

22nd July, 2009

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
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The Adjourned July Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Wednesday 29th July, 2009 at 9.30am, in the County House, Lifford, to consider the unfinished business listed at **ITEMS 3 – 27** and **29 – 64** of the original agenda.

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

Eunan Sweeney
Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD
ON 29TH JULY, 2009

C/359/09 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. B. Byrne, Mayor, L. Blaney, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, C. Harvey, D. Larkin, P. Mac Lochlainn, F. Mc Brearty, C. Mc Conalogue, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, S. Ó Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle, M. Quinn,.

C/360/09 APOLOGIES

Clrs. Sean McEniff & John Ryan

C/361/09 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads, Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning, Mr Seamus Neely, Director Water, Environment & Emergency, Mr Michael Heaney, Director, Community, Culture & Enterprise, Mr Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr Liam Ward, A/Director of Corporate Services, Mr Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Mr Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Mr Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer and Ms Kathleen Browne, Staff Officer

C/362/09 CONDEMNATION IN THE REDUCTION OF HOME SUPPORT SERVICES

It was agreed that the motions of Clrs. Harvey and McGuinness be dealt with together.

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. Quinn, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council write to the HSE and Minister of Health condemning the reduction of Home Support Services that is being implemented across our County and seek that they immediately reverse this decision."

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Harvey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council unreservedly condemn the government and the HSE for the cutbacks in health and in particular the services to the elderly."

Clr. McGuinness recommended that the Council write to the Minister for Health, An Taoiseach and Government to request an exemption from all cuts in health services for the elderly and the disabled. He further recommended that the appeals procedure in relation to home help hours be changed to allow people to retain their existing hours until their appeal was heard.

Clr. Harvey expressed her agreement with Clr. McGuinness's recommendation and called on the Council to support the motions.

Members expressed their support for the motions and paid tribute to the work of the home help workers who worked many hours beyond those they were paid for to assist the elderly. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should also issue to Mr Brendan Drumm, HSE.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. M Doherty, the Council resolved to write to the Minister for Health, the Taoiseach and the Government requesting that services for the elderly and infirm should be exempt from cut backs in Health Services. It was further agreed to circulate this letter to all County Councils and to Mr Brendan Drumm HSE.

C/363/09

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL 2009

On the proposal of Clr. McBrearty, seconded by Clr. Harvey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council expresses its strong concern on the new Criminal Justice (amendment) Bill 2009 because of the threat that this bill could have in undermining our constitutional rights as Irish citizens and enabling people of power to mislead the courts with false evidence, which could result in a litany of miscarriage of justice cases arising out of this new bill."

Clr. McBrearty addressed the meeting on the motion raising his concerns at the introduction of this bill. He expressed concern that the Bill if enacted would lead to difficulties in the future and while he had no objections to the Gardai being given additional powers if they needed them he could not support them in the absence of safeguards being in place to avoid abuse of those powers. A vote was called for and following a show of hands, the motion was carried by 3 votes for and 1 against, with several members abstaining.

C/364/09

ODOUR PROBLEM AT THE STRANORLAR
SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

On the proposal of Clr. Harley, seconded by Clr. Harvey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council address the odour problem at the Stranorlar Sewerage Treatment Plant.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Stranorlar Wastewater Treatment Plant has been overwhelmed on a number of occasions in the recent, and not-so-recent, past, by unauthorised discharge into municipal sewers of liquids with physical, chemical and biological characteristics that are beyond the plant’s capacity to treat. These unauthorised discharges effectively destroy the biological treatment process of the plant and render the plant’s entire contents septic and malodorous. Many of these problems have arisen over weekends, making timely detection and intervention problematic. These problems give rise to significant financial costs as well as nuisance to neighbours and the general public.

Each of these incidences is investigated and the source of the unauthorised discharge has been identified in many cases. The Council is working to eliminate the source of the problems being experienced and has had recent discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency in this regard. The Council will effect measures to ensure customer compliance with wastewater discharge licence conditions with a view to eliminating the problem.

In addition to efforts to eliminate the problem, the Council has taken significant steps to mitigate the nuisance as it arises, eg

- Extra resources have been deployed to remove septic sludge from the plant for treatment elsewhere.
- Additional aeration capacity is deployed.
- Chemicals to enhance oxygen take-up in the wastewater are used.
- Industrial scale deodorant sprays are deployed around the site.”

Clr. Harley advised the meeting that he had tabled this motion to raise the concerns of the residents of the area, Bus Eireann workers and the staff and clients of the Childcare facility near the treatment plant.

The Director of Service, WEE, advised that he felt precluded from dealing with the detail of this matter due to legal issues but confirmed that the problem did not lie with the treatment plant but with discharges which arrived at the plant. He confirmed that an external examination had been undertaken by the EPA. The EPA confirmed that there were no inadequacies or problem with the plant. The problem was sporadic incidents of effluent, beyond what any treatment plant could deal with, arriving at the plant. He advised that enormous work had been done in identifying where the effluent was coming from. He advised that a large team were working on dealing with this and assured members that the maximum resources available were being applied to resolve this problem.

The County Manager, advised that he was happy to arrange a meeting with the Company and the Director of Water Environment & Emergency to review options to deal with the problems.

Clr. Harley thanked Mr Neely and confirmed that he understood the complexities of the problem.

C/365/09

CARRYING OUT OF WORKS TO IMPROVE VISION
LINES AT TULLYRAP JUNCTION AND INSTALL
PROPER SIGNAGE

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That the Council carry out whatever works are necessary to improve vision lines at Tullyrap Junction on the main Lifford - Letterkenny Road and install proper signage."

Members were informed that:-

“National Primary N14 from Lifford to Letterkenny has a number of locations and junctions that do not meet modern standards and the route will ultimately be realigned and rebuilt to modern standards. In the meantime, it is a matter of making the most from the existing roadway. With regard to Tullyrap, a complete examination will be carried out by the Road Safety Engineer and a report shall be brought before an Electoral Area Meeting. It will be necessary to identify appropriate funding to carry out improvements.”

Clr. Crawford expressed his disappointment at the response provided. He felt it was unnecessary to bring a report on this matter to Electoral Area meeting and called for action to be taken instead.

The Director, advised that it was necessary to produce a report on all the roads in this area and to look at funding also.

C/366/09

COMPLETION OF ALL EXISTING HOUSING SCHEMES IN THE COUNTY TO A SATISFACTORY STANDARD

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

"That the Manager take immediate steps to have all existing housing schemes in the county completed to a satisfactory standard where the contractor cannot or will not carry out these works, Sewerage, Lights, footpaths, road surfacing, etc."

Members were informed that:-

“The present Donegal County Council adopted policy in relation to the takeover of private estates is as set out hereunder

1 That Donegal County Council take over all public services excluding open spaces in post 1996 housing estates where there is no mechanical or electrical plant subject to compliance with planning permission

2 Since the last G.P. meeting it has been determined that it would be inappropriate to take over roads and footpaths that are in housing estates that contain mechanical and electrical plant. In this way the takeover of all roads, sewers, mechanical plant etc. can be negotiated for takeover as one unit. The public lighting will be taken over. In the meantime, a case by case report is to be prepared in respect of mechanical and electrical plant in each of these estates. This report will include terms of planning conditions, likelihood of public services being available in the vicinity in the near future and so forth. The takeover will then be considered by the Council on the basis of a local legal agreement.

3 That Donegal County Council do not take over holiday home estates

Holiday homes are defined by the planning department as "Those developments which have specifically declared the proposal to be holiday use under question 14 of our planning application form. It would also include those developments which have signed S.47 agreements under the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

Any unfinished housing estate where no breach of planning control has occurred will have the requisite time to complete the development in accordance with the terms of the planning permission. Any specific cases of unauthorized development brought to the Council's attention will be processed through the appropriate enforcement procedures. A number of such cases are actively being pursued by the planning authority.”

All the members present spoke in favour of this motion and expressed their concerns that the problem with some of these estates and contractors had been ongoing for many years. Members paid tribute to the work being done by Council staff in relation to this matter.

The following issues were raised by members:-

- That full audit of all estates be undertaken setting out the up to date position in relation to each estate.
- Seek clarification in relation to the role of the Local Authority in relation to the take over of estates.

Clr. Larkin paid tribute to the work being done by the Council staff in this matter.

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. Harvey, the Council resolved to write to Minister Gormley to find out how he is ensuring that Councils have the resources available to take over housing estates.

