

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

30 Iúil 2004

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 26 Iúil, ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 6 Meán Fómhair 2004, ag **2.00 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 July, 2004

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 26th July, 2004 will be held on Monday 06th September, 2004, at 2.00pm, 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

AGENDA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH ITEM HAS RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL NUMBER FROM AGENDA ISSUED FOR THE JULY COUNCIL MEETING)

12. (e) **Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

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

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

13. Clr. L. Blaney
“That Donegal County Council provides a Compulsory Purchase Order to open the right of way to Drumnacraig Beach, Drumnacraig, Fanad” (L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

14. Clr. B. Byrne
“That this Council prioritise the need for improvements to the Water Service of the areas of Kilcar-Glencolmcille.” (L)
15. Clr. S. McEniff
“That the Council reconsider and make a submission to the Department for separate fire stations for Bundoran and Ballyshannon and withdraw the Finner application.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

16. Clr. T. Pringle
“That Donegal County Council calls on the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to enter talks with all stakeholders in the fishing industry in Killybegs to ensure that the next fishing season can maximise employment in the south west and ensure that the mackerel quota will be landed in Ireland.”
(L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

17. Clr. A. Bonner
“That this Council removes St. Patrick’s Church, Donaghmore, RPS 40201001 and St. Ann’s Church, Dromore, Killygordon RPS 40907822, and Convoy Presbyterian Church, RPS 40909874 from the Register of Protected Structures.” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

18. Clr. J.J. Reid
“That this Council request the Department of Environment to increase grant aid to the people awaiting a water supply where Group Schemes are uneconomical.” (C)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

19. Clr. E. Bonner
“That Donegal County Council organise a daily clean up at bottle banks and rubbish bins at both town streets and beaches especially during the tourist season.” (C)
20. Clr. D. Alcorn
“That Donegal County Council re-examine the situation that people building new homes and laying 4” water mains to their site, should get reimbursed for future connections on the same stretch of 4” piping.” (C)

Roads & Transportation

21. Clr. B. O'Domhnaill
“I am calling on Donegal County to co-operate with Fiontar na Cuinge Teo and the community organisations in the Cloughaneely and Gweedore area in ensuring that public lights ordered/selected can be progressed without further delay.” (L)

Housing

22. Clr. T. Slowey
“That this Council ensure that all housing for old age pensioners, both new and existing, be heated by oil fired or electric heating in addition to the solid fuel presently provided.” (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

23. Clr. D. McGonagle
“That the Council bring more water from Meendoran Lough, Clonmany to Carndonagh, thus solving the hard water situation in Carndonagh and providing the much needed water for their new schemes.” (L)
24. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That the Council discuss the Waste Management Plan and establish what progress has been made regarding same.” (C)

Roads & Transportation

25. Clr. M. McDonald
“That money be set aside in this years Estimates to recognise the unique amenities for the shore fronts of Moville to ensure that they are maintained in a manner that will be pleasing to the local residents and tourists.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

26. Clr. D. Larkin
“That this Council amends its Development Plan to put the onus for speed calming, number of houses, signage and road markings on the Developer.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

27. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council debate the lack of recycling facilities for proper waste in Lifford/St. Johnston, Raphoe/Manorcunningham areas.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

28. Clr. T. McDaid
“That this Council as a matter of urgency put in place traffic calming measures at St. Eunan’s National School, Deelee College and Royal & Prior Comprehensive School, Raphoe.” (L)

QUESTIONS

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

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

29. Clr. L. Blaney
“Can Donegal County Council provide monies to build a new reservoir at Grainne Hill in Downings?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

30. Clr. L. Blaney
“When does Donegal County Council intend refurbishing the pier at Portsalon, which is presently closed?” (L)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

31. Clr. B. Byrne
“What time scale has this Council for the commencement of the Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme?” (L)
32. Clr. T. Pringle
“What progress has been made in securing an improved water supply for the Mountcharles area?” (L)
33. Clr. T. Pringle
“Will the new cell at Ballinacarrick landfill be open in time to take waste as the existing cell fills up and what plans have been made to avert a crisis for consumers in the county?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

34. Clr. B. Byrne
“Can the Council confirm that the speed limit on the N56 will be set back to the Texaco Station on the Mountcharles Road at Donegal Town and can they confirm that the speed limit will be reduced to 30mph at the location?” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

35. Clr. A. Bonner
“Will this Council arrange to have a crash barrier and proper signage erected on the dangerous bend at Meencargagh School, at the bottom of McGoary’s brae, after the recent tragic loss of life at this spot?” (L)
36. Clr. J.J. Reid
“Why has the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Roads Electoral Area Office have to wait two years for a clerk typist?” (L)

Corporate Services

37. Clr. A. Bonner
“What is the up to date position on the One Stop Shop for the Stranorlar Electoral Area and will this Council draw up a timetable for the deliverance of this project?” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

38. Clr. E. Bonner
“What intentions has the County Manager re the old Council Office on Gweedore Road, Dungloe?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

39. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the public lighting be erected at Meenacuing, Gweedore now that the E.S.B. has provided the funding to Donegal County Council?” (L)
40. Clr. D. Alcorn
“Why can overgrowth on the seaward side of the road around the Gweebarra turns (N56) not be cut to afford tourists, in particular, viewing one of the most beautiful scenery in the county?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

41. Clr. T. Slowey
“When will the first sod be turned and work begin on the Ardara Sewerage Scheme?” (L)
42. Clr. T. Slowey
“When will the last section of the Meentinadea/Meenachan Group Scheme be completed providing water to Cashel, Common & Aighe?” (L)

Corporate Services

43. Clr. D. Alcorn
“Why were so many names of people who were on the voting register all their lives, deleted on the 04-05 voting register?” (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

44. Clr. D. McGonagle
“Has the Council any plan for a site for a children’s playground in Carndonagh?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

45. Clr. D. McGonagle
“What is the present position regarding motion I had passed by the Council as Chairman in 1996-97?”
“That the Council prepare a price and scheme to extend and update the Clonmany and Ballyliffin Schemes and send same to DOE for funding.” (L)
46. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council how many litter wardens there are in the county and how many cases they have taken to court?” (C)
47. Clr. F. Conaghan
“Why has there been no street sweeping done in most of the Border Villages over the past few months.?” (L)

Housing

48. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council the detailed plans they have on houses available in the towns of Merville, Quigley’s Point, Gleneely, Culdaff, Carndonagh, Clonmany and Glengad.?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

49. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What assistance can Donegal County Council give to interested parties for the upgrade and development of the Quay Shore at Ballybegley, Newtowncunningham?” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

50. Clr. D. Larkin
“What progress has been made to eradicate the serious problem at Murlog Junction as highlighted by myself a few months ago?” (L)
51. Clr. D. Larkin
“Have the plans that have been promised to the Board of Management, Planning Authorities and Principal of Lurgybrack School been given to them yet and a plan put in place to prevent loss of life at this black spot.?” (L)

Housing

52. Clr. G. Crawford
“What plans does this Council have to ensure that the works necessary to their property (single house) at Guest House End, Raphoe are carried out without further delay?” (L)
53. Clr. T. McDaid
Has the Council any plans to purchase the remaining unoccupied houses in Foyle View and Ard na Meala, St. Johnston for the purpose of letting to those families on the housing list in the area?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

54. Clr. G. Crawford
“What implications, if any, will the recent environmental findings from Brussels have on Donegal County Council?” (C)
55. Clr. T. McDaid
“What timescale has the Council given to the owner of the former Doherty’s Coachworks building in Lifford to commence the safe

removal of the asbestos roof there in the interests of the well being of the residents of the Diamond area?" (L)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

56. KILKEE TOWN COUNCIL

"That holiday homes qualifying for tax relief under the Seaside Renewal Scheme be rated in a manner similar to other business premises in that particular resort for the 10 year relevant period, and that such revenue be ringfenced for expenditure, in the particular resort in question."

57. BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to cease the practice of double taxation whereby a Social Welfare payment is deducted from the recipients working partner/spouses tax free allowance."

58. CASTLEBAR TOWN COUNCIL

"That the members of Castlebar Town Council resolve to call on the Minister for the Environment to create the position of a Ombudsman to deal with complaints of elected representatives."

59. LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government not to impose a blanket 50mph upper speed limit on regional roads throughout Ireland. The blanket imposition of such a speed limit would irreparably damage the social and economic development of potential of many areas in Leitrim. We propose that the upper speed limit be set, taking into account the conditions of any section of road, at a reasonable speed up to 60mph, to be determined by the local authorities in conjunction with the Garda Siochana and that this motion be circulated to each local authority."

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD, ON THE 6TH
SEPTEMBER 2004

C/361/04 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs D Alcorn, L Blaney, A Bonner, J Boyle, C Brogan, B Byrne, F Conaghan, G Crawford, D Larkin, N McBride, T McDaid, M McDonald, S McEniff, I McGarvey, D McGonagle, P McGowan, Cathaoirleach, P McLochlainn, B O Domhnaill, B O'Neill, T Pringle, J J Reid and T Slowey

C/362/04 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Clr E Bonner, who was unable to attend meeting.

C/363/04 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M McLoone, County Manager
Mr L Kelly, Director of Housing
Mr J Holohan, Director of Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr. J. McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation
Mr S Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services
Mr F Coyle, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Mr E Sweeney, Meetings Administrator
Mr. J. Peoples, Divisional Manager, Corporate
Ms A M Crawford, Staff Officer

C/364/04 MANAGERS REPORT

The County Manager outlined the main points of his report and addendum.

Rent Supplement

He noted that Donegal County Council would be one of the lead authorities in the roll out of the new long-term accommodation initiative for Rent Supplement Tenants.

Boardband

The award of the Broadband Contract to E-Net was welcomed as a major boost to the Letterkenny Area Network. Mr McLoone advised that the new network would provide an alternative service when there was down time on

the existing network. He stated that he would update members further when e-net had taken over the contract.

Village Renewal

The grant allocation of €352,500 towards the Village Renewal Programme 2004-2005 was noted and members were advised that it was subject to co-funding of €352,500, with monies being made available under the Roadworks Programme 2004 and in some instances sourced from Planning and Development funds.

McGill Summer School

The success of the McGill Summer School was noted, with congratulations being extended to Mr Joe Mulholland and the organising Committee. Mr McLoone recommended that financial assistance be made available to the McGill Summer School, and that the possibility of providing clerical and administrative support also be investigated.

On the proposal of Clr Larkin, seconded by Clr McEniff, it was agreed to extend congratulations to Dr Joe Mulholland and the organising Committee of the McGill Summer School, and to endorse the recommendation in the Manager's Report with regard to the provision of financial/administrative support to the summer school.

C/365/04 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Mr Luicus Emerson on the death of his wife Kathleen
- Mr John Patton, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads, on the death of his father Harry
- The family of the late A D Kelly
- The family of the late Fr Jimmy Shields
- The relatives of all those killed in the Beslan School Tragedy

Members welcomed the new long term accommodation Initiative for Rent Supplement Tenants.

Clr A Bonner advised that it was essential that single fathers and single males be assisted under this initiative as very often this particular category of applicant found it difficult to obtain a place on the housing list.

Clr J J Reid stated that past initiatives such as the Affordable Housing and Shared Ownership Schemes had not been a success. In order to support any new initiatives he confirmed that he would be looking for assurances that the necessary funding was available.

Clr T Slowey called for a more proactive approach to the Housing problem in the County.

Members were in agreement that the rollout of the Broadband would be of enormous benefit to the County as a whole, and complimented the County Manager on his commitment to the project.

Clr McDaid welcomed the appointment of E-Net and noted that 65 jobs had already been created in Limerick. He said that it was imperative that the remaining 25 jobs came to Donegal.

Clr B O Neill raised a number of concerns in relation to the high unemployment figures in the Ballyshannon area, and stated that he was disappointed that Broadband had not been extended to this region. The projected roll out of such services for all towns in Ireland with a population of over 1500 by 2007 was, he added, too late for an area already ravaged by unemployment.

Clr Conaghan requested that a report on the extension of Broadband to Buncrana be brought back to Members as soon as possible. The Manager agreed to revert to the members on the requests for the extension of the service to other towns in the county.

C/366/04 PROVISION OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER
TO OPEN RIGHT OF WAY TO DRUMNACRAIG
BEACH, DRUMNACRAIG, FANAD

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

“That Donegal County Council provides a Compulsory Purchase Order to open the right of way to Drumnacraig Beach, Drumnacraig, Fanad”

Members were informed in a report from Mr. F. Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development that Section 206 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 provides for the creation of public rights of way by agreement. The Planning Authority may enter into an agreement with any person by dedication by that person, of a public right of way over land.

Section 207 of the Act provides compulsory powers for creation of public right of way. If it appears to the Planning Authority that there is need for a public right of way over land the Planning Authority may create a public right of way over the land. When a Planning Authority proposes to make an order under this section, notice must be served on the owner and the occupier of the land and on any other person who in its opinion will be affected by the creation of the public right of way. Public notice must also be published. The Planning Authority decision in such cases is also open to appeal to An Bord Pleanala.

Under Section 14 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 there is provision for a Planning Authority to include for the first time a provision in a development plan relating to the preservation of a specific public right of way. Public notice is necessary and there is a right of appeal to the Circuit Court against the inclusion in the development plan of the proposed provision, and the Court, if satisfied that no public right of way exists, shall so declare and the provision shall accordingly not be included.

Mr Coyle indicated that he understood that the Drumnacraig case has been before the Circuit Court and would come before the Court again for full hearing. Accordingly, in his opinion this matter was sub judice and should not be considered until the Courts had dealt with the case.

On the proposal of Clr Blaney. Seconded by Clr. Slowey it was agreed that legal advice should be sought and that Mr Coyle inform the Milford Electoral Area Members on the

outcome when the legal advice was received. The matter would be brought to Council again for consideration depending on the advice received.

C/367/04 NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT TO WATER SERVICE IN KIICAR-GLENCOLMCILLE

On the proposal of Clr Byrne, seconded by Clr Pringle, the following motion was adopted.

“That this Council prioritise the need for improvements to the Water Service of the areas of Kilcar-Glencolmcille.”

Members were informed that in the South Donegal area the Council had proposed a strategy which would integrate nine private Group Scheme sources and four public water supplies together for upgrading by Design, Build, Operate (DBO) procurement in line with the Department’s policy. The nine private schemes were Cloghan, Glenballadubh, Meenaveen, Maghera, Owenteskna, Teelin, Largymore, Largybrack and Sieve/Kinakillew; the four public schemes are Glencolmcille, Malinmore, Kilcar and Carrick. The upgrading work required is of high priority within the Council’s current Rural Water Programme.

The Council had appointed Jennings O’Donovan & Partners, Consulting Engineers to prepare a preliminary report, which would set out in detail the most cost-effective way of implementing the strategy. The report would also provide the full information needed to support the proposed implementation strategy.

All the initial work on this project was near completion and the final preliminary report would be available shortly.

Clr Byrne advised that problems in relation to the service in these areas were well documented.

Clr Pringle enquired as to whether the preliminary report being prepared by Consultants at a cost of €150,000 had been submitted to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

Mr Jim Holohan, Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Services stated that a number of poor water quality schemes were involved here. The matter was, he added, being considered as a high priority and the preliminary report was virtually finalised. It was intended, he confirmed, to have the application with the Department by the end of the week.

Clr Byrne requested that the preliminary report be made available to the Members as soon as possible

Mr Holohan advised that this would be available as soon as minor errors were corrected.

C/368/04 SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR SEPARATE FIRE STATIONS FOR BUNDORAN AND BALLYSHANNON

On the proposal of Clr McEniff, seconded by Clr O Neill, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council reconsider and make a submission to the Department for separate fire stations for Bundoran and Ballyshannon and withdraw the Finner application.”

Members were informed as follows

Bundoran/Ballyshannon Fire Station

In the Fire Station Renewal Programme, which was adopted by the Council in July, 1998, it was planned to construct a single three-bay station at Finner, which would eventually replace the Ballyshannon and Bundoran stations. Consultants have been procured to design a number of stations including this one. Because the local brigades and elected councilors have expressed strong objections to the proposal it was decided to request the consultants to investigate the options further.

Evaluation and Consultation:

Site options available for development of two stations - one in each town - have been investigated;

The consultants have provided sketch plans, and an economic evaluation for:

- (a) Two no. two bay stations - one for each town, and,
- (b) One no. three bay station - at Finner;

An operational assessment was submitted by the Chief Fire Officer, Mr Frank Kerrane;

The findings of these reports was presented to the Donegal Electoral Area Committee and to the Town Councils in Ballyshannon and Bundoran. The members of the Town Councils expressed a strong preference for the continuation of two stations – one for each town;

Any issues relating to the redeployment of fire fighters can be processed through the newly formed Fire Service Forum under Workplace Partnership, and if necessary, through normal industrial relations channels.

Summary:

1. The consultant's report indicates a potential saving of €900,000 if Option (b) is accepted. [This is on the assumption that a suitable site can be acquired in Ballyshannon for €150,000];
2. The Chief Fire Officer's report indicates:

A separate station was established in Bundoran when the UDC was a Fire Authority. After this function was subsumed by Donegal County Council under the 1981 Act, the council then had two stations 5 km apart. This would not have been the desired situation;

A single station at Finner {Option (b)} would serve a geographical area and a population well below the national average;

A single station with two brigades will provide better facilities for training and welfare of members.

Recommendation:

The Economic Assessment and the Operational Assessment leave little doubt that the optimum solution is the provision of one "state-of-the-art" station located mid-way between the two towns. Now that the co-joined by-pass of Ballyshannon-Bundoran has commenced, it will be a matter of time before the two towns will coalesce and the site at Finner will be in the centre of this new conurbation.

