

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

HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2008, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr Kelly
Cllr Gallagher
Cllr Slowey
Cllr Doherty
Cllr Bonner
Cllr Alcorn

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Cathal Moss – Road Design Engineer
Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Aidan O’ Doherty – Senior Engineer, NRDO
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

**GEA 150/08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16TH
SEPTEMBER 2008**

On the proposal of Cllr.Bonner, seconded by Cllr.Slowey, the minutes of meeting of the 16th September 2008 were agreed.

GEA 151/08 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Slowey, the report from the Workshop held on the 16th September 2008 was agreed.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 152/08

BEST KEPT COUNCIL ESTATES PRESENTATION

The Chairman of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee, Cllr Kelly presented cheques to the representatives of the successful participants in this competition and he congratulated and commended them for their community and voluntary input.

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Small Estates	Fairhill, Dungloe
Medium Estates	Clós Naomh Chonail, Glenties Ard McGill, Glenties
Larger Estates	Ballina, Falcarragh

GEA 153/08

PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

153.1 Cllr Doherty welcomed DOE approval for 23 units at Meenaniller, Derrybeg.

153.2 Cllr Bonner expressed disappointment at his difficulty in obtaining details from Housing Construction regarding turnkey submissions for the Dungloe & Glenties areas.

Cllr Alcorn requested that a representative of the Housing Construction Service attend Area Meetings on a regular basis.

153.3 Cllr Bonner & Cllr Slowey expressed concern at the delay in progressing the Ardara Housing Scheme.

153.4 Cllr Kelly requested an updated list of Housing Need in the Glenties Electoral Area for the next meeting.

153.5 In response to queries from the Committee, the Housing Manager undertook to revert to the Members with up to date details in relation to the status of 'Pat's Plot' in Dunfanaghy.

GEA 154/08

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Cllr Bonner expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of consultation with Elected Representatives in relation to the letting of the Respond Scheme in Dungloe.

Cllr Gallagher informed the meeting that the type of Housing provided by Respond was not suitable for housing applicants in West Donegal.

Cllr Slowey highlighted his reservations in relation to the provision of Housing where tenants were unable to purchase their homes.

Cllr Alcorn requested the attendance of Respond personnel at the next Area Meeting to explain their system of Housing Provision to the Committee.

The Housing Manager advised the Committee that, National Rules and Regulations govern Voluntary Housing Schemes.

GEA 155/08

PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

The Housing Manager undertook to liaise with Cllr Doherty in relation to an applicant refused an I.W. Scheme on age restriction grounds.

GEA 156/08

PROGRESS REPORT – CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to casual vacancies as at 1st of November 2008.

GEA 157/08

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

157.1 Cllr Gallagher criticised the Water and Sewerage infrastructural deficiency in the Glenties Electoral Area and also the lack of progress with proposed schemes.

157.2 Cllr Bonner expressed frustration at the Council/Consultants failure to submit the main Contract Documents for the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes to the Department for approval.

157.3 In response to a query from Cllr Kelly regarding the Dunfanaghy Portnablugh Sewerage Scheme, the Water Service Manager advised the Committee that the Project Brief and Procurement Strategy has been submitted to the DOE for approval and also advised Members that the status of projects occasionally change after documentation has been submitted.

Cllr Kelly also requested that up to date reports are made available for the Area Meeting.

GEA 158/08

SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report on the status of the Small Capital Scheme Programme circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

158.1 Members welcomed the provision of funding in the sum of €200,000 for the replacement of defective cast-iron water mains in the Kincasslagh area.

158.2 In response to a query from Cllr Kelly regarding the replacement of cast-iron water mains in the Glasserchoo area, the Water Services manager advised the Committee that this project is listed on the Programme and awaiting funding.

GEA 159/08

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the progress report on Group Water Schemes circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager.

The Water Services Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of Private Source Group Water Schemes at:

- (i) Meenabool
- (ii) Tully/Lettercough/Meenamara
- (iii) Laconnell/Maghera
- (iv) Tory Island

GEA 160/08

ENVIRONMENT

Members commended the assistance of the Litter Warden and the Environment Service in their efforts to address illegal dumping throughout the Electoral Area.

The Environment Manager advised the Committee that a Section 55 notice and 3 fines have been issued in relation to illegal dumping at Keeldrum.

Cllr Gallagher highlighted the ongoing dumping of asbestos at Mountjoy outside Dungloe and the Environment Manager informed the Committee that one offender had been prosecuted in relation to illegal activity at this location.

Cllr Slowey informed the meeting that there was approximately only a fifty percent take up of the waste collection service in Donegal, thus leading to a negative impact on the Environment.

In response to queries from the Committee regarding the opening of the Civic Amenity Site in Dungloe, the Environment Manager informed the Committee that the operation and maintenance budget for the facility will be determined by the Elected Members during the Budget 2009 process.

Cllr Alcorn commended the Council for the additional work undertaken during Bank Holiday weekends and requested that a similar programme be continued during the Christmas holidays.

GEA 161/08

NON DOMESTIC METERING PROJECT

Cllr Slowey informed the Committee that water customers are becoming aware of leaks subsequent to the installation by Laing O Rourke of new water meters and requested the Council to adopt a sympathetic charging structure in this regard.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 162/08

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2008

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads manager.

