

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009 IN THE  
CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor Mickey Doherty  
Councillor Rena Donaghey  
Councillor Martin Farren  
Councillor Charlie McConalogue  
Councillor Pdraig MacLochlainn  
Councillor Bernard McGuinness  
Councillor John Ryan  
Councillor Lee Tedstone, Mayor Buncrana Town Council

**Officials Present:**

**Buncrana Town Council:**

Donal Walker, Town Engineer

**Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:**

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer

**Corporate Services:**

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager  
Una Cresswell, Staff Officer

**Housing & Building Services**

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager

**Planning & Economic Development Services:**

Paul Kelly, A/ Area Manager

**Roads & Transportation Services:**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer/ Area Manager  
Karen Hartin, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services:**

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/ Area Manager

### **Apologies**

Seamus Canning Town Clerk, Buncrana  
Marie Deeney, A/Senior Staff Officer

## **09/26 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his gratitude as the Chairman of the last Inishowen Electoral to the staff over the last five years for their assistance. He stated the he wished to acknowledge their help particularly during the busy period prior to the elections. Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that she would like to concur with Cllr McGuinness comments. Cllr MacLochlainn stated that he would also like to acknowledge the professionalism and courtesy of the staff. Cllr Bernard McGuinness also thanked the press for relaying Electoral Area Meeting information to the public.

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services asked the Members for nominations for the Chairperson for the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Mickey Doherty and seconded by Cllr Lee Tedstone, Mayor of Buncrana Town Council and unanimously agreed that Cllr Bernard McGuinness be elected as Chairperson for the coming year. There were no other nominations for the position.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness thanked the other members of the Committee for electing him as Chairperson and said that he looked forward to continuing in the role. He added that he felt that it should be a shared Chairmanship for the duration of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee term.

Cllr McGuinness suggested that the Meeting should take place in the afternoons and that the Committee, if possible should adhere to finishing the business of the meetings at 4.30p.m.

## **09/27 PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **27.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

### **27.2 Update Report**

Members noted the updated report as circulated with the Agenda.

#### **27.2.1 Cornfield Estate, Newtowncunningham**

Paul Kelly, Acting Area Manager in his report updated the Members on the situation at the Cornfield Estate in Newtowncunningham as discussed at the last Electoral Area Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009. He advised the Members that a coordinated meeting between the Planning Services, Water and Environment and the Roads services had taken place. He added that the estate on the whole was well finished. However, he added, there were two main problems with the manholes leaking and the pumping station problem. One of the options was to connect to the main sewer, possibly a gravity connection to the main sewer, which would remove the requirement for a pump. He added that the all the services were actively pursuing a solution to the problems.

Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn stated that the developer does not own the land and that the residents were putting the system back in place each time that it caused problems. Cllr John Ryan queried whether the Newtowncunningham Sewer was at full capacity.

Con McLaughlin, Water and Environment confirmed that options for expanding the Newtowncunningham Sewerage scheme were being examined.

### **27.3 Haphazard /Backlands Development**

Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn requested that Paul Kelly present a report to the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting on planning applications refused in Inishowen considered to be haphazard or backland applications. Cllr MacLochlainn stated that he believed that there was no consistency in dealing with these applications and that application of this type should be treated equally in a large County such as Donegal.

Paul Kelly advised the members that the County Development Plan has been varied to deal with backland development if it was appropriate and gave an example of how the variation made plans more viable. He added that privacy issues and the landscape character can vary from area to area.

#### **27.4 Linear Developments**

At the request of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Paul Kelly agreed to follow up on clarifying the situation with regard to linear development. Cllr McGuinness suggested that although there had been an amendment in the County Development Plan, there were still some aspects of the rules governing linear development that he was unclear about.

#### **27.5 Rosebank Court Estate, Merville**

Cllr Martin Farren requested details on whether Donegal County Council had taken over the Rosebank Court Estate in Merville.

