

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

30 Samhain, 2005

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 28 Samhain 2005, ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Céadaoin, 7 Nollaig 2005, ag **10.00 ag Árás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

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

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniú (RÚNAI CONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of
Meetings
Administrator
County House
Lifford

30th November, 2005

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 28th November, 2005 will be held on Wednesday 7th December, 2005, 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.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ITEMS HAVE RETAINED THEIR ORIGINAL AGENDA NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING)

AGENDA

- (8) **Water & Environment Programme**
(b) Policy for recovering cost of recycling (report to be circulated).
- (9) **Roads Programme**
(b) To note report on recent meeting with the ESB.
10. **Housing Programme**
To approve the raising of a loan of €4,000,000 to fund Donegal County Council's commitments to the payment of Shared Ownership Loans.
11. **Conferences**
Home:
- (a) Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2006 to be held in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny on the 10th and 11th February 2005.
- (b) Mid-West Regional Authority 12th Annual Conference to be held in the Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday 17th February 2005.
- (c) **To approve the attendance of the Cathaoirleach:-**
At the All-Ireland Sports Conference in Naas, Co. Kildare on the 19th – 20th October 2005.
At the Launch of Funding for Skateboard Parks in the Charles Town Golf Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow on the 1st – 2nd November, 2005.
- (d) **Others**
- To approve the attendance of Clr. Pringle at the National Federation of Group Water Schemes Annual Conference on 15th September, 2005. (As recommended by the Rural Water Monitoring Committee).
 - To approve payment of Travel Expenses to Clr. McGowan in respect of travel to Belfast Airport Re attendance at A.E.B.R

Conference, Drama, Greece on the 19th – 22nd October 2005.
(Expenses fully recoupable from the N.W.R.C.B.G.).

- To approve payment of Travel Expenses to Clr. McGowan in respect of travel to Dundalk on 8th September 2005 – Re Attendance at 1st World War Games Commemoration, Flanders on the 8th – 16th September 2002. (Clr. McGowan deputised for the Cathaoirleach who was unable to attend).

12. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

13. **Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

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

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

14. Clr. D. Alcorn
“That this Council make every effort to ensure that all type of Road works commence earlier in 2006 and in subsequent years.”(C)
16. Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh
“That Donegal County Council will increase the funding for the reconstruction, repair and renewal of county roads in 2006.”
(C)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

17. Clr. E. Bonner
“That Donegal County Council support the rights of traditional fishermen to continue to fish for salmon stocks.” (C)
18. Clr. T. Slowey
“That this Council debate the Transport 21 Government initiatives as it relates to County Donegal and the County Council outlines its priorities. (C)

Planning

19. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“That Donegal County Council call for the disolvement of the objection powers of An Taisce.” (O)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

20. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That Donegal County Council supports the application by Donegal Ploughing Association to host the National Ploughing Championships here in the County and offer whatever assistance we can should the bid be successful.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

21. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask that this Council make a firm commitment to increase the number and quality of refuse bins in towns and villages in the peninsula.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

22. Clr. R. Donaghey
“I ask that the County Council prepare an overall plan for Buncrana pier to incorporate all interested parties.” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

23. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“That this council will ensure that funding for additional storage capacity to the Bunn Water Co-operative Society Ltd, Glengad, Inishowen, Co. Donegal is allocated and facilitated as soon as possible.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate

24. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council install Heart defibrillators in the County House, Lifford and also in the Public Service Centres.” (C)
25. Clr. T. McDaid
“This this Council resolves to adopt the use of 'plain English' and 'plain Irish' in all aspects of it's work. (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

26. Clr. S. McEniff
“That this Council apply for Peace 2 Grant to extend the West End Walk Bundoran from the Urban Boundary to Bundrowes in conjunction with the Town Council.” (L)

Finance

27. Clr. T. Pringle
“That Donegal County Council request the government to ring fence funding from the local government fund to provide for a rates freeze in the budget to help stimulate economic activity.” (C)

Housing

28. Clr. B. O'Neill
“That this Council address the ongoing problem of Derelict Buildings in Ballyshannon and introduce the previous suggested Pilot Scheme for Ballyshannon to deal with the problem so that properties can be enhanced.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

29. Clr. I. McGarvey
“That this Council discuss what has happened if anything Re my Motion on the Special needs of Donegal as in the Agenda Item 27 of Meeting 26th of September 2005.
Motion from 26th September 2005: That we as a Local Authority ask that the Special Needs of Donegal be addressed by Government.” (C)
30. Clr. N. McBride
“That this Council make a financial contribution to Fanavolty Community Hall, on an annual basis while the Taoibh Taoire Library Project is located there.” (L)

Corporate

31. Clr. L. Blaney
“That this Council make a request to An Tánaiste, Mary Harney T.D., Minister for Health and Children to provide Radiotherapy Treatment Services as part of the Cancer Care Services currently on offer at Letterkenny General Hospital in line with current demands being made by Donegal Action for Cancer Care in light of the recent announcement of cross-border cancer care services by An Tánaiste and her Northern counterpart Sean Woodward.”(O)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

32. Clr. A. Bonner
“That this Council call an emergency meeting with the N.R.A., our Local Oireachtas Representatives and Senior Council Official (including local councillors) to discuss the delay in publishing the CPO/EIS of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass.”
(L)
33. Clr. P. McGowan
“That this Council discuss today prioritising Road Maintenance when considering Funding Allocations in the overall 2006 Budgets Estimates.” (C)

QUESTIONS

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

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

34. Clr. D. Alcorn
“When is Donegal County Council planning to erect the New Road Signs, that substantial funding was allocated for some considerable time ago, and also can some of the old stained signs be cleaned and updated?” (C)
35. Clr. Pearse Doherty
“The Council received legal advice on the motion proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty on the council to allow public lighting on non county roads on islands, and what is that advice?” (C)
36. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the multi Annual Report on the N56 improvements programme be available?” (C)
37. Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh
“What is the present status of application to repair and renew the Inishbofin Pier?” (L)

38. Clr. Padraig Doherty
“When will Donegal County Council remove the ramp at Teach Thomáis, Na Machaireacha, Doire Beaga?” (L)
39. Clr. T. Slowey
“When will the Compulsory Purchase of the necessary lands be complete so as to allow the Ballybofey/Stranorlar bypass to progress?” (L)
40. Clr. T. Slowey
“What is the total cost to Donegal County Council of the Public Lighting Program, and please outline
(a) Running costs in terms of electricity per year
(b) The maintenance costs per year and
(c) The cost for each per light per year to Donegal County Council?”(C)
41. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“What funding proposals have been made by the Council for further development of the N56 in 2006?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

42. Clr. D. Alcorn
“What section of the Rosses Regional Network will have New Piping laid in 2006, especially because of the unacceptable number of water bursts are happening continuously?” (L)
43. Clr. Pearse Doherty
“Will the council provide a detailed report as to how the council were involved in pumping sewerage from a pumping house in Castlefinn area into a public stream that leads to the river Finn and what is the current situation?” (L)
44. Clr. E. Bonner
“What is the delay in completion of the Preliminary Reports on the Dungloe, Glenties and Falcarragh Sewerage Schemes?” (L)
45. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“What progress has been made to develop a landfill facility at Ballinacarraig and Inishowen so as to facilitate waste from the

Inishowen, Letterkenny, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Donegal Electoral Areas respectively?" (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

46. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What plans have the council for the Derry Buncrana Road over the next few years specifically the stretch from Tooban to Bridgend?” (L)
47. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council the updated position in relation to the provision of a dedicated taxi rank in Moville given the Local Improvement Works are near completion and the Lynotts Corner project is in progress?” (L)
48. Clr. R. Donaghey
“When can we expect to have a safe crossing erected at Super Valu on Cockhill Road, Buncrana for the residents who live there and the many other users?” (L)
49. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“What plans are in place for extending the current safety barrier along the pier at Ramelton and providing adequate public lighting in that area?” (L)

Housing

50. Clr. F. Conaghan
“Does Donegal County Council intend to consult with the residents of "Swilly View" Inch before progressing with plans to build some houses on Council land at the location?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

51. Clr. R. Donaghey

When will work begin on Phase 3 of Desertagney Water Supply ie building of reservoir and pump houses etc? (L)

52. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council the position in relation to examining the possibility of providing picnic lay-bys, serviced with refuse bins, at strategic locations along the Inishowen 100 Scenic Route?” (L)

Corporate

53. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“Does the conflict of interest protocol for Elected Members of Donegal County Council extend to all staff of Donegal County Council?” (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

