

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 15TH MAY 2007, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

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**Members Present:** Cllr David Alcorn  
Cllr Enda Bonner  
Cllr Terence Slowey  
Cllr Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr Pearse Doherty  
Cllr Brian Ó Domhnaill

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services  
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services

**GEA 77/07**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND MARCH 2007**

On the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Enda Bonner, the minutes of meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 were agreed.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### **GEA 78/07    ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the levels of business conducted in the Dungloe Public Service Centre during the first quarters of 2006 and 2007. Members congratulated staff for their efforts to improve the levels of service provided in Irish.

Cllr Pádraig Doherty queried the demand for Motor Tax services through Irish. The Corporate Manager undertook to provide this detail at the next meeting.

### **GEA 79/07    REVISED PROTOCOLS FOR MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS**

The Committee discussed the revised protocols for meeting with Community Groups, circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty stated that the protocol should be amended to enable Area Managers' flexibility to discuss and respond to issues directly with representatives of Community Groups. Cllr. Padraig Doherty requested an amendment of the protocol to enable Groups to meet with the Area Committee once in any eighteen month period.

### **GEA 80/07    CASHEL & AIGHE RESIDENTS COMMITTEE, ARDARA**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. O Domhnaill, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Cashel & Aighe Residents Committee at the September meeting.

### **GEA 81//07    AISTEOIRI GHAOTH DOBHAIR**

The Committee agreed to hold a civic reception for Aisteoirí Ghaoth Dobhair on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in the Dungloe Public Service Centre from 12.15 p.m. to 2.15p.m.

### **GEA 82/07    MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS**

Cllr. Pearse Doherty commended Council Staff for their efforts to respond to representations from Councillors during the lead up to the General Election. Cllr. Alcorn also acknowledged the increased workload generated by the Election and requested that all representations be responded to, as a matter of urgency.

<b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GEA 83/07 UPDATE ON DUNGLOE/FALCARRAGH CASUAL TRADING AREAS**

The Planning Manager informed Members that this case has been adjourned until the Ballybofey Casual Trading area has been dealt with in Court, as the appellant has an interest in all three proposed trading areas.

Cllr. O Domhnaill highlighted public safety concerns in Falcarragh arising from the failure to designate a Casual Trading area.

Cllr Alcorn requested details from the Planning Manager in relation to the legality of Chip Van operators.

**GEA 84/07 PLANNING STATISTICS**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding planning statistics in the Glenties Electoral Area.

The Planning Manager informed the Committee of (1) the increasing level of applications received & (2) the decreasing level of refusals in the first quarter of 2007.

The Committee congratulated the Planning Manager and his staff for the improved level and quality of service to the public.

Cllr Pádraig Doherty requested details regarding the number of pre-planning meetings.

**GEA 85/07 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS**

Members noted the report circulated previously regarding the above matter.

**GEA 86/07 CROSS SERVICE COLLABORATION**

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Directors of the Planning & Road Services to convene a meeting to agree protocols to prevent the destruction of the County Road Network and to pursue offenders in this regard.

**GEA 87/07 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The Administrative Officer updated the Members in relation to the provision of playground facilities and advised the Committee that the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007 is the closing date for receipt of expressions of interest from Community Groups wishing to be considered under the 3 year Playground Development Programme.

Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to provide public lighting at the playground facility in Dungloe.

**GEA 88/07 INTER-ORGANISATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda regarding proposed developments at the Gweedore Business Park and Doe Castle.

**GEA 89/07 COUNTY STRATEGY / CULTURAL AND C&E PROJECTS**

Members discussed the report previously circulated regarding the above. Cllr. Padraig Doherty highlighted the need for the Atlantic Drift Programme to address the marketing requirements of small offshore islands.

**GEA 90/07 TOURISM PRODUCT – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

The Committee agreed to schedule a workshop regarding the above matter on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 10 a.m. in the Dungloe PSC.

**GEA 91/07 CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to the Cultural Services Programme.

## HOUSING AND BUILDING

### **GEA 92/07 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee discussed the report on the Housing Capital Programme as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007, circulated with the Agenda.

The Housing Manager advised Members that the 8 units on the Chapel Road, Dungloe are nearing completion and that the DOE approval is pending in respect of the 13 unit scheme proposed for Lettermacaward. The Housing Manager also advised members of the status of voluntary Housing proposals in the Dungloe, Falcarragh, Ardara and Arranmore areas.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested (i) the incorporation of costings for playground facilities into any proposed housing scheme in excess of 20 units at planning stage and (ii) the provision of storage facilities for all Council Houses.

### **GEA 93/07 SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES – PROGRESS REPORT**

Members discussed the SI Programme reports circulated previously.

Cllr. Padraig Doherty asked the Council to ensure that contract documents are drawn up to put the onus on developers to deliver houses more expeditiously. Cllr. Alcorn requested the attendance of Eamonn Canney, Housing Engineer at the next area meeting to address Members' concerns at the time delays in completing SI houses.

