

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

30 Eanáir 2004

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 26 Eanáir, ag dul ar aghaidh Dé hAoine, 6 Feabhra, 2004, ag **11.00am ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniu seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniu.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniu (RÚNAI CONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of
Meetings
Administrator
County House
Lifford

30th January 2004

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 26th January 2004, will be held on Friday 6th February, 2004, at 11.00am, 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.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAINED THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS ISSUED FOR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH JANUARY, 2004)

AGENDA

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

14. Clr. T. Gildea
“That Donegal County Council erect a pedestrian crossing and public light at “The Bridge” on Main Street, Glenties.” (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

15. Clr. B. McGuinness
“That this Council discuss the number of planning applications currently being submitted because of the new Development Contribution Scheme.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

16. Clr. A. Doherty
“That this Council provide Tetrapak recycling services and continue to accept and encourage all aspects of paper and plastic re-cycling at the Civic Amenity Site in Carndonagh.” (L)

Housing

17. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council progress a Housing Scheme for the Burt Area when framing the new Housing Programme to be announced later this year.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

18. Clr. S. Maloney
“That this Council supports the campaign for the official status of Irish in the European Union and that we write to An Taoiseach, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs.” (C)

Housing

19. Clr. G. Crawford
“That the Council leave ready the green area at Abbey Park, Manorcunningham so as to allow it to be maintained.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

20. Clr. D. Larkin
“That this Council look at the junction between Lifford and Murlog over to the Church, and try and make the junction here a lot safer under the Low Accident Budget.” (L)
21. Clr. J. Harte
“That the Council make good the stretch of road from St. Eunan’s N.S. to the Vocational School in Raphoe as a matter of urgency.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

22. Clr. J. McHugh
“That this Council agree to move the 30 mph signs on the Creeslough side of Kilmacrennan towards the control points.” (L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

23. Clr. D. McHugh
“That this Council purchase 1, 12, 22, & 23 Assaroe View and 80 St. Benildus Avenue, all in Ballyshannon.” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

24. Clr. S. McEniff
“That all planning permissions applied for before the new charges are implemented are exempt from increase.” (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

25. Clr. P. McGowan
“That this Council extend the 40 mile per hour speed limit on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey immediately and to review the location of all other 30/40 mile speed limits in the county in light of the mile per hour changing to kilometres per hour.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

26. Clr. J.J. Reid
“That the Council discuss the proposed second stage of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme.” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

27. Clr. A. Bonner
“That this Council removes St. Patrick’s Church, Donaghmore, RPS 40201001 and St. Ann’s Church, Dromore, Killygordon RPS 40907822 from the Register of Protected Structures”. (L)

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

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

28. Clr. T. Slowey
“What is the policy of Donegal County Council to the employment of people with a disability?” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

29. Clr. T. Slowey
“When will the Meenachan/Meentinadea Group Scheme work be finished such that water is provided to the remaining members of the Group Scheme?” (L)
30. Clr. E. Bonner
“Can the Gortahork Sewerage Scheme be progressed to planning and design stage in view of the health hazards being encountered by the children at Gortahork National School?” (L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

31. Clr. T. Gildea
“Why is Carrickfin Airport in West Donegal not getting equal financial subvention to that being provided (provisionally) to the City of Derry Airport, which is out of state and therefore beyond the financial control of this Council and the Auditor General?” (C)
32. Clr. T. Gildea
“What is the current position on the Fresh Water Game Angling Plan and would the Manager make a full statement outlining future Council policy regarding the above mentioned plan?” (C)

Roads & Transportation

33. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the 3 lights on Gweedore Road, Dungloe adjacent to the new Public Service Office be erected and will the new 5 year programme that is to commence this year provide for additional public lights from the Public Service office to Cois Locha Housing Estate?” (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Other

34. Clr. B. McGuinness
“When will local improvement scheme applications, specific instant house applications and members contribution scheme applications be processed in local area offices?” (C)
35. Clr. B. McGuinness
“Has this Council decided on a method for dealing with special hardship cases under the DPG Scheme”? (C)
36. Clr. A. Doherty
“Will the Council extend services at Public Service Offices to allow the process/consideration of S.I. Housing, L.I.S. applications, Community Development Fund et al to be conducted at local area offices”? (C)
37. Clr. A. Doherty
“Given the adoption of my motion no. 20 in November, 2003 and the continued support from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs for Malin Head under the Pilot Rural Community Initiative, what Council progress with assistance has occurred and is planned for 2004”? (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

38. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What are the findings of the Consultant’s Report regarding the Bridgend Sewerage Scheme (SLI) and the proposal to include Burnfoot in same”? (L)

Roads & Transportation

39. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What plans do the Council have for the improvement of the Road between Killea and Newtowncunningham (R237) including the dangerous bend at Argony Pipe which is liable to frost and the scene of many accidents”? (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment and Emergency Services

40. Clr. S. Maloney
“What storage facility have we got for old fridges, freezers, washing machines and old cookers in the Letterkenny Electoral Area”? (L)

Housing

41. Clr. S. Maloney
“How many houses will we have this year under the Affordable Housing Scheme”? (C)

Roads & Transportation

42. Clr. G. Crawford
“The road from Deelee College, Raphoe to the Chapel Junction is in very poor condition – when will it be resurfaced”? (L)
43. Clr. G. Crawford
“Are there any plans to improve the appearance of the Manor Roundabout”? (L)

44. Clr. D. Larkin
“How successful have we been in trying to get funding for the road from Manor to Lifford under a Cross Border Scheme”?
45. Clr. D. Larkin
“Will this Council be able to progress with the Leck Road and Ramelton, Letterkenny Roads this year”? (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

46. Clr. J. McHugh
“What priority status has this Council given to the Foreshore Licence application at Buncrana”?

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

47. Clr. J. McHugh
“Will this Council move to prioritise the Flight of the Earls Centre in Rathmullan in light of the celebrations in 2007”? (L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

48. Clr. T. Pringle
“What stage is the Killybegs Sewerage Scheme at and when are the networks and treatment works likely to go to tender”? (L)
49. Clr. T. Pringle
“Have consultants been appointed to the Owentskinney DBO Scheme and if so when are they due to report on the scheme”? (L)
50. Clr. D. McHugh
“How much did the publication and distribution via the Donegal Democrat, of the 2004 calendar cost this Council”? (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

51. Clr. P. McGowan
“When will the Council resurface all the footpaths, which have been rekerbed in Castlefin the surfaces have been left in a dangerous condition”? (L)
52. Clr. J.J. Reid
“What is the outcome of the meeting with the ESB and are the Council satisfied that improvements have taken place in the Service”? (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

53. Clr. P. McGowan
“When exactly does the Council intend upgrading the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Convoy and will this work be sufficient to cater for all the proposed new housing in the area”? (L)
54. Clr. J. J. Reid
“Have the Council any plans to provide a public carpark for Stranorlar”? (L)
55. Clr. A. Bonner
“What is the up to date position regarding the Stranorlar Electoral Swimming Pool”? (L)
56. Clr. A. Bonner
“What is the up to date position regarding the application to the Department for funding in relation to the upgrading of the Sewerage Network in Ballybofey”? (L)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

57. COBH TOWN COUNCIL
“That refuse charges for those over the age of 65 be abolished and that the income foregone by the Council in relation to this be recouped from Central Government Funds.”

58. CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (a) “That existing retail outlets, particularly supermarkets, be encouraged to provide toilet facilities for all their customers and, in particular, the handicapped”.
- (b) “That all future planning permissions include an obligatory clause that such facilities be part of the application.”

59. LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council requests the Department of the Taoiseach to instruct all Government Departments and Agencies to adopt a sensible, integrated approach toward road openings, road surfacing repairs, provision of water/sewerage/telephone/electricity/broadband/gas etc. utilities. The instruction must be accompanied by a commitment to fund the provision of multipurpose service ducts with access manholes, particularly in cities, towns and villages when significant roadworks are carried out. This proposal, if adopted and implemented, would dramatically reduce the overall cost and disruption caused by unnecessary repeat road openings. That a copy of this motion be circulated to all local authorities and to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.”

60. LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment be advised of this Council’s concern with regard to the increase in hours and the cutting down of numbers on the Community Employment Schemes and the impact this will have both on rural villages and urban areas, and that this resolution be forwarded to all Councils for their support.”

61. LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City Council calls on the Government to protect the fundamental human rights of people with disabilities in Ireland and to end the widespread discrimination they experience in the provision of basic services from the State by introducing a rights based Disability Bill. That this motion be forwarded to all City and County Councils.”

62. CASTLEBAR TOWN COUNCIL
“That the members of Castlebar Town Council call on the Government to amend the 2003 Freedom of Information Act, to allow public representatives to obtain information free of charge and that the internal review fee under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act, be abolished in respect of review requested by public representatives and the press.”
63. WATERFORD CITY COUNCIL
“That this Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science, Noel Dempsey to implement a course on the “Rules of the Road” to all students in second level education in their transition year.”
64. LONGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
“That Longford Town Council call on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to introduce a waiver system for the collection of refuse charges similar to that operated for T.V. licences and E.S.B. allowance.”
65. CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL
“That this Council, acknowledging the heinous crimes committed by some religious congregations, and the definite need for redress, still recognise, in a generous fashion, the immense contribution made by these said orders in the education, health and other fields.”
66. SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL
“That we call on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to reverse her decision to abolish the Diet Supplement and that this motion be forwarded to all local authorities.”

“We call on the Department of Education and Science to provide the funding which is awarded on a yearly basis to the adult education board of the VEC for the different schemes of adult education in the spring of each year rather than the autumn”.
67. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
“That Laois County Council fully supports the Association of Health Boards in Ireland, recognising the important role that Local Authority Members have played in the delivery of

our health services. To this end, we inform the Minister for the Environment of our concern at the lack of local authority input into the Government's Health Service Reform Programme and request that he intervene with the Minister for Health and Children and his cabinet colleagues in ensuring that local democratic representation be part and parcel of any Health Service Reform Package. Also that we as a local authority with a proven track record of our members contribution to the health services enlist the support of all other local authorities to support this objective."

68.

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

"Following the publication of the Draft Action Programme for the EU Nitrates Directive published by the Departments of Agriculture and Environment, that this Council calls on the Government to put in place: -

- (a) A package of financial assistance to help farmers meet the extra costs involved.
- (b) Extra financial aid in Counties Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim and Donegal as they require extra storage capacity.
- (c) A common sense approach to the implementation of the new regulations taking into consideration local and climatic conditions.
- (d) That the level of bureaucracy introduced as a result of these proposals be kept to an absolute minimum.

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD, ON THE
06TH FEBRUARY, 2004

C/54/04

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Alcorn, Cathaoirleach, A. Bonner, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, A. Doherty, R. Donaghey, T. Gildea, J. Harte, P. Kelly, D. Larkin, S. Maloney, M. McDonald, B. McGlinchey, B. McGuinness, D. McHugh, J. McHugh, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid, T. Slowey.

C/55/04

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs. Blaney, Campbell, Conaghan, McEniff and McGowan who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/56/04

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. McLoone, County Manager, Mr. L. Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director Housing, Mr. S. Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. J. McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. J. Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. F. Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. J. Harley, Senior Planner, Mr. J. Boyle, S.E.E., Mr. J. Peoples, S.E.O., Ms. A. M. Crawford, S.O.

C/57/04

REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES FROM REGISTER OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES.

It was agreed to take Clr. A. Bonner's motion as the first item on the agenda:-

“That this Council remove St. Patrick's Church, Donaghmore, RPS 40201001 and St. Ann's Church, Dromore, Killygordon, RPS 40907822 from the Register of Protected Structures.”

Members were informed that at the reconvened County Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December, 2003, it was agreed by members that both structures i.e. St. Patricks Church, Donaghmore and St. Ann's Church, Dromore, Killygordon should be included on the Record of Protected Structures.

The assessment of both Churches was indicated on pages 22 & 23 of the “Response and Recommendations to Submissions made during the public consultation process” in the agenda item submitted to the Council Meeting.

Reference in the response was made to Section 3.1 of the report which outlined the recent initiative made in November, 2003 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the leaders of the Church Bodies resulting in the publication of Guidelines for Planning authorities on architectural heritage protection for places of Public Worship.

A detailed account of the submissions and the Manager’s response was outlined below:-

- (a) Submission by Evelyn Barnett on St. Patrick’s Church, Donaghmore, Glebe, Castlefin. The submission sought the deletion of the structures from the RPS due to the Church of Ireland having its own internal system deciding matters relating to management and preservation of church property. The Church of Ireland had been a conscientious steward of its heritage and it was not necessary to pass authority into the hands of bureaucracy.
- (b) Submission by Rectory Kenyon Homfray on St. Patrick’s Church,. The submission added that the Church had proved a good administrator of its temporal heritage but this was not its primary purpose. As the Church had created this heritage it was the best steward of it, it was unreasonable and bad policy to seek to remove that administration in secular hands. It was bad policy to record churches without full and direct consultation with those affected. There were on-going discussions between the Minister and church bodies and therefore these DOEHLG guidelines should be in place before the listing was made. The policy was too restrictive and repressive with serious financial and administrative burdens and so may hasten their closure and abandonment.

Section 58 of the Act, required establishment of rights and obligations arising out of the respective interests in a structure. There was concern that if there was a

clash between rights and obligations, it may be an impossible task to reach agreement.

No appeal process from a decision to protect structures. Potential inconsistency with the Constitution of Ireland.

- (c) Submission by Rector Kenyon Homfray on St. Anne's Church, Dromore, Killygordon. The submission sought the deletion of the structures from the RPS. As mentioned above in the Manager's response in both these cases, the relevant points were noted but the recommendations were that the County Council proceed with the proposed additions.

