOR PROJECTS IN STRANORLAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Can a detailed report be given on all projects which received the 1% art funding in the Stranorlar areas since the scheme began including all income and expenditure.”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The report requested covers a considerable period, much of which predates the Agresso FMS and the appointment of a Public Art Manager. An assessment of the level of information available in the first instance will be prepared and presented for the next Council Meeting.”

C/508/07 ECONOMIC REGENERATION IN BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“What plans has this Council along with its partner agencies on the County Development Board to bring jobs and economic regeneration back to Ballybofey, Stranorlar and the rest of the Finn Valley, and please give details along with progress report on unemployment figures and persons at work?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council are continuing to support the various Economic Development Agencies in promoting the county as a centre for economic development. The Council are also facilitating the local community in the submission of an application to Enterprise Ireland for the development of a Community Enterprise Centre. Donegal County Council are also providing assistance with the provision of a site for this proposed centre. The Council are working closely with the other County Development Board partner agencies in the Castlefinn area on the Local Area Team and supporting the employment of a Development Worker for the area to identify and pursue potential developments. Assistance has been provided to the CAKE Enterprise Centre in Killygordon and the Convoy Enterprise Centres under the Development Fund Initiative. Donegal County Council are continuing to support the development of local natural resources and a number of sectors e.g. tourism and sport are being addressed in this context.”

C/509/07 CARPARKING ADJACENT TO BURTONPORT PIER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“What plan have the County Council for providing extra car parking adjacent to Burtonport Pier i.e. (near slipway that was damaged recently)?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“At present there are no plans in place to provide additional car parking in Burtonport.

However, an overall car parking programme is being examined by Road Design, which when developed will be presented to the Glenties Electoral Area Committee.”

C/510/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE, DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“How many tenders were received for the new Civic Amenity Site at Dungloe and what is the overall cost of the project and when will construction work be completed?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Seven tenders were received for construction of the Civic Amenity Site at Dungloe. Certain errors were found on checking some of the tenders and were corrected. The contract was awarded to William Doherty Construction as the lowest price corrected tender.

The overall cost of the project including the cost of the works, design and supervision costs, plus VAT is €20,000. (This cost does not include the cost of the site)

Contract works commenced on 10th September 2007 and completion is scheduled for 10th February, 2008”

C/511/07

GLENTIES/DUNGLOE SEWERAGE SCHEMES

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

“What is the current status of the preparation of tender documents for the Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes which were approved by Minister Dick Roche in April and notified to Donegal County Council on 04th May 2007?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“In letter dated 02 May 2007 from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government the Department conveyed approval to the Preliminary Reports for both the Glenties and Dungloe sewerage schemes subject to conditions. One condition stated the schemes should be bundled with the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme. When in June 2007 the Department asked the Council to consult with the Planning/ Spatial Policy section of the Department with regard to Gweedore the Council wrote to the Department requesting the separation of the Gweedore scheme from the Dungloe & Glenties bundle. In reply dated 14 September 2007 the Department state that given that there are 'whole life cost implications for the Department and Donegal County Council' in separating the schemes it is requesting that the Council prepare and submit programmes comparing bundling versus part separation from Gweedore 'to enable the Department to make a more informed decision'. This will be done at the earliest opportunity.”

C/512/07 MAJOR PIPEWORK REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What length of water piping has been actually put in place to date under the Major Pipework Refurbishment Programme announced some years ago and when will the water pipeline between Ardara and Glenties be upgraded?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“Current funding for major pipeline replacement is channelled through the Water Conservation Programme. To date the Council has replaced 10.6 kilometres of pipelines throughout the county under this programme. Further defective pipelines have been identified and documented in a report, which will be submitted shortly to the Department to seek funding to continue with the pipe replacement programme. The Department’s current policy is that Stage 1 and Stage 2 works on the Water Conservation Programme must be completed before pipe replacement will be considered.

Regarding the water supply to Ardara, a new reservoir was built under the small capital schemes programme to provide storage and overcome hydraulic constraint of the pipeline between Ardara and Glenties. Options for further upgrade works will be considered in the context of the Leiternacaward Regional WSS, which has been approved to advance through planning under the recently announced Water Services Investment Programme. Increasing the mains diameter from Glenties to Ardara would be one option for consideration.”

