

**Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting
held on Monday the 14th March 2005 at 2.00pm in the Council
Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre**

Members Present

Cllr John Boyle
Cllr Thomas Pringle
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Peter Kennedy

Youth Councillors in Attendance

Sarah Montgomery
Pauric Breslin

Officials in Attendance

Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Claire Mulhall, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Thomas Fox, Executive Engineer, Donegal National Roads Design
Office
Paul Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment
Andrew McNulty Cross Border Project
Anne McGeever, Youth Council Co-ordinator,

Apologies

Cllr Elizabeth McIntyre
Cllr Phonsie Travers
Cllr Sean McEniff
Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency
Services

DEAC	08.00	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 7th February 2005
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DEAC	08.01	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 7 th February 2005
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On the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, the minutes of the meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 7th February 2005 were agreed.

DEAC	08.02	Matters arising
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If was further agreed that matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the various service headings.

DEAC	09.00	Planning & Economic Development
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DEAC	09.01	Area Plans
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Donegal Town Local Area Plan

Mr. D Kelly thanked Members and staff for the meeting last week to launch the Donegal Town Area Plan and advised the task of implementing the plan was now the challenge.

Rosstown Local Area Plan

Mr. D Kelly informed Members the Rosstown Local Area Plan had now been finalised.

Ballyshannon & Killybegs

Mr. Kelly informed Members that he had no further update on these Local Area Plans since the previous meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

DEAC	09.02	Planning Statistics Reports
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Planning Statistics Reports

Members noted the planning statistics reports for the period up to the 31st December 2004 circulated with the Agenda

DEAC	09.03	Consideration of Recent Refusals
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Recent Refusals

Members noted the report on recent refusals for the period from 1st January 2005 to 28th February 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	09.04	Planning Enforcement Report
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Planning Enforcement Report

Members noted the planning enforcement statistics report for the period up to the 3rd March 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle regarding the 4 court proceedings in the statistics report, Mr. Kelly informed Members that this referred to old proceedings. He also informed Members that progress had been made in relation to resolving some cases and hoped with the additional administrative staff members that further progress could be made in this area in the coming months.

Mobile Phone Mast at Ballyshannon

Cllr O'Neill raised the question in relation to a possible relocation of a mobile phone mast from the old Garda Station at the Mall to the Abbey Centre, which is owned by the Council. A lengthy discussion took place in relation to masts and in response to concerns raised, Mr. D Kelly undertook to forward a report to Members in relation to the regulation governing masts/transmitting equipment and dealing with the issue of how the public make their feelings known in relation to development by state bodies, which is somewhat different to the planning process.

The discussion concluded with the following motion:

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Pringle, Members agreed that the Council as owners of the Abbey Centre should not allow the erection of a mast on same.

Unauthorised Development at Killybegs

Mr. D Kelly briefed Members in relation to possible unauthorised development at Killybegs as previously raised by Cllr Pringle. Mr. Kelly informed Members that he has spoke with Martin Flanagan, Executive Technician, who was given to understand that the site in question is connected to the Council sewer. Cllr Pringle referred to the ongoing seepage at the back of houses although pipes did appear to be in place. Mr. Kelly advised that the Council would arrange to have a sample of the water/seepage tested to ascertain what the content was and that discussions are ongoing as to how best to deal with this matter. He undertook to keep Members informed of progress in the matter.

DEAC	09.05	Staffing Matters
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Staffing Matters

Mr. D Kelly informed Members of a number of staffing changes in the planning service in the Donegal Electoral Area as follows:

Ciara Condon to transfer to Stranorlar as A/Assistant Planner.

Carol Margey to transfer to Central Planning Unit as Assistant Planner.

Conall McGettigan, Executive Planner to move to Donegal but also having responsibility for the larger developments in the Stranorlar Electoral Area.

Pauric McGlynn to Donegal as Graduate Planner.

Mary Carbery, Clerical Officer to Donegal to replace Caroline McMonigle.

A temporary Clerical Officer to start in Donegal on Easter Tuesday.

Mr. D Kelly noted that this involved a lot of staff changes which would prove difficult for the planning department.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle Mr. D Kelly informed Members that it was an increase of one staff member in administration and no change in numbers of planners, however it represented an increase in experience among the planners. Mr. Kelly also informed Members

that the Council was finding it difficult to recruit qualified planners in Donegal and that the demand on the planning service in Donegal was significant. Councillors voiced their concern that there were no additional planners as anticipated by them.

DEAC	09.06	Other Planning Matters
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Casual Trading

Killybegs

Mr. D Kelly informed Members that the designated Casual Trading Area in Killybegs is now in place and a number of applications for casual trading licences had been received. Mr. Kelly acknowledged the assistance from the Roads Section in erecting signs for the trading area. Cllrs Pringle and Boyle noted that the Casual Trading in Killybegs was working well.

Ballyshannon

Mr. D Kelly informed Members that Roads Service intended to have a basic surface in place at the designated casual trading area in Ballyshannon at an early date. Mr. Thomas referred to the unsuitable weather at this time of year to surface this area advising that it would be more effective to carry out this work later on in the year. Cllr O'Neill referred to the urgent need to have the casual trading area up and running as soon as possible in order to address the issues such as traffic congestion and littering arising out of the car-boot sales on a Sunday in Ballyshannon and requested that the works be carried out immediately. In response to this request, Mr. Thomas undertook to deal with this matter as number one priority.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill in relation to enforcement of the Casual Trading Bylaws in Ballyshannon, Mr. D Kelly informed Members this would be a matter for both the Gardaí and the Council Planning Staff and the Council would be on firmer ground to enforce the casual trading bylaws once the designated casual trading area is up and running.

DEAC	10.00	Corporate Services
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DEAC	10.01	Activity Levels to 28 th February 2005
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Members noted the Activity reports for January & February in the Donegal Town Public Services Centre. Cllr Boyle commented that there are a large number of customers availing of the facilities in the Public Services Centre.

DEAC	10.02	Correspondence from Barry Sharkey
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Members noted the correspondence from Mr. Barry Sharkey, Killybegs circulated with the Agenda. Mr. Sharkey was seeking to purchase a portion of land adjacent to Waste Water Treatment Works at Killybegs to provide additional parking for a new Learning Resource Centre. Mr. P Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment informed Members that it was intended this entire site would be handed over to the Design Build Contractor for the design and construction of new works on this site. Accordingly he felt that it would be premature at this time to dispose of the land being sought by Mr. Sharkey and recommended to Members to defer considering the disposal until such time as the new works are designed and it is apparent what land will be required by the Council. Members agreed to this recommendation. Mr. Sharkey is to be advised accordingly.

DEAC	10.03	Request for a Deputation
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Mr. E Monaghan circulated a request for a deputation and related correspondence received from Ms. Sky Garner from Inver Village. Following a short discussion, on the proposal of Cllr Pringle, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, Members agreed to receive the deputation at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

DEAC	10.04	Other Corporate Matters
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Regulations for Taxis

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle as to whether there are regulations governing the issue of taxi licences, Mr. E Monaghan informed Members there were regulations with regard to the issue of taxi licences which included the requirements for Tax Clearance certificate, appropriate insurance cover, PSV driving licence, fees, signage and Taximeter (covered by the NCT suitability certificate) and NCT test certificate.

DEAC	11.00	Water, Environment & Emergency Services
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DEAC	11.01	Group Schemes
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Group Water Schemes

Mr. P Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water & Environment briefed the Members on the up to date position regarding Group Water Supply Schemes in the Donegal Electoral Area as follows:

Aughahoo, Pettigo

Mr. Lyons informed Members in relation to the Aughahoo Scheme in the Pettigo Area, the present position is a reduced scheme was envisaged.

Meenachan/Meentinadea

Mr. Lyons informed Members that the Meenachan/Meentinadea GWS has been fully completed. The next phase of this scheme is for the Consultants to prepare plans for an extension to Tullantain Area.

Tawnawilly & Leghowney GWS

Mr. P Lyons informed Members in relation to the Tawnawilly GWS, a draft plan has been prepared but is awaiting the agreement of the promoters but progress has been slow in this regard. The proposal is to connect this scheme to the Lough Eske Supply.

Cllr Kennedy expressed his annoyance at the lack of progress in relation to the Tawnawilly Scheme. Cllr Kennedy's submitted that only a pumphouse/treatment works was needed and if they were provided with funding in the region of approx €10,000 - €20,000 it would address their issues. In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy as to why the Council were insisting on taking over this scheme as the Council had little involvement in this scheme over the last 20 years Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the reason for this was because of the EU Directive on Drinking Water, it has fallen on the Local Authorities to find solutions to the water quality issues. If a GWS wishes to remain as a private GWS then they must apply for a licence, which is administered by the Local Authorities.

In response to further concerns from Cllr Kennedy regarding the undertakings given at the previous Donegal Electoral Area Committee meeting that, meetings would be arranged with both the Tawnawilly and Leghowney promoters, which had not yet taken place, Mr. P Lyons undertook to follow up on this matter through Ms. Mary McDermott, Group Schemes Liaison Officer to arrange these meetings. Cllr Kennedy requested that both meetings take place on the same evening and emphasised the importance of officials following up on the undertakings given to Members.

Other GWS

Mr. P Lyons informed Members there were possibly 4 or 5 other schemes in the Donegal Electoral Area but with the expected contribution per household in the region of €4,000 to €5000, they were unlikely to proceed. He advised Members that funding for GWS does not take account of the long distances between houses in some cases in the County which increases the cost of GWS.

DEAC	11.02	DBO for Kilcar, Carrick, Malinmore, Glencolmcille Areas
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DBO for Kilcar, Carrick, Malinmore, Glencolmcille Areas

Mr. P Lyons updated the Members on the current position with regard to the DBO for Kilcar, Carrick, Malinmore and Glencolmcille Areas. A lengthy discussion took place in relation to GWS and Capital Schemes (DBO), the role of Consultants, and the lack of progress in relation to these matters in the Donegal Electoral Area. Members expressed their extreme disappointment at the lack of progress in this area including concern at the monies allocated not being fully expended thus reducing the next years allocation. Members were also furious at the number of consultants engaged in the processing of water and waste water schemes and felt that better use could be made of resources. On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Byrne, Members requested that Mr. J Holohan, Director of Water Environment & Emergency Services meet with the Members of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee in the Donegal PSC to address their concerns as a matter of urgency. Mr. E Monaghan, Corporate Services undertook to convey the Members request to Mr. Holohan as a matter of urgency.

DEAC	11.03	DBO Waste Water Treatment Projects
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DBO Waster Water Treatment Projects

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the DBO Waste Water Treatment Works projects were currently with the Consultants.

DEAC	11.04	Civic Amenity Site
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Civic Amenity Site

Mr. P Lyons informed Members that the plans for the Civic Amenity Site at Laghey was going through the Part VIII Planning process at present.

DEAC	11.05	Other Water & Environment Matters
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Sign for Recycling Area at Killybegs

Cllr Pringle referred to minute no. 03.03 of the previous meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee where he had been given an undertaking that signs would be erected to help to resolve the litter problems at the recycling banks at Killybegs and enquired what progress had been made in this matter since the last meeting. Mr. P Lyons undertook to follow up on this matter with the Area Manager for Water & Environment and also to refer the issue to the Environment Section in Lifford.

Purchase Litter Bins

Cllr Boyle referred to a proposal to purchase further litter bins for the Donegal Electoral Area. Following a short discussion it was agreed that Roads Service would order 6 litter bins to be located as follows:

Killybegs	1
Donegal	2
Carrick	1
Ballyshannon	2

DEAC	12.00	Housing & Building
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DEAC	12.01	Progress Report of the Housing Capital Programme
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Housing Capital Programme

Members noted the progress report as at 11th March 2005 on the Housing Capital Programme circulated at the meeting.

DEAC	12.02	Progress Report on Social Housing
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Loans & Grants

Members noted the report on loans and grants as at the 2nd March 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	12.03	Casual Vacancy Report
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Casual Vacancy Report

Members noted the Casual Vacancy report as at the 4th March 2005 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	12.04	Specific Instance Cottages
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Specific Instance Cottages

Members noted the progress report on S I Cottages as at the 28th February circulated at the meeting.

DEAC	12.05	Other Housing Matters
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Traveller Accommodation Update – Donegal Town

Members noted the Traveller Accommodation Update Report – Donegal Town circulated at the meeting as presented by Ms. M Hannigan. Members noted that any proposals arising from the methodology proposed in the report would be tabled at the Donegal Electoral Area Committee meeting for discussion.

