

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2005 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE,  
LIFFORD

C/169/05     MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. P. McGowan, Cathaoirleach, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, J. Harte, D. Larkin, N. McBride, T. McDaid, M. McDonald, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, B. O'Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.

C/170/05     APOLOGIES

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

C/171/05     OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. Gary Martin, S.E.O, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Annmarie Crawford, S.O., Corporate Services.

C/172/05     CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001 on the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McBride, it was resolved that any member who wished could attend the conference listed below:-

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Environmental Conference, to be held at the Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, from 21<sup>st</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2005.

C/173/05     TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO CIVIC  
AMENITY SITE AT CARNAMUGGAGH,  
LETTERKENNY

Members considered the report, circulated previously, in relation to the above.

Clr. Larkin noted that the report had only become available on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and there had been insufficient time at the meeting to consider the issues involved. He advised that he had asked Letterkenny Town Council to look at the facilities needed, particularly, in relation to housing needs. Skips, he indicated, were not the way forward.

Clr. Larkin also advised that he did not have a problem with the Part VIII itself but that it was essential that a delegation from both the Town Council and Donegal County Council meet to examine the technicalities involved in developing such a site.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to Civic Amenity Site, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny, was approved.

#### C/174/05 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

##### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Cathaoirleach advised that because of other commitments, he wished to change the date for the 2005 Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council.

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. McBride, it was resolved to hold the 2005 Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June, at 11.00am in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford.

##### COMPUTERS FOR MEMBERS

Enquiring as to current developments on the provision of laptops for members, Clr. McGowan was informed by the Meetings Administrator, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, that an update on the provision of same would be provided during the course of the meeting.

At a later stage in the meeting, members were informed that laptops had been delivered to the Information Systems Department and that I.S. Staff were currently loading the relevant programmes. It was envisaged that the new computers would be delivered to members over the coming weeks.

Clr. Conaghan was advised to contact the I.S. Department in relation to the use of a filter system for junk email.

#### UDARAS ELECTIONS

Congratulations were extended to the successful candidates in the recent Udaras Elections – Grainne McGeady, Clr. David Alcorn, Clr. Brian O’Domhnaill and Clr. Padraig Doherty.

#### REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, STRANORLAR

Members were reminded that the official opening of the Regional Training Centre in Stranorlar was due to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. It was noted that this centre would now provide valuable training facilities for Water Services and Roads staff.

#### SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS

The Cathaoirleach informed members that the third draft of the report on the designation of special speed limits was now with the Department with proposals included to drop speed limits by up to two levels on designated roads.

Clr. Conaghan enquired as to the extent of the legal advice obtained in relation to Council decisions on speed limits. Concern was also expressed that previous representations made to the N.R.A. regarding speed limits had not yielded positive conclusions.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that the third version of the report on speed limits in designated zones had been forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Martin Cullen. The final draft, he noted, was, therefore, not available for consideration by Donegal County Council at this time.

He informed members that the legal advice obtained from the Council’s Solicitors had indicated that it would be safe for members to amend speed limits up or down given that the right to do so had been conferred on the Council as a body.

Clr. Reid alluded to the practice of raising the level of National Primary Roads by 3 to 4 inches which he stated was a particularly dangerous feature especially on roads with no hard shoulder.

BORDER MIDLANDS WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members were informed that a report had been received from the Border Midlands Western Regional Assembly detailing the importance of Knock International Airport to the B.M.W. Region and that copies of the report were available from the County Secretary's Office.

MEETING WITH DERRY CITY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the arrangements for the forthcoming meeting between Clr. G. O'Hara, Mayor of Derry, the Chief Executive of Derry City Council, Mr. Tony McGurk and Donegal County Council. This, he advised, would focus primarily on Cross Border Roads.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY U.S.A. TRIP

The recent trip to the U.S.A. for St. Patrick's Day celebrations had been a resounding success, Clr. McGowan noted, with every effort made to promote tourism and enterprise for the county. He thanked the Council staff who had organised the trip, Ms. Annmarie Conlon, Communications Officer and Mr. Peadar MacRory, Senior Engineer for their contributions to the success of the venture.

C/175/05

GREEN CARD AMNESTY- ILLEGAL IRISH IMMIGRANTS

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

“That this Council pursue methods of obtaining a green card amnesty for all so called “Illegal Irish immigrants” living in America.”

Members were in agreement that now was the time to call for a green card amnesty. This, it was agreed should involve lobbying U.S. Statesmen and highlighting the issue in the principal house of Government in the United States. It was recognised that many of these Irish immigrants were in the U.S. not by choice but through circumstance. It was agreed that the Department of Foreign Affairs should liase closely with the U.S. Government to procure green cards for Irish immigrants.

On the proposal of Clr. McBride, seconded by Cr. Blaney, it was agreed that the motion be forwarded to all of the relevant authorities and the Department of Foreign Affairs. In supporting the motion, Clr. Alcorn advised that a copy of the wording should also be circulated to the Oireachtas members in the county.

Clr. Pearse Doherty noted; however, that immigrants in this country at present were finding themselves in a similar type situation.

Thanking members for their support, Clr. McBride requested that a copy of the motion be circulated to all Councils in the country.

C/176/05 LETTERKENNY TO MILFORD ROAD

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

“That this Council acquire the necessary funding to provide a suitable road from Letterkenny to Milford to cater for the volume of traffic using this route at present.”

Members were informed that the Letterkenny to Ramelton section of this road was prioritised this year for funding under the EU Co-Financed Scheme. A grant of €300,000 had been allocated by DOEHLG to continue works at Cashelshanaghan for 2005. Funding of €60,000 had also been prioritised from the Restoration Improvement Scheme this year for works at the Cup and Saucer.

Due to the strategic nature of this road and the high volume of traffic (approx 7000 AADT) with a relatively high percentage of heavy goods vehicles (17%) it was essential that this route continued to be prioritised for funding.

The Ramelton to Milford section of roadway carried approximately half the volume of traffic than that on Letterkenny-Ramelton and had been prioritised under the Restoration Improvement Scheme over the past two years with approximately 2km having been done last year and further improvement of 1km planned this year from McAdoos corner towards Ramelton, costing €70,000.

Any further prioritisation of this road would be discussed with the local members at Area Committee Meetings.

Clr. McGarvey advised that this was a very serious issue and that there should be no difficulty in improving the road in the short term given its importance for tourism in the region and the continuous presence of a substantial volume of road users.

Clr. Larkin requested that the Roads Directorate make a submission to the Council on the volume versus length aspect of road improvement. It would be helpful, he advised, if the Milford to Letterkenny road could be designated as the main project on the Milford Electoral Priority List.

Clr. Blaney called for the Letterkenny-Ramelton road to be placed in a higher position on the county list for EU –Co-Funding.

Clr. O’Domhnaill urged the Director of Roads & Transportation, Mr. John McLaughlin and the members of the Milford Electoral Area to examine more closely the use of Gaeltacht Strategic Road Funding.

Clr. Pearse Doherty requested further clarification on the €500,000 that members had allocated to the Roads Programme. He queried whether €400,000 was now to be divided among the six electoral areas, with the remaining €100,000 used for insurance costs. It was essential, he added, that the roads budget remain intact and that any extra monies be diverted to road cleaning and the fixing of potholes.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation agreed to examine the traffic issue by checking road counts and to update members at Electoral Area Level.

C/177/05

LIFEGUARD AT BALLYMASTOKER BAY

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

“That Donegal County Council considers locating a lifeguard at the Portsalon end of Ballymastoker Bay and for same to commence this summer.”

Members were informed that given the proximity of the jet-ski centre and working pier to the stated location, it was felt that provision of a lifeguard here may only encourage swimming activity at a potentially hazardous location. The Council’s Water Safety Officer had however referred the

matter to the Irish Water Safety and the matter would be considered further when a reply was received, and in light of budgetary considerations.

Clr. Blaney advised that the provision of a lifeguard was essential given the volume of visitors who used the beach. He noted that there were a number of guards located at the other end of the beach and that there was scope for division of the service. Members were also informed that the beach was used regularly by the Irish Water Safety Association.

Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, agreed to take on board members comments. He said that the Water Safety Officer had confirmed that if a guard was put in place it would signal that the beach was a safe place to swim even though a considerable number of jet ski enthusiasts used the beach.

C/178/05

#### DRUMBOE MARTYRS MONUMENT

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

“That this Council commences work immediately on the masterplan for all lands zoned in and around the Drumboe Martyrs Monument in the new Ballybofey/Stranorlar Area Plan.”