A detailed outline of paragraph 3.1 was outlined in the following text.

The work of church authorities over the years in the care and maintenance of church buildings was acknowledged and credit must be given for this important work. Given the church authorities record in maintaining their stock of buildings in good order, they were already meeting the basic requirements of the Act, and as long as this continued, they should experience no difficulty in complying with the legislation. This fact, however, should not exclude the buildings from being entered on the Record of Protected Structures in the first place. Such designation formally acknowledged the significance of the church building in architectural, artistic, historical and social terms. It also served to protect the church building in the future from any inappropriate development which may be proposed adjacent to it and which may impact on the integrity or setting of the church.

Clr. Bonner stated that she had received numerous representations in relation to these structures. The Church members concerned had, she confirmed, had a number of concerns which had not been addressed.

Mr. F. Coyle, advised that members had agreed in December, 2003 to keep all churches on the Record of Protected Structures. The Planning & Development Act, 2000 had placed an obligation on the Council to maintain a

Record of Protected Structures. To remove a structure from the record now would, he advised, send out the wrong signal to the general public. Structure for grant aid, he reminded members, had also been put in place. He appealed to members to allow the structures concerned to remain on the record and confirmed that the Planning Section would work with the Church Archivists to address and alleviate the concerns of the Church Bodies concerned.

A number of members were of the opinion that the Heritage Officer should be involved in the process and advised that a more defined system of classification was needed. Clrs. Gildea and Pringle stated that it was too early to start amending the Record of Protected Structures.

Mr. F. Coyle, reminded members that they had approved funds for a Conservation Officer at the Annual Budget Meeting held on the 13th January 2004. It was anticipated that this officer would, when appointed, meet with Clr. Bonner and the relevant Church Authorities to discuss the issues concerned.

Clr. Bonner noted Mr. Coyle's comments and paid tribute to the fine work both he and his staff had carried out on the register to date. She advised that she still had strong opinions on the matter and noted that the Anglican Church had not been included on the Record of Protected Structures in Northern Ireland.

Mr. F. Coyle, stated that formal legal procedures would have to be instigated to remove a structure from the Record of Protected Structures at this stage.

On the basis of Mr. Coyle's recommendation, Clr. Bonner agreed to defer the motion pending the appointment of a Conservation Officer who, in the course of his/her duties, would meet with the Church Bodies concerned and report on the matter to be presented at a future General Purposes Committee Meeting.

C/58/04

ERECTION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND LIGHT
AT THE BRIDGE, MAIN STREET, GLENTIES.

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

“That Donegal County Council erect a pedestrian crossing and public light at “The Bridge” on Main Street, Glenties.”

Members were informed that to erect a light similar to decorative lights that were put up for the Glenties Urban and Village Scheme and duct to the nearest mini pillar plus reinstatement would cost approximately €3000.

This light would need to be funded by the Urban and Village Programme or alternatively, the Electoral Area members could prioritise it for funding under the Electoral Area Budget.

Clr. Gildea stated that he was unhappy with the reply as this was a serious safety matter. He noted that there had been no input from any of the Glenties Electoral Area members into a Public Lighting Scheme for Glenties. Concern was expressed that people were crossing the road at the red brick paving assuming that this was a pedestrian crossing. The Cathaoirleach requested that the Roads Division investigate the issue further and report back to members at a future Glenties Electoral Area Meeting.

C/59/04

INCREASE IN SUBMISSION OF PLANNING
APPLICATIONS

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. Reid, the following motion was discussed:-

“That this Council discuss the number of planning applications currently being submitted because of the new Development Contribution Scheme.”

Members were informed that the publication of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme before Christmas, resulted in a significant increase in planning applications. This saw the total for December 2003 amount to 1034, compared to 524 applications for the previous December. To date (21st January) the January figures had reached 593, whereas the January 2003 total was 395. The Planning

Department would continue to monitor the levels of applications and deploy existing planning staff to address the workloads associated with this “once-off” situation.

Clr. McGuinness advised that the proposed introduction of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme was in effect a Stealth Tax and had resulted in a huge increase in the number of planning applications received. His main concern was the ability of the planning office to deal with such a large volume of correspondence. There had been, he noted, a marked increase in the number of applications turned down. He proceeded by listing a number of instances whereby planning had been invalidated for what he considered to be trivial reasons. This created a bad impression and he stated that many people were now of the opinion that such a percentage of refusals was part of a ploy to generate increased income from the Development Contribution Scheme. Thus, he called for a further extension to the prescribed period for the making of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme or some form of exemption for applicants who had registered applications prior to the deadline of the 10th March, 2004.

Clr. Larkin stated that the problem with the levy was the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and that it was unfair to lay blame with the Planning Section. Extra staff, he noted, should have been provided in each of the planning offices. It was also essential he confirmed that applicants abide by the law and guidelines provided.

Clr. McGlinchey recommended that the charge levied should be in the region of €500 to €1000 per house so as to facilitate the large number of young people who were buying/building houses.. He noted that the only provision in law was the onus to introduce a Development Contribution Scheme, the fee levied was a matter for the members themselves.

The County Manager stated that it was unfair today to criticise planning staff on the issue of individual files as they had no right of reply. He advised members to direct any queries in relation individual files to either Mr. F. Coyle, or Mr. J. Harley.

He continued by advising that the service delivered to the public by the planning section was of a high standard. If he had brought the new scheme for consideration and adoption by the Council earlier, the new charges would now be applicable and he anticipated that the members would not have thanked him for doing so. Referring to the members deliberations on the volume of applications, he confirmed that in any case where the notice on intention to grant issued prior to the 10th March, 2004 then the charge levied would be at the old rate. If the notice of intention to grant issued after the 10th March the new levies would apply. He reiterated that there was no manipulation of applications and that it was the prerogative of members to decide on the amount of the contribution.

Mr. F. Coyle stated that the rush of last minute applications had been anticipated. There were some problems initially as it had proved difficult to get an experienced planner. However, he added that extra help had been drafted in from the Central Planning Unit and former planning staff were also lending a hand.

He also noted that there was a high level of consultation on the scheme and that a broad range of information was available to the public. He advised that he would come back to Clr. McGuinness on the specific planning application queries that he had raised.

He reminded members that development charges were in existence since 1964 and that it was important to remember that funding from the Development Contribution Scheme would be used in determining pro-rata allocations for Capital Schemes from the D.O.E.H.L.G.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. D. McHugh, it was agreed that representations should be made to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen T.D. requesting a three-month extension to the deadline for the introduction of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme.

C/60/04

TETRAPAK RECYCLING SERVICES

On the proposal of Clr. A. Doherty, seconded by Clr. , the following motion was adopted: _

”That this Council provide Tetrapak recycling services and

continue to accept and encourage all aspects of paper and plastic recycling at the Civic Amenity Site in Carndonagh.”

