

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr David Alcorn  
Cllr Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr Séamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr Terence Slowey

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services  
John Gallagher –Area Manager Water & Environment, S.E.E  
Brendan Mc Fadden–Area Manager,Roads & Transportation, S.E.E  
Frank Sweeney –Area Manager, Planning & Economic  
Development  
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community, Enterprise &  
Cultural Service  
Michael Rowsome –SSO, Corporate Services

**GEA 123/10 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee unanimously elected Cllr. Alcorn as Chairperson of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee. Members congratulated Cllr. Gallagher for her efficiency and fairness throughout the year.

The Corporate Manager, on behalf of all the staff in the PSC expressed his appreciation to Cllr. Gallagher for the courtesy she afforded all Council officials throughout the year and congratulated Cllr. Alcorn on his election as Chairperson.

**GEA 124/10** A minutes silence in memory of all those bereaved in the Inishowen Road tragedy was observed by all in attendance at the meeting.

**GEA 125/10 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were agreed.

**GEA 126/10 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the report from the Workshop held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 was agreed.

<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>
-----------------------------------

**GEA 127/10**

**ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2010**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of the Roadworks programme and responded to Members queries.

**GEA 128/10**

**BALLINAMORE BRIDGE**

The Roads Manager circulated a report at the meeting in relation to the bridge failure at Ballinamore near Fintown. Members were informed that Road Design are currently working on a Section 50 application to the OPW and are also preparing documentation for other statutory bodies. The Committee were informed that if approval for the preferred option of precast box type culverts is obtained from the statutory bodies, that the replacement bridge would be completed by early October. Members requested the Council to carry out safety repairs to the substitute bridge utilised by locals in the area.

**GEA 129/10**

**KINGARROW BRIDGE**

The Roads Manager circulated a report at the meeting detailing the allocation of monies by both the Glenties and Letterkenny Electoral Areas to conduct repair works to this structure.

**GEA 130/10**

**GWEEDORE FLOODING PROJECT**

The Roads Manager circulated a report at the meeting and updated the Committee on the current status of this project.

The Committee were informed that the OPW were not entirely satisfied to replace like with like structures and recommended an increase in size of bridge/culvert works with the capacity to cope with an equivalent storm flow in the future. The projects and proposed funding are as follows:

(1) Meenaniller Bridge and Approval Drainage– DOT	18390	
Proposed to OPW	81160	
		-----
		99550
		=====
(2) Bridge at bend near Aodh Mairtín Ó Fearraigh		
Proposed to OPW		€40150
(3) Bridge at Fred Coll’s land		
Proposed to OPW		€47000

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| (4) Bunding along river from Patrick O'Donnell's to Bridge at Cladyknit<br>Proposed to OPW   | €30000 |
| (5) Building behind Patrick O'Donnell's dwelling to link to river bund<br>Proposed to OPW  | €35000 |
| (6) Culvert at Maire Ned's shop  | €33000 |
| (7) Bridge and drain at Mc Cole's house behind Industrial Estate. OPW and Udaras na Gaeltachta in discussion to decide the proportionality of funding required.  |        |
| (8) <u>Bridges at Nowdoc, Florists, Molloy's Shop and Culvert at Cladyknit</u><br>OPW propose funding a hydrological study up to €10000 and also projects proposed by the completed Hydrological report. |        |

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill & Cllr. Doherty expressed disappointment at the ongoing delays in completing the necessary works and requested the Council to issue a Press Release in this regard, to counteract any negative publicity.

The Roads Manager advised Members that all works that the Council were in a position to complete were carried out expeditiously and that reaching agreement with the OPW in relation to the above will have a positive benefit for the Gweedore area.

## **GEA 131/10**

### **NRDO UPDATE ON N56 PROJECT**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting from Rodney Irwin, NRDO in relation to the status of N56 schemes as follows:

#### ***N56 Weather Related Pavement Rehabilitation Contract***

Tender won by James Balfour & Sons.

#### ***N56 National Secondary Pavement Surfacing Works Contract No. 1 – 2010***

Mc Caffrey Contractors due on site on 26<sup>th</sup> July to surface a section between Common and Bracky Bridges and also south of Gortahork in conjunction with patching at Letterilly. (Value of €172,452).

#### ***N56 National Secondary Pavement Surfacing Works Contract No. 2 – 2010***

Expected construction start date is the 10<sup>th</sup> of August to surface various sections between Gortahork and Kilmacrennan. (Value of €229,903).