Members were informed that the priority work this year was the review of the County Development Plan which was underway at present and must be delivered within the strict statutory timescale set out in the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Accordingly, all the resources of the Central Planning Unit were focused on this review together with completion of work on the review of the Local Area Plans for Gweedore, Ballyshannon and Killybegs.

It was proposed to bring a report to each Electoral Area Committee in due course in connection with the preparations of Local Area Plans (LAPs) etc. It would be a matter for each Committee to prioritise a list of LAPs, masterplan etc.

Clr. A. Bonner asked the Director of Planning & Economic Development to review his directorates commitment to the project in the coming weeks.

Clr. Pearse Doherty noted that there should be active consultation with local people before the project commenced.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this would be a good opportunity to apply for Peace and Reconciliation monies and requested that the Director of Planning liase with Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise in relation to same.

Mr. Coyle confirmed that the Central Planning Unit were at present heavily involved with the review of the County Development Plan and agreed to revisit the issue in June.

C/179/05

STRANORLAR/LIFFORD BY PASS ROUTE

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council negotiate with the NRA to expedite the planning and building of the new proposed Stranorlar/Lifford bypass route.”

Members were informed that this matter would be raised again with the NRA at the earliest opportunity. At the moment, the priority for the National Primary Projects was as follows:

1. Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass
2. Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass
3. Manorcunningham/Lifford/Strabane Realignment
4. Lifford to Stranorlar Realignment

Clr. Reid said that he was extremely angry that the Lifford to Stranorlar road was being dropped from sight, once again. Given the importance of the route for development in the Finn Valley area this was, he noted, a priority issue.

Clr. Crawford noted that at a recent B.R.A. meeting with N.R.A. officials it had been advised that the Lifford to Stranorlar road would not be in receipt of NRA funding in 2005.

Clr. Larkin said that while there was no funding available in the current year, the NRA had given a commitment that this route would remain on future project lists.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that €1m had been requested to advance the design of the route, but that the NRA had confirmed that there would be no funding this year as they wanted to advance two other major schemes in the county. He advised that he could ask to meet with the NRA to discuss the matter.

Clr. Reid stated that a special delegation should meet with the NRA to further advance funding issues.

C/180/05 REPORTING TO MEMBERS ON SPECIFIC INSTANCE HOUSES

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council improve and streamline the reporting structures to the elected members for the delivery of Specific Instance (S.I.) Houses from the date of approval and not from the date of commencement of construction.”

Members were informed that presently the progress reports on S.I.'s related solely to the construction stage. There were many other stages involved in the provision of an S.I. prior to construction and it was acknowledged that this could be a slow and cumbersome process for all concerned. It was proposed to bring proposals to streamline this process before the Strategic Policy Committee on Housing and Building Services as soon as it was established. The proposals may include a two stage process where the applicant could be approved in principle based on housing need etc. subject to being able to furnish a suitable site. The criteria for a suitable site would encompass, among others, items such as buildability, clear title, potable water supply on site, necessary easements relating to vision lines, rights of way or wayleaves, if necessary, etc. Upon finalising these matters then the application could be formally approved and the provision of the S.I. could proceed without any unnecessary delays to the applicant or the Council. Such proposals, if

adopted by the SPC, could then be brought before the elected members for adoption.

Clr. Slowey acknowledged that the level of reporting on the progress of S.I. Houses was inadequate for members at Electoral Area level. Mechanisms within the system were slow and he requested that the matter be considered by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee. It was essential he affirmed that members received confirmation as soon as the house was approved.

Members concurred with Clr. Slowey's assessment and agreed that an overhaul of the system was required particularly in relation to planning delays and staffing levels.

Clr. McGarvey noted that in many cases the delay lay with the transfer of the land in question. A short information booklet for S.I. applicants would, he advised, be most helpful.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development in reply to Clr. Pearse Doherty's query on the convening of SPC Meetings, advised that an agenda would issue in the next few days for the inaugural meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee. He agreed that the Planning Service would look at providing S.I. applications with the same level of service as ordinary planning applications.

The provision of an information booklet on making an application for an S.I. would be examined.

C/181/05 MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS

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

“That this Council set up a system that the elected members get priority from various sections of the Council to the reps they make and that they receive replies within one month of making those reps.”

Members were informed that over the course of 2005, a contact management system (eDirect) was being implemented across the organisation. This would facilitate

the systematic recording, tracking and analysis of contacts (including members representations) and enable automatic acknowledgements to be issued in respect of every contact. The system would also enable standards of service to be automatically tracked, with escalation of cases where these were not met.

Managers and staff had been reminded on several occasions of the importance of ensuring that the representations of the elected members were followed up and responded to expeditiously. Pending the introduction of the new system, every effort would be made to ensure that representations were dealt with in an effective and efficient manner.

Clr. Alcorn said that he was concerned about the lack of replies to members representations. He recognised that there was a lack of resources in some sections but urged all Directors to investigate ways of improving the situation. The attendance of the Directors of Service at Electoral Area Meetings would, he suggested, be of enormous benefit to the individual members. Clr. McDaid advised that the Corporate Policy Group should look at the practice of continually adjourning Council meetings. He suggested that Councillor's business be placed at the beginning of the agenda for every second meeting.

Clr. Pearse Doherty noted that understaffing was a major problem and advised that this was a direct result of the Government embargo.

It was generally agreed that:-

- Each Director of Service should investigate the situation regarding replies within his own directorate.
- That the issue of reporting to members be considered by the Corporate Policy Group
- That a system be put in place to track members representations

Clr. Conaghan called on members to log their queries and when an issue arose to contact the Director of Service concerned.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, in reply, acknowledged that members

representations should be dealt with promptly. He advised that the eDirect system was being extended to all areas and would be capable of tracking enquiries from Councillors and members of the public.

The Customer Action Plan for Donegal County Council was also being prepared, he added.

Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, informed members that work was at an advanced stage on the Customer Action Plan. It was envisaged, he added, that the plan would include a timeframe for replies to issue to members and the general public. The system would provide a benchmark for dealing with queries and ultimately ensure a more efficient follow up of representations.

Clr. Alcorn requested that an update on the matter be provided for the September Council Meeting.

C/182/05 REGISTRATION OF QUARRIES

Members were circulated with a copy of the new registration details for owners and operators of quarries in the county. This detailed the need to supply full details of all operations to the planning authority before the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2005 (Vide Appendix I)

C/183/05 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Members agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch until 2.30pm.

C/184/05 DOE CASTLE- FLAGSHIP TOURISM PROJECT

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

“That Donegal County recognise Doe Castle as a key flagship tourism project in the county and that funding be made available for its reinstatement.”

Members were informed that a report on the current status of Doe Castle would be prepared in conjunction with the relevant tourism authorities and brought back for discussion to a future Electoral Area Meeting. The report would detail the probable opportunities offered by a re-instated facility and an initial estimate as to costs associated with same.

Clr. O'Domhnaill stated that this was a key tourism project and advised that Donegal County Council should

- Urge Duchas to prepare the design and costing elements of the project
- Set up a working group to include Failte Ireland, North West Tourism, and other interested bodies to progress the project

Ancillary works also needed to be completed he added, including the cleaning of the carparks, replacement of seating benches and the wooden fencing around the picnic area.

Clr. Pearse Doherty queried the timeframe involved in bringing the report on the status of Doe Castle to members.

Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer advised that members comments had been taken on board and that he would request a meeting with the various agencies involved before the report was finalised.

Members expressed concern that the Fisheries and Coastal Protection Committee had not met for some time.

In reply, Mr. Gary Martin confirmed that the Corporate Services and the Community, Culture & Enterprise Divisions were looking at the various sectoral interests on Council Committees and attempting to streamline the processes involved. Given the fact that this was due to be discussed at the next Corporate Policy Group Meeting, he advised that it would be inappropriate to hold a meeting at this time.

On the proposal of Clr. McGonagle, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was agreed that a meeting of the Fisheries & Coastal Protection Committee be convened as soon as possible.

The County Manager affirmed that the purpose of the rationalisation of the Committee structure was to make firm recommendations and assess basic needs, particularly in areas where the Council did not have power. He asked members to bear with the executive until full recommendations on all Committees operated through the County Development Board were confirmed.

Clr. Pringle advised that if streamlining were to take place it would require an input from all elected members..

The County Manager recommended that the Cathaoirleach and the Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees meet with the Party Whips to discuss the rationalisation of the sectoral Committees.

