

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Áras na Chontae  
Leifear

De Mairt 7 Feabhra 2006

**FOGRA CRUINNITHE**

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 30 Eanáir 2006 ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 13 Feabra 2006, ag **2.00pm 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**

**S. O'Piobla**

**Riarthóir Cruinniú Ionadach (RUNAI CHONTAE)**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of  
Meetings  
Administrator  
County House  
Lifford

07<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, at 2.00pm, in the County House, Lifford.

**TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Dear Councillor**

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

**Yours sincerely**

**J. Peoples**

**A/Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)**

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

## AGENDA

## MOTIONS

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

### INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

#### *Roads & Transportation Services*

15. Clr. Rena Donaghey  
“That Donegal County Council immediately prepare an overall plan for the development of Buncrana Pier, to incorporate all interested parties.” (L)

#### *Corporate Services*

16. Clr. B. McGuinness  
“That the Council seek a meeting with the Chief Superintendent, Terry McGinn, to discuss Gardai/Resource levels in Donegal and to call on the Minister for Justice to increase the number of Gardai in the County and if necessary seek an all party deputation to the Minister regarding same.”  
(C)

### MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

#### *Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services*

19. Clr. I. McGarvey

“That this Council fast-track any proposed works for Rathmullan and area in preparation for the commemoration of the Flight of the Earls.” (L)

### **Roads & Transportation Services**

20. Clr. L. Blaney  
“That this Council take immediate steps to rectify the situation on the R250 at Foxhall junction known locally as Jameson's Junction which was highlighted four years ago and in recent times.” (C)

## **STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services**

21. Clr. P. McGowan  
“That this Council agree to incorporate the Balor Theatre into the Council services and nominate directors onto a new management board to be agreed. This new company would operate under the guidance of the Council Cultural Services division to further develop programmes, through education, drama, cross border cultural linkages in co-operation with the V.E.C. etc.” (L)

## **GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Corporate Services**

23. Clr. D. Alcorn  
“That this Council arrange to have the Voting Register for this County put into alphabetical order in all townlands.” (C)
24. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill  
“I am calling on Donegal County Council to lobby against the introduction of high tuition fees in Universities/Third Level Colleges in the North of Ireland, England and Wales.” (C)

### **Housing & Building Services**

25. Clr. Pearse Doherty

“That Donegal County Council amend its current housing policy to facilitate elderly returning emigrants and that it leads a inter agency group made up of Donegal County Council, The Health Service Executive, The Department of Social Welfare, the V.E.C. and other relevant bodies to ensure that there is a joined up approach to meet the needs of elderly returning emigrants that have fallen upon difficult times while away from home and whose needs are more than a Council House.” (C)

**Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services**

26. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh  
“Go mbeid Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall gníomhach i bhforbairt na turasóireachta, mar pháirt thabhachtach de Phlean Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall 2005/6.  
That Donegal County Council will take a proactive approach to the development of the tourism industry as a key element of the Donegal Development Plan throughout the county.”  
(C)

**QUESTIONS**

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

**INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA**

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services**

28. Clr. F. Conaghan  
“What plans do the Council have to progress a new sewerage scheme for the village of Carrigans?” (L)
29. Clr. M. McDonald  
“To ask this Council what efforts have the Council made to attract funding for the difficulties of the water supply in Moville and what applications are currently awaiting a response?” (L)

### **Roads & Transportation Services**

30. Clr. F. Conaghan  
“When will the pedestrian crossing be put in place in Muff?”  
(L)
31. Clr. M. McDonald  
“To ask this Council what the current position is in relation to the footpath for Movice Community College?” (L)
32. Clr. R. Donaghey  
“When will Cockhill Housing Estate have new footpaths and have the road in the park renewed as they are in an abysmal state?” (L)
33. Clr. P. MacLochlainn  
“When will Donegal County Council erect lighting on the R238 leading in to Buncrana from the North West Golf Links in to the town?” (L)

### **Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services**

34. Clr. R. Donaghey  
“What is present update on proposed Lough Swilly Coastal Education & Research Centre?” (L)
35. Clr. B. McGuinness  
Why has the Council not pursued plans to provide a ferry service between Movice and the main land of Scotland and give a chronological report on same to date and details of what funding has been applied for? (L)

### **Housing & Building Services**

36. Clr. P. MacLochlainn  
“What plans have Donegal County Council to construct affordable housing units in Inishowen in 2006 and is the Council aware of any plans by Buncrana Town Council to construct affordable housing units in 2006 in line with long standing commitments?” (L)
37. Clr. B. McGuinness

What progress has been made in acquiring turnkey housing developments at Glengad and Malin Head and what assistance has the Council given to facilitate these developments? (L)

## LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

### *Roads & Transportation Services*

38. Clr. Gerry Crawford  
“In addition to €8,000 being provided for low cost safety measures at Ballyholey Junction (Raphoe) by the NRA what plans do the Council have to provide a Right turning lane at this accident black spot?” (L)
39. Clr. T. McDaid  
“When will the proposed traffic lights be installed at Clady Bridge?” (L)

### *Corporate Services*

40. Clr. Gerry Crawford  
“As a result of recent fire damage to Council property in Lifford what effect has this had on services provided and what is the current status of the building?” (L)

### *Housing & Building Services*

41. Clr. T. McDaid  
“At what stage is the collation of statistics on the number of Non-Resident Fathers in the County?” (C)

## DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water, Environment & Emergency Services*

42. Clr. T. Pringle  
“What is the timescale and costings for the refurbishment of the Ballbane landfill site?” (L)

### **Roads & Transportation Services**

43. Clr. T. Pringle  
“Will this Council investigate through the Council's Road Safety Engineer the provision of traffic calming measures on Forge Rd, Mountcharles particularly around the new housing developments on the road?” (L)

### **MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA**

#### **Finance**

44. Clr. I. McGarvey  
“How much money was paid out in 2005 for Consultancy services?” (C)

### **Water, Environment & Emergency Services**

45. Clr. I. McGarvey  
“Was the proposed €150,000 agreed for transfer to Milford Public Service Centre for water supply to Ramelton and district provided?” (L)
46. Clr. L. Blaney  
“Will the Environment Department of Donegal County Council consider providing a skip at Rathmullan Pier to cater for waste from the large volume of boats using the pier on a daily basis?” (L)

### **STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA**

#### **Finance**

47. Clr. P. McGowan  
“Can I have a breakdown per Electoral Area under each Directorate of the 2006 Budget to be implemented?” (C)

### **Planning & Economic Development**

48. Clr. P. McGowan  
“What progress has been made in relation to the Masterplan Area in Stranorlar including possible sites for John Paul Youth Club, Twin Towns Boxing Club and other?” (L)

## GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water, Environment & Emergency Services*

49. Clr. D. Alcorn  
“Because of all the complaints Re-burst pipes and dirty water in various parts of the Rosses area, what action will Donegal County Council take in 2006 to help improve this?”  
(L)
50. Clr. T. Slowey  
“When will the Donegal Town Sewerage Treatment Plant and Foul Sewerage Collection System be completed?” (L)
51. Clr. T. Slowey  
“How much Toxic & Hazardous waste was generated in Donegal in 2005 and will the Council list the top five producers and state the final disposal point of the waste?”  
(C)
52. Clr. Pearse Doherty  
“What is the current position in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme, when do we expect it to go to tender and will the Gweedore Scheme be constructed before, after or at the same time as the Letterkenny scheme and is this stated in the contact documents?” (L)

