

**1COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL**

Oifig Riarthóir na  
gCruinnithe  
Aras an Chontae  
LEIFEAR  
19 Bealtaine 2009

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain, 25 Bealtaine, 2009, ag  
**12.00 meán lae in Áras an Chontae, Leifear**

**DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE**

**A Chara**

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

**Mise, le meas**

**A. MacSuibhne**

**Riarthóir Cruinnithe(RÚNAI CHONTAE)**

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

Office of Meetings Administrator  
County House  
Lifford  
19<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at **12.00 noon in the County House, Lifford.**

**TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Dear Councillor**

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

**Yours sincerely**

**E. Sweeney**

**Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)**

## AGENDA

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009.
- b) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009.
- c) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

## MOTIONS

- (L) Local  
(C) County  
(O) Other

### DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

#### Water and Environment and Emergency Services

#### 2. Clr. O'Neill

"That this Council agree to dispose of lands at Finner as acquired some years ago for a combined Fire-Station and use the money raised to acquire greenfield sites to develop two new Fire Stations at Ballyshannon and Bundoran." (L)

### MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

#### Water and Environment and Emergency Services

#### 3. Clr. McGarvey

"That Donegal County Council allow B&B and other small businesses a reduced charge for water where there is no consumption of water above the domestic allowance." (C)

### STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

#### Water and Environment and Emergency Services

#### 4. Clr. A. Bonner

"That this Council re-examine the Civic Amenity charges that are currently in operation at all Donegal County Council Civic Amenity Sites." (C)

#### Roads and Transportation

#### 5. Clr. Reid

"That Donegal County Council, while recognising the work of Council employees, undertake a feasibility study into the

possibility of privatising the road maintenance system in this County. (C)

## GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

### *Corporate Services*

6. Clr. Slowey  
"That this Council discuss and agree the committees that will be reconstituted when the new County Council comes into effect after June 5th, Local Elections." (C)
  
7. Clr. Gallagher  
"That Donegal County Council following the June Local Government Elections agree to establish a "Value for Money Committee" represented by all political parties and with representation from independent councillors if elected to the Council." (C)

### *Roads and Transportation*

8. Clr. E. Bonner  
"That Donegal County Council seek emergency funding from the Department of Transport to enable it to carry out major repairs to the two bridges on the Meenaroy Road that need major works carried out as per the recent survey." (L)

## INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

### *Roads and Transportation*

9. Clr. MacLochlainn  
"That this Council present an update report for discussion at the next council meeting on the status of their estate takeover programme across the county including any financial or legal impediments preventing some from being taken over." (C)

### *Community, Culture & Enterprise*

10. Clr. Conaghan  
"That the Council owned lands at Big Isle Manorcunningham be included in the Inch Levels project as promoted by Donegal County Council." (L)

## LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

### *Water and Environment and Emergency Services*

#### 11. Clr. Larkin

"That this Council get an update on the new Civic Amenity Centres and discuss same." (C)

### *Corporate Services*

#### 12. Clr. Harvey

"That this Council seeks assurances from the Department of Defence that it will undertake proper consultation with the public on the future utilisation of Lifford Barracks." (L)

### *13. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).*

- a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to proposed construction of 8 No. Social housing units and all associated site development works including play area at Radharc na Gleanna, Ardara as part of the 2008-2010 Housing Programme.
- b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to proposed construction of 9 No. S.I. Cottages and Associated Site Works at various locations in the county.
- c) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Convoy Sewerage Scheme Upgrade of Treatment Works.
- d) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme Upgrade of Treatment Works and Access Road.
- e) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the Upgrade of Access Road to Proposed Bundoran Wastewater Treatment Works.

### *14. Disposal of Land – Section 211 Planning and Development Act, 2000*

- a) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to dispose of the former Presbyterian Church at West End, Bundoran, County Donegal to Mr Darren Ivers, Saudi Arabian Kentz Company Ltd, P.O. Box 3462, Al-Khobar 31952, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to exchange 2no. plots of land at Glencrow, Moville with North East Inishowen Tourist and Development Company Ltd.

### **15. Finance**

- a) Authorisation of Donegal County Council to exceed the Revised Revenue Budget in terms of gross expenditure in the Local Financial Year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.
- b) To note report on Irrecoverable Rates.

### **16. Corporate Services**

To adopt indicative text of Annual Report 2008.

### **17. Roads and Transportation**

- a) To consider the implications of the reduction in Roads grants 2009.
- b) To approve the declaration of the Road past Newtowncunningham National School as a Public Road in accordance with Section 11, Roads Act 1993 and Article 5 Roads Regulations 1994 (S.I.119 OF 1994).
- c) To extinguish the public-right-of way over a section of the LS 5423-1 known locally as the Carnboy Road, adjacent to Donegal International Airport, in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.
- d) To approve the proposed 2009 Bridge Strengthening Programme.
- e) To approve recommendations for the installation of specific infrastructure at all Schools.

### **18. Endorsement of Confirmed Meetings**

- a) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.
- b) Endorsement of the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Milford Electoral Area Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

### **19. Community Cultural and Enterprise**

To consider report on the Establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) in Donegal.

## **20. Conferences**

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001 and S.I. No 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006:-

### a) **HOME**

- The Institute of Professional Training “Supporting family carers” in conjunction with The Carers Association to be held from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2009 at the Bellingham Castle Hotel, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth.