54. Clr. G. Crawford
“When is it expected that Bridge works ongoing at Coolaghey Raphoe will be completed?” (L)
55. Clr. G. Crawford
“Will the Council provide proper signage and markings at Coolatee Lifford (i.e at the exit onto the R.265 Lifford to St. Johnston Road)?” (L)

Finance

56. Clr. T. McDaid
“Will this Council consider offering a rebate to the Lifford ratepayers whose businesses were negatively impacted upon during the recent improvement works to Lifford Bridge?” (L)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

57. Clr. T. McDaid
“Following the announcement of the so-called "Transport 21" has this Council any future plans for the development of Letterkenny Airport?” (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

58. Clr. T. Pringle
“What tracking system is in place to ensure that dry recyclables collected in the county from bring centres and privately are actually recycled?” (C)

Roads & Transportation

59. Clr. T. Pringle
“Why will Donegal County Council not erect "concealed entrance" or "hidden dip" type signs on our county roads?” (C)
60. Clr. B. O’Neill
“In light of recent accidents - Can Donegal County Council erect Traffic Lights at Lennox Bridge in Bundoran, on the Donegal - Leitrim, until such times as a new bridge is constructed?” (L)

Housing

61. Clr. B. O’Neill
“When will ungrading works commence at Ballyshannon Fire Station and Bundoran Fire Station as agreed in 2004 following the Full Council's decision not to develop a New Station at Finner?” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

62. Clr. I. McGarvey
“What is this Councils responsibility towards R.O.Ws. in the County under the Roads Act 1993?” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

63. Clr. I. McGarvey
“Has the €150,000 as agreed at our July Meeting been transferred to the Milford Electoral Area to offset the Water crisis in Ramelton and District?” (L)
64. Clr. L. Blaney
“What percentage of glass currently being lodged in bottle banks around the county for recycling is actually being recycled, and what percentage is being disposed of?” (C)
65. Clr. L. Blaney
“What factors contribute to a decision to dispose of glass lodged in bottle banks as opposed to recycling the glass?” (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Finance

66. Clr. A. Bonner
“Why do Councillors not have the mobile phone numbers of all council officials, after all they have ours and we are the council?” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

67. Clr. A. Bonner
“When will the new Recycling Plant in Stranorlar be open to the public to dispose of their Recyclable's?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

68. Clr. P. McGowan
“What progress/stage in the Council Road Section at implementing reduced speed limits outside all Schools across Donegal as agreed by this Council?” (C)

Planning & Economic Development Services

69. Clr. P. McGowan
“What actions will Donegal County Council take to address problems already highlighted in both the Ballybofey & Stranorlar Area Plan and Castlefin Area Plan as adopted regarding the lack of available, accessible land in which to build on at present as confirmed at a recent meeting of the Stranorlar Area Committee?” (L)

70. **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCIL**

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That this Borough Council write to the Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin, T.D., requesting to make compulsory, the fitting and wearing of seat belts on school buses transporting children with special needs.”

“That Councillors be except from the ruling through which the general public are obliged to pay a fee of €20 if they wish to lodge an observation or an objection against a planning application which effects their property, neighbourhood or locality.”

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Offaly County Council insist that phone masts and pylons are located 2 km from residential areas. These guidelines to be included in the County Development Plan and that we write to the Minister and also circulate this motion to all other councils.”

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on the Department of Agriculture not to implement the new regulations regarding prescriptions for all animal medicines.”

PASSAGE WEST TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children to introduce regular monitoring for bacteria in all areas of hospitals and other buildings where patients are treated to minimise risks of patients infection.”

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children to treat Cardiovascular Disease as a chronic illness.”

BANTRY TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council supports Fair Trade and agrees where applicable to serve Fair Trade Coffee and Tea in the office and that this Council continues to support the Fair Trade Mark.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call upon the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to make what ever funding is necessary available to complete the collection of waste form plastics, as most farmers have paid levy at point of purchase and are entitled to have the plastic removed from their holding rather than it remain and possibly cast them penalties within the REPs and cross compliance schemes.”

ENNIS COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Ennis Town Council calls on Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to amend the regulations governing voluntary housing to allow tenants to purchase their dwellings on a similar basis to tenants of Local Authority dwellings.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to draw up National Guidelines for implementation of a waiver scheme for waste disposal charge, in line with the recommendations contained in the

Combat Poverty Agency report “Implementing a Waiver System.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we Killarney Town Council request the Department of the Environment to stop penalizing motorists who cannot afford to pay their motor taxation in one payment. They are asked to pay an exorbitant fee for paying on a three monthly basis.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2005 IN THE COUNTY
HOUSE, LIFFORD.

C/539/05

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Larkin, Cathaoirleach, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, Enda Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, J. Kennedy, N. McBride, T. McDaid, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, P. MacLochlainn, P. O'Dochartaigh, B. O'Domhnaill, T. Slowey.

C/540/05

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr. D. Alcorn who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/541/05

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Jim Holohan Director Water & Environment, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Garry Martin, S.E.O., Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. AnneMarie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms. AnneMarie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/542/05

POLICY FOR RECOVERING COST OF RECYCLING

It was agreed to defer consideration of the Policy on Recycling to the January Council Meeting pending further deliberation on the matter by the Corporate Policy Group.

C/543/05

TO NOTE REPORT ON RECENT MEETING WITH THE ESB

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

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads and Transportation advised that members would be briefed individually on their respective enquiries. The ESB he noted were planning to clear the backlog of work and then deal with new applications for public lighting.

Members welcomed the report from Mr. Paul Doherty, Contracts Supervisor whom they acknowledged had invested considerable time and effort in trying to sort out the numerous issues involved. They also commended the sterling work carried out by Ms. Myrtle Quinn in the Roads office.

It was generally agreed that the current system offered very little in terms of value for money, with considerable time being spent on dealing with recurrent problems, particularly in relation to cabling. Calls were made for the introduction of a proper tracking system with an inbuilt review mechanism.

Clr. O'Domhnaill stated that he had made numerous applications for Public Lighting, but had only received one quotation in the last twelve months. The Cathaoirleach stated that the meeting on the 10th of November had been frank and forthright, and that the ESB had been made aware that an improvement in the service was expected

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director, Roads and Transportation, confirmed that with the advent of deregulation it would be possible to source other bodies for the maintenance and provision of Public Lighting.

C/544/05

TO APPROVE THE RAISING OF A LOAN OF
€4,000,000 TO FUND DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL'S COMMITMENTS TO THE PAYMENT
OF SHARED OWNERSHIP LOANS

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

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved that “in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (No.2) Act 1960 and Section 27 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, we, the members of Donegal County Council, hereby authorise the borrowing of a loan in the sum of €4,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purposes of payment of Shared Ownership Loans.”

C/545/05

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. McDonald, it was resolved that any members who wished could attend the following conferences:-

- “Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2006 to be held in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny on the 10th and 11th February, 2006.
- Mid-West Regional 12th Annual Conference to be held in the Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday 17th February, 2006.
- The Local Government Budget, Training Seminar for Councillors to be held in the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody on the 10th December, 2005.

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Pádraig Doherty, the attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the following events was approved:-

- The All-Ireland Sports Conference in Naas, Co. Kildare on the 19th – 20th October 2005.
- The launch of funding for Skateboard Parks in the Charlestown Golf Club, Greystones, Co. Wicklow on the 1st – 2nd November, 2005.

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Pádraig Doherty, the following were approved:-

- The attendance of Clr. Pringle at the National Federation of Group Water Schemes Annual Conference on 15th September, 2005. (As recommended by the Rural Water Monitoring Committee).
- Payment of Travel Expenses to Clr. McGowan in respect of travel to Belfast Airport Re attendance at A.E.B.R. Conference, Drama, Greece on the 19th – 22nd October, 2005. (Expenses fully recoupable from the N.W.R.C.B.G.).
- Payment of Travel Expenses to Clr. McGowan in respect of travel to Dundalk on 8th September, 2005 – Re attendance at 1st World War Games Commemoration, Flanders on the 8th – 16th September, 2005. (Clr. McGowan deputised for the Cathaoirleach who was unable to attend).

C/546/05

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

WATER SERVICES

Clr. Larkin requested that the County Manager examine the range of issues affecting the provision of water services in the County, and provide details on the challenges, opportunities and future infrastructural needs of the service over the coming year.

He welcomed the provision of €2.9 million for the construction of the Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme, particularly the construction of new boreholes, and thanked the County Manager for his commitment to the project.

