

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR

23rd Márta 2004

Beidh an Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhun na nGall ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 29 Márta, 2004, ag **2.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

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

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

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniú (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford

23rd March, 2004

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 29th March, 2004, at 2.00 p.m. in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

AGENDA

1. **Notice of Motion under Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001 in the names of Clrs. J. Harte, D. Larkin and G. Crawford.**

In accordance with Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001 we the members of Donegal County Council hereby direct the County Manager to grant planning permission to Cathal and Edel Houton for storey and a half dwelling house and domestic garage with septic tank at Drumardagh, Letterkenny, County Donegal, application ref: 04/6144 subject to such conditions as the Council may see fit to impose upon consideration of the motion or without conditions as the Council may see fit.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) Confirmation of Minutes of Donegal County Council Meeting held on 26th January, 2004.
- (b) Confirmation of Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 06th February, 2004.
- (c) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 09th February, 2004.
- (d) Confirmation of Minutes of General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 09th February, 2004.
- (e) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 16th February, 2004.
- (f) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 02nd March, 2004
- (g) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 08th March, 2004.
- (h) Confirmation of Minutes of General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 08th March.

3. **Filling of Casual Vacancies**
- (a) Filling of casual vacancy in membership of the Council arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.
 - (b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.
 - (c) Filling of casual vacancy in membership of County Donegal Vocational Educational Committee (vacancy arising from the death of Clr. Jim Sheridan. R.I.P.)

4. **Disposal of Land- Section 211 Planning & Development Act, 2000**

Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of lands at Railway Road, Raphoe to Mr David Laird, Dromore, Raphoe.

5. **Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).**

To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Specific Instance Cottage 6445 at Keadue, Burtonport.

6. **Planning Programme**

- (a) To make the Muff Local Area Plan 2004-2010.
- (b) To approve publication of the Draft Killea Local Area Plan

7. **Roads Programme**

To resolve to make the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Appointed Stands (Taxis) Byelaws 2004.

8. **Housing Programme**

Raising of a supplementary loan of €67,443 for the development of Voluntary Housing Project at Kilmacrennan

by Oaklee Trust Ltd under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme

9. **Water, Environment & Emergency Services Programme**
To approve Rural Water Programme – Rural Water Grants 2004.

10. **Corporate Services**
 - (a) Review of date for May Council Meeting
 - (b) Review of date for April General Purposes Committee Meeting.

11. **Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services Programme**
 - (a) Donegal County Council led Peace II Task Force 2004-2006 Budget Allocation
 - (b) To agree conditions associated with the Council's contribution to City of Derry Airport (*Supplementary Report to be circulated at the meeting.*)
 - (c) Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd – To consider request for Council to Underwrite Operational Losses for a 10 year period

12. **Conferences**
 - (a) The Committee of Regions – International Conference – Knowledge Based Regions in the Information Society – 5th/6th April 2004 – Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry
 - (b) Invitation from Barcelona Project Team of the Institute for Design & Disability – Closing Conference on adoption of Barcelona Declaration – 19th April – Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin

- (c) Local Authority Members Association 21st Annual Conference – 15th/16th April 2004 – West County Hotel Conference and Leisure Centre, Ennis, Co Clare

- (d) Sherkin Island Marine Station – 20th Annual Environment Conference – 22nd/23rd April 2004 – Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co Cork

13. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

14. **Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

(L)- Local

(C)-County

(O)-Other

Motions in the name of Clr. J. Harte and Clr P McGowan deferred from Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 06th February, 2004

Roads & Transportation

15. Clr J Harte
“That the Council make good the stretch of road from St Eunan’s N.S. to the Vocational School in Raphoe as a matter of urgency.”(L)
16. Clr P McGowan
“That this Council extend the 40 mile per hour speed limit on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey immediately and to review the location of all other 30/40 mile speed limits in the county in light of the mile per hour changing to kilometers per hour”(C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

17. Clr Marian McDonald
That this Council move immediately to protect the shore walk in Merville (L)

Community & Enterprise

18. Clr Rena Donaghey
“That the status of the Lough Swilly Car Ferry be established immediately, to enable marketing to take place for the incoming season, given that the government granted €600,000 to the North West through Fáilte Ireland for marketing”(L)

Planning & Economic Development

19. Clr. B. McGuinness
“That the Council discuss its policy on Special Development Charges under Section 48(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and also the Minister’s recent announcement on One Off Housing.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

20. Clr. A. Doherty
“That this Council (Sanitary) release immediately monies agreed to re-instate roads in the Carndonagh area following the sewerage scheme works and ensure also that the Council (planning) release funding accrued in Carndonagh and the Buncrana environs (including existing development charges) for provision of carparking and to improve and assist infrastructure in the stated areas.”

