

**Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 3.00pm in the Council  
Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre**

**Members Present**

Cllr John Boyle  
Cllr Thomas Pringle  
Cllr Barry O'Neill  
Cllr Brendan Byrne  
Cllr Peter Kennedy  
Cllr Sean McEniff

**Officials in Attendance**

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Sharleen Tinney, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
Andrew McNulty Cross Border Project  
Aideen Doherty, Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
Conal McGettigan, Executive Planner, Planning & Economic Dev  
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency  
Services  
Colm O'Dúlacháin, Cultural Diversity Officer  
Rodney Irwin, National Roads Design Office  
Donna McDermott, National Roads Design Office  
Jessica Hodgson, Marine & Leisure  
Prof. K McKenna, University of Ulster  
Hugh Fox, Ballyshannon/Bundoran By-Pass  
John Glynn, Ballyshannon/Bundoran By-Pass

**Youth Councillors in Attendance**

Aidan Carty  
Guanitta Bradey

**Apologies**

Cllr Elizabeth McIntyre  
Cllr Phonsie Travers

**DEAC 15.00 Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings.**

DEAC 15.01 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005

On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Pringle, the minutes of the meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005 were agreed.

DEAC 15.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Workshop (Bypass) held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr McEniff, the minutes of the Workshop regarding the Ballyshannon/Bundoran By-Pass held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2005 were agreed.

DEAC 15.03 Confirmation of Minutes of Workshop (Water Services) held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr McEniff, the minutes of the Workshop regarding Water Services held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 were agreed.

DEAC 15.04 Matters arising

If was further agreed that matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the various service headings.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>
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DEAC	16.01	Activity Levels up to 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2005
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Members noted the Activity Levels up to 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2005 in the Donegal Town Public Services Centre.

DEAC	16.02	Corporate Other
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Cllr Boyle conveyed his best wishes to Mr P Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water and Emergency Services on his recent marriage to Ms. Lynda Morrow.

Members expressed their good wishes to Mr. Conor Daly, Tourism Executive who was leaving the Council in the coming weeks.

Members highlighted the difficulty of accessing the first floor of the Donegal PSC since the electronic locking system was installed. On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Pringle Members agreed that each Councillor is provided with a 'key-fob' for access to the Council offices. Mr. G Gilroy agreed to follow-up on the matter.

DEAC	16.03	Vote of Sympathy
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Cllr Boyle proposed with Members full support a vote of sympathy on the recent passing of Ms. Gaye Moynihan and a minute silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Cllrs Kennedy and McEniff also paid tribute to Ms. Moynihan referring to all the work she carried out for the County and expressed the great loss her passing was to Donegal.

DEAC	16.04	Date of Electoral Area Meetings
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Cllr Boyle apologised for rescheduling the time of the Electoral Area Meeting and advised Members the schedule agreed last December clashed with meetings of the VEC.

It was noted the VEC held their meetings the third Monday of every month and a number of the Area Members were also members of the VEC, including Cllr. Byrne who was Chairperson.

Members decided that future Electoral Area Meetings will be held on the Tuesday of the week set aside for Electoral Area meetings and a revised schedule of meetings for the Donegal Electoral Area is to be prepared accordingly for consideration by Members.

It was agreed the next meeting should take place on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at 2:00pm in the Donegal Public Services Centre.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>Water, Environment &amp; Emergency Services</b>
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DEAC	17.01	Group Water Schemes
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Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment circulated the Group Scheme Programme for the Donegal Electoral Area and briefed Members on the up to date position regarding Group Water Supply Schemes.

Cllr Boyle queried if all the Group Water Schemes were going ahead as proposed to which Mr. Breslin advised Members that any Schemes which were too expensive may not be going ahead.