SUMMER CAMP

The success of the 2005 Summer Camp in Letterkenny which had been run in partnership with the Garda Siochana, An Griannan Theatre and the Community, Culture and Enterprise Division was acknowledged. Clr. Larkin thanked Ms. Joanne Kilmartin, Mr. Dave Bradley and Mr. Kevin McHugh

for the considerable time and effort that they had devoted to the project.

LETTERKENNY BUSINESS PARK

The opening of the Letterkenny Business Park Road over the Christmas period was warmly welcomed. The Cathaoirleach thanked the Director of Roads and transportation, Mr. John McLaughlin, and Mr. Pat Gillespie, Senior Engineer, for their assistance in the matter.

CELEBRATION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 RISING

Clr. Larkin called on Donegal County Council to mark and celebrate the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. This he added necessitated the setting up of a Steering Group, which would co-ordinate, a range of events to mark the occasion. It was essential he advised that the Town Councils were also involved in the process.

SKATEBOARD PARK

Ongoing developments in relation to the development of a skateboard park in Letterkenny were welcomed.

MET EIREANN

Clr. Larkin advised that the inaccuracy of the recent severe weather warning issued by Met Eireann had resulted in a loss of earnings for many businesses in the region.

He requested that Met Eireann be informed of members concerns and called on them to review the status of such warning on a more regular basis.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations were extended to the following:-

- Letterkenny Athletic Club, on winning the National Marathon Senior Mens Team Title.
- Swilly Seals, on their 20th anniversary celebrations.

- It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should issue to Minister Batt O'Keefe in recognition of his attendance at a number of events in the county.
- Vocational Education Committee on their 100th anniversary celebrations.
- Mr. Jim Moore on his election as president of the Letterkenny Rotary Club.
- President of Letterkenny Rugby Club and the Dave Gallagher Memorial Club, Ramelton on the organisation of events for the recent visit of the All Blacks Rugby Team.

Cancer Care

The Cathaoirleach advised that correspondence had been received from the following in relation to a number of issues raised by members at the October General Purposes Meeting on the provision of Cancer Care Services in the NorthWest:-

1. Office of An Taoiseach.
2. Office of Minister, Department of Health and Children.
3. Health Service Executive.

Functions

Members were informed that presentations to honour the Donegal Civil Defence Team on their achievements at the National Pump Drill Competition and the Irwin family on their successful completion of the Dublin City Marathon would be held at 1.30pm on Monday 12th December, 2005.

C/547/05

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of Sympathy were proposed to the following:-

Canice McGeehan, Revenue Collector, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Margaret McGeehan.

Suzanna McGeehan, Corporate, Dungloe, on the death of her mother in-law, Mrs. Margaret McGeehan.

Cyril McAteer, Housing, on the death of his uncle, Mr. John McAteer.

Patrick McLaughlin, Housing, on the death of his mother Mrs. Mary McLaughlin.

Niall McIvor, Planning, on the death of his brother Mr. Martin McIvor, and on the death of his mother, Mrs. Maura McIvor.

The family of the late Niall Anderson, Cashelard, Ballyshannon.

The family of the late Alan Gallagher, Clyhore, Ballyshannon.

C/548/05

MANAGER'S REPORT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, together with the addendum circulated on the 28th November, and a further addendum circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr. McLoone informed members that a report was being prepared by the Donegal Interdepartmental Group on the various issues and constraints affecting job creation investment, and that it was hoped to submit this report to the Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment, Mr. Michael Martin T.D. in February, 2006.

The County Manager welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Transport, Mr. Noel Dempsey approving the construction of a Metropolitan Area Network in Donegal Town. On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the seeking of tenders for the construction phase of the Donegal Regional Broadband Programme was approved.

Mr. McLoone referred to the implementation of Parallel Benchmarking pay awards and confirmed that the Department of Environment and Local

Government had sanctioned the awards on the 30th November, 2005. He noted that the Electoral Areas now had staff to deal with their programme and that as a result of this the structure and grading of staff had to be consolidated.

He confirmed that members approval for the award of these pay increases would be tabled for the General Purposes Committee Meeting on the 12th December.

Clr. McGarvey requested that an update be provided on Sewerage Treatment Works in Letterkenny and called for the installation of larger piping.

Clr. Blaney advised that he had serious concerns in relation to an article in the Tirconail Tribune inferring that “influential figures” in the political system may have brought timber from the R245 Road Realignment Scheme on the Milford to Carrigart Road.

He stated that he was unhappy with the wording in the Manger’s report, which clearly referred to the involvement of “an influential figure” in the political system.

This wording was incorrect he advised and demanded clarification on the exact wording used in the original article.

A copy of the article in question was then presented to Clr. Blaney and circulated to members thus affirming that the original newspaper article had in fact referred to “influential figures”.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Kennedy, it was agreed that Donegal County Council would facilitate the Fund Raising Walk on the West Section of the N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass for the Pakistan Earthquake Appeal, and provide indemnity to the Contractor to enable the Council to offer the untrafficed road to Bundoran Earthquake Appeal under the auspices of Donegal County Council for the day of the 11th December 2005 only.

A number of members then protested at the Cathaoirleach's ruling that there would be no debate on the contents of the Manager's report.

MOTIONS

C/549/05

APPLICATION FOR PEACE 11 GRANT TO EXTEND WEST END WALK BUNDORAN FROM URBAN BOUNDARY TO BUNDROWES

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

“That this Council apply for Peace 2 Grant to extend the West End Walk Bundoran from the Urban Boundary to Bundrowes in conjunction with the Town Council.”

Members were informed that:-

“It was understood that the Town Council was applying for Peace II monies for this walk since it is almost fully within the Town Boundary. The County Council will work along with the Town Council if needed. The County Council is making a number of other applications under Peace II.”

C/550/05

COMMENCEMENT OF ROAD WORKS

The following motion proposed by Clr. E. Bonner, on behalf of Clr. Alcorn, and seconded by Clr. Byrne, was adopted:-

“That this Council make every effort to ensure that all type of Road works commence earlier in 2006 and in subsequent years.”

Members were informed that:-

“A special effort would be made to have Major Roadworks started earlier for the 2006 season. However due to late notifications, additional allocations and the need to keep our workforce employed for the full year it is difficult to programme

works so that substantial works don't remain for the final quarter of the year.”

C/551/05

FUNDING RECONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND RENEWAL OF COUNTY ROADS

It was agreed to take Motions 33 in conjunction with Clr. O'Doherty motion as both related to the funding of various roads projects.

On the proposal of Clr. Pádraig O'Doherty, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council will increase the funding for the reconstruction, repair and renewal of county roads in 2006.”

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

“That this Council discuss today prioritising Road Maintenance when considering Funding Allocations in the overall 2006 Budgets Estimates.”

Members were informed that:-

“Funding for county roads came from a variety of sources including DOE, Roinn Na Gaeltachta, Clar, Coillte and the County Council's own resources. The only source over which the council have direct control is from the Council's own resources and this will be dealt with in the normal way as part of the 2006 Budget estimates when are under preparation at the moment.”

“The 2006 Budget is currently under preparation and there are significant discussions ongoing around the whole issue of Road Maintenance and matching the level of service to the budget that is ultimately adopted. A number of issues have been raised by Members as part of the Electoral Area process and those are being considered.”

Clr. Doherty stated that it was the responsibility of the Engineers and Roads Overseers to provide an update on the state of the county's roads. This could be affirmed and presented at the relevant Electoral Area Meetings. Present policies were not working he added and there were too few reconstruction grants available.

Clr. McGowan acknowledged that road maintenance was a major issue and enquired as to whether or not parallel benchmarking would be funded out of the overall allocation for maintenance.

Members were in agreement that extra funding for road maintenance should be provided in the 2006 Budget.

It was agreed that road crossings were a major issue of concern with a number of members advocating that Donegal County Council should repair such crossings themselves and then recoup the cost from the individuals concerned. Clr. McBride stated that it should be a condition of the planning permission that road crossings were completed to a satisfactory standard.

Clr. E. Bonner called on the Roads Directorate to make a proper allocation for funding and acknowledged that it was a lack of manpower that was causing problems in the Glenties Area rather than any funding deficit. He lamented the fact that monies allocated in the 2005 budget had been used for projects other than routine maintenance.

Clr. Pearse Doherty called for greater emphasis to be placed on road reconstruction.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads and Transportation acknowledged that a greater balance was required. He stated that every effort was made to balance the monies received with a specific level of service. The reality of the situation was he added that projects had to be prioritised on the basis of available

funding, and progressed within the available budgetary provisions.