### *Roads & Transportation Services*

53. Clr. D. Alcorn  
“Can I get an assurance that improvement works will be carried out on the Caravan Road to Diamond Road, Dungloe in 2006?” (L)
54. Clr. P. O'Dochartaigh  
“Cén uair a thógfas Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall 'sconsaí sábháilteachta ag Dún Lúiche - o bharr Dhún Lúiche go dtí imeall an bhaile?”  
“When will Donegal County Council erect safety barriers on the Errigal Road, from the council site into the control points of the village of Dunlewey?” (L)

55. Clr. P. O'Dochartaigh  
“Cén uair a chuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Comhartaí boithre suas chuig na poirt farantóireachta san iarthuaiscirt?”  
“When will Donegal County Council erect proper signposts to the Ferryports in the North West?” (C)

### Corporate Services

56. Clr. Pearse Doherty  
“Can the Council provide a detailed break down month by month and by each individual councillor of the conference attended by him or her, the fee that was paid in respect of that conference and the amount for overnight stay that was paid in respect of that conference since the 2004 local government elections?”
57. Clr. B.O'Domhnaill  
“What progress has been made in respect to the erection and flying of the Irish Tri Colour (Brat Na hEireann) at County House and each Public Service Centre?” (C)

### MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

58. MACROOM TOWN COUNCIL  
“That this Council calls on the Department of Justice, Transport and the Environment and Local Government and the Department of Finance to introduce measures to improve pedestrian visibility at night by means of reflective jackets or otherwise.”  
  
“That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to grant local authorities the discretion to set their own fees for licences, for street furniture, granted under Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Schedule 12 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001.”
59. LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL  
“That Longford County Council call on the Minister for Justice to bring forward workable legislation, as a matter of urgency, to enable prosecution of those found in possession of, and using unauthorised fireworks.”

60. WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL  
“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to instigate a review of catchment areas for school transport at both primary and secondary level.”
61. MULLINGAR TOWN COUNCIL  
“That Mullingar Town Council calls on the Minister at the Department of Social and Family Affairs to introduce a local telephone service similar to other Government Departments.”
62. BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL  
“Balbriggan Town Council call on all Local Authorities to arrange for developers of new residential housing estate to provide maps with house numbers for emergency services i.e. An Garda Síochána in the interest of safety.”
63. BALLYSHANNON TOWN COUNCIL  
“That Ballyshannon Town Council call on Donegal County Council to ensure that all Polling Station Stations are wheelchair user friendly for future Elections.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2005 IN THE COUNTY  
HOUSE, LIFFORD.

C/80/06

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/81/06

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director of Housing, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr Peadar MacRory, Senior Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency, Mr. Joe Peoples, A/Meetings Administrator, Ms. Kathleen Browne, Staff Officer, Corporate Services

C/82/06

CHANGE OF CATHAOIRLEACH TITLE TO  
COUNTY MÉARA

Following consideration of correspondence from the General Council of County Councils it was proposed by Clr. D. Larkin, seconded by Clr. L. Blaney that the title of Cathaoirleach should be changed to County Méara. Clr. Pearse Doherty proposed that the spelling of mayor be the irish version of same. He was advised by Clr. Larkin that the Irish spelling would be used.

This proposal was agreed by the members

C/83/06

DEPUTATION FROM SWIM IRELAND TO  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty, it was agreed that a deputation from

the Swim Ireland group be allowed to address the General Purposes Committee Meeting later in the afternoon.

C/84/06

#### VOTING REGISTER

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty it was agreed to bring Clr David Alcorn's motion forward on the agenda.

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

“That this Council arrange to have the Voting Register for this County put into alphabetical order in all townlands.”

Members were informed that:-

“The current format of the Register is as above. Electors are listed alphabetically in each townland or by house number in housing estates. Occasionally an elector's name appears in Irish on the register and this means that their name will be out of sequence. This is unavoidable and electors do have the choice of being registered in Irish or English.”

Clr. Alcorn requested that the Director of Corporate Services re-examine this matter and check if there was any way that Electoral Registers could be put entirely into alphabetical order.

Clr. Pearse Doherty stated that he supported the motion. However, he suggested that Housing Estates should not be put into alphabetical order rather they should be put into house number order with each family member per house in alphabetical order.

He requested that with the proposed introduction of postcodes, in the future a register ordered by postcode should be compiled. He proposed that this Council should meet with An Post to discuss their approach to the introduction of postcodes. This was agreed by the members.

C/85/06

PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUNCRANA  
PIER

In proposing her motion Clr. Donaghey requested that the words 'and harbour' be included in the motion as they had been omitted by her in error.

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

“That Donegal County Council immediately prepare an overall plan for the development of Bunrana Pier and harbour, to incorporate all interested parties.”

Members were informed that:-

“A meeting will be set up in March to discuss with all interested parties the future development of the pier headed up by our Marine Section. In the meantime an application is with the Department of Marine for funding for the construction of the breakwaters.”

Clr. Donaghey welcomed the positive response to her motion. She requested that the Council examine the possibility of return fares and earlier start times for the ferry. She further suggested that they examine a means of earning revenue from users of the pier. She advised that public toilets were required and a clean up of the area needed. She stated that she was looking forward to discussing this matter at the meeting in March with a view to moving it forward.

Clr. Conaghan stated that he was delighted with the announcement of funding. He stated that the lifeboat issue had been ongoing for a number of years and that it was important to progress this matter.

Clr. McDonald spoke in support of the motion and stated that two ferries was a major boost to the area.

Clr. McGarvey stated that he was glad to support this motion and recognised the importance of such

facilities. He also welcomed the allocation of monies to this project.

Clr. Padraig O'Dochartaigh also spoke in support of this motion. He stated that all ferries and harbours should have a proper entrance and exit area, be well kept and run. He suggested that this Council look at the possibility of bringing in a special package of support for piers and harbours in the County.

Clrs. McGonagle and Blaney also spoke in support of this motion. Clr. Blaney suggested that the council examine the return rates for the ferry.

Clr. P. McLochlainn also supported the motion. He stated that whilst he welcomed the funding and the matching funding from Buncrana Town Council he was concerned that, as the overall cost of the entire project was approximately €1 million, this funding of €300,00 was not sufficient to complete the same. He felt that more government funding was required.

Clr. Donaghey thanked the members for their support for her motion and advised that she had met with the Minister for the Marine who has agreed that any project, which had commenced, would be finished.

C/86/06

GARDAI/RESOURCE LEVELS IN DONEGAL.

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

“That the Council seek a meeting with the Chief Superintendent, Terry McGinn, to discuss Gardai/Resources levels in Donegal and to call on the Minister for Justice to increase the number of Gardai in the County and if necessary seek an all party deputation to the Minister regarding same.”

Members were informed that:-

“An initial meeting to discuss areas of mutual interest and co-operation has taken place between the Chief Superintendent, the Cathaoirleach and the County

Manager, with this meeting taking place two weeks ago. It is intended to hold regular meetings between the Council and the Gardai on an ongoing basis. It is expected that added impetus will be given to this co-operation with the rollout of the new local policing structures which are being piloted in a number of areas at present.

Details of the proposed structures will be brought to the elected members when available.”