### **Tawnawilly GWS**

In response to a query raised by Cllr Kennedy regarding the Tawnawilly GWS, Mr. Breslin advised progress was being made in relation to the Scheme and he would revert to Cllr Kennedy with an update at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

### **Corker, Rossnowlagh GWS**

In response to a query raised by Cllr O'Neill regarding the timeframe for work to be carried out on the Corker GWS, Mr. M Breslin informed as the scheme was resurrected by a new promoter – Michael Clein, it was hoped the plans would be prepared by next year.

DEAC	17.02	South West Donegal Water Supply DBO
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Members considered report in relation to South West Donegal Water Supply DBO, submitted by Mr Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water and Environment and copy of correspondence circulated at the meeting addressed to Mr Bernard Cuning from Mr. Shane O'Brien, of Jennings O'Donovan and Partners.

Members expressed their disappointment and frustration that this information was contrary to that given by the Director of Water and Environment at the workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in relation to this project.

Members referred in particular to their suggestion that day that the Council might carry out advance works by direct labour in order to speed up the progress, including laying mains to Kilcar. The Director had indicated that if the Department had no difficulty with some of the works/advance works being carried out by direct labour in terms of releasing the funding, that the Council would consider this as an option.

Members asked that their views on the matter be conveyed to Mr Holohan.

In response to a query raised by Cllr Byrne regarding the budget for the DBO, Mr Breslin advised the budget will provide for advanced works to be carried out, including pipelines that compromise future roadworks, and the raw water main and reservoir to supply the fish factory.

DEAC	17.03	Major Capital Programme
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Members noted the up to date report on the Major Capital Programme circulated with the agenda.

### **Donegal Town Sewerage Scheme**

In response to a query raised by Cllr Kennedy regarding the progress on the Donegal Town Sewerage Scheme, Mr M Breslin advised the work on Contract 2 was complete and confirmation was awaited from the Department to give the go ahead for the next phase. He also confirmed that funding was in place.

### **Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme**

Cllr O'Neill was advised that the up to date position regarding the Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme was that the approval for go-ahead from the Department was still awaited. He requested an urgent letter issue to the Department on the matter. Mr. M Breslin agreed to the request and advised he will follow-up on the issue.

Cllr McEniff queried whether there was a difficulty in the lowest tender being accepted. If so he felt members should be advised at the next full Council Meeting. If there is no difficulty accepting the tender then the contract should be signed and work started right away.

If this information is not received then members will seek a deputation be sent to the Department.

DEAC	17.04	Civic Amenity Site
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It was noted the Part 8 planning approval had been granted for the site and the consultants had been requested to prepare contract documents.

DEAC	17.05	Other Water & Environment Matters
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**Church Road Water Main, Bundoran.**

Cllr McEniff referred to the replacement of the water main at Church Road, Bundoran. Mr. M Breslin advised the NRDO were coming back with a start date to commence works.

**Purchase of Litter Bins**

In response to a query raised by Cllr Kennedy regarding the purchase of bins for the Donegal Town area, Mr. M Breslin advised these bins would be delivered in the coming week. It was also noted bins were ordered for, Dunkineely, Ballyshannon and Carrick.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Economic Development</b>
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DEAC	18.01	Section 183 of the Local Govt Act 2001 – Disposal of circa 0.276 acres
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On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr O'Neill the Section 183 notice proposing to disposal of lands at the Quay, Donegal Town to North West Regional Tourism Authority Limited as circulated by Mr D Kelly was agreed.

DEAC	18.02	Donegal Town Local Area Plan
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### **Donegal Town Local Area Plan**

Mr. D Kelly advised that the implementation of the Donegal Town Local Area Plan was now at the next stage. He advised additional funding had been sought to ensure the implementation of the plan. Mr. B McLaughlin, Community and Enterprise Development Officer informed Members it was hoped to have a decision on this funding by June 2005.

