

**Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 20th September 2005 at 11.00am in the
Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre**

Members Present

Cllr John Boyle
Cllr Thomas Pringle
Cllr Barry O'Neill
Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Billy Grimes
Cllr Tiernan Brady
Cllr Jonathan Kennedy

Officials in Attendance

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services
Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building
John McCarron, Executive Engineer, Housing & Building
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Declan Gillespie, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency
Services
Peter Donaghey, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services

Apologies

Cllr Sean McEniff
Denis Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development

DEAC	31.00	Corporate Services
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DEAC	31.01	Consideration of Minutes of meeting held on the 19 th July 2005
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Consideration of minutes of meeting of the 19th July 2005.

On the proposal of Cllr Grimes, seconded by Cllr Boyle the minutes of the meeting of the 19th July 2005 were adopted.

It was further agreed that matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the various service headings.

DEAC	31.02	Activity levels in Donegal PSC
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Activity levels in the Donegal PSC

Members noted the report on activity levels up to the end of August 2005 in the Donegal PSC circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services.

DEAC	31.03	Votes of Sympathy
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Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were unanimously passed in respect of the following:

Mr Bartley McGlynn, and Mr Jim McGlynn on the recent death of their mother, Mrs. Annie McGlynn, Glenfinn.

Mr Barney McLaughlin on the death of his Mother in Law, Mrs Lilly Quinn, Ballyshannon.

The Family of the late Mr Louis Emerson, Cluain Barron, Ballyshannon.

DEAC	31.04	Date of next meeting
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It was agreed that the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee would take place on the 22nd November 2005 at 2.00pm.

DEAC	31.04	Other Corporate Matters
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Plaque to commemorate the late Cllr Peter Kennedy

Cllr Boyle suggested that the plaque which had been fitted to the wall outside of the Council Chamber was quite small and might not adequately reflect the esteem members felt given the long years of service of the late Cllr Kennedy. It was suggested that a larger plaque, which included a picture of the late Peter Kennedy could be acquired. This was agreed.

DEAC	32.00	Planning & Economic Development
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DEAC	32.01	Consideration of Recent Refusals
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Apologies were noted from Mr. D Kelly, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development who was unable to attend. He had been required to attend an oral hearing in relation to the Lough Mourne Project.

Consideration of Recent Refusals

Members noted the report, circulated with the Agenda detailing recent refusals for the period up to the 31st August 2005.

DEAC	32.03	Planning Statistics Report
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Planning Statistics Report

Members noted the planning statistics report for the period up to the 30th June 2005 circulated with the agenda.

DEAC	32.04	Planning Enforcement
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Planning Enforcement

Members noted the Planning Enforcement Status Report circulated with the Agenda.

Status of mast at the new Garda Station, Ballyshannon.

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill, for the Council to clarify if the mobile phone part of the mast on the new Garda Station at Ballyshannon is authorised or not, Mr. G Gilroy undertook to convey Cllr O'Neill's request to Mr. D Kelly seeking a written response to Members.

DEAC	32.05	Other Planning Matters
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East Donegal and West Tyrone Producers

Cllr Pringle stated that the East Donegal and West Tyrone Producers had requested a meeting with Mr. D Kelly in relation to markets and asked that this meeting take place as soon as possible.

Mr. G Gilroy undertook to convey Cllr Pringle's request to Mr. D Kelly.

DEAC	33.00	Water, Environment & Emergency Services
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DEAC	33.01	Group Water Schemes
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Group Water Schemes

Members noted the progress report on Group Water Schemes as presented by Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water & Environment and circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	33.02	South West Donegal Water Supply
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South West Donegal Water Supply

Members noted the progress report on the South West Donegal Water Supply as presented by Mr. M Breslin and circulated with the Agenda.

Members noted that work is progressing on laying the water main and Cllr Byrne commented that work is progressing well.

In response to a request from Cllr Byrne to carry out the laying of the water main along the Teelin line by direct labour, Mr. Breslin informed Members that the method of carrying out this work was yet to be decided but that he would take on board Members concerns in relation to traffic management etc.