Miscellaneous

21. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council discuss the Garda Siochana Bill and its implications for local authorities particularly regarding community policing”. (O)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

22. Clr D Larkin
“That this Council discuss the roll out of our recycling facilities (e.g. the kerbside collecting system, weighing bins, bin separation etc)” (C)

Planning & Economic Development

23. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council discuss the delay in making a plan for the lands known as “McDougal’s Land” in Lifford.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

24. Clr J McHugh
“That this Council provides as a matter of urgency funds for replacement and upgrading of the rapidly deteriorating services and infrastructure in Rathmullan and district, and that the work commence forthwith on the implementation of the agreed Village Renewal Plan – all works to be completed before 2007.”(L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

25. Clr. D. McHugh
“That this Council support a revised layout of the Carrickboy Road, Ballyshannon in conjunction with the Ballyshannon By-pass works.”

Miscellaneous

26. Clr. T. Pringle
“That Donegal County Council urges the Taoiseach and the Government to recognise the exclusion of Irish citizens resident in the six counties from exercising their rights to participate in Presidential Elections and to bring forward the necessary legislation to allow them to vote in elections to the office of president of Ireland.” (O)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

27. Clr.P.McGowan
“That this Council in conjunction with community groups in Ballybofey and Stranorlar area move immediately to identify

a suitable site in Brogans land Stranorlar to build much needed community facilities.” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

28. Clr P Kelly
“That Donegal County Council discuss procedures re invalid planning applications”(C)

Community & Enterprise

29. Clr T Slowey
“That Donegal County Council make a submission reflecting the concerns expressed by the members and officials of this Council to the Bacon review of the strategy for the development of the Forestry Sector from 2004 onwards. Please note that Mr Bacon will report to the Minister for Agriculture in the autumn of 2004”(O)
30. Clr. T. Gildea
“Because of the importance of agriculture to county Donegal, that Donegal County Council fully and absolutely support the farming community at large, in the whole county and in so supporting give full recognition to the diverse forms of farming in the county.” (C)

Housing

31. Clr. E. Bonner
“That Donegal County Council consider applications for housing for Donegal natives who presently reside outside the county and that a number of houses be provided in all future Council Housing Estates for returned emigrants particularly those who are elderly and may be suffering hardship.” (C)

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

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Water Environment & Emergency

32. Clr Marian McDonald
“To ask this Council what the current position is in relation to Movice Fire Station; when it is envisaged that an application will be forwarded for funding and what the timescale is for moving the situation along”?

33. Clr Rena Donaghey
“What is the possibility of having a main sewer in the Cleagh area of Clonmany? Including Gortfad and the new Day Centre etc this is now a heavily populated area and I believe it should be serviced by a main sewer”

Roads & Transportation

34. Clr Marian McDonald
“To ask this Council what the current plans for developing a safer access for both pedestrians and cars along the Movice/ Derry Road, given the increase of the volume of traffic?”

35. Clr Rena Donaghey
“Was there any correspondence between the Department of the Marine and the county or urban council in August of 2003 regarding the dredging of the Bunrana Harbour, if so was it followed up and what is the current and up to date position on the Dredging of Bunrana Harbour?”

36. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What proposals does the Council have for the up-grading and improvement of the Tooban to Bridgend Road (R238) and what assurances can be given to residents in Burnfoot regarding the further development of the village before the construction of a bye-pass would be considered?” (L)

37. Clr. A. Doherty
“What signage (no of) was erected recently and where in the peninsula indicating directions to Malin Head and what signage exists in the county to guide visitors et al to Malin Head – Ireland’s most Northerly headland?” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

38. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What changes will be made to our County Development Plan in order to accommodate the new directive on Once off Housing as announced by the Minister for Environment and Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen?” (C)

39. Clr. B. McGuinness
“How much money has been collected under the Special Development Charges in (a) Carndonagh, (b) Moville (c) Buncrana and (d) Inishowen Electoral Area since they were introduced in the year 2000 and how much has been returned to each of these since then?” (L)

Housing

40. Clr. B. McGuinness
“Give a chronological report on S.I. 6497.” (L)

41. Clr. A. Doherty
“How effective is the current policy and procedures when the Council wishes to purchase houses from a developer(s) and/or when a developer(s) wishes to sell houses to the Council and how is the general public informed?” (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

42. Clr Dessie Larkin
“When will the Council be putting in place the green and white safety bollards at the junctions of Corkey, Manor and Lurgybrack?” (L)

43. Clr. G. Crawford
“What does the Council intend to do to improve the extremely bad road conditions on the Glentown to Ardagh Road, St. Johnston?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency

44. Clr Dessie Larkin
“What actions are this Council taking to bring a regular water service to the people of the Woodlands area?”(L)
45. Clr. G. Crawford
“What progress has been made to provide sewerage treatment for St. Johnston?” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

46. Clr J McHugh
“Will this Council investigate the bridge at Hyrell’s, Killymarney?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency

47. Clr J McHugh
“Will this Council consider proposing an independent solution to the Glenvar Water Problem?”

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

48. Clr. T. Pringle
“Can the County Manager clarify that the planning authority is pursuing a developer for failing to comply with planning permission while the Council has awarded the same developer a lucrative contract in the Inishowen peninsula for a turnkey development and does the Council think this is the best practice?” (C)