The County Manager advised that members would be informed as part of the budgetary process what monies were available for the road works programme, and the level of funding required from our own resources. The final decision he affirmed, rested with the members themselves.

Clr. McGowan requested that a survey on the condition of the roads in each Electoral Area be carried out by the relevant Roads Overseers.

C/552/05

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN

On the proposal of Clr. Enda Bonner, seconded by Clr. Pádraig Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council support the rights of traditional fishermen to continue to fish for salmon stocks.”

Members were informed that:-

“The issue with regard to traditional fishermen continuing to fish commercially for salmon was raised and discussed at the recent (27 October) Fisheries Committee meeting of the Council. At that meeting it was agreed to request the Minister to meet with the Fisheries Committee in order that they could express their deeply held concerns in relation to this issue.”

Clr. Enda Bonner stated that he was very much in favour of conservation, but supported overwhelmingly the traditional rights of Donegal fishermen. He called on Donegal County Council to protect this traditional industry and affirmed that any buy out of fishing rights should be optional.

Traditional fishermen it was acknowledged had curtailed their efforts in favour of conservation yet were still being blamed for the depletion of salmon

stocks in our rivers. This depletion of stocks Clr. Doherty advised was caused by a range of factors namely, pollution, climatic change, and changes in the composition of the riverbed rather than over fishing by traditional fishermen.

It was acknowledged that some incentive or mechanism for fishermen who wanted to opt out of their traditional fishing rights needed to be put in place, with the appropriate funding measures in place. Calls were also made to examine the state of the crab fishing industry.

C/553/05

TRANSPORT 21

The following motion was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“That this Council debate the Transport 21 Government initiatives as it relates to County Donegal and the County Council outlines its priorities.”

Members were informed that:-

“A report on 'Transport 21' is presented under item 9 (a) on today's Council agenda. The report sets out a summary of the ‘Transport 21' Plan, implications for Donegal and suggests some next steps for action.”

It was noted that this item had been debated in conjunction with item 9 on the agenda – Report on Transport 21 at the Council Meeting on the 20th November.

C/554/05

DISOLVEMENT OF THE OBJECTION POWERS OF AN TAISCE

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

“That Donegal County Council call for the disolvement of the objection powers of An Taisce.”

Clr. O'Domhnaill stated that the role of An Taisce need to be examined, particularly in relation to its powers of objection. Organisations such as An Taisce were he advised threatening the traditional settlement patterns of rural Ireland.

Members of the indigenous rural population were he noted finding it increasingly difficult to build their own homes, due to the growing number of objections by landowners from outside the county.

He proceeded to cite a number of instances where objections had been lodged by Holiday Home owners against proposed developments by members of the local community.

Clr. O'Domhnaill said that it was imperative that the interests of Donegal people were protected and thus called for the third party objectors fee to be increased to €5,000 for organisations such as An Taisce and other objectors from outside the county.

He acknowledged the excellent work carried out in many instances by An Taisce, and stated that it would be beneficial to have Mr. Ian Lumley, C.E.O An Taisce address members on the role of and workings of the organisation as a whole.

Clr. Enda Bonner said that he was disillusioned at the rights of An Taisce as a prescribed body. Problems he noted always seemed to occur when An Taisce made an appeal to An Bord Pleanala.

A number of members whilst recognising the excellent work carried out by An Taisce, particularly in relation to Blue Flag Beaches, noted that they very often disrupted the work of the Planning Department in Donegal County Council.

A number of queries were raised in relation to the composition and statutory role of An Taisce, namely:-

1. The nature of the representation on An Bord Pleanala by members of An Taisce.

2. The possibility of having a member of the council represented on An Taisce.

Clr. Pearse Doherty agreed with the motion in principle but warned that the implementation of any charge for non-residents would most certainly be seen as discriminatory.

The obvious solution was he affirmed to strengthen the County Development Plan.

Clr. McGarvey advised that consideration should only be given to objections from within a specific radius of the development in question.

Clr. Blaney agreed and noted that objections should also only be accepted from persons whose names were included on the Electoral Register.

Clr. Larkin in supporting the motion stated that the powers of An Taisce needed to be reviewed and called on the Department of Environment and Local Government, and Local Government to investigate the many abuses of power by An Taisce.

He alluded to one case in which he suggested that a particular family was being hounded by An Taisce. In this instance he said he believed that the objections were possibly because the family in question were of a particular religious persuasion. There was he indicated an obvious need to re-examine the files in this particular case.

While recognising that there was a need for organisations such as An Taisce, particularly in relation to environmental issues, he stated that they should be able to work within the confines of the remit given to them.

Clr. O'Domhnaill in summarising affirmed that the motion was not discriminatory against the people of Donegal, and called for Donegal County Council and the County Manager to respond.

What was needed he advised was clarification as to whom An Taisce was ultimately accountable to.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director, Planning and Economic Development, stated that it was not within the remit of Donegal County Council to amend the objection fee. This was at present he noted the subject of EU debate. The way forward in this matter was he noted without doubt the development of specific policies within the County Development Plan, thus protecting the rights of the local rural indigenous population.

The County Manager advised members that any changes in the prescribed objection fee would have to be dealt with under Article 29, Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and that this was a matter for the Department not Donegal County Council.

If members wished to initiate change they would have to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government demanding a change in the current legislation he added.

C/555/05

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

In response to a request to have the following motion submitted by Clr. Conaghan, included on the agenda for the January Council Meeting, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator confirmed that it would not be possible to defer this item.

It would he advised have to be resubmitted as an original motion for inclusion on the agenda for the January Council Meeting.

“That Donegal County Council supports the application by Donegal Ploughing Association to host the National Ploughing Championships here in the County and offer whatever assistance we can should the bid be successful.”

C/556/05

NUMBER AND QUALITY OF REFUSE BINS N THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

“To ask that this Council make a firm commitment to increase the number and quality of refuse bins in towns and villages in the peninsula.”

Members were informed that:-

“If it is the case that the Council wishes to make such a firm commitment then it would be important to identify specific funding in the budget.”

C/557/05

PLAN FOR BUNCRANA PIER

In response to a request to have the following motion submitted by Clr. Donaghey included on the agenda for the January Council Meeting, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator confirmed that it would not be possible to defer this item.

It would be advised to be resubmitted as an original motion for inclusion on the agenda of the January Council Meeting.

“I ask that the County Council prepare an overall plan for Buncrana Pier to incorporate all interested parties.”

C/558/05

FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL STORAGE CAPACITY TO BUNN WATER CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

The following motion proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty, on behalf of Clr. MacLochlainn, and seconded by Clr. McDaid was adopted:-

“That this Council will ensure that funding for additional storage capacity to the Bunn Water Co-operative Society Ltd, Glengad, Inishowen, Co. Donegal is allocated and facilitated as soon as possible.”

Members were informed that:-

“A letter has issued to the Bunn Group Water Supply Scheme outlining the procedure which they now need to follow in order to obtain funding from the Rural Water Programme for the procurement of a new reservoir. Provided that they comply with this procedure they will be in a position to obtain grant aid.”

C/559/05

INSTALLATION OF HEART DEFIBRILLATORS
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE

The following motion proposed by Clr. McGowan on behalf of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. McDaid was adopted:-

“That this Council install Heart defibrillators in the County House, Lifford and also in the Public Service Centres.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council will seek specialist advice and review options for the provision, maintenance and operation of this equipment in the context of our responsibilities under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.”

C/560/05

USE OF ‘PLAIN ENGLISH’ AND ‘PLAIN IRISH’

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

“That this Council resolves to adopt the use of ‘plain English’ and ‘plain Irish’ in all aspects of its work.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council is extremely conscious of the need to minimise the use of jargon and difficult-to-understand language in all of its business, but particularly in our dealings with our customers.

The new Customer Action Plan, which is currently in preparation, will include a range of specific measures to improve our performance in this area, including a review of all application forms, information leaflets, etc to ensure that they are as customer-friendly as possible. This will be reviewed by the Community, Culture and Corporate SPC in the coming months.

The Independent Information Units, which have been established in each of the Public Service Centres, are a

key resource in the provision of help and advice to customers on all aspects of public service provision by all agencies. Feedback from them will also be of significant help in identifying areas for improvement.

Finally, in addition to the requirement to use "plain English," we are also aware of our responsibility to provide an equivalent service through the Irish language. The members will be aware that our three year scheme to improve the availability and quality of such services has been approved by the relevant Minister, and we are now actively engaged in its implementation."