## **21. Mayor’s Business**

## **22. Manager’s Report**

### QUESTIONS

- (L) Local  
(C) County  
(O) Other

### **DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA**

#### **Roads and Transportation**

#### **23. Clr. O’Neill**

"Will this Council undertake to review how pot holes are being repaired on Roads across the County and that similar repair techniques that are undertaken in Northern Ireland be explored and be implemented in County Donegal?" (C)

#### **24. Clr. O’Neill**

"Will Donegal County Council immediately erect "Welcome to Ballintra" signage in the town of Ballintra as the present signage is in poor condition and outdated?" (L)

### **MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA**

#### **Planning and Economic Development**

#### **25. Clr. McGarvey**

"When will the Milford Town works commence and what is the estimated cost and timescale of the complete work?" (L)

**Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

26. Clr. McGarvey

"What if any sewerage schemes may go ahead in 2009/2010?" (C)

**STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA**

**Roads and Transportation**

27. Clr. Reid

"Can Donegal County Council give a full explanation into the decision taken regarding the slashing of the roads budget in this County?" (C)

28. Clr. Reid

"What actions are Donegal County Council taking regarding the huge number of unfinished housing estates in the Finn Valley and what redress this Council has in this regard?" (L)

**GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA**

**Roads and Transportation**

29. Clr. E. Bonner

"Will Donegal County Council seek €30,000 funding from the N.R.A. to provide public lighting from Lidl Supermarket to Little Bridge Dungloe as the ducting is already installed?" (C)

30. Clr. Slowey

"What is the procedure for reducing the 80km speed limit on a county road?" (C)

**Water and Environment and Emergency Services**

31. Clr. E. Bonner

"When will the tender documents for the network upgrade for the Dungloe Sewerage Scheme be sent to the Department of Environment?" (L)

32. Clr. Gallagher

"To ask Donegal County Council to give details of all permanent and temporary toilets which are or will be maintained by the council over the summer months in the Glenties Electoral Area?" (O)

**Community, Culture & Enterprise**

33. Clr. Gallagher

"To ask Donegal County Council what its plans are in relation to developing Doe Castle in Creeslough as a tourist attraction?" (L)

**Corporate Services**

34. Clr. Slowey

"Can Donegal County Council ensure that the minutes of all Council meetings held here in Lifford are put on the Council website soon after the meeting takes place so as to keep the public fully informed of the business conducted on their behalf?" (C)

**INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA**

**Corporate Services**

35. Clr. MacLochlainn

"What progress has been made in organising a reception for trade unions in the county to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the ITGWU?" (O)

**Community, Culture & Enterprise**

36. Clr. MacLochlainn

"What meetings have taken place between Donegal County Council's staff and the OPW to action the intention of the motion from this council to enhance the tourism and heritage potential of An Grianan of Aileach and what progress has been made?" (C)

**LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA**

**Corporate Services**

37. Clr. Larkin

"Why has the map shop in the Letterkenny PSC closed?" (L)

**Community, Culture & Enterprise**

38. Clr. Larkin

"Can I have an update on the Donegal County Board and the Community Rugby proposals after their recent presentations to the Council Chamber?" (O)

**Roads and Transportation**

39. Clr. Harvey

"Will this Council consider consultation with our neighbouring County Tyrone about the "pothole response unit" that Omagh District Council currently operate as a means of responding to the increasing demands on the council by the deteriorating roads in our county?" (C)

40. Clr. Harvey

"Will this council consider the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Stranorlar (near the Primary Care Centre)?" (L)

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD  
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 25<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009**

**C/227/09**      **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Clrs. G. Crawford, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, F. Conaghan, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M.T. Gallagher, C. Harvey, J. Kelly, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. Mc Bride, M. Mc Donald, S. Mc Eniff, I. McGarvey, D. Mc Gonagle, P. Mc Gowan, B. McGuinness, B. O' Neill, T. Pringle, T. Slowey.

In the absence of the Mayor, who had been delayed at a previous engagement, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Clr. Alice Bonner until his arrival.

It was unanimously agreed to allow a range of photographic shots in the Council Chamber for the purpose of compiling a photographic record of the 2004-2009 Council.

**C/228/09**      **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Clr. Byrne, who was unable to attend the meeting.

**C/229/09**      **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Mr Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr. Seamus Neely, Director Water, Environment and Emergency Services, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, Head of Finance, Mr Eamon Canney, Senior Engineer, Housing, Mr Eamon Browne, Road Safety Officer, Mr Stephen McCrory, Executive Engineer, Mr Eunan Sweeney Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

**C/230/09**      **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD  
ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY, 2009**

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009, were adopted.

C/231/09 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. McGonagle, the Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009, were adopted.

C/232/09 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, were adopted.

C/233/09 REDUCTION OF WATER CHARGES FOR B&B AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted.

"That Donegal County Council allow B&B and other small businesses a reduced charge for water where there is no consumption of water above the domestic allowance."

Members were informed that:-

“Local Authorities are required to meter all non-domestic users of water services and to levy charges to achieve cost recovery. The costs to be recovered include the full proportional operating and maintenance costs, the full cost of providing and maintaining meters and elements of the cost of provision of capital infrastructure. There is no provision for levying charges at a lower rate.

In cases where a B&B or other small business have their own septic tank and do not avail of a public wastewater service, the charges for water only apply.”

It was generally agreed that the handling of the metering service would be the single biggest challenge for the incoming Council.

A number of concerns were raised in relation to the metering process and current standing charges.

A range of issues were highlighted namely:

- 1) The need to appoint a liaison person to deal with specific service issues.
- 2) The necessity of organising a one day seminar for the B&B, small business and farming sectors.
- 3) That a pay by usage system would, perhaps be a more equitable method of charging.

The Director of Water Environment and Emergency Services informed the meeting that Donegal County Council did not have any discretion on the matter.

He reminded members that the only means available to Donegal County Council to fund the cost of providing water to the non-domestic sector was through commercial water charges.

C/234/09

CIVIC AMENITY SITES AND RELATED CHARGES

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

"That this Council re-examine the Civic Amenity charges that are currently in operation at all Donegal County Council Civic Amenity Sites."