Corporate Services

49. Clr. T. Pringle
“What progress has been made in implementing the “Fair Trade” policy which was adopted by the Council last year?”
(C)

Housing

50. Clr. D. McHugh
“What plans do this Council propose for providing further social housing in the Ballyshannon area?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

51. Clr. S. Campbell
“What is the latest update on repairs to the Stranakirka Bridge near Meenanearry, Carrick?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

52. Clr. S. Campbell
“Can the Council give an indication of when they expect to have water in the pipes of the Meentinadea/Meenachan Group Water Scheme?” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

53. Clr. P. McGowan
“What is the delay in progressing the voluntary housing scheme in Convoy along with a site for a new community facility?” (L)

Corporate Services

54. Clr. P. McGowan
“What progress is there with the permanent one stop shop office accommodation for Ballybofey?” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

55. Clr T Slowey
“What specific plans do Donegal County Council have to meet the Public Sector employment target of 3% for people with a disability and what percentage are presently employed by Donegal County Council?” (O)

Community & Enterprise

56. Clr T Slowey
“What plans have Donegal County Council to respond to the issues raised and debated at meetings of the youth Council?”.(O)
57. Clr. T. Gildea
“Could I get a breakdown on the total cost to Donegal County Council of the report on fresh water angling generally referred to as “The Bonner Report”?” (O)
58. Clr. T. Gildea
“In view of the fact that I did not get answers to the four questions that I asked when the delegation from City of Derry Airport made a submission to the members of Donegal County Council last November may I have the answers please?” (O)

Roads & Transportation

59. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the speed limit review that has been promised each Autumn for the last 3 years be carried out?” (C)

Planning & Economic Development

60. Clr. E. Bonner
“What effect will the decision of the courts in relation to the casual trading site in Ballybofey have on sites identified by Councillors in Dungloe and Falcarragh?” (L)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

61. ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL
“That Ennis Town Council call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of Ireland’s E.U. Presidency and the accession of ten new member states in May 2004, to insist on the Irish Language having the same status within the enlarged EU as Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Slovene and Maltese native tongues.”
62. OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
“That Offaly County Council call on the Minister for Communications to review the criteria for his latest broadband proposals to :
- (a) reduce the number of users required to qualify for group broadband scheme
 - (b) reduce qualifying town population figures from 1500 to 1000.”
63. CLONES TOWN COUNCIL
“Article 2 of the Constitution states: “It is the entitlement and birthright of every person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, to be part of the Irish nation. That is also the entitlement of all persons otherwise qualified in accordance with law to be citizens of Ireland.” In the spirit of this article, that Clones Town Council calls on the Government to put in place arrangements, to extend the voting rights in the 2004 Presidential Election, to citizens living in the North of Ireland.”
64. KILKEE TOWN COUNCIL
“That local authorities throughout Ireland inform themselves of the implications of implementation of the next round of the Hanley Report for their communities, and if averse to the implications, that these Councils join with others-similarly affected-to oppose the elements of democratic deficit inherent in the report”.

“That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union.”

65. CORK CITY COUNCIL

“That Cork City Council would support the motion that the official Irish National Anthem, where appropriate, be played on all occasions when Irish teams are competing internationally in all sporting codes.”

66. FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China and that their persecution ceases, and all prisoners held unlawfully be freed.”

“Fingal County Council calls on the Government to use its position as Chair of the EU – China Human Rights Dialogue taking place in Dublin this month, to demand that the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China is ended and all prisoners immediately released. In particular that pressure would be put on to secure the return of Dun Laoghaire students, Liu Feng and Yang Fang, to complete their studies in Ireland and that this motion would be brought to the attention of the Minister.”

67. SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

“That South Dublin County Council supports the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners in China, calls for an end to their persecution and unlawful imprisonment, and urges the Chinese Government to permit Mr Liu Feng & Ms Yan Fang to return to Ireland to continue their studies here”

68. SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council strongly urge the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to strike out the regulation requiring non-party candidates for the local elections to bring along fifteen assentors or guarantors, complete with photographic identification, on nomination day as this provision is discriminatory, divisive, insulting and belittling and has no justification whatsoever.”

69. GALWAY CITY COUNCIL
“That Galway City Council call on the Government to take all necessary steps to introduce an access certification process for buildings.”
70. DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL
“This Council views with concern the intention by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government to review the 1997 Electoral Act to increase the amounts of financial donations from the corporate sector to political parties and that this Council further agrees that any such review will further diminish public trust in the democratic system. That this Council conveys by letter to the Minister its outright opposition to any such proposed increases in corporate donations.”
71. CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The proposed limitations on the borrowings of local authorities will greatly inhibit the development of infrastructure, services and amenities. I will call on the Government not to introduce this limitation at this time.
72. KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL
That Killarney Town Council call on the appropriate Minister to modify the requirements of the NCT testing process in the interests of fairness to motorists
73. LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL
That we call on all Local Authorities in the County to appoint one member to a committee to support the Guards in efforts to get more resources.