C/185/05

GREEN PAPER ON RE-UNIFICATION

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

“That Donegal County Council welcomes the Sinn Féin proposals for a Green Paper on re-unification, calling on the Irish Government to initiate a consultation process across a society on the future shape of a new Ireland-this Council recognises the need for adequate preparation in advance of re-unification and endorses the call for the Dublin Government to lead an immediate and extensive consultation process with all sections of society-including Unionism - on a green paper for the re-unification of Ireland”

Prior to consideration of the item, members consented to Clr. Doherty’s request to vary the motion by excluding the words “the Sinn Fein.”

Proposing the motion, as varied, Clr. Doherty advised that the time was right for all parties to engage and develop a strategy for re-unification. Demographic patterns, he noted, would eventually favour this process. The motion was seconded by Clr. McDaid.

An amendment was proposed by Clr. O’Domhnaill, seconded by Clr. McBride to read as follows:-

“That Donegal County Council

- supports the political goal of a United Ireland and recognises that the unity of the Irish people is as important as the unity of Irish territory,
- welcomes the efforts of all parties who have sought to secure in peace and agreement the unity of Ireland and its

people, and condemns those who use violence or the threat of violence to further their political objectives,

- notes that the Good Friday Agreement was ratified by a majority of Irish people in the first example of All Ireland self determination since 1918,
- recognises that a most important issue facing the people of Ireland today, North and South is to remove the causes of conflict to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted,
- maintains that all parties who signed up to the Agreement are duty bound to honour their word, to make maximum effort to overcome the obstacles to its full implementation,
- acknowledges the current difficulties in the process and the breakdown of trust, and believes that crucial to this being re-established is the cessation of all paramilitary and related criminal activity,
- believes that the full rigours of the law should be used to counter these who continue to engage in the destructive agenda of violence and the scourges of sectarianism, violence, criminality, intimidation and punishment beatings.”

Clr. Pearse Doherty questioned the validity of the proposed amendment under Standing Orders, on the basis that it was a new motion. He then sought clarification from the Meetings Administrator on the legality of the amendment.

The Meetings Administrator, Mr. Eunan Sweeney advised that he was prepared, if desired, to read out the relevant Standing Orders, but that he had no function in relation to ruling on the amendment.

The Cathaoirleach reminded members that the Standing Orders were drawn up in consultation with members themselves. It was possible, he said, to revisit Standing Orders and change the rules. Ultimately, the Standing Orders Committee would have to meet and discuss the situation.

The Cathaoirleach thus ruled that the amendment was valid and proceeded to put the amendment to the meeting.

A recorded vote on the amendment was called for by the Cathaoirleach.

The vote resulted in 10 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

Those voting in favour were:-

Clrs. Alcorn, Brogan, Crawford, Harte, McBride, McDonald, McGonagle, McGowan, O'Domhnaill and O'Neill (10)

Those voting against were:-

Clrs. Pearse Doherty, McDaid and Pringle (3)

Clrs. Larkin and McGarvey abstained.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

The amendment was then put as a substantive motion and a recorded vote was taken resulting in 11 for, 3 against with 2 abstentions.

Those voting in favour were:-

Clrs. Alcorn, Brogan, Crawford, Donaghey, Harte, McBride, McDonald, McGonagle, McGowan, O'Domhnaill and O'Neill. (11)

Those voting against were:-

Clrs. Pearse Doherty, McDaid and Pringle.

Clrs. Larkin and McGarvey abstained.

The Cathaoirleach declared the substantive motion carried.

C/186/05

FOOTPATH AND PUBLIC LIGHTING AT CHAPEL  
GLEN ROAD, CLONMANY

The following motion submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn, was moved on his behalf by Clr. Pringle and seconded by Clr. McDaid:-

“That Donegal County Council will construct a footpath and public lighting at Chapel Glen Road, Clonmany, to assist pedestrians to walk safely from Clonmany to Ballyliffin.”

Members were informed that this section of footpath was on the list of footpaths prioritised by the Inishowen Electoral Area and would be among those considered for construction during 2005 should funding become available.

Budget 2005 contained an allocation of €1m from development charges which possibly could be used to fund these two types of improvements. The fund was currently being analysed to determine what locations the money had been collected in and if there were specific conditions on spending it. When the required details were available, the matter would be brought to the Local Area Meetings for prioritisation.

C/187/05

ONE WAY SYSTEM IN MOVILLE SQUARE

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

“To ask this Council that a one way system be introduced immediately in Moville Square.”

Members were informed that Road Design carried out a detailed junction analysis on the following roads in Moville in 2004:

R238 Main Street  
R238 Malin Street (Malin Road)  
R241 Greencastle Road  
L13414 James Street

Following the analysis, a number of proposals were recommended to improve the efficiency of the Malin Road/Main Street Junction. These proposals included the construction of a designated left-turn lane at the junction which should help reduce delays and queues on both the Carndonagh approach and to traffic exiting the car-park in Moville Square. This revised layout at the junction had been incorporated in the contract documents for the Moville EIS Phase 2 Project, which was due to commence on site in

September, 2005 (to avoid disruption in Moville during the summer months.)

The following tasks/issues would be required to be progressed before introducing a one-way system in Moville:

Consideration of additional traffic generated at Malin Road/Main Street Junction as one-way traffic was forced onto the Carndonagh approach (or alternatively onto the Greencastle approach):

- Origin Destination Survey
- Turning Movements counts
- Stricter parking restrictions inside Moville Square
- Consideration of road lines and signage required
- Consultation with the Gardai, pending recommendation to change traffic flow
- Preparation and adoption of relevant bye-laws
- Origin destination survey and turning movement counts were carried out as part of the previous junction analysis, but would need to be updated after the junction improvements had been implemented.

The Roads Design Department recommended that the effects of the junction improvements should be assessed over a period of time before further progressing a one-way system.

Clr. McDonald outlined the need for a one-way system to alleviate congestion problems in Moville.

C/188/05 SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR BURNFOOT, BRIDGEND AREA

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council progress without delay, a sewerage scheme and other associated infrastructural needs for the Burnfoot/Bridgend area.”

Members were informed that the Bridgend Sewerage Scheme was currently listed on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a Serviced

Land Initiative Scheme was 40% maximum funded by DEHLG. Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme was currently not listed on any funded programme and was not part of the scope of the Bridgend Scheme at the time of application. Notwithstanding this, the consultants for Bridgend were asked to look at the future servicing of Burnfoot and this was reflected in the preliminary report which had been received. The general thrust of the preliminary report was for the treatment works to be centralised at one location with pumping stations located at appropriate collection points and this would appear to be a reasonable approach in the long term and in the context of major scheme funding. In October, 2004 and at the request of the Inishowen Elected Members, developers were invited to make submissions in accordance with a published advertisement in the local press. Three submissions were received by the closing date of 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2004, 2 from Bridgend and 1 from Burnfoot. Even when combined the submissions were not of a scale that would be sufficient to provide adequate matching funding for the extent of infrastructure identified in the preliminary report. The sensible short term approach was therefore to retain and enhance treatment capacity in both Bridgend and Burnfoot in conjunction with actual developments. In this context, separate strategies were being prepared and costed which would form the basis of special development charges being levied on applicants in connection with infrastructure provision and consistent with the long term strategy as identified in the Preliminary Report. Where developers provided the required infrastructure, the development charges would be adjusted accordingly. If there was no actual development demand then schemes in either town cannot progress under the Serviced Land Initiative Programme.

C/189/05

BALLYLIFFIN AND CLONMANY SEWERAGE SCHEMES

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

“That this Council discuss the upgrading and extension of the Ballyliffin and Clonmany Sewerage Schemes.”

Members were informed that Ballyliffin and Clonmany Sewerage Schemes were currently not on any programme. However, with reference to the Assessment of Needs 2003 both schemes were listed as joint 6<sup>th</sup> on the Wastewater Priority list for the county. The reason for the placement was that the population equivalents for each of these schemes was circa 1000.

Clr. McGonagle stressed the urgency of progressing these schemes given the fact that there were now five hotels located in the Ballyliffin area.

Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, informed Clr. McGonagle that sewerage schemes in towns and villages were dealt with by the Water Services Investment Programme. The Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, he noted, ultimately decided what schemes moved forward. In this case, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive was the driving force. Thus, he advised that as both areas were below the required population thresholds, it was unlikely that they would be dealt with until the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive were met.

Clr. McGonagle queried whether the tourist population figures had been taken into consideration and asked that a progress report be made available at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting.

C/190/05 SEWERAGE EXTENSION AT BUNAGEE, LETTERKENNY

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Harte, the following motion was adopted:-

“I propose that this Council discuss the sewerage extension to the Bunagee area of Letterkenny with the current sewerage scheme.”

Members were informed that Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Contract 1 Trunk Sewers did not include the construction of sewerage network for the Bunagee area of Letterkenny. However, Contract 2 (DBO Wastewater Treatment Works and Sludge Treatment Centre) included a pumping station to transfer foul sewerage back from the treatment centre at

Bunagee to the treatment works at Magherennan. This gave an opportunity to develop a sewerage network in the Bunagee area. Given that the existing development was mostly commercial it would not be funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government under National Water Services Pricing Policy. Therefore, the Council would need to generate the necessary funding through development charges.

Clr. Brogan said that he was extremely unhappy with the reply to this motion. Effectively, he noted, that parts of Letterkenny were being failed by the Council's Water Services Department and asked the County Manager to investigate the lack of sanitary infrastructure in the area. He also called for the Directors of Service to put together a blueprint for each Electoral Area, detailing exactly the infrastructural provisions for the duration of this Council.

Clr. Larkin advised that the existing development was mostly commercial and enquired as to where all the development charges levied had gone. He outlined the need to have a definitive plan of action in place and asked the Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. Jim Holohan, and Mr. Jim Hyland, Senior Executive Engineer to examine the possibility of taking the sewers out the Ramelton Road.

Mr. Jim Holohan, in reply, affirmed that there were a number of issues involved, and that he too was frustrated with the pace of development. The County Manager, he advised, had set up a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 with Government officials to assess the physical problems on the ground. He accepted that the Department had changed the goal posts over the years, noting that they would no longer pay for network extensions for the purpose of housing.

Clr. Brogan requested that the Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services review the commitment given to members in relation to provision of sewerage facilities in the Bunagee area.

C/191/05 DELEGATION TO MEET THE MINISTER WITH A  
VIEW TO REDUCING THE COST OF GROUP WATER  
SCHEMES

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Harte:-

“That the Council send a delegation to meet the Minister for the Environment with a view to reducing the costs of many group water schemes in the county”

Members were informed that this matter was subject of discussion at the September meeting of the Council on foot of a proposal by Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. Alcorn:

“That this Council request the Department of Environment to increase grant aid to the people awaiting a water supply where group schemes are uneconomical.”

That discussion concluded with a commitment by the County Manager to write to the Minister detailing the members concerns and to include it on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting with local T.D.'s and Oireachtas members. A letter was sent to the Department outlining the matter following the meeting. The matter was again discussed by the Council at the November meeting. The text of the letter was as follows:

“24<sup>th</sup> September, 2004

Secretary General  
Water Services  
Floor 2 Block 1  
Irish Life Centre  
Lower Abbey Street  
Dublin 1

FAO Mr. Terry Allen, Principal Officer

Re: Grants for Group Water Schemes

A Chara,

A motion adopted by the members of Donegal County Council on 06<sup>th</sup> September, 2004 reads as follows:-

“That the Council request the Department of Environment to increase grant aid to the people awaiting a water supply where Group Schemes are uneconomical.”

In 2004 eighteen schemes were tendered and approved by the Council to go to construction. Only eleven of these schemes had proved financially viable and had actually gone to construction. The others were on hold because the unit cost to the members was unaffordable. Examples of the costs on these schemes to the members (i.e. in addition to the maximum grant) was as follows:

<i>SCHEME</i>	<i>HOUSEHOLDS</i>	<i>HOUSEHOLD Cost</i>
Meenaward/Sledrin	34	€6,535
Ballinabreen	11	€5,191
Three Glens	74	€7,137
Racecourse Road	15	€6,960
Leitir Extension	17	€4,538
Halftown/Skelpy	13	€4,480
Terhoran/Glebe	47	€4,100

In Clár designated areas, where unit costs are high “because of sparse population and difficult ground conditions” and the unit cost to each member exceeded €1,143, additional funding was available. The above schemes satisfy the same conditions but were not located in designated Clár areas. As we progress the Rural Water Strategic Plan forward, the bulk of the work would move to the more sparsely populated areas. The Council was concerned that the capping of the grant at €6,475.66 per domestic connection would result in serious hardship for people in these areas, and hereby requests that the maximum grant per house be raised, or that some other additional funding be made available, to accommodate groups in this situation.”

Clr. Harte outlined the problems faced by Schemes in areas of dispersed housing. He advised that a delegation should meet with Mr. Eamon O’Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, to request the extension of Clár funding on a one off basis to a number of uneconomical group schemes.

Clr. Donaghey informed members that representations had been made to Minister O’Cuiv in relation to a number of such schemes in the Inishowen area. She confirmed that he had agreed to devise a national scheme encompassing a broad range of unaffordable schemes. As a result she asked Clr. Harte to delay meeting with the Minister until he had sufficient time to assess and respond fully to the situation.

At this juncture, Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, circulated to members a copy of correspondence received from Mr. Terry Allen, Principal Officer, Water Services Section, outlining the current position in relation to grants for Group Water Schemes.

Members acknowledged that unaffordable Group Water Schemes in areas of dispersed housing patterns should be given greater priority at national level.

Clr. Pringle expressed concern that the matter was being continually shifted between the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services informed members that the Department’s priority at present was centred on improving water quality in existing schemes. Referring to Mr. Terry Allen’s response on the issue of grant aid, he urged the Rural Water Monitoring Committee to move the issue forward.

In reply, to Clr. Crawford’s query on the level of responsibility bestowed on group scheme trustees, he advised that in all cases the water was the responsibility of Donegal County Council, but that private schemes were the responsibility of the group in question. He noted that in future group schemes which were not taken over by the Council would have to operate under licence.

Clr. Harte advised that he wanted the meeting to proceed on the basis that there would be a two to three month waiting period required in any instance.

C/192/05

DEVELOPMENT OF SKATEBOARD PARK

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

“That this Council make contact with Fingal County Council to discuss how they are developing their new skateboard park and how they are going to insure and finance same.”

Members were informed that the Council would make contact with Fingal County Council to obtain the clarification and details suggested. It should be noted that a previous proposal for a skateboard park when investigated indicated a substantial increase in the premium to cover public liability insurance for such infrastructure.

Clr. Larkin said that he had been in contact with Fingal County Council and indications were that the cost of providing a skateboard park would not be prohibitive. Insurance costs, he noted, were being dealt with by central Government. This was one issue in which the Youth Council could also be involved, he added. He requested that Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community, Culture & Enterprise progress the matter further, and that contact be made with the Parks Division of Dublin City Council in relation to same.

Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise agreed to follow up on the work carried out to date by Clr. Larkin.

C/193/05

ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE NORTH WEST REGION

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

“In light of the recent announcement of staff cuts in Adria in Strabane, which have further deepened the job crisis in the East Donegal areas, that this Council meets with the Councils of Strabane, Derry, Omagh and Fermanagh to develop and inter Council approach to tackling the economic crisis in the North West Region.”

Members were informed that a joint delegation from the Council, County Development Board and comprised of eight elected members and the County Manager met with a group of eight Government Ministers and the Taoiseach in February to outline, inter alia, the requirement for a regional and cross border context. A report on this was recently made

to the members by the County Manager. The North West Region Cross Border Group was also informed of this at its two most recent meetings. The request was met with an initial favourable reaction and a formal response was now awaited from the Government.

Clr. McDaid stated that immediate action was required to stem much job losses. He welcomed the forthcoming meeting between Derry City Council and Roads officials in relation to cross border roads.

Members acknowledged that much work needed to be done and that every effort should be made to market the whole of the North West. Donegal County Council, they noted, should accommodate all prospective employers and promote where possible an inter Council approach. It was also agreed that the key to innovation was education and training.

The calibre of the County Manager's efforts in supporting job creation was also acknowledged.

Clr. O'Neill said the Ballyshannon area had also been significantly affected by job losses, particularly in the crafts and ceramics sector. He advised that a cross border approach was the only way forward and called on the Community, Culture & Enterprise Division to liaise with local enterprise groups.

The County Manager stated that direct contact could be made with the relevant Councils and that the matter was already being considered by cross border bodies. The development of a business park in the Finn Valley area would also, he noted, be a massive boost to the South East of Donegal.

C/194/05

KILLYBEGS WASTE WATER SCHEME

“That Donegal County Council proceed with the Killybegs Waste Water Scheme.”