It was agreed at this juncture to also take Motion No. 11, submitted by Clr. Larkin, as it explored a similar range of topics.

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

"That this Council get an update on the new Civic Amenity Centres and discuss same."

Members were informed that:-

"The new Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) in Letterkenny, Dungloe and Milford opened to the public on Thursday 16th

April 2009. The sites are open three days a week, as follows: Thursday – 12.30pm to 7.00pm, Friday - 8.30am to 2.00pm and Saturday – 8.30am to 2.00pm.

The newly refurbished Carndonagh CAS re-opened on 5th May 2009. This site is open three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Saturday) from 8.30am to 4.30pm. These sites are in addition to CAS facilities Stranorlar and Laghey.

#### Material Accepted for Recycling:

The sites cater for a wide range of waste materials, most of which are recyclable. There is no charge for the deposit of glass bottles/jars; food and drink cans; textiles; fluorescent tubes; batteries; waste electrical and electronic equipment. The level of usage of these free services has been high, particularly the waste electrical and electronic equipment. A charge of €10 applies for private vehicles (without trailers) and €20 for private vehicles with small car trailers depositing a combination of the following waste for recycling: paper; cardboard; plastic; milk & drinks cartons; engine oil; cooking oil; mixed metals. The level of usage at the new sites for these items has been steady and is showing signs of increasing. The Council recommends that customers get value for money by bringing as much recyclable material as they can to the CAS at any one time.

It has been noted that the uptake of this service has been slow in Laghy and Letterkenny, where kerbside recycling was already well established. The Council does not wish to undermine the private sector provision of kerbside collections. These collectors have invested significant resources in introducing these services, which are convenient for customers, and which they were required to do as a condition of their waste collection permits.

#### Bulky Items:

In addition to recyclable items, customers can bring bulky materials to the CAS for disposal. This service is designed for large items such as furniture, which are not easily disposed of through their normal waste collection service. These are charged on a per item basis, depending on size. A charge of €10 per item applies for a single mattress; single bed; crate; kitchen or garden chair; toilet; cistern; sink; curtain/blind and similar sized items. A charge of €20 per item applies for a double bed; double mattress; sofa;

armchair; chest of drawers; wardrobe; table; carpet and similarly sized items. Previously these materials were accepted at Carndonagh, free of charge, and at Stranorlar, where a charge of €15 applied. The introduction of charges per item has removed a prior ambiguity about what materials the service was designed to receive. It has also triggered a significant drop in the use of the service at the existing sites and low uptake of service at the new sites.

Prior to introducing the new charges, the cost of handling and disposal of bulky goods accounted for up to 50% of the total running costs at a CA site, and the Council was recovering less than 20% of that cost. In many cases the nature of materials being disposed of via that route should more appropriately be disposed of via private skip-hire.

General:

The new CAS are only open a matter of weeks at this stage and it is premature to draw conclusions from so short a period. The level of usage has been steady, and is showing signs of increasing as people become more aware of the facilities and the range of services available. The Council will, as part of the process of compiling statistics on the level of usage of each site for the first half of the year, review usage and operating arrangements.”

Members welcomed the opening of the new Civic Amenity Sites and the extended range of services now available. Some concern was expressed, that the centres were not user friendly at present and that there was a need to review the current charging system.

Clr. Larkin requested that issues relating to the current system of charges be referred back to the W.E.E. Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

There was considerable debate on the matter and a range of issues were highlighted namely:-

- 1) The possible benefits of introducing a Weighing system in each of the Centres.

- 2) The necessity of rearranging operating schedules for sites in close proximity so as to enhance service access for members of the public.
- 3) The need to undertake a comprehensive Awareness Campaign so as to promote the wide range of services now available.
- 4) That a greater effort would be required to curb the current spate of illegal dumping.
- 5) The benefits of promoting the Grass Cuttings Scheme on a county wide basis.

The Director of Service informed members that Donegal had the highest percentage of Civic Amenity Sites per head of population in the county. He drew attention also to the fact that 80% of the material coming in to the sites could be deposited free of charge. He welcomed the constructive feedback from members and advised that a statistical and performance review would be carried out at the end of June 2009.

C/235/09

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT FINNER SO AS TO ACQUIRE GREENFIELD SITES FOR TWO NEW FIRE STATIONS AT BALLYSHANNON AND BUNDORAN

On the proposal of Clr. O'Neill, seconded by Clr. McEniff, the following motion was adopted.

"That this Council agree to dispose of lands at Finner as acquired some years ago for a combined Fire-Station and use the money raised to acquire greenfield sites to develop two new Fire Stations at Ballysnannon and Bundoran."

Members were informed that:-

“Disposal of the land at Finner earmarked for a fire station is premature, pending the outcome of the Council's request for funding for fire service infrastructure for Budoran and Ballyshannon.”

Clr. O'Neill advised that he was disappointed with the reply and stressed the necessity of locating two new fire stations at

Ballyshannon and Bundoran. The disposal of the lands in question would, he suggested, generate sufficient income to fund both ventures, and could perhaps prompt the Department to issue approval for both projects.

C/236/09 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. McDonald, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for lunch until 2.15pm.

C/237/09 MOTION TO HAVE MATTER DISCUSSED AS URGENT BUSINESS

A request signed by Clrs. Pringle, Boyle, McGarvey, Slowey, Larkin, Conaghan and Alice Bonner, to have the following motion discussed was read into the record by the Mayor.

“That Donegal County Council open a Book of Solidarity with the victims and survivors of institutional child abuse highlighted by the Ryan Commission report published in the last week. That the Book of Solidarity be available for signature at all public service centres and public libraries to allow the people of Donegal to stand in support with the thousands of children who suffered while in the care of state and religious orders.”

It was unanimously agreed to discuss the motion on completion of the business on the agenda.

