

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Áras na Chontae  
Leifear

13 Feabhra, 2007

**FOGRA CRUINNITHE**

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 12 Feabhra ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 19 Feabhra 2007 ag **3.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

**DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

**A Chara**

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniu seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

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

**Mise, le meas**

**A. MacSuibhne**

**Riarthóir Cruinniu (RUNAI CHONTAE)**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford

13<sup>th</sup> February 2007

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 at 3.00pm, 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**

E. Sweeney

**Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)**

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAIN THEIR ORIGINAL  
ITEM NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS  
ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE JANUARY MEETING)

## AGENDA

### MOTIONS

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

#### INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

##### *Roads & Transportation*

13. Clr. Conaghan  
“That this Council enforce current policy or develop a new proposal to deal with the large amount of dangerous trees overhanging our county roads”. (C)
14. Clr. Donaghey  
“That the break waters at Bunrana Pier start as soon as the Department gives the go ahead” (L)
15. Clr. McDonald  
“That this Council through its current work programme and budget process support the continuation of the Shore Walk from Moville to Greencastle.” (L)
16. Clr. McGonagle  
“That the Council repair and widen the Shore Road at Ballyliffin.” (L)

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

17. Clr. MacLochlainn  
“That Donegal County Council scrap plans to build a sewerage treatment plant at Carnagarve, Moville, Co. Donegal and immediately embark upon a renewed

consultation process to select a new site for the Movice/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme” (L)

## LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water, Environment & Emergency Services*

18. Clr. Larkin  
“That this Council give a timetable of works for 2007 that will be carried out by Donegal County Council in Letterkenny Town Council in Sanitary and Environment Projects.” (L)

### *Community, Cultural & Enterprise*

19. Clr. McDaid  
“That this Council recognises and acknowledges the positive and significant contribution the Community & Voluntary Sector has made and continues to make to local government structures within the county” (C)

### *Roads & Transportation*

20. Clr. Crawford  
“That this Council carry out necessary repairs to footpaths, railings etc on Deelee Bridge, Rosgier, Lifford.” (L)

## DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

### *Planning & Economic Development*

21. Clr. McEniff  
“That the Council invite the Chairperson of An Bord Pleanala to meet with the local Councillors to discuss the constant refusal by the Bord to grant planning permission to a number of retail developments in Donegal Town.” (L)

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services**

22. Clr. Pringle  
“That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to approve the Phasing Report on the Killybegs Sewerage Scheme without any further delay to allow work to proceed on the ground immediately.” (L)

**MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA**

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services**

23. Clr. McBride  
“That Donegal County Council enter into discussions with the Mevagh Voluntary Fire Service with the view to taking the service under the auspices of the Council.” (L)

**STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA**

**Community, Culture & Enterprise**

24. Clr. McGowan  
“That the Council present a full report on any projects under consideration for the new Territorial Co-operation Programme, Peace 111 and Interreg, 2007-2013 and discuss ways to maximise the benefits from the funds for the county especially along the border” (C)

**Corporate Services**

25. Clr. A. Bonner  
“That Donegal County Council proceeds immediately with the long awaited capital projects in the Stranorlar Electoral Area which they are 100% committed to, i.e. One Stop Shop, Swimming Pool, Library and Ballybofey/Stranorlar Fire Station” (L)

## GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

### **Planning & Economic Development**

26. Clr. Slowey  
“That this County Council ask the Minister for the Environment to make grants available for the upgrading of septic tanks and percolation areas.” (C)

### **Roads & Transportation**

27. Clr. Pearse Doherty  
“That Donegal County Council request the presence of the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowan, at a question and answer session before all Councillors, to be accountable for the systematic under funding and structural discrimination towards this county by Dublin Departments, particularly in the context of the shortfall in funding of the National Roads Allocation, the neglect of Donegal in relation to Transport 21, and the failure to fully live up to commitments in the Task Force Report, the Decentralisation programme and the National Development Plan 2000-2006” (C)

### **Finance**

28. Clr. Alcorn  
“That this Council does not support the proposed legislation as discussed at the Council Budget Meeting 2007, to have new properties liable for rates from the date they are valued and that every incentive should be given to people setting up new business” (C)

## QUESTIONS

### INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

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

29. Clr. McGonagle  
“When will the Malin Sewerage Scheme start?” (L)
30. Clr. Conaghan  
“When will Lagan Desert Phase Three go to construction and will the residents of Gortree Newtowncunningham be accommodated along the route?” (L)

#### *Roads & Transportation*

31. Clr. McGonagle  
“Will the Council assist in providing a bus shelter for school children at Glentogher, Carndonagh?” (L)
32. Clr. McDonald  
“To ask this Council when the speed limit is to be changed from 80km per hour to 100km per hour on the R238 (Redcastle to Muff road)?” (L)
33. Clr. Donaghey  
“When will work begin on the Mill Bridge in Bunrana as part of the Bunrana Inner Relief Road?” (L)
34. Clr. MacLochlainn  
“When will Donegal County Council conduct a survey recommending roads suitable for traffic calming in Moville as agreed over 6 months ago?”. (L)
35. Clr. Conaghan  
“What proposals do the Council have for the N13 Newtowncunningham by-pass regarding access to the village and the request from residents for a rounabout at Moyle Junction?” (L)

### **Community, Culture & Enterprise**

36. Clr. McDonald  
“To ask this Council when the bye laws requested by both the Gardai and members of the community in Moville will be introduced” (L)

### **Corporate Services**

37. Clr. MacLochlainn  
“Can the Council give a detailed breakdown of all the conferences attended by members month by month from the 1st January 2006 to the 1st January 2007, and the travel expenses paid in respect of each conference to each Councillor. The subsistence/overnight stay expenses paid in respect of each conference to each Councillor and the conference fee paid in respect of each conference attended by each councillor” (C)

### **LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Planning & Economic Development**

38. Clr. Larkin  
“Will the Council explain how the index linked Development Charges work i.e. does the year start from grant or final grant?” (C)

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

39. Clr. Larkin  
“Will the Labadish/Drumoghill Group Water Scheme go to construction in 2007?” (L)
40. Clr. Crawford  
“What arrangements currently exist to inform the Fire Service of water "turn offs" or significant bursts in the county?” (C)

### **Roads & Transportation**

41. Clr. Crawford  
“What progress has there been into the assessment of flooding in Raphoe including recent flood study of Raphoe area?” (L)
42. Clr. McDaid  
“Has this Council as yet determined the cause of the serious flooding that caused severe financial hardship on homeowners and businesses in Raphoe in September of last year and what remedial action has now been carried out to prevent the risk of further flooding?” (L)

