

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JULY, 2010 IN  
THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor Mickey Doherty  
Councillor Rena Donaghey  
Councillor Charlie McConalogue  
Councillor Pádraig MacLochlainn  
Councillor Bernard McGuinness  
Councillor John Ryan

**Officials Present:**

**Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:**

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer

**Corporate Services:**

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager  
Marie Deeney, A/Senior Staff Officer  
Dolores Lafferty, A/Staff Officer

**Planning & Economic Development Services:**

Paul Kelly, A/Area Manager

**Roads & Transportation Services:**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer/ Area Manager

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services:**

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager

**Apologies**

Cllr Martin Farren  
Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager  
Seamus Canning, Town Clerk

The Chairman, Cllr Bernard McGuinness, welcomed everyone present to this, the Annual General Meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

At the request of the Chairman, Cllr Bernard McGuinness, one minute silence was held as a mark of respect to all who lost their lives in the recent road traffic tragedy in Inishowen.

All Members extended their deep and sincere sympathy to all the families affected by the road traffic tragedy. Members unanimously expressed their sincere thanks to all the emergency services involved, i.e. the fire service, the ambulance service, the hospital, doctors, gardai and all who helped in any way. The services provided by the undertakers was also acknowledged as being carried out in a very professional manner. Aideen Doherty requested Members to keep young people informed of the help available at the Drop In Centre. It was agreed that thank you letters issue from the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee to all the emergency services involved in the recent road traffic tragedy.

## 10/28 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Bernard McGuinness, expressed his thanks and appreciation to his fellow Members for their support during his term as Chairman of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee. Cllr McGuinness also extended his thanks to Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services and staff for co-ordinating and servicing the meetings. Cllr McGuinness stated that meetings throughout the past year have been very good and fruitful. Cllr McGuinness also noted that a very successful meeting had taken place earlier in the morning with Minister Dara Calleary, T.D. Minister of State at the Departments of the Taoiseach and Finance and Enterprise Trade and Innovation.

In his address Cllr McGuinness also expressed his sincere thanks to the County Manager, Michael McLoone, and wished him well on his retirement from the public service. Cllr McGuinness acknowledged the great service given to Donegal County Council by Mr. McLoone, with the big achievement being the decentralisation of offices. Cllr McGuinness wished the new County Manager, Mr. Seamus Neely, well in his new role and stated that he has a difficult task ahead in both following the outgoing Manager and also the current economic climate. Cllr McGuinness concluded by again thanking the Members and staff and also the press for their assistance in updating the public on matters arising at the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meetings.

Members unanimously expressed their thanks and complimented Cllr McGuinness for the courtesy given by him during his term as Chairman.

On the proposal of Cllr John Ryan, and seconded by Cllr Pádraig MacLochlainn, Cllr Mickey Doherty was elected as Chairman of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee for the term 2010/2011. There were no further nominations for the position.

All members extended their congratulations to Cllr Doherty on his election.

Cllr Mickey Doherty expressed his thanks to his fellow Members for unanimously electing him and giving him the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

**10/29      CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN  
ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
27TH MAY, 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**30.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr John Ryan, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**30.02 Follow Ups from Previous Meeting**

Stephen Flynn circulated a Follow Up Report at the meeting and apologised to Members that it had not been included with the Agenda.

**30.03 Minutes of Workshops**

It was agreed that both the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held in the Carndonagh Public Service Centre on 4th June and also the minutes of the Joint Workshop of Buncrana Town Council and the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held in the offices of Buncrana Town Council on 25th June, 2010 which require the Members approval, would be considered at the next meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

**30.04 Roadworks Programme**

Details of the Roadworks Programme as circulated was noted by the Members.