C/238/09 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to vary the order of business and deal with the Mayor’s Business at 3.30pm to facilitate a number of members who had to attend various functions and events throughout the county.

C/239/09 RECONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

"That this Council discuss and agree the committees that will be reconstituted when the new County Council comes into effect after June 5th, Local Elections."

Members were informed that:-

“The establishment of SPCs in the late 1990’s envisaged the disbandment of most general Council committees but for a number of reasons that did not take place. The majority of committees were reconstituted again in 2004.

Local authorities are obliged by the Local Government Act 2001-

To secure as regards the establishment of committees and meetings of the authority and its committees to promote effectiveness and efficiency in the discharge of business.

The Council, therefore, needs to assess the workings of each of the former general committees in the context of Section 51 of Local Government Act 2001 and decide:

- What purpose it is serving,
- Is there any overlap of functions with another committee,
- Should the committee be reconstituted and if so,
- Agree terms of reference, functions to be delegated, if any, reporting mechanism, membership and quorum.

Mr. Garry Martin, S.E.O. and Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator had prepared a number of reports on the reform of the committee structure and the interaction going forward with the sub-structures of the County Development Board. Arising from these, the CPG decided to appoint a Working Group of three councillors (one from each of the main political parties) to consider the matter and bring forward recommendations to the CPG. Membership of the group had changed a number of times and that work had not been brought to finality.

All committees now cease to exist on the ordinary day of retirement of members following the Local Elections on the 5th June. It is recommended that a decision on the reconstitution of general committees be deferred until September/October to allow for the completion of the

foregoing work and the bringing of a report to the Council for decision.”

Members welcomed the reply and agreed that any decision on the reconstitution of Council Committees was a matter for the incoming Council.

Members acknowledged that every effort should be made to avoid the establishment of committees which duplicate the work of the Strategic Policy Committees.

Concern was expressed in relation to the attendance of Sectoral representatives at SPC Meetings. Members called for the introduction of an annual attendance report.

Meetings schedules, they acknowledged, should be organised in such a way as to ensure there would be no overlap of events.

Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator advised members that they should take cognisance of the time demands involved when accepting positions on committees and other bodies.

C/240/09

ESTABLISHMENT OF VALUE FOR MONEY  
COMMITTEE

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

"That Donegal County Council following the June Local Government Elections agree to establish a "Value for Money Committee" represented by all political parties and with representation from independent councillors if elected to the Council."

Members were informed that:-

“Under the Local Government Act, the Corporate Policy Group has been given statutory responsibility for the review of corporate financial and budgetary matters. It is also open to each SPC to review such matters as VFM within their respective remits. In addition, it should be noted that an Audit Committee has been established in accordance with

statutory requirements. The terms of reference of this Committee includes VFM. The Committee is obliged to present an annual report to the elected members, the first of which was considered by the elected Council at the March meeting. Finally, it should also be noted that the Local Government Auditor is empowered to review and report on VFM in the course of his annual Audit. In fulfilling this remit, he has access to all of the reports/investigations undertaken by our Internal Audit unit each year.”

Clr. Gallagher advised that a Value For Money Committee would contribute to the overall transparency of Council activity.

Responding to members queries, the Director of Corporate Services advised that consideration would be given to the establishment of a Finance Strategic Policy Committee and an update provided to members in due course.

Clr. Gallagher asked that the matter be referred to the incoming Council for further deliberation.

C/241/09 EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR BRIDGES ON THE MEENAROY ROAD

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

"That Donegal County Council seek emergency funding from the Department of Transport to enable it to carry out major repairs to the two bridges on the Meenaroy Road that need major works carried out as per the recent survey."

Members were informed that:-

“The Council can write to the Department of Transport specifically on this motion when it is adopted.

Earlier this year, the Roads Service presented the details of a comprehensive survey of the Bridges along the Meenaroy Route to both the Milford Electoral Area and Glenties Electoral Area Members.

Various funding options were examined to conduct repairs on a priority basis.

One of the sources identified was affected by the supplementary budget, i.e. the restoration improvement allocation of €242,500 is no longer available in the programme.

Alternative Programmes can be further examined to identify possible sources of funding for this strategic route and will need to be prioritised by Council in due course.”

Clr. E. Bonner stated that he was encouraged by the final paragraph in the report and called for immediate action to alleviate the problem.

It was generally agreed that there was a need to reassess the funding criteria for projects located on the fringes of the various electoral areas.

He called on Donegal County Council to seek exceptional funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government so that repairs could be carried out on the bridges, as outlined.

The Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to contact the Department in relation to same. He advised that the next meeting of the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee would look at the funding associated with strategic routes on the fringes of the various electoral areas.

C/242/09

#### STATUS OF ESTATE TAKEOVER PROGRAMME

The following motion in the name of Clr. MacLochlainn was moved on his behalf by Clr. Gallagher and seconded by Clr. Harvey.

"That this Council present an update report for discussion at the next council meeting on the status of their estate takeover programme across the county including any financial or legal impediments preventing some from being taken over."

Members were informed that:-

“Since the year of 1996 there are 475 private estates affecting 9570 houses which are still being maintained by the developers or private management companies but which could be taken over by Donegal County Council under its present policy if applied for and the relevant conditions met. There does not appear to be any particular restrictions or extraordinary legal issues preventing the takeover of these estates.”

C/243/09 INCLUSION OF LANDS AT BIG ISLE  
MANORCUNNINGHAM IN THE INCH LEVELS  
PROJECT

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

"That the Council owned lands at Big Isle Manorcunningham be included in the Inch Levels project as promoted by Donegal County Council."

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has established links with both the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Donegal Creameries in relation to the ongoing and potential proposed developments for Inch Levels as an iconic recreation and amenity facility based upon the unique natural environment associated with Inch Lake and the surrounding area. The development of the proposal will be subject to the obtaining of necessary finance and ongoing work is taking place with regard to this in the context of Interreg IVA funding. Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of these negotiations it would be envisaged that the project at Inch Levels could be initiated in the third quarter of this year.