That this Council does not support the call for the legalisation of cannabis
74. CASHEL TOWN COUNCIL
That Irish be recognised as an official language of the European Union (E.U.)

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON THE 29TH MARCH, 2004.

C/119/04 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Alcorn, Cathaoirleach, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, S. Campbell, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, A. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, P. Kelly, D. Larkin, S. Maloney, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, N. McGinley, B. McGlinchey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, D. McHugh, J. McHugh, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.

C/120/04 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. McLoone, County Manager, Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Mr. J. McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. F. Coyle, Planning & Economic Development, Mr. J. Holohan, Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. S. Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. G. Martin, Divisional Manager, Mr. P. MacRory, Divisional Manager, Mr. E. Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. M. Crawford, S.O.

C/121/04 SECTION 140 MOTION-CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION BY CATHAL & EDEL HOUTON FOR PERMISSION FOR ERECTION OF ONE AND HALF STOREY DWELLING HOUSE AND DOMESTIC GARAGE WITH SEPTIC TANK AT DRUMARDAGH, LETTERKENNY REF:04/6144

Consideration of the motion was formally moved on the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. J. McHugh. At the request of the Cathaoirleach, the Meetings Administrator, Mr. E. Sweeney, carried out a roll call of members and recorded as in attendance those listed below:-

Clrs. D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, S. Campbell, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, A. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, P. Kelly, D. Larkin, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, B. McGlinchey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, D. McHugh, J. McHugh, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.(23)

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, then proceeded to read into the record the report by Mr. Jim Harley, Senior Planner dated 23rd March, 2004. The report, which had been circulated with the agenda, advised that both outline planning permission and full planning permission had been refused for this site in November, 2002 and February 2004 respectively, for the following reasons:-

- (1) The proposed development would endanger public safety by reason of traffic congestion in that the road serving the site does not have sufficient capacity in terms of both width and alignment to accommodate the additional traffic loads associated with this development and any additional development for which this proposal would establish a precedent.
- (2) The proposed development in conjunction with existing and permitted development adjoining would result in a suburban development within a rural area. It was the policy of the Council as set out in Urban & Rural Development Policy No.3 – to promote and support a vibrant living countryside whilst retaining a distinctive rural character. It was considered that to permit proposed development would militate against the preservation of the rural character of the countryside and thereby be contrary to the aforementioned policy of the County Development Plan, 2000 (as varied). Accordingly, to permit development would be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area.
- (3) The proposed development would set an undesirable precedent for further similar development which would, in themselves and cumulatively, not be in the interests of the proper planning and development of the area.

The site was located along a cul-de-sac minor county road, which had experienced significant housing pressure over the years and the Council was concerned about the capacity of the road to facilitate further traffic. Furthermore, the build up of housing at this location would militate against the preservation of the rural landscape in which it was proposed.

Mr. Francie Coyle advised members that they should outline the reasons why planning permission should be granted in this case. It was essential, he noted that proper clarification be provided.

Clr. Larkin stated that this development was situated within one mile of the Letterkenny Town Boundary and was thus a prime location for development. The potential was there, he advised, to deal with any infrastructural deficits which may arise.

Clr. J. McHugh asked those present to note that the applications had been made on behalf of a young couple who were trying to get on the first rung of the property ladder. The area would eventually, he noted, be part of Letterkenny and the parties concerned were willing to comply with any conditions imposed by the Planning Authority.

Clr. McGlinchey stated that this site was an obvious place for development. Referring to concerns in relation to the capacity of the road, he noted that this could be improved with the help of monies raised from development charges.

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. J. McHugh, the following motion was put to the meeting by the Cathaoirleach and a recorded vote taken by the Meetings Administrator: -

“That in accordance with Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we the members of Donegal County Council hereby resolve that a decision be made to grant planning permission to Cathal & Edel Houton for storey and a half dwelling house, domestic garage with septic tank at Drumardagh, Letterkenny, the subject of planning application 04/6144.”

The vote resulted in 22 for and none against, Clr. Pringle having left the chamber during consideration of the resolution.

Those voting in favour were:-

Clrs. D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, S. Campbell, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, A. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, P. Kelly, D. Larkin, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, B. McGlinchey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, D. McHugh, J. McHugh, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Mr. Francie Coyle read out the schedule of conditions which Mr. Jim Harley, Senior Planner recommended in his report, should be attached.

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. J. McHugh it was resolved that the Schedule of Conditions recommended by the Senior Planner be attached to the permission.

A recorded vote on the motion to attach conditions was then taken by the Meetings Administrator, resulting in 22 for and none against.

Those voting in favour were:-

Clrs. D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, S. Campbell, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, A. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, P. Kelly, D. Larkin, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, B. McGlinchey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, D. McHugh, J. McHugh, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

C/122/04

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH JANUARY, 2004.