Paul Kelly advised Cllr Farren to contact Vincent Lynn, Senior Executive Engineer in the Carndonagh Public Service Centre who deals with the take over of estates.

#### **27.6 Derelict Sites/Partially Completed/Abandoned Housing Estates**

Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn expressed his concerns regarding the problems associated with derelict sites. He stated that four of the County Councillors attended a meeting with the Carndonagh Community Development Group. The Carndonagh Development Group were very concerned about an unfinished private housing estate on the Malin Road in Carndonagh. Stephen Flynn, Area Manager, Roads advised the members that there is a Derelict Sites Act that deals with anything that detracts from the amenity value of an area such as vacant and derelict houses.

Paul Kelly advised the Members that in the case of an unfinished estate that the Planning Authority should be informed and then the first step would be to examine the planning conditions. Clearly, if the planning conditions are not adhered to it would be a matter for the Council to engage with the Development Company and ensure that they put the estate in order. He added that the Council would have to instigate legal proceedings and therefore it was difficult to predict a time frame when the matter would be sorted out.

Cllr Mickey Doherty stated that the scaffolding left at the unfinished estate was a Health and Safety issue. Cllr Martin Farren suggested that the Committee invite the Health and Safety Authority to attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting. There was a consensus by the Members that residents living in unfinished estates needed to be protected from danger and the Health and Safety issues addressed as soon as possible.

## **09/28 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **28.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

### **28.2 Update Report /Roadworks Programme 2008**

An Update Report on issues raised at the previous meeting was circulated along with the agenda.

#### **28.2.1 Pier in Buncrana**

Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that she welcomed the clean up at Buncrana Pier and that it was looking very well in time for the National Tidy Towns Competition. However, she requested that something be done about the condition of some of the boats at the pier as they were detracting from the overall look of the pier.

Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager advised the Committee that Vincent Lynn, Marine Section has responsibility for this area and that he would contact him in relation to this.

#### **28 2.2 White Wall, Moville**

In response to a query from Cllr Martin Farren, Stephen Flynn confirmed that letters had been sent to Michael Gillen from FAS and to the Inishowen Development Company as requested at the last Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

#### **28.3 Cockhill Foot Bridge**

Following the discussion relating to the building of a footbridge at Cockhill at the previous Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting, Stephen Flynn outlined the history of the demand for and proposed works for the provision of a foot bridge at Cockhill to the newly elected Inishowen Electoral Area Committee. In the report that Stephen Flynn circulated he included, the estimated costs of a footbridge and the breakdown of the costs. A lengthy discussion followed detailing the pros and cons of a footbridge versus a signalised junction versus a bridge widening versus a new bridge. The Members agreed that a footbridge at the crossing was long overdue but argued that the provision of a new bridge at Cockhill was the main priority and was overdue by thirty years.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his frustration that plans for a footbridge had been delayed for some considerable time. He considered that in order for members to decide the best way forward for the bridge detailed costings of all options outline by the Senior Executive Engineer should be prepared for the members.

It was agreed that Stephen Flynn would arrange for same to be prepared for the meeting and provide members with a report for all design options.

#### **28.4 Merville Bridge, Derry Road**

Cllr Martin Farren queried as to whether the widening at Merville Bridge was going to proceed as planned. Stephen Flynn confirmed that the allocation of funds had been reduced from €600,000 to €200,000. He also confirmed that a Compulsory Purchase Order was being processed for purchasing the section of road between the bridge and Merville Community College. It is unlikely that the bridge will be constructed until after the road widening is complete.

Cllr Mickey Doherty expressed his concerns regarding the height of the kerbs on the road between the Merville Bridge and Merville Community College in Merville. He stated that he was concerned about the Health and Safety issues on this busy stretch of road that was used by so many pupils. Stephen Flynn said that the installation of handrails was an option that could be used to solve the problem and agreed to meet Cllr. Doherty on site to discuss the matter.

