

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2005 IN THE  
CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE:**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor Francis Conaghan  
Councillor Rena Donaghey  
Councillor Denis McGonagle  
Councillor Bernard McGuinness  
Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn

**Officials Present:**

**Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services:**

Ms. Aideen Doherty, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development  
Officer

**Corporate Services:**

Mr. Eunan Kelly, Area Manager  
Ms. Marie Deeney, Staff Officer

**Housing & Building Services:**

Mr. Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager

**Planning & Economic Development Services:**

Mr. Frank Sweeney, A/Area Manager  
Mr. Francis Coyle, Director of Service  
Ms. Patricia McIntyre, Project Officer  
Ms. Mary McBride, Assistant Planner  
Mr. Jim Harley, Senior Planner

**Roads & Transportation Services:**

Mr. Pat Gillespie, Area Manager  
Mr. Jim McLaughlin, Executive Engineer

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services:**

Mr. Con McLaughlin, Area Manager  
Mr. John McElwaine, A/Senior Executive Engineer

**Apologies:**

Councillor Marian McDonald  
Inishowen Youth Councillors

**05/1 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF INISHOWEN  
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 2004**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Padraig Mac Lochlainn, the minutes of the meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 were agreed.

**05/2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON WORKSHOP IN RESPECT  
OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LANDS AT BARRACK HILL AND  
MOSS ROAD, CARNDONAGH HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2004.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Padraig Mac Lochlainn, the Report on Workshop held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 was agreed.

**05/3 HOUSING**

**3.1 Peace Programme 2005 (Revitalisation of Housing Estates).**

Mr. Patsy Lafferty circulated a report on the Peace Programme for 2005. Approval was then requested from the Members in connection with the application for funding under this programme for 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr. Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pádraig MacLochlainn the Committee recommended that the following schemes be included in the application for funding under the Programme in 2005:

- Muff (Grove Cottages/Craig Park)
- Carndonagh (Convent Road)
- Glengad (Cottages)

**3.2 Allocation of Houses**

Patsy Lafferty referred to his report on the Allocation of Houses in the Greencastle, Carndonagh, Malin and Buncrana areas. It was noted that applications are presently being assessed in order to be ready for allocation when the houses become available for letting.

### **3.3 Turnkey Housing**

Patsy Lafferty agreed to update the Members at the next Electoral Meeting in relation to the advertisement inviting submissions for turnkey housing, for which the closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2005.

Councillor Bernard McGuinness requested that the Council should look at the options of purchasing land in Glengad with a view to providing turnkey housing in the area. Councillor McGuinness also requested that a map be prepared showing all rural schools in Inishowen in the context of the purchase/provision of Council housing, in this way the Council would then be in a position to identify the areas under pressure.

Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn stated that at the recent meeting of Bunrana Town Council, it was proposed that part of 8.83 acres of land in Bunrana be made available to three groups who have proposals for a multi-purpose nursery. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to further discuss same.

### **3.4 Glengad**

Following discussion, it was agreed that options be explored with a view to replacing water storage tanks at Glengad.

### **3.5 S.I. Housing**

Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn asked that the S.I. housing process be analysed with a view to making it more efficient.

Patsy Lafferty responded that an analysis has already been completed, but it must now go before the Strategic Policy Committee and will require some policymaking.

<b>05/4 CORPORATE</b>
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### **4.1 Progress Report**

Eunan Kelly updated the Members on the Progress Report for 2004, stating that Motor Tax business showed an overall increase of 15% on 2003. Members expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the building to-date.

### **4.2 Citizens Information**

Members agreed unanimously on the tremendous service provided by Anne Owens, C.I.C. Councillor Bernard McGuinness inquired if there was any

danger of this service ever being removed, as this would cause mayhem. Eunan Kelly agreed to clarify future funding of C.I.C. and inform Members.

#### **4.3 Former Fire Station**

Councillor Bernard McGuinness enquired as to what is proposed for the former Carndonagh Fire Station. Councillor McGuinness stated, and the Members unanimously agreed, that proposals should be considered for improving the junction, the provision of bus parking, waiting area and a Tourist Information Centre.

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that a number of other groups in the area were looking at the possibility of office accommodation. Proposals have been forwarded to Planning & Economic Development regarding the use of the vacant building. The Council is presently viewing all assets in the County and will be dealt with accordingly.

### **05/5 COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE**

#### **5.1 Grianan of Aileach**

Following an enquiry from Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn in connection with An Grianan of Aileach, Aideen Doherty responded, confirming that Joe Gallagher, Heritage Officer, was presently looking at the potential for promoting and developing An Grianan of Aileach.