C/513/07 COUNTY LIBRARY, ARDARA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“When will the County Manager honour his promise to the people of Ardara by restoring a County Library to the town?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“In 2003 the Library Service sought to form a partnership with a local group that would enable Taobh Tire services to

be provided in Ardara. At that time it was not possible to find a suitable location in which the partner organisation with the capacity to work together to provide an outreach Library/Information Service. A central accessible location is required, along with a partner organisation with the capacity to work together to provide services as in other locations with Taobh Tire points. Should such a location and partner be available, the County Librarian would be happy to meet the group and view the proposed location. A purpose built library is dependent on Department funding which is currently not available for towns with core populations of less than 1500.”

C/514/07 REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

“What is the present status of review of the County Development Plan?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“The process of reviewing the County Donegal Development Plan 2006/2012, commenced early in the Summer with a series of workshops held on 11th June and 11th July and some progress was made. Further meetings are to be held with members at a series of dates to be agreed at this Council Meeting. It is anticipated, subject to members agreement on a number of outstanding and evolving issues, that a draft variation could be prepared for their consideration prior to the end of the year. A workshop was held with members on 01st inst. to progress this matter and it is recommended that a date for a further workshop be agreed today to finalise the proposed variation details.”

C/515/07 LITTER FINES IN INISHOWEN AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“How many people have been fined for littering offences in Inishowen and how many fines have been paid?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“A total of 50 fines have been issued for littering offences in Inishowen to date in 2007. 28 fines were paid in the same period.”

C/516/07 FULL TIME LITTER WARDEN, INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“Will Inishowen have a full time litter warden?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The Council has recently accepted the resignation of the previous Litter Warden assigned to Inishowen and the process of his replacement is imminent.”

C/517/07 BLUE FLAG BEACH, CULDAFF

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“What efforts have the Council put in place to ensure that the Blue Flag at Culdaff beach be restored in 2008”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“A beach manager has been appointed with a county wide remit. Among his duties will be a focus on maintaining Blue Flag status at all Blue Flag beaches in and as a priority resolution of issues such as those that caused Culdaff to lose its Blue Flag.”

C/518/07 FLOODING IN LOWER MOUNT MARION, MILFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“Has any Council Department accepted responsibility for the ongoing problems in Lower Mount Marion, Milford, relating to sewerage flooding and water flooding that has occurred and if so what short term plan is in place to ensure that this does not happen in the coming months, and if they could outline the long term solution?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“I understand the Housing Section in Milford arranged for work to be carried out in this estate to both relieve a specific flooding issue and also to unblock a blocked sewer serving this estate which dealt with specific problems which arose. The longer term problems will, I understand, require further attention by other Service.”

C/519/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE, BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“What is the timescale for delivering a Civic Amenity Site to Buncrana as agreed under the existing Donegal Waste Management Plan?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Funding is in place and grant aid has been approved for six civic amenity sites: - Carndonagh, Stranorlar, Laghey, Milford, Dungloe and Letterkenny. However no sources of funding or physical sites have yet been identified for Buncrana or South West Donegal. No time scale has yet been agreed for this.”

C/520/07 RESURFACING OF CARPARK AT ST. BODENS TERRACE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“When will the car park at St. Boden’s Terrace be resurfaced?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“The car park area at St. Boden’s Tce, Culdaff is being addressed jointly by the Housing and Roads Directorates. Housing will address the drainage issue that exists and roads will make the proposal to the Electoral Area Committee to allocate CLAR Class II and III funding to bitmac the area in 2008 allocation. If all goes to plan the work should be completed by the summer of 2008.”

C/521/07 REPAIR OF FOOTPATHS, KILLEA COTTAGES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What plans have this Council in place to re-surface the back lane and repair footpaths at Killea Cottages?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The Electoral Area Committee have agreed to allocate €9,000 under Development Charge funding to re-surface the back lane at Killea Cottages. This work is scheduled to be completed before the end of April 2008.”

C/522/07 FUTURE PLANNING IN VILLAGE OF TOOBAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“Is the planning office now in a position to allow the village to Tooban grow in a sustainable way and will current and future planning applications in the area be looked on constructively?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The Planning Service do look favourably upon all applications for development, provided that they satisfy appropriate policy and technical requirements. In the case of Tooban (Tievebane) I can confirm that infrastructure constraints do exist and in particular there is no wastewater treatment works for the proposed settlement. Accordingly, it is necessary for a multiple housing proposal to demonstrate that it incorporates proposals for a wastewater treatment works that has the capacity to serve the proposed and existing housing to a substantial degree.