Clr. McGuinness acknowledged that a meeting had already taken place, however, he stated that he felt that it was important that an all party approach was taken by the Council to this matter. He felt that the proximity to the border and this County's unique position in this regard were not being taken into consideration by either the Minister or Department of Justice in relation to the allocation of Garda resources and numbers to this County. He stated that whilst these matters were the responsibility of the Minister and Department of Justice, as local authority representatives the members had a responsibility in this matter also. He felt it was important that the Council work in co-operation with the Chief Superintendent and Gardai in this matter and that if the Chief Superintendent felt it was necessary that the members seek an all party deputation to the Minister for Justice to discuss the concerns.

In seconding the motion, Clr. Conaghan congratulated Clr. McGuinness for bringing this motion forward. He stated that it was important to start with the structures that currently exist and felt we should speak to people and get feedback to see the way forward. As a representative of a border area he stated that this area had seen massive change over the last few years with a new population coming into the area. He felt that as more specialised divisions, such as traffic, drugs etc. were introduced community policing had suffered. This lack of local knowledge could lead to misunderstanding as to what was happening in the area. He stated that he had recently met with Supt

Peadar Keaveney, Letterkenny, who advised that the Gardai were commissioning a review of the border areas and assessing the areas to examine the allocation and administration of resources in their own areas. He felt that it was time that the Council sat down constructively with the authorities to discuss these issues and if the Chief Superintendent recommended it that a deputation should go to the Minister.

Clr. P. MacLochlainn endorsed the motion and raised the issue of the number of towns who do not have 24-hour policing. He felt that crime figures in the neighbouring counties in Northern Ireland should be taken into consideration when allocating Garda resources to the county.

Clr. McDaid also spoke in support of the motion. He felt that local needs were best identified by local people. He agreed with the proposal that any meetings should be cross party. He requested that the media deal with the issue sensitively as the suggestion of a lack of Garda presence could encourage more crime.

Clr. Slowey raised his concerns at the unmanned Garda stations. He suggested that workshop meeting be held between the members and the Chief Superintendent and Gardai.

Clr. McGowan also spoke in support of the motion. He suggested that more mobile units were required and that resources be doubled at night and at the weekends. He also suggested that due to our proximity to the border area we should also meet with the PSNI. He felt that it was also important to include the Youth Council in any proposed meetings with Gardai.

Clr. J.J. Reid congratulated Clr. McGuinness in raising this motion. He agreed that the Garda numbers were insufficient.

Clr. McGarvey also supported the motion and suggested that non-Garda personnel should be used for day to day work in the Garda Barracks to free up Garda numbers.

Clr. Pringle also spoke in favour of the motion. He raised his concerns at the lack of a drugs unit for South and South West Donegal. He had already spoken to Supt McFadden locally regarding this issue and felt that this motion may go some way to addressing this and other issues.

Clr. Pearse Doherty welcomed and supported the motion. He also welcomed the suggestion of an all party deputation to the Minister to raise concerns re these issues. He welcomed the lack of road fatalities over the Christmas period and called for a dedicated police service for the roads in the county and well as overall increase in Garda numbers.

Clr. McGonagle expressed his support for the motion and felt a meeting with the Chief Superintendent and Inspectors would be very useful.

Clr. Brogan agreed fully with the sentiments of the motion. He felt it was vitally important to have regular meetings with the Gardai. He suggested that the Stranorlar, Inishowen and Letterkenny Members meet with the Superintendent together as their areas made up one policing area. He felt that it was also important that the Council were proactive on this issue. He suggested that the increase in crime could be due to the new freedom in the use of border roads.

Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh expressed his support for the motion and congratulated Deputy McGinley for raising the issue nationally. He called for the arrival on the streets of the increased policing numbers promised by the government as soon as possible. He felt that Gardai should infiltrate the large groups of people who were out at night.

Clr. McBride spoke in support of the motion and stated that he would look forward to the meeting taking place. He called for an increase in the number of Garda checkpoints.

Clr. Donaghey stated that she fully supported the motion. She also felt that parents had an important role in monitoring their children. She referred to the pilot scheme, which had been set up in Inishowen to deal with the number of road accidents. This was due to end in January and she stated that she would like to have an opportunity to meet with the Superintendent to discuss the continuation of the scheme and to examine the effects and statistics for same.

Clr. Blaney stated he fully supported the motion and called for extra Gardai and community policing.

Clr. J. Harte in support of the motion thanked the Gardai for their assistance following the recent burglary in his own home. He also suggested that a workshop be set up between Members and Gardai representatives to discuss the current problems and their approach to same. He suggested that a five year plan be put in place.

Clr. McDonald congratulated Clr. McGuinness on raising the motion and expressed her support for same. She supported an all party deputation and felt that a more visible Garda presence on the streets was required.

Clr. Boyle also supported the motion. He queried whether some amendment to the law could be made to prevent so many Gardai having to spend time attending court sittings.

Mr. M. McLoone, County Manager, informed the members that the Cathaoirleach and himself had met with the Garda Siochana on January 16<sup>th</sup> and discussed the various issues. He felt they had set the context for ongoing co-operation, which covered everything from traffic, road safety, public order

offences etc. He stated that he had no problem in writing to the Chief Superintendent re resources but felt that members should set it into the wider context of the policing plan and resources. This would help to set an agenda of mutual interest between the local authority and the Gardai.

Clr. Larkin advised the members that the meeting with the Garda Siochana on January 16<sup>th</sup> had been a useful exercise. They had looked at the future of policing and the role of the County Council. He stated that the Department of Justice have a role laid out for local authorities in the policing bill. He felt that it would be worthwhile for the members to examine the policing plan before meeting with the Chief Superintendent and to make a submission re same. He felt that it was very important to react to the plan itself.

Clr. McGuinness thanked the members for their support for his motion. He felt it was important to deal with this matter and the problems we have in this county with the Chief Superintendent, Garda Commissioner and Minister for Justice. He queried why a copy of the Policing Document circulated to each Local Authority had not been circulate to the members. He stated that in his discussions with the Chief Superintendent she had advised that accommodation was a factor in the non provision of a 24 hour service for Inishowen. Clr. McGuinness asked if the Council could provide assistance in this matter. He felt that it was imperative that we request the Chief Superintendent to come and meet with the members to discuss the problems and if necessary following this meeting that the members seek a meeting with the Minister to set out the situation in Donegal.

C/87/06

#### FLIGHT OF THE EARLS

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

“That this Council fast-track any proposed works for Rathmullan and area in preparation for the commemoration of the Flight of the Earls.”

Members were informed that:-

“The following is an overview of the current status of a number of projects across the various directorates of Donegal County Council which will have a positive impact on the area:

### **Environmental Improvement Scheme**

The Rathmullan Environmental Improvement Scheme commenced in November and the demolition of the potato store has now been completed, the underground works are nearing completion and the overall programme is on schedule. The scheme includes provision of kerbing, fencing, decorative street lighting, street furniture and footpathing, undergrounding of overhead cables, erection of stone walls, laying of decorative paving, provision of promenade, provision of car park and landscaping.

It is envisaged that these works will be completed by mid April 2006. The completion of the scheme will be a major boost to the town and will compliment efforts by the community who are making preparations for the Flight of the Earls Commemorative Celebrations planned for 2007

### **Roads**

An improvement scheme is proposed in the restoration programme for 2006 on the Rathmullan Pier Road and additional funding is to be spent on Rathmullan Street following the completion of the sewerage scheme.

### **Water and Environment**

The Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme is on the major capital programme for water and sewerage. The consultants are expected to deliver the preliminary report this month. This preliminary report will include an Environmental Impact Statement and a Foreshore Licence. Sanitary Services will review the scheme and

the timing of the works upon receipt of this documentation.

