

**Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting
held on Monday 7th February, 2005
at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Donegal PSC.**

Members Present

Cllr John Boyle
Cllr Thomas Pringle
Cllr Sean McEniff
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Phonsie Travers
Cllr Peter Kennedy

Officials in Attendance

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Sharleen Tinney, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Rodney Irwin, National Roads Design Office
Declan Gillespie, Executive Engineer, Roads and Transportation
Eileen Burgees, A/County Librarian & Divisional Manager Cultural Services

Apologies

Cllr Elizabeth McIntyre
Claire Mulhall, Community & Enterprise Development Officer

DEAC 01.00 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd December 2004

DEAC 01.01 Confirmation of Minutes of Donegal EA Meeting held on the 22nd December, 2004

On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Byrne, the minutes of the meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 22nd December 2004 were agreed.

DEAC 01.02 Confirmation of Minutes of Planning Briefing held on the 22nd December, 2004

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Travers, the minutes of the Planning Briefing held on the 22nd December 2004 were agreed.

DEAC 01.03 Matters arising

If was further agreed that other matters arising would be dealt with under the various service headings.

DEAC 02.00 Corporate Services

DEAC 02.01 Activity Reports

Members noted the activity report circulated with the Agenda for the Donegal Town Public Service Centre for the period up to the 31st December 2004 and also the Annual Activity Report for 2004. Cllr Boyle highlighted the ongoing increase in the level of activities in the Public Service Centre.

DEAC 02.02 Schedule of Meetings for 2005

Members noted and confirmed the Schedule of Meetings for 2005 circulated with the agenda. The next Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Monday 14th March 2005 at 2:00pm.

DEAC	02.03	Proposed revised Maximum Fare structure for Donegal Town Taxi Meter Area
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Members noted the report circulated with the agenda on the recent meeting with representatives of Taxi Licence holders and including a proposed revised Maximum Fare Structure for Donegal Town Taxi Meter Area.

Mr G Gilroy advised Members that the revised fares were presented for their consideration and subject to their agreement, would go to the full Council for consideration /adoption. Following which they would then be published as part of a public consultation process.

Cllr Boyle who attended the recent meeting with the Taxi Drivers advised that it was decided at the meeting that the Taxi Drivers would discuss directly with Bus Eireann the possibility of sharing the bus stop area on the Diamond and revert back to the Council.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle, Mr. G Gilroy confirmed that the Taxis in the Donegal Town Taximeter Area are obliged to have meters in their vehicles.

Following a short discussion and on the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr McEniff, the revised Maximum Fare Structure was agreed.

DEAC	02.04	Votes of Sympathy
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Cllr Boyle proposed a vote of sympathy to Mr G Gilroy and his family on the recent passing of his father-in-law, Mr. Paddy Caulfield, RIP.

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, Members expressed their sympathy to the family of the late Mr. James Cunningham, Carrick who died as a result of a recent tragic accident in Carrick. Cllr Byrne paid tribute to James Cunningham and referred to the work he carried out in Carrick and his work with FAS.

DEAC	03.00	Water, Environment & Emergency Services
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DEAC	03.01	Group Schemes
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Tawnawully

Cllr Kennedy expressed concern regarding the Group Water Scheme in the Tawnawully area and queried if there was a grant available to carry out urgent works such as building a filter house.

Mr. M Breslin informed Members that the area would be connected to the Eske Supply from the Town out as far as Tawnawully in order to improve the water supply to this area. He further advised that the Water and Environment Capital Section had some discussions with members of the Tawnawully Group and a further meeting will be arranged by Mr. M Breslin with a view to discussing and addressing their concerns.

Leghawny

In response to concerns raised by Cllr Kennedy regarding ongoing problems with the water supply in the Leghawny area, Mr M Breslin undertook to arrange a meeting with the groups concerned with a view to addressing their concerns.

Corker, Rossnowlagh

In response to a query raised by Cllr O'Neill regarding the process for supplying Council water to a number of houses in the Corker area, near Rossnowlagh, Mr Breslin undertook to meet with Cllr O'Neill in order to discuss a way forward.