The Director of Services, Planning & Economic Development, agreed with that the system was not working and advised of the difficulties faced by the Council in relation to the legislation in this matter. He confirmed that he would bring a status report to the EAC's on the up to date position in relation to all housing estates, setting out details of number of units built, bonds imposed etc. He indicated that considerable investment would be required to complete all unfinished estates.

The Director of Services, Roads and Transportation confirmed that the Council's policy on completed estates was set out in the reply.

It was agreed to bring the report on the estates to the Council before writing to the Minister for the Environment.

C/367/09

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPACT ON COUNCIL SERVICES OF HUGE DROP IN DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS AND THE ONGOING LOSS OF STAFF

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. Gallagher, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council convene a special meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss the impact on Council services of the huge drop in development charges, Government cutbacks, and the ongoing loss of staff."

Members were informed that:-

"It has been agreed with An Meara that the presentation of the County Manager's Report will set the context within which this question will be discussed."

In proposing the motion, Clr. MacLochlainn advised that a full and frank public meeting needed to be held to allow the public to gain an understanding of the cutbacks in services.

The County Manager confirmed that the meeting would be arranged.

C/368/09 REDLOYMENT OF PLANNING STAFF TO CENTRAL PLANNING UNIT TO ACCELERATE LOCAL AREA PLANS

On the proposal of Clr. M Doherty, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the following motion was adopted:-

"That any excess of Planning Staff resulting from the downturn in the economy be redeployed to the Central Planning Unit so as to accelerate the Local Area Plans across the County."

Members were informed that:-

"The level of resourcing to all aspects of the Planning process is being kept under constant review in order to ensure that the Council is in a position to meet statutory obligations and provide appropriate service to the public. The Planning Service, in common with other services, has lost a number of staff as contracts come to an end and also has a proportion of staff on various leave absences. Notwithstanding this, assistance is already being given by

Development Management personnel to the Central Planning Unit where this does not impact on other statutory duties.

Preliminary work has commenced on the review of the County Development Plan. Various options are being explored within the review process to deliver Local Area Plans to a wide range of towns and villages. A report will be presented to the Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee in the Autumn for consideration.”

The Director of Planning, advised that there were currently three planners and one technician employed in Planning in Carndonagh. He confirmed that whilst there had been a reduction in the number of applications the staff were still extremely busy. He advised that the statutory obligations in relation to enforcement and all other planning matters could not be ignored. He advised that these reviews would bring about efficiencies in the planning process and that he would bring a report on the matter to the Planning SPC in the autumn.

The County Manager agreed to revert to the Council to spell out the level of service available when the negotiations with staff and unions were completed. He advised the members that the deployment of staff and staffing levels were an executive function, that he would not be discussing these with the elected members and that staff and unions were aware of the position. He confirmed that every member of staff would be consulted in relation to their workload, redeployment etc. The objective was to protect and improve the level of service to the members and the public.

C/369/09

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE IN BUNCRANA

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. MacLochliann, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council secure a site for the proposed Marine Discovery Centre in Bunrana now so as not to incur a delay later on."

Members were informed that:-

“The Council Marine and Water Leisure Unit have carried out a feasibility study with regard to the area of Coastal Zone Management and the resources of Lough Swilly. Arising from this work an Interreg III B project IMCORE based around Marine Spatial Planning is being undertaken, based on Lough Swilly, in association with University College Cork and other transnational European partners. Also arising from the feasibility study, the Marine and Water Based Leisure Unit have made a presentation to Buncrana Town Council on the possibility of developing a Marine Discovery Centre in Buncrana. Such a centre would facilitate research and act as a centre for educational and general tourism. A full update on the project will be obtained from the Marine and Water Based Leisure Unit for distribution to elected members at a future date.”

In proposing the motion, Clr. Donaghey advised that this was a flagship tourism project which would cost €4.8 million. It was important to find out what steps had been taken to secure a site in the event of funding becoming available.

The Director, Community Culture and Enterprise advised that he would bring detailed proposals on this matter to the Council in September.

C/370/09 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the members agreed to adjourn the meeting for lunch.

C/371/09 CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE LETTERKENNY ROAD NAMELY AT WOODLANDS AND AUGHNAGADDY

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council ask the Department to restore the funding applied for to allow work go ahead on the Letterkenny Road namely at Woodlands and Aughnagaddy."

Members were informed that:-

“The Department of Transport announced an allocation of €10,000 for the R245 Letterkenny to Ramelton Road (Castleshannaghan to Woodlands) in February 2009. These monies were intended to cover outstanding balances from previous year. The general reduction in Road grants in April 2009 did not affect this road grant and the total €10,000 has been drawn down.

In addition, the Department of Transport announced an allocation of €325,000 for the R245 Ramelton to Milford Road in February 2009. These monies were intended to cover a new project on this road. The general reduction in Road grants in April 2009 resulted in this allocation being removed.

It is understood that the Department of Transport is not in a position to restore road allocation monies due to the economic situation at this time.

C/372/09

DISCUSSION OF THE DECISION BY AN BORD PLEANALA ON PLANNING APPLICATION 08/40384 AND THE ROLE OF THE NRA IN APPEALING THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL DECISION TO GRANT THE APPLICATION

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin , seconded by Clr. Brogan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss the decision by An Bord Pleanala on planning application 08/40384 and the despicable role played by the NRA in appealing Donegal County Council decision to grant the application in the first instance."

Members were informed that:-

“In this specific case the original development occurred on foot of an approval of application ref. 96/156 for the erection of “an extension to existing dwellinghouse to provide an additional household”. Development was carried out pursuant to this permission which in effect provided for an additional household, in the form of a semi-detached dwelling with the existing dwelling.

On this basis the Council took the view that demolition and erection of a new dwelling did not comprise an additional dwelling but a replacement of one already existing. The Inspector agreed with the Council's interpretation stating that he would "not agree that the proposed development constitutes an intensification of use", further stating that "what is proposed in this instance for all intents and purposes is a replacement dwellinghouse for the applicants which currently reside on site".

In view of this he concludes "that the proposed development generally complies with the Development Plan Policy in relation to access onto national roads", and that "having inspected the site and having noted the relatively elevated location of the entrance in the context of the approach road from the northwest I consider that with proper maintenance of vegetation and appropriate set backs along the road edge in a northwesterly direction, that requisite sightlines are achievable". The Inspector also states "furthermore I do not consider that the proposed development will give rise to a traffic hazard or will adversely effect the carrying capacity of the national primary route as I do not consider that the proposed development represents an intensification of use on site".

He concludes that "the proposed development would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area" and recommends that planning permission be granted subject to conditions.

Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Inspector, An Bord Pleanála decided to refuse planning permission stating "in deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant planning permission, the Board considered that the erection of a new dwelling on this site would be significantly different in terms of road traffic implications from the existing situation of an extended dwelling shared by two households and that the proposed development would represent a future traffic hazard".

The specific proposal comprised in application 08/40384 involved development adjoining a National Primary Road. As such the legislation provides for the NRA to engage in

the planning process. The NRA availed of the right to make a case to An Bord Pleanala and the result of the appeal was that the Council's decision to approve was overturned.”

Clr. Larkin advised the meeting of the history of this case. He commended the Planning and Roads staff who had dealt with the matter over the years. He requested that a meeting be arranged between planning staff and the agent for the family in question to discuss how to progress the matter.

Clr. Larkin also called on the Council to issue a letter to An Bord Pleanala and Mr John Barry, NRA, to condemn the decision taken in this case and the duress on the family involved. He also requested that clarification be sought as to how the decision was reached after the submission of the report by An Bord Pleanala’s Inspector.

The Director of Planning advised that the history of this case was set out in the reply and that he was happy to follow up on same.

C/373/09

CONTINUATION OF THE EXCELLENT SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE

On the proposal of Clr. Quinn, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council guarantees the continuation of the excellent services being provided from the Milford Public Services Centre.”

Members were informed that:-

“It has been agreed with An Meara that the presentation of the County Manager's Report will set the context within which this motion will be discussed.”

In proposing the motion, Clr. Quinn stated that the withdrawal of services from the public in Donegal was down to insufficient funding from Central Government.

