

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF

### GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

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**Members Present:** Cllr. David Alcorn  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. Pearse Doherty  
Cllr. Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr. Enda Bonner

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr. Brian O Domhnaill

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Cathal O Gallachóir – Community & Enterprise Project Officer  
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Virginia McLoone – Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services  
Roisin Mitchell – A/Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
John Mc Elwaine – Senior Executive Engineer, Sanitary Capital  
Johnny Mc Gettigan – Building and Facilities Manager

#### **APOLOGIES :**

Vincent Lynn-Divisional Manager, Marine Service  
Charles Sweeney-Community & Enterprise Development Officer

#### **GEA 168/06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were agreed.

#### **GEA 169/06 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP – 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the report from the Workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 was agreed.

<b>WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 170/06 FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE SCHEME - PRELIMINARY REPORT**

John Mc Elwaine, Senior Executive Engineer, Sanitary Capital made a presentation to the Committee in relation to the following aspects of the scheme:

- Objectives
- Site investigation/studies
- Wastewater treatment proposals
- Environmental considerations
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government criteria for extensions
- Possible economic extensions identified
- Other extensions identified for implementation as development schemes
- Cost estimates

John Mc Elwaine informed the Committee that a screening report will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála, and on receipt of confirmation that an Environmental Impact Study is not required, an application will be made for Part 8 planning permission.

**GEA 171/06 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES**

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated.

The Committee criticised the diverse responses from the Water Services Capital Section to queries in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme. Cllr. Pearse Doherty expressed dissatisfaction at the situation whereby his requests for a meeting with the relevant Department Inspector are continually ignored. Cllr. Bonner advised that he would raise issues in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme at the Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2006.

Cllr. Alcorn expressed frustration at the failure of Water Services Capital personnel to respond to his correspondence in relation to the Burtonport Sewerage Scheme and also requested the attendance of the Director of Water Services at the next Electoral Area meeting.

**GEA 172/06 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda. In response to queries from the Committee regarding the Rosses Regional Network mains replacement, the Area Manager informed Members that the Surveying and Pressure Management Phases of the project are complete and that the release of funding by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is awaited to commence the pipe replacement phase.

#### **GEA 173/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of Group Water Schemes, and the Area Manager responded to queries in respect of Schemes at Shallogans, Rutland, Cragheyboyle and Loughnaneoran.

The Area Manager agreed to liase with Pauric Mc Geehan regarding the extension to the Meenmore/Meenatinney Scheme.

Cllr. Slowey highlighted the necessity for a Group Scheme in the Edergole area of Ardara.

#### **GEA 174/06 TORY ISLAND WATER SUPPLY**

Cllr. Padraig Doherty requested a report from the Water Service regarding the implementation stage of this Scheme.

#### **GEA 175/06 CURRANSPORT WATER SCHEME**

Cllr. Padraig Doherty requested the Water and Housing Managers to liaise regarding an extension to the Curransport Water Scheme.

#### **GEA 176/06 DOOEY BEACH – BLUE FLAG STATUS**

The Area Manager informed the Committee that monitoring of water quality is ongoing at this location and that the quality of bathing water is excellent. The Area Manager undertook to liaise with Liam Mc Carron in the Environment Office to progress the application for Blue Flag status.

#### **GEA 177/06 MAGHERAROARTY BEACH**

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the Area Manager advised Members that a number of options have been suggested to the local Committee to prevent overnight camping at the dunes. The Area Manager undertook to respond promptly on receipt of a response from the Committee and to also erect appropriate warning signage at this location.

The Committee were also advised that the Litter Warden is proactive in this area.

#### **GEA 178/06 ILLEGAL DUMPING – DUNGLOE AREA**

Cllr. Bonner requested a total clear up of dumped material in the Mountjoy Road and old dump area of Dungloe. The Area Manager advised the Committee of the costs involved in removing asbestos from both of the above areas and stated that the Environment Section were seeking funding to clean up a number of locations in the Glenties Electoral Area.

The Committee complimented the Litter Warden for his ongoing efforts to address illegal dumping.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING**

### **GEA 179/06 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report circulated with the Agenda, and the Area Manager updated Members in relation to the current status of the Capital Programme.

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the Area Manager advised the Committee that the Tenant Liaison Officer and Housing Construction have been informed of the necessity for sheds to be provided with all Council housing.

### **GEA 180/06 PROGRESS REPORT - SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee discussed the report dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 that circulated with the Agenda.

The Housing Manager agreed to liaise with the Roads Service in relation to damage caused to the roadway during construction of an S.I. House at Leffin.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty requested the Housing Service to expedite payments to Contractors.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty asked the Housing Service to liaise with Contractors to expedite the completion of S.I. houses that are subject to delays in construction. The Area Housing Manager agreed to relay these concerns to Eamonn Canney, Senior Housing Engineer.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty advised the Committee that the inability of single male applicants to apply for an S.I. house is discriminatory.

### **GEA 181/06 CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report on the casual vacancies at 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, that was circulated with the Agenda.

### **GEA 182/06 DERELICT SITE – DUNGLOE, MAIN STREET**

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with the Environment Manager in relation to this issue.