Members were informed that Tetrapak had traditionally been a difficult product to recycle as it was often contaminated with foodstuffs and its composition could include a variety of foil, paper and plastic. In 2003 Tetrapak recycling trials were successfully introduced by Repak to three counties. This year the trials were to be extended nation-wide including to Donegal, Repak were currently devising collection methods for this packaging waste (bank, size, bank construction, materials, collection etc.) Paper and plastic recycling had been a huge success. Over the first two months of introducing the service in Carndonagh 982T of paper and 2.65T of plastic was collected.

Clr. Doherty stated that he was extremely concerned that notices had gone up recently on the Carndonagh Transfer Station advising that cardboard and Tetrapak would no longer be acceptable. He advised that he would like to see an ongoing commitment to Tetrapak at the Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site.

Clr. Maloney called for a Civic Amenity Site to be set up in every Electoral Area in the county.

Clr. Larkin requested that the Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services provide an update on recent talks with the Health Board.

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was agreed that Caroline Quirke, Environmental Awareness Officer would address the Glenties Electoral Area Committee in relation to the proposed dump at Meenaboll.

Clr. McGlinchey queried whether there was a balor for waste in each Electoral Area and if not, why not?

Mr. J. Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the provision of Tetrapak disposal facilities was constrained by budgetary factors. There was a need to develop the Council's recycling infrastructure and

this would be looked at in the context of the Waste Management Plan which was due for review in 2005. Members were informed that grants had been applied for in respect of 3 Civic Amenity Sites; however, there was a difficulty with the Letterkenny site at present.

Funding was also deemed to be an issue as the grant only covered 75% of the cost. He reminded members that funding for waste management infrastructure was excluded from income generated from the Development Contribution Scheme.

He further advised that specific laws existed in relation to the disposal of cardboard packaging. Repak, he noted had been set up to provide the industrial sector with disposal facilities for such packaging. The issue of whether or not local authorities were going to pick up the cost of industrial recycling was an issue for review in the Waste Management Plan.

Clr. A. Doherty requested further clarification on whether or not domestic cardboard could be left at the Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site and also a commitment Donegal County Council would ensure that Repak were allowed to provide Tetrapak recycling at Carndonagh.

Mr. Holohan, in reply confirmed that Carndonagh Civic Amenity Site was not accepting cardboard at the minute and that the consumer was entitled to bring cardboard back to the commercial centre they bought it in.

Clr. Doherty stated that officials not had a number of issues to resolve, as there was an obvious void in the system, with cardboard etc. not going to landfill sites.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the County Manager and the Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services further investigate the matter.

C/61/04

HOUSING SCHEME FOR BURT AREA

The following motion in the name of Clr. Conaghan was not moved.

“That this Council progress a Housing Scheme for the Burt Area when framing the new Housing Programme to be announced next year.”

C/62/04

OFFICIAL STATUS OF IRISH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

“That this Council supports the campaign for the official status of Irish in the European Union and that we write to An Taoiseach, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and the Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs.”

Members were informed that the Council was aware that there was currently a national debate around the matter of the status of the Irish Language in Europe. Those in favour of official status for the Irish Language had drawn attention to the fact that the Irish language was the only national language, which did not have official status within the European Union.

Official status would :

- Provide much needed employment opportunities for Irish citizens
- Ensure that selected Irish representatives would have the right to speak Irish when addressing the European Parliament- a right which would have particular importance for those members elected from the Gaeltacht.
- Official status within the European Union would complement the steps being taken in Ireland under the Official Languages Act, 2003.

It should be noted that one of the new official languages being introduced through the current process of enlargement, Maltese, had a similar number of speakers as the Irish Language. Furthermore, each Irish citizen currently contributed €2 per annum towards the translation costs of the European Union, yet only a very limited number of documents were translated into Irish.

Is eol don Chomhairle seo go bhfuil díospóireacht náisiúnta ar siúl san am i láthair ar stádas na Gaeilge san Eoraip.

Tharraing siad siúd atá i bhfách le stádas oifigiúil don Ghaeilge aird ar an fhíríc gurb í an Ghaeilge an t-aon teanga náisiúnta amháin nach bhfuil stádas iomlán oifigiúil aici san Aontas Eorpach.

Dhéanfadh stádas oifigiúil:

- deiseanna fostaíochta, a bhfuil géarghá leo, a chur ar fáil d'Éireannaigh
- a chinntiú go mbeadh sé de cheart ag ionadaithe na hÉireann labhairt i nGaeilge agus iad ag caint i bParlaimint na hEorpa – ceart a bheadh fíorthábhachtach do na baill thofa sin ar as an Ghaeltacht dóibh,
- bheadh stádas oifigiúil ag teacht le cuspóirí Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 in Éirinn.

Ba chóir a chuimhneamh chomh maith go bhfuil an líon céanna cainteoirí ag ceann amháin de na teangacha oifigiúla úra atá ag teacht isteach san Aontas Eorpach agus atá ag an Ghaeilge, mar atá an Mhaltáis. Lena chois seo, íocann gach Éireannach €2 in aghaidh na bliana as costais aistriúcháin an Aontais Eorpaigh, cé nach ndéantar aistriúchán Gaeilge ach ar fhíorbheagán cáipéisí.

Tá ceann de na ceantracha Gaeltachta is mó sa tír againn anseo i gContae Dhún na nGall, agus mar sin de, tá an ceantar seo iontach tábhachtach ó thaobh éagsúlacht chultúrtha na hEorpa de. Tá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall toilteanach comhfhreagras a chur, más mian leis na baill sin, le tacaíocht a thabhairt don fheachtas le stádas iomlán oifigiúil a bhaint amach don Ghaeilge san Aontas Eorpach.

Clr. Maloney advised that it was essential that Irish be given official status within the European Union. There existed, he noted, within this county alone an overwhelming commitment to the development and promotion of the language.

The fact that Irish did not have official status was preventing Irish graduates from applying for various positions within the EU.

Members supported the motion wholeheartedly and agreed that official recognition of the Irish language would have wide-ranging benefits for a number of areas, particularly the employment and tourism sectors.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the support given to the matter and complimented the County Manager and Donegal County Council staff on their efforts to improve the use of the Irish language in the county.

C/63/04 GREEN AREA AT ABBEY PARK,
MANORCUNNINGHAM

The following motion in the name of Clr. Crawford was not moved.

“That this Council leave ready the green area at Abbey Park, Manorcunningham so as to allow it to be maintained.”

C/64/04 JUNCTION BETWEEN LIFFORD AND MURLOG

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

“That this Council look at the junction between Lifford and Murlog over to the Church and try and make the junction here a lot safer under the Low Accident Budget.”

Members were informed that this junction would be helped by the Manor to Lifford Realignment Project but due to the uncertainty of the time scale of this project, the Council could not say when this would happen. Consideration would be given to this junction in 2004 under the Low Cost Accident Scheme which would prioritise various sites throughout the county.

Clr. Larkin advised that there was a large area of land available at this junction. He requested that roads staff examine the junction and investigate the possibility of using the maintenance budgets to address this matter.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that the matter could be brought back to the Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting for discussion.