***N56 Stragar to Meenavalley Pavement Strengthening Contract 2010***

Expected construction start date is 10.8.2010. Overlay is approximately 2 km long. (Value €255,352).

***N56 Doochary Junction to Dungloe Pavement Strengthening Contract 2010***

Expected Construction start date is late August. Overlay is approximately 1.2 km long. (Value €286,343).

***N56 Tirlin to Drumnaraw/Corcreggan to Murroe***

Design underway for overlay between Murroe to Corcreggan as an alternative to Tirlin.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the NRDO to investigate safety concerns at the bends near Tommy Philbin's house on the N56 at Cronashallog. In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Roads Manager agreed to liaise with NRDO to obtain an update on Kiltraine-Dungloe Pilot Project.

**GEA 132/10**

**CARNMORE ROAD – DUNGLOE**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the design and costing of public lighting on the Carnmore Road.

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding speed limits on this road, the Roads Manager undertook to obtain a definitive clarification from the NRDO.

**GEA 133/10**

**ROAD SIGNAGE**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Roads Service to erect signage to indicate the Craghey turn off on the Dungloe-Doochary road.

Cllr. Doherty requested the Council to address the lack of directional signage to Magheroarty / Tory Ferry.

**GEA 134/10**

**HEDGE CUTTING**

In response to Cllr. Ó Domhnaill's concerns regarding the safety issues arising from overgrown hedges, and the necessity for greater action by the Council in this regard, the Roads Manager agreed to summarise the legislation for the next meeting.

**ROAD SAFETY**

The Roads Manager circulated the Committee with reports detailing applications to the NRA and the Department of Transport for 2011 Lower Cost Safety Remedial Work funding on National, Regional and Local Roads and locations within the Glenties Electoral Area are as follows:

- Gweedore Bends and Junction
- Crohyboyle, Dungloe
- Glasserchoo, Meenacladdy
- Oughtmeen, Dungloe

Cllr. Doherty highlighted the necessity to prioritise Derrybeg Hall for road safety funding.

Cllr. Slowey proposed that a letter issue on behalf of the Committee commending the valuable contribution of the Donegal Road Safety Working Group, to the promotion of Road Safety on roads in the County. Cllr. Doherty seconded this proposal.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the necessity to upgrade the Muckish Road, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that this project will have to be prioritised for funding.

<b>COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE &amp; CULTURAL SERVICES</b>
--

**GEA 136/10**

**FUND MANAGEMENT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

**GEA 137/10**

**FAI MINI PITCH PROGRAMME**

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated the Committee in relation to the status of this project.

**GEA 138/10**

**SAIL WEST PROJECT**

Cllr. Doherty highlighted the importance of the Sail West Project in the development of Marine Tourism through (1) a targeted capital investment programme in key marine infrastructure and (2) a concerted marketing campaign.

**GEA 139/10**

**WOMEN INTO PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT**

Cllr. Gallagher commended the launch of 'Women into Public Life' project funded via the EU Intereg IVA Programme, with the primary goal of addressing the continuing under-representation of women in public life and decision making fora.

**GEA 140/10**

**SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Cllr. Slowey highlighted the importance of the preparation of a Plain English Style Writing Guide to improve communication with customers of the Council.

Cllr. Gallagher requested further information in relation to the Unemployment Conference scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**GEA 141/10**

**DONEGAL PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2010**

The Committee welcomed the success of the 2010 Donegal County Pride of Place competition and the participation of Aislann Rann na Feirste in the All Island Competition.

**GEA 142/10**

**PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME**

The Committee requested an updated status report in relation to the playground programme.

**GEA 143/10**

**ALL IRELAND CURRAGH CHAMPIONSHIP**

Cllr. Alcorn expressed appreciation for the allocation of funding to the All Ireland Curragh Championship and the success of the event which was held in Kincasslagh.

**GEA 144/10**

**GWEEDORE LIBRARY**

Cllr. O Domhnaill commended the role of the Community & Enterprise Service in the relocation of the library service in Gweedore.

**GEA 145/10**

**MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Members noted the reports circulated with the agenda and at the meeting in relation to the Major Capital Programme.