Cllr Kennedy referred to previous guarantees Members had been given in relation to the temporary nature of this site and was insistent

that no houses be built on this site. He also referred to ongoing problems with a horse on the site, which was causing damage to the old Famine Graveyard, adjacent to the site. In relation to the concerns raised by Cllr Kennedy, Ms. M Hannigan undertook to convey his concerns in this matter to her Divisional Manager/Director and also undertook to try to get the horse moved.

Transient Halting Site at Ballintra

Members noted the report on the Transient Halting Site at Ballintra as circulated at the meeting and presented by Ms. M Hannigan, noting the decision to close the site with effect from the 8th April 2005. A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

Cllr Boyle queried as to what would happen if the residents refused to move. Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that while she had no direct involvement in the matter, she was aware that notices to quit had been served on the residents.

Cllr Boyle then asked where the residents would move to and Ms. Hannigan said that it was unclear at present and referred to the assessment of need ongoing at present.

Cllr O'Neill commented that the South of the County had been more than flexible in relation to traveller accommodation and it was necessary for the Council to be firm in its message in relation to traveller accommodation.

Staffing

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding Mr. J Gallagher's, Housing Engineer replacement, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that an offer has been made and she was awaiting word.

Landbank at Ballyshannon.

Cllr O'Neill referred to a 12 acre portion of land on the Rossnowlagh Road, Ballyshannon which is for sale and asked that the Council consider purchasing same for housing landbank. Ms. M Hannigan undertook to have this considered.

Derelict Building at Ballyshannon/Pettigo

The Members expressed their concern at the current level of dereliction in Ballyshannon and Pettigo. On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Pringle, Members requested that the

Council deliver on the proposed pilot project for Derelict Buildings in Ballyshannon/Pettigo.

Central Heating Programme

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting regarding the central heating programme 2005 as presented by Ms. M Hannigan. Members noted it was hoped that approximately 20 houses would be completed in the Donegal Electoral Area this year.

Members agreed that the following houses would be included in the programme this year:

No. 15	Laghey Housing Scheme (Old), Laghey
No. 16	Laghey Housing Scheme (Old), Laghey
No. 17	Laghey Housing Scheme (Old), Laghey
No. 24	Laghey Housing Scheme (Old), Laghey
No. 259	St. Josephs Avenue, Donegal
No. 10	St Patricks Avenue, Pettigo

S I	Ballinacarrick, Ballintra
S I	Cashelard, Ballyshannon
S I	Clontyseer, Ballyshannon
S I	Grove Lodge, Pettigo

Members also agreed that the remaining 10 houses would be added from the Carrick/Killybegs/Kilcar region upon Mr. S Richmond's return from leave taking the older stock as a priority. In response to a query from Cllr Pringle regarding central heating for a number of older single dwellings at Killybegs, Ms. M Hannigan confirmed that these would be included this year.

Peace II Programme 2005

Members noted the report on the Peace II Programme 2005 as circulated at the meeting and presented by Ms. M Hannigan. On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Byrne, Members agreed to the recommendation subject to the availability of funding, works would be carried out at:

- Drumrooske
- Pettigo.

Clar Local Authority Housing Estate Enhancement Scheme 2005

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting on the Clar Local Authority Housing Estate Enhancement Scheme 2005 as presented by Ms. M Hannigan. Members agreed to the works being carried out at the recommended locations subject to funding becoming available as follows:

- Forge Ave., Ballintra
- Laghey (Old Scheme)
- Coughlan Ave., Frosses.

Traveller Family at Ballyshannon

Cllr O'Neill expressed his thanks to Ms. Hannigan and her staff for housing a traveller family at Ballyshannon. He hoped with the assistance of Tony Brogan, Tenants Liaison Officer, Lori Harkin, Social Worker and Fergus McAteer, Traveller Liaison Officer, things would work out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

DEAC	13.00	Roads/Transportation
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DEAC	13.01	2005 Road Works Programme
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Mr. P Thomas presented the draft Road Works Programme for 2005 as circulated with the Agenda to Members for their consideration. He informed Members that the programme was put together on the need for the area. He advised that a maintenance programme would be brought for their consideration at a later meeting. Following a short discussion, on the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Byrne, the roads programme was adopted subject to the following amendments:

A portion of the monies allocated for the Loughinchin Road be re-directed to the Cashelard road to carry out repairs as agreed at the Donegal Electoral Area Committee meeting of the 7th February 2005 and as requested by Cllr O'Neill.

Road at Drimanoo/Roshine, Killbegs to be completed in the latter part of the year as requested by Cllr Pringle, as there is a group scheme likely to go ahead through this road. The portion of the road referred to is a 2kms long stretch.

DEAC	13.02	Removal of Unauthorised Signs
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Unauthorised Signs

Cllr Byrne raised concerns in relation to the imminent implementation of the Council's policy on unauthorised signs with the timescale involved and requested a stay of execution. In response to the concerns raised, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that there had been wide communication in relation to the policy adopted and that the initial priority will be to deal with unauthorised signs in the approach roads to towns. He advised that any unauthorised signs on Council property would be removed. Following this, signs located on private lands which are unauthorised, would be followed up by the Planning Service. Mr. D Kelly, Area Manager Planning also confirmed, that a lot of time was spent by the Council, informing the public about the policy and that it was now important to follow through

on the policy as communicated to the public and adopted by the Council.

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle as to what procedure would be applied by the Council in relation to planning applications for new signs, Mr. D Kelly informed Members that these applications would be considered in accordance with the County Development Plan.

DEAC	13.03	DNRDO Matters
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R280 Link Road – Part VIII

Mr. Thomas Fox, Donegal National Regional Design Office, advised that he was in attendance to inform Members that the DNRDO was in the process of preparing the Part VIII Report to go to the Council meeting of the 29th March 2005. He informed Members that the agreed proposal was the result of several meetings and that a number of submissions had been made which they are considering as part of the Part VIII report. This will issue to Members for their consideration shortly.

Progress on N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass

In response to a request from Cllr Boyle, for an update on progress in relation to the Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass, Mr. T Fox informed Members that he had not been briefed on the matter and was unable to provide a report. Cllr O'Neill referred to the lack of consultation on the part of the Design Build Contractor for the project bearing in mind the seriousness of some of the proposed activities including blasting, noise prevention measures, pollution, , etc.

Notifications to the public regarding 'blasting' taking place and other everyday issues which are arising with a complete lack of consultation with no notification whatsoever to the Elected Members. Cllr O'Neill stated that there should be ongoing consultation between the Contractor, Elected Members, Council Officials, and the residents as indicated at the Donegal Electoral Area Committee meeting of the 10th May 2004. Cllr Pringle stated, given the amount of money involved in the project of around €70m, that regular meetings should take place with the contractor, relevant council officials and Elected Members. Cllr O'Neill referred to the meeting 6th October 2004 of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee and asked if Members had requested that the DNRDO would be present at the Donegal Electoral

Area Committee meetings or at least submit regular reports. This was confirmed by Mr. E Monaghan.

Members expressed their extreme annoyance at the lack of progress in this area and expressed concern in relation the urgency of these matters and demanded that a meeting be arranged immediately with the Contractor, DNRDO Officials and Members to deal with the issues before it is too late to address their concerns. Mr. E Monaghan, Corporate Services undertook to convey the Members concerns and request to the appropriate Officials to arrange this meeting as soon as possible. Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation confirmed that he would follow up on the matter.

DEAC	13.04	Other Roads Matters
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Double Yellow Lines from the Old Cinema to Magees Factory and on both sides of the new Water Street Bridge.

Mr. Thomas referred to the traffic congestion owing to vehicles parking from the old Cinema to Magees Factory and on both sides of the new Water Street Bridge. He confirmed that the Roads Section had written to occupiers of the premises along the locations mentioned but had received no feedback. Mr. P Thomas recommended to Members that the Council put double yellow lines at these locations. On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Byrne, this recommendation was agreed.

Sign for Leghowney at Hugh Colhouns

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy to have a sign erected for Leghowney at Hugh Colhouns, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that this sign has been ordered but not yet been delivered.

Road above Dummies Bridge.