Members were informed that Killybegs Sewerage Scheme consisted of 2 contracts – Contract 1, Wastewater Treatment Works, main pumping station, rising mains, and outfall, and Contract 2, industrial and municipal networks. Both contracts were at contract document stage and required Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government approval to proceed to tender stage. Under the Department's

National Water Services Pricing Policy a Water Charging Report must also be approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government before the scheme could proceed. What this meant was that the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government must approve the funding mechanism for the scheme. Killybegs was complicated by the fact that agreement was reached with the Fish Processing Industry with regard to infrastructure provision which predated National Water Services Pricing Policy. In this context the Council had to submit a Water Charging Report to Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government before the Department will allow either contracts to proceed to tender stage. This report was expected to be submitted to the Department Environment, Heritage and Local Government by May 2005.

Clr. Pringle advised that he found it extremely difficult at present to obtain data on the status of a number of schemes. In relation to the Killybegs Scheme he had been informed in September that the contract documents had gone to the Department yet on contacting the relevant section had been told that the water charging report was outstanding. He therefore requested that information be provided to members on all of the capital schemes in the county. This report, he outlined, should detail exactly what documentation had gone to the Department and the response received on each particular scheme.

The County Manager informed members that it was envisaged that all schemes on the Water Services Investment Programme and on the Rural Water Programme would be considered at the Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

It was intended, he confirmed, to draw up a realistic programme of works with all relevant data being readily available to members. The aim was, he noted, to have a periodical review system. He agreed to report back to members on the progress made, either by the end of May or at the next appropriate General Purposes Committee Meeting.

C/195/05 HERITAGE TOWNS IN DONEGAL

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

“That this Council address the recognition of Heritage Towns in County Donegal and discuss their impact on history and tourism.”

Members were informed that the Community and Enterprise Division would shortly be bringing to each of the Electoral Areas a discussion paper revolving around tourism product development within each individual Electoral Area. The objective in this instance would be to maximise existing infrastructure and areas of competitive advantage within each electoral area with a view to developing micro tourism product and to add to the overall county and regional product. The projects would also act as a local amenity resource where appropriate. The capacity value that heritage towns in the county could bring to this sector could be discussed as part of that particular piece of work.

The CDB Culture Development Forum had identified the development of Heritage Towns as a priority issue for the project. The Council Heritage Office was now working on information brochures for each of the Heritage Towns. The “Heritage Town” concept was based on the principle that a number of towns with a strong physical heritage would be developed as being representative of the heritage of Ireland and that this development would have the dual effect of helping to protect the built environment and providing a marketing tool for the tourism industry in those towns and the country at large. In County Donegal, Bord Failte initiated the “Heritage Towns” scheme under the European Regional Development Fund Initiative (1995-1999). Two “Heritage Towns” in County Donegal were designated and marketed under this project:

Ardara (with a theme of weaving) and Ramelton (with a theme of architectural heritage). Five “Heritage Towns” in County Donegal had been identified in the Donegal County Development Plan (2000): Ardara, Ballyshannon, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe.

Clr. O'Neill said that the visual impact of Heritage Towns should not be underestimated especially in relation to the tourism product. He lamented the fact that both Ballyshannon and Raphoe designated as Heritage Towns in the County Development Plan 2000 had not been effectively recognised as such.

It was vital, he added, that Heritage Towns such as Moville, Raphoe, and Ballyshannon got visual recognition of their status.

It was agreed that visual recognition would provide a definite identity for all the areas concerned.

Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise informed members that the issues raised would be discussed at the forthcoming Electoral Area Meetings. The use of EU Co-Financed Peace monies for signage could also be investigated, he added.

The following questions and replies were noted.

C/196/05 COMPLETION OF N56 FORM LETTERKENNY TO JUNCTION AT TERMON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:

“What is the projected time-scale for completion of the N26 from Letterkenny to junction at Termon?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that the tender documents for the first 1km of this project (i.e. up to and including the Calhame Junction at Mountain Top) had been completed, and, subject to NRA approval, would be tendered in the coming weeks with construction expected to commence June of this year. Tender documents for the remainder of the Mountain Top to Illistrin scheme would be completed this year, and subject to NRA approval, this section was expected to be tendered at the end of 2005 for a construction start early 2006. The remainder of the N56 from Coolboy to Termon was expected to be a smaller scale project. A design allocation of €100,000 had been received in 2005 for this section and construction (widening and minor re-alignment) was expected to start in 2006.

C/197/05 UPGRADING OF TELEPHONE LINES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Does this Council have any influence over Telecom in upgrading telephone lines in the following areas – Ballyare, Rathmullan, Glenvar, Fanad?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that the County Council Roads Section were in contact with Eircom on an ongoing basis in relation to placing of ducts along the counties roadways in particular where improvement works were taking place. Where road improvement works were taking place, Eircom may elect to upgrade their lines. However, in general the Council had no influence in relation to upgrading lines which were solely a matter for Eircom.

C/198/05 RATHMULLAN – BUNCRANA CAR FERRY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

“When does Donegal County Council intend to start up the Rathmullan-Buncrana Car Ferry and how long do they intend to have this service in place for 2005?”

Clr. Blaney was informed that discussions were ongoing with the Lough Foyle Ferry Company Ltd. for the provision of a seasonal ferry service on the Rathmullan to Buncrana route from 19<sup>th</sup> May, through to the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2005. A draft contract was currently being prepared. The scale and duration of the ferry service was determined largely by the indicated availability of funding. The members allocated a figure of €100,000 in the 2005 budget to facilitate the provision of this service. It was likely that the service during 2005 would cost in excess of this for the period.

Funding was also being provided through the Donegal led Peace II Task Force to assist in the marketing activities of the Lough Swilly Ferry Service during 2005. A marketing plan was being finalised at present. There would be substantial marketing through various media including radio, newspapers and fliers. It should also be noted that a cross border project funded by Interreg IIIA and carried out in conjunction with Limavady Borough Council to support the development of a touring route (Atlantic Drift), which was

scheduled for launch in May, would also support the activities of both ferry services on the Foyle and on the Swilly and would assist in attracting additional visitor numbers to use the service.

C/199/05/ CLERK TYPIST TO THE BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“Have the Council any intention of appointing a Clerk Typist to the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Public Service Office.?”

Clr. Reid was informed that the Stranorlar Area Roads Office had its full complement of clerical staff at present (and the grade of clerk/typist no longer existed as a separate grade). With the investments made in Information Technology and the training of staff in I.T. skills, it was generally expected that staff would have a level of competence which would enable routine replies to be dealt with. Immediate arrangements would be put in place to resolve any difficulties being experienced by the members.

C/200/05 BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR SWIMMING POOL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“What progress have the Council made regarding the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Swimming Pool?”

Clr. Reid was informed that consultants were engaged for Ballybofey Stranorlar leisure centre to prepare a masterplan for the area south of Railway Road and north of the River Finn at Stranorlar and to identify a suitable location thereon for the proposed leisure centre. A suitable site was identified and preliminary costings were prepared for a leisure centre on that site. Following various funding applications and subsequent meetings, including a meeting with the Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, it became clear that the viability of the project on the site selected was in question given the limitations on available funding. It was therefore decided that the option of shared arrangements with Finn Valley AC would be examined. Layout plans had been received and a preliminary assessment had been completed which indicated that there was an opportunity for shared arrangements. A

revised and limited brief for the consultants was currently being prepared which would specify June 2005 as the target date for a progress report. The way forward should then be clearer and a more detailed programme could be developed.

C/201/05 UPGRADING OF WATERMAIN ON DONEGAL ROAD

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

“When is the Council going to upgrade the watermain on Donegal Road, Ballybofey as there is ongoing problems and both householders and business’s are severely handicapped regularly with no water in an area of town that is fastly expanding?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that the poor water pressure at Donegal Road, Ballybofey was due to the limited size of the water distribution network (5” C.I.) and the large demand generated by the bottling plant which was located in the area. it should be noted that this factory was the largest water user in the county and paid €250,000 in water charges in 2004. To improve the supply it was proposed to lay 3.5km of new 300mm diam. Water main at an estimated cost of €400,000. This work would be included in the Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme under the Water Services Investment Programme.

The situation was being continuously monitored and the area staff were liasing with the industry to minimise the impact of their water intake on local residents by scheduling their draw off at peak hours.

C/202/05 ONE STOP SHOP SCHEDULE

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

“What is the up to date situation on the One Stop Shop and what is the schedule for the next 12months?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that the progress, which would be made on the Stranorlar Public Services Centre, would be primarily influenced by the Council’s ability to put a funding package together. This funding package would require the approval of the elected members and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG).

The cost of the Council's Electoral Area brief was currently estimated at €4.4m. In addition the estimated cost of the proposed library was estimated at €1.2m.