DEAC	18.03	Casual Trading
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### **Ballyshannon Casual Trading**

Mr. D Kelly informed Members the Roads Service were currently carrying out works on the car park and this would be completed shortly. In response to a question from Cllr O'Neill as to the charge involved for Casual Trading, Mr Kelly advised the standard fee was €250 per annum for one trading space, with a fee of €125 per annum for each additional space thereafter. In response to a question from Cllr O'Neill when signs would be erected, Mr. P Thomas informed signs would be erected by the end of the week. Mr Kelly advised flyers would be circulated and traders contacted in the coming week with a view to having this site up and running shortly.

### **Killybegs Casual Trading**

Mr. D Kelly advised Members no complaints were received regarding the designated Casual Trading area in Killybegs and things were going well. Cllr Pringle also stated how well the casual trading was operating in Killybegs.

DEAC	18.04	Planning Statistics Reports
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### **Planning Statistics Reports**

Members noted the planning statistics reports for the period up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005 circulated with the Agenda. Members noted that 353 applications had been received this year to date, with 41 of these applications being returned as invalid. Mr Kelly again highlighted the issue of invalid applications, which was previously raised at a full Council Meeting.

DEAC	18.05	Consideration of Recent Refusals
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### **Recent Refusals**

Members noted the report on recent refusals for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005 circulated with the Agenda. Mr. D Kelly apologised for the mix-up of the sequence of the reasons attached with the recent refusals.

DEAC	18.06	Planning Enforcement Report
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### **Planning Enforcement Report**

Members noted the planning enforcement statistics report for the period up to the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	18.07	County Development Plan Workshop
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Mr. D Kelly advised that Mr. J Harley, Divisional Manager had intended attending today's Electoral Area Committee meeting, but unfortunately he could not now do so.

He had asked that the issue of Views and Prospects as set out in the Draft County Development Plan be discussed with Members. He presented a map of these areas and sought Members agreement. No objections were raised.

DEAC	18.08	Other Planning Matters
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### **Donegal Town Shopping Units**

Cllr Kennedy raised his concerns regarding the lack of progress on the proposed development of major shopping units for Donegal Town. Cllr Kennedy, together with Cllr McEniff and Cllr O'Neill expressed their disappointment at the number of objections to a number of planning applications, which they felt, could result in a great loss for the area. Members confirmed that in their view the lack of progress was due largely to the objections from members of the public and not the fault of the Planning Service.

Mr. D Kelly pointed out that a lot of good development was ongoing in Donegal Town at present. The Planning legislation set out the position regarding the right to make submissions or objections in relation to Planning applications and the Planning Authority must adhere to these regulations.

In response to questions about the Bennett Construction application, Members were informed Further Information had been sought on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005 (copy circulated at meeting) and a response was awaited.

### **Registration of Quarries**

Cllr O'Neill was informed that a good response had been received to the recent notification in relation to the requirement for the registration of quarries in the Donegal Electoral Area, and a register of quarries was currently being compiled.

DEAC	19.00	Attendance of Deputation From Inver
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### **Deputation**

Sky Garner, Inver Village Representative  
Danny Rose, Inver Village Representative  
Susan Rose, Inver Village Representative

Cllr Boyle welcomed the attendance of the deputation from Inver Village.

Ms. Sky Garner, Mr. Danny Rose and Ms. Susan Rose detailing the areas of major concern to the residents in Inver Village made a comprehensive presentation to the Members. Members were circulated with a report detailing these issues and setting out on what the deputation felt was urgently required for the village. Photographs and a map of the areas of great concern were also circulated. The Members noted the main areas of concern being speeding, poor vision lines, lack of warning signs in the area, and their concern for children and the elderly walking in the area. It was suggested additional signage be erected, ramps/rumble strips be installed and locals contacted regarding hedge cutting in the area. Mr Thomas agreed to meet with residents in the area to discuss options. He confirmed that ramps could be put in place however the consent of the residents in the area would be necessary as there is a high level of noise from vehicles travelling over them, particularly at night. After a short discussion, Mr P Thomas, Area Manager undertook to meet with the Group and Roads Engineers to discuss the issues of concern with a view to reaching consensus on the matter.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>Community, Culture and Enterprise</b>
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DEAC	20.01	Report on Community & Enterprise Services
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### **Community Consultation**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda on Community Consultation, which was presented to Members by Mr. Barney McLaughlin, CEDO.