In response to a request by Cllr Pringle for an update on the condition of the road above the Dummies Bridge, Mr. Thomas undertook to follow up on same and as he had been on leave in the weeks preceding this meeting, did not have an opportunity prior to this.

Finger Posts for Pettigo at Belleek.

In reponse for a request for 2 finger post signs to be erected for Pettigo at the Belleek Junction, Mr. P Thomas undertook to follow up on same.

Sign at Dummies Bridge

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for a sign to be replaced at the Dummies Bridge, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that this was the third time this particular sign had been replaced and undertook to have it fastened more securely on this occasion.

Bridge At Glencolmcille

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle to progress works on the Bridge at Glencolmcille, Mr. P Thomas undertook to follow up on same as a matter of urgency and to match the existing stone work as best as possible.

Speeding at Cashelogy junction (near Tony O'Shea's house) on the Ardaghey to Ardara Road.

Concerns were raised in relation to speeding / safety at Cashelogy junction (near Tony O'Shea's house) on the Ardaghey to Ardara Road. Cllr Pringle requested that safety measures be introduced at this location. Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to report to the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee regarding same.

'The Bog Road' to Landfill at Ballintra

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill to carry out repairs to the 'The Bog Road' to the Landfill at Ballintra, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that he was seeking funding from the Environment Service to assist in carrying out these repairs as part of the development at the Landfill site at Ballintra.

Signs at Ernedale Heights

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for signs for 'no cars and no turning on the grass' at Ernedale Heights, Ballyshannon, as requested by residents in the area in an effort to prevent cars driving at speed on the green areas, Members were informed that this would be carried out by Ms. M Hannigan/Mr. P Thomas.

Grass Cutting

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding who is responsible for cutting the grass in Ballyshannon and maintaining the Town Flower Beds, Mr. P Thomas informed Members last year the contract for grass cutting was awarded to Kennedy's of Inver who were the most competitive tender and like other years the grass cutting would go out to tender this year also. In relation to flower beds, Mr. Thomas informed Members that in the past where residents had requested the provision of flower beds, it was on the understanding that they would have to maintain same themselves. Otherwise the Council would be putting in place maintenance free surfaces on e.g. small roundabouts.

Footpath Programme

In response to a query from Cllr Byrne regarding a footpath programme, Mr. P Thomas confirmed this would be brought to Members at a later meeting for their consideration and that this would be funded from the Development Contribution Scheme.

Local Improvement Schemes

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that he hoped to have an allocation for LISs in the coming weeks which would be brought before Members for consideration.

Frosses/Glenties Road.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle regarding the Frosses/Glenties Road, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that no money had been provided to carry out works in the Donegal Electoral Area side this year.

Road Drainage

Cllr Pringle referred to the need to balance the works between pothole repair and the need for road drainage. He referred to the need for the Council to enforce the requirement of private property owners to prevent water running off their lands onto council roads causing damage to same. Mr. P Thomas undertook to pass this message through the Roads Overseers to landowners in an effort to tackle this issue in conjunction with this years road works programme.

DEAC	14.00	Community & Enterprise
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DEAC	14.01	Report on Community & Enterprise Services
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Community Liaison

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda on Community Liaison

Community Consultation

Killybegs Parish Council

Ms. C Mulhall briefed Members in relation to a proposal from Kilcar Parish Council to explore the possibility of opening a Temporary Visitors Centre at the Old Carpet Factory in Killybegs. The visitor centre would include exhibitions initially on carpets and marine. Ms. Mulhall advised Members that she has asked them for an outline of their exhibition and to firm up on their projected costings for opening the exhibition over the summer months. The Parish Council is to consider ways of reducing their costs e.g. assistance of a Fas Scheme, minimising their rent, and raising their own revenue through such means as a door charge and selling local crafts in the centre. Ms. Judith McCarthy, Letterkenny Museum is going to provide them with advise on the exhibition. Ms. Mulhall has also spoken with DLDC on their behalf. This update was for Members information.

Erne Canal Development Committee – selection of two Members

On the proposal of Cllr Boyle, seconded by Cllr Byrne, it was agreed that the two Members from the Donegal Electoral Area Committee to be nominated to the Erne Canal Development Committee would be Cllr O'Neill and Cllr McEniff.