#### **28.5 Junction at Malin St and James St in Merville**

The provision of traffic lights at the Malin St and James St Junction was discussed. Cllr Martin Farren requested that traffic calming measures were necessary at such a busy junction.

Stephen Flynn agreed to review the junction and to meet Cllr. Farren outside the meeting

#### **28.6 Low Cost Accidents**

Stephen Flynn agreed to provide a report on Low Cost Accidents, allocated last year to the next Inishowen Electoral Area meeting in September. The report would indicate to the Members the prioritising of Schemes for this current year.

### **28.7 Provision of Footbridge in Clonmany**

At the request of Cllr Charlie McConalogue, Stephen Flynn agreed to issue a Progress Report on the provision of a footbridge in Clonmany.

### **28.8 Breakwater at Greencastle**

The Members collectively agreed that the partially completed breakwater at Greencastle was unsatisfactory and was causing problems. Cllr Martin Farren questioned when additional funding would become available to complete the breakwater and address the Health and Safety issues. Stephen Flynn agreed to bring a report to the next meeting outlining the current position regarding completion.

### **28.9 Pedestrian Crossing at Muff**

The Members discussed the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Muff. It was agreed that Stephen Flynn would explore all options for the provision of the crossing and contact Developers to contribute towards the cost. Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn pointed out that some Developers were actually conditioned in their planning approval to contribute towards the cost.

### **28.10 Provision of Signs in Derry for Main Towns in Inishowen**

After some discussion on tourism issues it was requested that the Roads Service consider writing to the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland to discuss the possibility of signs being erected in Derry for the main towns in Inishowen.

### **28.11 N13 Stranorlar to Derry Scheme Update**

Karen Hartin, Senior Executive Engineer, National Road Design Office, updated the Members on status of the N13, Stranorlar to Derry Scheme and its likely progression subject to funding.

The NRA provided a grant of €100,000 in 2008 to allow for the start of the design process to provide a new route between the end of the N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar By Pass at Kilross to Derry City. No allocation was provided in 2009 however surplus monies from the Ballybofey/Stranorlar By Pass allocation has been transferred to allow progress on the project. It is expected that the scheme will be a dual carriageway separated by a safety fence. The new route will be designed to tie in to existing/planned roads infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

The Constraints Study Phase of the project is programmed to be completed at the end of 2009 and it is expected that route selection will take place in 2010 subject to the availability of funding.

**29.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

**29.2 Updates and Various Issues**

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, updated Members in relation to various issues previously raised and drew the Members attention to Loans, Grants and the Casual Vacancy Reports.

**29.3 Affordable Housing in Carndonagh**

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, advised the Committee that the Minutes incorrectly states that five units under the Affordable Housing Scheme are being made available in Buncrana. This should have stated Carndonagh. The units in Carndonagh would be available soon subject to contracts being completed.

Cllr Charlie McConalogue asked had there been much interest in the Affordable Housing Scheme in Carndonagh. Patsy Lafferty stated that there was some interest in the scheme but the scheme had not been advertised yet.

**29.4 Voluntary Housing Schemes**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Members that the Voluntary Housing Schemes in Newtowncunningham and Muff which will provide thirty four and thirty units respectively were near completion. He advised the Members that he hoped the units would be allocated shortly and that should the Members have any enquiries regarding the allocation of the units that they should contact the local committees.

Cllr Mickey Doherty stated that the Muff Housing Association Scheme in Muff was excellent and that the contractor had completed the work to a very high standard.

**29.5 Social Leasing Initiative**

Cllr Bernard MC Guinness queried the level of interest in the Social Leasing Initiative Scheme Patsy Lafferty advised the Members that a substantial volume of submissions were submitted to the Construction Department in Lifford and were being considered. The Social Leasing Scheme was available for a period of up to twenty years he added.

Cllr McGuinness expressed his concern that the Social Leasing Initiative Scheme was not tackling the problem of rural schools being depopulated whilst schools in urban areas were being filled to over their capacity. Patsy Lafferty advised that the Social Leasing Initiative was for developers who had five houses or more available for example houses available in unfinished estates.