### **Housing**

43. Clr. McDaid  
“Of the €190,000 provided for in the Budget 2007 for homelessness what is the actual proposed spend on direct intervention to those experiencing homelessness in this county?” (C)

## **DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Housing**

44. Clr. McEniff  
“What is the up to date position regarding Bundoran /Ballyshannon Fire Stations?” (L)

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

45. Clr. Pringle  
“What has been the out turn in the Water & Environment Directorate spending for each of the last five years as against budgeted expenditure?” (C)

## MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water, Environment & Emergency Services*

46. Clr. McBride  
“What is the update on the contract documents for the Portlean pipe replacement which is now being funded under the Small Capital Schemes and when is it envisaged that works will commence?” (L)

### *Roads & Transportation*

47. Clr. McBride  
“What further infrastructural plans do Roads and Water & Environment have for Rathmullan prior to the Flight of the Earls celebrations in September 2007?” (L)

## STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

### *Roads & Transportation*

48. Clr. McGowan  
“Please outline how the Roads Section intends to improve drainage and road maintenance this year following the increase in funding in the 2007 Council Budget?” (C)

### *Housing*

49. Clr. McGowan  
“Will the Council agree to replace single glassed poor quality hard wood windows through the Essential Repair Grant Fund to tackle the number of elderly persons living in cold damp conditions?” (C)
50. Clr. A. Bonner  
“What progress has this Council made in securing a land bank for housing in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area, where the greatest need is?” (L)

### **Community, Culture & Enterprise**

51. Clr. A. Bonner  
“What progress has been made in identifying a site for a playground for Ballybofey/Stranorlar?” (L)

### **GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA**

### **Planning & Economic Development**

52. Clr. Slowey  
“When will there be a street traders area designated at Ardara?” (L)

### **Roads & Transportation**

53. Clr. Slowey  
“What plans have Donegal County Council to ensure that our county roads are properly sign-posted?” (C)

54. Clr. Pearse Doherty  
“What is the current position in relation to the Tory Island Airstrip? What are the necessary steps to be taken and when do we expect to proceed through each step?” (L)

### **Finance**

55. Clr. Alcorn  
“What percentage is deducted to cover the overhead fund on roads and all other services administered by Donegal County Council, what does this fund cover and what was the total amount deducted in 2006?” (C)

### **Community, Culture & Enterprise**

56. Clr. Alcorn  
“When is the County Council going to provide a library service in Ardara (as promised to the late Clr. Charlie Bennett) and has suitable premises been obtained for Glenties Library?” (L)

57. Clr. O'Domhnaill  
“Why is Donegal County Council not progressing the development of a library in Falcarragh (Old Fire Station) and Glenties (Old Fire Station) as requested and agreed following my motion at the May 2006 Council Meeting?”  
(L)

### Corporate Services

58. Clr. O'Domhnaill  
“Why has no progress been made since my previous motion and question over 12 months ago on having the tricolour (Brat Na hÉireann) fly over the County House and each Public Service Centre? (C)

### MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

59. MULLINGAR TOWN COUNCIL  
“That Mullingar Town Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science to regulate the school book suppliers and stop the custom of printing new books every two years which is not necessary.”
60. DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL  
“That the City Council calls upon the Government to acknowledge the serious social problems alcohol abuse is causing to the fabric of Irish Society particularly with young people and that a national campaign to reduce alcohol misuse is developed, in addition that the frightening increase of available outlets to purchase alcohol is addressed, i.e. phone orders, garages, corner shops, convenience stores, everyone is selling alcohol with the obvious result in a huge increase in crimes against the person, death on our roads, domestic violence, doubling of deaths from alcohol consumption A&E Units are full of people suffering from

alcohol misuse every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening.

A couple of simple issues could result in a substantial reduction in our road death rates, zero tolerance, no alcohol when driving, early evening closing of off-licences, make all outlets where alcohol is sold responsible to ensure that those buying are above the legal limit to buy, serious fines for public consumption of alcohol on our streets, parks, etc.”

61. NENAGH TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Department of Social and Family Affairs to increase the fuel allowance timescale from its current 29 weeks to include the full calendar year and that this change take effect from this year.”

62. LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government calling on him to dispose of all e-voting machines stores since 2004, in the interests of the public finances.”

63. LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL

“That before engaging outside contractors or any other external personnel to carry out work for, or on behalf of this Council in future, that a written guarantee confirming that all employees engaged or sub-contracted by these companies while working for or on behalf of this Council, are being afforded their full statutory labour rights and entitlements, and that these are sought and obtained before signing contracts in the same way as the Council demands proof of insurance cover, tax clearances etc.”

64. SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That South Tipperary County Council call on the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive to put a comprehensive funding mechanism in place which would fund in full all services operated by the Hospice movement.”

65. FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to introduce legislation, enabled by the constitutional amendment if necessary, imposing mandatory life long custodial sentences, specifically prohibiting release, for four types of murder;

- The solicitation or commission of a contract killing
- Murder accompanied by torture
- Murder preceded, over a prolonged period by violent abuse of the victim by the killer.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 19<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY, 2007

- C/59/07      MEMBERS PRESENT  
Clrs. E. Bonner, Mayor, D. Alcorn, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, D. Larkin, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, P. McGowan, T. Pringle and J.J. Reid.
- C/60/07      APOLOGIES  
Apologies were received from Clrs. McBride, McEniff and Pdraig O’Dochartaigh who were unable to attend the meeting.
- C/61/07      OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE  
Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. Bartley McGlynn, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Ann Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.
- C/62/07      POLICY ON OVERHANGING TREES ON COUNTY ROADS  
On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan seconded by Clr. Brogan, the following motion was adopted:-  
  
“That this Council enforce current policy or develop a new proposal to deal with the large amount of dangerous trees overhanging our county roads.”  
  
Members were informed that: -

“The 1993 Roads Act outlines the responsibility of landowners/occupiers in relation to hedges/tress along the public road. Subsection 70(2) of the Act states “The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.”

Due to the increase in the number of storms this winter there has been a significant number of trees falling and blocking roads. In light of this it may be opportune to mount a campaign to raise public awareness in relation to the responsibilities of landowners and occupiers in relation to trees in particular. It is proposed that this item be referred to the next meeting of the Roads SPC to consider any amendments to our previously adopted policy in this regard.”

Clr. Conaghan advised that the Council should employ a Tree Surgeon or some other suitably qualified person, to give advice to landowners on their collective responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of trees, shrubs, hedgerows etc. along out public roads. He queries whether or not the Roads Section was in a position to enforce current legislation.

Clr. Larkin noted that a problem also existed in relation to trees, hedges etc. overhanging public footpaths and called for the introduction of a specific policy to deal with this matter.