Following consideration of the above, I must recommend that the obligations of the Fire Authority would be best met by adhering to the existing programme, and requesting sanction of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to approve the development of a Three-Bay Station at Finner in principle, based on the costs plan contained in the consultants report.

Clr McEniff stated that he was representing the wishes of the people of Bundoran and Ballyshannon and the entire Donegal Electoral Area. A number of members supported the motion and advised that the provision of one Fire Station at Finner would be a retrograde step. Clr O Neill advised that there had been no consultation in relation to the provision of one fire station to serve the two towns. He noted that one of the conditions of employment within the Fire Services was the provision that you must live within 1 mile of the Fire Station. This area had been deprived enough with the removal of the emergency Helicopter Service from Finner he added.

Clr Alcorn said that both Town Councils were in favour of separate Fire Stations and that this was also the wish of the members of the Fire Service in the area, some of whom were present today in the Public Gallery.

It was agreed that the priority listing for Fire Stations in the County should be forwarded to all members as soon as possible.

On the proposal of Clr O Neill, seconded by Clr McEniff best wishes were extended to Mr P J Clancy, Station Officer,

Bundoran, on his forthcoming retirement from the Fire Service.

C/369/04 CALL FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE MARINE AND NATUREAL RESOURCS TO ENTER TALKS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN KILLYBEGS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEXT FISHING SEASON CAN MAXIMISE EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTH WEST

On the proposal of Clr Pringle, seconded by Clr Byrne, the following motion was adopted.

“That Donegal County Council calls on the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to enter talks with all stakeholders in the fishing industry in Killybegs to ensure that the next fishing season can maximise employment in the south west and ensure that the mackerel quota will be landed in Ireland.”

Clr Pringle highlighted the effects the current quota was having on the fishing industry mainly;

- Closure of businesses
- Spiralling unempoyment in the south west.
- No recognitiaon for Killybegs on the national stage

It was essential, Clr Pringle added, that the members of Donegal County Council throw their weight behind the fishing industry in the County, so that as much employment as possible be retained within the sector. He also noted that the Fish Production Industry in Killybegs was a major contributor to commercial water rate income.

He called for the creation of a separate Department of Marine.

Clr MacLochlainn reminded members that a public rally to highlight unempoyment in the County was being held in Letterkenny.

Clr Pringle requested that this motion be forward to the Minister at the Department of Communications, Marine and

Natural Resources, with a copy circulated to all the members of Donegal County Council.

C/370/04 REMOVAL OF ST PATRICKS CHURCH, DONAGHMORE RPS 40201001, ST ANN'S CHURCH, DROMORE RRS 40907822 AND CONVOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RPS 40909874 FROM THE REGISTER OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

Members were informed that the buildings of our towns, villages and countryside have been constructed over several centuries, and form the architectural heritage of County Donegal. Initially this may not appear to be as important as the classical architecture of Italy, for example, but because of the local materials, details and traditions, our buildings are unique and equally worthy of conservation.

The structures included on the RPS are rare examples of our local buildings, and with your help we endeavour to conserve them, and their setting, for your enjoyment and the benefit of future generations.

Protected structures range from the grand mansion to the humble cottage, each equally important within our architectural environment, the DOE have attempted to list the best examples of all building types, including dwellings, shops, churches, schools, mills and also bridges and post boxes.

As well as having a practical function, architecture can reflect the beliefs and achievements of the society which produced it. By conserving this important part of our heritage we are maintaining a tangible link with past generations and their values. This can help set in context our own society and times, and create a feeling of pride and a sense of identity in a changing world.

St Patrick's Church in Donaghmore:

- is a detached Church of Ireland church with a porch built to the west c.1724, with the chancel added to the east end and nave re-fenestrated c.1865 with a vestry to the north east situated within its own grounds.

MH Associates applied for part funding from the Conservation Grant Scheme in March 2004 operated by the council, for a programme of works and were advised an application would be considered under next years scheme as the commencement of works is outside the specified period for the 2004 scheme.

The structure is deemed of Regional importance because of its Architectural, Interior, Streetscape, Archaeological features and Materials.

St Ann's Church Dromore, Killygordon:

- is a detached late Georgian Gothic Church of Ireland church with tower to the west end, built in 1833 with a projecting vestry to the south east corner.

No application was made to the Conservation Grants Scheme.

The structure is deemed of Regional importance because of its Architectural, Personality or Association, Streetscape and Materials.

Convoy Presbyterian Church

- is a detached four bay single storey gable fronted Gothic-Revival Presbyterian Church built in 1903, with a single bay lean to vestry to rear and offset uncompleted steeple to right-hand side.

An application was made to the Conservation Grants Scheme by Mr John Eaton on behalf of Convoy Presbyterian Church, but was invalidated because of lack of information detailing the extent of works involved and condition of existing building fabric.

A declaration was prepared and issued on 6th May 2004 detailing works which would/would not require planning permission.

The structure is deemed of Regional importance because of its Architectural, Personality or Association and Streetscape.

As outlined in minutes of Council Meeting held on 6th February 2004 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".

Claire McCallan is the newly appointed Conservation Officer taking up office on 14th June 2004, and is based in the Central Planning Unit in Lifford.

Claire has already made contact with representatives of St Johns Church of Ireland in Kiltteevogue outside Ballybofey, members of the Raphoe Presbyterian Church, Donegal Town Presbyterian Church and Alt Presbyterian Church in Castlefin.

Arrangements are also being made for her to meet with the Church Authorities the subject of this motion. It is recommended that the Council defer a decision in these cases until the Conservation Officer has had an opportunity to meet with the representative church bodies as previously agreed.

Clr Bonner stated that she was unhappy with the updated reply given.(Vide Appendix 1) The church leaders concerned were extremely annoyed at the lack of progress on the matter.

The Rev Kenyon Homfrey had, she informed members, raised a number of issues, namely

- The lack of consultation with the various church bodies concerning the addition of Churches to the RPS.
- The arbitrary compilation of the record of Protected Structures
- That the General Synod of the Church of Ireland had deemed the Record of Protected Structures to be in effect legally oppressive legislation.
- That the inclusion of churches on the RPS was contrary to Section 44 of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland which already provided specific protection for Church buildings

- That the conservation grant available was not sufficient in many cases.

Clr Reid advised that there was a need to look at all the churches in Donegal in the context of the issues raised today.

Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development, reminded members that the Conservation Officer, Ms Clare McCallan, had only joined Donegal County Council on the 11th June 2004 and would be available to provide assistance and guidance to the general public and those who owned or managed properties listed as protected structures.

The Churches concerned should be included on the Record of Protected Structures he added and thus requested that members defer a decision on the matter until such time as the Conservation Officer had met with the representative Church Bodies concerned, and then a report could be brought back to the General Purposes Committee. He strongly advised members not to remove the churches concerned from the RPS as it would send out the wrong signal to the general public, with regard to other structures listed.

Further meetings, he confirmed, had been arranged with the Church of Ireland Body on the 22nd September and he himself was prepared to meet with individuals or bodies who felt that the RPS had impacted adversely on their situation.

Mr Coyle stated that the inclusion of these churches on the RPS posed no threat, and that every effort would be made to help and support the bodies concerned.

On the proposal of Clr A Bonner, seconded by Clr Reid, it was agreed to remove St Patricks Chruch, Donaghmore, RPS 40201001, St Ann's Church, Dromore, Killygordon, RPS 40907822 and Convoy Presbyterian Church, RPS 40909874 from the record of Protected Structures.

Mr Joe Peoples, Acting Meetings Administrator, withdrew from the meeting at this juncture. Mr Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator was present for the remainder of the business.

C/371/04 REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE
GRANT AID TO PEOPLE AWAITING A WATER
SUPPLY

On the proposal of Clr J J Reid, seconded by Clr Alcorn, the following motion was adopted.

“That this Council request the Department of Environment to increase grant aid to the people awaiting a water supply where Group Schemes are uneconomical.”

Members were informed that “a motion was adopted at the last meeting of the Donegal Rural Water Monitoring Committee to the effect that this Council request the Department of Environment and Local Government to fund Rural Group Water Schemes to 85% of total cost where sufficient houses do not exist to draw adequate grant funding, i.e. that the ceiling of Euro 6,475.66 per grant eligible house be removed.

On foot of that motion a letter has been sent on 24th May 2004 from Donegal County Council to the Chair of the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee and to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that they amend the grant scheme in this way”.

Clr Reid advised that the Group Water Scheme Network had been a great success with many positive outcomes, especially in terms of economic development. There existed now, he added, a great need to subsidise uneconomical schemes.

A number of members supported the motion and raised matters of particular concern to them.

Clr Reid proceeded to request that a deputation meet with Mr Pat the Cope Gallagher, Minister for State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. to discuss the provision of additional grant aid in such instances where the formation of a Group Water Scheme is uneconomical.