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 183/06 ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Committee noted the activity report circulated with the Agenda detailing business transacted by Corporate Services during the periods, April to August 2005 and 2006.

The Corporate Manager also advised the Committee of the level of business conducted through the medium of Irish.

**GEA 184/06 BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Johnny Mc Gettigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Building Control, made a presentation to the Committee and circulated a sketch outlining proposed improvements to car parking facilities and disability access outside the Public Service Centre.

The Committee recorded their appreciation for the work done in the Council Chamber to address the acoustics issue, which was noted to be satisfactory.

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding the suitability of the Public Service Centre to accommodate disabled employees, the Building Control Manager informed Members that a Disability Committee is in the process of being established to address such issues.

Members were also advised that the provision of a permanent translation service is currently being examined by the Council.

**GEA 185/06 RE-OPENING OF DUNGLOE PIER**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the Committee agreed to invite Minister Gallagher to perform the official re-opening of Dungloe Pier.

**GEA 186/06 AISTEOIRÍ GAOTH DOBHAIR**

The Corporate Manager undertook to liaise with the County Secretary's office regarding the organisation of a Civic Reception, to recognise the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Aisteoirí Gaoth Dobhair.

**GEA 187/06 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION/LIASION**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Cathal O Gallachóir, Project Officer. Members were updated on the status of the bring bank site project in Gaoth Dobhair.

**GEA 188/06 FUNDING UPDATE**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda detailing the provision of €120,000 for playground provision/improvement in the County.

**GEA 189/06 INTER-ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by Cathal O Gallachóir, Project Officer.

**GEA 190/06 COUNTY STRATEGY**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Cathal O Gallachóir, Project Officer. Apologies were conveyed on behalf of Youth Councillors who were unable to attend the meeting, and a copy of a presentation in relation to their activities was circulated to Members. Cathal O Gallachóir advised the Committee of the Youth Council Election and Count dates and invited Members to attend.

**GEA 191/06 FLEADH CEOIL**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

**GEA 192/06 CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to Cultural Services in the County.

**GEA 193/06 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

**GEA 194/06 CHURCH OF IRELAND – DUNGLOE**

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to develop additional car parking facilities at this location.

## PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **GEA 195/06 PLANNING OFFICE - STAFFING**

Members requested that a letter of thanks issue to Eunan Quinn, former Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development, in recognition of his contribution and assistance to the Committee.

The Committee expressed disappointment that they had not been informed of recent staffing changes.

Members also congratulated Roisin Mitchell on her appointment as Acting Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development.

Cllr. Bonner, Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Pádraig Doherty expressed frustration at their inability to contact Planners and requested that mobile phone contact numbers be provided to Members, in addition to the implementation of structures to improve contact between Members and Planners.

### **GEA 196/06 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr. Bonner expressed dissatisfaction at the delay in providing Members with copies of the County Development Plan.

The Committee highlighted the following issues to be addressed by the Central Planning Unit:

- Incorrect Control Points in Dungloe
- Social Housing for Elderly in Portnoo
- Interpretation of Rural Need
- Language Impact
- Imposition of Development Charges

The Committee requested the attendance of Helena O'Toole, Senior Planner at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

### **GEA 197/06 PLANNING STATISTICS AND REFUSALS**

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to planning refusals during the period 8<sup>th</sup> July 2006 to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

The Committee expressed concern at the high number of invalid applications and refusals issued during this period, and the Acting Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development advised Members of the effect of the new plan on decisions made.

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

### **GEA 198/06 MEMBERS REPRESENTATION**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee on the pilot system implemented to deal with representations submitted by Members.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty asked that E-mails be also logged.

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### **GEA 199/06 PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR CLASS 2/3 ROADS**

The Committee were circulated with a report at the meeting detailing the proposed distribution of Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government funding in the sum of €165,000 for Class 2/3 Roads.

After a lengthy discussion, Members agreed that funding should be distributed as listed hereunder:

<b>ROAD NUMBER</b>	<b>ROAD DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COST - EURO</b>
L-6373-1	Cleengort	16,250
L-7533-1	Summy Dump Road	25,000
L-6323-1	Befflaght	31,250
L-6113-1	Croveigh Road	10,000
L-5913-1	Link Rd-Keadue-Kerrytown Rd.- Meenbanad	15,000
L-5323-1	Glen Road to R259 at Carrick	8,250
L-5393-1	Lr. Cotten Road	8,000
L-57931	Cronaguiggy Road	10,000
L-12621-2	Gortnaleck Road	21,250
L1-52233	Doonan Road	20,000

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, the Committee agreed the above programme of works for Class 2/3 Roads.

### **GEA 200/06 CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee discussed the report on Capital Projects circulated at the Meeting and the Roads Manager responded to Members queries and maintenance issues.

### **GEA 201/06 COISTE FORBARTHA CROITHSHLI**

Cllr. Bonner requested a report from the Roads Service in respect of the site meeting held with this development group.

**GEA 202/06 LIS 2007**

The Roads Manager advised Members that a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006 has been set for submission of LIS 2007 applications, and he agreed to put this item on the Agenda for the next Area Meeting.

**GEA 203/06 TUBBERKEEN BRAE ROAD**

The Roads Manager undertook to re-issue correspondence to Members in respect of the rationale for funding improvements at this locus.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**