### **Community, Enterprise and Cultural Services**

The management committee of the Flight of the Earls Centre are currently implementing a programme of restoration works with grant assistance from the Heritage Council. The committee have also applied to the Donegal County Council led Peace II Task Force for funding for a range of renovation and improvement works at the Flight of the Earls Centre.

The possibilities are currently being examined for funding for a multipurpose amenity facility with interpretative materials at Portnamurray, the departure point of the Earls.

An events co-ordinator has been employed at the Cultural Services division on a part time basis since September 2005 (with the position becoming full time in 2006) and a draft schedule of events is due to be published shortly.”

In proposing the motion, Clr. McGarvey stated that the upcoming commemoration was important not only for the local area but for the County and the Country. He felt that there was a lot of work to be completed on roads and sewerage services and called on the council to seek funding from central government to complete same.

Clr. L. Blaney stated that he fully supported the motion. He suggested that the car ferry service should be extended to December to facilitate this commemoration.

Clr. McBride also spoke in support of the motion. He requested that the bulk of this work should be carried out in 2006. If funding was coming on line for the work in 2007 he suggested that a loan be taken out to complete the work in 2006.

Clr. Brogan expressed his support for the motion and his confidence that good work was ongoing. He suggested that one person be appointed to co-ordinate the necessary works and that a special meeting be held where all the Departments involved could come together to discuss the work to be done.

Clr. P. MacLochlainn supported the spirit of the motion. He suggested that a strategic approach be taken to the completion of the improvement and infratstructural works.

Mr. McLoone, County Manager, advised that there were two aspects to the response to this motion. He advised that the Councils programme of work on the improvement scheme was ongoing with work on the potato store and Rathmullan Pier. He stated that Community and Enterprise had a proactive role in assisting with moving the work forward.

He advised the members that an Immersion Day had been organised by Sally Murphy, for the 14<sup>th</sup> February in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, which will launch the event and set the context for what will be a landmark historical event. He confirmed to the members that this Council will be putting resources into this event and would not be found wanting.

Clr. McGarvey acknowledged the work done to date and advised that he had raised the motion to ensure the support of the Council for the event.

The Cathaoirleach, Clr. Larkin, pledged his support for the event and requested that as many members as possible attend the Immersion Day regarding this event on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

C/88/06

#### R250 AT FOXHALL JUNCTION

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

“That this Council take immediate steps to rectify the situation on the R250 at Foxhall junction known

locally as Jameson's Junction which was highlighted four years ago and in recent times.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Road Design Section of Donegal County Council have recommended a junction layout to improve this junction and allow the removal of the cones. Land purchase is required and negotiations to this end will be carried out by the Letterkenny Area staff over the next few months. Following the purchase of the required lands funding will have to be identified to allow construction of the designed works”

Clr. Blaney stated that this was the second time he had brought this motion before the Council. He felt that it would take very little to sort this matter out and called on the Council to take the necessary steps to complete same.

Clr. McBride, in supporting the motion, stated that this matter had been ongoing for a number of years and called on the Roads Department to complete the works at this junction.

Clr. McGarvey stated his support for the motion and requested that the matter be addressed as soon as possible.

Clr. Larkin advised the meeting that he had visited this junction with Deputy Neil Blaney and he was promised that something would be done. He called on the Director of Roads & Transportation to expedite action to complete these works.

C/89/06

**INCORPORATE THE BALOR THEATRE INTO THE COUNCIL SERVICES**

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

“That this Council agree to incorporate the Balor Theatre into the Council services and nominate

directors onto a new management board to be agreed. This new company would operate under the guidance of the Council Cultural Services division to further develop programmes, through education, drama, cross border cultural linkages in co-operation with the V.E.C. etc.”

Members were informed that:-

“The chief strength of the arts sector in Donegal is built on the solid foundation of an independent network of locally initiated, controlled and managed arts facilities and initiatives. It is important to support this local control to accurately reflect the distinctive character, the concerns and the cultural priorities of their host communities.

It is the policy of DCC (outlined in Saol agus Saoithiulacht) to provide practical and consistent support to this network of strategic, locally-based, independent, community-owned arts facilities and initiatives which has emerged in the county, over the past 10 years in particular. The Council’s Strategic Partnership Fund, initiated in 2004 (and substantially increased in 2006), is one mechanism through which DCC effects this support. All such strategic facilities and initiatives can and do also avail of the professional advice, guidance and technical assistance provided by the County Arts Office, An Grianán Theatre and Letterkenny Arts Centre/Regional Cultural Centre.

It is also the policy of DCC to develop cultural infrastructural facilities and initiatives of regional and national significance to serve the whole community of County Donegal. This it has done through the development and support of An Grianán Theatre to serve Performance Arts needs, through the development and support of the new Regional Cultural Centre to serve visual arts and new, digital media needs and the development and support of the Earagail Arts and Donegal Bay and Blue Stack Festivals to provide a high profile showcase for the

best of Donegal creativity and an opportunity for Donegal artists to work alongside the cream of international practitioners.

The proposal that Donegal County Council takes on responsibility for independent facilities and initiatives, which could be in the region of 30 throughout the county, is a matter for full discussion, (which could be done as part of the Cultural Services review in 2006) would have substantial budgetary and management implications and would be a shift in the current policy of supporting local initiative, independence and control.

In proposing this motion, Clr. McGowan stated that this matter had been ongoing for some time. He stated that this agreement was not about one local arts centre. This Theatre/Arts Centre worked on a regional, national and cross border basis. He advised that this group were undertaking major building work with private funding and had not requested any assistance from the Council for same.

Clr. Reid in seconding the motion stated that he did so for the dedication of the Manager of the Theatre and his innovativeness in bringing events to a theatre, which had flourished since his arrival.

Clr. Pearse Doherty stated his support for the motion and for the work of the Balor Theatre. He felt that this Council should be making a commitment to them. He stated that this theatre had one of the largest budgets in the County and that they had done a major amount of the work themselves. He felt they deserved the Council's support.

Clr. Bonner also spoke in support of the motion and the work of the Balor theatre. She referred to the Community Assistance Schemes, which had been running for many years in the theatre. These schemes had assisted many people in getting back into the workplace. She also referred to the cross border work that was carried out there. She felt that no theatre in

the County was doing more community work. She stated that Ballyshannon and Letterkenny were getting funding from the Council and that this group should also receive same.

Clr. L. Blaney stated that he gave the motion his full support.

Clr. McGarvey also spoke in favour of the motion. He felt that for their cross community and cross border work they deserved the full support of the Council.

Clrs. Kennedy, Slowey and Pádraig O'Dochartaigh also expressed their support for the motion.

Mr. M. Heaney, Director of Service, Community and Enterprise, stated that his service had worked closely with the Balor Theatre over a number of years. He clarified that in his response, his service had been coming under pressure to support various schemes within the 30 different projects, which were mentioned. He felt that to incorporate the Balor Theatre into Council Services would have major financial implications and that from the point of view of the motion put forward today perhaps it could be examined and a costing carried out for same.

Clr. McGowan stated that the Balor Theatre were going forward with plans for a new building and no funding had been requested for same. The issue he had raised today was to incorporate them within Council services. He stated that no-one was looking for a blank cheque and requested that the motion be adopted as is.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this was the case.