**30.05 New Department of Transport Guidelines on Road Grants**

Stephen Flynn advised Members that the Department of Transport has issued a comprehensive revision in June to it's Circular on Local and Regional Road Grants. The Memorandum applies from 1st July, 2010. Members were advised that much of the grant headings remain from the previous Circular issued in 2001, however, there are significant changes to aspects of the grants. These include:

- Appraisal procedures for capital projects
- Project cost estimates, e.g. the use of maximum permitted unit rate costs for surface dressing
- A requirement that the rate of increase of own resources expenditure be not less than the rate of inflation
- Limitations on the chargeability of certain local authority costs to state grants
- Reductions on the chargeability of overheads to State Grants
- Restrictions on the chargeability of certain Machinery Yard costs to State Grants

The City and County Managers Association and the Council were currently considering the financial impact of these changes and it is intended to bring a report on the matter before the Council in due course.

In response to a query from Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Stephen Flynn advised that certain elements/costs in relation to works being carried out, which are currently being charged to the grant allocations, will now be charged to Donegal County Council under this new revision.

### **30.06 Low Cost Accident Schemes 2011**

Members were advised that it is intended to bring the application to the DOT/NRA for Low Cost Accident funding for 2011 for Members' approval at the next full Council Meeting. The following locations have been included for the Inishowen area:

N13-12	Magherabeg Bend, Manorcunningham	€12,000
R238-39	Claggan, Moville	€12,000
R240-1	North of Ballylesky Bridge, Carn	€15,000
R238-3	Burnfoot Village	€35,000
R237-1	Kildrum Junctions	€14,000
R238-12	Fallask Crossroads, Nth of Umrycam	€10,000
L1711/L7011		

This list of locations was compiled in accordance with the DOT / NRA and Council's adopted policy prior to the terrible road traffic accident at Glassmullen last week. As can be seen from the report the location of the accident was not highlighted as hazardous in the assessment process.

The Council operate a joint collision reporting procedure with the Gardai with a view to identifying any engineering issues that need to be attended to by the Council arising from all fatal collisions. It is anticipated that this report shall be compiled in the coming week as the Gardai own investigation is completed. In addition accident locations are routinely discussed at collision prevention meetings between the Gardai and the Council, the most recent of which was held a fortnight ago.

The Department of Transport have also verbally informed the Council that it will accept any application for funding for any measures that would improve road safety at this location, whether as part of the 2011 application or otherwise.

Following a query from Cllr John Ryan regarding a fatal accident at Burt Chapel, it was agreed that Stephen Lambert be requested to contact Cllr Ryan regarding Low Cost Accident Schemes for 2011.

It was agreed that the list as presented be submitted to the next Council Meeting for approval and be submitted to the DOT/NRA for funding.

### **30.07 Section 183 Greencastle**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness and seconded by Cllr Charlie McConalogue it was agreed that the proposal to the lease of lands at Greencastle Pier to the Foyle Fisherman's Co-Operative Society Ltd be progressed in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Section 183 (1) of the Local Government Act, 2001. The land is situated at Greencastle Pier and the proposed lease term is 99 years with an annual rent of €2,430 which is subject to review every 5 years.

### **30.08 Cockhill Bridge**

Following a query from Cllr John Ryan in relation to the procedure of works involved to be carried out on Cockhill Bridge, Stephen Flynn advised that stage approval for each job is required from the Department.

Cllr Bernard McGuinness queried if the design for the proposed new bridge over the Swilly in Letterkenny is at the same stage as that for Cockhill Bridge. Stephen Flynn responded that the bridge in Letterkenny is being funded by the NRA as it would form part of the National Network when completed, however as the bridge at Cockhill is on a regional road network, it has to be funded by the Department of Transport. Members expressed their concern that works on the bridge at Letterkenny should not overtake the works to be carried out on the Cockhill Bridge.

Members requested that a meeting take place with the Department Inspector in relation to the advancement of works on Cockhill Bridge and also requested that the Inspector attend the next Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

### **30.09 Station Road, Carndonagh**

In response to a query from Cllr Pádraig MacLochlainn regarding the Station Road Junction, Stephen Flynn advised that a traffic count would be carried out on the Station Road, Carndonagh, when schools re-open in September.

### **30.10 Inishowen 100 Signage**

Following a presentation by Kathleen Gill, Marketing Manager, Inishowen Tourism, Stephen Flynn agreed to carry out an audit of signage on the Inishowen 100 and to prepare an estimate for the provision of signage and for the resurfacing of the pull in areas.