### **Inter Organisational Local Development**

Members noted the update report on Inter Organisational Local Development circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. Barney McLaughlin, CEDO.

### **An Strateis**

Members noted the update report on An Strateis circulated with the Agenda.

### **Report on Members Development Fund**

Members noted the report on the Members Development Fund circulated with the Agenda.

### **Peace II Programme**

Members noted the Peace II Task Force report circulated with the agenda.

DEAC	20.02	Report on Cultural Services
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### **National Digitisation Strategy/Ballyshannon**

The report on the National Digitisation Strategy/Ballyshannon was noted by the Members at the meeting.

### **Information Society Fund visit to Donegal**

The meeting noted the report circulated with the agenda on the Information Society Fund visit to Donegal.

DEAC	20.03	Donegal Youth Council
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### **Youth Council**

Andrew McNulty, Project Officer, conveyed his apologies to Members that only two Youth Councillors were available to attend the Electoral Area Meeting due to exams taking place.

### **Presentation from Youth Council**

A update report on the Youth Council Projects was circulated at the meeting and a presentation given by Aidan Carty and Guanitta Bradey, Youth Councillors.

### **Projects**

The projects outlined included; a recent meeting held with Lough Swilly Bus regarding the conditions of the school buses, Donegal Youth Audit, Donegal Fermanagh Youth E Forum, Youth Participation Project.

The Youth Councillors sought support from the Members regarding the development of a skate park in the County. Ms Aideen Doherty, CEDO informed Members a formal request to the Department would be made looking for skateboarding areas in the County and when calls are made for expressions of interest an update will then be reported to Members.

DEAC	20.04	Playgrounds
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### **Playgrounds**

Ms. Aideen Doherty circulated details of applications received for the development of playgrounds in the Donegal Electoral Area. An advertisement for expressions of interest was put in the paper, with a total of 33 applications returned, with 7 from the Donegal Electoral Area. Each application was looked at carefully. It was necessary that the site was Council owned. Ms Doherty informed the meeting it was a multi-annual programme to be targeted over a 3 year period and was seeking the Members agreement in drawing up a priority list.

In response to a query raised by Cllr McEniff, Ms. Doherty advised between €65,000 and €75,000 funding was available per Electoral Area.

After a lengthy discussion, on the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr O'Neill the following order of priority was agreed;

1. Ballyshannon – The Mall Park
2. Killybegs – White House Park
3. Bundoran – Mountain View
4. Carrick
5. Inver

DEAC	20.05	Cultural Diversity
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Mr. Colm Ó Dúlacháin, Cultural Diversity Officer presented to the meeting a detailed report on the Exploring Diversity Together Initiative, outlining the objectives and success in developing and maintaining cross border community networking in the areas of political cooperation, sporting participation, cultural diversity, community relations and visitor participation.

Members complemented Mr. Ó Dúlacháin on his comprehensive report, expressed their full support and wished him every success with the Initiative in the future.

DEAC	20.06	Rossnowlagh Beach Project
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Mr. Barney McLaughlin introduced Dr. J McKenna, University of Ulster and Ms. Jessica Hodgson, Marine and Leisure to the meeting. Ms. Jessica Hodgson circulated map and layouts to the Members and made a detailed presentation on the Integrated Pilot Project in Beach Management Committee report.

In reply to a question asked by Cllr Boyle on how the rezoning fits in with the Rossnowlagh Town Plan, Ms. J Hodgson advised it is included in the draft. Cllr Boyle queried the update regarding the recent Beach Warden Interviews.

Ms. Hodgson advised there were 5 wardens and 1 manager appointed for a 3-month period commencing shortly. On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr. O'Neill, the proposal was adopted.