- 162.1** Cllr Gallagher expressed dissatisfaction at the recent closure of 3 roads leading to Dungloe and requested the Roads Service to review their road closure strategy and legislation.
- 162.2** Cllr Alcorn reiterated his previous request to the Roads Service to deal with the dangerous positioning of manhole covers at Belcruit Crossroads and Keadue areas.
- 162.3** Cllr Gallagher & Cllr Bonner requested the Council to improve the Caravan Road, Dungloe as a matter of urgency.
- 162.4** Cllr Doherty requested the Roads Service to line the Strand Road in Derrybeg and to liaise with Gardaí regarding road hazards in the vicinity of the Strand Road nightclub at the weekends.
- 162.5** Cllr Kelly commended the Roads Service for the provision of:
- (i) Disabled parking at Molloy's
 - (ii) Lighting at Gweedore Station and
 - (iii) Plastic kerbing in Falcarragh

Cllr Kelly outlined the high standards of integrity that he expects from Council officials and expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of support from Council officials in relation to recent media coverage of the condition of Falcarragh Main Street.

- 162.6** In relation to concerns expressed by Members regarding Local Improvement Schemes, the Roads Manager undertook to convene a workshop to review the prioritisation of projects on the LIS programme.
- 162.7** Cllr Slowey highlighted the following maintenance issues for the attention of the Roads Service:
- (a) Drainage requirements in the Glen of Glenties.
 - (b) Signage requirements to prevent articulated trucks travelling on the Glengesh Road.
 - (c) Flooding on N56 at Edergole Bridge.

GEA 163/08

NRDO UPDATE

The NRDO Engineering team circulated reports at the meeting in relation to:

- (i) N56 National Secondary Pavement and Minor Improvement Projects 2008 and
- (ii) National Secondary Pavement Projects (2009 Applications for Funding). The NRDO officials informed the Committee of NRA allocations, expenditure and the status of the following projects:
 - (a) N56 Doochary Junction to Dungloe
 - (b) N56 Dunfanaghy to Falcarragh
 - (c) N56 Kilraine – Glenties R262
 - (d) N56 lettermacaward Remedial Works
 - (e) N56 Meenacarn Bends Design
 - (f) N56 Tirlin to Drumvaraw School
 - (g) Doohill Surfacing
 - (h) Keeldrum Surfacing

Cllr Kelly requested that the NRDO issue Members with a report regarding the NRA clawback of €278,000 funding from the Glenties Electoral Area.

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr Bonner regarding the Meenacarn Bends, the NRDO engineer advised that preliminary route alignment and detail design will be advanced and that construction of a 3km section will be carried out in four phases.

GEA 164/08

STRATEGIC GAELTACHT ROAD PROGRAMME

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn seconded by Cllr Doherty the Committee agreed to prioritise the Crolly - Carrickfinn Road as the first priority on the Strategic Gaeltacht Road Programme.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 165/08

PLANNING STATISTICS

Members discussed the report on planning statistics circulated with the agenda.

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that the decline in planning applications during 2008 was less than the decrease in other Electoral Areas.

GEA 166/08

CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS

The Committee considered the report on application refusals during the period from 29/08/08 to 31/10/08, which was circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 167/08

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

The Committee welcomed the enforcement statistics circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

In response to queries from Cllr Slowey and Cllr Kelly regarding the effectiveness of planning conditions attached to permissions, the Planning Manager advised Members that the Roads & Planning Services are in discussions regarding this issue.

GEA 168/08

WORKSHOP

Members agreed to schedule a workshop to be attended by Gerry Richards at 10am on the 15th December.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 169/08 **DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE AND MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the C & E Manager.

GEA 170/08 **COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and the C & E Manager responded to queries regarding the status of playgrounds proposed for Loughanure and Glenties.

GEA 171/08 **WALKING DEVELOPMENT TRAILS**

Members discussed the report circulated previously and the C & E Manager informed the Committee that the success of the development of the new circular route 'Siúlóid an Chlocháin Bhig' has been rewarded with a prize in the Sport and Recreation category of the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

GEA 172/08 **DONEGAL INTERPRETATIVE AND ATLANTIC DRIFT TRAINING PROJECTS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and welcomed the completion of the Interpretative Projects and the up skilling of in excess of 250 people during the Atlantic Drift Training Project.

GEA 173/08 **RESEARCH AND POLICY UNIT**

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated previously and Cllr Kelly and Cllr Doherty complemented the C & E unit for the wealth of statistical information produced for the County.

GEA 174/08 **STRATEGIC POLICY UNIT**

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and welcomed the launch of the E-Zine newsletter targeted at the Donegal Diaspora.

GEA 175/08

SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda, and the C & E Manager highlighted:

- (i) Developments in the Keeping Warm Community Initiative.
- (ii) The completion of the 2008 Youth Council Elections.
- (iii) The status of the Pride of Place Competition.

GEA 176/08

FOREST LINK PROJECT

The Committee noted the report in relation to the Forest Link Project circulated with the Agenda and presented by the C & E Manager.

GEA 177/08

PLACENAMES COMMITTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the C & E Manager.

GEA 178/08

CDB ISLANDS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The C & E Manager updated Members on the status of this group.

GEA 179/08

PROPOSED GAELTACHT TOWN/VILLAGE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 180/08

AN BAILE BEO

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the C & E Manager.

GEA 181/08

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda.

GEA 182/08

CULTURAL SERVICES

The Committee considered the report circulated previously and presented by the C & E manager.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 183/08

GLENTIES AREA RURAL RESOURCE CENTRE

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Alcorn, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Glenties Area Rural Resource Centre at the next area meeting.

GEA 184/08

COISTE FORBARTHA MULLACHDUBH

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Doherty, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from this Coiste at the next area meeting.

GEA 185/08

ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee noted the report presented by the Corporate Manager and circulated with the Agenda detailing the increase in the levels of business conducted in the Dungloe Public Services Centre during the first 9 months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007.

GEA 186/08

AREA MEETING PROPOSAL

On the proposal of Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was recommended that the contribution of each Member be limited to 3 minutes per service.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING