

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

### **GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 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:**

Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Charles Sweeney – Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
John Gallagher - Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Brendan Mc Fadden - Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Roisin Mitchell - Executive Planner, Planning & Economic Development  
Francie Coyle – Director of Planning & Economic Development  
Jeremy Smith – Walking & Trails Development Officer  
Berni Gallagher - SO, Corporate Services  
Michael Rowsome, SSO, Corporate Services  
Brendan O'Donnell- NRDO Roads Engineer

**APOLOGIES:** Eunan Quinn – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

#### **GEA 90/06 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Pearse Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2006 were agreed.

#### **GEA 91/06 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2006**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Enda Bonner, the report from the Workshop held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006 was agreed.

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

**GEA 92/06 DUNFANAGHY PLAYGROUND**

Cllr. Brian Ó Domhnaill expressed dissatisfaction at the provision of contradictory advice by different sections of the Council to the Committee involved in the above project, which in his opinion resulted in a loss of funding. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Planning, Roads and Community & Enterprise Services to meet with the group. A lengthy debate ensued in relation to this issue and the Committee recommended that this project be re-prioritised for funding in the event that additional monies become available.

The Director of Planning informed Members that a report will be prepared for the next area meeting, to clarify planning matters in relation to the playground proposed for Dunfanaghy.

**GEA 93/06 WALKING DEVELOPMENT**

Mr Jeremy Smith, Walking Trails Development Officer attended the meeting and circulated Members with a report detailing the development of walking routes in the county.

Mr. Smith informed the Committee of ongoing work such as the completion of the audit of walking routes, identification of infrastructural deficiencies, and preparation of publications to market walking routes in the county.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and requested the Walking Development Officer to liaise with Udarás na Gaeltachta and to also develop further routes in consultation with local communities.

**GEA 94/06 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting and the CEDO replied to Members queries.

**GEA 95/06 FUNDING UPDATE**

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the status of the Forest Link project, the CEDO advised the Committee that the research phase has ended and that funding has recently been announced for phase 2 of the project. The Community & Enterprise Development Officer advised the Committee that applications for funding in respect of the Sustainable Tourism Initiative and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Flight of Earls

programme of events have been submitted to Interreg for evaluation. Cllr. Bonner expressed disappointment that he wasn't notified of a visit to Moville by a Scottish delegation notwithstanding his Membership of the Islands Committee and ICBAN.

**GEA 96/06 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

**GEA 97/06 COUNTY STRATEGY**

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to the County Strategy.

**GEA 98/06 RESEARCH & POLICY**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the mapping of community infrastructure in County Donegal.

**GEA 99/06 CULTURAL SERVICES**

Members noted the report circulated previously in relation to cultural services in the County.

**GEA 100/06 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in respect of the above.

<b>PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
--

**GEA 101/06 PLANNING REFUSALS**

Members discussed the report on planning refusals circulated at the meeting and the Director of Planning replied to queries regarding the high proportion of refusals.

**GEA 102/06 PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee discussed the report on planning statistics circulated at the meeting.

Members expressed disappointment at the high levels of invalid applications submitted to the Council.

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding the high number of invalid applications, the Director of Planning informed the Committee that all agents had been issued with correspondence on this issue prior to Christmas. The Director agreed to revisit the current situation and confirmed his support for a “name and shame” approach in the event that improvements fail to materialise.

**GEA 103/06 STAFFING OF DUNGLOE PLANNING OFFICE**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill expressed frustration at the inability of the planning office to provide an adequate service to the public and elected representatives.

The Committee requested the Director to employ additional planners and administrative staff to enable the planning service to deal with the volume of work. The Director informed Members of steps being taken to address staffing requirements in the planning service and he also advised the Committee that concerns in this regard had been conveyed to the County Manager.

**GEA 104/06 ENFORCEMENT**

Cllr. Slowey criticised the Councils lack of focus on enforcement issues and requested the Council to address this matter.

## **GEA 105/06 PRE-PLANNING ENQUIRY SERVICE**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty congratulated the planning service for their introduction of this facility. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill stated that one day a month is insufficient and Cllr. Alcorn recommended that resources be targeted at increasing the number of site meetings to improve the pre-planning service. In response to queries from Cllrs. Ó Domhnaill and Alcorn, the planning Director advised the Committee that the pre-planning enquiry facility will be reviewed in the autumn to determine if additional resources are required and available to develop the system.

## **GEA 106/06 SECTION 140 MOTIONS**

Cllr. Bonner requested further clarification from the Director in respect of the above.

## **GEA 107/06 DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Slowey expressed disappointment at NRA Policy with regard to planning applications for development along the N56.

Cllr. Brian Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to arrange a meeting with the NRA to clarify issues arising from planning applications for development on the national secondary route.

Cllr. Slowey also informed the Committee of the difficulty of developing West Donegal due to low-density policies.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty raised concerns regarding conditions imposed on planning permission granted to members of the indigenous population in areas of large scale holiday home ownership. The planning Director responded to the above concerns and highlighted ongoing consultation with Members during the drafting of the County Development Plan.

## HOUSING AND BUILDING

### **GEA 108/06 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme as at the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2006.

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding turnkey schemes, the Housing Manager advised Members that the Council invite turnkey proposals having regard to areas where the greatest housing need exists.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that retention monies are withheld from contractors until snag lists are completed in accordance with building regulations and that he will follow up on issues highlighted in respect of the Cotteen Scheme.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the housing service to ensure that playground facilities are provided in all Council schemes.

The Housing Manager advised Members that Michael Gyo, Housing Design Engineer, will be requested to attend the next area meeting to update the Committee in relation to ongoing housing developments.