C/374/09 PURCHASE OF SUITABLE SITES FOR THE BALLYSHANNON AND BUNDORAN FIRESTATIONS

With the permission of Clr. McEniff who was absent, Clr. Byrne moved the following motion on his behalf, and it was seconded by Clr. O'Neill, and adopted:-

"That the Council make efforts to purchase two suitable sites for Ballyshannon and Bundoran Firestations as soon as possible."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has received notification of approval to proceed to planning stage for the development of two new Fire Stations in Ballyshannon and Bundoran. The matter of identifying, obtaining planning permission, and acquiring separate suitable sites for Bundoran and Ballyshannon will now commence.”

C/375/09 NON INTERFERENCE TO BUSINESSES DURING THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS UNDER THE TOWN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the following motion was adopted:-

"That businesses are not interfered with this summer if at all possible by Donegal County Council in the carrying out of works under the Town Environmental Improvement Scheme."

Members were informed that:-

“The Planning & Economic Development Directorate are currently progressing an Urban Renewal Scheme in Killybegs which will provide for the undergrounding of services (ESB & Eircom), provision of new sewer and storm drainage, upgrading of water connections, provision of new kerbing, paved footpaths, provision of decorative street lighting and furniture and the definition of on-street car parking.

The scheme commenced on site in mid June 2009 and it is anticipated the project will be completed within a 14-week

period. Prior to the commencement of works, the EIS Technical Team (Road Design) personnel distributed information flyers on the proposed works personally to local businesses, whereby business owners were given the opportunity to discuss the proposals and raise any queries. Businesses were also invited to lodge their thoughts and queries in relation to the construction works prior to the mobilisation of the contractor on site. A press release was issued to local media informing the public of the scheme and details were displayed on Donegal County Council's website including a contact number for follow-up queries. Planning & Economic Development also contacted the Killybegs Chamber of Commerce and Festival Committee to advise of the proposed works and timescale.

As part of the Scheme, a traffic management plan was prepared and has been in operation in an effort to keep disruption to a minimum. The works are being carried out in two sections, thereby only closing half the street to traffic at any one time. The contractor is also endeavouring to provide safe pedestrian access to all premises while the works are in progress. Signage has been recently erected by the Council noting 'Business as Usual' and additional signage including a map showing location of proposed works is being erected in various locations around the town indicating that the businesses located within the construction area are currently open for business. The EIS Technical Team has been available to meet with any residents or local business owners who may have queries or concerns regarding the construction works.

The Urban Renewal Scheme is vital for making Killybegs a better place to work, live and do business in the longterm. Some disruption will be inevitable in the short-term whilst works are under construction and the Council apologises for any inconvenience caused. Whilst we will make every effort to minimise disruption insofar as possible, the understanding and co-operation of the Members and the public is sought in this regard."

The Director of Planning, advised that no businesses had been closed in Killybegs while the works were being carried out. A traffic management system was in place and signage

had been improved. He confirmed that work should be completed soon and that the concerns of the businesses were being addressed.

C/376/09 TRANSFERRAL OF MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL ROADS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT TO THE NRA

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council calls on the Department of Transport not to transfer the maintenance of Regional Roads to the NRA"

Members were informed that:-

“There have been suggestions that the National Roads Authority will be asked to take over the Non-National Roads Section of the Department of Transport although the County Council have no official confirmation of this.

If the Council members adopt this motion a letter can be sent to the Department of Transport.”

Clr. Pringle requested, and it was agreed, that the Council write to the Department of Transport seeking clarification on this matter.

Clr. Brogan suggested that a report be brought to the Council in September setting out the implications for Co Donegal of the A5 Western Transport Corridor.

C/377/09 CONSIDERATION LOCALLY OF EMPLOYMENT THROUGH ALL FUTURE COUNCIL CAPITAL SCHEMES

The following motion was proposed by Clr. O’Neill and seconded by Clr. Pringle:-

"That this Council discuss the need for Employment to be considered locally through all future Council Capital Schemes and that we the members are today given a complete breakdown by name and cost of what National based Companies received in comparison to what non-

national Companies received as regards all Capital Contract work for all Donegal County Council departments over the last 3 years (since June 1st 2006)."

Members were informed that:-

"As discussed by telephone with Clr. O'Neill, it is not possible to extract, assimilate and validate the information requested in the timeframe available for this meeting. It is proposed to do so as soon as possible and will be furnished to the Elected Member."

Clr. O'Neill accepted that it was not possible to produce a report on this matter in time for the meeting and confirmed that he was happy to receive the report at a later date. He also requested that details of the cost of contract over runs be included in the report.

With the agreement of Clr. O'Neill, and on the proposal of Clr. MacLochlain, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to amend the motion to read as follows:-

"That this Council discuss the need for Employment and a level playing pitch for local business to be considered locally through all future Council Capital Schemes and that we the members are today given a complete breakdown by name and cost of what locally based Companies received in comparison to what Companies outside this County received as regards all Capital Contract work for all Donegal County Council departments over the last 3 years (since June 1st 2006)."

C/378/09

COMPILING OF THE VOTING REGISTER AND RE-EVALUATION OF THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS AND MAKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE POSTAL VOTING SYSTEM

It was agreed that the following motions be dealt with together.

On the proposal of Clr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council carry out a thorough re-evaluation of the Register of Electors and also carefully examine and make recommendations to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government regarding the postal voting system.”

Members were informed that:-

“Attached, report submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government with covering letter dated 10th March 2008, highlighting aspects of the register, including postal voting, that it was felt required attention and making a number of recommendations in that regard. I am not aware of the Council having received a response to its report, and the views expressed therein still apply.”

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Ó Domhnaill, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council discuss the compiling of the Voting Registers now, since the abolition of the Revenue Collectors, and we also discuss Permanent Postal Votes for Elderly People who are permanently incapacitated and unable to go to Polling Booths."

Members were informed that:-

“There have been ongoing difficulties in Donegal from a resource, systems and procedural point of view in maintaining the accuracy of the register. The system and procedural difficulties are countrywide and need a national solution. Attached, report submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, with covering letter dated 10th March 2008, highlighting aspects of the register, including postal voting, that it was felt required attention and making a number of recommendations in that regard. I am not aware of the Council having received a response to its report, and the views expressed therein still apply.

Revenue Collectors play a vital role as field workers gathering information for the compilation of the draft register, reporting on claims submitted against the draft and attendance at the Revision Sittings to advise the County Registrar in determining claims. They also provide information in relation to applications for the Supplementary Register and Postal Voter lists. It is normal practice at this time of year to write to the Revenue Collectors enclosing the current register together with any supplements, requesting that they commence work in early September on gathering data for the preparation of the new draft register in November. Large parts of the county will be without field workers and conclusions have not been reached on how this work will be done going forward. Revenue Collectors who will now be office based will continue to have a role in relation to the register.

In relation to permanent postal votes for elderly people, applications under this category covers persons suffering from a physical disability such as, in the opinion of a registered medical practitioner, would prevent them from going to their local polling station. An application must be made annually but a medical certificate is not required each year in cases where the doctor has certified that the illness is lifelong, unless requested by the registration authority. The foregoing reflects current electoral law and any changes would require amending legislation.”

In proposing his motion Clr. Ó Domhnaill requested a meeting between the Executive of the Council and the Members to draw up a list of proposals for submission to the Department of Environment in relation to compiling the voting register and the postal voting system.

All members present spoke in relation to these motions and raised a number of queries in relation to the role of Revenue Collectors and the position in relation to postal votes. They expressed their gratitude to all staff involved in the Register and the work on the local elections. Members called for a return to the old system of casting postal votes where a Council official and member of the Gardai called to each individual.

Mr L Ward, A/Director, clarified the position in relation to Revenue Collectors and field workers. Clr. Alcorn requested that a full list of the personnel involved in working in compiling the register be issued to all members of the Council in September.

Mr E Sweeney responded at length to the various issues raised by members.

C/379/09 ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR RURAL WATER MONITORING

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to defer a decision on this matter until the October meeting of the Council.

C/380/09 ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE DISABILITY STRATEGY GROUP ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLR. IAN MCGARVEY

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to defer a decision on this matter until the October meeting of the Council.

C/381/09 APPROVAL OF APPLICATION TO THE NRA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT FOR 2010 LOW COST SAFETY REMEDIAL WORK ON NATIONAL AND NON-NATIONAL ROADS

The Council considered report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above matter.

The Director, Roads and Transportation, advised on the background to the report.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the Council adopted the list of schemes circulated as Donegal County Council's application to the NRA and Department of Transport for low cost safety remedial works funding for 2010.