C/65/04 ROAD FROM ST. EUNANS N.S. TO VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, RAPHOE.

It was agreed to defer the following motion in the name of Clr. Harte to the Council Meeting scheduled for 29th March, 2004.

“That this Council make good the stretch of road from St. Eunan’s N.S. to the Vocational School, Raphoe as a matter of urgency.”

C/66/04 REMOVAL OF 30MPH SIGNS AT CREESLOUGH

The following motion in the name of Clr. J. McHugh was withdrawn.

“That this Council agree to move the 30mph signs on the Creeslough side of Kilmacreenan towards the control points”.

C/67/04 PURCHASE OF HOUSES IN BALLYSHANNON

The following motion in the name of Clr. D. McHugh was not moved.

“That this Council purchase 1,12,22, and 23 Assaroe View and 80 St. Benildus Avenue, all in Ballyshannon.”

C/68/04 CHARGES FOR PLANNING PERMISSIONS

The following motion in the name of Clr. McEniff was not moved.

“That all planning permissions applied for before the new charges are implemented, are exempt from increases.”

C/69/04 SPEED LIMIT ON DONEGAL ROAD, BALLYBOFEY

It was agreed to defer the following motion in the name of Clr. McGowan to the Council Meeting scheduled for 29th March, 2004.

“That this Council extend the 40mph speed limit on the Donegal Road, Ballybofey immediately and to review the location of all other 30/40 mile speed limits in the county in light of the mile per hour changing to Kilometres per hour.”

C/70/04

BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

“That the Council discuss the proposed second stage of the Ballyfoey/Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme.”

Members were informed that Ballybofey Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 Network was currently not on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2003-2005. However, Donegal County Council had prepared contract documents for investigative works including CCTV Survey, manhole survey, and network modelling. These documents were currently being reviewed with a view to tendering this investigative work in 2004. It was hoped to have the network improvement scheme included on the Water Services Investment Programme at the next annual review. In the meantime measures had been taken locally in response to flooding accidents in the Back Lane. Sewer jetting had removed accumulated grease and grit from the line and a flap valve had been fitted to protect premises from flooding. Grease interceptors were being installed on local premises. A preliminary design of a storm overflow system had been procured. Detailed design and construction would be expedited with the view to early completion.

The following questions and replies were noted

C/71/04

POLICY OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:

“What is the policy of Donegal County Council to the employment of people with a disability?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that Donegal County Council, in line with the Public Sector generally, had been set a target to

employ people with a disability to equal 3% of overall staff numbers employed. To date, the Council had not reached this target.

The Council had a record over the years of employing people with disabilities and had sought to provide them with employment that was suitable to their abilities.

The Council was committed to exploring the various options available to provide additional employment to people with disabilities and had initiated consultations with the North Western Health Board in this regard.

One option being explored was the holding of special recruitment competitions specifically aimed at people with a disability. This matter was also currently receiving consideration by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in the context of finalising the Disability Bill, and may require specific regulation to allow such competitions to take place.

C/72/04

MEENACHAN/MEENTINADEA GROUP SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey: -

“When will the Meenachan/Meentinadea Group Scheme work be finished such that water is provided to the remaining members of the Group Scheme?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that Nicholas O’Dwyer & Partners, Consulting Engineers had been appointed to assist in bringing closure to the contract and completing the scheme in a cost effective manner. They had met the contractor in mid January with the view to getting him back on site to expedite completion of the scheme. The Council regretted that they were unable to give a definite time line at this stage.

C/73/04

GORTAHORK SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

“Can the Gortahork Sewerage Scheme be referred to planning and design stage in view of the health hazards being encountered by the children at Gortahork National School?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that Gortahork Sewerage Scheme was placed 09th prior on the assessment of Needs 1999 (Glenties EA). This was because of the relatively low population equivalent (less than 1,000).

The Department of Environment provided funding for schemes under the water services investment programme. Schemes with a population equivalent of over 1000 were prioritised to be included on the programme. For this reason, it was unlikely that Gortahork would, in the short term, be included to “enter planning”.

C/74/04

FUNDING FOR CARRICKFIN AIRPORT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gildea: -

“Why is the Carrickfin Airport in West Donegal not getting equal financial subvention to that being provided (provisionally) to the City of Derry Airport, which is out of state and therefore beyond the financial control of this Council and the Auditor General?”

Clr. Gildea was informed that:

Carrickfin Airport

In 1990 Donegal County Council pledged financial assistance to Donegal International Airport, Carrickfin in the then sum of £30,000 per annum (€38,092.14). The payments in respect of this commenced in mid 1991 with the arrangement continuing up until 1997 when a further agreement for an additional five year period was endorsed by the Council with contributions continuing at the same level for the period 1998 to 2002. Additionally, in April 2002 the Council agreed that a maximum figure of €40,000 per annum would be made available to Donegal International Airport for a five year period during 2003 to 2007 inclusive. In total €657,000 had been paid or committed to Donegal International Airport for ongoing infrastructural development over the period 1991 to 2007. Carrickfin, therefore got 6.5 times more assistance than what had been committed to City of Derry Airport.

City of Derry Airport

A submission was made to Donegal County Council by representatives of the North West Air Access Consortium in

November, 2003 which outlined both the infrastructural development and marketing development plans of the City of Derry Airport and the impact that this had on the economy and tourism industry in County Donegal. To this end the members as part of the Budget 2004 process agreed with the request that a €100,000 allocation would be made available to the North West Air Access Consortium and the City of Derry Airport for marketing purposes to facilitate the attraction of additional numbers using the City of Derry Airport, a substantial proportion of those (a figure approaching 5%) having Donegal as their final destination. This was the first such commitment to the City of Derry Airport from Donegal County Council. (Any previous financial support was funded by Government Departments). Both Donegal County Council and the Donegal County Development Board had identified the City of Derry Airport as a strategic resource and had requested National Government to support the ongoing development of the airport bearing in mind its importance to the economy of Donegal. Donegal County Council also recognised the strategic importance of Donegal International Airport, Carrickfin as evidenced by its annual contribution towards the infrastructural development of the airport and also through its ongoing support and recommendation for the continuance of existing public service obligations to facilitate the ongoing service between Dublin and Carrickfin.

C/75/04

POLICY IN RELATION TO FRESH WATER GAME ANGLING PLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gildea:

“What is the current position on the Fresh Water Game Angling Plan and would the Manager make a full statement outlining future Council Policy regarding the above mentioned plan.”

Clr. Gildea was informed that the Northern Regional Fisheries Board had adopted the plan in question and following consideration of the recommendation from Donegal County Council agreed to continue to retain the services of Mr. Kevin Bonner to carry out further meetings with the various angling clubs in question. Mr. Bonner

would be making contact with the anglers in the near future to arrange meetings.

