

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2009, 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 – Senior Executive Engineer, Area Manager
Water & Environment
Brendan Mc Fadden – Senior Executive Engineer, Area
Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frank Sweeney – Senior Executive Planner, Area Manager,
Planning & Economic Development
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community & Enterprise
Rodney Irwin – NRDO Office
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Kellie Gallagher – Youth Council Co-ordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Mac Giolla Easpaig- Youth Councillor
Bridín Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh- Youth Councillor
Maire Ní Chuireáin- Youth Councillor
Eamonn McGilloway- Youth Councillor
Claire Harkin- Youth Councillor

GEA 98/09

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
ON 14TH JULY 2009.**

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill,
the minutes of meeting of the 14th July 2009 were agreed.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 99/09

DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillors from the Glenties Electoral Area made a presentation to the Committee detailing the work programmes and activities that they have been engaged in since their election.

Members were advised of the Youth Councillors participation in the following areas;

- Dáil na n Óg - Meetings with Minister Andrews
- Sexual Health Forum
- Crisis Pregnancy Agency's Advisory Group
- Youth Project in Gweedore -

The Youth Councillors expressed their disappointment at:

- (a) The non-availability of a free cervical cancer vaccination.
- (b) Educational cutbacks and anxieties resulting from the McCarthy report particularly in respect of the proposed cutbacks in Gaeltacht Areas.

The Committee thanked the Youth Councillors for the quality of their presentation and informed them of their willingness to assist and facilitate future delegations from the Youth Council.

GEA 100/09

MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Members noted the schedule of allocations to Community and Voluntary Groups in the Glenties Electoral Area, to date in 2009, circulated previously.

GEA 101/09

SOCIAL INCLUSION WEEK

The Community and Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that the Social Inclusion Week would be officially launched at 11am in the Council Chamber on the 21st September 2009. Members were informed that the week-long series of events would be targeted at staff and elected Members within the council, as well as older people, people with disabilities and lone parents.

GEA 102/09 DONEGAL CDB INTERAGENCY GROUP ON TRAVELLER ISSUES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 103/09 DONEGAL COMMUNITY BULLETIN

The Community and Enterprise Manager informed Members that the Donegal Community Bulletin has been circulated to in excess of 515 Community and Voluntary groups, and is also available online at www.donegalcdb.ie

GEA 104/09 TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda reporting the development of a toolkit for Community and Voluntary groups in Donegal.

GEA 105/09 COMMUNITY SMOKE ALARM SCHEME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda detailing the provision of additional funding in 2009.

GEA 106/09 PEACE III ACTION PLAN

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager who undertook to circulate Members with a breakdown of expenditure in the sum of €1,100,865 to date.

GEA 107/09 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - DUNFANAGHY

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the C & E Service to source funding for the tarring of the car park at this location.

GEA 108/09 MASS ROCK AT RAY, FALCARRAGH

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested that a plaque and directional signage be erected at this location for the benefit of tourists.

GEA 109/09

RESEARCH & POLICY UNIT

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 110/09

LIBRARY SERVICE – GWEEDORE

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager. Members requested the Council to expedite processing of the insurance claim and also the funding application to the DoEHLG for the provision of a new library in Aislann Gaoth Dobhair. The Community & Enterprise Manager undertook to obtain a further progress report from the Library Service.

GEA 111/09

LIBRARY SERVICE - GLENTIES

In response to queries from the Committee regarding the provision of a Library Service in Glenties, the Community & Enterprise Manager informed Members that obtaining a suitable location is proving problematic.

GEA 112/09

STRATEGIC DISABILITY ACCESS FUND

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 113/09 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager.

Members expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in respect of the major schemes and reiterated previous requests that the Director of the Water Services attend the next electoral Area Meeting to hear their concerns in this regard.

GEA 114/09 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager. In response to queries from Members regarding the poor water quality supply throughout the electoral area, the Water Services manager stressed the need, for replacement of defective cast iron piping, notwithstanding the non-availability of funding previously sourced from the Rural Water Programme.

Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to prioritise pipe replacement on the Caravan Rd, Dungloe.

GEA 115/09 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager. Cllr Alcorn requested the Council to:

- (i). Complete the Lettercaugh Group Water Scheme and acknowledged the successful upgrade of the Tully/Meenamara Group Water Scheme.
- (ii). Honour the commitment given to promoters of the Rutland Group Water Scheme and to expedite the project.

GEA 116/09

BRING BANKS

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Water Services Manager highlighting the installation of CCTV cameras on the main road and within the site covering the area of the recycling bring banks in Derrybeg.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill informed the meeting that he had received representations from the Tidy Towns Committee and the Fire Service requesting the installation of CCTV cameras at the bring bank facility in Falcarragh.