C/90/06

INTRODUCTION OF HIGH TUITION FEES FOR  
THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND, ENGLAND AND WALES

The following motion submitted by Clr. B. O'Domhaill was not moved:-

“I am calling on Donegal County Council to lobby against the introduction of high tuition fees in Universities/Third Level Colleges in the North of Ireland, England and Wales.” (C)

C/91/06

HOUSING POLICY TO FACILITATE ELDERLY RETURNING EMIGRANTS

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

“That Donegal County Council amend its current housing policy to facilitate elderly returning emigrants and that it leads a inter agency group made up of Donegal County Council, The Health Service Executive, The Department of Social Welfare, the V.E.C. and other relevant bodies to ensure that there is a joined up approach to meet the needs of elderly returning emigrants that have fallen upon difficult times while away from home and whose needs are more than a Council House.”

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council in conjunction with the Voluntary Housing Sector assists in the provision of accommodation for elderly emigrants wishing to return to Donegal. The Safe Home Programme, St Brendan’s Village, Mulranny, County Mayo which already has a co-ordinating role in relation to services provided by welfare agencies for emigrants, co-ordinate arrangements in relation to accommodation provided for emigrants under this scheme. It assesses the applicants against the eligibility criteria, compiles a list of eligible candidates and liases with individual voluntary housing bodies and local authorities in relation to accommodation in projects. To qualify for accommodation provided under the amended terms of the Scheme, applicants must be elderly persons who emigrated from Ireland to another country and be either in existing social housing (e.g. local authority, housing association, etc) or private rented accommodation in their country of residence, and their circumstances must be such that they could not

provide suitable accommodation for themselves out of their own resources on returning to this country.

A number of persons have already been successfully housed in voluntary schemes through this process. The Council have also recently housed a returning emigrant in one of its own social housing schemes, again, through the Safe Home Programme. It is believed that a continuation of the working relationship with the Safe Home Programme, given their remit, is the best means to address the needs of returning emigrants by the Council under both its voluntary and social housing programmes.”

In proposing the motion Clr. Pearse Doherty stated that it was important that this Council accommodate both the elderly and returning emigrants within their housing plan. He advised that there were many stories of people who had emigrated and now wished to return home but could not afford to do so. The Council’s Housing Policy does not permit them to apply for housing or to come home. He felt that they should be able to avail of housing in the Council’s housing stock not just voluntary housing schemes.

Clr. Doherty further informed the members that he had met with groups who dealt with emigrants and called on Donegal County Council to take a proactive stance in facilitating the return of these people to the county. He invited the members to come and meet these groups when he makes a return visit.

Clr. Brogan expressed his full support for this motion. He acknowledged the good work that had been done by the Council over the past number of years in relation to voluntary housing and called for the provision of sheltered accommodation for returning emigrants. He requested that Donegal County Council pursue a pilot project in this regard.

Clr. Pringle in supporting the motion stated that it was an important one. He requested that the Council look at the scheme of letting priorities and examine how we

could facilitate returning emigrants. He felt that emigrants had supported our economy in its time of need and we now needed to support them in theirs.

Clr. McGowan also supported the motion and called on the Council to provide a scheme similar to the sheltered housing scheme for mentally handicapped in Stranorlar to facilitate the returning emigrants.

Clr. Slowey expressed his support for the motion and stated that there was an onus on the Council to find a way to assist the returning emigrants.

Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh also supported the motion. He felt it was important that we be seen to do something to assist these people. He stated that Clr. E. Bonner had brought a similar motion to the Council a number of years ago and no action had been taken on it.

Clr. McGarvey felt that the needs of the returning emigrants needed to be assessed and he fully supported the motion.

Clr. Alcorn also expressed his support for the motion. He felt that whilst every application needed to be dealt with individually every effort should be made to facilitate this group.

Clr. Blaney gave his full support to the motion. He stated that the 'Safe Home' project were doing a good job but it was important that this Council take steps to develop something similar.

Clr. A. Bonner expressed her support for the motion suggested that voluntary housing agencies should be requested to put forward projects for this group and for single fathers.

Clr. Pearse Doherty thanked the members for their support and suggested that a deputation of members go to England to visit these groups.

This motion was unanimously agreed.

C/92/06

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the meeting was briefly adjourned.

C/93/06

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INDUSTRY AS A  
KEY ELEMENT OF THE DONEGAL  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

“Go mbeid Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall gníomhach i bhforbairt na turasóireachta, mar pháirt thabhachtach de Phlean Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall 2005/6.

That Donegal County Council will take a proactive approach to the development of the tourism industry as a key element of the Donegal Development Plan throughout the county.”

Members were informed that:-

“A workshop to review the Councils role and involvement in supporting the Tourism Industry was held in November 2005 and a further workshop is to be scheduled for early 2006 to obtain the input of North West Regional Tourism Authority and Donegal Tourism Ltd, two organisations that receive substantial support from the Council on an annual basis and who support Tourism Information provision and Tourism Marketing for the county in the main. The initial workshop included presentations from the C & E Research and Policy unit into tourism activity in the County, which will assist in informing future policy development for this sector

This economic sector is important in the county and this is recognised in the Council's ongoing investment in a range of initiatives including Donegal International Airport, Ferry Services and Festival supports. A further example is the Atlantic Drift

project, co-funded by Intereg and linking the off shore islands as part of an overall tourism driving route across Donegal and the Causeway Coast. It should also be noted that The Council through the Peace 2 Task Force allocated €540,000 in 2004 for drawdown in 2005 to assist various tourism marketing initiatives in the County

In the context of capital/product development the Council has been constrained by budget but has initiated a process whereby utilising the small amounts of funding available, local product development projects are being supported. This is carried out at Electoral Area level with the Members prioritising various projects. If possible, matching/additional funds are levered from other sources.

Additionally and in conjunction with Peace 2 Funding, following the adoption of the DCS, funding will be available in 2006 for the development of walking routes, with a strategic policy for same currently in train.”

In proposing this Motion Clr. Doherty stated that the Councils attitude to tourism in the county had got a lot of adverse publicity and it was important to set the record straight. He was aware of the efforts the Council were making in relation to promotion of tourism and he applauded them. However, he felt that in comparison to other Counties tourism was a relatively ‘young’ industry in this county. He stated that improved access through airports, sea and road and improved accommodation with new/better hotels were all positive initiatives however visitor numbers to this county had dropped drastically. This had effected family hotels and B&Bs. He felt it was important to encourage new projects. Clr. Doherty also suggested that Community & Enterprise should become directly involved in the set up new visitor centres in Tory and Arranmore Islands, both of which attracted many visitors to this County.

**The following questions were noted:-**

C/94/06

**NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR CARRIGANS**

The following question was submitted by Clr.

Conaghan:-

“What plans do the Council have to progress a new sewerage scheme for the village of Carrigans?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“Water Services Schemes are generally advanced on a priority basis as agreed by the Elected Members of Donegal Council and subject to the availability of funding under an appropriate funding programme. The principal current funding programmes for sewerage schemes are The Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government Water Services Investment Programme 2005-2007 (Major schemes, Serviced Land Initiative, Water Conservation, Rural Towns & Villages Initiative) and the Rural Water Programme (Small Schemes Programme etc.). All of these programmes require some counterpart funding from the Councils own resources.

The Assessment of Needs is the document, which informs the prioritisation of schemes on the WSIP and the Small Schemes Programme. Carrigans Sewerage Scheme is currently not listed on the WSIP. This programme is funded by the department with reference to the government's obligations under the Urban WasteWater Treatment Directive which requires that conurbation's with a population equivalent greater than 2000 should have secondary wastewater treatment in place by December 2005. In addition the Department of Environment has committed to provide funding for schemes under the water services investment programme for Schemes with a population equivalent of over 1000 but this is unlikely to occur in advance of some of the schemes with a higher population equivalent.