C/76/04

ERECTION OF LIGHTS ON GWEEDORE ROAD,
DUNGLOE

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

“When will the 3 lights on Gweedore Road, Dungloe, adjacent to the new Public Service Office be erected and will the new 5 year programme that is to commence this year provide for additional public lights from the Public Service Office to Cois Locha, Housing Estate?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that the ESB were currently undertaking maintenance works on the public lighting stock. They hoped to begin works on the Public Lighting Programme, including specific projects such as Gweedore Road, Dungloe, in early February. The ESB had been informed of the priority of this location. Work would commence on the new public lighting programme recommendations in April. This would be put before the members for approval in June or thereabouts. Subject to the programme being approved, work would commence immediately. If the lights at Cois Locha were approved as part of this report, they would form part of this work.

C/77/04

PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS IN AREA OFFICES.

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“When will the local improvement scheme applications, specific instant houses applications and members contribution scheme applications be processed in local area offices?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that the first priority of the decentralisation programme was to get all of the Public Service Centres up and running, and delivering as wide a range of initial services as possible. This objective would be largely achieved with the opening of the Centre in Donegal Town over the next couple of months. The next step in the process would be to enhance the range of services available to customers through the centres. The decentralisation of additional services would require significant changes to

existing processes/procedures, the enhancement of IT systems, and the training of relevant staff in new skills. This work was on-going at present.

With regard to the specific services mentioned, the following was the current position:-

The delivery of Local Improvement Schemes had already been decentralised to three of the Electoral Areas, and this process would be completed in the coming months. A major review of procedures for the processing of SI Applications was well underway. The principle objectives of this review was to streamline the manner in which the Council handle these applications, with a view to having the service decentralised under the new arrangements. A review had also commenced of procedures for the processing and payment of grants from the Members' Development Fund, with a view to having them handled through the Public Service Centres. It was anticipated that this could be achieved over the next few months.

C/78/04

SPECIAL HARDSHIP CASES UNDER DPG SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“Has this Council decided on a method for dealing with special hardship cases under the DPG Scheme?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that discussions were ongoing with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with regard to revised guidelines for both Essential Repairs and Disabled Person Grant Scheme. Special hardship cases under the DPG Scheme were currently under review in the light of the previous Council resolution in this matter, the recommendations of S.P.C. for Housing/Building and the decision by the Council at the Budget meeting to allocate an additional €170,000 to cater for special cases. Discussions were presently being held with the Occupational Therapy Section of the North Western Health Board along with representatives of disabled persons in the county and with Area Managers, Housing to determine new guidelines for Disabled Persons Grants to assist in prioritisation of applicants most in need. A further meeting of the Housing/Building SPC would be held in the next few weeks to consider new policy guidelines to assist in the handling of special case and also an overall policy to ensure

that all funding available was targeted to meet the highest priority cases.

C/79/04

EXTENSION OF SERVICES AT PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRES

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

“Will the Council extend services at Public Service Offices to allow the process/consideration of S.I. Housing, L.I.S. applications, Community Development Fund et al to be conducted at local area offices?”

Clr. A. Doherty was informed that the first priority for the decentralisation programme was to get all of the Public Service Centres up and running and delivering as wide a range of initial services as possible. This objective would be largely achieved with the opening of the centre in Donegal Town over the next couple of months. The next step in the process would be to enhance the range of services available to customers through the centres. The decentralisation of additional services would require significant changes to existing processes/procedures, the enhancement of IT systems, and the training of relevant staff in new skills. This work was on going at present.

With regard to the specific services mentioned, the following was the current position:

The delivery of Local Improvement Schemes had already been decentralised to three of the Electoral Areas, and this process would be completed in the coming months. A major review of procedures for the processing of SI applications was well underway. The principal objectives of this review was to streamline the manner in which the Council handled these applications, with a view to having the service decentralised under the new arrangements. A review had also commenced of procedures for the processing and payment of grants from the Members' Development Fund, with a view to having them handled through the Public Service Centres. It was anticipated that this could be achieved over the next few months.

C/80/04

SUPPORT FOR MALIN HEAD UNDER THE PILOT RURAL COMMUNITY INIATIVE.

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

“Given the adoption of my motion no. 20 in November, 2003 and the continued support from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for Malin Head under the Pilot Rural Community Initiative, what Council progress with assistance had occurred and was planned for 2004?”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the Council recognised the strategic importance of Malin Head and in particular Banbas Crown as strategic tourist resource for all of County Donegal. In this regard the Community and Enterprise Division would during 2004 explore how best this strategic resource could be developed with the objective of bringing to Council recommendations for support, including financial if required, to progress the actions. Options to be considered would include the purchase of the site, developmental opportunities to assist in the site becoming a strategic tourism point within the county and identification of funding to facilitate the attainment of agreed objectives. This would form part of the work of the Tourism Development Officer within the Community & Enterprise Division for 2004.

C/81/04

CONSULTANTS REPORT /BRIDGEND SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What are the findings of the Consultant’s Report regarding the Bridgend Sewerage Scheme (SLI) and the proposal to include Burnfoot in same?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that Bridgend Sewerage Scheme was currently listed on the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Water Services Investment Programme 2003-2005 as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme. Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme was currently not listed on any funded programme and was not part of the scope of the Bridgend Scheme at the time of application. Notwithstanding this fact, the consultants for Bridgend were asked to look at the future servicing of Burnfoot and this was reflected in the draft preliminary report which was currently being reviewed. While the final preliminary report would identify a means of servicing and

treating the load arising from Burnfoot, no funding currently existed for this element of the work and consequently cannot be advanced without additional funding being secured.

C/82/04

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN KILLEA AND
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM (R237)

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What plans do the Council have for the improvement of the road between Killea and Newtowncunningham (R237) including the dangerous bends at Argony Pipe which is liable to frost and the scene of many accidents?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that a 1.1km section of the R237 in the vicinity of the Argony Pipe was on the 5 year plan for road restoration in 2005 with a budget of €88,000. This money would improve the roads structure and surface, but would not be capable of improving the road alignment. Although this junction had had a history of some minor accidents, the recorded accident history was not significantly higher than other junctions in the area, and would be unlikely to qualify for monies under the low cost accident scheme. The monies available under the low cost accident scheme were also aimed at minor improvements. If the R237 was to obtain monies sufficient for major works, agreement from the members regarding the prioritisation of the proposed future EU-Co Financed projects in Inishowen would be necessary, bearing in mind that this road would have a lesser traffic count than the currently agreed priorities.

The Council was also in the process of applying for cross border funding for this road.

C/83/04

STORAGE FACILITIES FOR OLD FRIDGES. ETC. IN
THE LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Maloney:-

“What storage facility have we got for old fridges, freezers, washing machines and old cookers in the Letterkenny Electoral Area?”

Clr. Maloney was informed that attempts to establish an all Ireland service had stalled but had recently drawn to a

conclusion with the appointment of M. Baker Recycling. They had appointed KMK Metals Recycling of County Offaly to collect the fridges etc. on their behalf. Service would be extended to Donegal through this scheme. The contractor was currently gathering data on the quantities involved and logistics of collection and storage. Donegal County Council alone had some 250 fridges in the CA site in Carndonagh awaiting collection.