### **GEA 109/06 SOCIAL HOUSING**

Members discussed the progress report on social housing as at 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and the Housing Manager advised the Committee that an improved version of this report will be available at the next area meeting.

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty expressed surprise at the minimal take up of the shared ownership scheme and recommended that increased inducements be offered to applicants to encourage participation in the scheme.

### **GEA 110/06 CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report on casual vacancies as at the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2006.

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
---------------------------

**GEA 111/06 ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Committee noted the Corporate report on the Dungloe Public Services Centre activity levels for the first quarter of 2005 and 2006 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Corporate Manager.

**GEA 112/06 ACOUSTICS IN COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Corporate Manager informed Members that sound absorbing panels have been installed in the Chamber and that further work will be carried out to improve acoustics.

**GEA 113/06 MOTOR TAX**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty criticised the additional motor tax duty incurred by customers paying motor tax on a quarterly and half yearly basis. He requested the Corporate Manager to make representations to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to address this issue.

**GEA 114/06 RE-SCHEDULING OF AREA MEETINGS**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty criticised the re-scheduling of the area meeting on the grounds that one Committee Member was unable to attend on the original date. Cllr. Pádraig Doherty informed the Members that the majority of the Committee agreed to the re-scheduling and that he proceeded with the rearrangement on that basis.

**GEA 115/06 CREESLOUGH VILLAGE RENEWAL ASSOCIATION**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill circulated the Committee with correspondence that he had received from the above association requesting a meeting with the area committee.

The Committee agreed in principle to receive the deputation at the September meeting on receipt of a request from the association issued formally to the Committee, in accordance with protocols for meetings with community groups previously agreed.

<b>WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>
--

**GEA 116/06 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES**

Members discussed the progress report circulated with the agenda on the Major Capital Programme 2005-2007 and presented by the Water & Environment Manager.

The Area Manager informed the Committee:

- (a) That a presentation will be arranged for the next area meeting in relation to the Gortahork Water Supply Project and also the Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme.
- (b) That the Council had requested a meeting with the newly appointed Departmental Inspector in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme.
- (c) That the Council are hoping to change the intake position on the lake to maximise water quality in respect of the Fintown Water Supply Project.

**GEA 117/06 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES**

The Committee discussed the progress report on small capital schemes circulated with the agenda.

The Water & Environment Manager advised Members that funding for the Rosses Regional pipe replacement programme will be allocated on completion of surveying and pressure management phases of the Water Conservation Programme throughout the County.

**GEA 118/06 GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members discussed the group schemes progress and status reports circulated with the agenda.

The Committee requested the Council to support the proposal favoured by the local committee in Meenaboll and to assist them with adjustment of plans to improve the feasibility of the scheme. The Area Manager undertook to prepare a report in relation to the Rutland Scheme for the next meeting.

**GEA 119/06 LITTER CONTROL**

Cllr. Pádraig Doherty congratulated the Council for their co-operation with the clean-up of Glassagh beach.

In response to concerns raised by Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Slowey, the Area Manager agreed to liaise with the Roads Service in relation to vandalised litter bins at Narin beach, and to utilise the services of the mobile litter unit and litter wardens during the June Bank holiday weekend.

**GEA 120/06 PUBLIC TOILETS / PORTALOOS**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill in relation to the provision of portaloos at Portnablagh Pier, the Area Manager undertook to liaise with the Marine Service.

Cllr. Bonner requested the provision of portaloos at Dooley beach and Cllr. Pádraig Doherty requested similar facilities at Port Arthur beach.

**GEA 121/06 REFUSE COLLECTION – EDENINFRAGH SCHOOL**

The Area Manager advised Cllr. Ó Domhnaill that the Council are attempting to resolve this issue with refuse collectors.

**GEA 122/06 BURTONPORT - ARRANMORE – WAITING ROOM FACILITIES**

In response to a query from Cllr. Alcorn regarding the above matter, the Area Manager advised the Committee that the Council are in discussion with Bórd Iascaigh Mhara.

**GEA 123/06 GWEEDORE FIRE STATION**

The Area Manager advised the Committee that he will request a report from the Fire Service for the next area meeting.

**GEA 124/06 CIVIC AMENITY SITE - DUNGLOE**

Cllr. Bonner requested a report in relation to the status of the above project.

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

### **GEA 125/06 SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP DATED 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2005**

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to:

- (i) The Councils obligation to complete health & safety plans in respect of all contracts, and
- (ii) L.I.S. funding allocations

### **GEA 126/06 N56 FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

Brendan O' Donnell, Senior Road Design Engineer informed Members of the current status of this plan and responded to Members queries regarding the state of the road surface in Ardara and the omission of the Falcarragh – Ballyboes road from the Plan.

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Road Design Office:

- Road safety concerns at the Log Cabin, Derryfad, Creeslough
- Cloughwolie road
- Brackey Bridge

### **GEA 127/06 UPDATE ON DONEGAL AIRPORT (BAY CROSSING)**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda on progress by the Road Design Section on the Carrickfin airport access feasibility study.

### **GEA 128/06 STREET CLEANING**

Cllr. Enda Bonner requested the Roads and Environment Services to liaise with the Manager of Forbairt na Rosann.

In response to Cllr. Bonner's comments regarding matters raised at a public meeting of the Dungloe Tidy Towns Committee, the Area Manager advised Members that a substantial number of fines have been issued to locals and local businesses and that some offenders have been caught 'in the act'.

**GEA 129/06 ROAD MAINTENANCE**

The Committee highlighted roads and bridges throughout the electoral area that require essential repairs and requested the Roads Service to carry out improvements at these locations.

**GEA 130/06 BEACH SAFETY**

The Committee requested the provision of safety signage and lifebuoys at Portnablagh, Marble Hill, Drumnatinney and Port Arthur.

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