#### **5.2 Links Between N.I. Republic & Scotland**

Councillor Bernard McGuinness enquired as to the up-to-date position on enhancing links between Northern Ireland, the Republic and Scotland. Aideen Doherty agreed to advise the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee of the proposals for September, 2005.

#### **5.3 Town Twinning**

Following a query from Councillor Bernard McGuinness, regarding the twinning of towns and villages in Inishowen with towns and villages in Northern Ireland, Aideen Doherty responded that discussions have already taken place, with no great interest or willingness been shown by groups. However, if interested groups could be found, help would be given to promote town twinning.

#### **5.4 Cultural Development Forum**

Aideen Doherty informed the meeting that a team of up to seventy people would be in the Inishowen area for five weeks, when filming starts in February/March for Grand Productions "Dead Long Enough". Accommodation is already booking up which is proving good for the area.

### **5.5 Rehab Awards**

Following a request from Aideen Doherty, that Members submit nominations for the Rehab People of the Year Awards, before the closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2005, Councillor Bernard McGuinness agreed that he would submit the nominations.

### **5.6 Sea Life Centre**

Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn expressed the anger and disappointment of the Members of Buncrana Town Council at the decision of Fáilte Ireland to request final stage proposals for the proposed Sea Life Centre in Bundoran.

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Following discussions the Committee requested the following: -

- An explanation for the statement attributed to Mr. Paul McLoone in the recent Inish Times article regarding the ideal location for a Sea Life Centre in Bundoran, as he represents the whole County.
- An explanation as to why Fáilte Ireland invited Bundoran Town Council for final stage proposals for the proposed Sea Life Centre before first consulting with Donegal County Council.
- Clarification if the Minister was aware that this letter was being issued?
- Why was Greencastle been considered as a potential site for a Sea Life Centre?

On the proposal of Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn the Committee recommended that a joint application be considered between Buncrana Town Council and Derry City Council for Coastal Zone Management/Sea Life Centre.

It was also agreed that the Members of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee would support Buncrana Town Council on their application

The Members then requested that a joint meeting be arranged with Donegal County Council and Buncrana Town Council with Kevin O Connor for further discussions on the proposed Sea Life Centre.

## **05/6 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **6.1 Roads Workshop**

On the proposal of Councillor Denis McGonagle, seconded by Councillor Bernard McGuinness, the Report on the Roads Workshop held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2004 was agreed.

### **6.2 Lights at Cockhill**

Pat Gillespie informed the meeting that Paul Doherty, who has been asked to advise if 10no. lights at Cockhill have been replaced, is on leave at present, but will advise the Members when this work is complete.

### **6.3 Five Road Ends**

Local landowner to be contacted to discuss the need to have the hedge removed to increase visibility.

### **6.4 Culdaff P.O. Junction**

Following a request from Councillor Bernard McGuinness for the provision of a ramp above the junction at Culdaff P.O., Pat Gillespie agreed to meet with Councillor McGuinness to discuss options for the reduction of speed at this junction.

### **6.5 Cassey Road Junction, Buncrana**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that he is presently awaiting designs from Road Design on the Cassey Road junction. It was agreed that Road Design now be requested to progress improvement on the Cassey Road as a matter of urgency.

### **6.6 Supervalu Supermarket, Buncrana**

Pat Gillespie informed the Committee that the Pedestrian Crossing at Supervalu Supermarket, Buncrana is to be progressed.

### **6.7 Outer Relief Road, Buncrana**

The Committee requested that Road Design present proposals to them on the design for the Outer Relief Road in Buncrana, when completed.

#### **6.8 Burt Chapel Junction**

Following a request from Councillor Bernard McGuinness that the Slab Road Junction at Burt Chapel is looked at again, the Committee recommended that the N.R.A. be contacted with a view to having improvements carried out.

#### **6.9 Public Lighting Programme**

It was agreed that Phase 3 of the Public Lighting Programme would be presented at a future Inishowen E.A. Meeting.

#### **6.10 Con's Brae, Carrigans**

Pat Gillespie agreed to request Road Design to examine the possible options in order to identify the best solution to the problem at Con's Brae, Carrigans.

#### **6.11 Green Road**

Pat Gillespie undertook to examine the funding possibilities to repair the Green Road on a phased basis, and informed the Members that this, can and will be considered at part of the 2005 Roadworks Programme.

#### **6.12 Carndonagh Inner Relief Road**

At the request of Councillor Bernard McGuinness, Pat Gillespie agreed to examine the possible options in providing access to the Carndonagh Inner Relief Road.

It was also agreed that Pat Gillespie would arrange to meet with Evelyn Doherty, landowner who is complaining about safety issues surrounding the access to her own land.

<b>05/7 DEPUTATION FROM R.N.L.I.</b>
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The Chairman welcomed Liam Magee, Bernard Deehan, George O'Hagan and Liam Irwin, representatives of the R.N.L.I. to the meeting and explained that this was not an official deputation and that he had

acceded to their request to attend the meeting. The Chairman also apologised for the absence of Vincent Lynn and Donal Walker who were not present at the meeting.

Liam Magee expressed the concerns of the R.N.L.I. that only 7,000 - 8,000 m<sup>3</sup> of dredge was removed from the harbour over a 10-week period in 2004, and that now there was talk of the same Contractor being appointed to carry out a further dredge in 2005.

The R.N.L.I. are not happy about this as they are of the opinion that the dredge which was carried out in 2004 was not properly completed, as the lifeboat cannot now get out due to the pile of stones which appears to have gotten higher than ever it has been.

The Members pledged their support for the R.N.L.I. and requested that an urgent meeting should be sought with Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, T.D., Vincent Lynn, Donal Walker and representatives from the R.N.L.I. in order to discuss the dredging of Buncrana Harbour. The Deputation then thanked the Committee for receiving them and withdrew from the meeting.

A further discussion then followed between the Members and it was agreed that clarification be sought on the following: -

- Is a continuous dredge required on the harbour, or should the Lifeboat is located in deep water?
- Is the quality of the dredge carried out to-date up to standard?
- Did the Contractor adhere to the specifications as required?

Pat Gillespie undertook to arrange a meeting between the Contractor, Members, John McLaughlin, Vincent Lynn and Donal Walker to discuss the dredging issue.

<b>05/8 WATER ENVIRONMENT &amp; EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>
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Con McLaughlin circulated updated Progress Report (Appendix 1 attached)

### **8.1 Merville Water Supply**

Con McLaughlin informed the Committee that the Merville Water Supply Scheme was included in the Assessment of Needs submitted to the DOHELG, and indicated that submissions are made on the basis of a Regional Inishowen Scheme in four proposed phases. Elements relevant to the Merville Water Supply Scheme are included in phase two of that Regional proposal.

### **8.2 Environmental Services - Proposed Clean-Up**

The Committee were informed that the level 3 cleanup of illegal dumping at Effish Hill has now been completed that details have already been sent to the local press for publishing. Councillor Bernard McGuinness stated that the Litter Warden for the area should be requested to call and keep a check on the local houses in an effort to police the matter of illegal dumping and also appreciate the good work which has been carried out to-date.

### **8.3 Kerb-side Recycling**

Following a query from Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn regarding fees for kerb-side recycling which has recently been introduced, as opposed to taking recyclables to the Waste Transfer Station free of charge, Con McLaughlin responded that the situation will now have to be reviewed with a view to introducing charges.

### **8.4 Civic Amenity Site, Buncrana**

Councillor Rena Donaghey queried if there were any proposals for a Civic Amenity Site in Buncrana. Con McLaughlin replied that there is presently only funding available for three sites which are located in Letterkenny, Stranorlar and Donegal Town.

### **8.5 Landfill Site in Inishowen**

The Members were informed that work is presently in progress in order to locate a suitable landfill site for Inishowen. Any proposals for a suitable site should be submitted to Donal Casey, Senior Executive Chemist, Letterkenny, who will be requested to attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting.

### **8.6 Reservoir at Culdaff**

On the proposal of Councillor Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Councillor Francis Conaghan, the Committee recommended that the possibility of

obtaining funding should be examined for the provision of a reservoir at Culdaff and of having it included on the Water Services Investment Programme.

It was also requested that a meeting be sought with Jim Holohan in order to discuss progressing the Water Service Investment Programme.

### **8.7 Lagan Water Supply**

Councillor Francis Conaghan requested that proposals for the construction of a reservoir at Dooish as part of Phase III should be given priority as this would act as backup for the Inishowen area.

### **8.8 Merville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme**

<b>05/9 PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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### **9.1 Barrack Hill**

The Chairman welcomed Francie Coyle to the meeting who circulated a report and updated the Members of the Proposed Development of Land at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh. In his report Francie Coyle informed the Members that over the last number of years, the Housing Section of the Council acquired 3 parcels of land at Barrack Hill in Carndonagh for the provision of housing and other social/recreational/commercial needs. The total acreage of these lands is 28.9 acres and cost a total of €1,054,000.00 (including fees).

In 2002, the Council commissioned Seamus Canavan Architects to carry out a Land Use Survey of the lands and this Survey was completed in late 2002. In 2004, the Council received the following expressions of interests from groups in Carndonagh, wishing to locate to Council owned lands at Moss Road, Carndonagh. These lands which measure 8.7 acres in total are zoned primarily residential in the Carndonagh Development Plan 1997 and are currently being leased on a short term basis to the Carndonagh Community School. The lands were acquired from the I.D.A. as part of a land swap in 1997.