The capital cost of libraries was normally funded by the DOEHLG to a maximum of 75% of the cost. The balance would require to be funded from the Council's own resources. Departmental approval for the library was awaited.

The members may be aware that the Council had made a submission to the Department for €1m funding towards the above cost. While the Department were generally supportive of this request they had requested further information in relation to the Council's ability to meet further commitments and also required confirmation that the accommodation requirements for other agencies would not be a burden to the Council.

The Council was in the process of getting the necessary guarantees from the various agencies.

In relation to the participation of other agencies, initially the NWHB had the major accommodation requirement. With the current ongoing reform of the Health Service, the time scale for their decision making was unclear at present. Work was ongoing in trying to ascertain their requirements, if any. It should be noted that the inclusion of the Health Service Executive in the project would result in a significant reduction in cost to the Council.

In relation to the Council's ability to meet existing financial commitments, and together with those which would arise with the completion of its building programme, i.e.

Stranorlar Public Service Centre, Phase II of the County House, Headquarters, the Council had appointed agents/auctioneers to sell some properties though out the county.

To date agents had been appointed for the following properties:-

Bundoran	Former Town Council building
Dungloe	Former Area Roads Office, Gweedore Road
Donegal Town	Former NRDO Office
Donegal Town	Plot purchased from M. McGettigans adjacent to car park
Letterkenny	Former reservoir site at Glencar

Letterkeeny            Former reservoir site at Windyhall  
Letterkenny            Plot at Doobalagh

In addition to the above, it was expected that agents would be appointed for other properties over the next 6 months including the former Letterkenny Area Roads, Sanitary, Housing Office and depot at the Pearse Road, Letterkenny. Work was ongoing on the relocation of existing depot facilities currently at this location.

It was considered that the appointment of a design team/developer was premature pending the completion of an overall accommodation schedule and the putting in place an overall finance package acceptable to both elected members and the DOEHLG.

C/203/05      CRUIT BRIDGE, KINCASSLAGH, TULLY BRIDGE, DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Will the Cruit Bridge, Kincasslagh and the Tully Bridge, Dungloe, which are extremely dangerous at the moment be repaired during 2005.”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that neither bridge was currently programmed for improvement works programme 2005. Road Design was currently compiling the priority bridge list for the draft programme for improvement works for 2005. The completed list would then be issued to the areas for discussion with the members at electoral area meetings to finalise and agree the priorities with respect to bridges for both 2005 and a waiting list for future years works. It was hoped that the bridge priority list would be issued for the April, 2005 Electoral Area Meetings.

C/204/05      DONEGAL “FORESHORE PLAN”

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“What progress was envisaged on the “Donegal Foreshore Plan” during 2005?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that preparation of the local plan for Dungloe, including the foreshore area, was at an

advanced stage. It was envisaged that discussion documents would be circulated to the Electoral Area Committee in the near future for approval. The publication of a draft plan for public consultation should occur shortly after this with the aim of having the local area plan well progressed by the end of 2005.

C/205/05 WORK ON THE N56

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

“Can Donegal County Council prioritise as part of the work on the N56, the need for a hard shoulder/footpath along the following sections of the N56; Creeslough to Marble Hill Junction, Fanmore to Falcarragh, Falcarragh to Gortahork, Meenacuing to Crolly (via Arduns)

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that as part of the ongoing works on the N56, the County Council did generally provide hard shoulders and footpaths inside built up area speed limits where deemed appropriate.

As an example, a hard shoulder had been provided on the section of road from Meenacuing to Gweedore Station which was completed two years ago. The other sections mentioned would be considered for the same types of works when these sections were prioritised for upgrading with the NRA.

C/206/05 SALE OF COUNCIL OFFICES, DUNGLOE AND LEASE OFFERED BY “ROSSES COMMUNITY PROJECT”

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

When and by whom was the decision taken by the Council to put the old Council offices in Dungloe up for sale, and has the option of a long term lease that is being offered by the "Rosses Community Project" being examined, which would allow them to continue the outstanding work that they are currently doing in that community?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the financial implications arising from the construction of the Dungloe Public Services Centre, together with phase 1 of Council Headquarters and

the other 4 Public Services Centres had placed a considerable burden on the Council's finances. It was considered that the sale of some assets was required in order for the Council to be in a position to complete its Public Services Building Programme i.e. Stranorlar Public Services Centre and Phase II of Headquarters. This had been alluded to in a recent response from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to a submission made by the Council for part funding of the Stranorlar Public Services Centre. While the Department stated that they were generally supportive of this submission they stated that the support "has to be balanced against the Council's overall financial position and the further burden which this project will entail for the Council."

It was in this context that Senior Management agreed to the procurement of auctioneers to dispose of the following properties:-

Bundoran	Former Town Council building
Dungloe	Former Area Roads Office, Gweedore Road
Donegal Town	Former NRDO Office
Donegal Town	Plot purchased from M. McGettigans adjacent to car park
Letterkenny	Former reservoir site at Glencar
Letterkeeny	Former reservoir site at Windyhall
Letterkenny	Plot at Doobalagh

Recommendations on individual disposals would be brought before the Council in due course for approval.

C/207/05 COMPUTER DISC/CD WITH APPLICATION FORMS FOR SERVICES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Will Donegal County Council make available to each elected member a computer disc/cd with all application forms required by each service within this Council?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that during 2005 the Information Systems Department would be providing personal computers

and printers to all members of the Council. As part of the project members would be given access to a secure area on the Council's website where all service application forms would be located. This would be the most effective way of ensuring that the members had access to the most up to date versions of forms and information leaflets at all times. In the meantime, arrangements would be made to have the current set made available to each member on cd.

C/208/05 SUPPLY OF ELECTORAL REGISTER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“Will Donegal County Council supply the electoral registers to members in disc format from April, 2005 onwards?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that registers could be supplied in either hard copy or disc format as dictated by the preference of individual Council members, commencing with the Draft Register 2006/07 in November, 2005.

Copies of registers, in disc format, would also be available for purchase.

C/209/05 ALUMINIUM LEVELS IN DRINKING WATER, GORTAHORK

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

“What action does Donegal County Council propose to take following the results from tests in the parish of Gortahork, scheme ref DL535, that showed aluminium levels in the drinking water running at 5 times over the limit, and will the Council carry out additional tests in the areas of Machaire Rabhartaigh, Mín Lárach, Ardaí Bheag, An Bhealtaine, Gort a Choisce and An Sean Bhaile?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the treatment plant at Ardsbeg dated back to the mid 1940s and consisted of pressure filters. Since its initial installation, there had been considerable increase in the population served by the plant and therefore it was operating outside its design specification. In the interim, the technology of this type of treatment had advanced significantly.

Aluminium was used in the treatment process at Ardsbeg to improve the clarity of the water. Elevated residual levels recorded in the past were a reflection of poor plant performance due to operation of the plant outside its initial design specification and an interim improvement programme was initiated to address this. Coupled with this optimization work at the headworks, the Council intended to initiate an extensive programme of scouring of the network. It was also envisaged that water conservation initiatives in the distribution network would further improve the situation. Finalising of the interim commissioning works was taking place at Ardsbeg treatment plant at present. Aluminium levels had improved considerably from January, 2005. Consultant Engineers had been engaged to design a new rural water scheme for the area. This would include necessary upgrading of pipe work and the installation of a new treatment works.

The maintenance staff were carrying out additional scouring of mains in the service area of this scheme in order to reduce the levels of aluminium deposits.

C/210/05 SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN KILMACRENNAN

The following question was submitted by Clr.

MacLochlainn:-

“What plans do Donegal County Council have to upgrade the sewerage infrastructure in the village of Kilmacrennan?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that Kilmacrennan was listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme. Considerable design work had been carried out to address the wastewater treatment deficiencies at the existing works and planning and contract documents had been prepared in this regard.

Significant special development charges had also been levied which would provide 60% funding for the proposals. The planning process under the Part 8 procedure was expected to commence in April, 2005 with tendering to follow this process. Note that the proposed works did not include network extensions or improvements which were outside the scope of the scheme.