In conclusion, Clr. Conaghan noted the excellent work carried out by the Forest Link Project and suggested that the Roads SPC seek guidance on the matter from Mr. Stephen Lang. He asked that further information be provided to members at the March Council Meeting.

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that he would request an update on current enforcement procedures from each Electoral Area. He noted that the current hedge-cutting season would end on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and agreed to include a review of current hedge cutting policies on the agenda for the next Roads SPC Meeting. Mr. McLaughlin also agreed to provide Clr. Larkin with an update on the current status of the Woodlands Junction.

C/63/07 BREAK WATERS AT BUNCRANA PIER

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Conaghan, on behalf of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. McGonagle and adopted:-

“That the break waters at Buncrana Pier start as soon as the Department gives the go ahead.”

Members were informed that: -

“Every effort will be made to commence the breakwater as soon as possible after approval is received.”

C/64/07 SHORE WALK FROM MOVILLE TO GREENCASTLE

The following motion was proposed by Clr. McGonagle on behalf of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. Conaghan and adopted:-

“That this Council through its current work programme and budget process support the continuation of the Shore Walk from Moville to Greencastle.”

Members were informed that :”

“Funding of such works is often difficult and will have to be considered as part of the deliberation on funding of the overall 2007 Work Programme. It can be discussed further at an Electoral Area Meeting.”

C/65/07 SHORE ROAD AT BALLYLIFFIN

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

“That the Council repair and widen the Shore Road at Ballyliffin.”

Members were informed that:-

“Consideration of works on the Shore Road can be included in the deliberations on the various items in the 2007 Road Works Programme for Inishowen. This can be further discussed at Electoral Area Meeting.”

Clr. McGonagle advised that it was imperative that funding was sought for the improvement of this road given the long term implications for the development of the tourist product in the area. He noted that the landowner concerned was most amenable to working with Donegal County Council on this project.

C/66/07 SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT CARNAGARVE  
Motion in the name of Clr. P. MacLochlainn:-

“That Donegal County Council scrap plans to build a sewerage treatment plant at Carnagarve, Moville, County Donegal and immediately embark upon a renewed consultation process to select a new site for the Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme.”

In the absence of Clr. MacLochlainn, Clr. Pringle sought to have the motion deferred to the March Council Meeting. The Meetings Administrator advised that under Standing Orders a motion would fall unless moved at the meeting by the signatory or another member on their behalf. It was noted that Clr. MacLochlainn should, therefore, if he wished resubmit his motion for the March meeting.

C/67/07 SANITARY AND ENVIROMNET PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL  
On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council give a timetable of works for 2007 that will be carried out by Donegal County Council in Letterkenny Town Council in Sanitary and Environment Projects.”

Members were informed that :-

“The work to be carried out in Letterkenny in 2007 is largely dictated by the stage of advancement of planning of the scheme and the availability funding under established programmes. There are substantial construction works in progress such as the Letterkenny Water Supply Boreholes,

the South Letterkenny network and reservoir scheme, and the completion of works on the Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO contract (Wastewater treatment works and sludge treatment centre) is expected to go to tender. It is also hoped that the tendering of further sewer rehabilitation works will be approved by the Department. It should be noted that substantial development charge transfers from Letterkenny Town Council will be required to advance the above schemes. In addition the Council intends to progress a Civic Amenity Site for Letterkenny in 2007 either on HSE lands or other suitable lands if required.”

Clr. Larkin requested a meeting with the Director of Service to discuss ongoing problems with storm water etc. in the Glenwood Park area of Letterkenny. He cited the need to coordinate and highlight the sanitary and environmental needs of Letterkenny and enquired as to what plans were in place to maximise funding for the area.

Clr. Brogan advised that while the quarterly reviews of the capital programme were most beneficial, it would be perhaps more constructive to discuss specific breakdowns at Electoral Area level.

Clr. Conaghan noted that raw sewerage was causing significant environmental problems in Lough Swilly. He also expressed concern at the lack of progress on the Lagan Phase 111 Scheme, and the ongoing failure to provide water to the residents of Gortree, Newtowncunningham.

Mr. Jim Holohan advised that a timetable of works for all projects would be provided in the quarterly review of the capital programme noting that the programme itself was dictated by the planning process. Overall, he confirmed, that funding would be an issue for many of the projects concerned.

He agreed to follow up on the storm water issue at Glenwood Park with the Town Engineer in Letterkenny.

C/68/07

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS  
CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
STRUCTURES

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Pringle on behalf of Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Crawford and adopted:-

“That this Council recognises and acknowledges the positive and significant contribution the Community & Voluntary Sector has made and continues to make to Local Government structures within the county.”

Members were informed that: -

“Community Development has emerged as a key function of Donegal County Council and is identified as a core function of the Community and Enterprise Division. The Division is involved in a range of community related functions in a County Council and in a County Development Board context. The Council does recognise and acknowledge in various ways the very substantial and important role the community and voluntary sector is making on an ongoing basis to the social fabric of the county it is intended to consolidate and further develop this work in the future. It is recognised, acknowledged and accepted that the Council requires the active involvement of the community and voluntary sector in order that it can do its job more effectively across a range of areas.

Present involvement is evidenced in a range of ways both directly and indirectly and which includes:

- The provision of €184,100 per annum as part of the annual revenue budget which is utilised by the members on a discretionary basis to support various local community led initiatives throughout the county
- The funding of some €9,490,000 in excess of 200 projects aimed at benefiting communities across the county as a result of the Peace II programme which were variously led by both the local authority but primarily led by local community interest groups
- The Council continues to work with local playground groups and parent committees implementing the playground capital programme at various locations

throughout the county, as prioritised by the members. This will continue in 2007 as part of the commencement of a new multi-annual programme

- The Councils walking route development initiative has seen various local community groups liaise proactively with the Walking Route Development Officer in identifying routes for leisure, health and amenity use and in establishing local operational management plans for same
- Through the Social and Community Facilities Programme initiated by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government in 2006 funding was provided to a community group prioritised by the elected members for a cultural related project – subject to funding being made available this will continue in future years.
- The Council has initiated a review of its role in supporting local sporting infrastructure throughout the county in assessing infrastructural and development needs. This is in addition to the funding obtained via the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism for five local community mini pitches which will be put in place in 2007 throughout the county.
- Through the Forest Link Phase II Project, a specific output has been targeted as the establishments of a range of community forests throughout the county which will, by definition, require the involvement of local communities in both agreeing the location and form of their establishment in addition to their ongoing involvement in management and maintenance
- The Council is actively engaged with local community groups and interests in obtaining feedback in relation to Tourism and Economic Development related initiatives in various areas including the Inch Lake Project, Newtowncunningham, Sliabh Liag, Glencolmcille, Cultural Diversity Phase II Projects etc
- The Research and Policy Unit of Donegal County Council have proactively engaged in training community representatives in carrying out community research and in facilitating their up skilling to assist both their professional development as part of a wider

audit of Community Infrastructure in the county ( to be launched in early 2007)