## **10/31 WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **31.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr John Ryan, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

### **31.02 Follow Ups from Previous Meeting**

Con McLaughlin circulated a Follow Up Report dated 20th July 2010 (Appendix 1) and updated Members on issues raised at the previous meeting. The Chairman, Cllr Mickey Doherty, expressed his satisfaction with the results from the issues raised at the previous meeting.

### **31.03 Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012**

Members noted the status report on the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 as circulated by Con McLaughlin.

### **31.04 Group Scheme Programme**

Members noted the report as circulated on the Group Scheme Programme for the Inishowen Electoral Area.

### **31.05 Bridgend/Burnfoot Sewerage Schemes**

Cllr Rena Donaghey queried if contact had been made with the Department in relation to moving the Bridgend Sewerage Scheme out of Serviced Land Initiative Scheme, noting that it is unlikely to attract the 60% developer funding required under this scheme. Cllr Donaghey outlined the problems in the adjoining Burnfoot and Tooban areas also.

Cllr John Ryan noted that access is available to a potential site in the Burnfoot area at present, and added that it is imperative that the site be secured and ring-fenced for the future when funding becomes available.

In response Con McLaughlin noted that any request to move or remove the Bridgend Scheme from the SLI Programme would be made by the Capital Office at the next Steering Group Meeting with the Department.

He went on to brief the meeting of the approach which the Capital Section are taking for short term and medium terms to address requirements at Bridgend and Burnfoot areas, including engaging with development interest at Bridgend towards upgrade works required at the present site whilst also pursuing a Part 8 process for a site at Burnfoot with adequate capacity ultimately for both settlements.

### **31.06 Merville/Greencastle Sewerage Schemes**

Following a query from Cllr Mickey Doherty in relation to the expected timelines on the Merville/Greencastle Sewerage Schemes. Con McLaughlin reminded the members of the briefing from Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer, Capital Section who attended the previous meeting. He noted how that scheme was listed at 'planning stage' in the WSIP 2010-2012 announced in April with construction expected to follow sometime after that.

### **31.07 Illegal Dumping - Use of Covert Cameras**

Cllr John Ryan advised the meeting of media coverage on Cork County Council who have been using covert cameras along roads to identify and prosecute people responsible for illegal dumping. Cllr Ryan noted that great success had been achieved by Cork County Council and suggested that Donegal County Council also consider the use of covert cameras in an effort to identify dumping from vehicles.

Con McLaughlin acknowledged this feedback and potential contact in Cork County Council from Cllr Ryan as very useful specifically in relation to capturing data along roadsides.

Con McLaughlin also advised the Members that DCC had also made good progress in this area in the past year and that he was making a presentation at the next County Council Meeting to be held on the 26th July 2010 on the use of covert cameras to tackle illegal dumping. He followed up by showing the members some examples of the technology available and in use by the local Litter Warden.

**32.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr John Ryan, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**32.02 Ard Kill Bhríde**

Aideen Doherty advised Members that there is a shared responsibility with the mini pitch at Ard Kill Bhríde as there is a Community Management Association in place. The Association ran a "Cool Kids" summer camp recently at the pitch which was a great success.

**32.03 Interreg IVA NWRCBG**

Members agreed that the Barrack Hill Town Park application be discussed following the meeting.

**32.04 Development Fund Initiative**

Aideen Doherty advised Members that the first payment has issued to the Lough Foyle Ferry Company for the Bunrana/Rathmullan service.

**32.05 Members Development Fund Grant Allocations**

Members noted the Members Development Fund Grant Allocations as circulated with the Agenda.

**32.06 Joint Policing Committee**

Aideen Doherty advised Members that the first meeting of the Joint Policing Committee took place on Friday 28th May, 2010. A Workshop had been arranged for 23rd July, however, same has now been postponed until 30th July, 2010.

**32.07 Ferry**

Members noted the traffic figures in relation to the Greencastle/Magilligan Ferry and also the Bunrana/Rathmullan Ferry as circulated with the Agenda.