Inter Organisational Local Development

Members noted the update report on Inter Organisational Local Development circulated with the Agenda. Ms. Mulhall also circulated and presented a detailed report in relation to Pilot Integration Areas arising out of the work of the County Development Board.

The purpose of the Pilot Integration Areas is to bring the various spending agencies in the areas together to help implement local area plans and the objectives contained in An Strateis. A number of queries were dealt with by Ms C Mulhall at the meeting as follows:

Members were advised in relation to the expanded local area teams, it was intended that these teams would work independently but regular reports would be submitted to the Electoral Area Committees. Ms. Mulhall advised that the intention and the purpose of the Local Area Teams is to assign work on the implementation of the plans bringing local government and local development closer together. Cllr O'Neill indicated his support for the proposal stating that it was better community based and confirmed his agreement with the structures.

An Strateis

Members noted the update report on An Strateis circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	14.03	Report on Peace II Task Force
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Peace II Task Force Report.

Members noted the Peace II Task Force report circulated at the meeting and presented by Ms C Mulhall for Members information.

Ms. Mulhall also informed Members that groups interested in applying for funding from the Peace II Task Force in 2005 should be sending in their expressions of interest shortly. She also advised that DLDC have held information meetings throughout the County recently in relation to Peace II funding under measure B Community Development.

DEAC	14.04	Report on DLDC Community Development Expenditure 2004
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Report on DLDC Community Development Expenditure 2004

Members noted the Report on DLDC Community Development Expenditure 2004 circulated with the Agenda for Members' information.

DEAC	14.05	Report on Cultural Services
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Report on Cultural Services

Members noted the detailed report on Cultural Services circulated with the Agenda on Cultural Services which dealt with the following:

- Taobh Tire Project
- Donegal County Archives Service

DEAC	14.06	Donegal Youth Council
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Youth Council

Cllr Boyle welcomed Sarah Montgomery, Youth Councillor, Paucic Breslin, Youth Councillor, Anne McGeever, Youth Council Co-ordinator and Andrew McNulty Cross Border Project to the meeting.

Presentation from Youth Council

Youth Council Elections

Paucic Breslin, from St Catherines School, Killybegs gave a report on the Youth Council Elections, providing names of successful candidates and also statistics in relation to voter turnout.

Projects

Paucic Breslin updated the Members in relation to projects, which the Youth Council were undertaking including an audit on Donegal Youth. He informed Members that 20 Youth Councillors had been trained on how to carry out research and were currently working on establishing the picture on the needs and issues for the youth of the County.

Request for a Pedestrian Crossing at St. Catherines School, Killybegs

Paucic Breslin referred to the traffic problem outside St Catherine's School, Killybegs and indicated that the Youth Councillors were seeking the Members support for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the school.

In response to the concerns raised, Cllr Pringle referred to the recent county wide speed limit review which had been undertaken and noted that Mr. M Mc Garvey, Divisional Manager, Roads & Transportation

indicated that it was intended to have a road safety engineer evaluate what might be the appropriate road safety measures to put in place at the school and that this would be followed up. He also noted that the biggest danger rested with cars dropping off and picking up students at the school and indicated that the Members would be supportive of appropriate road safety measures at this location.

Youth Councillors attendance at Meetings of Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

Ms. A McGeever, Youth Council Co-ordinator asked for the Members views in relation to how many Youth Councillors would be appropriate to attend meetings of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee. In response to this enquiry, Cllr Pringle, supported by other Members suggested the Youth Councillors attend as many meetings as they wished and if they allowed for 4 Youth Councillors to attend meetings with an even geographical spread would be a reasonable approach. This was agreed.

DEAC	14.07	Other Community & Enterprise Matters
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Staff Changes

Ms C Mulhall informed Members that there were a number of Staff changes happening within the Community & Enterprise Directorate as follows:

Anne Marie Conlon, CEDO to Corporate Services as Communications and Information Officer.

Claire Mulhall, CEDO to Lifford HQ

Barney McLaughlin CEDO to replace Claire Mulhall in Donegal/Stranorlar Electoral Areas.

Marine & Leisure Staff at Lough Eske to locate in the Donegal PSC as follows:

Jessica Hodgson, Gillian Gallagher, Kevin O'Connor

Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee will take place on the 16th May 2005 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.