Clr. McDaid advised that many of the reports issued by Donegal County Council to both members, and the general public were difficult to understand given the amount of legal and statutory terminology involved. He called on the various directorates to examine the range and type of documentation issued on their behalf, and ensure that all correspondence issued was worded in a clear and concise manner.

C/561/05

PROVISION OF A RATES FREEZE IN ORDER TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The following motion proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty on behalf of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council request the government to ring fence funding from the local government fund to provide for a rates freeze in the budget to help stimulate economic activity."

Members were informed that:-

"In the event that the Donegal County Council adopt this motion a letter will issue to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr Dick Roche TD informing him of the wishes of the Members of Donegal County Council with the inclusion of other relevant matters in this context. A copy of such letter - and reply if any-will be included

with the Budget documentation issued under statute in due course.”

Clr. Pearse Doherty stated that there was a overwhelming need to implement a rates freeze for the ratepayers of Donegal, given the current economic climate in the county. A clear lack of infrastructure rising unemployment and an increased dependency on social welfare were just some of the problems facing the county he noted.

The rates paid by Donegal ratepayers were the third highest in the country Clr. Doherty added, and this coupled with the fact that we had the highest valuation rate served only to highlight the seriousness of the situation.

Clr. MacLochlainn affirmed that a rates freeze was only part of the solution and called for greater cross-border co-operation, and an increased level of funding from central government to tackle the problem.

Members were in agreement that there should not be an increase in rates in the 2006 Budget. They also expressed concern at the unrealistic valuations being placed on many businesses throughout the county.

Clr. McGuinness was critical of the level of retraining provided for those who had lost their jobs and called for greater incentives to be put in place to help people in this position

Clr. O’Domhnaill outlined the necessity of having a special tax incentive for the county, and affirmed that additional income could be generated through the levying of rates on holiday homes. He also enquired as to the current status of the Endecon Report.

The County Manager in reply confirmed that this report was due to be published in the New Year. Funding issues could then he advised be examined in the context of the reports recommendations. He reminded members of the requirement to provide funding from our own resources, and affirmed that he would be advocating a number of increases in charges

in the 2006 Budget, so as to comply with this requirement.

Mr. Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, stated that the Valuation Office was independent of the Department of the Environment and Donegal County Council, and that appeals could be made to the Rate Valuation Tribunal. The introduction of the new Valuation Act would he affirmed result in a major re-evaluation for the county as a whole.

It was Donegal County Council's responsibility he noted to include as many properties as possible so as to increase the tax base.

A number of members were of the opinion that Donegal was not getting its fair share of Local Government Funding and expressed concern that the current level of funding was not in tandem with the needs of the county.

C/562/05

DERELICT BUILDINGS IN BALLYSHANNON

The following motions was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

“That this Council address the ongoing problem of Derelict Buildings in Ballyshannon and introduce the previous suggested Pilot Scheme for Ballyshannon to deal with the problem so that properties can be enhanced.”

Members were informed that:-

“As advised in the County Manager's Report on the Budget for 2005 the Council has progressed the issue of derelict buildings/sites in Ballyshannon during the current year. Specifically an audit of each derelict premises has been carried out and a report prepared on remedial action in each case. Discussions have also been held with the Planning Section to ensure that any actions required will accord with good planning within Ballyshannon and with the current Development Plan for the town.

An Action Plan is now being advanced jointly between the Housing/Building, Planning and Community and Enterprise Directorates with a view to identifying and contacting current owners/occupiers of all derelict premises and advising on action both to deal with the dereliction aspect as well as supporting any proposal for the redevelopment of property. At a later stage, depending on the responses from the various owners/occupiers the Council could consider the use of the levy scheme whereby registered premises could be levied an annual charge until the requirements of the legislation is met.

The matter will be further addressed in the context of the Budget 2006.”

C/563/05

SPECIAL NEEDS OF DONEGAL.

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

“That this Council discuss what has happened if anything Re my motion on the Special Needs of Donegal as in the Agenda Item 27 of Meeting 26th of September 2005. That we as a Local Authority ask that the Special Needs of Donegal be addressed by Government.”

Members were informed that:-

“As part of the ongoing function of the Donegal County Development Board the Employment Initiative Task Force report is under constant review, particularly with regard to specific actions required in the context of economic development in County Donegal. The most recent review of this has taken place and a range of priority actions were identified by various economic development organisations in Donegal with regard to facilitating Enterprise Development and employment creation from the perspective of their respective organisation.

A number of the economic development organisations themselves have requested specific interventions to assist them in providing additional supports at a local level to business. This is currently under review by the Interdepartmental working group which was established under the auspices of Minister Michael Martin and which is chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

In addition to the request made by the various economic development organisations themselves with regard to specific interventions those same development organisations identified a number of strategic interventions that, if put in place, would substantially assist them in supporting business establishment, location or relocation within County Donegal. These issues are also under review by the interdepartmental working group and include such issues as strategic roads infrastructure serving the North West and serving key developmental centres in County Donegal, water infrastructure, telecommunications infrastructure, energy infrastructure, air access and general economic development support. A response is awaited from the ongoing work of the interdepartmental work and it will be brought to Council when received.

Donegal CDB are also advancing a number of projects based on the natural resources of the county e.g. agriculture, marine, forestry and tourism.”

Clr. McGarvey said that it was imperative that Donegal County Council made central government aware of the special needs of the county.

The Cathaoirleach advised that a special case had been made for the county, with many projects in the county now moving forward at considerable speed.

The County Manager acknowledged Clr. McGarvey’s comments and drew his attention to Attachment 1 in the County Managers Report, which detailed the

current position in relation to the initiatives being undertaken by the Donegal Interdepartmental Group.

C/564/05

MAKING OF A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO FANAVOLTY COMMUNITY HALL

On the proposal of Clr. McBride, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council make a financial contribution to Fanavolty Community Hall, on an annual basis while the Taoibh Taoire Library Project is located there.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Taobh Tire project is run on the basis of forming partnerships with local communities in order to provide library/information services in rural and isolated areas too small to sustain a stand-alone library. The project has covered all real costs, ie PC, wiring, taster collection, delivery service, training, advertising etc. The community group provides space. Taobh Tire provides real benefits to small communities, through access to a taster collection of library stock, and access to over 170,000 items in the online catalogue. Any item requested by a library member, from the PC in Fanavolty, will have that item delivered to Fanavolty, without the need to go to Milford. In addition, the PC provides access to the Ask-A-Librarian facility, where a member in Fanavolty can email a question to Library Staff, in the same way they could if at a Library enquiry desk. These services were not available to the Fanavolty community before the Taobh Tire point was set up, and the community should make full use of these services for the personal development of its residents and the future development of the overall area.

C/565/05

CANCER CARE SERVICES

The following motion proposed by Clr. Blaney and seconded by Clr. O’Domhnaill was ruled out of order by the Cathaoirleach. Members he confirmed had

already been updated on the matter, under Cathaoirleach's Business.

“That this Council make a request to An Tánaiste, Mary Harney T.D., Minister for Health and Children to provide Radiotherapy Treatment Services as part of the Cancer Care Services currently on offer at Letterkenny General Hospital in line with current demands being make by Donegal Action for Cancer Care in light of the recent announcement of cross-border cancer care services by An Tánaiste and her Northern counterpart Sean Woodward.”

Members were informed that:-

“Arising from the presentation by Donegal Action for Cancer Care Group at the General Purposes Committee meeting on 10th October 2005, letters issued to An Taoiseach and An Tanaiste conveying the issues raised by the group and endorsed by members. Responses received will be read at the Council meeting on 28th November 2005.”

C/566/05

CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH THE NRA TO DISCUSS THE DELAY IN PUBLISHING THE CPO/EIS OF THE BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR BYPASS

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

“That this Council call an emergency meeting with the N.R.A., our Local Oireachtas Representatives and Senior Council Official (including local councillors) to discuss the delay in publishing the CPO/EIS of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Preliminary Design and Environmental Impact Statement for the N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar project was completed by McCarthy Hyder Consulting Engineers and submitted to Donegal County Council in May of this year.

By letter dated 10th May 2005 Donegal County Council formally requested NRA approval to publish the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement for this scheme.

At the Donegal County Council meeting on 30th May 2005 the following motion was adopted by the elected members

"That this Council agree to fund the land costs associated with the Ballybofey Link Road (currently estimated at €1.55m) and that NRA will provide the initial funding and that this cost be paid back to NRA over an agreed period."