- The Council has an objective in 2007 for the establishment of a dedicated Social Inclusion Unit that, co funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, would see substantial resources brought to bear in advancing various social inclusion objectives in the county including issues revolving around disability, lone parents, volunteerism, vulnerable groups, youth etc.
- The Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council engages with a wide range of community groups through its arts, library and heritage activities
- The Taobh Tire Project has been established in partnership with community groups at 14 locations throughout the county
- In a County Development Board context, which is led by Donegal County Council, and through which new structures for Local Governance have been established, the Community and Voluntary Sectors has been given a central role from the outset with community representation on the CDB itself and on CDB Sub-Structures (e.g. CDB Sectoral Forum, SIM Group, Childcare Committee, Local Sports Partnership)
- Community Fora have been established at county and at area levels and these are supported by the Community and Enterprise Division
- The Community and Voluntary Sector have had a key role in preparing and now in implementing An Straiteis, the County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development
- Tuath, the Donegal Community and Local Development Centre was established as a key project from An Straiteis and through this the Council is working with LYIT and other stakeholders to provide a range of educational and other supports for the community sector
- The Council has a dedicated community development officer that in 2007 will be working proactively across a range of thematic areas of specific relevance to targeted sectors and community groups with a view to

bringing specific added value to their areas. Examples of project areas include assessing cheaper insurance for community centres, establishment of pilot defibrillators projects etc..

(In a local development context, discussions are ongoing at present in relation to the reorganisation of Local Development Structures in the county. In this context, the Community and Voluntary Fora have entered into discussions with the various companies to ascertain what if any role the existing for a will have in these newly developed/consolidated structures. The fora and associated parts of the community sector will continue to have a central role in the CDB and related structures)”

C/69/07

REPAIRS ON DEELE BRIDGE, ROSGIER, LIFFORD

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

“That this Council carry out necessary repairs to footpaths, railings etc on Deele Bridge, Rosgier, Lifford.”

Members were informed that:-

“The works identified will be proposed for inclusion in the 2007 National Roads Authority Bridges Programme.”

Clr. Crawford enquired as to whether the entire allocation of funding for the National Roads Authority Bridges Programme had been spent in 2006.

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that this programme was comprised of two elements:-

1. Minor type structures
2. Maintenance type structures

He agreed to follow up on Clr. Crawford’s query and inform him of the outcome.

C/70/07

INVITATION TO CHAIRPERSON OF AN BORD  
PLEANALA TO MEET WITH LOCAL COUNCILLORS

The following motion submitted by Clr. McEniff was not moved:-

“That the Council invite the Chairperson of An Bord Pleanala to meet with the local Councillors to discuss the constant refusal by the Bord to grant planning permission to a number of retail developments in Donegal Town.”

C/71/07

APPROVAL OF PHASING REPORT ON THE  
KILLYBEGS SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to approve the Phasing Report on the Killybegs Sewerage Scheme without any further delay to allow work to proceed on the ground immediately.”

Members were informed that:-

“In letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government conveyed approval to the preliminary report for the Killybegs Sewerage Scheme subject to conditions. One of the conditions is that network development should not proceed as proposed in the phasing report. There are several other conditions which have yet to be dealt with before construction can commence.

Clr. Pringle noted that the response seemed to indicate ongoing conflict between Council Officials and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The phasing report, he advised, was not dependent on any of the issues raised. He requested that the motion be submitted to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government for immediate consideration and that every effort be made to decouple the scheme from the proposed Bundoran Sewerage Scheme.

Clr. Byrne requested clarity on the matter and demanded to know what the obstacles were, if any, to the scheme progressing, stating that he had been advised on good authority that the scheme would be decoupled from Bundoran in the next few weeks.

Mr. Jim Holohan outlined the history of the scheme to date and advised that he could not foresee any problem in writing to the Department and asking them to reconsider the Phasing Report and the construction of all outfill pipework. He reminded members, however, that the conditions detailed in the Phasing Report had to be dealt with and that this could only be done in conjunction with the Bundoran Scheme.

The County Manager stated that he was happy to take full responsibility for the reply issued to Clr. Pringle given that the wording had been taken verbatim from Department correspondence. It would, he advised, be clearly appropriate to prepare the contract documents and go to tender if the scheme was decoupled from the Bundoran project. It was agreed to seek further clarification from the DOEHLG on the decoupling options.

C/72/07

MEVAGH VOLUNTARY FIRE SERVICE

The Mayor advised that the following motion had been withdrawn at Clr. McBride's request:-

“That Donegal County Council enter into discussion with the Mevagh Voluntary Fire Service with the view to taking the service under the auspices of the Council.”

C/73/07

TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME,  
PEACE III AND INTERREG 2007-2013

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

“That the Council present a full report on any projects under consideration for the new Territorial Co-operation Programme, Peace III and Interreg, 2007-2013 and discuss ways to maximise the benefits from the funds for the county especially along the border.”

Members were informed that: -

“The draft Operational Programmes for the EU programme for Cross Border Territorial Co-operation 2007-2013 and for the Peace III Programme have recently been circulated for public consultation.

With regard to the Peace III Programme an initial assessment has been made by Border County Council representatives with the view to assessing how best and most appropriately the respective local authorities and County Development Board Task Forces could contribute to the programme. It does appear at this early stage that the methodology by which funds will be distributed under the Peace III programme will be materially different from that experienced under Peace II. In this regard a meeting is being arranged for early February with representatives of the Special EU Programmes Body who have been tasked to liaise with Border Task Forces and Local Strategy Partnerships in Northern Ireland with a view to clarifying further how best Councils and the respective counties can utilise the funds being made available under the Peace III Programme.

The European Territorial Co-Operation Programme for 2007-2013 will also see the Special EU Programmes Body acting as the managing authority for this Cross Border Territorial Programme in addition to the Peace III Programme for the same period.

The eligible areas, in addition to the six border counties and the three NUTS III areas in Northern Ireland, will also include regions on the west coast of Scotland that include Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, argyle and the islands, Drumfries and Galloway, and East, North & South Ayrshire.