DEAC	03.02	DBO Waste Water Treatment Projects
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Ballyshannon, Rossnowlagh, Donegal Town

In response to a query raised by Cllr McEniff regarding the Ballyshannon Waste Water Treatment Projects, Mr. M Breslin informed Members the Consultants were currently assessing the tenders and a representative from the Water Service Capital Section would be present at the next Electoral Area Meeting to update Members.

Glencolmcille

In response to a query from Cllr Byrne regarding the Glencolmcille Waste Water Treatment Project, Mr. M Breslin informed Members that contract documents would soon be complete, and undertook to update Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting on progress.

DEAC	03.03	Other Water & Environment Matters
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Littering adjacent to Recycling Bins

Cllr Pringle referred to previous discussions regarding litter as an issue at the recycling facilities in Killybegs and requested Warning Signs be erected at these recycling facilities. Cllr Byrne in support of Cllr Pringle felt that this was now a Health and Safety issue and should be dealt with without delay. Mr M Breslin undertook to have signs erected to help resolve the issue and agreed to discuss with Mr P Thomas the ongoing litter problems at the bins.

Water Main at Church Road, Bundoran

Cllr McEniff queried the up to date position regarding replacement of the water main at Church Road, Bundoran.

Mr. M Breslin confirmed that he would have a report for the next Electoral Area Meeting.

Mountcharles & Inver Water Supply

Cllr Kennedy expressed his thanks to the Water Staff for the works carried out on the Mountcharles & Inver Water Supply.

DEAC	04.00	HOUSING & BUILDING
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DEAC	04.01	Follow-up on issues raised at previous meeting
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Submission to the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal in relation to Ernedale Heights, Ballyshannon

Ms M Hannigan informed Members that the Housing Section is collating further information to send to the Minister's Office and will keep Members informed of progress.

Inclusion of Five additional houses at Bruckless Scheme

Ms M Hannigan advised Members it is hoped the five additional houses at Bruckless Scheme will be provided. In response to a query from Cllr Boyle if planning permission would be required for the 5 additional houses, Members were advised that this change would have to go through the planning process.

Response to advertisement for Turnkey Schemes

Members were informed there were no proposals at present for the Donegal Area Turnkey Scheme as recently advertised.

Land Acquisition

Ms M Hannigan updated Members regarding land acquisition and advised a contract had been drawn up by the Solicitor for acquisitions in the Glencolmcille and Kilcar areas. She advised that the contract for the Carrick area was awaited. In response to previous queries from Cllr Pringle regarding a site at Killybegs, Ms Hannigan advised that Housing were currently examining the situation and she would keep Members updated.

DEAC	04.02	Housing Capital Report
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Housing Capital Report

Members noted the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme as at 31st January 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	04.03	Progress Report on S I Cottages
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Members noted the progress report on S I Cottages as at 31st January 2005, circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	04.04	Casual Vacancy Report
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Members noted the progress report on Casual Vacancies as at 27th January 2005, circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	04.05	Other Housing Matters
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Application Form for Housing Assistance

Cllr Pringle referred to the recent letter issued to applicants on the housing waiting list. He had received numerous queries about the letter and in particular the threat that applicants who did not respond within the timeframe would be removed from the list.

Ms M Hannigan informed Members that an Assessment of Social Housing Needs for the County was requested by the Department to be carried out by March 2005. She stressed the importance of these forms being fully completed and returned and if assistance was required with the completion of the forms, arrangements were in place with Citizens Information in each of the PSC to provide it. Ms Hannigan advised Members that a report, enclosing the letter was included in the Managers Report at the last Council Meeting. It is anticipated that the end result of the assessment would be a more accurate reflection of what Local Authority Housing is required in the County.

Ms M Hannigan agreed a sympathetic approach would be taken in dealing with these replies.

Traveller Accommodation

Cllr O'Neill referred to the traveller family in the Ballyshannon area who are awaiting suitable accommodation. Ms M Hannigan advised Members she was aware of the urgent housing need of the family and advised discussions had taken place with Mr L Kelly, Assistant County Manager. Ms M Hannigan undertook to discuss the matter further with Mr L Kelly, and to keep Members informed of progress.