By letter dated 13th June 2005 to NRA the Co. Manager confirmed that Donegal County Council would meet the cost of land acquisition associated with the Ballybofey Link Road.

In the beginning of July 2005 the Land Acquisition cost estimate for this scheme was reviewed with the assistance of valuers appointed to the scheme. This review resulted in the cost estimate increasing from €2,606,068m to €24,525,847. NRA accepted the revised cost estimate but expressed concern that land acquisition costs on this scheme were disproportionately high and asked if the recent rezoning adopted with the Ballybofey and Stranorlar Local Area Plan had an effect.

DCC Valuers were instructed to examine the effect of the re-zoning on the land acquisition cost estimate and they subsequently produced a report on this issue. By letter dated 27th Sept 2005 a copy of this report was forwarded to NRA. The report concluded that the re-zoning did not have a negative effect on the cost estimate.

NRA commissioned an independent valuer to examine this issue at the beginning of October and I understand that their report is due before the end of November.

In an attempt to provide further clarity DCC have produced a report charting the changes to the land acquisition cost estimate and providing explanations for these changes. By letter dated 17th Nov. 2005 this report was forwarded to NRA.

At present the approved cost estimates for this scheme is €0,472,248, €24,525,847 of which is attributed to land acquisition. To date NRA approval to publish the CPO/EIS has not been granted. DCC have requested a meeting with senior NRA officials to discuss the delay with publication.”

Clr. Bonner stated that she was extremely annoyed at the treatment of local landowners by the N.R.A., who were wasting taxpayers money and causing undue hardship for many of those concerned. It was imperative she added that a meeting was arranged with the N.R.A as soon as possible to discuss the delay in publishing the CPO/EIS.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation in reply to a query by Clr. Pearse Doherty, confirmed that plans for the extension of dual carriageway in the county under the Transport 21 Initiative had the potential to hold back the progress of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass.

He had he confirmed requested a meeting with the NRA before the end of the year to discuss the matter.

The following questions were noted.

C/567/05

NEW ROAD SIGNS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“When is Donegal County Council planning to erect the New Road Signs, that substantial funding was allocated for some considerable time ago, and also can some of the old stained signs be cleaned and updated?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“While substantial funding was allocated for erection of signs on Regional Roads, a hold was placed on this programme by the DOEHLG, pending the outcome of representations made by Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, in relation to how the Irish form of placenames was represented on all signage. Final clarification was received on 29th September this year, and tenders were subsequently issued for the manufacture of Phase 3 (250 signs) and Phase 4 (320 signs). Signs under phase 3 are currently being manufactured and the contract for signs under phase 4 is to be let before Christmas. It is anticipated that these signs will be erected early in 2006 and the remaining signs in Phase 5 (180) will follow shortly after.

Temporary signage has been designed for 6 specific locations (10 signs) approaching Donegal Airport. These temporary signs will be erected by the Roads Area staff in mid December 2005 and will remain in place until the erection of the permanent signs.”

C/568/05

PUBLIC LIGHTING ON NON COUNTY ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pearse Doherty:-

“The Council received legal advice on the motion proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty on the council to allow public lighting on non county roads on islands, and what is that advice?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“Some months ago, the Council discussed this matter with the County Solicitor and some options and issues were put forward verbally and notes kept. We have recently asked for the written document and hope to discuss the options further and have the document

within the next couple of weeks. The matter can be discussed further after the position is firmed up.”

C/569/05

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE N56

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

“When will the multi Annual Report on the N56 improvements programme be available?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“This report will be issued in December 2005 and a representative of our National Roads Design Office will attend the next round of the affected Electoral Area Meetings.”

C/570/05

INISHBOFIN PIER

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

“What is the present status of application to repair and renew the Inishbofin Pier?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“A report on this project i.e. the extension and the refurbishment of the existing Inishbofin pier to the value of €400,000 approx has been submitted to Roinn na Gaeltacht for consideration for funding. Our consultants have recently been instructed to proceed with the preparation of full contract documentation.”

C/571/05

REMOVAL OF RAMP AT TEACH THOMÁIS, NA MACHAIREACHA, DOIRE BEAGA

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

“When will Donegal County Council remove the ramp at Teach Thomáis, Na Machaireacha, Doire Beaga?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“The Road Design Department are examining all crossing points on the Bunbeg-Derrybeg Road in conjunction with the planned footpath works along this stretch. The options for dealing with the crossing points will be costed and presented to the January meeting of the Electoral Area Committee for their consideration. Funding will need to be identified for any proposed works, either through the Roadworks Programme or through the Urban & Village Renewal Programme.”

C/572/05

BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR BYPASS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“When will the Compulsory Purchase of the necessary lands be complete so as to allow the Ballybofey/Stranorlar bypass to progress?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Preliminary Design and Environmental Impact Statement for the N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar project was completed by McCarthy Hyder Consulting Engineers and submitted to Donegal County Council in May of this year.

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C/573/05

COST OF PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAM

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What is the total cost to Donegal County Council of the Public Lighting Program, and please outline
(a) Running costs in terms of electricity per year
(b) The maintenance costs per year and
(c) The costs for each per light per year to Donegal County Council?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The total cost for running the public lighting system is roughly €20,000 in 2005. The ESB charge a combined charge for electricity and maintenance of each light. The charge is roughly €75 for a 55watt SOX light, which is most common, and roughly €150 for a 150watt SON, which is mostly on National Roads. The ESB have indicated that the split between electricity and maintenance is about half-and-half.

In addition, the Council has a Public Lighting Improvement Programme which adds new lights to the system and further the Members Public Lights which also adds new lights to the system.”

C/574/05

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE N56

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Domhnaill:-

“What funding proposals have been made by the Council for further development of the N56 in 2006?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

“Funding proposals for the N56 are being considered as part of the five year plan for this road which is due to be presented to the members shortly. Discussions are ongoing with the NRA in an attempt to maximise funding for pavement strengthening/ minor improvements and the two Major N56 projects, i.e., the

Mountain Top and the Killybegs to Mountcharles schemes.”

C/575/05

ROSSES REGIONAL NETWORK

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“What section of the Rosses Regional Network will have New Piping laid in 2006, especially because of the unacceptable number of water bursts are happening continuously?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The Rosses Regional Water Supply Scheme is currently listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a scheme to complete planning. It will take several years to bring the scheme to construction stage. In the meantime the Rosses Regional could benefit from WSIP funding under the Water Conservation Project. Some Water Conservation Measures have already been implemented and several kilometres of pipeline were replaced in an earlier programme. Recent burst records indicate a frequency of 1.7 days, which is extremely high.

The Department has provided an indicative budget of €25 million for Water Conservation. In order to avail of this funding we must carry out agreed works in 3 stages. Pipe replacement is in the 3rd stage. We are carrying out 1st stage work on the Rosses Regional scheme and this is nearly complete. We must submit a report to the department, which will identify the necessary 2nd and 3rd stage works in order to receive approval to carry out pipe replacement under the programme. Every effort will be made to secure funding for pipe replacement on the Rosses Regional Water Supply Scheme in 2006.”

C/576/05

PUMPING HOUSE IN CASTLEFINN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pearse Doherty:-

“Will the council provide a detailed report as to how the council were involved in pumping sewerage from a pumping house in Castlefinn area into a public stream that leads to the river Finn and what is the current situation?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council was not involved in pumping sewage into a stream as suggested. The discharge of sewage resulted from the failure of ejector equipment in a pumping station on the main sewer network in Castlefin. The receiving drain into which the offending sewage discharged is an open drain running along private rear gardens, which would eventually discharge into the River Finn in conditions of heavy rainfall and runoff.

The current situation is that the faulty equipment has been removed and replaced with two new pumpsets. This new arrangement ensures that there is standby capacity to continue normal operations in the event of breakdown of one set. The drain was cleaned and piped as part of the work carried out at that time.

Further improvements to the equipment are planned in the near future to improve the reliability of performance of the pumping station. It is hoped to relocate this installation altogether under the Castlefin Sewerage Scheme, listed in the Water Services Investment Programme.”

C/577/05

PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON THE DUNGLOE, GLENTIES AND FALCARRAGH SEWERAGE SCHEMES

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

“What is the delay in completion of the Preliminary Reports on to the Dungloe, Glenties and Falcarragh Sewerage Schemes?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“Dungloe, Glenties, and Falcarragh Sewerage Schemes are currently listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as schemes to start in 2006. The Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report is complete and the Preliminary Reports for Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes are nearing completion. A briefing for the Electoral Area Committee Members on the scope, extent, and financial implications of each scheme will be arranged when all reports have been received.”