It is acknowledged that there are various other areas within the broad locality that could act as additional attractors for both local and visitor use for recreation, amenity, conservation and interpretation of nature, history, heritage and culture. These include the Grianan of Aileach.

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, have had previous discussions to review how potential complementarities could be developed and would

hope to have further meetings with them to assess how best, in a complementary fashion, the Council can work in preserving and developing in a sensitive way this unique landmark both for the benefit of the local community and as an iconic visitor attraction.

It is also felt that there may be contiguous areas, both in Northern Ireland, for example in the Limavady area which could be developed as part of the aforementioned Interreg IVA Programme and, closer to home, with potential development opportunities, subject to the suitability of the area being assessed, at the Big Isle lands.

The Council has commissioned an environmental assessment of potential land uses on the Council lands at the Big Isle and when same is completed it will be presented to the Council.”

Clr. Conaghan advised that he was confident that the Big Isle lands could be incorporated into the Inch Levels project. He noted that there was sufficient capacity to allow for the development of a range of other worthwhile projects, as outlined by members over the past number of years.

The commitment of Donegal County Council to participate fully would, he affirmed, allow normal farming practices to continue. He called for the implementation of a comprehensive marketing structure.

Members noted that the Director of Planning and Economic Development, was currently looking at the compilation of a masterplan for the area. They acknowledged that this should be dealt with through a partnership approach.

Clr. Conaghan thanked members for their support and expressed the opinion that there should be ongoing communication with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to pass on Clr. Conaghan’s comments to the Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise.

It was agreed unanimously at the request of the Mayor to vary the Order of Business to deal with items 13-16 inclusive and 18-20 inclusive.

C/244/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 8 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AND ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS INCLUDING PLAY AREA AT RADHARC NA GLEANNA, ARDARA

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed construction of 8 No. Social housing units and all associated site development works including play area at Radharc na Gleanna, Ardara as part of the 2008-2010 Housing Programme was approved.

C/245/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 9 NO S.I. COTTAGES AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTY

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed construction of 9 No. S.I. Cottages and Associated Site Works at various locations in the county was approved.

C/246/09 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO CONVOY SEWERAGE SCHEME UPGRADE OF TREATMENT WORKS

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to Convoy

Sewerage Scheme upgrade of Treatment Works was approved.

- C/247/09     TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO  
GLENCOLMCILLE SEWERAGE SCHEME UPGRADE  
OF TREATMENT WORKS AND ACCESS ROAD  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme upgrade of Treatment Works and Access Road was approved.
- C/248/09     TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE  
UPGRADE OF ACCESS ROAD TO PROPOSED  
BUNDORAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the Upgrade of Access Road to Proposed Bundoran Wastewater Treatment Works was approved.
- C/249/09     DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT WEST END, BUNDORAN TO MR  
DARREN IVERS, SAUDI ARABIAN KENTZ COMPANY  
LTD, P.O. BOX 3462, AL-KHOBAR 31952, KINGDOM  
OF SAUDI ARABIA  
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.  
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to dispose of the former Presbyterian Church at West End, Bundoran, County Donegal to Mr Darren Ivers, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- C/250/09     EXCHANGE OF 2 NO. PLOTS OF LAND AT  
GLENCROW, MOVILLE WITH NORTH EAST

INISHOWEN TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. McGonagle, it was resolved to exchange 2no. plots of land at Glencrow, Moville with North East Inishowen Tourist and Development Company Ltd, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/251/09 AUTHORISATION OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXCEED THE REVISED REVENUE BUDGET IN TERMS OF GROSS EXPENDITURE IN THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2008

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The County Manager advised that, the matter had been considered by the Corporate Policy Group who had recommended that the monies concerned be used to reduce the cumulative deficit. Approval of same he noted was a matter for the Elected Members. Clr. Pringle enquired as to whether the surplus of €141,093 could be used to retain temporary/contract staff in 2009.

Clr. McGuinness expressed concern that such an action would have implications for commercial water rate bills issued in 2008.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €176,086,220, as set out in Table 2, Page 2 of the Head of Finance's Report dated the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, when compared to the Revised Budget of €175,881,512(Adopted Budget as amended by net reductions in funding received for 2008) for all Divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/252/09 TO NOTE REPORT ON IRRECOVERABLE RATES

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

- C/253/09 TO ADOPT INDICATIVE TEXT OF ANNUAL REPORT 2008  
On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the indicative text for the 2008 Annual Report was adopted.
- C/254/09 ENDORSEMENT OF CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2009  
On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.
- C/255/09 ENDORSEMENT OF CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2009  
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Milford Electoral Area Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.
- C/256/09 TO CONSIDER REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES IN DONEGAL  
Members noted the contents of the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.
- C/257/09 CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE  
Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-
1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
  2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- a) HOME

- The Institute of Professional Training “Supporting family carers” in conjunction with The Carers Association to be held from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2009 at the Bellingham Castle Hotel, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth.

C/258/09 CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF LIFFORD BARRACKS

The following motion was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

“That this Council seeks assurances from the Department of Defence that it will undertake proper consultation with the public on the future utilisation of Lifford Barracks.”

Members were informed that:-

“The terms of the motion, if adopted, will be brought to the attention of the Department of Defence.”

Clr. Harvey advised that the barracks in Lifford were a valuable asset to the county and that the utilisation of same required considerable public consultation.

Clr. Larkin requested Clr. Harvey if she would amend the text of the Motion to include Rockhill Barracks, and Clr. Harvey agreed to same.