The County Manager informed members that a note detailing members concerns would be forwarded to the Minister. The issue would, he added, also be included on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting with local T.D.s and Oireachtas Members.

C/372/04 ORGANISATION OF DAILY CLEANING AT BOTTLE BANKS AND RUBBISH BINS DURING THE TOURIST SEASON

On the proposal of Clr Conaghan, seconded by Clr Alcorn, it was resolved to defer the following motion to the next meeting of Donegal County Council due to be held on Monday, 27th September 2004.

“That Donegal County Council organise a daily clean up at bottle banks and rubbish bins at both town streets and beaches especially during the tourist season.”

C/373/04 REIMBURSEMENT FOR THOSE LAYING 4” WATER MAINS WHEN FUTURE CONNECTIONS ARE MADE ALONG THE SAME STRETCH OF PIPING

On the proposal of Clr Alcorn, seconded by Clr MacLochlainn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council re-examine the situation that people building new homes and laying 4” water mains to their site, should get reimbursed for future connections on the same stretch of 4” piping.”

Members were informed that “the County Donegal Development Plan 2000, Volume 2, Section 7.2.9 “Long Leads for Water Supply”, sets out policy to deal with connecting single rural dwellings to a piped water supply, where the council requires an increased size of watermain instead of a long service pipe.

Problems have been identified in the implementation of this policy. The Water, Environment and Emergency SPC considered a working paper on this complex issue at its meeting on 26th January 2004. The working paper dealt

with the issue under three broad headings, namely service levels, ownership of assets and funding options. The following options were considered to finance the supply and installation of 4" watermains in such cases :

- Applicant to fund 100%
- Council to access funds from the Development Contribution scheme to share the cost
- Council to maintain records of applicant contributions and establish part refund mechanism
- Council to facilitate Group scheme formation to access Rural Water funding
- The Council will provide free of charge the necessary pipes and fittings up to a maximum of 400 metres length.

A recommendation was prepared for consideration by the SPC at its meeting scheduled for 20th April 2004. That meeting didn't take place, so the matter remains to be considered by the next meeting of the Water, Environment and Emergency SPC. It is recommended that the Council should await the outcome of deliberations of the SPC before deciding this matter".

Clr Alcorn called for greater recognition and recompense for persons who lay 4" piping. He welcomed Mr Holohan's reply and noted that the issue was to be considered by the Water, Environment and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee. It was essential, he added, that all viable options be considered as soon as possible.

Members were in agreement that the cost of laying 4" piping was excessive and unfair to young couples building first homes.

The Cathaoirleach called on the Water, Environment and Emergency SPC to give the matter careful consideration.

Clr Alcorn requested that the deliberations of the SPC be made available to all members.

On the proposal of Clr O Domhnaill, seconded by Clr Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“I am calling on Donegal County to co-operate with Fiontar na Cuinge Teo and the community organisations in the Cloughaneely and Gweedore area in ensuring that public lights ordered/selected can be progressed without further delay.”

Members were informed that “The Roads Department is fully committed to delivering public lighting schemes under this very effective funding mechanism. Phase One of this work has already been completed with over €1,000 being committed by the Council. The Council is in the process of re-couping the balance from Fiontar na Cuinge Teo and it is hoped that Phase Two can be started soon”.

Clr O Domhnaill advised that Fiontar na Cuinge Teo had paid Donegal County Council for public lighting to be erected in Derrybeg. This work, he added, still remained incomplete. He noted that the Meenaclady Residents Association had identified a number of sites where installation costs were to be provided by Fiontar na Cuinge and the running costs were to be met by Donegal County Council.

Clr O Domhnaill said he was dismayed that residents were now being told that single sites would not be accepted. He called for this situation to be reviewed immediately. The best way forward now, he added, was for the Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr John McLaughlin, to meet with the Area Managers, Roads, Mr Denis Ferry, and the respective local committees to assess and progress the situation.

Funding options he advised needed to be examined within the context of the Councils Capital Programme.

Clr Alcorn noted that much needed and excellent work had been carried out on the programme, by Mr Charles Kerr, Public Lighting Engineer. Referring to Mr Kerrs work on a lighting audit, Clr Alcorn requested that Mr Kerr meet with

the members of the Glenties Electoral Area and update them on the progress to date.

Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, acknowledged members concerns and agreed to meet with Mr Ferry to discuss the problems.

C/375/04 PROVISION OF OIL FIRED OR ELECTRIC HEATING IN ADDITON TO THE SOLID FUEL PRESENTLY PROVIDED FOR OLD AGE PENSIONERS

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

“That this Council ensure that all housing for old age pensioners, both new and existing, be heated by oil fired or electric heating in addition to the solid fuel presently provided.”

The members were informed that “since 2002 all new Council scheme housing, whether Senior Citizen, family or single/single parent dwellings, has been provided with oil fired central heating.

One phase of the Major Maintenance Programme, undertaken by the Council over the past 6 years, specifically targeted the upgrading of Senior Citizen dwellings in 18 estates while a separate initiative for the refurbishment of Senior Citizen stock, funded from internal receipts, was undertaken in 2003. Both these programmes involved, among other works, the replacement of solid fuel with electric heating systems in Senior Citizens’ dwellings.

The Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004-2008, which is being presented at today’s meeting for adoption by the Council, also includes proposals for the replacement of solid fuel heating with oil fired or electric heating systems, as appropriate, in the remaining Senior Citizen scheme housing.

Over the lifetime of the Plan, the Council will continue to upgrade existing stock on the basis of monies available/funding that may be sourced from internal receipts,

special capital allocations, other upgrading/regeneration initiatives etc.”

Clr Slowey stated that he was disappointed that the reply to his motion had not been upgraded, given recent announcements in relation to the Central Heating Programme. He called for the elderly and the disabled to get first priority.

Clr Alcorn noted that the financial element of providing electric heating should be examined and future running costs taken into consideration.

Clr Larkin queried the amount of financial aid available to Donegal County Council to provide such a programme and advised that the Council should err on the side of caution when drawing up any priority list.

Clr McDaid noted that in many council dwellings the replacement of windows and doors was a much greater priority than the installation of a central heating system.

Clr McGarvey stated that he had some reservations particularly in relation to the operational costs of the scheme.

Clr O Domhnaill advised that a priority list should be brought to each Electoral Area Committee Meeting and discussed in full consultation with the members.

Clr Conaghan called for clarification in relation to the programme and raised the issue of whether matching funding had to be provided by the Local Authorities involved.

Mr Liam Kelly, Director of Housing, informed members that since 2002 oil fired central heating had been installed in all council housing. He advised that details had been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to extend such a programme to senior citizen housing. Any such programme, he stated, would require matching funding.

Mr Kelly said that a report on the matter would be brought to the next General Purposes Meeting of Donegal County Council.

C/376/04 HARD WATER SITUATION IN CARDONAGH AND THE PROVISION OF WATER FOR NEW SCHEMES IN CLONMANY, BALLYLIFFIN, CARNDONAGH, MALIN AND CULDAFF

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

“That the Council bring more water from Meendoran Lough, Clonmany to Carndonagh, thus solving the hard water situation in Carndonagh and providing the much needed water for their new schemes.”

Members were informed that “now that water from Fullerton Pollan dam was being distributed throughout south Inishowen, some spare capacity existed in treatment plants at Meendoran Clonmany, and at Redcastle. Strategic infrastructure needs have been identified to allow water from these sources be transmitted more extensively throughout north Inishowen. If the infrastructure deficits identified can be addressed it will allow further development to proceed in these areas, and supply to new group water schemes, without compromising supply to existing consumers.

In this context a need has been identified to develop 2,750 metres of pipeline of 200mm diameter between Clonmany, Ballyliffin and Woodtop reservoir, with associated booster pumping and ancillary works, to facilitate future development in the Clonmany, Ballyliffin, Carndonagh, Malin and Culdaff areas. Some associated pipework improvements are also identified around Carndonagh. The cost of these works is estimated at Euro 450,000.

This need has been listed among the full assessment of needs submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government earlier this year. This may trigger investment through the Water Services Investment Programme, but that is unlikely to yield results in the short term. Some innovative low cost improvements have been

identified and implemented by water services staff on the ground in recent months. This has resulted in a greater degree of security of supply this year compared with 2003. Sources of funding for the substantial investment required are being explored. These include development contributions and small capital schemes.

It should be noted that water from the Tirnaleague wellfield is perfectly potable and healthy notwithstanding its hardness.”

Clr McGonagle said that he was happy with the reply and welcomed the submission of an assessment of needs to the Department. He called for firm representations to be made to ensure that investment was forthcoming in the short term. The provision of good quality water schemes were essential, he added, for the long term development of Inishowen.

Clr McGonagle requested that a further submission be made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government concerning the hard water situation in the Tirnaleague area.

C/377/04 PORGRESS OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

“That the Council discuss the Waste Management Plan and establish what progress has been made regarding same.”

Members were informed as follows:-

“1. Waste Management Plan

The Waste Management Plan adopted in 2000 provides the framework for dealing with municipal waste under the Waste Management Act of 1996. This Plan is currently up for review. The public has been informed of this through public notice and the Council is in the process of selecting a consulting firm to implement the review.

2. Staffing

In accordance with the plan the council has recruited three officers who have responsibility for three key areas, Waste Recycling, Waste Awareness and Waste Regulation. Recruitment of a new Awareness Officer to replace Ms. Caroline Quirke is in hand. An executive scientific officer has also been recruited to assist the Council comply with EPA requirements. Three litter wardens are currently employed. A further three are in course of being recruited and a waste regulation assistant.

3. Regulation

78 waste collection permits have been issued during 2003 and all are due for review before the end of 2004. Many of these relate to specialist waste collectors operating countrywide. Fourteen waste permits were issued in respect of facilities used for handling waste. Regular meetings are held with collectors at which new developments such as the requirement to offer 'pay by use' service are discussed. The activities of permit holders are subject of ongoing monitoring by Council staff to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations. One permit was temporarily revoked recently in this context. Movement of waste across the border with Northern Ireland has been tightened up considerably during the year by actions of authorities on both sides.

4. Recycling

One civic amenity site has been developed at Carndonagh to provide a full range of recycling facilities. Bring banks have been developed throughout the county at 50 locations. All sites cater for glass and cans, while many also cater for textile. Plastic and paper recycling banks are located at Carndonagh, Letterkenny, Dungloe, Killybegs and at Ballynacarrick Landfill Site. Home composters are being sold through the Public Service Centres throughout the county.

Grant approval has been received for three new Civic Amenity sites to serve the Stranorlar, Letterkenny and Donegal Town / Ballyshannon areas.

The intention is to encourage private waste collectors to offer kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclables from

the household, in tandem with their municipal waste collection services, in order to achieve the levels of recycling targeted in the county's Waste Management Plan. The continued provision of recycling facilities to the public at no charge will be reviewed and may have to be modified in order to accommodate private sector participation.

The council continues to partake in the North West Region Cross Border Group Waste Management Strategy. Recently the group obtained tenders for removal of recyclable materials collected by kerbside systems. The prices for Donegal are not favourable because of our particular circumstances. We are exploring the feasibility of developing a Materials Recovery Facility through a Public Private Partnership in the county which would add value to recycled material.

5. Disposal

A fully engineered cell has been provided on the Ballinacarrick landfill at a cost of €2.2 million. This is the first containment site in the county where all emissions from the waste material, gas and liquid, are collected and treated. Capacity at this site will be exhausted in the coming months. Every effort is being made to develop additional capacity at the extended site.

Environmental Impact Assessments have been completed for two further sites, one an extension of Ballinacarrick and the other at Meeanaboll. The Ballinacarrick EIS has been submitted to an Bord Pleanála and the EPA in order to obtain planning permission and a waste management licence. The Council has received Bord Pleanála approval and is awaiting a decision by the EPA. The EIS for Meeanaboll is being finalised for submission.

The Council is facing considerable expense in closure and restoration of the six licenced landfills in the county. A contractor has been appointed and works are under way at Ballinacarrick. Similar works are planned at Muckish and Glenalla landfills later this year. Landfill gate charges are the only source of funding for development, operation and restoration of landfills.

6. Awareness

A programme of Awareness is ongoing through the schools and the Green Piece feature in local newspapers. Environmental information is available on the worldwide web at the Donegal County Council site www.donegal.ie/dcc.”

Clr Conaghan advised that serious consideration was required to establish exactly where the Waste Management Plan was going. He stated that in 2000 there were 5 landfill sites in the county – now there was only one, yet every year members were asked to increase landfill charges.

Any review of the plan, he stated, needed to take the following issues into consideration

- The lack of Waste Recycling Facilities
- Provision of Suitable Landfill sites
- Progression of Public Private Partnership
- A decision on the provision of incineration facilities
- Continued collaboration on the matter with the NWRCBG
- The immediate employment of litter wardens (as provided for in the Book of Estimates)

He called for full consultation and constructive discussion to enable members to make an informed decision on the issue.

Clr Larkin advised that while the previous Waste Management Plan had been aspirational and ambitious, many problems still needed to be addressed.

The current system was, he stated, unfair to the less well off and he called once again for the introduction of a waiver system for waste collection charges.

There was he confirmed no facility in the Civic Amenity Site in Letterkenny for dealing with grass cuttings. He called for an immediate update on the non-provision of this service.

The key, Clr Larkin advised, was education and advocated that good practice began with national school pupils.

He also called for the appointment of a litter warden in every town of a certain size in Donegal.

Clr Brogan noted that illegal dumping was now a major problem in the county. Waste Management Policies, he stated needed to be people friendly. A review of the current system was needed and a possible short term solution, i.e. the provision of a landfill site in each electoral area might, he confirmed, provide some respite from the current problems.

Clr A Bonner enquired whether there would be a workshop to discuss and review the various waste management strategies. She called for the establishment of a paper recycling plant in the County.

Clr Slowey referred to the introduction of the pay by weight system and stated that he was hopeful that the system would, in the long run, lead to increased recycling. The names of those involved in illegal dumping should, he concluded, be made available for public inspection.

Clr Conaghan complimented Mr Jim Holohan, Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Services on the various waste management initiatives carried out to date. Serious decisions, he stated, would have to be made in the future and the provision of any long term solution would involve members, and the Water and Environment Service working in tandem.

C/378/04 SETTING ASIDE OF MONIES IN THIS YEARS ESTIMATES TO RECOGNISE THE UNIQUE AMENITIES AT THE SHORE FRONT, MOVILLE

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

“That money be set aside in this years Estimates to recognise the unique amenities for the shore fronts of Moville to ensure that they are maintained in a manner that will be pleasing to the local residents and tourists.”

Members were informed that consideration could be given to this during the Budget 2005 process. Typically, any roads monies spent on this type of work comes from the overall Road Maintenance Fund which is prioritised by the Local Area Committees each year. Normally, the Budget Book would not itemise work at this level of detail.

Clr McDonald outlined the need to provide such facilities in Moville, especially in view of the overwhelming success of the Foyle Ferry Service. Members of the Inishowen Electoral Area called for all funding options to be explored.

C/379/04 AMENDMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO PUT ONUS FOR SPEED CALMING, NUMBER OF HOUSES, SIGNAGE AND ROAD MARKINGS ON THE DEVELOPER

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

“That this Council amends its Development Plan to put the onus for speed calming, number of houses, signage and road markings on the Developer.”

Members were informed that “the motion referred to road safety matters and more general planning matters such as number of houses and signage .The whole issue of road safety impact of a development was becoming more significant in assessing planning applications and the responsibility for providing for speed calming, road markings and other matters related to traffic safety for the development rests with the developer.

The issue of numbers of houses will depend on the location of the development and the appropriate density. These matters are already covered in the County Development Plan

The issue of name signs for housing developments is not specifically covered in the Plan, however the Planning and Development Act 2000 introduced new provisions for this so the power to implement such provisions is in place .

These matters will be revisited during the forthcoming review of the County Development Plan, however no short term amendment is required”.

Clr Larkin advised that the onus should be put on the developer to provide the relevant infrastructure as the site was being developed. This could, he stated, be dealt with under the review of the Development Plan.

A number of specific items such as the provision of ramps, house numbers ,and the naming of estates needed to be dealt with in a clear and concise way he added.

Clr Bonner, in supporting the motion, called for the introduction of more defined green belt areas, particularly within large housing developments.

Clr Reid asked members to note that the developer in many cases was responsible for roads, footpaths, lighting, sanitary services etc. through the payment of designated development charges. He voiced strong concern however that the person who ultimately paid the price was the consumer, as in most cases the cost of providing such services was passed on to prospective buyers.

Clr Brogan said that he believed traffic calming measures were essential and believed that the onus was on elected members to take full responsibility for this matter.

Clr MacLochlainn reminded those present that the issue needed to be examined in the context that the developers concerned were after all building communities not houses.

Clr McDaid advised that there appeared to be some inconsistency in the provision of ramps within housing estates at present.

Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development, advised that Clr Larkin’s motion was indeed timely and that a guide was being produced for multi housing developments. Clr Larkin queried whether the design input would include crime prevention measures. Mr

Coyle confirmed that there would be consultation with the relevant bodies.

C/380/04 LACK OF RECYCLING FACILITIES FOR PAPER WASTE IN LIFFORD/ST JOHNSTON, RAPHOE/MANORCUNNINGHAM

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

“That this Council debate the lack of recycling facilities for proper waste in Lifford/St. Johnston, Raphoe/Manorcunningham areas.”

Members were informed that “Donegal County Council has provided bring bank recycling facilities at the four locations mentioned, as follows :

- glass and cans at Lifford
- glass and cans at St Johnson
- glass, cans and textiles at Raphoe
- glass and cans at Manorcunningham.

Paper and plastic recycling bring banks have been set up at Letterkenny, Dungloe, Carndonagh, Killybegs and at Ballynacarrick Landfill Site, Ballintra. The very large size of the receptacles used for paper and plastic means that not every site can accommodate these facilities. The roll out of this service to date has been targeted at the larger population centres in the county, for reasons of cost effectiveness.

The intention is to encourage private waste collectors to offer kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclables from the household, in tandem with their municipal waste collection services, in order to achieve the levels of recycling targeted in the county’s Waste Management Plan. The Council was in discussion with collection contractors at present and will be meeting again in early August. The continued provision of recycling facilities to the public at no charge will be reviewed and may have to be modified in order to accommodate private sector participation. A feasibility study has also been initiated for the development of a Materials Recovery Facility in the county, possibly through Public

Private Partnership, which would greatly assist the development of kerbside [door to door] collection of recyclable materials.”

Clr Crawford noted that the reply to the motion had been drafted in July and queried whether an update was available.

Mr Holohan, Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Service advised that a specific format was in place to tackle the recycling issue. This included the development of

1. A pay by use system
2. A service for the collection of mixed dry recyclables to be up and running early in 2005.
3. Possible extension of the Private Collection System
4. Ongoing review of Waste Collection Permits

Clr Crawford stated that such a format did not offer much hope to people in the Lifford/St Johnston area. Recycling facilities could, he advised, be located in the Machinery Yard in Lifford.

Mr Holohan, advised that such matters were being examined within the context of the Waste Management Plan. It was essential, he stated, that we learn from the development to date, especially in relation to the problems associated with bottle banks. Kerbside collection would, in the long term, bring better results Mr Holohan confirmed. The entire issue, he stated, required much broader debate and could not be dealt with in the context of one specific village.

Clr Crawford said it was imperative that recycling facilities were made available in as many locations as possible.

Concern expressed by members that the provision of recycling facilities would involve a possible charge in the not too distant future.

The County Manger informed members that such matters needed to be addressed as there could ultimately be a conflict of interest if kerbside collection involved the payment of a

specific fee and bottle bank facilities were provided free of charge.

A number of members were in agreement that kerbside recycling was the way forward, but noted that the public needed to be rewarded for having lighter bins.

Clr MacLochlainn stated that sufficient resources were not in place to deliver the efficient recycling service needed. Referring to instances where bottle banks were not emptied regularly enough, he said it was clear that basic resources in terms of staffing etc were not available. He called for more representations to be made to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Clr Pringle noted that greater emphasis was being placed on Public Private Partnership collaboration but was concerned at the timescale involved in putting such schemes in place. Waste was, he added, still being disposed of in landfill sites.

C/381/04 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT ST EUNAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL, DEELE COLLEGE AND ROYAL AND PRIOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

On the proposal of Clr McDaid, seconded by Clr Crawford, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council as a matter of urgency put in place traffic calming measures at St. Eunan’s National School, Deele College and Royal & Prior Comprehensive School, Raphoe.”

Members were informed that “traffic calming measures could be considered for these locations. The Council has a programme whereby the schools can get involved in the erection of signs at their entrances.”

Clr McDaid said that he was disappointed with the reply. This problem had been well documented, he added, particularly at Electoral Area level. There was he advised an urgent need to carry out remedial improvements.

Clr Brogan called for proper realignment and said that the Vocational Education Committee had a role to play in

relation to the provision of access and parking spaces at Deelee College. A simple solution, he added, might be to move back the boundary wall thus allowing greater access.

Clr Slowey stated that traffic calming measure were needed outside every school in the County.

Clr Larkin called for a partnership approach between all the relevant bodies concerned, i.e parents committees, school etc.

On the proposal of Clr Conaghan, seconded by Clr McLaughlin, it was agreed to have the issue of traffic calming measures at the Royal and Prior Comprehensive School, Raphoe, brought to a future meeting of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee, with specific emphasis being placed on the need for a partnership approach.

The following questions and replies were noted:-

C/382/04 PROVISION OF MONIES TO BUILD NEW RESERVOIR AT GRAINNE HILL, DOWNINGS

The following question was submitted by Clr Liam Blaney

“Can Donegal County Council provide monies to build a new reservoir at Grainne Hill in Downings”.

Clr Blaney was informed that “at present the existing reservoir is fed by pumps from Kinnelargy Reservoir in Downings. Kinnelargy Reservoir is in turn fed by the distribution system from both the Carrigart and the Cranford Water Treatment Works. At present there is insufficient water available at these treatment works and the distribution system has insufficient capacity to deliver water to Kinnelargy Reservoir.

Until the capacity of the treatment works and the distribution system are increased it will not be possible to fill a reservoir at Grainne Hill, regardless of its size.

Donegal County Council is at present working on the upgrade of the water treatment works in Cranford. Upon completion of this work extra water will be available to the distribution system. The distribution system would then need to be upgraded to be able to deliver water to Kinnelargy Reservoir. The funding available at present is through the Small Capital Programme and is sufficient only to upgrade the treatment works at Cranford. It is expected to substantially complete this upgrade project by the summer of 2005.

The maintenance staff are doing their utmost to optimise all elements of the existing system so that consumers are given the service required.

Donegal County Council are presently working on a project brief for the Cranford Water Supply Scheme which is now on the Department of the Environment's Water Services Investment Programme as a scheme approved to complete planning. It will take a number of years to progress this scheme, but it will address the long term needs of the area now served by the Carrigart and Cranford Water Treatment Works."

C/383/04 REFURBISHMENT OF PIER AT PORTSALON

The following question was submitted by Clr L Blaney

"When does Donegal County Council intend refurbishing the pier at Portsalon, which is presently closed?"

Clr Blaney was informed that "an application has been made to the Department of Marine for funding of €50,000 to carry out urgent reconstruction work and repairs to portsalon pier. The Council staff have been in regular contact with the Department over the past number of months regarding this pier. However, no decision has been made on the funding allocation. If the Department provided funding, it is anticipated that the Council would be asked to provide matching monies".

C/384/04 TIMESCALE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE
GLENCOLMCILLE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr B Byrne

“What time scale has this Council for the commencement of the Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme”

Clr Byrne was informed that “Glencolmcille Sewerage Scheme is currently listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a 'scheme to start 2005'. The contract documents for the scheme are currently being finalised (ie completion of site selection) after which the approval of the DOEHLG is required to seek tenders. A further DOEHLG approval is required prior to commencement of construction. In this context the anticipated commencement of construction is late 2005 at the earliest.”

C/385/04 IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY FOR THE
MOUNTCHARLES AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr Pringle

“What progress has been made in securing an improved water supply for the Mountcharles area”

Clr Pringle was informed that “Mountcharles/ Frosses/ Inver Water Supply Scheme is currently on the Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a Major Capital Water scheme 'approved to complete planning'. This scheme will assess the supply region in the context of a regional long term water supply strategy and its interface with the adjacent Killybegs Water Supply and Donegal Water Supply. This is a long term plan and construction is unlikely to commence in the near future. Mountcharles/ Frosses Water Supply Small Scheme is however being advanced in the short term to address current treatment and network deficiencies in the area and this is currently at tender document stage. Construction is expected to start in late 2004/ early 2005.”

C/386/04 NEW CELL AT BALLYNACARRICK LANDFILL

The following question was submitted by Clr Pringle

“Will the new cell at Ballynacarrick landfill be opened in time to take away waste as the existing cell fills up and what plans have been made to avert a crisis for consumers in the county”

Clr Pringle was informed that “Mountcharles/ Frosses/ Inver Water Supply Scheme is currently on the Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a Major Capital Water scheme 'approved to complete planning'. This scheme will assess the supply region in the context of a regional long term water supply strategy and its interface with the adjacent Killybegs Water Supply and Donegal Water Supply. This is a long term plan and construction is unlikely to commence in the near future. Mountcharles/ Frosses Water Supply Small Scheme is however being advanced in the short term to address current treatment and network deficiencies in the area and this is currently at tender document stage. Construction is expected to start in late 2004/ early 2005.”

C/387/04 SPEED LIMIT ON N56 AT MOUNTCHARLES ROAD, DONEGAL TOWN

The following question was submitted by Clr B Byrne

“Can the Council confirm that the speed limit on the N56 will be set back to the Texaco station on the Mountcharles Road, at Donegal Town and can they confirm that the speed limit will be reduced to 30mph at the location.”

Clr Byrne was informed that “Donegal County Council are currently reviewing all Speed Limits throughout the County, which will coincide with the National metrication of Speed Limits which is programmed to take place in early November 2004. Meetings will take place with the Elected Members, Garda Siochanna and other relevant bodies during the course of this review.”

C/388/04 CRASH BARRIER AND SIGNAGE AT MCGROARY'S BRAE

The following question was submitted by Clr A Bonner

“Will this Council arrange to have a crash barrier and proper signage erected on the dangerous bend at Meencaragh School, at the bottom of MrGroary's Brae, after the recent tragic loss of life at the spot”.