Following initial contact with representatives of the Scottish Parliament direct contact has now been made with respective Council areas within the eligible areas with a view to discussing, at a parliamentary level, potential areas of mutual interest that could form the basis of an agreed submission. Examples of sectors include tourism, incorporating areas such as Marine & Water based leisure projects. It is envisaged that such meetings will take place in February 2007. Furthermore, an initial meeting has been held with

Failte Ireland North West, in conjunction with other Council areas in the North West Region, both North & South, with a view to identifying strategic tourism development initiatives that could be submitted to both this Cross Border Programme in addition to programmes aimed exclusively at the southern counties as a result of funding provided in The National Development Plan 2007-2013. Draft suggestions/proposals will be brought for discussion and consideration to the Council in the coming months.

With regard to the more traditional cross border linkages which has seen funding for various developmental projects under the previous Interreg programmes, preparatory work had commenced with the North West Region Cross Border Group in assessing how best this region can identify priority projects that have the greatest level of likely support if the subject of an application for funding. Dependant on the model of funding delivery, the collective approach proposed above to access tourism funding on a regional basis may also prove more fruitful across the other programme areas such as economic development, infrastructure etc.

The overall objective of the programme is to support strategic Cross Border Co-operation that will promote integrated regional development in the eligible areas. On this basis the draft operational programme indicates two strategic objectives namely:

- Priority 1

Co-operation for a more prosperous Cross Border Region – it is indicated that this priority will encourage innovation and competitiveness in enterprising business development and will also promote tourism. It is indicated that the priority will focus on two key areas that include:

- Regional Co-operation for Enterprise
- Tourism

- Priority 2

This has the objective of co-operation for a sustainable Cross Border Region. Again, this priority will focus on two key areas namely:-

- Co-operation for development

- Infrastructure

Further research into the detailed requirements of both of the above funding streams will be carried out over the coming weeks and it is proposed that a workshop will be held with the elected members to include detailed presentations of the programmes. This will allow the elected members to put forward suggestions.

Members called on the Executive to examine all aspects of this proposal and how best the matter could be dealt with at County Development Board level taking into consideration the policies contained in the National Development Plan and an assessment of various aspects of Economic Development Funding. It was agreed that every effort should be made to explore the options available in relation to cross border funding.

C/74/07

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS IN STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. McGowan on behalf of Clr. A. Bonner and adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council proceeds immediately with the long awaited capital projects in the Stranorlar Electoral Area which they are 100% to committed to, i.e. One Stop Shop, Swimming Pool, Library and Ballybofey/Stranorlar Fire Station.”

Members were informed that:-

“The current position in relation to each of these projects was outlined in the Budget 2007 documentation.”

Clr. McGowan was informed that a meeting was due to take place shortly with the HSE after which members would be further updated on the progress of the Stranorlar One Stop Shop, Ballybofey/Stranorlar Fire Station and that it was now hoped to proceed to Part 8 planning approval.

C/75/07 GRANTS FOR THE UPGRADING OF SEPTIC TANKS AND PERCOLATION AREAS

The following motion submitted by Clr. Slowey was not moved:-

“That this County Council ask the Minister for the Environment to make grants available for the upgrading of septic tanks and percolation areas.”

C/76/07 REQUEST FOR MINISTER BRIAN COWEN TO ATTEND A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH ALL COUNCILLORS

The following motion in the name of Cllr. Pearse Doherty, was proposed by Cllr. Doherty himself and seconded by Cllr. Pringle.

“That Donegal County Council request the presence of the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowan, at a question and answer session before all Councillors, to be accountable for the systematic under funding and structural discrimination towards this county by Dublin Departments, particularly in the context of the shortfall in funding of the National Roads Allocation, the neglect of Donegal in relation to Transport 21, and the failure to fully live up to commitments in the Task Force Report, the Decentralisation programme and the National Development Plan 2000-2006”

Members were informed that:-

“Arrangements will be made to make this request of the Minister if the motion is adopted by Council.”

Clr. Pearse Doherty proposed that the Minister for Finance should be invited to a questions and answer session with members to discuss the ongoing deficit in the structural and economic infrastructure of the county.

A number of members expressed dissatisfaction with the wording of the motion and the following amendment was proposed by Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Brogan:-

“That this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Brian Cowen, congratulating him on the success of Budget 2007 and on announcement of the National Development Plan, and requesting that he meet with a deputation from Donegal County Council to discuss the infrastructural deficits in the county.”

In accordance with Standing Orders, a show of hands was taken on the Amendment.

This resulted in 10 voting for with 2 against.

There was one abstention. The Mayor declared the Amendment carried.

The Amendment was then put to the meeting as a substantive motion and a show of hands resulted in 10 voting for with 2 against.

There was one abstention.

The Mayor declared the Amendment carried as a substantive motion.

C/77/07

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH  
PROPERTIES LIABLE FOR RATES

Clr. Alcorn advised that he wished to withdraw the following motion in his name:-

“That this Council does not support the proposed legislation as discussed at the Council Budget Meeting 2007, to have new properties liable for rates from the date they are valued and that every incentive should be given to people setting up new business.”

C/78/07

MALIN SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“When will Malin Sewerage Scheme start?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that:-

“The Manager’s Order accepting the tender recommendation for Malin Sewerage Scheme has been signed and contract

formalities have commenced. It is expected that work could commence in the second or third quarter of 2007.”

C/79/07

LAGAN DESERT PHASE THREE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“When will Lagan Desert Phase Three go to construction and will the residents of Gortree Newtowncunningham be accommodated along the route?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that :-

“Tenders for Lagan Desert Phase 3 and West Inishowen (Desertegney) Water Supply Phase 1 contract 3 were returned on 24 November 2006. The consultants are currently finalising the tender recommendation. The Departments determination of the Councils liability on water pricing is expected shortly, and the Council are about to request revised budget approval. The Council expect to offer a contract in the second quarter of 2007 and that the contractor will commence without undue delay. With regard to Gortree the tender documents do not currently provide for network to serve the residents of Gortree but the Council will consider other funding options including Rural Water Programme.”

C/80/07

PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER AT GLENTOGHER,  
CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“Will the Council assist in providing a bus shelter for school children at Glentogher, Carndonagh?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that: -

“Donegal County Council rarely get involved in the provision of Bus Shelters. They tend to be provided as part of a local community development from money controlled by the Community. Donegal County Council will assist any community group in such instances regarding safety of location etc.

In addition, we will be following up on a previous motion regarding a similar matter on school routes.”

C/81/07 CHANGING OF SPEED LIMIT ON THE R238

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council when the speed limit is to be changed from 80km per hour to 100km per hour on the R238 (Redcastle to Muff road)?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The proposed Speed Limit amendments are currently out for public consultation and will be presented to the March 2007 Council Meeting for consideration and adoption.”