Clr. Larkin paid tribute to the work of the Council staff on this matter. He requested that the erection of a barrier at the small cottage at Drumoghill junction be included in the

works. He also requested that a turning lane at the New Mills and Cornwall junctions be included also.

Clr. Blaney requested that anti skid surfacing at Bluebanks, Coolboy be included.

Clr. McGowan queried the prioritisation of the work in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area as he felt it did not reflect the number of accidents on the roads in the area.

Mr McLaughlin assured Clrs. Larkin and Blaney that every effort would be made to include the works they had requested in the works being carried out but that due to funding it would be unlikely to happen this year.

Mr McLaughlin also assured Clr. McGowan that all fatalities on the roads had been recorded.

C/382/09 CONSIDERATION OF THE 'DRAFT UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2008'

Members considered the report on the above matter, previously circulated.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the Council noted the 'Draft Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for 2008' including commentary by the County Manager and Head of Finance.

C/383/09 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM DONEGAL ACTION FOR CANCER CARE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Blaney, it was resolved that a deputation from Donegal Action Cancer Care be permitted to address a future meeting of Donegal County Council.

C/384/09 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM COOPERATION AND WORKING TOGETHER (C.A.W.T.)

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Blaney, it was resolved that a deputation

from Co-operation and Working Together (C.A.W.T.) be permitted to address a future meeting of Donegal County Council.

C/385/09 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Votes of sympathy

Votes of sympathy were proposed to the following and a minute silence observed by all.

Clr. Marie Therese Gallagher and Nuala Bonner, Planning, Dungloe on the death of their grandmother Tina Gallagher.

Former Clr. Francis Conaghan on the death of his father-in-law Larry Gormley.

James Friel, Foreman, Roads and Transportation on the death of his mother Angela Friel.

The family of the late Pat Gallagher (former Revenue Collector).

Seamus Faulkner, Machinery Yard, & Cathal Faulkner, W.E.E, Stanorlar on the death of their mother, Philomena Faulkner.

Terre Duffy, Public Art Manager, on the death of her mother, Bridget Duffy.

Seamus Hopkins, Safety Advisor on the death of his mother Myra Hopkins.

Angela Gallagher, Planning Department, Donegal on the death of her father, Colum Byrne.

Ann Crawford, Debtors Management on the death of her mother, Bernie Sweeney.

Patsy Friel, former Lorry Driver on the death of his wife, Kathleen.

The Family of Detective Sergeant Peter O'Donnell.

Clr. Terence Slowey on the death of his sister in law Margaret Slowey.

Sean O Donnell, former Council Official, on the death of his mother Bridget, Belcruit, Kincasslagh.

Caitrin McDaid, Planning, on the death of her father Brian McDaid.

Moville Emigration Monument – New Brunswick Government Delegation

The Mayor advised that Donegal County Council was developing a project in Moville to commemorate Moville, the Foyle and Derry as a departure point for thousands of emigrants to the New World. This commemoration formed part of the Councils overall Donegal Diaspora project which recognises our strong links to people with an interest in or connection to Donegal, wherever they may be living.

The Moville Emigration Monument “The Fid”, which is being funded under the Council Public Art Program, would be launched on September 3rd, as would a book on emigration from the Foyle produced by the Council Archives Service. A transnational schools project between a school in Moville and a school in New Brunswick in Canada would also be launched at this time.

The links between New Brunswick and Ireland were strong with 37% of the population of New Brunswick being of Irish decent.

In recognition of this and of the links being developed between New Brunswick and Co. Donegal, the launch would be attended by a delegation of the New Brunswick Government comprising of Dr. Ed Doherty, Minister for Supply and Services, Mr. Bernard Theriault, Chief of Staff – Office of the Premier, Mrs Mirelle Cyr, Assistant Deputy Minister – Intergovernmental Affairs and Mr. Serge Breau, Advisor – Intergovernmental Affairs.

The delegation would also have business, cultural and educational representatives and would meet with relevant interests in Co. Donegal with a view to consolidating and further developing on the link between this region and the province of New Brunswick, Canada.

The launch would take place on 3rd September 2009.

John McCrory Cup

The Mayor advised that a team of Council staff and members played the inaugural John McCrory Cup match last Friday and beat the media 5-1. It was hoped this would become an annual event. The event raised €900 for the Oncology Unit, Letterkenny General Hospital. John McCrory was the former editor of the Donegal News and covered many Council meetings. He also worked for the Belfast Telegraph and Irish Press.

The County Manager had been requested to display the cup in an appropriate location in the Council.

C/386/09 MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager outlined the main points of his report circulated with the agenda and the Addendum circulated during the meeting.

1. ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

- (a) A5 Western Transport Corridor Derry to Aughnacloy Dualling Preferred Route-Public Exhibitions.

2. COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE

- (a) Meeting with David Mahon, County Grand Master, on 11th July 2009 in Rosstown.

3. CORPORATE SERVICES

- (a) Proposals to Reorganise the Management of Council Services to deal with reductions in Staff Numbers,

reductions in Budgets and the change in the number of Electoral Areas from Six to Five (see separate report).

4. WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

- (a) Loan Approvals.

5. COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE

- (b) **Are you unemployed? – Information Event on Tuesday 14 July, 2009 in Letterkenny PSC.**

6. HOUSING & BUILDING

- (a) Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability.

7. PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Gateways and Hubs ERDF F=Grants Scheme – Call for proposals.

8. FINANCE

- (a) Local Government Charges Act 2009

9. COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ENTERPRISE

- (c) Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government 2009.

- (d) MacGill Summer School and Arts Week 2009
Sunday, July 19th – Friday, July 24th

10. WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

- (b) New Fire Stations at Bundoran and Ballyshannon.

The following Questions and Replies were noted:

C/387/09 DESIGNATED PERSONS TO MONITOR FLOODING ON COUNTY ROADS AND ENFORCE PLANNING CONDITIONS PREVENTING SURFACE WATER FROM SITES DISCHARGING ONTO ROADS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Why has the Council failed to appoint a designated person in each area to monitor flooding on county roads and enforce planning conditions preventing surface water from sites discharging onto roads, which is very prevalent across the county causing millions of euros worth of damage?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

"Consideration is being given to redeployment of staff at present due to the reduction in Electoral Areas from 6 to 5 and the completion of the Mulroy Bridge scheme. It is hoped to designate people to work with Area personell to carry out drainage inspections including planning enforcement as part of this redeployment."

C/388/09 POSSIBILITY OF INSTALLING FOOTPATH ON THE VERY DANAGEROUS SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN THE NEW SUPERVALU COMPLEX AND THE WEAVERS ESTATE IN BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"Would this Council look at the possibility of installing a footpath on the very dangerous section of the road between the new Supervalu Complex and the Weavers estate in Ballybofey?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

"The land needed for this footpath is part of the overall land needed for the Ballybofey-Stranorlar by-pass and the land owner is reluctant to deal with this portion separately so as soon as the land becomes available the Council can start works subject to provision of adequate funds."

C/389/09 REPLACEMENT OF RAMPS AT DRUMBOE
STRANORLAR REMOVED DURING ROAD WORKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"Does this Council intend to replace the 'ramps' that were removed during road works at Drumboe, Stranorlar, (at the front of Drumboe Heights Housing Estate)?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

"There are traffic calming measures along this road proposed as part of the overall design and construction details for the new school in Drumboe."

C/390/09 UPGRADING OF THE CRASH BARRIER LOCATED AT
THE BAWN, CONVOY IN THE INTEREST OF ROAD
SAFETY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Will this Council take immediate action to upgrade the crash barrier located at the Bawn, Convoy in the interest of road safety?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

"Repairs or maintenance to any damaged sections of this crash barrier will be dealt with shortly."

C/391/09 FOUL ODOUR PROBLEMS IN ST JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"What action has this Council taken and what action does it intend to take to alleviate the ongoing problems of foul odour which is causing major problems for residents in a particular area in St Johnston?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

"The Council has assessed the situation at St Johnston and has identified rogue wastewater connection(s) to surface water drains and malfunctioning private wastewater treatment plant(s) as the principal sources of nuisance at St. Johnston. The Water & Environment, Housing, and Roads

sections of the Council are collaborating with a view to carrying out interim works which will mitigate the nuisance until the wastewater treatment plant for St Johnston can be constructed. The timeline for tendering and construction of the St Johnston plant is uncertain in light of current restrictions on funding of sewerage schemes under the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme.”