C/578/05

LANDFILL FACILITY AT BALLINACARRIG

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Domhnaill:-

“What progress has been made to develop a landfill facility at Ballinacarraig and Inishowen so as to facilitate waste from the Inishowen, Letterkenny, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Donegal Electoral Areas respectively?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

“County Donegals Waste Management Plan 2000 stated that a site selection study would be carried out which 'would seek to identify between 2 and 4 landfill facilities'. The Waste Management Plan is currently under review and the Elected Members have already participated in a workshop on the plan. The new plan, when adopted, will provide the framework and direction for the provision of waste management facilities, including landfill capacity, during the period 2006 to 2010.

Ballynacarrick is the only operational landfill in the County at present and work has taken place over a number of years on the redemption of the old landfill and the development of new-engineered cells beside the old site. The first engineered cell is now full, and the Phase 1: Interim Cell 1 is nearing capacity. Phase

1: Cell 2 is complete but filling cannot commence until the outcome of laboratory tests is known. Contingency plans are being finalised to divert waste to alternative sites should that be necessary. Tenders have been invited for the Phase 2 engineered cells and construction is expected to commence early in 2006. This will deliver Phase 2: Interim Cell 1 by March and completion in quarter 3, 2006. Preliminary GIS based site assessment has been carried out for potentially suitable sites in Inishowen and in addition expressions of interest were invited from landowners with suitable sites. Further work is needed, however, and detailed waste management cost analyses need to be carried out in the context of the review of the Donegal Waste Management Plan and the North West Region Waste Management Plan, both of which are currently underway.”

C/579/05

DERRY BUNCRANA ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What plans have the council for the Derry Bunrana Road over the next few years specifically the stretch from Tooban to Bridgend?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“In 2006 the section at Tooban will be completed and a new section constructed for a further distance of 250m in the Burnfoot direction, subject to funding being made available.

Also in 2006 it is proposed to resurface the road through Fahan Village under the strengthening programme, again subject to funding being made available.

Design Work of the Burnfoot Bypass is on the programme of work for 2006. A route corridor has been reserved on the Burnfoot Local Area Plan 2004-2010 and has gone through the Public Consultation Process.

Design will also be required for the section between Burnfoot and Bridgend in order to plan for possible projects in the following years.”

C/580/05

TAXI RANK IN MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. M. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council the updated position in relation to the provision of a dedicated taxi rank in Moville given the Local Improvement Works are near completion and the Lynotts Corner project is in progress.”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“Moville is not a taximeter area and the operators are hackney car operators. A dedicated taxi area is not being provided. The issue of the provision of a location for the hackney cars can be discussed at the next local area meeting and in addition, it can be taken into consideration when future traffic management plans are being considered for Moville.”

C/581/05

SAFE CROSSING AT SUPERVALU ON COCKHILL ROAD, BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“When can we expect to have a safe crossing erected at Super Valu on Cockhill Road, Bunclrana for the residents who live there and the many other users?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“It is intended to have the pedestrian crossing in place at Cockhill Road before the end of December 2005.”

C/582/05

PIER AT RAMELTON SAFETY BARRIER

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“What plans are in place for extending the current safety barrier along the pier at Ramelton and providing adequate public lighting in that area?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“There are no plans at present to extend this barrier or improve public lighting at this location. Subject to budget provisions in 2006, these issues can be considered in the context assembling the 2006 Work Programme.”

C/583/05

SWILLY VIEW

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“Does Donegal County Council intend to consult with the residents of "Swilly View" Inch before progressing with plans to build some houses on Council land at the location?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The council acquired 2.2 acres of land at Inch on which a scheme was built in the 1970's. Allowing for the open space requirements on the existing development there is approx. 1.2 acres of land available for potential development. There is an identified housing need for four houses at Inch as part of the 2004 - 2008 Housing capital programme. Despite the council placing a number of public advertisements seeking proposals from private developers for the provision of a turnkey scheme at Inch Island, no suitable proposals were forthcoming. Most of the lands at Inch are zoned as landscape category 3 in the County Development Plan and as such carry onerous development restrictions. Consequently any available development lands at Inch carry a very high market value. It is prudent therefore for the Council to seek to meet its housing need through the development of its existing landbank. The Housing Construction Section are presently preparing proposals for the provision of four houses on these lands. These proposals will be

subject to a Part 8 planning process which permits any member of the public to make submissions to the council on the plans as presented. The subsequent approval/modification/rejection of such proposals is a function of the Members of the Council. Notification of the Council's proposals is by way of public advertisement in the local press and the erection of a site notice on the lands describing the proposed development.”

C/584/05

PHASE 3 OF DESERTEGNEY WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“When will work begin on Phase of Desertegney Water Supply ie building of reservoir and pump houses etc?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Desertegney Water Supply Scheme Stage 1 – contract 3 is currently listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a scheme to start in 2004. Contract Documents for Phase 1 Contract 3 were submitted to the DEHLG in April 2003. The Departments approval is required before tenders can be invited. In addition the Department had recently required the Council to revise and re-submit the Water Charging report for the scheme and this is now being done.”

C/585/05

INISHOWEN 100 SCENIC ROUTE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council the position in relation to examining the possibility of providing picnic lay-bys, serviced with refuse bins, at strategic locations along the Inishowen 100 Scenic Route?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The type of funding for this type of work in Roads is very limited unless a specific budget is made available in the budget process.

General road funds from DOE Discretionary funding or the road maintenance allocation from own resources are expected to cover a wide range of activities and it is unlikely that they will be sufficient to cover extensive tourist facilities such as the ones requested.

It might be possible to set up a phased work programme through the Electoral Area process over a number of years whereby a dedicated fund would be agreed.”

C/586/05

CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROTOCOL

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“Does the conflict of interest protocol for Elected Members of Donegal County Council extend to all staff of Donegal County Council?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“All employees of the Council are subject to the Code of Conduct for Employees, a copy of which is attached.”

C/587/05

BRIDGE WORKS AT COOLAGHEY, RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“When is it expected that Bridge works ongoing at Coolaghey Raphoe will be completed?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“The bridge at Coolaghey is expected to be completed in December 2005.”

C/588/05

SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS AT COOLATEE
LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“Will the Council provide proper signage and markings at Coolatee, Lifford (i.e at the exit onto the R.265 Lifford to St. Johnston Road)?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“It is understood that this will involve adding two stop signs and some lining and this will be considered under the 2006 roadworks programme.”

C/589/05

REBATE TO THE LIFFORD RATEPAYERS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will this Council consider offering a rebate to the Lifford ratepayers whose businesses were negatively impacted upon during the recent improvement works to Lifford Bridge?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“Commercial rates are levied annually by this Council on all Commercial properties within its area excluding the Town Council areas of Letterkenny, Buncrana, and Bundoran towards the cost of providing operational services throughout the County for a particular year. The general annual rate multiplier on valuation for this year was determined by the members of the Council at its budget meeting on January 7th last for 2005. The amount due from individual ratepayers is determined by the multiplier times the value placed on the property by the Valuation Office. This office operates independently of Local Authorities and to the best of our knowledge apply valuations based on market rental values as distinct from actual turnover. Therefore the turnover of a business is not a determining factor in the

valuation of a property and in calculating the rates due from year to year.

While the Council is very sympathetic to trading difficulties encountered by individual ratepayers all over the County it is not possible to grant a general rebate/waiver to groups of businesses in certain areas due as in this case to the short term inconvenience of major road works in the vicinity or for any other reason. Indeed where there were/are more longer term structural trading difficulties in other areas of the County Donegal County Council could not accede to such requests for rebates/waivers

The Council works very closely through its 18 local Revenue Collectors, in instances where temporary and other longer term trading difficulties are encountered by arranging payment plans etc. to facilitate the ratepayers through such difficult times. Any cases of exceptional hardship are dealt with on an individual case by case basis as they arise and on application to the undersigned as the County Manager has delegated such authority to the Head of Finance.”

C/590/05

TRANSPORT 21

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Following the announcement of the so-called "Transport 21" has this Council any future plans for the development of Letterkenny Airport?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“The County of Donegal is currently serviced through 3 regional Airport services namely Strandhill, Sligo in respect of South Donegal with links to Dublin, Donegal International Airport in Carrickfinn again with daily flights to Dublin and finally City of Derry Airport at Eglinton with daily flights again to Dublin.”