In the Assessment of Needs 2003 the scheme is the joint second wastewater priority with St Johnston in Letterkenny EA and the 14th wastewater priority countywide. The scheme is not currently listed on the Small Capital Schemes programme. In this context it is envisaged that no design or improvement works on Carrigans Sewerage Scheme will take place for at least two years.

C/95/06

#### WATER SUPPLY IN MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what efforts have the Council made to attract funding for the difficulties of the water supply in Moville and what applications are currently awaiting a response?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The Assessment of Needs is the mechanism by which the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government prioritises schemes for funding. The Moville water supply has been prioritised as no.1 in the Inishowen electoral area, among water schemes in the recent Assessment of needs review 2003. It is tenth priority countywide. The scheme (Inishowen Regional Water Supply scheme) was not listed on the Department's Water Services Investment programme 2005-2007, which was recently revised and updated.

Interim measures have been taken in recent years through the Small Schemes programme and through works by the area staff with the co-operation of local Group water supply schemes. Almost €450,000 has been spent on works that have made water available from the Redcastle treatment works and conveyed this water to Moville via the Cooley/Glencrow and Bredagh Glen Group water Supply Schemes.

Additional investment of €500,000 approximately is needed to allow the next stage of improvement works

to take place. Funding options are currently being examined and these may include a mix of Development Charges, Small Capital Scheme, Serviced Land Initiative, etc. Substantial works are unlikely to take place until a significant source of funding is identified.”

C/96/05

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN MUFF

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“When will a pedestrian crossing be put in place in Muff?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“These works are being carried out by a private developer as a condition on a grant of Planning Permission. At the Council meeting of 26th September last our best information was that the pedestrian crossings were anticipated to be in place within six months, i.e. before end March. The developer has experienced some delay and expects the works to take a further few months thus being in place before summer 2006.”

C/97/05

FOOTPATH FOR MOVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what the current position is in relation to the footpath for Merville Community College?”

Clr. McDonald was informed:-

“Land purchase negotiations for lands for all of the scheme have been underway but indications are that agreement will not be reached on all of the lands. It is expected that a recommendation will shortly be made

that the lands be acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order in order to allow the project to advance.”

C/98/06

FOOTPATHS FOR COCKHILL HOUSING ESTATE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“When will Cockhill Housing Estate have new footpaths and have the road in the park renewed as they are in an abysmal state?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Money has been allocated for these works in the 2006 strengthening programme. These works will be programmed, along with all other works in the area, and this programme presented to the Inishowen Electoral Area Roads Workshop on 23rd February 2006. It is expected that these works will take place as soon as possible.”

C/99/06

LIGHTING ON THE R238 LEADING IN TO BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“When will Donegal County Council erect lighting on the R238 leading in to Bunrana from the North West Golf Links in to the town?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council will be carrying out a survey of all public lighting in the county and from this expect to prepare a report/programme to present to the Council, for their consideration, that will identify any need for infill and extension of the existing network. This new public lighting programme will cover the entire county.”

C/100/06

LOUGH SWILLY COASTAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“What is present update on proposed Lough Swilly Coastal Education & Research Centre?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Consultants have been appointed to assess the feasibility of the centre.

They have met with a range of stakeholders from the public, private, community and third level education sectors. They held a public meeting in Buncrana and they are currently assessing the financial aspects of establishing the centre and are drafting a business plan for this. It is anticipated that the study will be completed in approximately 4 weeks from now.”

C/101/06

FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN MOVILLE AND THE MAIN LAND OF SCOTLAND

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“Why has the Council not pursued plans to provide a ferry service between Moville and the main land of Scotland and give a chronological report on same to date and details of what funding has been applied for?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“In July 2001 Members and officials from Donegal County Council travelled to Scotland to meet with representatives from South Ayrshire Council and associated bodies with a view to opening discussions on the development of an Inishowen – Ayrshire Ferry Service.”

C/102/06

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS IN INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“What plans have Donegal County Council to construct affordable housing units in Inishowen in 2006 and is the Council aware of any plans by Buncrana Town Council to construct affordable housing units in 2006 in line with long standing commitments?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The County Council are close to reaching final agreement with a number of developers in relation to the provision of Affordable Houses in Carndonagh in 2006. Buncrana Town Council are pursuing a scheme of 8 Affordable houses in Buncrana, which is at planning stage. An update on progress will be given at the Inishowen Electoral Area meeting in March.”

C/103/06

TURNKEY HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AT  
GLENGAD AND MALIN HEAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“What progress has been made in acquiring turnkey housing developments at Glengad and Malin Head and what assistance has the Council given to facilitate these developments?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“The Housing and Building Service are very anxious to supply social housing units in small owns and villages throughout the County, including Glengad and Malin Head. In the case of Glengad, a turnkey proposal was received in the previous programme (2000 - 2003) but did not proceed, as the costs were excessive. This proposal was resubmitted in July 2004 with some cost revisions but very little other detail. A meeting with the developer was requested by the Council in July 2004 and despite follow up requests by phone for such a meeting the developer did not respond. The Council has had no further correspondence on the matter. A turnkey proposal for Malin Head was received in January 2005. The

proposed land costs are very high and the Developer has agreed to re examine these and take steps to reduce same. We are awaiting a response. The Housing construction Dept. has had a number of meetings with the Developer and his design team to provide technical advice on design and turnkey procedures and the DEHLG Architectural Inspector has visited the proposed locations.”

C/104/06

BALLYHOLEY JUNCTION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“In addition to €8,000 being provided for low cost safety measures at Ballyholey Junction (Raphoe) by the NRA what plans do the Council have to provide a Right turning lane at this accident black spot?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“The €8,000 allocation is for works involving signage, lining and anti-skid surfacing at the junction. The provision of a right-turn lane will require further monies and discussions are ongoing with the NRA on this matter. The proposed Lifford to Letterkenny realignment will drastically reduce traffic movements at this junction as the proposed new road is further East.”

C/105/06

CLADY BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“When will the proposed traffic lights be installed at Clady Bridge?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“It is hoped that these lights will be installed during 2006 in conjunction with Northern Ireland Roads Service.”

C/106/06

FIRE DAMAGE TO COUNCIL PROPERTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“As a result of recent fire damage to Council property in Lifford what effect has this had on services provided and what is the current status of the building?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“The fire occurred on Saturday 15th January 2005 in the building on Bridge Street, Lifford. The outbreak commenced in the adjoining unoccupied building and severely damaged the Council building. The building was subjected to significant fire and water damage. Garda forensic examination has been completed.”

C/107/06

NON-RESIDENT FATHERS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“At what stage is the collation of statistics on the number of Non-Resident Fathers in the County?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“Following the completion of the Housing Needs Assessment, an analysis of applicants who had applied to Donegal County Council for housing assistance indicated that there were 261 separated persons seeking re-housing. 107 of those had no children listed (69 male and 38 female). The Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held in October and December considered a composite report in relation to the change in the make up of the housing waiting list and the key policy areas that had to be reviewed as a result. One of the recommendations of the report, which the committee adopted, was that “credit” for children be given to separated/non-resident fathers where there is a legal agreement in place.