C/392/09 DETAILS OF STAFF NUMBERS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Will the Manager present details of all staff numbers either fulltime or temporary, their job description and where they are located as the Council core services would seem not to have an equal distribution of staff across the County?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“It has been agreed with An Meara that the presentation of the County Manager's Report will set the context within which this question will be discussed.”

C/393/09 CONSIDERATION IN A REDUCTION OF RATES TO ENABLE BUSINESSES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

“Will Donegal County Council consider reducing rates in order to enable businesses to financially survive and retain jobs during current economic crises and make a case to government concerning the reduction of VAT from 21.5% down to 15.5%?”

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“The Commercial Rates Multiplier on Valuation, as determined by the independent office of the Commissioner for Valuation, is adopted annually by the Elected Members as a reserved function in the Statutory Budget Process. It is not possible to revisit the Adopted Multiplier until the next Statutory Budget Process, the period within which it should commence will be prescribed by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This usually is from the end of November until the 2nd week in January

within such period the Statutory Budget meeting is convened to consider Draft Budget proposals as tabled by the County Manager.

Reduction in the Rates Multiplier is a matter for the Elected Members when the County Manager within the timeframes prescribed by the Minister, presents the Draft Budget to them for consideration. It should be pointed out that any such reductions in the multiplier needs to identify where reductions in expenditure can occur as the Council Budget must be in balance as between Income available and Planned Expenditure. The County Manager in the preparation of the Draft Budget Proposals for a financial year is obliged to consult with Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

It is to be expected that initially such matters as the level of the Multiplier on Valuation can be deliberated on at the CPG forum which it is expected will commence to consider 2010 Budgetary issues at the September meeting.

It is important to indicate that the Council's cost base has a substantial fixed cost element including Staff, Loan, Building Related as well as Plant and Machinery costs. These and other costs need, as a first charge, to be covered from income sources available to Local Authorities for the particular Financial year.

Any reductions following on a decrease in the Rates Multiplier would have to come from "Discretionary" expenditures. These would have to be costed and worked up as part of the Budgetary Process to identify what service and other impacts such reductions would entail.

For 2009, the reduction of the Rate Multiplier as adopted for the year cannot be reconsidered. We continue to work through the Council Revenue Collection function to deal with issues arising in relation to rates outstanding, including, the facilitation of payments by way of monthly or other instalments.

In relation to the issue of VAT, perhaps this should be brought to the Council by way of motion for the consideration and decision by the Elected Members."

C/394/09 PURCHASE OF UNFINISHED ESTATES TO REDUCE HOUSING WAITING LISTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"Will Donegal County Council consider buying up some of the unfinished housing estates in order to shorten the housing waiting list?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“In an effort to deal with unfinished housing developments including completed and unsold houses in other developments throughout the Country, the Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government recently introduced a scheme whereby Local Authorities could enter long term leasing arrangements for these houses subject of course to the normal conditions for the procurement of Social Housing. In this regard, the Council invited submissions of interest from developers throughout the County who wished to participate in this scheme. Some 85 submissions were received covering approx 800 units. These submissions are presently being examined by the Housing Dept and a lease document is also being prepared by our legal advisors. It is intended to inform Members through the Electoral Area Committees as to which submissions are deemed suitable for inclusion in the scheme. The Dept have indicated that this vehicle will be the primary source of provision of social housing over the next number of years.”

C/395/09 MAINTENANCE OF HARDSHOUDLERS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"Who is responsible for the maintenance of the new hardshoulders along our County Council Roads, as a result of the new policy of creating this hardshoulder over the last number of years, when improvement grant works are carried out to these roads?"

Clr. Acorn was informed that:-

“In general, the majority of road improvements are conducted on the existing carriageway and no hardshoulder exist.

However, on re-aligned national and regional routes a hard verge is created depending on the location.

It is this Councils responsibility to maintain this verge.”

C/396/09 REPAIR OF THE CUMERICK BRIDGE ON THE R250

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"When will the Cumerick Bridge on the R250 be repaired as at present only a barrier prevents a car or person from falling into the river?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“This bridge is on the boundary between the Glenties Electoral Area and the Stranorlar Electoral Area. The bridge strengthening programme has been significantly reduced this year and this bridge is not included.

Assessment of a number of bridges in this Area have been undertaken and a number have significant damage to parapets etc. The cost to repair is over and above what is available from the Area Maintenance budget allocations. Various funding sources have been examined, however to date no monies have been identified.”

C/397/09 STANDING CHARGE ON METER WATER CHARGES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"Why is the Standing Charge on Meter Water Charges so high in Donegal and how does it compare in relation to the Standing Charge rates for all other County Councils?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“While the standing charge in Donegal, currently €290 (a reduction from €350 in 2008) is at the upper end of the rates charged in the country, the trend in other counties is generally reflecting increases in the charge. The Council has clarified at meetings with different groups representing customers in receipt of the service that any reduction in the

standing charge would require an adjustment in the volumetric charge in order for the Council to recover the cost of providing the service. This would have a significant impact on the bills for large consumers. The Council is continually reviewing its costs to ensure that the charges are maintained at a reasonable level.”

C/398/09 CO-FUNDING OF THE GLENTIES AND DUNGLOE SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Where will Donegal County Council get the money to co-fund the Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“Glenties and Dungloe Sewerage Schemes are currently at tender document stage. The final tender documents were submitted to the Department in April 2009 along with the required supporting documentation. In the current economic climate it is not possible to accurately predict when approval to commence the tender process will issue and consequently when the matching funding for the construction phase will be required. Ultimately commencement of construction may be contingent on agreement being reached between the Council and the Department on water services pricing policy and recoupment arrangements.”

C/399/09 GORTAHORK WATER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Ó Domhnaill:-

"Can Donegal County Council give an update on the current position of the Gortahork Water Scheme?"

Clr. Ó Domhnaill was informed that:-

“The original treatment plant at Ardsbeg Gortahork consisted solely of pressure filters. A new clarifier and chemical dosing facilities were installed under the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme circa 2004 and although this resulted in some improvements, some treatment limitations remain. The Council is currently considering the

implementation of additional short term treatment enhancements.

Gortahork Falcarragh Water Supply Scheme is also included under the WSIP 2007-2009 as a scheme to start in 2009. Although no construction on this major scheme will take place in 2009 consultants have prepared a Preliminary Report and environmental studies for the Scheme. These will be submitted to the DEHLG in 2009 with required accompanying documentation seeking approval to go to contract document stage.”

C/400/09

GWEEDORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Ó Domhnaill:-

"Can the Council advise of the steps being taken to get the Gweedore Public Library up and running again in the aftermath of the flooding?"

Clr. Ó Domhnaill was informed that:-

“The flooding of Gaoth Dobhair Library on 23 June resulted in a temporary closure of library services to the area. Water levels rose to over 7 feet and consequently all the contents were ruined, with the exception of a small number of rare books which have been sent for specialist conservation.

Initial work in the aftermath of the flooding was to assess the damage and clear the debris, which has now been completed.

The following work is ongoing:

- viewing a number of premises potentially suitable for temporary services,
- estimating the cost of the damage and the consequent paperwork,
- preparing information for the Department in support of a permanent library building.

Updates will be provided to Members as progress is made.”

C/401/09

REDUCTION OF COMMERCIAL RATES BY 25% AND THE IMPACT OF SAME ON COUNCIL SERVICES

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"Can Donegal County Council cut commercial rates by 25% and if so, what would be the impact on council services?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The Commercial Rates Multiplier on Valuation, as determined by the independent office of the Commissioner for Valuation, is adopted annually by the Elected Members as a reserved function in the Statutory Budget Process. It is not possible to revisit the Adopted Multiplier until the next Statutory Budget Process, the period within which it should commence will be prescribed by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This usually is from the end of November until the 2nd week in January within such period the Statutory Budget meeting is convened to consider Draft Budget proposals as tabled by the County Manager.

Reduction in the Rates Multiplier is a matter for the Elected Members when the County Manager, within the timeframes prescribed by the Minister, presents the Draft Budget to them for consideration. It should be pointed out that any such reductions in the multiplier needs to identify where reductions in expenditure can occur as the Council Budget must be in balance as between Income available and Planned Expenditure. The County Manager in the preparation of the Draft Budget Proposals for a financial year is obliged to consult with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG). It is to be expected that initially such matters as the level of the Multiplier on Valuation can be deliberated on at the CPG forum which it is expected will commence to consider 2010 Budgetary issues at its September meeting.