GEA 117/09

WORK PROGRAMMING

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Roads & Water Service to liaise in relation to cross service work at similar locations to increase value for money and to minimise public disruption.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 118/09

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the current status of the Roadworks Programme and the Roads Manager responded to Members queries.

Members highlighted the following road maintenance problems for the attention of the Roads Service:

- (i) An Chúirt to Dunlewey Junction
- (ii) Falcarragh Main Street
- (iii) Greenes Corner, Dungloe
- (iv) Ardsbeg Road at the Water Station
- (v) Lunnagh to Andie Wards
- (vi) Dolans Lane, Carrowcannon
- (vii) Flooding in Loughanure at Logues
- (viii) Crossroads at Glasserchoo
- (ix) Dollar Row Public Lighting requirements
- (x) Road to Magheraroarty Pier
- (xi) Falcarragh Fire Station – Yellow Box and Speed Limit concerns.
- (xii) Road Safety – Derrybeg Hall
- (xiii) Road Safety – Cloughaneely/Gweedore Junction

Cllr Gallagher requested that Members submit any future maintenance issues to the Roads Manager prior to the meeting.

GEA 119/09

GWEEDORE FLOODING – WORK PROGRAMME

The Roads Manager informed the Committee, that he had circulated all Members with an email detailing progress with this specific work programme.

Cllr Doherty informed the meeting of further incidents of flooding, at Strakeenagh, Sleeghan and Stranacorera and requested the Council to liaise with the OPW regarding the necessity to carry out arterial drainage works.

GEA 120/09

NATIONAL SECONDARY PAVEMENT SURFACING WORKS 2009

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated at the meeting and presented by the NRDO Engineer. Members were informed that;

- (i) The National Secondary Allocation for 2009 for the entire County amounts to 1,000,000
- (ii) Contract No.1 is under construction and 90% complete
- (iii) Contract No. 2 is due for completion in approximately two weeks.

GEA 121/09

NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY

Members expressed confusion and frustration at recent correspondence informing the Council of the transfer of the Local and Regional Road investment programme to the NRA from 1st September 2009.

The Committee expressed dismay at the involvement of the NRA in the local and regional road network programme. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested that the Council ascertain the definitive role and remit of the NRA as regards the local and regional roads programme.

GEA 122/09

HEDGE CUTTING

Cllr Alcorn requested the Council to cut any overgrown hedges in the interests of public safety.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 123/09 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee discussed the planning statistics circulated with the agenda and also at the meeting. The Planning Manager informed the Committee;

- (i) That the level of applications had declined to 1998 levels
- (ii) Updated the Committee on the implications of decreased development levies
- (iii) That the Glenties Electoral Area was continuing to receive the highest proportion of applications in the county.

GEA 124/09 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

The Planning Manager presented a report previously circulated detailing activity in the area of Planning Enforcement and informed the Committee that VP McMullins had appointed a Solicitor to expedite enforcement issues.

GEA 125/09 PLANNING REFUSALS

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting outlining planning refusals during the period from 27th June 2009 to 27th August 2009. The Planning Manager clarified County Development Plan Policy in relation to multiple housing applications in locations that are not served by a public sewer.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 126/09 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Members discussed the progress report on the status of the Housing Programme as at the 27th August 2009 and detailed hereunder;

Location	Units	Status
Loughanure – Turnkey	12	DOE Approval Received
Creeslough – Turnkey	19	99% Complete
Lettermacaward – Turnkey	13	99% Complete
Meenaniller – Turnkey	23	65% Complete

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn regarding local concerns in relation to the delay in letting the scheme, the Housing Manager, advised the Committee that he will seek a technical report from the Housing Construction Service in this regard.

GEA 127/09 SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

The Committee noted the progress report on the status of specific instance cottages in the Glenties Electoral Area.

GEA 128/09 SOCIAL HOUSING

The Committee discussed the progress report on Social Housing circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Members were informed of the current status of the Housing Grant Programme and were assured that those applicants with serious medical needs will be prioritised for consideration on availability of funding.

GEA 129/09 LEASING PROGRAMME

The Housing Manager informed Members that leasing submissions have been received from Developers for locations throughout the Electoral Area, in which there is a demand for Social Housing Units.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Housing Service to expedite communication with Developers, as their Housing units are vacant for immediate leasing as required by the Council.

Cllr Gallagher expressed disappointment that the Leasing Scheme will be more advantageous to the Lessor whereas tenants will be unable to purchase their dwelling.

The Housing Manager advised members that the Leasing programme is Departmental Policy to satisfy Housing Need.

GEA 130/09 CASUAL VACANICES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager outlining casual vacancies as at the 27th August 2009.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.