DEAC	33.03	Major Capital Programme
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Major Capital Programme

Members noted the progress report on the Major Capital Programme as presented by Mr. M Breslin and circulated with the Agenda.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

Ballyshannon

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding the quality of the water from the boreholes at Ballyshannon, Mr. Breslin informed Members that while there is some hardness in the water, the water is of very high quality.

Laghey Water & Waste Water Scheme

In response to a query from Cllr Kennedy requesting a detailed report on the up to date position of the Laghey Water & Waste Water Scheme, Mr. M Breslin undertook to obtain this for Members.

Killybegs Sewerage Contract No. 2

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle for clarification in respect of the comments on the update report for Killybegs Sewerage Contract No. 2, Mr. M Breslin undertook to check the matter and to revert to Members.

DEAC	33.04	Laghey Civic Amenity Site
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Laghey Civic Amenity Site

Members noted the progress report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. M Breslin, which confirmed that the latest date for receipt of completed tender documents is the 30th September 2005.

DEAC	33.05	Restoration Programme
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Restoration Programme

Members noted the progress report on the restoration programme for the Donegal Electoral Area circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	33.06	Presentation on Capital Projects
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Presentation on Major Capital Projects

Mr. Peter Donaghey, Water Capital Section made a detailed presentation to Members on the Major Capital Projects in the Donegal Electoral Area.

The presentation dealt with matters including:

- Water Services Investment Programme
- Small Schemes Programme
- Serviced Land Initiative
- Special Development Contribution Scheme
- Relevant Legislation / Policy
- Statutory Planning Process
- Planning a Scheme
- Water Services Charging Policy
- Projects in the Donegal Electoral Area including the proposed 'Brookefield' Development.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

Donegal, Ballyshannon & Rossnowlagh Waste Water Contract

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle regarding Donegal Town, Ballyshannon and Rossnowlagh being included in the one contract and how the running costs for this contract would be funded, Mr. P Donaghey informed Members that this would be a twenty year operating contract. Mr. Donaghey informed Members that this would cost in the region of €1m initially which would be index linked. The Contractor would be paid certain fixed costs and also be paid by volume with the Local Government Fund being the source of income for the domestic element of the works. The non-domestic element of the costs have to be funded locally. Mr. Donaghey when asked what percentage of the running costs the domestic element would be undertook to come back to Members with this figure.

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill as to when the construction work would start on the Ballyshannon/Donegal/Rosstown contract, Mr. Donaghey informed Members that while he had no fixed date, it was anticipated that this would happen sooner rather than later given the momentum to get this project started. He pointed out that delays can be experienced in getting insurances and so forth sorted out with contractors.

Serviced Land Initiative/Development Contribution Scheme

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle whether the Development Contribution Scheme was to replace the Serviced Land Initiative, Mr. Donaghey informed Members that Serviced Land Initiative is not a closed scheme but that the Development Contribution Scheme was another option for the Council to put infrastructure in places where it will be required.

DEAC	34.00	Community, Culture and Enterprise
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DEAC	34.01	Report on Community & Enterprise Services
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Community Consultation

Members noted the report on community consultation circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin, CEDO.

Mr. B McLaughlin also referred to the Junior Achiever's Civic Awareness course and asked if any Members were interested in participating on the course to let him know as soon as possible. Cllr Pringle confirmed that he would participate.

Inter Organisational Local Development

Members noted the Inter Organisational Local Development report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin.

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle as to whether work had commenced on the Ballyshannon Town Plan, Mr. B McLaughlin informed Members that this work had still to commence.

Funds

Members noted the report on Peace II Funds circulated with the Agenda and in particular that a public information session will be held in the Donegal PSC on Tuesday 27th September 2005 at 3.00pm. Mr. B McLaughlin asked that Members bring this to the attention of any interested groups, as whilst Community & Enterprise Unit had written out to groups they were aware of, there may be other groups who might be interested.

Youth Council

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle regarding the Youth Cross Border Seminar, which is taking place on the 26th September 2005, Mr. B McLaughlin informed Members that the Youth Councillors would be in attendance at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area and would be reporting on this seminar.

DEAC	34.02	Report on Cultural Services
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Report on Cultural Services

Members noted the report on Cultural Services circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	34.03	Nomination for Public Arts Committee
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Nomination for Public Arts Committee

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda requesting a nomination for the Public Arts Committee from the Donegal Electoral area.