Members also congratulated staff on the work carried out. Members were advised the Report would go to the next full Council Meeting for adoption. Mr B McLaughlin, CEDO thanked Roads and Water Services staff for their work and support with the Project.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.00</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Building</b>
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<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.01</b>	<b>Follow-up report on issues raised at previous meeting</b>
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**Inclusion of additional houses at Bruckless Scheme**

Ms. M Hannigan, Area Manager advised Members the Housing Service is proceeding with the provision of 6 additional houses on the Bruckless site. In response to a query raised by Cllr Pringle, if by adding 6 additional houses, a delay would occur with the 18 almost complete houses, Ms. Hannigan advised that a delay would not occur.

**Central Heating Programme**

Members agreed the list of houses specified in the southwest of the county, which will benefit from the Central Heating Programme in 2005.

**Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme**

Ms. M Hannigan further advised Members of possible funding becoming available under the Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme which would allow Council Housing stock to be eventually brought up to modern day standards. She advised as with the Central Heating Programme, the oldest Housing Stock would be addressed first.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.02</b>	<b>Progress Report of the Housing Capital Programme</b>
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Members noted the progress report as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005 on the Housing Capital Programme on the Housing Agenda.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.03</b>	<b>Progress Report on Social Housing</b>
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Members noted the report on loans and grants as at the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.04</b>	<b>Casual Vacancy Report</b>
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### **Casual Vacancy Report**

Members noted the Casual Vacancy report as at 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>21.05</b>	<b>Other Housing Matters</b>
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### **Housing Allocation**

Cllr Boyle referred to the recently announced Capital Allocation for housing and asked how the division of it would be made between the six Electoral Areas. Ms. M Hannigan advised the Housing Service were just recently notified of the allocation and a division would be made equitably by Lifford Headquarters.

### **Traveller Accommodation Update – Donegal Town**

Members expressing their annoyance that the Donegal Town site has been allowed to remain open, well past the timeframe set out by the Council. Ms. Hannigan undertook to discuss the matter urgently with the Director of Housing.

Cllr Kennedy again expressed his extreme concern and annoyance to the problems caused by the presence of a horse on this site. Continued damage was still being caused to the old Famine Graveyard, adjacent to the site. Cllr Kennedy stated his intention to raise the issue at the next full Council Meeting if a satisfactory resolution was not reached.

Ms. M Hannigan advised contact had been made previously with the Veterinary Inspector and undertook to fully convey his concerns in this matter to her Director as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Kennedy also referred to the illegal encampments beside the Old Fire Station in Donegal Town and at the Shore Road, Mountcharles and the issue of the School and Chapel being used daily as a toilet. He stressed that action was needed to stop the problem as a matter of urgency. In response to the concerns raised, Ms. Hannigan again agreed to follow-up on the issue with the Director.

Cllr McEniff expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the ongoing problems in the Bundoran site as previously raised. Members were advised a representative from the Traveller Accommodation Unit would be in attendance at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

**Staffing**

Members were informed that a replacement for John Gallagher had not yet been identified.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>Roads/Transportation</b>
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DEAC	22.01	2005 Road Works Programme
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Members noted the Progress Report on the Roads Works Programme 2005 as attached with the agenda.

DEAC	22.02	Removal of Unauthorised Signs
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Mr. P Thomas informed the meeting the Council's policy on unauthorised signs now in operation was currently working well in the Donegal Electoral Area, with the main areas of concern at present being signs in towns on the street and footpaths causing obstruction.

DEAC	22.03	Bridges Programme
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Members noted the schedule of major bridge works 2005 and bridge strengthening works 2005 as circulated with the agenda.

Members also considered draft Programme for 2006 as circulated. After a short discussion the Members agreed, on the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr O'Neill to adopt the draft Bridge Works Programme for 2006 as set out below.