Clr Bonner was informed that “a sum of €15,000 has been made available under National Low Cost Accidents for the erection of some crash barrier, signs and lines at this location. It is proposed to carry out this work in September of this year.”

C/389/04 CLERK TYPIST FOR BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR ROADS OFFICE

The following question was submitted by Clr J J Reid

“Why has the Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Roads Electoral Area Office had to wait two years for a clerk typist”

Clr Reid was informed that “the matter of typing support for the Stranorlar Office is currently being reviewed by the Human Resource/Corporate Services Section of the Council. It is hoped that a conclusion can be brought to this matter as soon as possible.”

C/390/04 ONE STOP SHOP FOR STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

“What is the up to date position on the One Stop Shop for the Stranorlar Electoral Area and will this Council draw up a timetable for the deliverance of this project”

Clr Bonner was informed that “the Council now has the agreement of the North Western Health Board (NWHB) to the proposal that the Council take the lead role in this project. The Health Board are supportive of a Public Services Centre concept in Ballybofey preferable on the “Butt Hall Lands”,

currently in the ownership of the Board and would welcome the opportunity to engage actively in any Project Team established for development purposes.

The Members may be aware that in the current financial climate that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has indicated that further Council borrowing for major Capital Projects is unlikely to be approved.

The Council is embarking on a programme of capitalising a number of assets. The success of this programme will it is felt, allow a review of the Council's Capital spending programme.

There is ongoing work being undertaken on the various options for the procurement of this office. The approval of the Elected Members and the DOEHLG will be required for any option.

In addition to the accommodation requirement of the Stranorlar Electoral Area staff, the Council is also exploring options for additional council facilities to be provided at this location. The ability of projects to generate capital funding by co-location, together with other practical implications of locating in Ballybofey should guide the Council in this regard.

It is planned to progress the ongoing review of the accommodation requirement of potential partners in this Project over the next two months. The members will be appraised on the outcome of these discussions. The Council is engaged in ongoing discussions with representatives from the Butt Hall Committee in relation to their interest in the proposed site for the Public Services Centre.”

C/391/04 OLD COUNCIL OFFICES AT GWEEDORE ROAD, DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr E Bonner

“What intentions has the County Manager re the old Council Offices on Gweedore Road, Dungloe”

Clr Bonner was informed that “the Council intends to place the front portion of this property including the Old Roads Area Office on the market in the near future.

It is envisaged that the plot to the rear of the Old Roads office will not be put on the market, as negotiations are ongoing with an interested adjacent landowner.

The approval of the Elected Members will be required for any disposal.”

C/392/04 PUBLIC LIGHTING AT MEENACUING, GWEEDORE

The following question was submitted by Clr E Bonner

“When will the public lighting be erected at Meenacuing, Gweedore now that the ESB has provided the funding to Donegal County Council?”

Clr Bonner was informed that “the Council has received a payment for installation costs and running costs for a limited period for these lights. The Council has discussed the matter with the National Roads Authority again and the NRA has visited the site within the past few weeks. It is expected that the NRA will issue a clarification shortly on its position regarding these lights.”

C/393/04 OVERGROWTH AT GWEEBARA TURNS ON N56

The following question was submitted by Clr D Alcorn

“Why can overgrowth on the seaward side of the road around the Gweebarra Turns (on N56), not be cut to afford tourists in particular viewing one of the most beautiful scenery in the country?”

Clr Alcorn was informed that “under the Roads Act, the Landowners along this section of roadway cut & breast their hedges each year. During this operation the hedgecutting equipment cut / trim growth adjacent to the road verge.

Removal of substantial areas of overgrowth would be necessary to achieve viewing of this scenic area. In addition, the clearing of this growth would have to be done manually due to the terrain involved. This would require substantial funding.”

C/394/04 ARDARA SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr T Slowey

“When will the first sod be turned and work begin on the Ardara Sewerage Scheme?”

Clr Slowey was informed that “the contract formalities are being finalised and it is expected that construction will commence on Ardara Sewerage Scheme in early August 2004. Completion is expected two and a half years thereafter approximately”

C/395/04 COMPLETION OF LAST SECTION OF MEENTINADEA/MEENACHAN GROUP SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr T Slowey

“When will the last section of the Meentinadea/Meenachan Group Scheme be completed providing water to Cashel, Common & Aighe?”

Clr Slowey was informed that “the contractor has returned to site and is currently pressure testing the watermains laid to date on this scheme. Priority emphasis has been placed on getting those pipelines already laid into full service and finalising the valuation of works executed to date. A report has been commissioned from consulting engineers to review the scheme in its entirety. Options to extend the existing pipework to maximise the benefit of the scheme to the surrounding area, and associated costs will be examined. Various funding options will also be considered. The report is due for submission in draft form before the end of July 2004. Decisions on extensions to the scheme will be made in the light of the report findings.”

C/396/04 DELETION OF NAMES FROM ELECTORAL REGISTER

The following question was submitted by Clr D Alcorn

“Why were so many names of people who were on the voting register all their lives, deleted on the 04-05 voting register?”

Clr Alcorn was informed that “as the member will be aware from personal experience, deletion of names of electors arises in two stages during the preparation of the register of electors in any year, i.e

In the preparation of the draft register
By way of claims made against the draft register

Data for the Draft Register is provided by Council field officers, ie Revenue Collectors and, also, through submissions from individual electors. Any elector whose name is to be removed from the Draft Register is notified, in writing, and given an opportunity to comment.

When compiled, the Draft Register is circulated to Revenue Collectors, Public Representatives and Gardai and, based on claims received, claims lists are prepared. The County Register adjudicates on such claims and any elector affected may challenge the validity of the claim by attending at the revision sittings.

The number of names deleted during the preparation of the 2004/2005 Register of Electors was similar to other years. If the member would submit the names of the persons affected, he will be advised of the circumstances in which their names were deleted.”

C/397/04 PLAYGROUND IN CARDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr D McGonagle

“Has the Council any plans for a site for a children’s playground in Carndonagh?”

Clr McGonagle was informed that “the Community and Enterprise Division has now concluded a mechanism whereby playgrounds on Council owned or leased sites can obtain public liability insurance. In conjunction with substantial funding made available during the period 2002 to mid 2004 a number of additional public playgrounds will now become established and have the capability to be insured subject to the conditions laid down by the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company and subject to the adhering to the ROSPA Standard.

As part of an ongoing review with regard to Child Playground needs in the County the Community and Enterprise Division will in late 2004 commence with a targeted conclusion date of December 2004/January 2005 a detailed needs assessment of playgrounds in the County. These will be brought for discussion to each relevant Electoral Area and in this context the case if required, may be made for the children’s playground in Carndonagh. A number of sites in Carndonagh are being looked at, at present and any advance with regard to any of these sites will be notified to Elected Members.”

C/398/04 SCHEME TO EXTEND AND UPGRADE THE CLONMANY & BALLYLIFFIN SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The following question was submitted by Clr D McGonagle

“What is the present position regarding motion I had passed by the Council as Chairman in 1996/1997

"That the Council prepare a price and scheme to extend and upgrade the Clonmany & Ballyliffin Sewerage Schemes and send same to Department of Environment for funding."_

Clr McGonagle was informed that “Water Services Schemes are generally advanced on a priority basis as agreed by the Elected Members of Donegal Council and subject to the availability of funding under an appropriate funding programme. The principal current funding programmes for sewerage schemes are The Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 (Major schemes, Serviced Land Initiative, Water Conservation, Rural Towns & Villages

Initiative) and the Rural Water Programme (Small Schemes Programme etc.). All of these programmes require some counterpart funding from the Councils own resources. The Assessment of Needs is the mechanism under which the WSIP priorities are agreed by the Council and the Small Schemes Programme priorities are agreed separately by the Council. Clonmany & Ballyliffin Sewerage Schemes are currently not listed on the WSIP. With reference to the Assessment of Needs 2003 both schemes are the sixth wastewater priority in Inishowen and the 22nd wastewater priority County wide. Neither scheme is listed on the current Small Schemes Programme. The Director advised that he was not aware of any funding submission being made to the DEHLG with regard to either scheme.”

C/399/04 LITTER WARDENS

The following question was submitted by Clr M McDonald

“To ask this Council how many litter wardens there are in the county and how many cases have been taken to court?”

Clr McDonald was informed that “Donegal County Council currently employs three full-time Litter Wardens. The Council is in the process of recruiting a further three Litter Wardens. These posts will be filled in the coming months.

Litter Wardens are empowered to carry out functions under both the Waste Management Act and the Litter Pollution Act, and any regulations that are made pursuant to these Acts. As such they deal with matters ranging from small scale littering offences to large scale dumping. They are also involved in monitoring compliance with the conditions of waste permits and waste collection permits. Each warden is assigned to an area manager covering two electoral areas. They also cooperate as part of county-wide teams when the need arises.