It is important to indicate that the Council's cost base has a substantial fixed cost element including Staff, Loan, Building Related as well as Plant and Machinery costs. These and other costs need, as a first charge, to be covered from income sources available to Local Authorities for the particular Financial year.

Any reductions following on a decrease in the Rates Multiplier would have to come from “Discretionary” expenditures. These would have to be costed and worked up as part of the Budgetary Process to identify what service and other impacts such reductions would entail.

For 2009 the reduction of the Rate Multiplier as adopted for the year cannot be reconsidered. We continue to work through the Council Revenue Collection function to deal with issues arising in relation to rates outstanding, including, the facilitation of payments by way of monthly or other instalments.”

C/402/09 COMPLETION OF THE BREAK WATER PROJECT AT GREENCASTLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. M Doherty:-

"When will Donegal County Council complete the Break-Water Project at Greencastle?"

Clr. M Doherty was informed that:-

“The Breakwater at Greencastle is being constructed by the Department of Marine on behalf of Donegal County Council. The Department of Marine are funding 75%, the Department of Gaelteacht 12.5% and Donegal County Council the remaining 12.5%.

Eight million euro has been spent on the Greencastle project to date. One Hundred and fifty five metres of the length of the breakwater have been completed with an additional one hundred and thirty five metres remaining to be constructed at an estimated cost of a further eight million euro. The rate of construction of the remainder of the breakwater is dependent on additional finance being provided and the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment in terms of tonnage of rock delivered per week. There is no programmed financial plan available for this project at the moment. As such it cannot be stated as to when the breakwater will be finished.”

C/403/09 TOURISM POTENTIAL OF AN GRIANAN OF AILEACH

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"What progress has been made on developing the tourism and heritage potential of An Grianan of Aileach over recent months?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Background

Grianan of Aileach is a National Monument in the care of the Office of Public Works and is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004). The Office of Public Works has plans to redesign the entrance gate from the car park to Grianan of Aileach to improve disabled access to the site. This work is planned for 2009.

A proposal has gone forward from the Office of Public Works for National Monuments (such as Grianan of Aileach) which are not staffed but are considered accessible to be included in the main ‘Heritage Sites of Ireland’ guide for 2009-2010. Information included in the guide would include a photograph, brief historical overview and description of National Monument, and access advice.

The National Monuments Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government is hoping to get an academic article on Grianan of Aileach published in one of the archaeology journals. It is also in discussions with ‘Archaeology Ireland’ magazine to produce an information booklet insert in one of its magazines. The information booklet could also be printed separately and distributed locally.

A meeting took place with elected members and the OPW on Tuesday 29th April 2008 on site. The following information was distributed on the day.

Grianan Aileach – National Monument No.140

Draft Background notes to OPW `s preservation works to date

Pre OPW condition of the site

A detailed illustrated description of the site can be found in the Ordnance

Survey Memoirs of 1837. The remains of the original structure were in a totally collapsed state with the surviving stonework scattered around the hilltop.

Between 1874 and 1878, a local man, Dr. Walter Bernard undertook a rebuilding project on the site of Grianan Aileach. His excavations appear to have revealed the remains of small collapsed sections of the lower level of the outer wall. In the absence of further archaeological evidence for its original appearance, he modelled his rebuild on the relatively intact Staigue Iron Age Fort in County Kerry. (Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Vol11 1879)

History of collapse and the need for a more permanent repair method

When the site came into State Care approximately thirty years later the restored walls were already in a dilapidated state with extensive collapse of the outer stonework. (76TH annual Report of Commissioners of Public Works 1907/08) Despite OPW efforts to carry out patch repair work to the monument over the next 80 years, OPW files show that Bernard`s work was unstable and collapse was reoccurring on a regular basis.

In 1989, following another major collapse and short term patch repair work,

OPW undertook to monitor the condition of the monument and investigate intervention methods which could stabilise the structure. A specialist multidisciplinary team was assembled to address the problem.

Present OPW conservation effort

In 2001, a detailed archaeological and engineering investigation was undertaken which revealed sections of the line (marked with tar) of the disturbed ancient pre-restoration structure and confirmed the shape and outline of Bernard`s work.

Because of the significant amenity value of Bernard`s restored monument OPW considered that it would not be appropriate or feasible to dismantle and remove Bernard`s restored stonework and to leave the site in its pre restoration collapsed state.

The engineer recommended that the bulging sections of walling which were liable to collapse should be dismantled and rebuilt to Bernard`s inward sloping design. Due to the

instability of the underlying surviving stonework modern concrete supports were inserted at the base of the rebuilt sections and over the lintels of the internal passageways. The restored external walling is constructed by OPW craftsmen to match Bernard's design but with a sound central fill which would considerably improve the structures future stability.

The use of modern materials and methods in the preservation of collapsing ancient structures is standard conservation practise. The wall tops are secured with a mortar finish in an effort to prevent interference causing stone collapse and the resultant risk to the visitor.

Future Protection of the Site and Visitor Access

Controlled access to the car-park (joint arrangement between Local Authority and OPW) appears to be working reasonably well.

Incidences of overnight camping, fires, general vandalism etc. have decreased. It is still difficult to control litter dumping and maintain site signage.

There is an ongoing risk of future damage to the walls of the fort from stone dislodgement and general abuse. Access to the wall tops could constitute a public health and safety risk

The prominent location of the car park can detract from the amenity of and views from the central stone fort. It is sited within the archaeological remains of the prehistoric outer ditches of the Monument and hinders a full appreciation of the extent and significance of the site.

An Grainan Aileach has been identified in Donegal County Council's Strategic Tourism Action Plan. As such, the development and promotion of An Grainan Aileach as a major visitor attraction will be carried out in conjunction with the wider tourism products in the area: Inch Levels, Burt Castle and the Lough Swilly hinterland.

Current Status

Work is continuing to proceed in developing project and funding proposals in this area and, subject to approval of

funding, it was hoped that specific activities could be progressed in the third quarter of 2009.

However, following further detail being submitted to funding body in June to assist in the completion of an economic appraisal it has now transpired that a further 'business case' may be required by the SEUPB in relation to this and other proposals. This is a general issue and not solely associated with this project or Donegal specifically. Clarification in respect of what this actually requires is expected from the SEUPB by the end of August."

C/404/09 DOWNGRADING OF MOVILLE LIBRARY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Farren:-

"Why has Movice Library been downgraded?"

Clr. Farren was informed that:-

"The opening hours in Movice Library were adjusted in February 2009, as were the opening hours in a number of libraries across the county. Demands on the library service in Movice increased greatly in recent years, and the Council invested in a larger premises with additional facilities for the public in 2008. While it was intended to maintain these additional facilities, these plans had to be reconsidered in the changed circumstances.

Movice Library continues to provide quality reading materials, free events for children and adults, and access to the internet on Wednesdays and Fridays 10.30 – 12.30 and 1.30 – 5.30. Should resources increase to previous levels, opening hours will be adjusted accordingly.

The Council is currently working to develop the library website (www.donegallibrary.ie) to offer the public the flexibility to avail of services at times that best suit them. Library members can already access the full catalogue 24 hours a day, can order items from any library in the county, or indeed in the country, and have these items delivered to almost 30 locations across the county. 4 of these locations are in Inishowen. Hundreds of dictionaries and reference works are also available on the website to library members. Joining the library is free."

C/405/09 PROGRESS ON THE SANCTION OF A DEDICATED PERSON TO PROGRESS THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS IN BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

"What progress has been made regarding the sanction of a dedicated person to progress the interests of local community groups in the Buncrana area to acquire sites on council owned land at Rockytown, Buncrana?"

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Sean Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services is chairing a subgroup of Donegal CDB Childrens Services Committee. This subgroup has prioritized progressing the development of land at Rockytown, Buncrana as a key priority action so as to facilitate a more integrated multi-agency approach to developing this land in conjunction with local community interests. Currently, the Planning and Economic Development Directorate is preparing a masterplan for this land and a number of agencies via the Childrens Services Committee have been approached with a view to establishing what types of supports could be brought to bear to arrange for a more integrated approach for the development of this site.”

C/406/09 ERECTION OF ROAD SIGNAGE TO DIRECT TOURISTS TO INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr. M Doherty:-

"Will Donegal County Council erect road signage across Donegal directing tourists to the Inishowen Peninsula as this sector is our only source of income at present?"