C/82/07 WORK ON MILL BRIDGE IN BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“When will work begin on the Mill Bridge in Buncrana as part of the Buncrana Inner Relief Road?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“A grant of €1.2m has been made for the project in 2007. Donegal County Council are currently awaiting approval from the DOEHLG to advertise the tender for the Contract to construct Mill Brae Bridge. The construction start date is dependent upon the receipt of this approval and the tender process. DCC have informed the DOEHLG that they wish to commence construction in May 2007.”

C/83/07 RECOMMENDATION OF ROADS SUITABLE FOR TRAFFIC CALMING IN MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“When will Donegal County Council conduct a survey recommending roads suitable for traffic calming in Moville as agreed over 6 months ago?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that :-

“A dedicated left-turn lane on the R238 (Carndonagh Road) in Moville was constructed as part of the Moville EIS Phase 2 Project, which was completed in June 2006. Updated traffic counts were conducted at the R238/R241 junction in Moville in August 2006. These counts were analysed by the Road Design Office in late 2006, and the various options for improved traffic management in the area were explored. A Report of the findings was completed in October 2006. This report will be forwarded to the Inishowen Roads Area for presentation to the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.”

C/84/07

PROPOSALS FOR N13 NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM BYPASS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What proposals do the Council have for the N13 Newtowncunningham by-pass regarding access to the village and the request from residents for a roundabout at Moyle Junction?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that :-

“We have received a small grant from the NRA in the current year to begin a study of the N13 Letterkenny to Derry road. As part of that study we will be looking at all the junctions on the road including the Moyle Junction. In addition, the design of the next section of the quality pavement contracts will also cover this stretch of roadway.”

Clr. Conaghan asked that the three junctions identified in the Draft Newtowncunningham Town Plan be included i.e. Moyle Junction, Kernan’s Junction and the Blanket Nook Crossroads. Mr. John McLaughlin agreed to follow up the matter with the NRDO.

C/85/07

INTRODUCTION OF MOVILLE BYE LAWS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council when the bye laws requested by both the Gardai and members of the community in Movice will be introduced?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“A draft of Movice Bye Laws was due to be presented to the Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting on 26th January for approval ( Meeting to be rescheduled) .

Following this the Draft will go forward to full Council meeting for approval ( March).

A public advertisement indicating the content of the byelaws will be placed in the local papers and which will also invite any group wishing to apply for an exemption for annual events to submit an expression of interest. The Draft will be on display at the Carndonagh Public Services Centre during this time.

Submissions will be considered in consultation with the Gardai within 7 days from the closing date.

The bye laws will go back to the Inishowen EAC for final endorsement and onto full Council to be agreed and dated. It is intended that the laws become operational by the summer months.”

C/86/07

#### CONFERENCE FEES AND EXPENSES FOR 2006

The following question was submitted by Clr.

MacLochlainn:-

“Can the Council give a detailed breakdown of all the conferences attended by members month by month from the 1st January 2006 to the 1st January 2007, and the travel expenses paid in respect of each conference to each Councillor. The subsistence/overnight stay expenses paid in respect of each conference to each Councillor and the conference fee paid in respect of each conference attended by each councillor?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that :-

“The preparation of a response to this question in the detail and format requested will take some time to prepare. It will be circulated as soon as it is completed.”

C/87/07

INDEX LINKED DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Will the Council explain how the index linked Development Charges work i.e. does the year start from grant or final grant?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

**“Application of the WPI increases to charges levied under the Development Contribution Schemes**

The rate of charges adopted at the introduction stage of the Development Contribution Schemes are increased in line with increases in the Wholesale Price Index for Building and Construction each year following the introduction of the Scheme on:

- 1 January in respect of permissions covered by the 2004-2006 Scheme

and on

- 1 March in respect of permissions covered by the 2006-2007 Scheme.

The 2004-2006 Scheme applies to all permissions with a Decision Date between 8 March 2004 and 28 February 2006.

The 2006-2007 Scheme applies to all permissions with a Decision Date between 1 March 2006 and whatever date is set for the next scheme.

The rates are increased on a cumulative basis each year. The increase continues to be applied to charges levied on Decided permissions until commencement of the development or until the levied charges are paid, if sooner.”

C/88/07      CONSTRUCTION OF THE LABASISH/DRUMOGHILL  
GROUP WATER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Will the Labadish/Drumoghill Group Water Scheme go to construction in 2007?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“An allocation of €2.45 million has been sought for “New and Upgrade Group Schemes” under the Rural Water Programme in 2007. This amount is required to meet ongoing commitments to schemes in construction and to fund new schemes not yet commenced. Labadish / Dromoghill GWS has been included on the list among those schemes not yet commenced. This scheme depends on the Lagan Water Supply Phase 3 for its supply.

Subject to funding being available and subject to the Lagan Water Supply Phase 3 proceeding it can be expected that the Labadish / Dromoghill GWS will proceed to construction during 2007.”

C/89/07      ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALERTING FIRE SERVICE OF  
WATER TURN OFFS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What arrangements currently exist to inform the Fire Service of water "turn offs" or significant bursts in the county?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that: -

“The system for alerting the Fire Service of interruptions to water supply that might affect fire fighting operations is as follows :

1. The Fire Service Communications Centre in Castlebar is alerted by phone or by e-mail.
2. The Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service is alerted by phone or by e-mail in cases along the border with Northern Ireland.

3. The Letterkenny fire station is alerted by phone or e-mail.”

Clr. Crawford enquired as to who was responsible for turning the water back on again and what protocol, if any, existed in such circumstances. Mr. Jim Holohan agreed to examine the issue further.

C/90/07

#### ASSESSMENT OF FLOODING IN RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What progress has there been into the assessment of flooding in Raphoe including recent flood study of Raphoe area?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Following the severe flooding experienced on September 24th 2006, the Road Design section were tasked with surveying the mixed open drain / culvert know locally as "the burn " or sometimes "suile burn", which runs from north to south through Raphoe just west of the diamond and eventually discharges into the "Swilly Burn".

The purpose of this survey is to document the culvert's exact location, condition and varying diameters, (all unknown / unconfirmed at present) and where possible to recommend short and long term alleviation measures for the flooding experienced over the years along this burn /culvert.

The most recent flooding event occurred on the evening (approx. 5pm - 9pm) of Sunday 24th September 2006 and resulted in damage to properties adjacent to the west end of the diamond according to local press reports, this was the sixth such incident in 30 years, with the last one occurring in 1998.

To date the exact route of the culvert and manhole locations have been established, and surveying of the culvert identifying the various cross-sections, invert levels, and construction materials is ongoing. Additional CCTV survey

will also be undertaken to confirm the condition of inaccessible sections of the culvert.