#### **29.6 Provision of Specific Instant Cottages**

Cllr Mickey Doherty queried whether there were any reduction in the number of Specific Instant Cottages being built. Patsy Lafferty stated that he was not aware of any cut backs and said that he would look into any individual query Cllr Doherty may have.

#### **29.7 Affordable Housing - Elm Park and Gort na mBó, Buncrana**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that applications for Affordable Housing in Buncrana had been assessed and prioritised. Letters of Offer have issued in respect of three units at Elm Park and offers will issue for the two units in Gort Na mBó as soon as keys are received. The units are allocated to first time buyers at a discount from market value.

#### **29.8 Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2009**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Committee that the Roads Department carried out the works at Burnfoot Cottages and that the residents are very happy with the work carried out.

Arrangements are being finalised in respect of works at O Gara Villas, Moville which are expected to be carried out in the autumn.

**30.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**  
On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

**30.2 Report on Community, Culture & Enterprise Services**  
A Progress Report was circulated along with the Agenda.

**30.3 Barrack Hill Playground - Barrack Hill Project**  
Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer, advised the Members that the Barrack Hill Playground was advertised for tender and that the closing date was 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009. She stated that the tenders were currently being assessed. A discussion took place on the Barrack Hill Project as a whole. Cllr Bernard McGuinness and Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn stated that it was imperative that to complete the project and that funding through the Development Contribution Scheme should be made available. It was agreed that a recommendation to this effect be made to the Corporate Policy Group.

**30.3 Clos Pdraig**  
Aideen Doherty advised the Members that the playground for Clos Pdraig was advertised for tender and that the closing date was 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009. She stated that the tenders were currently being assessed.

**30.4 Members Development Fund Grant Allocations for 2010**  
Aideen Doherty asked the Members to note the Members Development Fund Grant Allocations for 2009 and informed the Members that Michelle McGill was the contact person for the Members Development Fund Grant Allocations for 2010.

**30.5 Foyle & Swilly Ferries**  
A discussion took place on the Foyle and Swilly Ferries. Cllr Lee Tedstone queried the tendering process. Aideen Doherty advised the Members that currently the contracts had been extended for the ferries but there were several ongoing issues that had to be dealt with.  
The members requested that consideration be given to providing toilets at Bunrana Pier during the ferry season.

### **30.6 Research & Development Unit**

Aideen Doherty advised the new Inishowen Electoral Area Committee that the Research and Development Unit based in Lifford was available for them to contact should they require any information or statistics.

### **30.7 Youth Council**

Cllr Lee Tedstone requested clarification on the role of the Youth Council and he suggested that they be invited to the next Inishowen Electoral Meeting in September.

### **30.8 Merville Library**

Cllr Martin Farren expressed his concerns over the limited opening hours of the library in Merville. He emphasised that the Merville Library was the hub of the community and that it was necessary to open the library for five days and not just for two days. Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that owing to staffing issues and the current embargo on recruitment that it was just not possible at the moment to open the library for more than two days. She added that Merville Library was not the only library affected and that Carndonagh Library had staffing problems too. She assured the Members that options for increasing opening hours would be reviewed.

### **30.9 Merville Playground**

Cllr Martin Farren requested that the surface in Merville playground be looked at as there were ongoing problems with it. Aideen Doherty agreed to look at ways of securing funding for repairing the surface of the playground.

Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn expressed his gratitude and congratulated Aideen Doherty for all her work developing the playgrounds over recent times.

### **30.10 Newtowncunningham Playground**

The Members collectively expressed their disgust at the level of vandalism at the playground in Newtowncunningham. It was generally agreed that vacant, unsecured premises adjacent to the playground needed to be secured by its owner in order to assist with addressing the vandalism problems in the area. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the owners requesting that the adjacent building be secured immediately.