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 26th January, 2004 were adopted subject to the minutes listed below being amended to read as follows:

C/41/04 MID WEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY
10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD IN THE ABBEY COURT
HOTEL, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY
ON FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Campbell, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/42/04 NORTHERN TOURISM CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN THE DUNADRY
HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB,
MUCKAMORE, DUNDRY, COUNTY
ANTRIM ON 27TH -29TH FEBRUARY
2004.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) set of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Campbell, it was resolved that 4no. members should attend the above Conference i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/43/04 RENEWABLE ENERGY
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE
RIVERBANK HOUSE HOTEL, CO.
WEXFORD ON 5TH AND 6TH
FEBRUARY 2004.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Campbell, it was resolved that 4no. members should attend the above Conference i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/45/04 SEPTIC TANK SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN GLÓR IRISH MUSIC CENTRE, ENNIS, CO. CLARE ON 29TH AND 30TH JANUARY 2004.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Campbell, it was resolved that 4no. members should attend the above Conference i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/46/04 GENERAL COUNCIL OF COUNTY COUNCILS ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NEWPARK HOTEL, KILKENNY FROM 11TH-13TH MARCH, 2004.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Campbell, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference, i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 2 Fine Gael and 1 other, together with the G.C.C C. and L.A.M.A. delegates.

C/123/04 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 06TH FEBRUARY 2004

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 06th February, 2004 were adopted.

C/124/04 CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2004

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal

County Council held on 09th February, 2004 were adopted.

- C/125/04 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2004.
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Meeting of General Purposes Committee held on 09th February, 2004 were adopted.
- C/126/04 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY, 2004
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 16th February, 2004 were adopted.
- C/127/04 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 02ND MARCH, 2004
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 02nd March, 2004 were adopted.
- C/128/04 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 08TH MARCH, 2004.
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 08th March, 2004 were adopted, subject to the inclusion of the amendment listed below: -
The County Manager referred to Minute C/116/04 and advised that the Development Contribution Scheme with amendments, and the Adjusted Capital Programme as agreed was now appended to the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 08th March, 2004.
Clr. McGowan queried the accuracy of the minutes in relation to the distribution of income generated from development levies in the Stranorlar Electoral Area.

Mr. McLoone advised that it would be necessary to determine at the end of each year the exact level of investment for each Electoral Area.

In reply to a number of queries, the Meetings Administrator advised that Clr. McGlinchey's motion as amended had been a catch all for the various changes proposed. It was, he noted, a matter for the members to propose any amendments to the minutes.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. O'Doherty, it was resolved that Bord Failte approved Holiday Homes provided for letting would not be liable for the holiday home charge of €3,809 subject to Section 47 Agreement in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

C/129/04

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 08TH MARCH, 2004

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. P. Kelly, the Minutes of Meeting of General Purposes Committee held on 08th March, 2004 were adopted.

C/130/04

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. McGlinchey, the Council resolved to defer consideration of items 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) in relation to the above, until later in the meeting.

C/131/04

DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT RAILWAY ROAD, RAPHOE.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. McGlinchey, it was resolved to dispose of lands at Railway Road, Raphoe to Mr. David Laird, Raphoe, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/132/04

CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO
SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGE 6445 AT
KEADUE, BURTONPORT.

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

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. P.O'Doherty, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 with regard to Specific Instance Cottage 6445 at Keadue, Burtonport, was approved.

C/133/04

TO MAKE MUFF LOCAL AREA PLAN 2004-2010.

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

It was noted that the plan would provide a sound basis for the development of the Muff area over the next six years.

Clr. McGuinness advised that it was essential to plan for the future, with the provision of both service areas and an appropriate route on the map to reflect this

Clr. A. Doherty, highlighted the need for a pedestrian crossing within the village given the large volume of traffic currently passing through.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the making of the Muff Local Area Plan 2004-2010 was resolved subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) The deletion of paragraph No. 2 (highlighted below) in relation to submission No. 6 by Michael Hegarty, within the County Manager's Report regarding lands at rear of Springfield/edge of village core area.

“No direct access will be permitted adjacent to R238/R239 Junction. Road Design have deemed it more advantageous to access any proposed development through the existing adjacent residential development to the South of the site, thereby minimising the effects of the R238 Junction.”

(b) That the following traffic policy be inserted:-

“It will be the policy of the Council to consider road options for the opening up of backlands on a case by case basis, and, as such road opportunities arise.”

C/134/04

TO APPROVE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT
KILLEA LOCAL AREA PLAN

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

A number of members contributed to the debate and agreed that the planning section had done an excellent job preparing the Killea Local Area Plan.

It was essential, they advised that it now go forward for public consultation.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, thanked all of the staff involved in the preparation of the plan, the local community for their involvement and the Peace & Reconciliation Task Force for their invaluable input.