C/591/05

DRY RECYCLABLES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What tracking system is in place to ensure that dry recyclables collected in the county from bring centers and privately are actually recycled?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Since 2003 Donegal County Council's Waste Regulation Officer has carried out audits of the operations of collectors of household waste. This auditing process has ensured that all household waste collected is disposed of in a properly licensed landfill. Since August 2005 this auditing processes has been extended to include dry recyclable MSW (Municipal Solid Waste). To ensure compliance, site inspections are conducted at the premises of the waste collectors, records on site are inspected, and these records allow comparison of quantities collected and quantities sent on for recovery or disposal. In order to comply with their licence conditions, collectors may only use approved recovery or disposal facilities. The Waste Regulation Officer is satisfied that, at this moment in time, dry recyclable MSW collected in Co. Donegal is going for recovery.”

C/592/05

CONCEALED ENTRANCE OR HIDDEN DIP
TYPE SIGNS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“Why will Donegal County Council not erect "concealed entrance" or "hidden dip" type signs on our county roads?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“There is no particular ban on erection of these type signs on our county roads. However it depends on whether the signs are appropriate and whether we have the funds to erect such signs.

Concealed entrance signs are normally requested by individuals and erected by them with the county council's permission. Where the concealed entrance is say a county road a sign could be erected by the county council but would have to be considered on an individual basis.

Because of the nature of our county roads widespread use of such signs as hidden dips would not be recommended. However they could be considered, where due to the high volumes of traffic and dangerous passing manoeuvres particular hazards arise.”

C/593/05

ERECTION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT LENNOX BRIDGE, BUNDORAN

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

“In light of recent accidents - Can Donegal County Council erect Traffic Lights at Lennox Bridge in Bundoran, on the Donegal - Leitrim, until such times as a new bridge is constructed?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“The new bridge and associated works are being co-ordinated and carried out on this bridge by Leitrim County Council. Donegal County Council has agreed in principle to a Section 59 Agreement with Leitrim. We will discuss the issue raised with Leitrim and report back at a future Electoral Area Meeting.”

C/594/05

BALLYSHANNON/BUNDORAN FIRE STATION

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

“When will ungrading works commence at Ballyshannon Fire Station and Bundoran Fire Station as agreed in 2004 following the Full Council's decision not to develop a New Station at Finner?”

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

“The council has received approval to commence construction of the Glenties and Dungloe fire stations. These contracts will proceed during 2006. We are hoping to obtain approval, sometime during 2006, to construct a new station at Moville as this is by far the poorest quality station in the county. Design teams have been appointed for new stations at Gweedore, Glencolmcille, Stranolar, Bundoran and Ballyshannon, and sites are being identified.”

C/595/05

ROADS ACT 1993

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“What is this Councils responsibility towards R.O.Ws. in the County under the Roads Act 1993?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Under Section 73 of the 1993 Roads Act County Councils are under Statutory obligation to protect the right of the public to use public rights of way. This provision in law obliges local authorities to take action where public rights of way are being interfered with or closed off.”

C/596/05

WATER CRISIS IN RAMELTON AND DISTRICT

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Has the €150,000 as agreed at our July Meeting been transferred to the Milford Electoral Area to offset the Water crisis in Ramelton and District?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Water supply problems experienced in the Ramelton area in the early part of 2005 were resolved by a combination of water conservation and maintenance works. District Metering Areas were set up and leak

detection carried out to reduce the volume of unaccounted for water losses from the system.”

C/597/05

GLASS RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

“What percentage of glass currently being lodged in bottle banks around the county for recycling is actually being recycled, and what percentage is being disposed of?”

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

“100% of the glass collected in the bring banks is recycled. The only materials removed and sent for disposal are contaminants such as corks, plastic bags, labels etc. The levels of contamination are, however, falling as the awareness campaign continues and the public take more care when recycling.”

C/598/05

DISPOSAL OF GLASS LODGED IN BOTTLE BANKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

“What factors contribute to a decision to dispose of glass lodged in bottle banks as opposed to recycling the glass?”

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

“All of the glass lodged in the bottle banks is recycled. The only materials removed and sent for disposal are contaminants such as corks, plastic bags, labels etc. Occasionally glass, mixed and contaminated with other waste, is left by people around banks and this is cleared up by the mobile litter unit and sent for disposal. This is an offence under the Litter Act and those found responsible are subject to legal action under the Act.”

C/599/05

COUNCIL MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

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

“Why do Councillors not have the mobile phone numbers of all council officials, after all they have ours and we are the council?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“The Corporate Policy Group will be consulted on the development of appropriate arrangements.”

C/600/05

RECYCLING PLANT IN STRANORLAR

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

“When will the new Recycling Plant in Stranorlar be open to the public to dispose of their Recyclable's?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“Construction of the Civic Amenity site at Stranorlar is substantially complete. A number of outstanding items necessary to allow it open for use are in train. These include road lining to direct safe traffic and pedestrian movements, procurement and erection of signage on the site and external to it, installation of computer associated with the weighbridge to allow tonnages of waste be recorded, installation of CCTV for safety and security, provision of receptacles for each waste stream, training of staff for safe operation of equipment and procedures.

It is proposed to open the site for three days a week as follows :

Thursday from 12.30 pm to 7.00 pm,

Friday from 8.30 am to 2.00 pm, and

Saturday from 8.30 am to 2.00 pm.

These opening hours will be reviewed after an initial period of some months.

We are aiming to open to the public on Thursday 15th December.”

C/601/05

SPEED LIMITS OUTSIDE ALL SCHOOLS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“What progress/stage in the Council Road Section at implementing reduced speed limits outside all Schools across Donegal as agreed by this Council?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“Road Design have assigned a dedicated Engineer to this scheme in mid October this year, and are currently compiling a data base of information on the 211 schools to enable a recommendation on speed limits to be made in accordance with recently issued guidelines. A report including recommended measures at all schools will be brought to the Council for their consideration. It is hoped that the report for all 211 schools will be ready in mid 2006 together with the examination of a number of Regional Roads where it has been requested to consider increasing the speed limit from 80kph to 100kph.”

C/602/05

BALLYBOFEY & STRANORLAR AREA PLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“What actions will Donegal County Council take to address problems already highlighted in both the Ballybofey & Stranorlar Area Plan and Castlefin Area Plan as adopted regarding the lack of available, accessible land in which to build on at present as confirmed at a recent meeting of the Stranorlar Area Committee.”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“This issue was raised by members at the October Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee meeting. It is intended to examine if there is a difficulty with extent of lands zoned in each of the Local Plan Areas and if so what options are open to the Council. Thereafter a

report on the findings shall be discussed initially with the members of the Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee and a report brought to the Council for consideration.”

C/603/05

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That this Borough Council write to the Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin, T.D., requesting to make compulsory, the fitting and wearing of seat belts on school buses transporting children with special needs.”

“That Councillors be except from the ruling through which the general public are obliged to pay a fee of €20 if they wish to lodge an observation or an objection against a planning application which effects their property, neighbourhood or locality.”

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Offaly County Council insist that phone masts and pylons are located 2 km from residential areas. These guidelines to be included in the County Development Plan and that we write to the Minister and also circulate this motion to all other councils.”

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on the Department of Agriculture not to implement the new regulations regarding prescriptions for all animal medicines.”

PASSAGE WEST TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children to introduce regular monitoring for bacteria in all areas of hospitals and other buildings where

patients are treated to minimise risks of patients infection.”

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children to treat Cardiovascular Disease as a chronic illness.”

BANTRY TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council supports Fair Trade and agrees where applicable to serve Fair Trade Coffee and Tea in the office and that this Council continues to support the Fair Trade Mark.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call upon the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to make what ever funding is necessary available to complete the collection of waste form plastics, as most farmers have paid levy at point of purchase and are entitled to have the plastic removed from their holding rather than it remain and possibly cast them penalties within the REPs and cross compliance schemes.”

ENNIS COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Ennis Town Council calls on Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to amend the regulations governing voluntary housing to allow tenants to purchase their dwellings on a similar basis to tenants of Local Authority dwellings.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to draw up National Guidelines for implementation of a waiver scheme for waste disposal charge, in line with the recommendations contained in the Combat Poverty Agency report “Implementing a Waiver System.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we Killarney Town Council request the Department of the Environment to stop penalizing motorists who cannot afford to pay their motor taxation in one payment. They are asked to pay an exorbitant fee for paying on a three monthly basis.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.