## **09/31 WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **31.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

### **31.2 Follow Ups from Previous Meeting**

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager, circulated an Update Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009 (Appendix 1) on issues raised at the previous meeting. The report also included contact details of Water and Environment personnel for the newly elected Members' information.

### **31.3 Provision of Toilets at Beaches and Piers**

Following on from a discussion at the last Inishowen electoral Area Meeting regarding toilet facilities at beaches and piers, Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager stated that in the current economic circumstances the Council was concentrating on maintaining existing services. He added that there were no funding available to increase toilet facilities but local measures had been put in place at Culdaff to extend the portable toilet facilities to Bunagee Pier for a period. Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness thanked Con McLaughlin for his efforts in extending the toilet facilities in Culdaff.

### **31.4 Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site**

Con McLaughlin in his follow up report responded to the issues discussed at the last Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting in May. A lengthy discussion ensued where the Members reiterated their concerns over illegal dumping on hillsides as a direct result of charges being introduced at the Civic Amenity Site in Carndonagh. The Members agreed that the public should be encouraged to recycle and not to dump and that a message had to be sent out to the community to this effect. Con McLaughlin noted that the profile of attendance at the site was changing now as the public adapted to the new charging regime. He felt that the matter of illegal dumping was a separate matter and stated that the Council's efforts with covert cameras and subsequent prosecutions would deter members of the public from illegal dumping of waste.

It was suggested that the charges at the Civic Amenity Site were too high and would have to be reduced to encourage increased use of the Civic Amenity Site. Con McLaughlin stated that the high operating costs outlined in his report shows the necessity for the charges. He further outlined to the new Committee, that it had always been agreed by the full

Council that fees were going to be charged at the Civic Amenity Site. However the charges did not commence until the site had been upgraded and reopened in May of this year, he added.

### **31.5 Bonfire Night Fires**

Cllr Lee Tedstone, Mayor of Buncrana Town Council referred to the problems associated with large fires on Bonfire Night in the Straboe Area.

Con McLaughlin noted difficulties the Council have with such fires and suggested that perhaps it would help if the local community in the area could take ownership for how these events are managed.

He noted that the Council continue to monitor tyre suppliers to ensure they dispose of their used tyres in an environmentally friendly way so that the tyres would not end up on bonfires.

### **31.6 Illegal Camping at Beaches**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness raised the problem issues with camping at Culdaff beach including associated illegal dumping. It was suggested that enforcement of Beach Bylaws was necessary. Cllr McGuinness suggested that a designated campsite at Culdaff should be considered which would allow for improved control of such activities.

### **31.7 Beach Bylaws/Horses on Beaches**

Cllr Martin Farren requested clarification on Beach Bylaws regarding horses on beaches. He referred to problems at Greencastle where horses were frequently on the beach, Con McLaughlin agreed to contact the Beach Manager, Kevin McCloskey for clarification.

**32.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>h</sup> May 2009,**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009, were agreed.

**32.2 Non-Domestic Water Charges.**

Cllr Charlie McConalogue referred to the increased water charges that farmers are facing in difficult times. Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services explained the charges and advised that all disputed charges were being investigated. If it is established that the water supply is for non-domestic use farmers like all other non-domestic users of water are charged accordingly, he added.

**32.3 Establishment of Joint Policing Committee**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey and seconded by Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn the Committee recommended that Cllr Charlie McConalogue, Cllr Mickey Doherty and Cllr Bernard McGuinness be nominated to be Inishowen Electoral Area Representatives on the Donegal Joint Policing Committee.

**09:33 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the IEAC would take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 commencing at 1.00 p.m. (This was subsequently changed to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September)

## Appendix 1

### WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES Report to Inishowen EAC Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

#### 1.0 **Consideration of minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

#### 2.0 **Update reports where required from previous meeting:**

##### 19.4 / 19.5 **Toilets at Beaches and Piers**

At the previous meeting, the members sought more extensive toilet facilities at beaches.