Clr. Conaghan requested that the provision of serviced sites for local community members be further assessed and investigated.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the publication of the Draft Killea Local Area Plan 2004-2010, was resolved, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

C/135/04

TO RESOLVE THE MAKING OF
BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR APPOINTED
STANDS (TAXIS) BYELAWS 2004.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Maloney, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Appointed Stands (Taxis) Byelaws 2004, be made.

C/136/04

TO APPROVE THE RAISING OF A
SUPPLEMENTARY LOAN OF €67,443 FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY HOUSING
PROJECT AT KILMACREENAN BY OAKLEE

TRUST LTD, UNDER THE CAPITAL LOAN
SUBSIDY SCHEME

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

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. Kelly, it was resolved that :-

“In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 and Section 26 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, to authorise the raising of a supplementary loan in the sum of €67,443 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of funding a Voluntary Housing Project at Kilmacrennan, County Donegal.

C/137/04

TO APPROVE RURAL WATER PROGRAMME –
RURAL WATER GRANTS 2004

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

Mr. Jim Holohan, Director, Water, Environment & Emergency Services, informed members that the Council was not ultimately in control of the progress of schemes as many aspects of the process were controlled by Departmental Regulations. He advised that in order to complete the programme an additional €1,225,207 would be needed.

Clr. McGowan stated that he had a number of concerns in relation to the five schemes earmarked for further consideration in the programme. It was essential, he advised, that they progress given the considerable cost involved in obtaining Northern Ireland water.

Referring to Group Water Schemes initiated by members of the local farming community. Clr. McGowan stated that it was imperative that pipes be laid along the ditches and not along the length and breadth of the county roads. The cost of reinstating such roads was, he added, becoming astronomical. He acknowledged the need for all sections of the Council to collaborate on this issue.

Clr. P. O’Doherty welcomed the inclusion of Magheraclogher, Meenabool and Gola Island Group

Water Schemes. He enquired as to whether Meenabool would connect to the Rosses Regional Water Supply or be supplied from its own source. The Tory Island Group Water Scheme, he noted, had been “on the go” for a number of years and it was essential now, with the new ferry service bringing increased tourist numbers to the Island, that this facility be further developed.

Clr. Slowey stated that it was important that work progress on all the schemes involved so as to ensure a complete draw down of funds in 2004. Every effort should be made, he added, to encourage Group Water Schemes to connect to the public mains. Funding for the Gola Island Scheme should, he advised, be made available in 2004 so as to complete works initiated in 2001.

Clr. E. Bonner raised a number of questions, namely:-

1. When would work proceed on the Gola Island Scheme?
2. When would the Fintown Group Water Scheme be commissioned?
3. The up to date status of the Meenmore/Meenatinney Group Water Scheme.

Clr. Larkin outlined members frustrations in relation to the drawdown of funds in 2003 and noted that €1.5m had been sent back to the Department. This was, he added, unsatisfactory given that there were three schemes within a three mile radius of Letterkenny with no water.

Clr. A .Doherty requested further clarification on schemes with affordability issues. He referred to the Cloughfin/Tirhoran/Glebe Group Water Schemes and requested that the strategic parts of the scheme go ahead regardless of the affordability issue. He also requested that he be kept fully briefed on the progress of the Cloughfin/Tirhoran/Glebe Scheme.

Clr. Gildea, as a member of the Islands Committee, welcomed the inclusion of the Gola and Tory Island Schemes.

Clr. Crawford queried the recoupment of monies in 2003. He outlined his concerns in relation to the lack of progress in the provision of water for the Labbadish area. Further clarification was also sought on the status of the St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme.

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Crawford it was resolved that the Admiran Sewerage Scheme be included in the Rural Water Programme 2004.

Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, commenting on the affordability issue, reminded members that Donegal County Council simply acted as an agent to facilitate the progress of individual Group Water Scheme. The overall cost of any particular scheme depended on both the location and number of houses involved.

In relation to queries on the Meenabool Scheme, he confirmed that he had asked T.J. O'Connor, Consulting Engineers, to resolve the issues concerned. Mr. Holohan also advised that the Water, Environment & Emergency Services Section would be investigating a number of possible sources for schemes in the Drumoghill area.

Replying to Clr. Larkin's query on the Woodlands Group Scheme, he noted that problems often arose with connections to higher ground.

As regards monies recouped from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government it was noted that €10.257m had been recouped to date with €9.627m paid out. The credit balance on the account was therefore €629,439. Mr. Holohan asked the members to note that money could only be recouped as it was spent.

He informed members that tenders for the Gola Island Scheme had been received and the next step was to proceed to contract stage.

The Contractors insurance for the Tory Island Scheme was, he advised, with Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances for consideration.

On the proposal of Clr. Maloney, seconded by Clr. O'Doherty, the Programme was approved subject to agreed amendments.

C/138/04

REVIEW OF DATE FOR MAY COUNCIL MEETING.

Members agreed that the date for the May Council Meeting would remain unchanged i.e. Monday 31st May, 2004.