C/211/05 BUNCRANA SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“What is the current position regarding the Buncrana Sewerage Scheme, 4.7m has been approved to advance the scheme through planning, what advancement has been made to date?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that Buncrana Sewerage Scheme was included as a Major Capital Scheme on the DEHLG Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 under Inishowen Sludge Centre (Buncrana Wastewater Treatment Works) as a scheme to start in 2005. This involved the provision of full secondary treatment at the existing plant as well as the provision of appropriate sludge treatment facilities. No sewerage network was included in this scheme. Buncrana Sewerage Scheme was also listed as a Major Capital Scheme on the WSIP 2004-2006 as a scheme was to assess network deficiencies and to recommend the phased implementation of improvements/sewer extensions in the context of Water Services Pricing Policy. The brief for the appointment of consultants for this scheme was currently being prepared. While both of the above schemes were listed on the WSIP at programme estimated costs of €1.1m and €4.7m respectively, it should be noted that no funding had actually been approved although the Council had been allowed to continue with the preparation of the preliminary report and Environmental Impact Assessment on the Inishowen Sludge Centre which was of approximate value €200,000.

Buncrana, Ballymacarry and Milltown were also listed on the WSIP 2004-2006 as Serviced Land Initiative Schemes. In order for SLI Schemes to proceed there must be real and significant developer demand in order to generate the counterpart funding required to advance the schemes. To date no such demand had been evident.

C/212/05 COASTAL EROSION AT PORT MOR PIER, MALIN HEAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“Are Donegal County Council aware of any plans by a Government Department to address the ongoing serious problem of siltation and coastal erosion at Port Mor Pier, Malin Head, and if so can matching funding be provided by the Council?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that the Department of Marine Engineers were aware of the problem which existed at Portmore Pier. No matching monies were available within the Marine Section Budget 2005 at present. If money was made available by the Department of the Marine to solve this problem, the Council would need to make a specific decision on the provision of any matching monies that were required.

C/213/05 LIGHTS AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT MONESS COTTAGES, BURT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“Why are the lights still not lit on the pedestrian crossings at Moness Cottages, Burt?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that all outstanding works relating to the pavement strengthening contract had now been completed. Some works needed to be completed by ESB (i.e. installation of public lighting lanterns and connection to power supply). ESB have advised that this work was likely to take place in the week commencing 05<sup>th</sup> April.

C/214/05 DANGEROUS JUNCTION AT CASEY’S CORNER, BALLYBRACK, MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what efforts have been made to address the dangerous junction at Casey’s Corner, Ballybrack, Moville?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that this junction was proposed for consideration for funding under low cost accident funding but had not been successful to date. The matter had been forwarded to Road Design to recommend a solution. On receipt of this, a funding source could be considered such as the special development charge allocation in Budget 2005,

provided the money had been collected in the locality and was agreed with the members.

C/215/05 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CHURCH ROAD, CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“When will the pedestrian crossing be erected at the Church Road, Carndonagh?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Church Street would be considered for inclusion in the 2006 Roadworks Programme and would be discussed further at the Electoral Area Meeting.

C/216/05 NEW CONTRACTORS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC LIGHTING

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“Is this Council in a position to appoint new contractors to maintain public lighting?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that the County Council were not yet in a position to appoint contractors other than the ESB to maintain public lighting. However, the County Council were at present having contract documents drafted in order that competition in this market could be progressed. This was in line with the deregulation of the ESB in provision of its services. The County Councillors would be kept informed on progress on this matter.

C/217/05 WORKS UNDER ALL DIRECTORATES IN THE NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM AREA 2005

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What works are to be carried out by Donegal County Council in the Newtowncunningham area (under all Directorates) during 2005?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that the marine section would be involved in assisting the local shore regeneration

committee in achieving improvements to the quay shore amenities at Ballbegley, Newtowncunningham.

Water & Environment work would continue to be completed on the Lagan Desert Water Supply Scheme Stage 2 (water audit, logging and reporting) throughout 2005 with a view to being in a position to commence the Lagan Desert Stage 3 Scheme in late 2005 or early 2006 subject to DEHLG approval. Work would also be completed on Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme SLI in 2005.

#### Integrated Planning & Development Model

Newtowncunningham was one of six pilot areas selected by Donegal County Development Board in which a new Integrated Planning & Development Model was being advanced.

The purpose of this model would be to ensure a co-ordinated approach to planning and development at sub-county levels, ensure best use of resources and facilitate collaborations where necessary.

The Community & Enterprise Division was working with Newtowncunningham Community Development with other Council Directorates and with relevant CDB partners on this.

The County Council led Peace II Taskforce had supplied the following projects, all of which were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2005:-

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u> <u>Status</u>
Castlepark Residents Playground	€70,000 €21,000 (advance)
NCDI, Footbridge Technical Aspects	€10,000 (letter of offer issued)
Presbyterian Church Infrastructure Support	€29,000 €28,000 (drawn down)
Colehill Residents Purchase of Equipment	€8,250

€8,250 (drawn down)

The Council was currently considering an application from the Inter Church Committee, Newtowncunningham for the development of a Sheltered Housing Scheme for elderly people in Newtowncunningham. It was premature to say at this stage whether this would commence in 2005. While the Council had indicated support for the project the current position was that the Council were waiting further information from the Committee.

The Council also sought submissions for Turnkey proposals last year but did not receive any for Newtowncunningham. Another advert would be placed in the local newspapers in the coming months with a view to seeking expressions of interest from developers for turnkey proposals which would include Newtowncunningham.

In light of the poor response last year to the Council's turnkey submissions it was also intended to examine landbank options in a number of areas including Newtowncunningham. Enquiries were ongoing in this regard.

C/218/05

LAND FOR HOUSING AT QUIGLEY'S POINT

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what efforts have been made for acquiring land for housing at Quigley's Point?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that the Council was actively engaged in trying to acquire suitable landbank in the Quigley's Point and Redcastle Area. To date; however, no such landbank had materialised. There were no submissions received from private developers for the provision of turnkey housing in this area in response to the recent procurement process. It was proposed to seek further submissions for the provision of turnkey schemes in the coming weeks with a more focused approach on those areas where a need existed and where no previous submissions were received. Quigley's Point would be one such area. Should any suitable landbank materialise in the interim then arrangements would be put in

place to construct a social housing scheme on it as soon as possible.

C/219/05 BUNCRANA FERRY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“When will the Buncrana Ferry be starting as there are a number of enquiries about it at the local tourist office already?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that discussions were ongoing with the Lough Foyle Ferry Company Ltd. for the provision of a seasonal ferry service on the Rathmullan to Buncrana route from the 19<sup>th</sup> May through to 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2005. A draft contract was currently being prepared. The scale and duration of the ferry service was determined largely by the indicated availability of funding. The members allocated a figure of €100,000 in the 2005 budget to facilitate the provision of this service. It was likely that the service during 2005 would cost in excess of this for the period.

Funding was also being provided through the Donegal led Peace II Task Force to assist in the marketing activities of the Lough Swilly Ferry Service during 2005. A marketing plan was being finalised at present. There would be substantial marketing through various media including radio, newspapers and fliers. It should also be noted that a cross border project funded by Interreg IIIA and carried out in conjunction with Limavady Borough Council to support the development of a touring route (Atlantic Drift), which was scheduled for launch in May, would also support the activities of both ferry services on the Foyle and on the Swilly will assist in attracting additional visitor numbers to use the service.

C/220/05 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL HOUSES IN MANOR

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“When will the construction start on the new Council houses in Manor and how many will be affordable and at what cost?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that preliminary design work on the balance of the Council's landbank at Manorcunningham was almost complete. The site would be able to accommodate 29 Social Housing units and approx 14 Affordable Housing units. It was proposed to proceed with the Part 8 Planning process for the site in the coming weeks and to proceed to produce tender documents with a view to commencing construction towards the end of 2005. It was proposed to include six affordable units along with the tender for the social housing units and until such tenders came to hand it was not possible to give a definitive costing on the affordable housing units.

C/221/05

NEW TREATMENT PLANT FOR LETTERKENNY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Will the Council give the Councillors of Letterkenny area a full report on where the proposal for building a new treatment plant for Letterkenny is given the fact we are being fined by Europe for our present treatment plant?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that the wastewater treatment plant for Letterkenny was to be advanced under Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 DBO WWTW and Sludge Treatment Centre. The project was at contract document stage and required DEHLG approval to proceed to tender stage. DEHLG approval would not issue in advance of An Bord Pleanala's determination of the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure. The Board had indicated the CPO decision would issue on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. Subject to DEHLG approval, construction on the project could start in 2006.

C/222/05

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT CLADY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will this Council commit the necessary funding to install traffic lights at Clady Bridge to facilitate traffic safety and to prevent further damage to the parapets of this listed structure?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that this proposal could be considered jointly with the Northern Ireland Roads

Authority. Funding had not been earmarked from this years allocations, however, this could be considered for 2006.