Cllr O'Neill expressed concern at ongoing social problems in the Ballintra area, in particular issues at the local school which he felt was caused by the long stay use of the transient site which is for short term stay only. He also expressed concern regarding the location of this particular transient site. Ms M Hannigan undertook to raise the issues with Senior Management and revert to Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

Halting Site at Donegal Town

In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy on the future plans envisaged for the Temporary Halting Site in Donegal Town, Ms M Hannigan informed Members she will discuss same with the Director of Housing and revert to Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

Purchase a Private House

Cllr Travers asked if the Council could buy a private house in a housing estate. Ms M Hannigan advised Members, that this was possible and if details were forwarded this would be discussed with Mr E Canney, Housing Construction Design.

Site for Cancer Support Unit

Cllr Kennedy informed the meeting of problems which occurred regarding the transfer of a site to the Cancer Support Unit at St. Josephs Ave, Donegal Town. This land, which was given by the Council to the Group, was not registered in the Council's ownership. Members requested that a letter be given to the group confirming that the Council was making no claim on the land in order that the group could register it in their own name.

Ms M Hannigan undertook to discuss the matter with the Council's Solicitors and inform Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

DEAC	04.06	Staffing Matters
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Cllr Boyle queried if a replacement Engineer was yet in place for Mr. J Gallagher who has moved to Water, Environment & Emergency Services in the Milford/Glenties Area.

Ms M Hannigan advised that interviews for Executive Engineers were being held this week and hopefully a suitable candidate from these interviews would be recruited. She undertook to keep Members informed on the situation.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Pringle a vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. Gallagher on the excellent job he carried out in Housing.

DEAC	05.00	Roads/Transportation
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DEAC	05.01	Restoration Improvement Schemes 2005
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Restoration Improvement Schemes 2005

Members noted the Restoration Improvement Schemes 2005 report circulated by Mr P Thomas at the meeting. It was noted that schemes to the value of €2.1m were scheduled for 2005 for the Donegal Electoral Area. This was a 5% increase from last year.

DEAC	05.02	Non-National Road Allocations for Donegal 2005
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Non-National Road Allocations for Donegal 2005

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting on the Non-National Road Allocations for Donegal for 2005.

Mr P Thomas advised Members a meeting was held with the Roinn na Gaeltachta the previous week and €300,000 was allocated for the Carrick/Kilcar road. He also advised Members a further meeting regarding the national allocation was scheduled to take place on 14th February and a fully detailed programme would be agreed with Members at the next Electoral Area Meeting.

DEAC	05.03	Other Roads Matters
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Take-over

Mr P Thomas sought Members agreement in taking over the road at a private housing estate in Mountcharles as requested by Mr. Eamon Monaghan. On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Byrne Members agreed to take over the road.

Ballyshannon Car Park

Mr P Thomas referred to discussions which had taken place in relation to the opening up of 'back lands' in Ballyshannon and circulated maps to Members showing the Ballyshannon Town area and outlined these proposals to build a new road at the bus depot and provide 150 car parking spaces.

Cllr O'Neill submitted that the plan brought about changes for the better in the town and if completed would bring development into the town. Mr Thomas advised the Members that these works would cost approximately €1m. The next stage was to draw up a proposal as to how these works could be funded and sought Members approval to proceed.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Travers the proposal was agreed.

Improvement works to existing road & junctions & construction of new road alignment at Glebe & Glenlee Killybegs.

Members noted map circulated by Mr P Thomas outlining proposed Improvement works to existing road & junctions & construction of new road align at Glebe & Glenlee Killybegs. He advised Members that a 'Part VIII application' for full planning permission would be prepared to progress with the development.

On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Pringle, the proposed works were endorsed by the Members.

Contribution towards Christmas Lights in Donegal Town

Mr. P Thomas advised Members of a letter he received from Donegal Town Chamber of Commerce seeking a contribution towards the cost of Christmas Lights in Donegal Town. He suggested it would be a great idea to contribute, and suggested a matching contribution up to a maximum of €10,000. It was also suggested that this be funded from income from Pay and Display, as the money would be going back into the town from where this income was collected.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill it was agreed an amount of up to €10,000 to be given towards the cost of Christmas Lights in Donegal Town.

Cllr Travers suggested a similar contribution towards Christmas lighting in Ballyshannon also be considered. In response to this request, Mr P Thomas pointed out to Members that in relation to Donegal Town, the Council was receiving a significant income in terms of additional cars using the pay and display car parks during the Christmas period. He considered it would be premature to make a commitment like this for Ballyshannon in advance of Pay & Display being fully introduced. It was agreed that this matter be reviewed after parking charges are introduced in the car parks in Ballyshannon.

Mountcharles

In response to a query raised by Cllr Boyle regarding the condition of the road at the top of Mountcharles and when work would commence in the area, Mr Thomas advised that works for this particular area had not been scheduled for improvement in 2005 but that same could be considered in a later work programme.

Land at Milltown

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle regarding progress on lands at Milltown, Mr Thomas advised he was hopeful of a final conclusion.

Arbeg to Killymard

Cllr Kennedy referred to a dangerous drain at Victor Irwin's. He felt that this work, which was partly completed by Mr Irwin, should be completed by the Council. Mr Thomas undertook to follow up on the issue with a view to completing the works.

Contribution from Coillte

Cllr Kennedy expressed annoyance regarding the damage to roads at Lough Eske and Orbeg caused by lorry loads of timber as discussed at previous meetings. Mr Thomas undertook to revert back to Cllr Kennedy on the issue advising that some monies had been received from Coillte and that perhaps some of this funding could be used to address the Members' concerns.

Drimark Road

In response to a query raised by Cllr Kennedy on the condition of the Drimark Road, Mr Thomas advised work was carried out on the road in 2004 and the condition of same was now well improved.

Dummys Bridge

Cllrs Boyle and Pringle expressed their concern at damage caused by flooding at Dummy's Bridge. In response to the concerns raised, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at it with a view to addressing the concerns raised.

Life Boat Station at Bundoran

In response to a query raised by Cllr O'Neill regarding which authority was responsibility for the maintenance of the road to the Life Boat Station at Bundoran, Mr Thomas undertook to have this clarified and to advise Members.

Crossroads at Cashelard

Cllr O'Neill expressed concern at the condition of the road at the crossroads, Cashelard caused by the drawing of material from the quarry. Mr Thomas advised Members that quarries were now required to register and as part of this process, the quarries could be asked to contribute towards the upkeep of the roads.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Byrne, Members requested a portion of monies allocated for the Loughinchin Road be re-directed to the Cashelard road to carry out repairs.

Junction at Ballyshannon

Cllr O'Neill referred to a 'yellow box' junction at Ballyshannon and requested that the layout be re-examined. Mr D Gillespie undertook to discuss the issue with Mr Stephen Lambert, National Road Design Office and to advise Members of the outcome.

Turris Hill

In response to concern raised by Cllr Pringle at the volume of accidents occurring at Turris Hill, Mr Thomas advised he would review the area. Cllr Boyle suggested an approach be made to the National Road Design Office to source funding to improve safety at Turris Hill, which Mr, Thomas undertook to do.

Signage

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle to erect two directional fingerpost signs for Pettigo at Belleek, Mr Thomas agreed to have same provided.

Bridge at Glen

Cllr Pringle, supported by Cllr Byrne expressed their concern at the damage done by lorries at the Bridge at Glen and the finish to the sidewalls on the bridge. Mr Thomas advised he would look into the matter with a view to addressing the Members' concerns.

Regional Signage

In response to a query by Cllr Byrne, Mr Thomas informed Members agreement had been reached regarding a budget for regional signage. Details would be available at a future meeting.

Road Drainage

A lengthy discussion took place on the issue of road drainage and the problems with water running onto the roads. Cllr Boyle requested that Members be advised how the matter is to be dealt with.

Mr P Thomas and Mr D Kelly advised Members the issue of road drainage is covered in the conditions attached to planning permissions. Cllr Kennedy suggested a levy be charged to ensure proper piping is provided and when complete a refund issued. Mr Thomas advised that rules and regulations were already in place however this would require an employee be dedicated to this task in order for same to be enforced effectively. He undertook to refer member's views on this matter to Headquarters for consideration and to report back to Members on progress.

Traffic Warden in Ballyshannon

Cllr Travers expressed his concerns at the ongoing problems with traffic management on the Belleek Road, Ballyshannon on Sundays and enquired what progress had been made since the last meeting. Mr P Thomas advised Members that it was hoped to address the matter once the Ballyshannon Casual Trading area was sorted out, in the coming months.

Signage – Leghowney

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for the erection of direction signs for Leghowney, Mr P Thomas undertook to have signs in place as soon as possible. Mr. Thomas is aware of the location for the signs.

Road Maintenance

In response to a request by Cllr Boyle to have a separate budget for street cleaning as opposed to part of the maintenance budget, Mr P Thomas undertook to consider same and to report back to the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area.

Disposals of Land to Dan Kelly, Mountcharles

Cllr Boyle enquired what progress had been made in relation to an earlier decision of the Committee to dispose of land to Dan Kelly, Mountcharles.

Mr. P Thomas confirmed that this matter was progressing and the Statutory Notice would be on the Agenda of the full Council March meeting.

DEAC	05.04	DNRDO Matters
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Mr. Rodney Irwin, National Roads Design Office attended the meeting to brief Members on the following;

Tullyearl Junction

Mr R Irwin advised Members work had commenced on site at the Tullyearl Junction at the end of January 2005 and these works were scheduled to be completed by July 2005.

Laghey to Ballintra Road

Members noted design/specification work had commenced on the Laghey to Ballintra road, which should be completed by the end of February 2005. It is anticipated that the works would go for tender towards the end of March with an estimated cost of €1m for the project.

Ballyshannon/Bundoran Road

Members noted works on the Ballyshannon/Bundoran Road were going ahead as planned.

Request for a meeting with local residents

Cllr O'Neill requested a member of staff from the National Road Design Office visit residents affected by the noise and the vibrations from machinery working on the Bundoran By-pass. Mr R Irwin undertook to follow up on the matter with the contractor.

N56 - Mountcharles to Killybegs Road

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle regarding the update on the Mountcharles to Killybegs Road, Mr. Irwin advised Members it would be a few weeks before the Route selection report was completed, following which the report would be issued to Members.

Mr Irwin confirmed that it was unlikely that any significant improvements could be carried out to the road at the top of Mountcharles in the short term. He did advise however that an allocation would be available in 2005 for works beyond the Frosses Junction.

DEAC	06.00	Community, Cultural & Enterprise
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DEAC	06.01	Community & Enterprise Division
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Members noted apologies from Ms. C Mulhall, Community & Enterprise Development Officer and noted up date reports prepared by Ms. Mulhall and circulated with the agenda.

DEAC	06.02	Cultural Division
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Ms Eileen Burgees, A/County Librarian and Divisional Manager, Cultural Services attended the meeting to update Members on the following;

Donegal Town Library

Ms Burgess referred to a letter she issued to Cllr Kennedy, copy circulated with the agenda, in response to the suggestion for the relocation of the Donegal Town Library to the development at Main Street, on the site of the 'old Cinema'. She advised Members that the Donegal Library was the first priority on the Council's list for new library buildings. Stage 1 approval from the Department was still awaited, hopefully within a number of months, and it was intended that until such time as this approval was received, no further decisions regarding the Donegal Town Library should be made. Cllr Kennedy expressed his concern at the unsuitability of the current location of the Library in the old VEC School and its unsuitability for access for the elderly. In response to the concerns raised Ms Burgess undertook to discuss the issue further with Mr Michael Heaney, the Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise, and to keep Members informed of progress in the matter.

Donegal Electoral Area

Members noted report circulated at the meeting outlining the responsibilities of the Cultural Services Division particularly referring to the Donegal Electoral Area.

Bundoran Community Library

Members noted report circulated at the meeting regarding Bundoran Library.

Ballyshannon Library

Ms E Burgess briefed Members on the relocation of the Ballyshannon Library to the new Ballyshannon Town Commissioners Office. Ms Burgess advised Members she would be meeting with Mr G Gilroy and Mr F Howard in the coming week to follow-up on relocation issues. Cllr O'Neill welcomed the relocation of the Library. Ms Burgess commented that the space available now to the Library would be doubled in size, while the quantity of books may not be doubled, more browsing and studying space would be created and also the book stock would be changed regularly.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill, Ms Burgess advised that access for members of Bundoran and other Libraries to use the Ballyshannon Library could take place but would depend on the computer system installed. This was subject to a sufficient budget being allocated. Ms Burgess undertook to keep Members informed on progress.