<b>1. MAJOR BRIDGE WORKS</b>				
<b>Area</b>	<b>Road no.</b>	<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Work Summary</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>R263</b>	<b>Drumnafinagal</b>	<b>Donegal West</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>R231-1</b>	<b>Connors Bridge</b>	<b>Ballymagroarty</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>R263</b>	<b>Fintragh</b>	<b>Donegal West</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>R263</b>	<b>Cashlins</b>	<b>Donegal West</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>L-1925-3</b>	<b>Tirconnell</b>	<b>Donegal Town</b>	<b>Replace</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>LS7295-1</b>	<b>Dinsmore</b>	<b>Ballintra</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>LP2535-1</b>	<b>Tonry</b>	<b>Manger</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>LS5185-1</b>	<b>Stranakirka</b>	<b>Donegal West</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>LP1345/3</b>	<b>Benroe</b>	<b>Donegal West</b>	<b>Replace/widen</b>

<b>2. BRIDGE STRENGTHENING WORKS</b>				
<b>Area</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Road no.</b>	<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Work Summary</b>
1	LP 1915/1	Dromgorman	Donegal East	Strengthen
2	LP1015/1	Kilgoly Bridge	Donegal West	Parapet Repair/Grouting
3	LS7745-1	Tullymore	Donegal East	Repair Stone Parapet wall
4	LS6015/1	Gisert	Donegal West	Parapet Repair/Grouting
5	LP2125-2	Laghey Barr	Donegal East	Repair Stone Parapet wall
6	LP1165/1	Dry Arch Bridge	Donegal West	Parapet Repair
7	LP2395-1	Abbey mill Bridge	Donegal East	Rebuild parapet walls
8	R233-3	Loughderg road	Donegal East	Repair Stone Parapet wall
9	LP1585/1	Ballymacahill	Donegal West	Grouting
10	LP 2115/1	Golard	Donegal East	Strengthen
11	R263/4	Tullid Bridge	Donegal West	Parapet Repair
12	R232/4	Pettigo Road (wilsons)	Donegal East	Strengthen
13	LP1685/3,4	Letterfad	Donegal West	Parapet Repair/Grouting
14	L8045-1	Cullion	Donegal East	Block Parapet wall
15	LP1265/2/3	Portnacross Bridge	Donegal West	Parapet Repair/Grouting
16	LP 1945/3	Lougheske Drumnacarry	Donegal East	Parapet Repair
17	LS5535/1	Ballyloughan	Donegal West	Parapet Repair & Grouting
18	LP1315/3	Stragar Bridge	Donegal West	Parapet Repair/Grouting
19	LT 2075/1	Tullyleague	Donegal East	Parapet Repair

DEAC	22.04	Special Speed Limits
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Members noted the circular attached with the agenda from the Department setting out the procedure to increase the speed limit from 80km/h to 100km/h on Regional Roads. Mr. P Thomas stated it was not proposed to increase the speed limits on the regional roads in the Donegal Electoral Area.

A discussion then took place at the meeting regarding the option to reduce the speed limits at selected location e.g. schools. Members proposed that the following locations be considered.

- Commons School, Killybegs
- Fintra School, Killybegs
- Laghey School
- Killymard School
- Kilbarron School, Ballyshannon
- St. Catherines School, Killybegs

DEAC	22.05	National Roads
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### **Progress on N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass**

Mr. H Fox and Mr. J Glynn attended the meeting to update Members on progress in relation to the Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass.

Mr. J Glynn, Project Manager, SIAC/Wills advised the meeting the contractor was working towards a completion date of January 2006. It was anticipated that the earth works would be complete within the next few weeks out as far as Bundoran. He advised 'black topping' had started opposite Finner Camp and was continuing towards Bundoran. The northern section would be the last part to be completed.

Cllr O'Neill referred to the road at Newtown, Bundoran, which is currently closed. He asked if a pedestrian access would be made available for residents in the interim. Mr. J Glynn highlighted the importance of keeping the road closed because of danger with ongoing work on the road and acknowledged the inconvenience it caused.