C/139/04

REVIEW OF DATE FOR APRIL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. P. O'Doherty, it was resolved to hold the April General Purposes Committee Meeting on Thursday, 08th April, 2004 at 2.pm in the Council Chamber, County House, Lifford.

C/140/04

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL LED PEACE II TASK FORCE 2004-2006 BUDGET ALLOCATION.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McGowan, members noted the report on the Donegal County Council led Peace II Task Force 2004-2006 Budget Allocation.

C/141/04

TO AGREE CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COUNCILS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF DERRY AIRPORT.

This matter was considered under the Manager's Report.

C/142/04

TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO UNDERWRITE OPERATIONAL LOSSES FOR A 10 YEAR PERIOD.

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

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Maloney, it was resolved to underwrite operational losses for the Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. for a ten year period, conditional on the completion of a capital project at the Lakeside Centre, the subject of grant aid amounting to €18,493 from Failte Ireland.

C/143/04

THE COMMITTEE OF REGIONS –
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE –
KNOWLEDGE BASED REGIONS IN THE
INFORMATION SOCIETY – 5TH/6TH APRIL 2004 –
GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL, KILLARNEY, CO
KERRY

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001 on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference, i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 no. Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/144/04

INVITATION FROM BARCELONA PROJECT
TEAM OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN &
DISABILITY – CLOSING CONFERENCE ON
ADOPTION OF BARCELONA DECLARATION –
19TH APRIL – ROYAL HOSPITAL, KILMAINHAM,
DUBLIN

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference, i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 no. Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/145/04

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 15TH/16TH APRIL
2004 – WEST COUNTY HOTEL CONFERENCE
AND LEISURE CENTRE, ENNIS, CO CLARE

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference, i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 no. Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/146/04

SHERKIN ISLAND MARINE STATION – 20TH
ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE –
22ND/23RD APRIL 2004 – CARRIGALINE COURT
HOTEL, CARRIGALINE, CO CORK

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that 4 no. members should attend the above Conference, i.e. 2no. Fianna Fail, 1 no. Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/147/04

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of sympathy

- Mr. Gerry McGowan, Technical Services Officer, Machinery Yard on the death of his father, Philip.
- Mr. Dermot Brodwin, Foreman, Machinery Yard, on the death of his father, Barry.
- Ms. Rita Gallagher, S.O., Finance and Ms Geraldine Carberry (former employee, Housing Section) on the death of their father, William.
- Ms. Teresa Crawford, Letterkenny Town Council, on the death of her father John.
- Mr. John Boyce, Housing, Milford on the death of his father in law, John Crawford.

- Mr. John Lafferty, Mobile Litter Unit Driver, on the death of his father, Michael.
- Clr. Alcorn read into the record correspondence received from Mr. Sean O Longain, C.E.O. Donegal Vocational Educational Committee, extending condolence to the members of Donegal County Council on the death of their esteemed colleague, the late Clr. Jim Sheridan.

- **General Clean Up Week in the county.**

Members were asked to note that a request had been received from Mr. Liam Ó'Cuinneagáin, Cathaoirleach, Udaras na Gaeltachta for the designation of a week in May as general clean up week for the county.

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Larkin it was resolved that consideration be given to designate a week in May as General Clean Up week for the county.

- **Retrospective Approval of Cathaoirleach at Conference**

Clr. Alcorn informed members that in his capacity as Cathaoirleach he had attended the E.U. Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Launch of funding to Border Counties on Friday 12th March, 2004 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Slowey the attendance of the Cathaoirleach at the above Conference was approved.

- **Members Representations**

The issue of replies to members representations was raised and the necessity for prompt reply to same was outlined.

- **Votes of Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Jim McGettigan on becoming the Donegal Person of the Year for 2004.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the presentation of the Donegal People of the Year Awards held on the 27th

May, 2004 and acknowledged the contributions made by Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community & Enterprise, Mr. Aidan Doherty, Ms. Amanda Crawford and Mr. Pat Kavanagh.

- **Recycling in Carndonagh**

The ongoing commitment to recycling in the Carndonagh area was recognised. The Cathaoirleach requested that Mr. Jim Holohan investigate the possibility of extending a similar range of services to the other Electoral Areas.

- **Chairman's Ball**

The Cathaoirleach advised members that due to the constraints of time there would be no Chairman's Ball this year. He recommended however, that members instead consider contributing monies from their Development Fund Allocations to the People In Need organisation

- **Criticism of ESB**

Members were informed that Mr. Paul Doherty, ESB had advised that he was annoyed at recent criticism of the ESB and his staff by the members of Donegal County Council. The Cathaoirleach stated that if problems existed with specific cases then members should bring these to the attention of himself or Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation.

- **Works at Corkscrew, Glenties**

The completion of works at the Corkscrew in Glenties was welcomed, with Clr. Alorn recommending that the project be officially opened. On the proposal of Clr. P. O'Doherty, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved that Clr. Alcorn officially open the Corkscrew Project.

- **Outstanding Civic Receptions**

The Cathaoirleach requested that a report on the number of Civic Receptions outstanding be brought to the members.