When surveying work is completed (hopefully by March 2007), a report will be produced containing detailed survey drawings of the culvert, photographs, and longitudinal sections showing the culvert gradients and levels. When completed this report will identify what needs to be done to ensure that the burn is able to deal with the design flow for the catchment area involved.

The initial survey has identified a few areas that may have contributed to the problem at the time of the flood and measures are being taken to have these addressed in the immediate future.

The Council have also had initial discussions with the OPW with the intention of encouraging the OPW to provide assistance with a solution for flooding problems in the Raphoe area.”

C/91/07

CAUSE OF FLOODING IN RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Has this Council as yet determined the cause of the serious flooding that caused severe financial hardship on homeowners and businesses in Raphoe in September of last year and what remedial action has now been carried out to prevent the risk of further flooding?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“Following the severe flooding experienced on September 24th 2006, the Road Design section were tasked with surveying the mixed open drain / culvert know locally as "the burn " or sometimes "suile burn", which runs from north to south through Raphoe just west of the diamond and eventually discharges into the "Swilly Burn".

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The initial survey has identified a few areas that may have contributed to the problem at the time of the flood and measures are being taken to have these addressed in the immediate future.

The Council have also had initial discussions with the OPW with the intention of encouraging the OPW to provide assistance with a solution for flooding problems in the Raphoe area.”

C/92/07

SPEND ON HOMELESSNESS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Of the €190,000 provided for in the Budget 2007 for homelessness what is the actual proposed spend on direct intervention to those experiencing homelessness in this county?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“The monies provided under the Homeless budget relate to

- (a) Payment for bed & breakfast accommodation in emergency situations
- (b) Payment of deposits where homeless persons secure private rented accommodation
- (c) Assistance to voluntary bodies who provide direct housing assistance/outreach services to homeless persons

The general apportionment of the spend is 50% on bed & breakfast/deposits and 50% on assistance to voluntary bodies.”

C/93/07

UPDATE ON BUNDORAN/BALLYSHANNON FIRE STATIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

What is the up to date position regarding Bundoran /Ballyshannon Fire Stations?

Clr. McEniff was informed that:-

“We have been asked by the DoEHLG to conduct a Capital Appraisal of these projects in accordance with the Dept. of Finance "Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals in the Public Sector". The design team has been instructed to carry out this appraisal, and a report is expected in the near future.”

C/94/07

SPENDING IN THE WATER & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What has been the out turn in the Water & Environment Directorate spending for each of the last five years as against budget expenditure?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Expenditure versus budget for the period 2001-2005 (2006 figures are not finalised) in respect of the operational budget for Water & Environment Services is as follows:

(Note: Figures for Emergency Services, which are also under the Directorate, are not included.)

Year	Annual Expenditure	Annual Budget
2001	€14,229,251	€13,442,705
2002	€15,147,223	€14,606,303
2003	€16,599,494	€15,875,700
2004	€18,841,345	€18,684,200
2005	€22,301,104	€22,411,700

C/95/07

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR THE PORTLEAN PIPE REPLACEMENT

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

“What is the update on the contract documents for the Portlean pipe replacement which is now being funded under the Small Capital Schemes and when is it envisaged that works will commence?”

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The Milford Electoral Area have listed Portlean pipe replacement as the no 1 priority in the list of new schemes to advance under the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme. The Council is currently considering how the construction work could be expedited. It is hoped to have the work completed in 2007.”

C/96/07

FLIGHT OF THE EARLS CELEBRATIONS 2007

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

“What further infrastructural plans do Roads and Water & Environment have for Rathmullan prior to the Flight of the Earls celebrations in September 2007?”

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“As part of the Roads Restoration Programme, the roads service intend to spend €75,000 on Rathmullan Streets in advance of the celebrations time limit. Road works are co-

ordinated with the Water & Environment Section when possible and regular meetings are held to achieve this.”

C/97/07

IMPROVEMENTS TO DRAINAGE AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Please outline how the Roads Section intends to improve drainage and road maintenance this year following the increase in funding in the 2007 Council BudgetPlease outline how the Roads Section intends to improve drainage and road maintenance this year following the increase in funding in the 2007 Council Budget?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“It is proposed that Senior roads staff will meet with County Council members in each Electoral Area to discuss priorities for spending extra maintenance funding. It is hoped to arrange these meetings as early as possible and possibly the next round of Area meetings.”

C/98/07

REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE GLASSED WINDOWS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Will the Council agree to replace single glassed poor quality hard wood windows through the Essential Repair Grant Fund to tackle the number of elderly persons living in cold damp conditions?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The existing agreed policy states that the Grant, which is not a Reconstruction Grant, may be paid in respect of carrying out Essential Repairs to a house where, in the opinion of the Local Authority, the repairs, whilst less than those appropriate to render the house fit in every respect, constitute repairs that are reasonably necessary to prolong the useful life of the house. The type of works which can be considered are repairs to windows/doors, facia/sofit, roof,

dry lining/plastering, insulation, chimney, rewiring and heating. In relation to windows and doors, it indicates that repairs to existing slips/sashes will be considered as an option as opposed to the provision of new windows. Where the window has however deteriorated to such an extent that replacement is the only option, a grant may be approved. The existence of soft wood/single glazed windows in its own right does not automatically qualify for grant assistance. The existing policy, it is felt, caters for situations as contained in the question and no amendment to same is necessary. It should be noted that during the consideration of the policy in 2002, it was stressed that the Essential Repair Grant was “not a grant for replacing windows and doors or a central heating grant, but rather a grant towards carrying out essential repairs which are deemed necessary to prolong the useful life of the house and where the applicant/occupant qualifies”. As such, the insertion of a clause in the scheme that specific type windows would automatically qualify would be inappropriate. Through the policies as presently in operation, the grant goes towards assisting the elderly and those most in need and the monies go towards covering the most essential repairs thereby retaining the key focus of the grant in that it is a targeted grant.”

C/98/07

LAND BANK FOR HOUSING IN  
STRANORLAR/BALLYBOFEY AREA

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

“What progress has this Council made in securing a land bank for housing in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area, where the greatest need is?”

Clr. Alice Bonner was informed that:-

“As stated in reply to a motion on this topic submitted to the November 2006 Council Meeting by Cllr. P. McGowan, the Council are making continual efforts to acquire suitable landbank for housing in the twin towns, having due regard to the zonings in the town development plan and the required housing mix as indicated from housing services. To date in January numerous potential sites have been examined and assessed in line with Dept. Guidelines on site suitability and

in one case an offer has been made. Other potential sites are being identified and following initial assessments it is expected that negotiations will take place with the relevant landowners.”