Aideen Doherty advised Members that a meeting with Limavady Borough Council is scheduled to take place next Monday night and that a report would be presented at the September Meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

### **32.08 Enterprise & Skills**

Aideen Doherty advised Members that Project Kelvin is still progressing with the application to Interreg IVA currently being finalised in association with Derry Council.

### **32.09 Inishowen Community Radio**

Aideen Doherty advised Members that as Cllr Lee Tedstone has now stepped down as Mayor of Bunrana Town Council, a nominee is required to represent the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee on the Board of Inishowen Community Radio.

On the proposal of Cllr Pádraig MacLochlainn, and seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, Cllr John Ryan was nominated to represent the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee on the Board of Inishowen Community Radio.

### **32.10 Grianan of Aileach**

Cllr Pádraig MacLochlainn expressed his dissatisfaction that the progress report on An Grianan of Aileach Stakeholders Meeting had not issued. Aideen Doherty agreed to follow up on this matter and to circulate details.

### **32.11 Burt Castle**

Cllr Rena Donaghey requested that the Heritage Officer contact the owners of Burt Castle and carry out an inspection of the castle as it has now fallen into a bad state of disrepair. Aideen Doherty agreed to follow up on this matter.

### **32.12 Inishowen 100 Signage**

Following a presentation by Kathleen Gill, Marketing Manager, Inishowen Tourism, Aideen Doherty agreed to assist with the application for funding required for the signage of the Inishowen 100 route.

### **32.13 Barrack Hill**

Aideen Doherty updated the members on the options for funding that have been explored to date in trying to secure the development of the Town Park at Barrack Hill. She advised that the preference now is to prepare an application to LEADER in association with the Carndonagh Playground Development Committee for a Flag Ship Project. If this option is to be considered there will be a 10% cash input required from the applicants and the only potential source of funding internally will be the Development Fund Initiative. It is proposed that the amount

required be spread over 2 years. In addition it is proposed to include aspects of the Park in two applications being led by Strabane District Council via NWRCBG to Interreg IV. These applications are titled Health & Health Living and Sports Development.

Members agreed unanimously that every effort should be made to proceed to application and commended the work undertaken to date.

Aideen Doherty agreed to advise members on progress at the next IEAC Meeting.

**33.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Charlie McConalogue, seconded by Cllr Bernard McGuinness, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**33.02 Follow Up Report on Matters Arising**

Paul Kelly advised Members that no Follow Up report had been circulated at this time as there had been no matters arising requiring a response to the meeting.

**33.03 Carndonagh/Moville Local Area Plans**

Members requested that a schedule of workshops be held in relation to the Review of both the Carndonagh and Moville Local Area Plans. These workshops to take place prior to the draft Local Area Plans being circulated. Cllr Mickey Doherty requested that Members be advised well in advance of workshops taking place.

**33.04 C.P.U. Staff in PSC**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his dissatisfaction that his request to have staff from the Central Planning Unit based in the Carndonagh PSC during the review of the County Development Plan and also the review of the Local Area Plans for both Carndonagh and Moville has not been addressed. Cllr McGuinness also stated that he finds it very frustrating that a public meeting had been arranged for tonight however not everyone was made aware of this meeting until a notification issued cancelling the meeting on the previous day. Cllr McGuinness stated that more liason is required between the Central Planning Unit and the area based staff in the Planning Office.

Cllrs Mickey Doherty and Pádraig MacLochlainn also added their support of Cllr Bernard McGuinness on this issue. Members unanimously requested that they be advised well in advance of all Workshops scheduled to take place in the future.

Members also requested that Gerry Richards, Senior Planner, Central Planning Unit be requested to attend the next meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee.

Paul Kelly stated that he too shared the concerns of Cllr Bernard McGuinness and agreed to follow up on this matter with the Director of Service.

**34.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Charlie McConalogue, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**34.02 Various Issues**

Eunan Kelly advised Members that Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, Housing Service, is currently on annual leave and had submitted a report on the various issues raised at the previous meeting. Members noted the report as circulated with the Agenda.

**34.03 Unsold Affordable Housing**

Eunan Kelly advised Members that their approval is now being sought in relation to the disposal of No. 25 Donagh Park, Carndonagh, which currently remains as an unsold unit of Affordable Housing in the Council's Housing Stock.

