

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2006, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present:

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
Cllr. Brian Ó' Domhnaill
Cllr. Pearse Doherty
Cllr. David Alcorn
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Enda Bonner

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Gallagher - Area Manager, Water & Environment
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Building
Brendan Mc Fadden - Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Quinn – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Michael Heaney – Director of Community & Enterprise
Geraldine O Sullivan – Project Officer, Community & Enterprise
Cathal Ó Gallchóir - Project Officer, Community & Enterprise
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Rosemary O Donnell - ASO, Corporate Services
Michael Rowsome, SSO, Corporate Services

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cathal Ó Gallchóir – Udarás na Gaeltachta
Stiofan ó Cualainn – Udarás na Gaeltachta
Michael Kenny – Architect
Alan Sherwood – Business Consultant

APOLOGIES :

Charles Sweeney – Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Eithne Nic Lochlainn - MFG

GEA 01/06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES HELD ON 8th November, 2005

On the proposal of Cllr David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Slowey, the minutes of meeting of the 8th of November, 2005 were agreed subject to Minute 187/05(Major Capital Schemes) reading as follows;

“The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the status of the 2004 – 2006 Water and Sewerage Investment Programme. The Committee expressed their disappointment at the current status of the proposed Gweedore Sewerage Scheme. On the proposal of Cllr Pearse Doherty, seconded by Cllr Alcorn, the Committee requested that Department of Environment Inspectors Liam Doyle and Michael Nolan meet with Council Officials and Members to clarify the current situation.”

GEA 02/06 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of sympathy were proposed to the following;

- Hugh & Michael Breslin, Water Works Inspectors on the death of their mother.
- Michael & Marion Doherty, Revenue Collectors, on the death of Marion’s father.
- Suzanna & Canice McGeehan, on the death of Canice’s mother.
- Paddy Farren, on the death of his mother.
- Hughie & Hugo Gallagher, Water Work Inspectors on the death of Mary Gallagher.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 03/06 AISLANN GHAOTH DOBHAIR

The Community & Enterprise Director, officials from Údaras, the Project Architect and Business Consultant updated the Committee in relation to the status of the strategic Gaeltacht cultural centre project in the context of the regeneration of the Gweedore Business Park and responded to Member's queries in respect of same.

GEA 04/06 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 05/06 FUNDING UPDATE

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated in relation to funding allocations. The Community and Enterprise Project Officer informed Members that an incubator budget of €7,000 per annum for 2005 and 2006 is available for distribution as seed funding towards tourism projects in each electoral area. Members were requested to submit their proposals to the Community & Enterprise Development Officer.

GEA 06/06 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 07/06 COUNTY STRATEGY

Members noted the report circulated previously regarding the County Strategy.

GEA 08/06 RESEARCH AND POLICY

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 09/06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Pearse Doherty informed the Committee that at the March 05 area meeting that he had requested the C.E.D.O to liaise with the Derryveagh and Glenties branches of the Dyslexia Association so as to ensure that both groups were aware of the availability of funding from the Community Development fund.

Cllr Doherty requested clarification;

- (a) If contact had been made with both branches of the Dyslexia Association and
- (b) If applications were submitted, why were the applications not approved.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 10/06 2005 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing activity levels in the Corporate Services section. Members welcomed the efforts of staff and particularly the increased usage of Irish to transact business with customers. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested comparative figures for other area offices.

GEA 11/06 DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2006

The Committee discussed the draft schedule of meetings for 2006 circulated with the agenda and agreed that meetings would be held on the following dates:

- January 24th
- March 21st
- May 23rd
- July 18th
- September 19th
- November 21st

GEA 12/06 DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES FIRE STATIONS

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill, the Committee agreed to invite Pat the Cope Gallagher TD, Minister for Marine to perform the sod turning at the (i) Dungloe site on the 10th of February and (ii) Glenties site on the 17th of February.

The Committee requested a status report on the proposed Fire Station in Gweedore.

GEA 13/06 EXTINGUISHMENT OF RIGHT OF WAY AT STRAND ROAD, DERRYBEG

Members requested a copy of the legal advice obtained by the County Manager, to the effect that the Council had acted ultra vires.

GEA 14/06 ACOUSTICS IN CHAMBER

In response to queries from the Committee regarding acoustics in the Council Chamber, the Corporate Manager advised Members that funds have been allocated in the budget for this purpose.

GEA 15/06 CAR PARKING – DUNGLOE PSC

The Committee requested that additional car parking facilities be developed due to the inadequacy of the current capacity.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 16/06 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Housing Manager informed Members that 220 starts have been allocated under the Housing Programme 2004 – 2008 for the Glenties Electoral Area, and that 5 units are outstanding under the 2000 – 2003 programme as detailed in the report circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested that playground facilities are incorporated into all housing schemes.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that the Housing mix in future schemes reflect the increased proportion of single applicants on the housing list.

The Committee praised the housing service for their efficiency in the letting of schemes in Annagry, Ardara and Glenties.

GEA 17/06 PROGRESS REPORT – S.I. HOUSING

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda detailing progress on specific instance cottages as at the 13th January 2006.

Members requested that the S.I. programme be decentralised to improve efficiency in the administration of the programme.

GEA 18/06 PROGRESS REPORT - SOCIAL HOUSING

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Alcorn requested a report on the treatment plant at An Choill and also asked that maintenance works be carried out on the Arranmore scheme.

GEA 19/06 SAFE HOME PROGRAMME

The Committee congratulated the Housing Service for housing a returned emigrant under this scheme.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty recommended that the Housing Manager and a delegation from the Committee travel to London and Glasgow to meet with people who would qualify for housing under this scheme.

GEA 20/06 CASUAL VACANCIES

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda listing casual vacancies as at the 13th of January 2006.

The Housing Manager advised Members that the number of vacancies had increased as a result of the letting of new schemes.

GEA 21/06 CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that 30 houses were completed under the 2005 Programme and that he will bring proposals to the next meeting in anticipation of similar funding being available for 2006.

GEA 22/06 VOLUNTARY HOUSING SCHEMES

Cllr. Bonner requested the Housing Manager to liase with the Health Service regarding their proposals for a voluntary housing scheme on Arranmore. The housing Manager advised the Committee that an update on proposals for voluntary scheme in Dungloe and Falcarragh will be available at the next area meeting.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 23/06 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated detailing the Major Capital Investment Programme for 2004 – 2006.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty reiterated previous requests that Council officials meet DOE inspectors to expedite the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr. Slowey asked that the Water Service progress the Killybegs Water Supply project.

Cllr. Alcorn asked that the Council arrange public consultation meetings to outline proposals for the proposed treatment plant in Dungloe.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested a copy of the preliminary report in respect of the Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme.

GEA 24/06 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of small capital schemes.

In response to Members queries regarding the Pipe replacement/Water Conservation programme, the Water Services Manager advised that funding for pipe replacement will only be allocated on completion of surveying and pressure management phases of the project.

GEA 25/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated outlining the status of the Group Scheme Programme. Members requested an update on proposals for schemes at Bunawack and Rutland.

GEA 26/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

GEA 27/06 PRIVATE SOURCE GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 28/06 CIVIC AMENITY SITE - DUNGLOE

The Committee welcomed the report previously circulated regarding approval in principle to the provision of grant assistance in respect of the above project from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Environment Manager advised the Committee that an application for funding for a civic amenity site on Arranmore is being formulated for submission to An Roinn.

GEA 29/06 ILLEGAL DUMPING

The Committee highlighted the following locations where illegal dumping is ongoing:-

- Mountjoy Road, Dungloe
- Knocknafaugher
- Corveen
- Magheragallen
- Arranmore

GEA 30/06 BRING BANK SITES

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty recommended that all sites have a concrete base, adequate lighting and signage.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Environment Service to install working cameras.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty expressed dissatisfaction at the operation of bring bank sites and requested the Council to develop alternative management plans.

GEA 31/06 LITTER COLLECTION

The Committee commended Pearse Buss, Litter Warden for his commitment to addressing environmental concerns.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested a map detailing locations within the Electoral Area where there is an absence of refuse collection and also asked the Environment

Section to promote a scheme that will increase the number of households availing of a waste collection.