C/223/05 LOW COST ACCIDENT REMEDIAL WORKS AT HILLHEAD, ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“When will this Council commence the low cost accident remedial works at Hillhead, St. Johnston?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that there had been no allocation to date for works at this location. The area had been submitted for consideration under the low cost accident funding programme.

C/224/05 CONSTRUCTION OF N56, MOUNTAINTOP

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

“When will works start on construction of N56 at Mountaintop?”

Clr. Brogan was informed that the tender documents for the first 1km of this project (i.e. up to and including the Calhame Junction at Mountaintop) had been completed and, subject to NRA approval, would be tendered in the coming weeks with construction expected to commence June of this year.

C/225/05 LISNENAN TO CARNAMUGGAGH ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

“When will the Lisnenan to Carnamuggagh Road be finished and open to traffic?”

Clr. Brogan was informed that it was expected that the Lisnenan to Carnamugagh road would open to traffic in early 2006. With favourable conditions this may be brought forward to late 2005 but the works involved were substantial.

Works were ongoing on the Lisnenan to Carnamuggagh road. The opening of the road was dependent on the construction of a roundabout at its junction with the Kilmacrennan Road and at its junction with the Ramelton

Road . €300,000 had also been provided by the NRA for the construction of the roundabout at the Kilmacrennan Road and this would be constructed during the summer of 2005. A roundabout had been designed at the creamery junction and would be funded from development charges. This roundabout construction should begin late summer 2005.

C/226/05 PROGRESS IN REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC CALMING ISLAND/BOLLARDS AND OVERHEAD LIGHTING.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What progress has been made in relation to repairs and maintenance of traffic calming islands/bollards and overhead lighting county wide following recent motion and debate of this matter by the Council?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that the NRA had appointed a special contractor for this work. Work was ongoing on all the traffic calming installations included in the NRA contract.

This was the first year of the contract and some of the installations had been in place for a few years. There was a backlog of repairs which was being completed at present. Most of the unlit islands that were not working had been replaced, cleaned or repaired. In some cases, Ballybofey or instance, there appeared to be only a limited improvement because of dirt being created by on-going developments or heavy traffic.

The contractor was liasing directly with the area engineers to both the assessment and implementation of the scheme.

The contractor would liase with the Regional Road Safety Engineer in relation to major replacement, relocation of furniture or provision of additional features to individual schemes. To date that had not yet arisen except in relation to a query regarding the changing of lit bollards to “flexi bollards” or self righting signs. To date it remained DCC policy to use lit bollards on all centre islands.

C/227/05 DISABLED PARKING BAYS, LIFFORD AND MANORCUNNINGHAM

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“Will this Council provide disabled parking bays at :-

- The Post Office, Lifford
- Ray National School, Manorcunningham

Clr. Crawford was informed that the Council was not proposing to install disabled parking bays at these locations. The Council would consider any proposal by anybody wishing to fund the installation of disabled parking bays.

C/228/05 ATTENDANCE AT ICBAN AND NWRCBG

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What has been the record of attendance by council members and officials at ICBAN and NWRCBG since June, 2004?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that comprehensive reports to detail the work on both ICBAN and NWRCBG had been requested from the secretariats of both groups and these reports would be brought to the Council when received. These reports would also indicate the schedules of Donegal attendees.

C/229/05 REPORT ON WORK BY ICBAN AND NWRCBG

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“Will this Council present a report on the work of ICBAN and NWRCBG since June, 2004?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that comprehensive reports to detail the work on both ICBAN and NWRCBG had been requested from the secretariats of both groups and these reports would be brought to the Council when received. These reports would also indicate the schedules of Donegal attendees.

C/230/05 NEW OFFICES AND LIBRARY IN BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

“When do the Council hope to have the new offices and library in Ballyshannon operational”?

Clr. McEniff was informed that the Ballyshannon Town Clerks Office had opened to the Public for business this month. The Library was being fitted out at the moment with the intention of opening to the public in April.

C/231/05 DEPOT FOR GLENCOLUMBKILLE AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“Will this Council ensure that a Council depot is obtained for Kilcar-Glencolmbkille area, for the benefit of the roads section etc. and to the advantage of overall service delivery in that area?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that at present there was no depot in the Glencolumbkille area, there was land that was used for the storage of stone, chips etc. This however was not secure. The only depot to service this area is in Killybegs, which meant a lot of time was spent travelling to collect supplies etc.

A possible site for a depot had been identified for a roads depot to service the Kilcar, Carrick & Glencolumbkille areas.

The Council supported the principle of providing a depot in this general area, provided that the depot was in a suitable location and then the Council would be able to obtain planning permission for a full depot construction. The necessary funding had not been identified at this time.

C/232/05 MALINMORE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“When will the Malinmore Sewerage Plant be commissioned?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that the Malinmore wastewater treatment plant had been commissioned, and operational training for Council operatives was to take place next week.

C/233/05 WORKS TO MAIN ROAD LEADING TO BALLINTRA DUMP.

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

“What works do Donegal County Council plan to undertake on the Main Road leading to the Council dump at Ballintra called locally “The Bog Road” as it is in a terrible state?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that temporary repairs had been carried out on this road during the past couple of weeks. It was anticipated that further works would be carried out in conjunction with the Environmental Section. These works were to include passing bays.

C/234/05

BALLYSHANNON SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

“Can Donegal County Council confirm a start date for the Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme-which is of crucial importance to the region?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme consisted of 2 contracts, contract 1 was for the construction of the main pumping stations, rising mains, wastewater treatment works and outfall. For contract purposes it was grouped with similar infrastructure on the Donegal and Rossnowlagh schemes under Donegal Bay DBO Group A. Tenders had been returned on contract 1 (DBO Group A) and the tender recommendation report had now been received. The Water Charging Report was now being finalised and would be submitted with the tender report to the DEHLG for approval. Tenders had been returned on contract 2 (Network) and the tender recommendation and water charging reports were submitted to DEHLG in November and January 2005 respectively. Contract 2 was for rehabilitation of the existing network, construction of network extensions and outlying pumping stations. Construction start was dependent on DEHLG approval but could be 2005.

C/235/05 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

The following motions from other Councils were noted:-

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That 50% of Councillors expenses arising from attendance at the Conference on Suicide Prevention & Awareness in the Abbey Manor Hotel, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February be donated to a charity nominated by the sponsors of the Conference.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council requests the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr. Seamus Brennan, to introduce a scheme of waiver of refuse collection charges for social welfare recipients, pensioners and other such persons. Such waivers were in operation in this Council prior to the service being privatised; it is still provided by some local authorities. The Minister has said he is still considering dealing with the provision of waivers in counties such as ours. We urge the Minister to introduce a waiver system as soon as possible to provide for the elderly, the infirm and the needy in our county and that this resolution when passed be circulated to all local authorities.”

DERRY CITY COUNCIL

“Derry City Council

- Notes the concerns expressed regarding the conditions under which people with learning difficulties are accessing work places in the Derry City Council Area.
- Recognises that all our citizens have equal worth and value
- Commits to the review of current practices regarding such work placements
- Calls on the Mayor to convene a meeting of interested parties, including DESTINED, to examine current practices in the Derry City Council area and to compare this with practice elsewhere throughout Ireland
- Send a copy of this motion to all Councils throughout Ireland urging that they endorse this motion and conduct similar reviews and send details of their findings to the Mayor’s Office.”

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That each member of Galway County Council donate €1,000 of their Conference money to help the victims of the tsunami Disaster.”

### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to make full and fair restitution to medical card holders, or to their next of kin where appropriate, who, as residents of long stay hospitals or nursing homes, had 80% of their social welfare entitlement illegally deducted. That this Council condemns the Governments paltry offer of €2000 to each affected hospital/nursing home resident as this is but a tiny fraction of the amount which has been unjustly taken. That this Council further ask the Government to investigate, openly and honestly, if work related pensions were in part or fully retained by the Health Board or their agents.”

### KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

That Kerry County Council lobby the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism to make a special roads grant available for improvements to tourism routes in the country. A similar type grant for tourism routes was in place up to the 1990's. This grant to be used on roads, car parks and bridges that satisfy the pre agreed criteria. Tourism is very important to Ireland and as such our scenic areas need to be displayed at their best.”

### NAAS COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council again requests that the Minister for Justice immediately activates the necessary legal and constitutional measures to create a Garda Reserve Force, organised on a regional basis and with emphasis on community “protection” requirements in developing towns like Naas.”

### LONGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

“That each local authority be requested to write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that guidelines be prepared for the calculation of the county demand.”

BUNDORAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That Donegal County Council erect more public seating along the Main Street.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.