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. Crawford, it was thus resolved that “This Council seeks assurances from the Department of Defence that it will undertake proper consultation with the public on the future utilisation of Lifford and Rockhill Barracks.

The Mayor noted that the building could provide an ideal base for the new Stranorlar Electoral Area Offices.

The County Manager advised that he was assessing the various options and had been in communication with the Department of Defence.

There was, he noted, an extensive period of consultation to take place in relation to the new offices. Mr McLoone informed the Council that it was his intention to bring

forward a firm proposal on the matter within the next five to six weeks.

C/259/09 MAYOR'S BUSINESS  
*Book of Solidarity*

Clr. Pringle and the other signatures of the motion introduced under Urgent Business earlier in the meeting agreed to withdraw same as the Mayor now proposed to deal with it under Mayor's Business.

The following Motion was therefore agreed on the proposal of the Mayor, seconded by Clr. Pringle.

"That Donegal County Council open a Book of Solidarity with the victims and survivors of institutional child abuse highlighted by the Ryan Commission Report published in the last week. That the Book of Solidarity be available for signature at all Public Service Centres and Public Libraries to allow the people of Donegal to stand in support with the thousands of children who suffered while in the care of the state and religious orders"

*End of Term Review*

The Mayor, in introducing the review, thanked Members for their support over the past year and noted that much had been achieved through cross party co-operation.

The County Manager presented Members with an end of term review highlighting the vast range of activity undertaken by the present Council in the period June 2004 to May 2009. This encompassed a financial overview and an assessment of all the major activities undertaken by individual Directorates.

He acknowledged the contribution of Members past and present.

Members requested that a periodic review be undertaken and presented to the incoming Council, as appropriate.

*Outgoing Members*

The Mayor paid tribute to Clrs A. Bonner, F. Conaghan and D. Mc Gonagle who were not seeking re-election. He thanked them for their dedicated service and noted that they

had served their respective Electoral Areas in an exemplary fashion.

He acknowledged also the contribution made to Donegal County Council by the late Clr. Peter Kennedy and former Councillors Pearse Doherty, Brian O' Domhnaill, Tony Mc Daid and J.J. Reid.

The County Manager complimented the outgoing Members on their excellent service records and thanked all concerned for the courtesy shown to both himself and the staff of Donegal County Council.

Clrs. Bonner, Conaghan, and Mc Gonagle thanked Members for their kind words and extended their best wishes to all those contesting the 2009 Election.

It was acknowledged that the only way forward was through cross co-operation and that this principle should be the binding force for the newly elected Council.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked all who had assisted him during his term in office. He acknowledged the support provided by the County Manager and all the staff of Donegal County Council. He thanked Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, and the staff in the County Secretary's Office for their assistance.

The Mayor expressed gratitude also to Ms Patricia Mc Intyre, Administrative Officer, and Ms Margaret Irwin, Assistant Staff Officer, County Manager's Office.

C/260/09

TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE  
REDUCTION IN ROADS GRANTS 2009

Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation Services confirmed that all local area workshops to consider the reduction in roads grants had been completed and a revised list of projects submitted to the Department of Transport for approval. A decision on the matter, he advised, was expected to issue in due course.

The implications for Roads Staff were still being examined and service requirements monitored.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Crawford, it was resolved that every effort be made to ensure the adoption of a more discretionary approach in the allocation of roads funding.

Members called for further representations to be made to the Department of Transport in relation to the provision of additional funding for roads projects in the county.

C/261/09 TO APPROVE THE DECLARATION OF THE ROAD PAST NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM NATIONAL SCHOOL AS A PUBLIC ROAD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11, ROADS ACT 1993 AND ARTICLE 5 ROADS REGULATIONS 1994 (S.I.119 OF 1994).

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, it was resolved that the road past Newtowncunningham National School between the N13 and L2051 be declared a public road in accordance with Section 11, Roads Act 1993 and Article 5 Roads Regulations 1994 (S.I 119 OF 1994)

Clr. Conaghan requested that the Roads Directorate take into consideration submissions on the above proposal made by Scoil Cholmcille, Newtowncunningham.

C/262/09 TO EXTINGUISH THE PUBLIC-RIGHT-OF WAY OVER A SECTION OF THE LS 5423-1 KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE CARNBOY ROAD, ADJACENT TO DONEGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 73 OF THE ROADS ACT, 1993

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Harvey, it was resolved to extinguish the public-right-of way over a section of the LS 5423-1 known locally as the Carnboy Road, adjacent to Donegal International Airport, in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993.

C/263/09 TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2009 BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher,

seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, the 2009 Bridge Strengthening Programme was approved.

C/264/09 TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE AT ALL SCHOOLS

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr Harvey, the installation of Specific Infrastructure at all schools in the county was approved. The Mayor acknowledged the input of the Road Safety Committee and all who had forwarded submissions on the matter. The contribution of Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr. Michael Mc Garvey, Senior Engineer, Mr. Eamonn Browne, Road Safety Officer and Mr. Jamie Gallagher, Assistant Engineer was also warmly welcomed. Clr. Mc Bride advised that he was delighted with the installation of the infrastructure and noted that it augured well for the safety of children going to and from school in the county.

C/265/09 COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager outlined the main aspects of his report, and addendum circulated during the meeting.

He informed members that a number of issues relating to the non-filling of posts, the early retirement scheme and the maintenance of services at their existing levels had to be further considered. It was intended, he added, to bring forward proposals on these matter before the end of July.

**The following Questions and Replies were noted:**

C/266/09 REVIEW OF POT HOLE REPAIR

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

"Will this Council undertake to review how Pot holes are being repaired on Roads across the County and that similar repair techniques that are undertaken in Northern Ireland be explored and be implemented in County Donegal."

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

“The Council has done this exercise in the past and is prepared to do it again. Live demonstrations were also given to SPC Members.