The Council’s Water Service did receive a preliminary proposal by one developer to provide for wastewater treatment works within this context. The Planning Service understand that the Water Service have discussed the proposal with them and set out the main principles for appropriate siting of any treatment works and that their proposal to date would not satisfy these. The principles identified would guide a revised proposal, however, it is

understood that amended proposals have not yet been furnished to the Water Service.
A meeting is being arranged by WEES with the developers on 03rd October, 2007 in the Letterkenny PSC.”

C/523/07 PUBLIC TOILETS, LIFFORD

This question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Has this Council any plans to re-open the public toilets in Lifford?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“The public toilets in Lifford had been vandalised on numerous occasions over the years. They have been boarded up for the past two years and we have no records of complaints from the area. The Council has no plans to re-open them at present. The option of full time attendance at public toilets is not viable and the provision and maintenance of vandal-proof toilets are expensive. Elsewhere in the county public toilets have been provided in partnership with conveniently located private sector developments.”

C/524/07 REVIEW OF COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Given the recent report showing the poor recycling figures in Donegal, is the Manager thinking of reviewing his County Waste Management Plan?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The recent publication of Service Indicators shows that the percentage of household waste in County Donegal collected at kerbside and sent for recycling (table 35) was 11% in the year 2006. This is up from a figure of 6.4% in year 2005, and this upward trend is expected to continue. The kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclables by collectors in Donegal has been rolled out over the past couple of years. The service is still being rolled out in certain parts of the county e.g. the Finn Valley area during 2006, and Inishowen this year.

The performance of the county in terms of tonnages of glass, cans, textiles, batteries and other materials collected for recycling (Tables 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42) at Recycling Facilities all show that Donegal is generally in line with, or in some cases ahead of our comparable counties of Galway, Kerry and Mayo. The performance in this area is expected to increase as the additional civic amenity sites are developed.”

C/525/07 CRECHE FACILITIES IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“What plans have the Human Resources Department of the County Council to fulfil the commitment given at the opening of the Letterkenny Public Services Centre for Crèche facilities for staff in said offices?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“Space was provided in the Letterkenny PSC for a crèche but based on a limited interest from staff when the offices were opened the space has been used as office accommodation and the work on fitting it out to an acceptable standard as a crèche to meet the legal requirements was not completed. The Council is not aware of a substantial interest from staff for these facilities but the level of interest can be reassessed and depending on the outcome options can be reviewed in consultation with the staff.”

C/526/07 BRANCH LIBRARY, RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will the Branch Library in Raphoe remain open during next year?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“The Branch Librarian in Raphoe has taken a one year career break to follow a Postgraduate Degree Course in Library & Information Studies. The resulting vacancy will be filled as soon as possible and discussions are underway with the Human Resources Division on the filling of this vacancy

from the Branch Librarian panel. There may be a temporary disruption to opening hours which will be kept as short as possible.”

C/527/07 SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT, LETTERKENNY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

“What is the current status on the sewerage treatment plant D.B.O. for Letterkenny?”

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

“The procurement process for the shortlisting of contractors and subsequent tendering of the Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO project is about to commence in accordance with EU procurement regulations.”

C/528/07 PHASE 3 OF N56 MOUNTAIN TOP TO TERMON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

“What is the current status of phase 3 of the N56 from the Mountain Top to Termon, and has the design been completed on the Blue Banks phase of this project?”

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

“There is no official phase 3 of the Mountain Top Project. The NRA have provided an allocation to N56 Coolboy – Kilmacrennan under the N56 pavement and minor improvement grants 2007. Design work on the initial section of this (Blue Banks) is to be completed in 2007. Initial land acquisition assessment in conjunction with the Area Staff has determined that CPO will be required. This section requires significant realignment. Expenditure for major realignments from their pavement and minor improvement grants will need NRA approval.”