Clr. Doherty was informed that:-

“Following a recent discussion at an Inishowen Electoral Area Committee meeting it has been agreed that the relevant Northern Ireland authorities will be contacted requesting signage to be placed at entry points to the Inishowen Peninsula from Derry to highlight the location and attractions. It has also been agreed that the Roads

Directorate will, in conjunction with Community and Enterprise, consider potential internal signage to facilitate the additional development of the tourism sector in the area.

The Council are also awaiting the result of an application as part of an Interreg IVA application which will also assist in addressing this issue. The funding sought under the application would provide for the promotion of the Inishowen Peninsula as part of a wider County touring route linked to the Giants Causeway touring route. As part of this initiative additional signage would be provided. The time line for the final consideration and, hopefully, approval of this project is likely to be the final quarter of 2009.”

C/407/09

PROGRESS ON A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR BURNFOOT, BRIDGEND AND SURROUNDING AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

"What progress has been made regarding a sewage treatment plant to accommodate for the increased needs of people in the villages of Burnfoot, Bridgend and the surrounding area?"

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“The Council have plans for the provision of infrastructure on both of the above schemes but lack of potential for grant and matching funding and land availability limitations have hindered progress. The Serviced Land Initiative Programme which includes Bridgend Sewerage scheme has also been scaled back considerably reducing grant funding from that source. Notwithstanding the above agreement has been reached with a developer in Bridgend with respect to the provision of enhanced treatment facilities at Bridgend which will address some of the current treatment deficiencies and allow a limited amount of development to take place. Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme is not on the Water Services Investment Programme. It is unlikely that a suitable grant aided programme can be identified to progress the scheme in the short term. The proposed location of the wastewater treatment works has been the subject of an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and feedback suggests that it should be re-located south-eastwards.

Consultations with the relevant landowners will now take place with a view to finalising the site location. Short term progress on either of the above schemes will be dependant on availability of funding of infrastructure by developer initiatives.”

C/408/09

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INCLUDED ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER AT THE RECENT LOCAL ELECTIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

" How many people were included in the supplementary Register in this County at the recent Local Elections. Please give a detailed breakdown by Electoral Area?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

Total figure for Supplement is 3174

Donegal Electoral Area	802
Glenties Electoral Area	312
Inishowen Electoral Area	543
Letterkenny Electoral Area	1257
Stranorlar Electoral Area	260

C/409/09

RIGHT TURNING BAYS AT TULLYGAY, NEW MILLS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Will this Council as a matter of urgency employ right Turning Bays at the two very dangerous entrances at Tullygay New Mills?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“Over the last number of years the alleviation of accident locations has been achieved in accordance with the adopted policy of the Council "Policy on the consideration of hazardous locations on the road network for low cost remedial works". A number of considerations exist with respect to the junctions on the R250 described above. These include the level of accidents at the locations and traffic levels, the type of remedial measures necessary to alleviate

the situation and the funding required to carry out the works. A report has now been requested from the Road Safety Engineer within the context of the policy and this report shall be brought before the next Electoral Area Meeting. It is noted that a previous investigation has been carried out on the L5974-1/R250-4 Dun Glebe junction. A figure of €12,000 was proposed in 2008 for clearing vision lines signage / markings and realignment of the minor road. This work did not rank highly enough to qualify under the own resources scheme for 2008. Should funding be made available in 2009 it, along with the other two junctions can be considered.”

C/410/09

CONTINUATION OF FOOTPATH AT BALLYMACCOOL TOWN PARK TO CONWAL GRAVEYARD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"How can the council progress the continuation of the footpath at Ballymacool Town Park to Conwall graveyard?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The realignment of the R250 and the development of the new town park in Letterkenny have facilitated the construction of over 1300m of footpath from O’ Donnell Park to approximately 450m short of the graveyard at Conwall on the Northern side. This work was largely achieved through planning conditions placed on a developer.

Over the last number of years the construction of new footpaths have been achieved through conditions on developers particularly within control points of settlements. There are many examples of this throughout the County. Alternatively developers have been charged specific charges or asked to make a contribution towards the development of footpaths (and other infrastructure) through the general Development Contribution Scheme. Over the last number of years the members of Donegal County Council have allocated funding towards capital improvements, such as footpaths, by means of allocations from the development contribution scheme through our annual budget. As members are aware both the income from this fund and the

restrictions on the general deficit of the Council mean that funding in the medium term from this source is difficult.

Notwithstanding the above the Department of Transport has made available €846,000 (reduced from €1,691,000) in 2009 for countywide discretionary improvements. The matter of how this is spent becomes one of choice for the Council. In 2009 this choice has been made with funding allocated towards local road flooding programmes, bridge strengthening, design work and area discretionary improvements.

Aside from funding to progress the extension of the footpath dedication of land would be required from seven landowners. Discussions can commence with these landowners once funding has been secured.

The extension of the footpath on the northern side is complicated slightly by the need to pipe a large open drain over approximately 240m and obtain land to provide an adequate walkway over approximately 260m. These additional items would place the overall cost of the extension at approximately €100,000.

As an alternative or interim measure a footpath (in poor condition and of limited width) exists on the southern side of the road. This can be refurbished within our existing discretionary funding sources for 2009. It is recommended that this be done. While requiring pedestrians to cross the road visibility is good and this would provide a satisfactory interim solution until a funding source can be agreed at another date or suitable.”

C/411/09

TRAFFIC CALMING IN KERRYKEEL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"Have Donegal County Council any plans to provide traffic calming in Kerrykeel?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

“There are no plans to provide traffic calming measures in Kerrykeel. This issue can be further discussed when the 2010 allocation is available for works of this nature.”

C/412/09 PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR SEWERAGE PLANTS AT RATHMULLAN, RAMELTON, LETTERKENNY AND KILMACRENNAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Can Donegal County Council provide the necessary funding if schemes were approved for Sewerage Plants at Rathmullan, Ramelton, Letterkenny and Kilmacrennan?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme is listed on the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009 (WSIP) as a major capital scheme at construction. Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme is listed on the WSIP as a major capital scheme to start in 2009 and Ramelton Sewerage scheme is as a major capital scheme to advance through planning. Kilmacrennan is listed on the WSIP as a Serviced Land Initiative scheme only.

The network contract for Letterkenny is already constructed and the DBO contract for the construction of the treatment plant/sludge treatment centre is at tender recommendation stage. Application for budget and water services pricing policy approval will be made to the Department in parallel with the submission of the tender recommendation report in August 2009. In light of the progress made on this scheme to date it is anticipated that an acceptable funding mechanism will be established to ensure that the necessary capital works can proceed as planned. A construction start is possible by the end 2009/ early 2010.

An Bord Pleanála have confirmed that Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme does not require the preparation of a Statutory Environmental Impact Statement so the Preliminary Report and supporting documentation for the scheme (with some updates if necessary) can now be submitted to the Department. This is expected to be done before the end of 2009. The next stage of the scheme will be the preparation of contract/tender documents which will not require matching funding but will require budget approval. The

construction stage will require matching funding but the timeline for this is not yet known.

A budget has been secured for the commencement of the procurement of Consultants for the preparation of Preliminary Reports for a bundle of sewerage schemes including Ramelton sewerage scheme, and this will progress in 2009. No matching funding is required at this point. Kilmacrennan Sewerage Scheme will be prioritised under the forthcoming Assessment of Needs for inclusion on the next issue of the WSIP. Limited expenditure may take place in the interim sourced from special development charges already collected.”

C/413/09 REDUCTION OF GATE CHARGES AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES COUNTYWIDE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"Can gate charges be reduced at our Civic Amenity Sites throughout Donegal so as to encourage more use of the facilities?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The Budget Book 2009 outlined the costs associated with operating recycling facilities throughout the county in the year 2008. The cost of operating three Civic Amenity Sites (Carndonagh, Stranorlar and Laghy) that year was €576,500, while income from the sites amounted to only €47,000. In addition, the operating of 64 bring banks and other recycling activities cost a further €446,000. A recycling grant of €250,350 was received from the DoEHLG as a contribution towards the cost of both bring banks and Civic Amenity Sites. The opening of the additional three new Civic Amenity Sites has added to the overall running costs of the service. The scale of fees currently in place at the Civic Amenity Sites does not fully recoup the net cost of the service provided and were put in place in the context of the challenge faced in opening and funding the operation of the three new Sites at Letterkenny, Milford and Dungloe. These new sites provide a valuable service to wide hinterlands. It is considered that further subsidation of the service - in essence by the ratepayers of the County is not a sustainable solution.