The Roads Service is an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland. The Department is the sole road authority in Northern Ireland and from time to time meets with the Council and NRDO on matters of mutual interest.

In this context, Donegal County Council is happy to consult with other Local Authorities or Agencies on practices in their areas, noting the differing funding mechanisms and constraints they work in.

A senior member of staff will be nominated to undertake this review on a cross county basis and indeed consider practices in Northern Ireland.”

C/267/09

ERECTION OF SIGNAGE FOR BALLINTRA

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

"Will Donegal County Council immediately erect "Welcome to Ballintra" signage in the town of Ballintra as the present signage is in poor condition and outdated?"

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“These signs have been ordered and have just been delivered and should be erected very soon.”

C/268/09

COMMENCEMENT OF MILFORD TOWN WORKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"When will the Milford Town works commence and what is the estimated cost and timescale of the complete work?"

Clr. McGarvey 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 I) and an environmental improvement scheme along the

Main Street (Phase II). The progression of Phase I of the project (the provision of off-street car parking facilities) has been dependent on the acquisition of two separate land holdings. The acquisition of the larger land holding was concluded in May 2008 and the second land acquisition has now been concluded.

Both phases are currently being invited for tender as one single construction project. The request for tenders was released on the 23rd April 2009 and tenders have been invited until the deadline of 19th June 2009. Upon completion of the tendering assessment process, it is anticipated a contractor will be appointed thereafter with the car park works envisaged to commence in late July/August 2009 followed by the environmental improvements works commencing in late 2009/early 2010 for completion in 2010. The estimated timeframe is subject to change as it is dependent on a number of factors including the volume of tenders received (a high volume of tenders will extend the tender assessment process), contract preparation process and mobilisation capability of appointed contractor.

The cost for the overall project (including the land acquisition, design, planning, tendering, construction and supervision costs associated with both phases) had previously been estimated at approximately 1.6 million, however these costings have not been updated to take account of the current competitive tendering environment. The project will be funded by Urban and Village Development Charges.”

C/269/09

SEWERAGE SCHEMES COMMENCING IN 2009/2010

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"What if any sewerage schemes may go ahead in 2009/2010?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“Major Capital Sewerage Schemes scheduled to commence construction in 2009 are Laghey Sewerage Scheme, Killybegs Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Network and Outfall, and Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO all of

which are at tender recommendation stage. Commencement of construction is contingent on agreement being reached between the Council and the Department on water services pricing policy and recoupment arrangements.

Commencement of construction on major sewerage schemes scheduled for construction in 2010 (including Glenties and Dungloe) will be contingent on similar arrangements being in place. The smaller schemes earmarked for funding under other programmes (e.g. Small Schemes and Serviced Land Initiative) will progress as permitted by the availability of the necessary funding.”

C/270/09 SLASHING OF ROADS BUDGET IN THIS COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

"Can Donegal County Council give a full explanation into the decision taken regarding the slashing of the road budget in this County?"

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“It is understood that this question was intended to relate to the reduction of the specific grant on Glenfin Road. That grant was reduced last month by the Department of Transport on foot of the Supplementary Budget. A number of similar Specific Grants had reductions.”

C/271/09 UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES IN THE FINN VALLEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

"What actions are Donegal County Council taking regarding the huge number of unfinished housing estates in the Finn Valley and what redress this Council has in this regard?"

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“There are 44 post 1996 private estates affecting 1000 houses approximately in the Stranorlar electoral area. The issue of unfinished private estates is a serious challenge for all concerned. When a complaint about an estate is lodged the site is inspected and assessed. If the estate is found to be

non-compliant with the planning permission a warning letter is issued followed by an enforcement notice.”

C/272/09 PUBLIC LIGHTING FROM LIDL SUPERMARKET TO LITTLE BRIDGE DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

"Will Donegal County Council seek €30,000 funding from the N.R.A. to provide public lighting from Lidl Supermarket to Little Bridge Dungloe as the ducting is already installed?"

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“The section of roadway is along the N56 and the NRDO have been asked to seek money from the NRA to provide public lighting.

The Members will be kept briefed on any progress made on this funding issue.”

C/273/09 PROCEDURE FOR REDUCING THE 80KM SPEED LIMIT ON A COUNTY ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"What is the procedure for reducing the 80km speed limit on a county road?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The road in question is assessed in the context of the overall road network from a Safety and Engineering aspect, in accordance with "Guidelines for the Application of Special Speed Limits - Road Traffic Act 2004 Section 9(9)", to establish whether the implementation of a "Special Speed Limit" is appropriate.
- 2) Assuming a reduced speed limit is deemed appropriate, then an amendment to the existing current speed limit bye-laws is implemented in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 2004, as follows:
- 3) Notice of the proposed change is given to the Council members.

- 4) Notice of the proposed change is given to the Garda Commissioner
- 5) Notice of the proposed change is published in the press, advising of where draft byelaws can be viewed by the public for a period of 30 days. Representations on the proposed byelaws can be made during this period.
- 6) Representations from all of the above are taken into consideration, before a decision to amend the byelaws takes place.
- 7) The proposed amendment to the byelaws is adopted (or otherwise) as a reserved function at full Council Meeting.
- 8) The adoption of the new bye laws, (and hence the new speed limit), is published, and the new signs are erected on site.”

C/274/09     TENDER DOCUMENTS DUNGLOE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

"When will the tender documents for the network upgrade for the Dungloe Sewerage Scheme be sent to the Department of Environment?"

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that:-

“The tender documents for the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes were sent to the Department in early April 2009 and are being examined by the Department Inspector. The Department have asked the Council to carry out an economic analysis on the possible provision of transfer infrastructure between Burtonport and Dungloe and treatment capacity at Dungloe in respect of Burtonport Sewerage Scheme before their assessment is completed. The Council will provide its initial response shortly to enable the Department Inspector to complete his work and will respond with the full economic analysis in June 2009.”