C/529/07 PLANNING PERMISSION FOR GLENCOLMCILLE FIRE STATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“What is the delay in obtaining planning permission for the Glencolmcille Fire Station?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

“In July 2006, the Department responded to the Council’s request to have the Glencolumbkille Fire Station included in their building programme, stating that the Department, in the context of future capital programmes, will consider this proposal. To date, approval has not been received.

Notwithstanding obtaining Department approval, the Council commissioned a design team to design the station and prepare a Part 8 Planning Application for a new station. There were issues raised by both Roads Service and the Environmental Health Officer. The resolution of these issues will require the purchase of additional land from the adjoining landowner.

The negotiation will commence in the immediate future.”

C/530/07

SOUTH WEST DONEAL WATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“Why are some townlands/areas left out of the South West Donegal Water Improvement Plan despite these areas having no adequate water supply?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

“The Southwest Donegal Water Improvement Scheme was designed to improve the quality of drinking water to the population served by existing water supply schemes. Funding for this scheme was made available under the Rural Water Programme, following Ireland’s prosecution by the European Court of Justice (ECJ). This distinct target group is a requirement of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Rural Water Programme. The point is illustrated by the following quote from a Department Circular dated 07th December 2006: –

“Priority must be afforded to group water schemes with private sources which serve 50 persons or more and which are out of compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations 2000 (S.I. 439). Within this priority group, particular attention should be given to schemes that feature on Annex

14 of the ECJ ruling, given that Ireland was given until the end of 2006 to bring drinking water quality on these privately sourced group water schemes into compliance with the Drinking Water Directive. These schemes should continue to be treated by Local Authorities as a top priority in the submission of their bids for funding in 2007.”

The new infrastructure being put in place through this scheme will benefit many new consumers and will allow for the future development of new Group Water Supply Schemes into other areas.”

C/531/07 SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT CARRICKBOY

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

“Will Donegal County Council proceed with works to provide Sewerage Treatment at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon with the provision of a pumping system to serve the houses inside the town boundary that have been excluded from the new multi million euro town scheme?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“The houses in question are 6 dwellings located at Carrickboy, Ballyshannon on the southern fringe of the Ballyshannon sewerage network. The network has already been extended in this area as far as can be economically justified. As noted, a pumping system would be needed to connect these houses to the main sewers. The cost of providing a pumping station, rising main, and collection network is of the order of €100k, giving a unit cost per dwelling in excess of €16k which exceeds the limit of funding deemed to be economic by the Department.”

C/532/07 DEVELOPMENT OF N3 NATIONAL ROAD AT CLOGHORE

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

“Will Donegal County Council and the NRA engage in a meeting to discuss the development of the N3 National Road at Cloghore, between Ballyshannon and Belleek?”

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council and the NRA have had ongoing discussions on this matter. Currently works involving minor realignment are being progressed under the NRA's Safety Section mainly with regard to Clyhore Junction. Land acquisition is needed to allow the work to proceed on the ground.

Pavement money has been committed to this project and will be utilised when the minor safety works are completed. The scheme will continue to be prioritised by Donegal County Council until pavement works are completed.”

C/533/07 LAYING OF WATERMAIN TO PORTLEAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:

“When will the proposed watermain be laid to Portlean?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The work has been tendered and the tender report is nearing completion. It is expected that work will commence on the ground in Q4 2007.”

C/534/07 RESERVOIR AND DAMS AT CLOUGHANTREE, RAMELTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“What is the present position of County Council on reservoir and dams at Cloughantree, Ramelton now or for the future?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The old dam, water treatment works and reservoir at Ramelton, usually referred to as the Breagy waterworks, date back to the 1880's and have not been used since the 1990's. The site was considered as a candidate site for the new reservoir to serve Ramelton. Early indications are that it may not be suitable as it is at too low a level and due to difficulty in routing pipework from both Milford and Letterkenny networks on the site. No decision has been made about alternative uses, but if it is of no use to the water supply,

alternative future uses of the site may be considered in the context of the Council's overall landbank.

C/535/07 MOTION FROM LETIRIM COUTNY COUCNIL

The following motion from Leitrim County Council was adopted:-

“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice, Department of Justice and Department of Finance to make available all the resources necessary for equipment and training for drug testing of drivers and random drug testing of all road users. In view of the success of random breath testing it is essential to support the Gardai in extending the law to cover drugs. Please send this to other local authorities and to T.D.s and Senators in the BMW Region.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.