

**MINUTES OF MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr Noel McBride  
Cllr Liam Blaney  
Cllr Ian McGarvey

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Brendan McFadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Mr Paul McGill, Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Mr Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Mr John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services  
Mr John Curran, CEDO, Community, Enterprise & Cultural Development  
Ms Virginia McLoone, Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Ms Bridin McGinty, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Mr Liam Edwards, DNRDO

**MEC36/05    CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Councillor McGarvey, the minutes of the Electoral Area Committee meeting held on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 were agreed.

**36.1            MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Report and recommendation of Safety Measures at Lough Salt**

The Area Manager, Brendan McFadden, confirmed that tenders have been received and are being evaluated. He further confirmed that the work on Safety Measures at Lough Salt would be completed by the end of November.

**MEC37/05    CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF WORKSHOP HELD ON  
SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2005**

On the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Councillor McGarvey, the minutes of the workshop held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 were agreed.

## **MEC38/05 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

### **38.1 N56 Mountain Top Project**

Liam Edwards presented a progress report to the meeting on the N56 Mountain Top Project as follows:

A Tender Assessment Report of the 10 Tenders was completed by the DNRDO and approved by the NRA. A Managers Order was prepared and approved by Donegal County Council recommending appointment of Wills Bros Ltd for the 10-month construction contract.

A Letter of Intent was issued suggesting the 19 September commencement date.

Following satisfactory review of the Contractors Bonds and Insurances and a check of their economic and financial standing and receipt of preliminary programme and safety documentation their Tender was formally accepted with a contract date of 19 of September.

A pre-commencement meeting has been held, and the contractor has been in consultation with the various utilities regarding the diversions required by the contract.

Mobilisation will commence week commencing 19 September and initially will involve the establishment of site offices and general site clearance.

Interviews for DCC site staff were held during August.

Design and Land acquisition on the remaining phase of the work will continue in 2005.

The NRA has confirmed that advance works for the remaining contract phases towards Coolboy should proceed during the initial Phase 1 contract period.

Liam responded to a number of questions from the Members in relation to the project.

Councillor Blaney congratulated Liam Edwards, Damien McDermott and the DNRDO on the work, which they have carried out on this project.

John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water & Environment asked that he be notified of any disruption to the public water supply that this project may cause.

### **38.2 Blue Banks**

The Engineer advised that the design for proposed works on the Blue Banks will be complete by year end and he agreed to brief the Committee on the proposed alignment of this stretch of the N56.

### **38.3 Kilmacrennan Village By Pass Proposal**

Councillor Blaney urged that pressure should be applied to commence a public consultation process in relation to by pass proposals for Kilmacrennan Village.

### **38.4 Update on Capital Projects**

A progress report on Capital Schemes was circulated by Brendan McFadden at the meeting. The Area Manager responded to a number of queries raised by the Members in relation to the report.

#### **Milford to Carrigart**

The Area Manager presented the following report on the Milford to Carrigart road:

Work ongoing.

Removal of unsuitable material and placing of fill taking place at present.

Major fill works to be completed by end of September.

Laying of wetmix and surface dressing to take place in October.

Erection of safety barrier and other ancillary works to take place in October/early November.

Final lining and tidy-up of site, suitable for normal traffic flow by Mid November.

#### **Foxhall to Churchill**

The Members noted the report circulated at the meeting, which read as follows:

Work commenced in past week.

Removal of existing hedging and topsoil, laying of fill material to take place at same time.

Once rockfill works complete, laying of wetmix and surface dressing works to commence.

Fencing works to be completed as other works are taking place.

Minor remedial works on 2004 project will take place in October also.

Final lining and tidy-up of site, suitable for normal traffic flow by Mid November.

### **Kerrykeel to Eelburn**

The following update was circulated to the Members:

Removal of existing hedging and walls has commenced on site.  
Topsoil removal and placing of fill at Tamney site to commence this week.  
Placing of fill at Massmount Chapel to commence also.  
Accommodation works at chapel entrance to take place at this stage also.  
Laying of wetmix and bitmac works due to commence on week starting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005.  
Final lining and tidy-up of site, suitable for normal traffic flow by Mid November.