### **GEA 94/07 SOCIAL HOUSING – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee discussed the progress report on Social Housing as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007, circulated with the Agenda.

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding the low number of DPG/ERG approvals to date, the Housing Manager advised the Committee that the enhanced role of the Clerk of Works would expedite the application process.

### **GEA 95/07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – PART V PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000**

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding the lack of provision of affordable housing, the Planning Manager informed the Committee that this part of the Planning Act cannot be enforced in the Glenties Electoral Area due to the absence of local area plans.

### **GEA 96/07 COIS LOCHA ESTATE – DUNGLOE**

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding the increasing rental costs borne by residents of this estate, the Housing Manager undertook to liaise with An Cluid Housing Association.

<b>WATER &amp; ENVIRONMENT AGENDA</b>
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**GEA 97/07 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the Agenda detailing the status of sewerage schemes in Gweedore, Dungloe, Glenties and Ardara and also the Gortahork Water Supply Scheme. Cllr. Bonner highlighted the absence in the preliminary report of any plans to facilitate Dungloe Sewerage requirements in the Crocknageeragh area of the town.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty expressed disappointment that the Oral Hearing in relation to the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme did not proceed due to the failure of the Council to have documents prepared in Irish.

Cllr. Alcorn criticised the lack of progress in respect of the Burtonport Sewerage Scheme and requested the attendance of Paul Kilcoyne, Sanitary Engineer at the next Area Meeting to hear Members' concerns regarding the Capital Programme.

**GEA 98/07 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the report on the Small Capital Schemes programme circulated with the agenda. In response to queries from the Committee regarding the Rosses Regional Network, the Water Services Manager advised Members that the pipe replacement phase would commence on completion of the Surveying and Pressure Management Phase throughout the county.

**GEA 99/07 GROUP WATER SCHEMES – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda in relation to Group Water Schemes, and the Water Services Manager responded to Members queries in respect of the Programme.

**GEA 100/07 SERVICED LAND INITIATIVE, CARAVAN ROAD, DUNGLOE**

The Water Services Manager in his report presented at the meeting, stated that the Council propose to make an application to the DOEHLG for a serviced land initiative scheme to cater for future development on the Caravan/Tobberkeen Road area of Dungloe. He also informed the Committee that Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers have been commissioned to prepare Planning and Contract documents and that the project will progress as a Special Development Scheme if the Serviced Land Initiative application is unsuccessful.

## **GEA 101/07 ENVIRONMENT**

The Committee welcomed the environmental report circulated previously.

On the proposal of Cllr. Pearse Doherty and seconded by Cllr. Padraig Doherty, the Committee requested the transfer of the paper and plastic recycling banks to Gweedore on completion of the Dungloe Civic Amenity Site.

In response to a query from Cllr Pearse Doherty regarding the issue of motions agreed at Electoral Area level going forward to the Council meeting for adoption, the Corporate Manager informed the Committee that there is no provision in Standing Orders for Members to submit Questions and Motions at Electoral Area level.

## **GEA 102/07 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IN COUNTY DONEGAL**

The Committee welcomed the report from the Acting Director of the Water Service, circulated at the meeting, assuring the public that there is no indication of Cryptosporidium in any public water supplies in the County.

<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>
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**GEA 103/07 ROADS WORKSHOP – 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007 – CLAR FUNDING**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. O Domhnaill, the Committee agreed CLAR, Class 2 & 3 Roads funding for 2007 as follows:

Derries	LS8013-1	€ 35475
Lefinn	LT1443-1	€ 35475
Shroughan/Oldtown Road	LT1113-1	€ 35475
Carrick	LT5333-1	€ 35475

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€141900

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**GEA104/07 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that considerable resources have been allocated in the Roads Service to enhancing the Council's Health and Safety systems, and that an additional 30 seasonal staff have been employed to proceed with the Roadworks Programme.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Roads Service to release a Press Statement to advise the public of the anticipated disruption that will arise from the adherence to Health and Safety directives.

The Committee requested the Roads Service to apply for special funding to address the additional costs associated with the implementation of Health and Safety Guidelines.

**GEA 105/07 REPRESENTATIONS**

Cllr. Alcorn asked that responses and clarification required by Members to correspondence submitted to the Roads Service be issued promptly.

**GEA 106/07 FUNDING**

In response to a query from Cllr. Pearse Doherty regarding the necessity to distribute a greater proportion of Roads Programme Funding to Glenties Electoral Area due to the bog foundations of many roads in West Donegal, the Area Manager informed the Committee that any amendments to the current arrangements would require a policy change in the Roads Service.

**GEA 107/07 ROADS SIGNAGE**

Cllr. Alcorn asked the Roads Service to erect signage immediately and to contract out this work if any further delays are envisaged.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**