C/148/04 MANAGER'S REPORT.

- Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, together with report by Mr. Gary Martin, S.E.O., Community, Culture & Enterprise on the City of Derry Airport, dated 29th March, 2004 and report by Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, dated 29th March 2004, on Buncrana Dredging.
- Members of the Stranorlar Electoral Area welcomed the update on office accommodation in Ballybofey and applauded the County Manager's efforts to resolve the situation. They requested that all of those concerned be kept fully briefed on the progress of the project.
- Clr. Larkin referred to the recently published Draft Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing and queried whether or not the guidelines were to be implemented straight away.

Members welcomed the update on Buncrana Dredging and noted that the granting of the Foreshore Licence was indeed a step in the right direction.

Clr. McGuinness expressed disappointment that funding from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources was not already in place.

Clr. Donaghey noted that the cost of dredging was now much more expensive than previously agreed. She stated that she was dismayed that, under the specific conditions laid down for the granting of the foreshore licence, dredging could only be carried out by backhoe or suction techniques.

Clr. McGuinness added that this was ample reason for the Department to provide funding forthwith.

The introduction of the Pilot Buncrana – Rathmullan Ferry Service was recognised as a positive development for the Inishowen Peninsula, though some concern was expressed in relation to the short operating period for the ferry.

Clrs. Blaney and McGlinchey commented on the need for remedial works at Portsalon Harbour.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation was asked to provide an update on the current situation at Portsalon.

Members considered the report on the City of Derry Airport, prepared by Mr. Gary Martin, Divisional Manager, circulated during the meeting and a number of concerns were raised namely:-

- The need to revisit proposed plans for the extension of the Airport, particularly in view of the fact that Ryan Air would operate from the location.
- That further consideration be given to a previous motion calling for consultation with the residents of lands adjacent to the City of Derry Airport.
- The response to members questions (i.e. queries raised at the General Purposes Committee Meeting on the 08th December, 2003) was deemed to be insufficient with a number of members calling for further discussion so as to thrash out the issues involved.

It was noted that in the considering funding for Derry, Carrickfin Airport should not be overlooked. The offer of two places on the Airport Committee was considered insufficient with a number of members calling for greater flexibility on the issue of representation given the level of business generated for the airport within Donegal. The following nominations by Party Whips, on behalf of their respective groupings, to the Airport Committee (City of Derry Airport) were agreed:-

Clr. McGlinchey nominated Clrs. Conaghan and Donaghey on behalf of Fianna Fail.

Clr. Reid nominated Clr. McGuinness on behalf of Fine Gael.

Clr. Kelly nominated Clr. Larkin on behalf of the Independent Grouping.

- Clr. Campbell complimented the County Manager on the opening of the Donegal Public Service Centre. He expressed concern at the ongoing damage caused by Coillte lorries on roads adjacent to county forestries.

C/149/04

STATUS OF LOUGH SWILLY CAR FERRY

The following motion submitted by Clr. Donaghey was dealt with in conjunction with the Manager's Report.

“That the status of the Lough Swilly Car Ferry be established immediately to enable marketing to take place for the incoming season, given that the Government granted €600,000 to the North West through Failte Ireland for marketing.”

C/150/04

INVALID PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

“That Donegal County Council discuss procedures re invalid planning applications.”

Members were informed that the procedure with regard to valid planning applications had been established on the basis of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 which were applicable to all planning authorities in the country. Clr. Kelly's point regarding several checklists had been addressed and only one validation list was now in circulation.

Clr. Kelly advised that he had grave concerns in relation to the large number of invalid planning applications currently in existence.

He proceeded to outline a number of instances where planning permission was refused on seemingly minute and inconsistent grounds.

A number of members voiced similar concerns. It was generally agreed, however, that there had been enormous pressure placed on the planning service over the past few months with the advent of the Development Contribution Scheme.

Clr. Larkin stated that agents were ultimately responsible for their submissions and called for the location of a Validation Officer within each Electoral Area. The key, he advised, to the current situation was flexibility.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development confirmed that a single checklist had been produced and distributed to agents and architects in the county. A copy of this checklist was distributed to members during the discussion.

Clr. Slowey requested that the checklist be distributed to the General Public. Members were in agreement that the existence of a single checklist would help standardise the procedures.

Mr. Coyle thanked agents and architects for their co-operation over the past months and stated that the Council would be engaging with them in due course in relation to reducing the number of invalid applications. He stated that he would deal with the members queries on invalid applications on an individual basis.

He agreed to take members concerns on board and stated that the new checklist would allow all of the parties concerned to move forward.

Mr. Coyle reminded those present that there was presently a cap on the number of planners employed and that all members of the planning service were working to full capacity to clear the backlog of applications.

C/151/04

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. P. O'Doherty, it was resolved that the remainder of business would be dealt with on 08th April, 2004 at 10.30am in the County House, Lifford.

This concluded the business of the meeting.