I am advised by the Divisional Manager in Lifford that there are no additional monies available this year. In these times of economic downturn the Council will be concentrating on maintaining existing services and meeting our statutory obligations.

Local arrangements have been made to extend the existing portable toilet facilities at Culdaff beach to cover the Bunagee pier for a short period.

This matter was also referred on to Roads and Transportation (Marine maintenance) and Community and Enterprise (Sea Angling) for consideration.

##### 19.6 **Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site**

In response to issues raised at the previous meeting in relation to charges, included below is an extract from a response in this matter given separately by David Friel, Waste Recycling Officer

'In May 2009 the newly refurbished Civic Amenity Site at Carndonagh was re-opened to the public. This facility provides a collection point for the recycling of a wide range of waste materials from householders in the Inishowen area. This Civic Amenity Site is one of six located throughout Donegal to allow greater public access to recycling facilities. These sites also complement the extensive network of bring banks, the kerbside recycling services provided by the private waste collectors and other more specialised collections such as household hazardous waste collections provided by Donegal County Council.

In addition to the upgrade of the Civic Amenity Site, the Inishowen area has also seen new recycling services being provided by the private waste collectors. There are now two independent waste collectors operating in the area providing a kerbside collection of dry recyclable materials and one collector has also established a "mini - civic amenity site" which is open to the public. Such competition has already caused a number of

collectors in the County to reduce their charges to the public for kerbside recycling. These developments by the private sector not only provide attractive recycling services for the public but also create employment and should be encouraged, not undermined. It would therefore be inappropriate for Donegal County Council to compete against these services at our Civic Amenity Sites by using commercial rates to undercut their sustainable charges.

The Budget Book 2009 outlined the costs associated with operating Civic Amenity Sites in 2008. Operating costs were €576,500, while income from previous charges from two of the three sites amounted to only €47,000. In addition, the operating of bring banks and other recycling activities cost a further €446,000. A recycling grant of €250,350 was received from the DoEHLG as a contribution towards the cost of both bring banks and Civic Amenity Sites. With the completion of an additional three new Civic Amenity Sites, this level of financial subsidy by the ratepayers of Donegal across six sites is not sustainable.

While the majority of wastes at all the Civic Amenity Sites continue to be received free of charge, a new uniform charging system at all sites was necessary. The free items accepted include; glass, food tins, drinks cans, aerosol cans, textiles, batteries, fluorescent light-bulbs, print cartridges, mobile phones and all electrical and electronic waste items. Charges apply for the recycling of; paper, plastic, cardboard, tetra-pak, scrap metal and waste oils. Following the introduction of the new charge, householders are now stockpiling their materials to gain best value for money and subsequently visit the site less frequently. Consequently the standard of the materials received is much higher as the public take more care to 'wash and squash' all their recyclable materials.

All recyclable materials are internationally traded commodities and are susceptible to global price fluctuations owing to supply and demand. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has established a Market Development Group ([www.mdg.ie](http://www.mdg.ie)) to promote the recycling in Ireland of the materials recovered in Ireland. The group will primarily target recyclable paper and plastic materials focusing on promoting a stable supply of recovered materials to support the achievement of economies of scale. The group has also recognised the need for more recycling infrastructure in Ireland to reduce the reliance on overseas markets. This initiative is a welcome step towards developing new Irish markets and to help create Irish jobs '.

The council also provides a service for the public to dispose of bulky items. These items are not recycled but disposed off at landfill.

### **3.0 Progress Reports (Rural Water Programme)**

See updated progress reports for

- **Small Capital Programme**
- **Group Schemes Programme**

#### **4.0 Progress Report (Developer Led Scheme)**

See updated progress report for various settlements in Inishowen

#### **Water and Environment Services Profile**

For the benefit of the new members I have included in the following pages a brief outline of the current organisational structure in Water and Environment Services, the people involved with contact details and a profile of the elements of work we are involved in.

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Water and Environment Service,  
13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

## Appendix 1