Taobh Tíre Project

Cllr Pringle referred to the Taobh Tíre Project and enquired as to what proposals there were to mainstream the service.

Ms Burgess advised that an extension has been granted and the Project will continue throughout 2005. It is hoped to continue the development of present sites and expansion of the project to additional sites in the County.

Cllr Boyle complemented those involved on the good work carried out on the project to date.

DEAC	07.00	Planning & Economic Development
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DEAC	07.01	Minutes of Planning Workshop held on 28 th January 2005
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Members noted minutes of the Planning Workshop held on 28th January 2005. Mr D Kelly apologised to Members for not including Bundoran under the Urban Generated Rural areas.

DEAC	07.02	Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 261 Registration of Quarries
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Mr D Kelly circulated a report to Members at the meeting regarding the control of quarries and ancillary activities under Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under Section 261 all owners/operators of quarries (except quarries which obtained planning permission in the 5 years prior to 28th April 2004) are required to register with the Council by 27th April 2005 or their developments will be deemed unauthorised. There is no fee applicable to register.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill, Mr D Kelly confirmed intensification of use would mean the quarry owner would be required to register.

DEAC	07.03	Planning Statistics Report
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Planning Statistics Report

Members noted the Planning Statistics report for the period up to 31st December 2004 circulated with the Agenda. Members also noted that decisions were made within two months on 73.9% of planning applications in 2004.

Mr Kelly stressed to Members the importance of agents improving the quality of their planning submissions in order to reduce the number of invalid applications. A discussion would take place on it at the next Donegal Electoral Area Meeting when details of invalid applications by unidentified agents would be available.

DEAC	07.04	Consideration of Recent Refusals
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Members noted the recent refusals report for the period to 31st December 2004 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	07.05	Planning Enforcement
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Planning Enforcement

Members noted the Planning Enforcement Statistics Report for the period up to 14th December 2004 circulated with the Agenda.

Unauthorised Development, Killybegs

In relation to the Gallagher Development at Killybegs, Mr. D Kelly informed Members that he had met with Mr Martin Flanagan, Executive Technician recently. In relation to the drainage from this site he confirmed that he has sought reports on the matter from the Environmental Health Officer and discussions with Mr P Lyons and Mr M Flanagan were taking place to progress the matter further.

DEAC	07.06	Other Planning Matters
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Area Plans:

Donegal Town Area Plan

Mr D Kelly circulated a copy of the Donegal Town Area Plan to Members and advised Members same would be available to purchase by the public by the end of the week, costing €30 per copy, €10 for a copy on CD and also the Plan would be available on the website. He thanked the Community Chamber, Elected Members, former Planner, Ms Catherine Crawford and staff members for their assistance and co-operation in the preparation of the Plan. Members were advised the next stage would be the implementation of the Plan. Cllr Boyle paid contribute to the great work carried out on the Plan and thanked Members for their work on the Plan.

Rosstown Area Plan

Members were advised the Rosstown Area Plan would be brought for Members consideration shortly.

Ballyshannon Area Plan

Cllr O'Neill referred to a discussion at a recent meeting of Erne Enterprise whereby it was stated that they were going to work with Donegal County Council in preparation of a Local Area Plan for Ballyshannon - which apparently included an area extending to Cavangarden. He, as a Council Member, was annoyed to first hear of these proposals at a meeting of a Community Group and considered that the Planning and Economic Development Service should have informed the Elected Members of such proposals before they are made public and thus afforded the elected members an opportunity to consider them.

Reservations were also expressed about the Council encouraging Community Groups to seek funding to prepare Local Area Plans.

Casual Trading in Ballyshannon

Mr D Kelly updated Members regarding the Casual Trading in Ballyshannon, advising that works were ongoing at present in the car park in preparation for the Casual Trading to take place here.

Staffing Matters

After a short discussion regarding staffing shortages in Planning, Mr D Kelly agreed to discuss with the Director, Mr F Coyle the views expressed by Members and report back.

This concluded the business of the meeting.