

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

HELD ON 20th MAY 2008, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr Terence Slowey, Chairperson
Cllr Enda Bonner
Cllr Joe Kelly
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr Pádraig Doherty

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Charles Sweeney, Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Berni Gallagher – Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Stephen Lambert – Regional Road Safety Engineer, NRDO
Damian Mc Dermott – Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO
Michael Mc Fadden – Executive Engineer, Road Design
Joanne Rooney - Executive Engineer, Road Design

GEA 59/08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th MARCH 2008

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the minutes of meeting of the 20th March 2008 were agreed.

GEA 60/08 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 20TH MARCH 2008

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the report from the workshop of the 20th March 2008 was agreed.

CORPORATE SERVICES

**GEA 61/08 CORPORATE SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT – 1ST QUARTER
2008 v 1ST QUARTER 2007**

The Corporate Area Manager presented a report on the increase in services provided between the first three months of 2007 and 2008 and stated that 17.5% of phone contact and 10.1% of front desk contact was provided “as gaeilge”. Members complimented Corporate front line staff on the provision of services especially through the medium of Irish. Cllr. Kelly stated that Coiste na Gaeilge had acknowledged the efforts of all staff, and he complimented the Housing Section for dealing with his representations as Gaeilge.

Cllr. Bonner questioned the reasoning behind the “on hold” message recording and suggested that Irish Music would be more appropriate. The Corporate Manager advised that the on-hold message was generic across all the Public Services Centres.

GEA 62/08 REQUEST FROM COISTE FORBARTHA MULLACHDUBH

On the proposal of Cllr. O Dochartaigh, seconded by Cllr. Alcorn the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from Coiste Forbartha Mullachdubh at the September meeting.

GEA 63/08 GLENTIES TIDY TOWNS CIVIC RECEPTION

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. O Dochartaigh, the Committee agreed to hold a Civic Reception for the Glenties Tidy Town Committee on the 18th June 2008 after ratification of the proposal by the full Council.

GEA 64/08 VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee proposed a vote of sympathy to Seán O Daimhín, Oifigeach na Gaeilge on the recent death of his father.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 65/08 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding countywide comparative statistics from 1999 to 31.3.2008.

Members noted that although the percentage of applications had decreased, the trend in the Glenties Electoral Area had been less pronounced than in other areas.

GEA 66/08 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding planning refusals during the period 29.2.2008 to 1.5.2008.

GEA 67/08 STAFFING

Cllr. Alcorn complimented Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, in providing an efficient service by procuring an extra member of staff for the Planning Service and lauded the fact that all four planners hailed from Donegal, three of whom are fluent Irish speakers. Cllr. O Dochartaigh agreed and again stressed the importance of on-site meetings.

In response to Cllr. Gallagher, regarding the large percentage of “Further Information” requests the Area Manager stated that these were mostly based on public health site assessments and design guidelines with some based on NRA regulations.

Cllr. Kelly requested that as a new representative, the Area Manager should guide him in the Planning process and suggested that when a member is co-opted some form of induction should be available. He acknowledged that the Area Manager, Corporate Services, Virginia Mc Loone, had provided a level of induction to him when he joined the Council but that this familiarisation is a matter for Head Quarters and she would raise the matter with the County Secretary who would also provide a booklet for new Members.

Frank Sweeney, Area Manager, Planning Service, offered to make himself available to Cllr. Kelly and all Members to answer any questions/comments they may have.

Cllr. Bonner complimented the service being provided to the Elected Members.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 68/08 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

Members noted the progress report on the Roadworks Programme 2008 circulated at the meeting. The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the current status of the programme and undertook to correspond with the Members regarding Village Renewal and Footpath Programmes. The Committee also requested the Road Service to address issues surrounding the following locations:

- Greene's Corner, Dungloe – Design
- Loughanure Pier Works
- Lunnagh – Stramartin Accommodation works
- Gortahork Speed Limits
- Glenveagh Road Surface
- Termon T-Junction
- Angle, Dungloe – Wheelchair Accessibility
- Glengesh Bends
- Falcorrib – Inadequate signage
- Derrybeg Road Maintenance – Coiste Mhuire
- Gweedore Road Bends, Dungloe – Road Safety requirements
- Derryherriff Road – Quarry Entrance

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr Kelly, the Committee agreed Selective Maintenance funding in the sum of €10,000 be allocated to improvement works on Leffin Brae.

Cllr. Bonner commended the Roads Service on the quality of works carried out at Meenbanad and Quay Road, Dungloe.