C/275/09     DETAILS OF TOILETS MAINTAINED IN THE GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"To ask Donegal County Council to give details of all permanent and temporary toilets which are or will be maintained by the council over the summer months in the Glenties Electoral Area?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Permanent toilets are open all year round in Glenties town and on Arranmore Island.

Permanent toilets in Portnoo are currently closed due to construction of disabled toilet. Completion and re-opening are expected in late June 2009. Temporary portaloos will be provided in the meantime.

Permanent toilets at Dungloe have been closed due to vandalism and ongoing antisocial activities.

Burtonport has two portaloos open full year round.

Magheraroarty has permanent toilets open in conjunction with Udaras na Gaeltachta and the ferry during June, July and August.

Permanent toilets at Marble Hill beach are open June, July and August.

Temporary portaloos will be provided at the following beaches during June July and August : Dooney beach, Carrickfinn beach, Kilahooey beach. These temporary arrangements are the same as last year.”

C/276/09

DEVELOPMENT OF DOE CASTLE AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"To ask Donegal County Council what its plans are in relation to developing Doe Castle in Creeslough as a tourist attraction?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Doe Castle is managed by the Office of Public Works and as such is not under the control or direction of the Council. However, the County Council has, through its Cultural Services Division and in conjunction with the Errigal Arts Festival, used Doe Castle in the past for film and music screening. The Council would aim to host more of these

types of events in the future in the Castle subject to available funding.

The Council would also seek to have the Castle used in a more interactive way to promote both its location and its tourism potential in conjunction with the Office of Public Works.”

C/277/09 TO ENSURE THAT THE MINUTES OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE PUT ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Can Donegal County Council ensure that the minutes of all Council meetings held here in Lifford are put on the Council website soon after the meeting takes place so as to keep the public fully informed of the business conducted on their behalf?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Minutes of the Meetings of Donegal County Council are added to the Donegal County Council website immediately after confirmation by the Elected Members. All confirmed minutes for 2009 have been included and it is intended to update details in relation to the March and April 2009 Council Meetings as soon as practical after the present meeting.”

C/278/09 RECEPTION FOR TRADE UNIONS IN THE COUNTY TO COMMEMORATE THE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE ITGWU

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"What progress has been made in organising a reception for trade unions in the county to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the ITGWU?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The work of organising these events is undertaken by relevant staff in addition to their normal duties. The organisation of the civic reception for the 28th Infantry

Battalion was completed recently and priority is currently being given to the large volume of additional work associated with the forthcoming local elections. Following the elections, work will commence on the organisation of the reception for the trade unions.”

C/279/09

MEETING WITH THE OPW TO ENHANCE THE  
TOURISM AND HERITAGE POTENTIAL OF AN  
GRIANAN OF AILEACH

The following question was submitted by Clr.  
MacLochlainn:-

"What meetings have taken place between Donegal County Council's staff and the OPW to action the intention of the motion from this council to enhance the tourism and heritage potential of An Grianan of Aileach and what progress has been made?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“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 Vol1 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 multi-disciplinary 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.

Work is ongoing in developing projects in this area and as such and subject to final approval of funding, it is hoped that specific activities can be progressed in the third quarter of 2009."

C/280/09 CLOSURE OF MAP SHOP AT LETTERKENNY PSC

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Why has the map shop in the Letterkenny PSC closed?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

"As a result of the decision taken by the County Council not to renew temporary contracts of employment because of budgetary constraints, it was not possible to extend the temporary contract of the person employed to operate the Mapshop when finished her existing contract at the end of March 2009. Overall constraints on staffing numbers meant that it was not possible to fill this position through redeployment."

C/281/09 UPDATE ON THE DONEGAL COUNTY BOARD AND COMMUNITY RUGBY PROPOSALS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Can I have an update on the Donegal County Board and the Community Rugby proposals after their recent presentations to the Council Chamber?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

"Allocations in the amount of €12,500 in respect of Cumann Luthchleas Gael Dhun na nGall and €7,500 in respect of the Donegal Community Rugby project were approved for both

bodies subsequent to their presentations to Donegal County Council in 2008.

With regard to Cumann Luthchleas Gael Dhun na nGall, the funding allocated has not yet been drawn down but discussions are ongoing with them regarding some amended proposals they have for the utilisation of the monies. The amended proposals, it is understood, will be broadly in line with the proposals for which the funding was originally provided.

With regard to the Donegal Community Rugby project, a letter of offer was issued on the 21st August 2008 and this funding has yet to be drawn down by the group. Correspondence has issued to the Donegal Community Rugby project requesting details on proposed timelines in relation to their use of the funds.”

C/282/09 INCREASING DEMANDS ON THE COUNCIL BY THE DETERIORATING ROADS IN OUR COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"Will this Council consider consultation with our neighbouring County Tyrone about the "pothole response unit" that Omagh District Council currently operate as a means of responding to the increasing demands on the council by the deteriorating roads in our county?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

“The Roads Service is an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland. The Department is the sole road authority in Northern Ireland and from time to time meets with the Council and NRDO on matters of mutual interest.

In this context, Donegal County Council is happy to consult with other Local Authorities or Agencies on practices in their areas, noting the differing funding mechanisms and constraints they work in. If a Councillor has any particular office or example of best practice in mind, contact can be made with either the Divisional Senior Engineer for Roads Maintenance or myself.”

C/283/09

PROVISION OF A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN  
STRANORLAR NEAR THE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"Will this council consider the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Stranorlar (near the Primary Care Centre)?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

“The crossing location for this proposal is on the Lifford side of Mc Clays corner in Stranorlar which is a National Primary road. The NRA through our NRDO will be approached for comment and funding on the matter.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_