In 2004 to date, 91 fines have been issued under the Litter Pollution Act. To date 32 of these have been paid. The Council is examining the unpaid fines at present and will instigate legal action, where appropriate.

Ten notices pursuant to the Waste Management Act have also been issued to date this year. These notices were served on persons deemed to be in breach of the provisions of the Act and required that they take specified action to prevent environmental pollution. Compliance with these notices is being monitored and court action would follow in the event of non compliance.

Court decisions have been received in two cases this year, relating to significant breaches of the Waste Management Act i.e. the disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause environmental pollution and operating a waste facility without appropriate licence or permit. Convictions were secured in both cases. One further case is pending, awaiting a court hearing date”

C/400/04 ROAD SWEEPING IN BORDER VILLAGES

The following question was submitted by Clr F Conaghan

“Why has there been no street sweeping done in most of the Border Villages over the past few months”

Clr Conaghan was informed that “street sweeping is funded under the road maintenance programme. The frequency of sweeping is agreed as part of the road works programme each year. Unfortunately the frequency of some villages has not been maintained due to other work commitments. A combination of this and muck deposits from agricultural and contractors vehicles has caused some of the villages to have a very poor appearance. This matter will be rectified before the August Holidays.”

C/401/04 PLANS FOR HOUSES AVAILABLE IN INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr M McDonald

“To ask this Council the detailed plans they have on houses available in the towns of Moville, Quigley's Point, Gleneely, Culdaff, Carndonagh, Clonmany and Glengad.”

Clr McDonald was informed that “the present position regarding the provision of social housing in the towns

referred to above in the Inishowen Electoral Area is as follows.

Moville: A contract is presently being signed for the construction of 29 houses on a turnkey basis, at Malin Road and construction is expected to commence in Aug/Sept.

Carndonagh: There are two schemes under construction in Carndonagh at present,

- (i) 30 house scheme at Old School Lane, with expected completion date of April 2005
- (ii) 14 houses at Abbots Wood, to be completed in August.

Clonmany: A contract is being signed at present for the construction of 9 houses at Gaddyduff, Clonmany with construction due to commence in Aug/Sept.

Redcastle: A contract is being signed at present for the construction of a special needs house at the existing scheme in Redcastle, with construction due to start in Aug/Sept.

In relation to Gleneely, Glengad, Quigley's Point, and Culdaff as well as other towns and villages in the Inishowen Area the council have been actively seeking suitable landbank for the provision of social housing and has invited submissions from landowners in this regard earlier on this year. While a number of sites have been identified, the acquisition of suitable landbank is a difficult and time consuming process. The Council has recently commenced a procurement process for the provision of social housing in a number of these towns/villages on a turnkey contract basis, with a closing date of August 27th. The council will actively consider all submissions received in line with the established criteria.”

C/402/04 ASSISTANCE FOR UPGRADE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUAY SHORE AT BALLYBEGLEY, NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM

The following question was submitted by Clr F Conaghan

“What assistance can Donegal County Council give to interested parties for the upgrade and development of the Quay Shore at Ballybegley, Newtowncunningham?”

Clr Conaghan was informed that it is intended that Council staff representatives would shortly meet with interested parties to ascertain the practical requirements. Depending on the project, it might be possible to access funding through sources such as Intereg.

C/403/04 PROBLEM AT MURLOG JUNCTION

The following question was submitted by Clr D Larkin

“What progress has been made to eradicate the serious problem at Murlog Junctions as highlighted by myself a few months ago?”

Clr Larkin was informed that “the Road Design Section have scheduled the preparation of alternative solutions for this junction to commence in September 2004. The Section is currently busy on other Non-National Road designs that will be going to construction this year at the moment.”

C/404/04 PLAN FOR LURGYBRACK SCHOOL

The following question was submitted by Clr D Larkin

“Have the plans that have been promised to the Board of Management, Planning Authorities and Principal of Lurgybrack School been given to them yet and a plan put in place to prevent loss of life at this black spot?”.

Clr Larkin was informed that “a detailed survey of the site has been carried out and plans are being prepared of a suitable solution. It is hoped to have these plans ready to allow discussion with the Board of Management of the school and with the roads staff of the Letterkenny Roads Office by Friday 6th August 2004.”

C/405/04 WORKS NECESSARY AT GUEST HOUSE END, RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr G Crawford

“What plans does the Council have to ensure that the works necessary to their property (single house) at Guest House End, Raphoe are carried out without further delay?”.

Clr Crawford was informed that “the property beside the Council's property at Guest House End, Raphoe was demolished by the owner leaving the gable wall of the Council's exposed and in need of re-plastering. The owner and the owner's architect were written to on 30th January 2004 in connection with this matter. The contractor employed by the owner subsequently contacted the Housing Office at the end of February 2004 and undertook to have the work completed within one week. However, this work has not been carried out to-date.

A further letter has recently issued to the owner allowing fourteen days to have the work completed. If the work is not carried out within the permitted timescale, the Council will carry out the necessary work and charge the cost of same to the owner”

C/406/04 PURCHASE OF UNOCCUPIED HOUSES IN FOYLE VIEW AND ARD NA MEALA, ST JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr T McDaid

“Has the Council any plans to purchase the remaining unoccupied houses in Foyle View and Ard na Meala, St. Johnston for the purpose of letting to those families on the housing list in the area?”

Clr McDaid was informed that “the provision of scheme housing by the council must follow a procurement procedure in line with EU, National and Donegal Co. Co. guidelines. Both the Foyle View and Ard na Meala developments were submitted to the council on foot of a procurement process for the provision of social housing on a turnkey basis as part of the 2000 - 2003 Housing Capital Programme. Following detailed consideration of the proposals in conjunction with the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government the council acquired 8 houses in Foyle view and 4 houses in

Ard na Meala. The developers in each case decided to construct more houses in the estates for sale on the open market.

As part of the 2004 - 2008 Housing Capital Programme the council have been actively seeking suitable landbank in St. Johnston for the provision of social housing but to date no such suitable landbank has been forthcoming. In an effort to accelerate the provision of housing in St. Johnston as well as in many other towns and villages throughout the county the council placed an ad in the local and national press seeking submissions from developers for the provision of social housing on a turnkey contract basis. The council will consider all submissions made in line with the established criteria.”

C/407/04 IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS FROM BRUSSELS ON DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr G Crawford

“What implications, if any, will the recent environmental findings from Brussels have on Donegal County Council?”.

Clr Crawford was informed “the European Commission has decided to pursue infringement proceedings against Ireland in nine cases involving EU environment law. The cases cover a wide range of topics including failure to protect nature and wildlife, lack of protection to shellfish waters, unauthorised waste activities (cases in Co Kilkenny, Wicklow, Carlow, Cork and Fingal), emissions trading, ozone depleting substances and treatment of wastewater. So far as the Council were aware none of the infringements relate to matters within Donegal.”

C/408/04 SAFE REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS ROOF FROM DOHERTY’S COACHWORKS, LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr T McDaid

“What timescale has the Council given to owner of the former Doherty's Coachworks building in Lifford to commence the safe removal of the asbestos roof there in the

interests of the well being of the residents of the Diamond area?”

Clr McDaid was informed that “the Council served a formal notice on the owner of the building pursuant to Section 110 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878. The notice required the owner to have the asbestos roof, which is in poor condition, removed by a suitable contractor. The owner failed to comply with the terms of the notice. As a result, the Council instituted legal proceedings to compel him to carry out the works.

This case was listed for hearing in Letterkenny District Court on 22nd July 2004. The owner of the building indicated his agreement to have the necessary works carried out. He confirmed that a contractor is ready to go on site and that the work will be carried out by September. This was recorded by the Court and made subject of a Court Order. Should the owner fail to carry out the works, he will be in breach of this Order and liable to legal penalty. The case has been adjourned until September, by which time it is expected that the works will have been completed.”

C/409/04

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

The following motions from other Councils were noted:-

KILKEE TOWN COUNCIL

“That holiday homes qualifying for tax relief under the Seaside Renewal Scheme be rated in a manner similar to other business premises in that particular resort for the 10 year relevant period, and that such revenue be ringfenced for expenditure, in the particular resort in question.”

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to cease the practice of double taxation whereby a Social Welfare payment is deducted from the recipients working partner/spouses tax free allowance.”

CASTLEBAR TOWN COUNCIL

“That the members of Castlebar Town Council resolve to call on the Minister for the Environment to create the

position of a Ombudsman to deal with complaints of elected representatives.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government not to impose a blanket 50mph upper speed limit on regional roads throughout Ireland. The blanket imposition of such a speed limit would irreparably damage the social and economic development of potential of many areas in Leitrim. We propose that the upper speed limit be set, taking into account the conditions of any section of road, at a reasonable speed up to 60mph, to be determined by the local authorities in conjunction with the Garda Siochana and that this motion be circulated to each local authority.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.