It should be noted and indeed highlighted that the majority of wastes at all the Civic Amenity Sites continue to be received free of charge, the free items accepted include; glass, food tins, drinks cans, aerosol cans, textiles, batteries, fluorescent light-bulbs, print cartridges, mobile phones and all electrical and electronic waste items. Charges apply for the recycling of; paper, plastic, cardboard, tetra-pak, scrap metal and waste oils.

In addition to Council operated services the citizens of the county enjoy services provided by the private waste collectors. These include kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclables and of household waste, collection of commercial waste and recyclables and a number of privately operated mini – civic amenity site. Competition between operators caused a number of collectors in the County to reduce their charges for kerbside recycling in 2008. These developments by the private sector not only provide services for the public but also create employment and should be encouraged, not undermined. It would therefore be inappropriate for Donegal County Council to distort the market locally by the application of charges which are significantly below cost.

Following the introduction of the new charge most users have managed to reduce their costs at Civic Amenity Sites by managing their recyclables so that they visit the sites less frequently with larger volumes and by taking care to ‘wash and squash’ all their recyclable cans and plastic bottles.”

C/414/09 MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME START DATE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"What is the proposed start date for the environmental improvement works and new car park in Milford?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The Planning & Economic Development Directorate proposes to undertake an Urban Renewal Scheme in Milford consisting of the construction of an off-street car park (Phase 1) and an environmental improvement scheme (Phase 2) along the Main Street. The progression of Phase I of the

project had been dependent on the acquisition of two separate land holdings. The acquisition of the larger land holding was concluded in May 2008 and agreement for the acquisition of the remaining land holding has been recently reached, with the inclusion of a special condition that the Council agree to the provision of an easement over existing Council owned lands at the proposed Phase I site.

The tender documentation for both phases was placed on e-tenders on the 23rd April 2009 for return by the 19th June 2009. The tenders have recently been officially opened and 38 no. tenders were received. The EIS Technical Team has now commenced the tender assessment process. When this is completed together with consideration of all options in relation to carrying out the works by contract, direct labour or a combination of both, the council will be informed of the position.

The Council must also have due regard to Circular FIN 03/2009 regarding 'Control and Monitoring of Local Authorities Contribution to the General Government Balance (GGB)' and the Council's ability to adhere to same."

C/415/09

GRANT PAYMENTS TO THE ELDERLY AND NON TAX COMPLIANT CONTRACTORS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Will Housing Section address the problem of Grant Payments to Elderly people where Contractors are no longer Tax Compliant?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

"Department of Finance Circular 44/2006 sets down the procedures regarding tax clearance requirements in relation to grant payments from State and public sector bodies, which apply to all applications received after 1 January 2007.

The Applicant:

In the case of the applicant, where the grant is less than €10,000, all that is required is an income tax reference number together with confirmation that the applicant's tax affairs are in order. Where however, the amount of the grant

exceeds €10,000, the applicant must submit a current Tax Clearance Certificate. It is not necessary for an applicant to obtain a tax clearance certificate if he/she holds a current C2 certificate.

The Contractor:

In the case of payments exceeding €50 applicants are required to provide the following details in respect of each contractor:

- Name, address, tax reference number and tax district of each contractor;
- The C2/tax clearance number of each contractor; and
- The expiry date of the C2/Tax Clearance Certificate.

Where the grant payment does not exceed €10,000, contractors are not normally required to submit their C2/Tax Clearance Certificate or authorise the local authority to confirm their tax clearance status. However, Circular 44/2006 states that, for control purposes, the contractor details of 10% of applications for grants of between €50 and €10,000 should be checked with the Revenue Commissioners. (They must be checked in all cases where the level of the grant exceeds €10,000)

It is Donegal County Councils policy that in the case of the contractor, a valid tax clearance certificate or C2 certificate must be produced in all cases.

As an alternative to the applicant/contractor producing a valid tax clearance certificate, they may authorise the Local Authority to confirm electronically that he/she holds a valid certificate using the online verification facility on the Revenue Commissioners Website.

The Tax Clearance Certificate/C2 Certificate for the Contractor and the Applicant (where applicable) must be valid on date of receipt of the application and on the date of payment.

Having regard to the terms of the Circular, the Council are not in a position to authorise payment of a grant in any case where a Contractor may no longer be tax compliant.”

C/416/09 UP-TO-DATE SITUATION REGARDING LAGHEY SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

"What is the most up-to-date situation regarding the Laghey Sewerage Scheme?"

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

"Laghey Sewerage Scheme is listed for construction in 2009 in the Capital Budget 2009. Budget approval has been received, contract formalities are underway, and construction is expected to start by the fourth quarter of 2009."

C/417/09 UP-TO-DATE POSITION OF BUNDORAN AND LAGHEY SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

"What is the up to date position re Bundoran and Laghey Sewerage Schemes?"

Clr. McEniff was informed that:-

"Laghey Sewerage Scheme is listed for construction in 2009 in the Capital Budget 2009. Budget approval has been received, contract formalities are underway, and construction is expected to start by the fourth quarter of 2009.

Bundoran Sewerage is part of a bundle of four sewerage schemes which also includes the Killybegs Wastewater Treatment Works, Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme, and Convoy Wastewater Treatment Works. The bundle is at contract document stage. Bundoran is currently undergoing a design review as requested by the Department and this should be finalised in the third quarter of 2009. Contract documents are expected to be submitted for approval late 2009/early 2010. The water pricing implications of this bundle require detailed assessment by the Council when the relevant cost detail is available."

C/418/09 GO AHEAD FOR KILLYBEGS SEWER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

"When do Donegal County Council expect to get the go ahead for the Killybegs Sewer?"

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Tenders for Killybegs Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Network and outfall were received in September 2008. The lowest tender was deemed non-compliant mainly on technical grounds and the tender assessment and recommendation report was received by the Council in January 2009. The lowest tenderer subsequently contested the non-compliance and the Council responded in February 2009. The matter was resolved and the Councils submission to the Department of April 2009 supported by the tender recommendation report requested Budget and Water Pricing approval. A response regarding formal budget and Water pricing approval is awaited. It is therefore difficult to predict when construction could start. In light of general borrowing and funding requirements commencement of construction may be contingent on agreement being reached between the Council and the Department on water services pricing policy and recoupment arrangements.”

C/419/09 REPLACEMENT OF GALVANISED SEWER MANHOLE LIDS AT ST CUMMINS HILL, HARBOUR DRIVE AND MARINE DRIVE KILLYBEGS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

"Will Donegal County Council replace galvanised sewer manhole lids at St Cummins Hill, Harbour View Drive and Marine Drive, Killybegs that are a danger to residents and the public?"

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council will have inspection surveys carried out on the manhole lids in these housing estates to evaluate their quantity and condition. The risk to residents and the public will be evaluated and the scope and cost of necessary replacements will be quantified. Decisions on implementation must await a report on the above.”

C/420/09

UP-TO-DATE POSITION ON THE BALLYSHANNON
BROADBAND SCHEME CONNECTION AND THE
INCLUSION OF PORTNASON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

"Can Donegal County Council clarify the up to date position on the Broadband Scheme that was completed through Capital works over a year ago in Ballyshannon, outlining when this infrastructure is to be connected and whether the service will include the Portnason Industrial Estate in Ballyshannon?"

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

"The Ballyshannon Metropolitan Area Network is a component of the Donegal Regional Broadband Programme which involved the construction of publicly owned open access fibre-optic telecommunications networks in Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Buncrana and Carndonagh. These networks compliment the Letterkenny Metropolitan Area Network which was completed in 2004.

Work on securing backhaul connectivity to the Ballyshannon network was completed on the 31st March 2009. On the 8th July 2009, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources confirmed the appointment of e|net as Management Services Entity for all Phase II Metropolitan Area Networks including the networks in Donegal. The Department have also confirmed that the Ballyshannon MAN was handed over to e|net for management purposes on 8th July 2009 and that all other Phase II MANs will be handed over by July 2010.

The Ballyshannon MAN has been constructed to service the Portnason Industrial Estate and will specifically provide service to the emergency services call centre being established at that location."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Certified: _____

Mayor.

Date: _____