The Council were aware that many fridges were being held in households awaiting a recycling service by Donegal County Council. When KMK Metals Recycling had worked out their collection routes for the country and caught up with the backlog nationally, the Council would then introduce a system countywide for fridges to be stored and recycled. Ideally this would take place in the additional CA sites. It was hoped to include a service in the Letterkenny Area at that time.

C/84/04

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Maloney:-

“How many houses will we have this year under the Affordable Housing Scheme”?

Clr. Maloney was informed that at this point in time there was no definite proposed completions of affordable houses in the county for the coming year.

Some initial discussions had taken place with members in some areas who were in favour of proposals being put forward and provision had been made in Budget 2004 to enable at least one affordable housing scheme to be progressed in each Electoral Area during 2004 as part of the Council’s commitment to providing assistance to persons seeking to re-house themselves.

C/85/04

RESURFACING OF ROAD FROM DEELE COTTAGES TO CHAPEL JUNCTION, RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford: -

“The road from Deele Cottage, Raphoe to the Chapel Junction is in very poor condition-when will it be resurfaced?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that this Regional Road was to be upgraded and resurfaced as part of the planning conditions for the adjacent developer. They were building the houses at present at this location and the Council had asked them to programme the road works as soon as possible. The Council were awaiting a programme of a time scale but the Council did not have same at present. However, the Council were optimistic that the works would be started within the next couple of months.

C/86/04 IMPROVEMENT OF APPEARANCE OF MANOR ROUNDABOUT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford: -

“Are there any plans to improve the appearance of the Manor Roundabout?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that there were no direct funds in place to carry out these works but that the Council would be proposing to seek sponsorship in 2004 to maintain all roundabouts in the Letterkenny Electoral Area. Otherwise, improvements/enhancements would have to come from the Letterkenny Electoral Area Maintenance Budget which needed to cover a wide range of activities.

C/87/04 FUNDING FROM MANOR TO LIFFORD UNDER CROSS BORDER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“How successful have we been in trying to get funding for the road from Manor to Lifford under a Cross Border Scheme?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that the Council made a submission under the Inter-Reg for funding in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Roads Service. The Council understood that the Department of Transport was currently reviewing this submission and that no final determination had been made on the Council’s submission.

C/88/04 PROGRESS ON LECK, RAMELTON AND LETTERKENNY ROADS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“Will this Council be able to progress with the Leck Road and Ramelton, Letterkenny Roads this year?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that the Council was hopeful it would be in a position to progress with both these schemes provided that arrangements were reached on the lands and funding was made available under the EU Co-Financed Schemes. The announcement of allocations was expected later today.

Difficulties arose on both these schemes in 2003 regarding land acquisition/property impacts. At this point, and subject to funding, the Council were fairly confident that the Ramelton Scheme land difficulties would be overcome. More efforts were still needed to reach a conclusion on Leck Road. However, the Council’s local team were working hard on this Leck Scheme to help bring agreement and progress in 2004.

C/89/04

FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION AT
BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. J. McHugh:-

“What priority status has this Council given the foreshore licence application at Buncrana?”

Clr. J. McHugh was informed that currently, this foreshore application was receiving top priority from Donegal County Council. This application was submitted for the Buncrana Marina in December, 2000. At the end of 2003, when the Council were anticipating receiving the licence, they received a letter from the Department of the Marine indicating that the EIS needed to be put on public display for four weeks. It was the Council’s understanding that an issue may have arisen regarding a separate similar application for the Rathmullan Marina and the Department had requested that they both had the EIS on public display.

The notice putting the EIS on public display was published in the papers last week. It would be displayed for four weeks and if there were no objections, it was anticipated the Department would turnaround the licence in a further two weeks.

The matter of funding the works was also an ongoing issue.

C/90/04

FLIGHT OF THE EARLS CENTRE IN RATHMULLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. J. McHugh:-

“Will this Council move to prioritise the Flight of the Earls Centre in Rathmullan in light of the celebrations in 2004?”

Clr. J. McHugh was informed that the Community & Enterprise unit of the Council was currently making every effort to assist this group at local level. An application was currently being developed locally, which would be assisted by Community & Enterprise, to apply to the Peace II Task Force for funding. Other potential funding opportunities were also being investigated.

C/91/04

KILLYBEGS TREATMENT WORKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What stage is the Killybegs Sewerage Scheme at and when are the networks and treatment works likely to go to tender?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that contract documents for Killybegs Sewerage Scheme Contract 2 Network and Pumping Stations had been submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval. Contract documents for DBO Group B Killybegs and Bundoran Sewerage Contracts 1 Wastewater Treatment Works had also been submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government for approval. Tenders could not be invited until approval was received. It was therefore not possible to give an accurate timescale but construction was unlikely to start before 2005.

C/92/04

OWENTESKINNEY DBO SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“Have consultants been appointed to the Owenteskinney DBO Scheme and if so when are they due to report on the scheme?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that a consultant had been selected and approval had been sought for the appointment from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local

Government. The report from the consultants would be due for submission three months after their appointment.

C/93/04

PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF 2004
CALENDAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. McHugh:-

“How much did the publication and distribution via the Donegal Democrat, of the 2004 calendar cost this Council?”

Clr. D. McHugh was informed that 20,000 copies of the Environment Calendar, 2004 were produced at a cost of €1,022.77. They were distributed to the public through the Council’s decentralised office, public libraries, all schools in the county and as an insert in the Christmas edition of the Donegal Democrat in conjunction with the Council’s Greenpiece insert. Copies were sent to the prize winning students whose work featured in the calendar. Copies were circulated to the members of Donegal County Council today. Copies were being sent to members of the public on request. A few hundred copies remained to be distributed. Distribution costs came to €18.00. The average cost per unit of the calendar was €0.60. This publication was in line with the objectives and targets set out in the Council’s Waste Management Plan 2000. A grant of €14,000 was received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in respect of this and other awareness projects.

C/94/04

RESURFACING OF FOOTPATHS IN CASTLEFIN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“When will the Council resurface all the footpaths, which have been rekerbed in Castlefin, the surfaces have been left in a dangerous condition?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that the section in front of the school was to be surfaced by the contractor who was building the Council houses above Hillhead Estate. The €750,000 footpath programme for 2004 had not been allocated yet to the Electoral Areas; however, when funding

was allocated the section of path in front of the Garda Barracks would be prioritised and brought to a future Electoral Area Meeting for consideration.

C/95/04 OUTCOME OF MEETING WITH ESB

The following question was submitted by Clr. J.J. Reid: -

“What was the outcome of the meeting with the ESB and are the Council satisfied that improvements have taken place in the Service?”

Clr. Reid was informed that meeting notes from the meeting with the ESB last December were circulated to all members last week. Generally, the ESB indicated that they were doing their best to keep up with their patrols and maintenance schedules. They acknowledged that they had a busy workload at this time of year and indicated that the same crews who maintained street lights could be put up in the summer, thereby leaving all crews available for repairs in the Winter. In addition, the ESB had provided a new contact number (1850 372 772). The ESB had added a person and a new hoist was ordered which would mean that an extra crew would be available. The Council was continuing to monitor the situation although some areas had indicated that improvements had been made.