The Committee agreed to convene a workshop on June 18th to prioritise 2009 works.

GEA 69/08 CROLLY – CARRICKFINN AIRPORT – STRATEGIC ROUTE (MAP ATTACHED)

The Committee were circulated with a map (Copy Attached) indicating detail of works carried out and further proposals for the Crollly - Carrickfin Airport Strategic Route and were assured by the Roads Manager that Members views will be taken on board. Notification of Roinn na Gaeltachta grants had not as yet been received.

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr O' Dochartaigh emphasised the need to have a footpath installed from Calhame to the Airport road.

GEA 70/08 N56 – BALLYMORE JUNCTION

Stephen Lambert, Regional Road Safety Engineer, NRDO, briefed Members on the N56 Ballymore Junction, explaining the difficulty with dealing with the sharp bend at this locus. He informed Members that an application had been made for funding for similar traffic calming measures to those executed at Clar Chapel.

Cllr. O Dochartaigh welcomed the proposal for traffic calming in the hope that a more effective alternative would be considered involving discussion with the local residents. Expressing his concern for the safety of school children Cllr. O Dochartaigh suggested that in the interim, some measures be introduced to slow traffic e.g cones and warning signs. In response to Cllr O Dochartaigh, Stephen Lambert explained that the introduction of reduced speed limits at this locus, could give rise to an increase in development, which would create even more problems.

GEA 71/08 PUBLIC LIGHTING AT MEENACUING

Stephen Lambert informed the Committee that it is anticipated that public lighting pilot project will be installed at Meenacuing by the end of June 2008.

GEA 72/08 N56 PROGRESS REPORT 2008

Damien Mc Dermott, Senior Executive Engineer briefed Members on N56 proposals for 2008 and explained that the Department had introduced new guidelines and document framework at the beginning of 2008 which resulted in the following schemes having to be re assessed;

Tirlin – Drimnaraw
Meenacarn Bends/Tangevane
Kilraine, Glenties

The NRDO SEE also updated the Committee regarding the status of proposals for:

- Doochary Junction
- Dunfanaghy – Falcarragh
- Lettermacaward
- Doohill – Keeldrum

Schemes with a budget of under €500,000 are regarded as minor schemes, while schemes above this estimate are grouped as major schemes and the chances of funding become more difficult.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of both priority and funding allocated to the N56 and requested the formulation of a major plan for the development of this strategic route.

GEA 73/08 COUNTY CAR PARKING SURVEY

Michael Mc Fadden, Executive Engineer presented the document on the County Car Parking Survey, which was circulated at the meeting.

Surveying will encompass a nine-hour period (8.30am to 5.50pm). The Road Design surveyors will count all car parking spaces within each Town Centre and all available on street car parking spaces that are close enough to the Town centre to be used by shoppers or people working in the town. Prior to the commencement of each survey, an inventory of all parking restrictions within the study area is taken. With regard to the Glenties Electoral Area, towns proposed to be included in the survey are:

- Dungloe (Population 1,912)
- Glenties (Population 1,481)
- Bunbeg/Derrybeg (Population 1,359)
- Ardara (Population 1,052)
- Dunfanaghy (Population 865)
- Falcarragh (Population 842)
- Creeslough (Population 691)

On the proposal of Cllr. O' Dochartaigh, seconded by Cllr. Bonner it was agreed that the survey would be carried out in Dungloe and Ardara.

. Total Length of R259 - 6.663 km

65.3 %

. Length completed - 4.35-1 km

. Length to be done with CPO (in progress) -1.049 km

15.8 %

. Length to be completed - 1.260 km

18.9 %

. Length of R266 to be completed - 1.317 km



HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 74/08 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report on the Housing Capital Programme, which was circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr. O Dochartaigh expressed dissatisfaction in the delay in progressing the Meenaniller Turnkey Scheme and Cllr. Bonner requested that the Members be given a comprehensive report on the Turnkey situation for the next Electoral Area Meeting. The Area Manager agreed to have an updated report prepared for the Committee.

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the ‘Snag List’ for Clos Naomh Chonaill, Glenties, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that the contractor is responsible for completing same.

GEA 75/08 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members noted the progress report on Social Housing as at the 1st May 2008, circulated with the agenda that was presented by the Housing Manager.

The Area Manager informed Members that 2008 is the final year of the Central Heating Programme.

In response to queries raised regarding ERG and DPG grants, Paul Mc Gill, Area Manager informed Members that the Housing SPC have re-examined the specific limits for particular works following the introduction of the new scheme of grants. Cllr. Slowey expressed dissatisfaction that only 8no. out of 93no. applications of Housing Aid for Older People have been approved in 2008.