Cllr O'Neill also referred to an alternative option to the proposed underpass at Station Road, Ballyshannon. He questioned what the length of the underpass would be and if CCTV would be installed. Mr. Glynn stated the tunnel would be approximately 30 metres with lights in it, but no CCTV installed.

In response to his query if the Contractor would be meeting the NRDO to discuss the ESB offer, Mr. Glynn advised that the contractor had no plans to change the contract, adding that this would be quite disruptive at this time. He pointed out that the scheme had been accepted by the full Council, and it would be a matter for the DNRDO / Council as the client to consider if they wished to alter the contract.

Mr. H Fox invited Cllr O'Neill to the Bypass office to view the plans. He could revert back to the DNRDO with any issues, which are of concern. Cllr O'Neill confirmed his intention to meet with Mr. A O'Doherty, DNRDO to go through the issues of concern.

Cllr McEniff, supported by other Members complimented the Contractors and all the staff on the works carried out to-date.

Mr. R Irwin and Ms. D McDermott attended the meeting to brief Members on the update on DNRDO issues.

### **N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon By-pass – land acquisition**

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding land acquisition and issue of offers to 35 landowners. Ms. McDermott advised this had yet to be finalised. Meetings have taken place with a number of the landowners and valuations received. The DNRDO will issue final offers shortly and where agreement cannot be reached, these cases will be referred to Arbitration. It is expected that approximately 15 cases will be referred as per report circulated at the meeting.

### **N15/R280 Link**

Members noted details of the report circulated at the meeting, noting the closing date for objections to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala being 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2005. The date of confirmation of the CPO will depend on whether or not objections are made.

### **Laghey to Ballintra resurfacing.**

Members were advised regarding the Laghey to Ballintra road, tenders were received last week by the NRDO and it was hoped to be complete by mid August with a budget of €1m. The resurfacing would start at Kee's in Laghey and continue towards Coxtown.

### **N15 Tullyearl Roundabout**

A report was circulated at the meeting by Mr. R Irwin providing an update on the N15 Tullyearl Roundabout Scheme. Members noted construction commenced 25<sup>th</sup> January and completion was expected in July 2005. Members were advised that the old road from Donegal town would be closed for a period as part of this project. Notices had appeared in the local papers and it was hoped to have the road operational as soon as possible.

### **N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points)**

A report was circulated to the meeting, informing Members it is intended to split the scheme into two phases after completion of the Route Selection Report. Mountcharles to Inver will be first and then Inver to Five Points.

DEAC	22.06	Other Roads Matters
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### **L.I.S.**

In response to a query raised by Cllr Kennedy regarding L.I.S. allocation, Mr. P Thomas advised confirmation of the allocation had not been received to date. Members would be informed as soon as the allocation was known.

### **Dunkineely**

Cllr Boyle congratulated Roads staff on the works carried out in Dunkineely. He expressed concern however that the opportunity was not taken to install ducting for the ESB cables along the street. Mr. Thomas advised that the allocation was insufficient to cover this work however these works could be carried out at a future date.

### **Disabled Parking in Killybegs**

Cllr Pringle requested the disabled parking spaces on the Diamond, Killybegs be altered as the current spaces provided are too narrow and suggested signs at windscreen level be erected stating Disabled Parking Only. Mr P Thomas undertook to follow up the matter.

### **Car Park in Dunkineely**

Cllr Boyle raised the possibility of the purchase of property to provide car parking in Dunkineely. Mr Thomas advised Members his preliminary estimates were that it would cost approximately €200,000 for 20 spaces which was working out very expensive, but advised he would examine the issue and revert back to Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

### **Sign at Fintra Road**

As requested by Cllr Boyle, Mr. Thomas undertook to have the speed limit sign at Fintra Road moved back 10 metres in the coming weeks.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>23.00</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
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**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.