On the proposal of Cllr Charlie McConalogue, seconded by Cllr Mickey Doherty, the proposal to the leasing of No. 25 Donagh Park, Carndonagh, to North & West Housing Association, as outlined in the report submitted by Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, and circulated with the Agenda, was agreed. This matter now to be brought before the full Council for adoption.

**34.01 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May, 2010 were agreed.

**10/35 PRESENTATION BY KATHELEEN GILL, MARKETING  
MANAGER, INISHOWEN TOURISM**

Cllr Mickey Doherty on behalf of the Committee welcomed Kathleen Gill, Marketing Manager, Inishowen Tourism to the meeting and invited her to make her presentation.

Kathleen Gill congratulated Cllr Doherty on his election as Inishowen Electoral Area Chairman and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet the Committee. She stated that she would like to meet the Committee twice a year to update them on progress/projects etc.

She advised the Committee that:

New Tourist Offices

Both Carndonagh and Buncrana are operating very well at this stage. Both offices are keeping records of visitors and telephone callers to the offices.

Visit Inishowen Website

Access to the Website now available 24/7 externally in the Buncrana Office, she hopes to provide similar facility in Carndonagh.

Website

There is now a person on a 9 month work placement working full time on the website. The website is linked to Discover Ireland Website and she is hoping to link it to Donegal Direct as well. 20,000 page hits per month have been recorded. They are also investigation commercialising the site as well.

Walking Trails

A report has been completed and will be circulated. She intends to develop Walking Trail Brochures.

Marketing Plan

They hope to have the Marketing Plan completed in six weeks.

Product Development

Key Product Development is Inishowen 100 - signage is needed and pull in points need to be re-surfaced.

Historical Sites & Arts and Crafts Trail

They are working on developing these.

### Membership

They have introduced a new Business Membership Scheme and have 96 members in 2010 compared to 56 in 2009.

### Training & Development

Board Failte launched New B&B classification nationwide. Inishowen Tourism to facilitate seminar for B&B providers in Inishowen, in conjunction with Failte Ireland to advise them on the registration requirements.

### Campsites/Caravan Sites

None registered at the moment. They need assistance to get registered/approved.

### Tour Guides

They are developing a bank of 15 Tour Guides and Bord Failte will fund the training.

### Websites

They are working to get all businesses involved in tourism to update their websites.

### Derry - City of Culture 2013

They intend to build a programme of work to benefit Inishowen from Derry being appointed City of Culture 2013.

Stephen Flynn agreed to carry out an audit of signage on the Inishowen 100 and prepare an estimate for providing signage and resurfacing the pull in points. Inishowen Tourism to explore funding options for this.

The members of the Committee were very supportive of the work of Inishowen Tourism.

CLlr Mickey Doherty on behalf of the Committee thanked Kathleen Gill for her presentation.

**10/36**

**DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the IEAC will take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Tuesday 14th September, 2010 commencing at 1.00pm.

## Appendix 1

### WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES Report to Inishowen EAC Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**1.0 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th May, 2010.**

**2.0 Update reports where required from previous meeting:**

**20.06 Bends at Northies**

As agreed at previous meeting, this matter since discussed with Roads Services and is in hand.

**20.11 Leaking Sewer, Greencastle**

This matter was investigated (20th May) and no trace of sewage was found on water on the footpath at that location. Roadside storm drain noted to Road Service.

**20.12 Water Supply at Drumhaggart (& Gortin)**

Options for improving the network between Burnfoot and Drumhaggart / Muff area are already being examined in conjunction with Water Services Capital office.

Local network improvements carried out by Water Services in recent weeks are expected to improve supply to the Iskaheen Reservoir and with that the Gortin area.

**3.0 Progress reports: (see attached update from Capital Office covering)**

Water Services Investment Programme

- Major Capital Programme

Rural Water Programme

- Small Capital programme
- Group Schemes Programme

Developer Led Schemes (no report included here / John McElwaine to resume for next meeting following annual leave)

Con McLaughlin,  
Water and Environment Service,  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