### **Atlantic Drive**

The Committee noted the following report:

Widening of corners taking place at present.  
Drainage works also due to commence this week.  
Laying of fill and wetmix on week starting 3<sup>rd</sup> October.  
Bitmac works due to commence on week starting 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Termon Flats/Gap**

The Committee noted the following report circulated by the Area Manager at the meeting:

Widening of corners ongoing. Placing of fill and wetmix on-going.  
Bitmac works due to commence Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.  
Bitmac works expected to take 5 days.  
Lining and accommodation works to be completed in early October.

### **38.5 Milford – Letterkenny Road**

Councillor McGarvey recommended that due to the increased traffic volumes on this road that consideration should be given to it being reclassified.

### **MEC39/05 WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

#### **39.1 Major Capital Programme**

The report on Major Capital Programmes, which circulated with the Agenda, was noted. The Area Manager responded to a number of queries from the Members relating to the report.

### **39.2 Small Capital Schemes Programme**

The Committee considered the report that circulated with the Agenda.

### **39.3 Group Schemes**

The report that circulated with the Agenda was noted. Councillor McGarvey recommended that the Milford Electoral Area be recognised as a Clár area in relation to these schemes. John Gallagher agreed to circulate details of qualifying criteria for Clár Schemes to the Members,

### **39.4 Private Source Group Schemes**

The report that circulated with the Agenda was noted. The Area Manager responded to a number of queries raised by the Members in relation to the report.

### **39.5 Water Supply in Downings Area on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005**

The Area Manager presented a report on the water supply in the Downings area on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005. John Gallagher reported that there was an adequate water supply in the area on the night in question and that reports to the contrary, in the media, were unfounded.

The Members complimented the Water & Environment Section, the Fire Services and the local Mevagh Fire Services on the work carried out on the night.

## **MEC40/05 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **40.1 Planning Statistics**

The report, which circulated with the Agenda, was noted. Eunan Quinn advised that the next quarterly figures would be circulated when available. In response to a query from Councillor Blaney the Area Manager agreed to provide clarification as to how the statistics are achieved.

### **40.2 Consideration of Recent Refusals**

The Committee considered a report on recent refusals, which was circulated at the meeting.

The Area Manager invited the Members to discuss with him any issues, relating to the reports, outside the meeting.

## **MEC41/05 HOUSING & BUILDING**

### **41.1 Housing Capital Programme**

The report, which circulated with the Agenda, was noted. The Area Manager advised the meeting that the 8 houses in Milford have now been let. He invited suggestions from the Members regarding a suitable name for the housing estate. In response to a question the Area Manager agreed to revert to the Members when he had liaised with the Place Names Committee regarding protocols for naming Estates.

The Area Manager advised the meeting that the 17 houses in Ramelton were next to be let. He briefed the Members regarding the process for letting houses.

The Area Manager responded to a number of queries raised by the Members in relation to SI Houses.

### **41.2 Social Housing**

The Committee considered the report, which circulated with the Agenda. The Area Manager provided an update on the Voluntary Housing Scheme in Kerrykeel.

### **41.3 Central Heating Programme**

Paul McGill advised the meeting that two contractors were now in place carrying out this programme. The Area Manager undertook to circulate a proposed list of Estates that will benefit from funding allocated from the Clár Programme 2005-07.

### **41.4 Disabled Persons Grants**

Councillor McGarvey expressed concern over the timescale for payment of Disabled Persons Grants.

### **41.5 Casual Vacancies**

The Committee noted the report, which circulated with the Agenda.

## **MEC42/05 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

John Curran deputised for Charles Sweeney, CEDO, and presented the following reports:

**42.1 Community Consultation**

The Members noted the report, which circulated with the Agenda.

**42.2 Funding Update**

The Committee considered the report that circulated with the Agenda and noted that a Public Consultation Meeting will be held in the Milford Public Services Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 7.30p.m.

**42.3 Inter-organisational Development**

The report, which circulated with the Agenda, was noted.

**42.4 “An Straitéis” – County strategy**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda. The Committee was advised of the Forest Link National conference that will be held on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The Members noted that Paddy Hannigan has been appointed Youth Co-ordinator.

**42.5 Research & Policy**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda. The Committee recommended that meetings relating to the Milford Electoral Area Business should be convened in the Milford Public Services Centre or locally in the case of the Flight of the Earls Commemoration. The Members expressed annoyance that these meetings were being scheduled for Letterkenny.

**MEC43/05 CORPORATE SERVICES**

The Members noted the activity report for the period January-July 2005, which circulated with the Agenda.

This completed the business of the Meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Milford Electoral Area Committee will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to commence at 10.00 a.m.