C/96/04 SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN CONVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“When exactly does the Council intend upgrading the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Convoy and will this work be sufficient to cater for all the proposed new housing in the area?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that Convoy Sewerage Scheme was currently on the Water Services Investment Programme 2003-2005 as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme. It was also listed on the Small Schemes Priorities Revised Programme 1994-1999. It was expected that construction on Convoy Sewerage Scheme would commence before the end of year 2004.

C/97/04

PROVISION OF A PUBLIC CARPARK IN
STRANORLAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid: -

“Have the Council any plans to provide a public carpark in Stranorlar?”

Clr. Reid was informed that the Council were presently pursuing funds for a detailed design to upgrade the existing carpark at Stranorlar, similar to Navenny Car Park, Ballybofey. It was estimated that the upgrade would cost in the region of €80-100,000. Funds may be ringfenced from the car parking charges revenue (subject to E.A. Committee approval). Also, an expression of interest had been submitted for funding of €100,000 under the PEACE II Programme. Alternatively, funds deriving from the new Development Contribution Scheme or specific development charges could be levied to fund the design and construction.

In addition, the Planning Directorate were also considering the provision of car parking to serve a variety of proposals at Brogran’s land.

The different car parking proposals would need to be prioritised by the Electoral Members in due course.

C/98/04

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL SWIMMING POOL

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

“What is the up to date position regarding the Stranorlar Electoral Swimming Pool?”

Clr. Bonner was informed that consultants on the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Leisure Centre Projects were currently working on the preliminary Report and Planning documents with a view to having draft documents and drawings available for presentation in March 2004. The costs that would be incurred up to the end of Preliminary Report and Planning stage was of the order of €450,000 of a total anticipated cost of €1.16m to advance the project to tender stage. Loan approval had been sought from the Department for €1.16m and queries they had raised with regard to the project were being addressed at present.

In any event the viability of the project would have to be addressed at the end of PR and planning stage.

C/99/04

FUNDING FOR UPGRADING OF SEWERAGE NETWORK IN BALLYBOFEY

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

“What is the up to date position regarding the application to the Department for funding in relation to the upgrading of the Sewerage Network in Ballybofey?”

Clr. Bonner was informed that Ballybofey Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 Network was currently not on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2003-2005. However, Donegal County Council had prepared contract documents for investigative works including CCTV survey, manhole survey, and network modelling. These documents were currently being reviewed with a view to tendering this investigative work in 2004. It was hoped to have the network improvement scheme included on the Water Services Investment Programme at the next annual review.

In the meantime measures had been taken locally in response to flooding incidents in the Back Lane. Sewer jetting had removed accumulated grease and grit from the line and a flap valve had been fitted to protect premises from flooding. Grease interceptors were being installed in local premises. A preliminary design of a storm overflow system had been procured. Detailed design and construction would be expedited with the view to early completion.

C/100/04

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

On the proposal of Clr. Maloney, seconded by Clr. Slowey the following motions from other Councils were noted:-

COBH TOWN COUNCIL

“That refuse charges for those over the age of 65 be abolished and that the income foregone by the Council in relation to this be recouped from Central Government Funds.”

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (c) “That existing retail outlets, particularly supermarkets, be encouraged to provide toilet facilities for all their customers and, in particular, the handicapped”.
- (d) “That all future planning permissions include an obligatory clause that such facilities be part of the application.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council requests the Department of the Taoiseach to instruct all Government Departments and Agencies to adopt a sensible, integrated approach toward road openings, road surfacing repairs, provision of water/sewerage/telephone/electricity/broadband/gas etc. utilities. The instruction must be accompanied by a commitment to fund the provision of multipurpose service ducts with access manholes, particularly in cities, towns and villages when significant roadworks are carried out. This proposal, if adopted and implemented, would dramatically reduce the overall cost and disruption caused by unnecessary repeat road openings. That a copy of this motion be circulated to all local authorities and to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.”

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment be advised of this Council’s concern with regard to the increase in hours and the cutting down of numbers on the Community Employment Schemes and the impact this will have both on rural villages and urban areas, and that this resolution be forwarded to all Councils for their support.”

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City Council calls on the Government to protect the fundamental human rights of people with disabilities in Ireland and to end the widespread discrimination they experience in the provision of basic services from the State by introducing a rights based Disability Bill. That this motion be forwarded to all City and County Councils.”

CASTLEBAR TOWN COUNCIL

“That the members of Castlebar Town Council call on the Government to amend the 2003 Freedom of Information

Act, to allow public representatives to obtain information free of charge and that the internal review fee under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act, be abolished in respect of review requested by public representatives and the press.”

WATERFORD CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science, Noel Dempsey to implement a course on the “Rules of the Road” to all students in second level education in their transition year.”

LONGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

“That Longford Town Council call on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to introduce a waiver system for the collection of refuse charges similar to that operated for T.V. licences and E.S.B. allowance.”

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That this Council, acknowledging the heinous crimes committed by some religious congregations, and the definite need for redress, still recognise, in a generous fashion, the immense contribution made by these said orders in the education, health and other fields.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to reverse her decision to abolish the Diet Supplement and that this motion be forwarded to all local authorities.”

“We call on the Department of Education and Science to provide the funding which is awarded on a yearly basis to the adult education board of the VEC for the different schemes of adult education in the spring of each year rather than the autumn”.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Laois County Council fully supports the Association of Health Boards in Ireland, recognising the important role that Local Authority Members have played in the delivery of our health services. To this end, we inform the Minister for the Environment of our concern at the lack of local authority

input into the Government's Health Service Reform Programme and request that he intervene with the Minister for Health and Children and his cabinet colleagues in ensuring that local democratic representation be part and parcel of any Health Service Reform Package. Also that we as a local authority with a proven track record of our members contribution to the health services enlist the support of all other local authorities to support this objective."

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

"Following the publication of the Draft Action Programme for the EU Nitrates Directive published by the Departments of Agriculture and Environment, that this Council calls on the Government to put in place: -

- (e) A package of financial assistance to help farmers meet the extra costs involved.
- (f) Extra financial aid in Counties Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim and Donegal as they require extra storage capacity.
- (g) A common sense approach to the implementation of the new regulations taking into consideration local and climatic conditions.
- (h) That the level of bureaucracy introduced as a result of these proposals be kept to an absolute minimum.

C/101/04

COMPLETION OF BUSINESS ON AGENDAS

The Cathaoirleach informed members that the business of the General Purposes Meeting on Monday 09th February would have to be completed by 4.00pm as a number of members were attending the official opening by Minister Cullen of the new Bundoran Civic Offices and Library at 5.30pm.

He also reminded members that it was essential that all business scheduled for the March Council Meeting be dealt with on the day.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