C/108/06

BALLBANE LANDFILL SITE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What is the timescale and costings for the refurbishment of the Ballbane landfill site?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“The current landfill projects that are listed for remediation and rehabilitation as required by the Environmental Protection Agency are Muckish, Glenalla, Drumabodan, Churchtown, and Balbane. The priority for implementation of rehabilitation works is largely determined by the Environmental Protection Agency based on audits and inspections carried out by the Agency periodically. In this regard Muckish and Glenalla were completed in 2005, Drumabodan is scheduled for 2006, Churchtown is scheduled for 2007, and Balbane is scheduled for 2008. The funding for these schemes is via loans, which are re-paid via waste management receipts. The capacity of the council to service such loans is uncertain and this rehabilitation programme will need to be examined critically by the council in the context of the review of the Waste Management Plan.”

C/109/06

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON FORGE RD, MOUNTCHARLES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“Will this Council investigate through the Council's Road Safety Engineer the provision of traffic calming measures on Forge Rd, Mountcharles particularly around the new housing developments on the road?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“The Road Design Section will investigate this location and prepare a report addressing the issues and any identified remedial measures. The findings can be presented at a future Electoral Area Meeting.”

C/110/06

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“How much money was paid out in 2005 for Consultancy services?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The total amount paid for such services in 2005 was **€8,834,955** broken down as follows

Capital Infrastructure Developments - **€8,660,345**

Revenue Operational costs - **€1,174,610**

In relation to the Capital amount Roads  
- **€4,024,775**

and Water, Environment and Emergency  
- **€4,156,325-**

Directorates accounted for most of it.

For Water the principal schemes and their overall estimated total investment to final construction for which Consultancy costs in total of **€4,156,325** were incurred could be listed as follows

Lough Mourne	€41.0M
Donegal Bay Improvements	€27M.
Letterkenny Wastewater Scheme	€29.21M.
Ballyshannon Wastewater Scheme	€19.4M.
Bundoran Water/Wastewater Schemes	€27.6M.
Gweedore Wastewater Scheme	€25.2M.
Killybegs Wastewater Scheme	€17.5M.
N-S Share Project	€7.5M.

Similarly for the Roads Directorate the following would be the principal schemes and their total estimated cost to Final construction for which consultancy costs of **€4,024,775** were incurred

Ballyshannon/Bundoran By-Pass	€79.8M.
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Mountain Top	€26.9M.
Ballybofey/Stranorlar By-Pass	€0.5M.
Lifford-Strabane (NRA/Interreg)	€6.0M.

The Cultural, Community and Enterprise and Corporate Directorates in the main accounted for the expenditure under Revenue.”

C/111/06

RAMELTON AND DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Was the proposed €150,000 agreed for transfer to Milford P.S.C. for Water supply to Ramelton and District provided?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Water supply problems experienced in the Ramelton area in the early part of 2005 were resolved by a combination of water conservation and maintenance works. District Metering Areas were set up and leak detection carried out to reduce the volume of unaccounted for water losses from the system.

A subsequent review conducted by the area engineer and water services design staff identified steps to strengthen and secure the water supply to the Ramelton area from the Letterkenny system, as follows.

1. Construction of 2.8km of 150mm diameter watermain to complete a supply link from Coolboy to Ramelton.
2. Construction of a reservoir for Ramelton at Breaghy or other suitable site.

To date some 1,600 metres of the 150 mm watermain have been laid. Pipes and fittings for this work were provided by the Aughnagaddy Group Water Supply Scheme, which assistance is greatly appreciated. These works were development driven. The remaining work has been estimated to cost €300,000.

It is hoped to further involve developers in a partnership approach to the delivery these works.”

C/112/06

SKIP AT RATHMULLAN PIER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

“Will the Environment Department of Donegal County Council consider providing a skip at Rathmullan Pier to cater for waste from the large volume of boats using the pier on a daily basis?”

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

“Donegal Co. Council marine service has submitted a Waste Reception Plan for Harbours in Donegal to the Dept. of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. In accordance with that plan they intend enacting Bye-Laws for ten harbours in the county, which experience significant activity, including Rathmullan. These bye-laws will provide for a charge for waste reception at the harbours. It is intended to roll out the Bye-Laws in the incoming year. It is also intended to have harbour constables, both full time and part time employed in these harbours. It is intended that when the Bye-Laws are enacted and Harbour Constables in place, that waste reception facilities will be provided at all of the ports, including Rathmullan.”

C/113/06

BREAKDOWN PER ELECTORAL AREA UNDER EACH DIRECTOATE OF THE 2006 BUDGET

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Can I have a breakdown per Electoral Area under each Directorate the 2006 Budget to be implemented?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The Budget document as presented to the Members is based on the Programme Structure as required under

the law governing this process. For the past number of years we have for ease of understanding presented information on the Programme structure basis linked to the Directorates.

As discussed at the Budget meeting on the 18th January last it is proposed that each Director will present to the Members their operational spending plans for services for the coming year which along with the Capital developments planned will be periodically reviewed during 2006.

Where possible and where relevant such plans will be presented on an Electoral area basis it should be noted that many of the work programmes (e.g., roadworks programme, operation and maintenance of water services, etc) are presented to and prioritised by the members at Electoral Area Committee level. It should also be noted, however, that some services (for example, Cultural services, Fire Service and many of the support services such as Finance and Information Systems) are not organised on an Area basis and consequently the financial provisions for such services cannot be presented in the format requested.”

C/114/06

PROGRESS ON THE MASTERPLAN IN STRANORLAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“What progress has been made in relation to the Masterplan Area in Stranorlar including possible sites for John Paul Youth Club, Twin Towns Boxing Club and other?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“A Project Team comprising of staff from the Planning & Economic Development Section and Roads Design Section was strengthened in September 2005 to progress the Town & Village Renewal Programme and a number of flagship projects including the Stranorlar Master Plan Area. The following progress has been made:

- A flood study for the area has recently been completed and the results are currently being examined.
- Negotiations are ongoing with a number of landowners in the area with regard to a number of possible land exchanges.
- The Project Engineer is looking at a number of options for a road line through the site and this will be finalised as soon as possible.
- Negotiations are continuing in connection with options for developing the new leisure centre.
- Contracts are being prepared for an exchange of lands with Ballybofey and Stranorlar Co-Operative Livestock Mart Ltd.
- Negotiations are ongoing with Finn Harps Co-Operative Society Ltd regarding the proposed new stadium for Finn Harps. Finn Harps Co-Operative Society Ltd were granted planning permission in April 2005 for the erection of a 6600 capacity seated stadium.
- A meeting was held with senior officials from Donegal GAA in November 2005 and they have been requested to submit outline details regarding their development plans for the Twin Towns including land requirements.
- Letters were sent to the boxing club and tennis club on the 30th November 2005 requesting further details regarding their requirements.

I am satisfied that good progress has been made in recent months. I propose to meet with the Members of the Stranorlar Electoral Area within the next two weeks to present a full update.”

C/115/06

BURST PIPES AND DIRTY WATER IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ROSSES AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Because of all the complaints Re-burst pipes and dirty water in various parts of the Rosses area, what

action will Donegal County Council take in 2006 to help improve this?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

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

The Department has provided an indicative budget of €25 million for Water Conservation. In order to avail of this funding we must carry out agreed works in 3 stages. Pipe replacement is in the 3rd stage. We have completed 1st stage work on the Rosses Regional Scheme. 2nd stage work is programmed to begin on 13th February 2006 and to run for ten weeks. The defects identified will then need to be repaired and a final report prepared for submission to the Department. This report will recommend stage 3 (mains rehabilitation) works. In addition, candidate areas for pipeline replacement are being mapped with burst records attached to support the case.