C/99/07 SITE FOR A PLAYGROUND

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

“What progress has been made in identifying a site for a playground for Ballybofey/Stranorlar?”

Clr. Alice Bonner was informed that :-

“A site has been identified by the Roads Division, on the Donegal Road area of Ballybofey. A land search has been completed and the land is within Council ownership. This will now be brought before the next Electoral Area Committee for the members agreement to proceed to the next stage of seeking to have this site approved and developed as a playground in conjunction and partnership with a local community group.”

C/100/07 DESIGNATION OF STREET TRADING AREA IN ARDARA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“When will there be a street traders area designated at Ardara?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Planning Directorate considers it would be appropriate to await the outcome of appeals into currently proposed designations (in Ballybofey, Falcarragh and Dungloe) to establish if there are lessons to be learnt which would avoid a challenge to any new designations such as at Ardara. In the interim arrangements will be made to identify suitable sites.”

C/101/07 SIGN POSTING OF COUNTY ROADS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What plans have Donegal County Council to ensure that our county roads are properly signposted?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that :-

“The Regional Road Signposting Scheme is well under way and a substantial number of these signs have now been delivered and will be erected this year. There are no plans at present to upgrade signposting on county roads. However, it may be timely to request the DOEHLG to fund such a programme as soon as the Regional Road Signposting Programme is complete and this will be done in due course.

C/102/07 TORY ISLAND AIRSTRIP

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

“What is the current position in relation to the Tory Island Airstrip? What are the necessary steps to be taken and when do we expect to proceed through each step?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that:-

“The Council is working closely with An Roinn Gnothai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, the project sponsors, who propose to acquire the land required for the project. It may be necessary to acquire the land using a Compulsory Purchase Order if there are any title issues. It is an objective of the new County Development Plan 2006-2012 that the Council will support and actively pursue the development of the airstrip. Planning permission has been granted for the project. The Council is consulting with its legal advisor in connection with the issue of Council CPO powers to acquire the land.

C/103/07 OVERHEAD FUND ON ROADS AND OTHER SERVICES

The following question was submitted by Clr. David Alcorn:-

“What percentage is deducted to cover the overhead fund on roads and all other services administered by Donegal County Council, what does this fund cover and what was the total amount deducted in 2006?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The Overhead Fund is generated from the levying of a percentage on Direct Labour Costs for certain grades in accordance with Circular No. RW3/307 dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 1988 as revised by Circular No. 15/2005 dated 06<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

The percentages applied presently are 31% on all Direct Labour Projects in all of the Services (Housing, Roads, Water Services etc) and 35% on all Roads Projects funded from Roads Grants. Circular No. 15/2005 allows for an overhead charge of up to 44%.

The amounts deducted for 2006 is set out on the attached table as is the use of monies so deducted which is set out in Programme Group order and type of expenditure within each Programme Group.

C/104/07

LIBRARY SERVICE IN ARDARA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“When is the County Council going to provide a library service in Ardara (as promised to the late Charlie Bennett) and has a suitable premises been obtained for Glenties Library.”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The priorities for the county in terms of library provision will be examined in the context of the new Cultural Services Strategic Plan (this process is ongoing). All areas will be considered. The proposed priority list will be brought to the members for discussion. Regarding a suitable premises for Glenties, the old Fire Station is being considered by Housing and their assessment is awaited.”

C/105/07 LIBRARY IN FALCARRAGH AND GLENTIES

The following question was submitted by Clr.

O'Domhnaill:-

“Why is Donegal County Council not progressing the development of a library in Falcarragh (Old Fire Station) and Glenties (Old Fire Station) as requested and agreed following my motion at the May 2006 Council Meeting?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that:-

“Both sites are being followed up on at present and an update will be presented to the members when further information is available.

C/106/07 FLYING OF TRICOLOUR OVER COUNTY HOUSE AND EACH PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr.

O'Domhnaill:-

“Why has no progress been made since my previous motion and question over 12 months ago on having the tricolour (Brat Na hEireann) fly over the County House and each Public Service Centre?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that: -

“Flagpoles have been erected at Letterkenny P.S.C., however the budget available under Facilities Management was not adequate to meet the cost of providing flagpoles at the County House in Lifford and each of the Public Service Centres. Quotations have been received for the other locations and the total cost required is in the order of €25,000. The budget approved for Facilities Management in the current year has been reduced in the light of the overall budgetary provision available to the Housing/Building Directorate. However, it is hoped that we can commence with the provision of a couple of these flagpoles in the current year as a first phase in providing them at all relevant offices over a period.

C/107/07 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. Alcorn it was resolved to note the following motions from other Councils:-

MULLINGAR TOWN COUNCIL

“That Mullingar Town Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science to regulate the school book suppliers and stop the custom of printing new books every two years which is not necessary.”

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

“That the City Council calls upon the Government to acknowledge the serious social problems alcohol abuse is causing to the fabric of Irish Society particularly with young people and that a national campaign to reduce alcohol misuse is developed, in addition that the frightening increase of available outlets to purchase alcohol is addressed, i.e. phone orders, garages, corner shops, convenience stores, everyone is selling alcohol with the obvious result in a huge increase in crimes against the person, death on our roads, domestic violence, doubling of deaths from alcohol consumption A&E Units are full of people suffering from alcohol misuse every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening.

A couple of simple issues could result in a substantial reduction in our road death rates, zero tolerance, no alcohol when driving, early evening closing of off-licences, make all outlets where alcohol is sold responsible to ensure that those buying are above the legal limit to buy, serious fines for public consumption of alcohol on our streets, parks, etc.”

NENAGH TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Department of Social and Family Affairs to increase the fuel allowance timescale from its current 29 weeks to include the full calendar year and that this change take effect from this year.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government calling on

him to dispose of all e-voting machines stores since 2004, in the interests of the public finances.”

#### LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL

“That before engaging outside contractors or any other external personnel to carry out work for, or on behalf of this Council in future, that a written guarantee confirming that all employees engaged or sub-contracted by these companies while working for or on behalf of this Council, are being afforded their full statutory labour rights and entitlements, and that these are sought and obtained before signing contracts in the same way as the Council demands proof of insurance cover, tax clearances etc.”

#### SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That South Tipperary County Council call on the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive to put a comprehensive funding mechanism in place which would fund in full all services operated by the Hospice movement.”

#### FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to introduce legislation, enabled by the constitutional amendment if necessary, imposing mandatory life long custodial sentences, specifically prohibiting release, for four types of murder;

- The solicitation or commission of a contract killing
- Murder accompanied by torture
- Murder preceded, over a prolonged period by violent abuse of the victim by the killer.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.