Cllr. Enda Bonner asked the Council to liase with the principal of Edeninfragh school regarding refuse collection.

GEA 32/06 BLUE FLAG STATUS

Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to proactively address infrastructural deficiencies at Narin Beach and also highlighted the necessity for upgrading of public toilets at this location.

GEA 33/06 BEACH MANAGEMENT

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also requested the Council to develop beaches at Drumnatinney, Port Arthur and Magheraroarty.

GEA 34/06 SIGN FOR MAGHERACLOGHER BEACH

Cllr. Pearse Doherty asked the Council to address this issue.

GEA 35/06 PIER FACILITIES

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill asked the Council to provide safety rings and warning signs at Ballyness Pier. In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding provision of shower and toilet facilities at Portnablagh Pier, the Roads Manager undertook to liase with the Marine Service.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty highlighted the need for toilet facilities at Magheraclogher and Port Arthur beaches and Bunbeg and Magheragallen piers.

GEA 36/06 PROPOSED ENGINEERED LANDFILL SITE AT MEENABOLL

The Committee requested a detailed report to address public concerns in respect of this proposed development.

Cllr. Enda Bonner and Cllr. Alcorn requested the attention of the Director of the Environment Service at the next area meeting.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 37/06 2005 ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME

The Committee commended the Roads Service for the quality of the 2005 Road Works Programme Progress Report circulated with the agenda.

In response to concerns regarding the concentration of the work programme in the latter part of the year, the Roads manager advised that the workforce had to have a schedule of works planned for the duration of the calendar year.

GEA 38/06 BRIDGES

Cllr Alcorn asked that the Roads service carry out repairs at Cruit and Tully bridges and also requested replies to his representations.

GEA 39/06 ROADS MAINTENANCE

Members criticised the budget allocated for road maintenance in the electoral area. Cllr Alcorn requested increased co-operation between the Roads & Planning services to ensure compliance with conditions attached to permissions granted. Cllr Pearse Doherty requested the Roads Service to allocate maintenance monies to Roads Supervisors areas on an equitable basis to ensure that Sean Doohan's area has an adequate budget.

The Committee highlighted the following areas to be addressed by the Roads Service:

- Dungloe to Doochary Road – excessive bumps.
- Meenaroy Hill
- Fintown Road subsidence
- Ardara Town road surface
- Ardara to Portnoo Road – sides to be filled in
- Site Lines at junction of Dungloe – Craghy Road
- Hornhead Road – potholes and crash barrier
- Cronaguiggy Road

GEA 40/06 COASTAL PROTECTION WORKS

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding coastal protection works at Lr. Meenacladdy and Curransport, the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Marine Service regarding preparation of a repairs estimate.

GEA 41/06 SPEED LIMITS

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Roads Service to liaise with the CEO in the NRA in relation to speed limit requirements on the Gwedore Road, Dungloe, Loughanure and Coshcladdy.

Cllr. Slowey asked for the erection of a directional Sign to Cashel on the N56.
Cllr. Alcorn requested the erection of yields signs and clear markings at the fire station corner in Dungleoe.

GEA 42/06 SAFETY MEASURES

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Roads Service to carry out works to address safety concerns at the Council housing estate in Gortahork and at Gweedore station.

GEA 43/06 LIS APPLICATIONS

Cllr. Slowey requested the Roads Service to issue a reminder to all applicants who had submitted applications prior to January 2003, informing them of the necessity to re-apply.

GEA 44/06 N56- CONSIDERATION OF THE 5 YEAR PLAN

Brendan O'Donnell, Senior Executive Engineer made a verbal presentation to the Committee in relation to the plan, previously circulated to the Members. The Committee complimented the SEE on the production of the detailed plan.
The SEE, responded to members queries and informed them that he would attend the next electoral area meeting to seek their support for the plan.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 45/06 PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting which listed refusals in the Glenties Electoral Area during the period from 26/10/05 to 12/01/06.

GEA 46/06 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting detailing planning statistics and comparative figures.

GEA 47/06 DUNGLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Planning Manager updated the committee on the status of the Dungloe local area plan.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