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED</b>
1. Carndonagh Football Club	Playing field
2. Inishowen Rugby Club	Playing field
3. Carndonagh Playground Development Group	Site for a playground
4. Carndonagh Community & Rural Development Co. Ltd.	Site on which to construct enterprise units
5. Naiscoil Dhomhnach Og	Site on which to construct building
6. Carndonagh Boxing Club	Site on which to construct building

In the recent past, the Carndonagh Community & Rural Development Association have indicated that they would now be seeking to locate at the Barrack Hill lands. In addition, it is felt that all the other groups that have expressed an interest in the lands at Moss Road can be accommodated at Barrack Hill also. This would also create an opportunity to sell a portion of the lands at Moss Road, Carndonagh that could be used to fund the development of the Barrack Hill lands.

The Council are proposing that a Project Engineer is assigned to progress the development of lands at Barrack Hill and indeed other similar projects throughout the County. It is further proposed that this project would be carried out in a number of phases to be determined after the public consultation period.

The Council has been in discussion with private businessmen who have expressed an interest in locating at Barrack Hill. It is envisaged that this proposal will be further progressed and expressions of interest will be sought from other private businesses seeking to locate at this site. In addition, it is proposed that a public consultation process will also be held. Therefore, in order to progress the development of the lands at Barrack Hill the following actions are being proposed:

1. A Project Engineer to be assigned to lead this project and other similar flagship projects throughout the County.

2. Agreement is reached in principle, to allow a portion of the land at Moss Road to be sold to fund the development lands at Barrack Hill.
3. The Preliminary Sketch plans to be firmed up and a public consultation process to be held in relation to the development of the Barrack Hill lands.
4. Expressions of interest from private and community groups will be sought to locate at the lands.

It is also recommended that the Carndonagh Community and Rural Development Association Limited progress their application to Leader for funding to carry out a feasibility study on access to the lands at Barrack Hill, Carndonagh.

On the proposal of Councillor Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Councillor Denis McGonigle, the Members agreed in principle to the report circulated.

## 9.2 Village Renewal Works 2004/05

Patricia McIntyre circulated a report and up-dated the Members on the Village Renewal Works for 2004/05. The total allocation for the Inishowen Electoral Area is €50,000.00 under Peace II for Village Renewal works. Meetings were held early in November, 2004 with the Elected Members and the following priority works, in order of priority, were agreed and costed as follows:

VILLAGE	PRIORITY WORKS	COST
CULDAFF	(1) Under grounding of overhead cables and provision of lighting from McGrorys to Laffertys shop	€76,000.00
MALIN	(1) Planting of mature trees on green	€5,000.00
	(2) Provision of footpath and stone wall at Parochial Hall, Malin	€30,000.00
	(3) Provision of lighting on Malin Bridge	Awaiting costing

In addition to funding secured from Peace II, the Council may also provide funding through monies collected from Development charges. The funds identified from development charges may also be used to provide the required match funding, in the event that the local groups are successful in obtaining funding through the Clar Programme.

As the allocation of €50,000 must be drawn down before the end of February 2005, a decision was taken in order that works may commence. On the proposal of Councillor Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Councillor Denis McGonagle, it was agreed that the money be divided as follows:

Culdaff	-	€35,000
Malin	-	€15,000

### **9.3 Take-Over of Housing Estates**

Frank Sweeney informed the Members that the first draft regarding the take-over of housing estates has already been presented to Senior Management. It was agreed that Vincent Lynn be requested to attend the next Electoral Area Meeting to discuss the take-over of housing schemes programme.

### **9.4 County Development Plan Review 2005 - Rural Housing Policy**

A report was circulated regarding the County Development Plan Review 2005 - Rural Housing Policy. Jim Harley informed the Members that an initial Draft Plan must be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. The Members would then have eight weeks to consider the Draft Plan before it is presented to the public for consultation. The formal Draft Plan will be published on or before 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2005.

The policy on rural housing development constitutes a significant aspect of the review and must incorporate the aspects of the Minister's paper issued in March 2004 "Sustainable Rural Housing".

A discussion followed on the County Development Plan Review, with Councillor Francis Conaghan expressing his concerns on Section 47 of the Plan.

Councillor Denis McGonagle also expressed his reservations on the "Urban Generated Rural Housing Area" of the Plan.

At the request of Councillor Bernard McGuinness, that "Close Proximity" has encouraged Ribbon Development, it was agreed that this would be re-examined.

The Committee also agreed that consideration should be given to restricting local people to building in Rural Service Centres.

<b>05/10 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING</b>
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It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2005, commencing at 10.00 am.