GEA 76/08 PROGRESS REPORT ON CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the progress report on casual vacancies as at the 1st May 2008, circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

GEA 77/08 PEACE II PROGRAMME

The Area Manager informed the Members that it is anticipated that the Cotteen Scheme playground will be complete by the end of June.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 78/08 REPORT ON COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Members noted the reports on Community Consultation, Playground Development Programme and County Strategy/ C C&E Projects, which were circulated at the meeting.

GEA 79/08 DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE

On the proposal of Cllr. O' Dochartaigh and seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the Committee recommended approval of grant aid to the following organisations:

Donegal Airport:	€ 60,000
Mary from Dungloe Festival:	€ 10,000
Mc Gill Summer School:	€ 5,000
Bealtaine Festival:	€ 5,000
2 no. Dyslexia Associations	€ 5,000
Ancaire	€ 2,300
CumannTrádáláithe - Falcarragh	€ 2,000

GEA 80/08 TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND

On the proposal of Cllr. O' Dochartaigh and seconded by Cllr. Bonner, Members recommended the approval of €8,000 to the Glenties Tidy Towns Committee.

GEA 81/08 PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME

The Administrative Officer undertook to liaise with the Arts Commission on a previous proposal regarding a commemorative piece in respect of Paddy the Cope.

Charles Sweeney, offered apologies on behalf of Declan Sheehan, Public Arts Assistant who was unable to attend the meeting.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

GEA 82/08 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEME PROGRAMME

Members considered the report on Major Capital Schemes previously circulated with the agenda.

John Gallagher, Area Manager informed the Committee that it is intended to hold the official opening of Ardara Sewerage Scheme in conjunction with the opening of the Environmental Improvement Scheme, and he will revert to Members with an agreed date.

GEA 83/08 DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The Area Manager invited Members to attend a Workshop in connection with the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Scheme on 18th June 2008.

GEA 84/08 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report circulated with the agenda and the Water Services Manager replied to Members queries regarding Small Capital Schemes.

GEA 85/08 PROGRESS REPORT GROUP WATER SCHEMES

John Gallagher, Area Manager presented the Progress Report on Group Water Schemes, which was circulated with the agenda and responded to Members queries.

GEA 86/08 GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

GEA 87/08 PRIVATE SOURCE GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the report previously circulated and presented by the Water Services Manager detailing the status of private source Group Water Schemes in the Glenties Electoral Area.

GEA 88/08 ENVIRONMENT

The Water & Environment Manager informed the Committee of the following Environmental Statistics for 2007:

- 115 Litter Fines issued
- Section 5 Notices issued
- Community Assisted Clean Ups

Members were also advised of Environmental works carried out on Arranmore to address the removal of 'End of Life' vehicles and plans for similar works on Tory.

Cllr Gallagher complimented the Environment Service for their clean up in Dunfanaghy and requested the Council to address the presence of asbestos in the area.

GEA 89/08 CIVIC AMENITY SITE

The Environment Manager informed the Committee that the Dungloe Civic Amenity Site is 90% complete and awaiting ESB /CC TV installation and signage.

GEA 90/08 PUBLIC TOILETS

The Committee were informed that it was necessary to close the Public Toilets in Dungloe due to anti – social behaviour.

GEA 91/08 WATER CONSERVATION ROSSES REGIONAL

The Water Services Manager presented the Water Conservation Report drawing attention to the report recommendation for pipeline replacement and seeking Members support in seeking funding for the areas listed as follows:

Meenbanad/Kincasslagh DMA	€ 1,479,500
Meenbanad/Dungloe DMA	€ 385,000
Kerrytown Bridge DMA	€ 632,060
Dore/Arduns DMA	€ 1,041,070
Crolly Bridge DMA	€ 732,600
Brinlack DMA	€ 104,940
Kentucky DMA	€ 201,740

The Committee were informed that the Department have indicated that they wish to see all Stage I (Water Management System) and Stage 2 (Proper leakage control) works completed in the county before any substantial Stage 3 (Infrastructure Renewal and Rehabilitation) works are undertaken. Stages I and 2 are complete in the Rosses Regional Scheme with funding for Stage 3 pipe replacement not yet approved.

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the poor quality of water supply in the Caravan Road area of Dungloe and Cllr. Gallagher produced a sample of water as evidence of her concerns. The Committee also expressed concern regarding the quality of water supply in the Kincasslagh and Brinlack areas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