The Water Services Manager informed the Committee that two additional Part 8 Permissions are required due to changes to the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes that have taken place during detailed design and land acquisitions, as follows:

- (i) Access Road to Glenties Main Pump Station.
- (ii) Pump Station No. 3, Quay Road, Dungloe.  
Cllr. O Domhnaill requested that Council officials meet with DOE principal officers to expedite provision of the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme.  
Cllr. O Domhnaill expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of progress in relation to the work of Consultants engaged on the Gortahork Water Supply project and requested the intervention of relevant Council officials to expedite this matter.

**GEA 146/10**

**SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

Members stressed the urgent necessity of massive investment in the replacement of defective cast iron piping to eliminate repeated bursts in the Glenties Electoral Area.

Cllr. O Domhnaill and Cllr. Doherty highlighted the negative impact on commercial businesses as a consequence of the inadequate water supply in the West of the County.

**GEA 147/10**

**GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members discussed the reports on group water schemes under construction and private source group water schemes, circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to liaise with the promoters of schemes at Pole Road, Meenmore and Leffin, Burtonport.

**GEA 148/10****WATER CONSERVATION**

The Committee welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the Director of Water Services appeal to consumers to conserve water to avoid restriction on supplies.

Members stated that the greatest loss in water was occurring before reaching the taps of consumers, and that this issue highlighted the necessity for appropriate investment in water infrastructure.

**GEA 149/10****PUBLIC AMENITIES**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the scheduling of a Workshop to address inefficiencies in the maintenance of public amenities. Cllr. Slowey commended the Water Service for the provision of excellent facilities at Narin.

**GEA 150/10****COMMUNITY CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN**

Cllr. Alcorn recommended that the Council continue ongoing co-operation and provision of equipment to the voluntary sector that are carrying out excellent work in the clean up campaigns.

## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**GEA 151/10**

### **CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda listing refusals during the period from 14.5.2010 to 5.7.2010.

**GEA 152/10**

### **PLANNING STATISTICS**

Members noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Planning Manager.

**GEA 153/10**

### **ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

Members noted the report on enforcement statistics circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

**GEA 154/10**

### **EXTENSION OF DURATION**

In response to queries from the Committee, the Planning Manager outlined the application procedure to extend the duration of a planning permission.

**GEA 155/10**

### **REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2012**

The Planning Manager informed the meeting that the Council have commenced the process of reviewing the County Donegal Development Plan and that the initial consultation period runs from 9<sup>th</sup> July to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The Planning Manager advised that the Central Planning Unit will circulate Members with key dates in regard to the Review process. In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Planning Manager advised that relevant documentation is available in the PSC for public inspection.

**GEA 156/10**

### **STAFFING**

The Planning Manager informed the Committee that Ciara Condon has replaced John Mc Feely as Assistant Planner in the Dungloe PSC. Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council utilise the services of in house Planners to carry out work previously executed by Consultants.

**GEA 157/10**

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009**

The Planning Manager responded to Members queries in relation to the status of this Bill and Cllr. Alcorn requested that Helena O'Toole, circulate the Committee with a summary of any legislative changes in relation to the planning process.

## HOUSING & BUILDING

**GEA 158/10**

### **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the progress of Housing Schemes in Loughanure, Lettermacaward and Meenaniller.

The Housing Manager responded to Cllr. Alcorn's queries in relation to the Lettermacaward Scheme and updated Members in relation to the Housing Scheme approved for Dungloe.

**GEA 159/10**

### **SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of S.I. Cottages as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010. Members highlighted the importance of SI Cottage development in preserving and sustaining rural communities and recommended that SI cottage construction remain an integral element of Social Housing provision. The Housing Manager clarified that the Council have a duty to process each SI qualifying application and that SI construction is ultimately dependent on the level of Departmental funding. Cllr. Slowey requested an updated SI report for the next meeting.

**GEA 160/10**

### **LOANS/SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEMES/GRANTS**

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of Social Housing provision as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010.

**GEA 161/10**

### **CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to casual vacancies as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010. The Housing Manager outlined various factors affecting the turn around time for re-letting of vacancies and informed Members that a reduction in the list is a priority for the Housing Services.

**GEA 162/10**

### **BALLINA ESTATE – FALCARRAGH**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with the Roads Service in relation to obtaining a costing for road resurfacing and installation of ramps at Ballina, Falcarragh.

**GEA 163/10**

**LEASING PROGRAMME**

Cllr. Gallagher criticised the implementation of the leasing programme in that all the benefits of the Housing Policy accrue to the Developers.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Slowey criticised the restrictive nature of the scheme and the lack of long term value for money for the Council.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