Circular Letter L6/05, received from the Department in December 2005, states as follows:

“Guidelines to assist local authorities draw up their mains rehabilitation programmes are being developed by the Department and will be circulated to County and city councils within one month, at the outset. These guidelines will focus on criteria on the need for, and prioritisation of, mains rehabilitation schemes, and will outline the information/documentation that must accompany the submission of the mains

rehabilitation programme and individual scheme proposals to the Department.”

We await the guidelines referred to.

The circular letter goes on to state that local authorities are expected to complete all stage 1 and stage 2 works by the end of 2007, and that .. “It will then be open to those local authorities to make their case to the Department for increased allocations to fund the mains rehabilitation schemes identified by those works.”

Given the size of our county and the number of schemes involved it is unlikely that all stage 1 & stage 2 works will be completed ahead of the deadline. Nevertheless, the council intends to make a case to the Department for an allocation to fund mains rehabilitation on the Rosses Regional scheme during 2006.”

C/116/06

DONEGAL TOWN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“When will the Donegal Town Sewerage Treatment Plant and Foul Sewerage Collection System be completed?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Donegal Main Drainage Scheme involves the provision of interceptor sewers, outlying sewers and pumping stations, a main pumping station, rising mains, a wastewater treatment works, access road, sludge treatment centre and outfall, all to be implemented under a number of contracts. The first contract to be implemented was contract 2 interceptor sewers and this is complete. Contract 1 involves the construction of main pumping stations, rising mains, treatment works, and outfalls [together with Rossnowlagh and Ballyshannon] and the sludge

treatment centre is expected to commence construction in 2006 with a two year construction period. Contract 3 involves further network extensions to development zones which will be implemented subject to funding being secured from developers and the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. The first phase of contract 3 could commence in 2006 subject to funding being available.”

C/117/06

TOXIC & HAZARDOUS WASTE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“How much Toxic & Hazardous waste was generated in Donegal in 2005 and will the Council list the top five producers and state the final disposal point of the waste?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“We regret that the data requested for 2005 is not yet available.

Details of all waste types generated in Donegal are reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the National Waste Database Report. Each year the EPA forwards a blank formatted file to local authorities to be populated with the information requested. The information and format in respect of 2005 has not yet been specified and the Council is awaiting these details from the EPA at present. The data is submitted to the EPA at the end of May each year, which is the deadline set by the agency.

The data is compiled from a number of sources, including reports submitted by permitted waste collectors, in accordance with the conditions of their permits, and the forms submitted in respect of consignments of hazardous waste (i.e. C1 forms). The process of collecting and compiling the data for 2005 will be carried out over the coming months. As a

result, figures for 2005 are not yet available. However, the complete database in respect of 2004, which was submitted to the EPA, can be made available. This database contains the data on hazardous and toxic waste but there is no separate file for hazardous and toxic waste consignments.”

C/118/06

GWEEDORE SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

“What is the current position in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme, when do we expect it to go to tender and will the Gweedore Scheme be constructed before, after or at the same time as the Letterkenny scheme and is this stated in the contact documents?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“Both Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO and Gweedore Sewerage Scheme DBO are at contract document stage although in planning terms Gweedore is approximately 8 months behind Letterkenny as the Gweedore Outlying pumping stations are subject to a CPO. The Department have suggested that the scheme should be grouped with Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO under one contract for the purposes of construction and operation and to achieve economies of scale. To ensure that the Letterkenny scheme is not delayed the documents may provide for a later start for the Gweedore Scheme pending completion of land acquisition. Tendering is expected to take place in 2006 for both schemes either separately or under one contract.”

C/119/06

IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON THE CARAVAN ROAD TO DIAMOND ROAD, DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Can I get an assurance that Improvement works will be carried out on the Caravan Road to Diamond Road, Dungloe in 2006?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The construction of a footpath and public lighting provision has been conditioned on two large Developments served by this roadway. Initial meetings have taken place between the roads service and the Developers, however no timeframe is available yet for these works to be conducted.

Another Developer has paid his development contribution relating to roads.

On the Restoration programme for 2006 - 2008 the diamond road is included on years 2006 and 2007.

When a timeframe is obtained from the two Developers, a tailored programme will be prepared and presented to the Members at an appropriate EA Meeting.”

C/120/06

#### SAFETY BARRIERS ON THE ERRIGAL ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr.

Pádraigh O’Dochartaigh:-

“Cén uair a thógfas Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall 'sconsaí sábháilteachta ag Dún Lúiche - o bharr Dhún Lúiche go dtí imeall an bhaile?

When will Donegal County Council erect safety barriers on the Errigal Road, from the council site into the control points of the village of Dunlewey?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“Following the announcement of the EU Co-Financed Schemes for 2006 last Friday, these safety measures will be considered as part of the Errigal Road scheme during 2006.

The Local Area Members will be presented with the proposed programme of works at a Local Area Meeting later this year.”

C/121/06

PROPER SIGNPOSTS TO THE FERRYPORTS

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

“Cén uair a chuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Comhartaí boithre suas chuig na poirt farantóireachta san iarthuaiscirt?

When will Donegal County Council erect proper signposts to the Ferryports in the North West?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“The Regional Road Signage Programme does not cover funding of these signs and provision of such signs will need to be done through the local roadworks programme or under special tourism initiatives.”

C/122/06

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY EACH COUNCILLOR

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

“Can the Council provide a detailed break down month by month and by each individual councillor of the conference attended by him or her, the fee that was paid in respect of that conference and the amount for overnight stay that was paid in respect of that conference since the 2004 local government elections?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“The compilation of the information in the format requested is not immediately available and it will take some time to compile it. It should be noted that a public register of members' expenses is maintained and this is available for inspection by any member of the public.”

C/123/06

FLYING OF THE IRISH TRI COLOUR

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

“What progress has been made in respect to the erection and flying of The Irish Tri Colour (Brat Na hEireann) at County House and each Public Service Centre?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

“The National flag is now displayed in all Council chambers in each Public Service Centre. External flag poles are in place at Letterkenny PSC and prices for the provision and erection of external flagpoles at other Public Service Centres and Lifford County House have been obtained. The prices involved are quite significant and it is likely that the flagpoles will be provided on a phased basis, having regard to the availability of funds for facilities maintenance.”

C/124/06

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

MACROOM TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Department of Justice, Transport and the Environment and Local Government and the Department of Finance to introduce measures to improve pedestrian visibility at night by means of reflective jackets or otherwise.”

“That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to grant local authorities the discretion to set their own fees for licences, for street furniture, granted under Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Schedule 12 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001.”

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Longford County Council call on the Minister for Justice to bring forward workable legislation, as a matter of urgency, to enable prosecution of those found in possession of, and using unauthorised fireworks.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to instigate a review of catchment areas for school transport at both primary and secondary level.”

MULLINGAR TOWN COUNCIL

“That Mullingar Town Council calls on the Minister at the Department of Social and Family Affairs to introduce a lo-call telephone service similar to other Government Departments.”

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

“Balbriggan Town Council call on all Local Authorities to arrange for developers of new residential housing estate to provide maps with house numbers for emergency services i.e. An Garda Síochána in the interest of safety.”

BALLYSHANNON TOWN COUNCIL

“That Ballyshannon Town Council call on Donegal County Council to ensure that all Polling Station Stations are wheelchair user friendly for future Elections.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.