On the proposal of Cllr Brady, seconded by Cllr Grimes, Cllr Kennedy was agreed as the nomination to the Public Arts Committee from the Donegal Electoral Area.

In response to a query from Cllr Brady regarding the make up of the Public Arts Selection Committee, Mr. B McLaughlin undertook to revert to Members to clarify this matter.

DEAC	35.00	Housing & Building
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DEAC	35.01	Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme
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Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme

Members noted the progress report as at the 31st August 2005 on the Housing Capital Programme.

Ms. M Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing & Building, informed Members it was likely that the scheme in Ballyshannon would be let in mid October and Killybegs shortly thereafter.

Capital Programme 2004 – 2008

Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that the distribution of housing 'starts' for the Donegal Electoral Area was 143 as per report circulated to the General Purposes Committee. She advised that the areas of greatest need were Donegal, Ballyshannon and Killybegs and recommended that the Council concentrate on developing larger schemes in these areas. Ms. Hannigan further advised that the Council would construct 9 more houses in Dunkineely, 6 more houses at Bruckless and 10 more houses at Carrick out of the 2004 – 2008 housing programme. She also confirmed that the Council would be looking to develop smaller schemes at Ballintra, Pettigo and possibly Glencolmcille.

A number of queries were dealt with as follows:

Ballintra

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding a parcel of land at Ballintra for housing, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that she was aware of the particular portion of land but that same was not suitable for housing but that the Council was pursuing land purchase at Ballintra.

Killybegs

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle if there was land available at Killybegs, Ms. M Hannigan advised that there was not at present but that the Council was following up on Land purchase at Killybegs.

Ballyshannon

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes regarding progress and methodology of pursuing land purchase at Ballyshannon, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that no further land had been purchased for housing in Ballyshannon. She advised that housing staff were in regular contact with local estate agents as part of their efforts to secure land bank. Cllr Grimes stated that with the

Ballyshannon bypass nearing completion, there should be land available within the Ballyshannon Town Boundary and Ms. M Hannigan undertook to pursue the purchase of Land at Ballyshannon.

General

In response to a query from Cllr Boyle as to where each of the 143 starts would be located in the Donegal Electoral Area, Ms. Hannigan advised Members that this had not yet been fully decided and that it may be better to leave this until further progress has been made. In response to a clarification sought by Cllr Pringle, Ms. Hannigan confirmed that Killybegs would not be left out in terms of housing starts if other areas progressed more speedily.

DEAC	35.02	Progress Report – Social Housing
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DEAC	35.03	Casual Vacancies
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Casual Vacancies

Members noted the casual vacancy report as at the 7th September 2005 circulated with the Agenda. Ms. M Hannigan advised that she would welcome any recommendation from Members for vacancies in Emerald Drive, Railway Park and Frosses all of which are two-bedroom houses and also Marine View Drive and Termon Villas which are one bedroom houses.

DEAC	35.04	Progress Report S I Cottages
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Progress Report on SI Cottages

Members noted the progress report as at the 31st August 2005 on S I Cottages circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	35.05	Other Housing Matters
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Halting Site at Ballintra

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding the up to date position in relation to the Halting Site at Ballintra, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that this matter was due before the High Court in October and undertook to keep Members informed of developments. Cllr O'Neill commented that he felt the site at Ballintra was not a safe site and should be closed down immediately.

Location of Transient Site for Travellers

In response to a query from Cllr O'Neill regarding where the traveller transient site for the Donegal Electoral Area would be located, Ms. Hannigan informed Members that this was being pursued in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Strategy and locations are being looked at but that no concrete proposals have been developed. She undertook to keep Members informed of proposals in this matter.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr Grimes referred to difficulties in relation to anti social behaviour from one family in Council housing at Ballyshannon, advising that he was aware that one family in the estate was looking to be relocated as a result of the anti social behaviour.

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes if the Council had a policy to deal with anti-social behaviour, Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that she was aware of the situation referred to by Cllr Grimes. She advised Members that the Council was doing what it could in the circumstances to deal with the situation at Ballyshannon. This included liaison with An Garda Siochana. She referred to the letting conditions, for Council dwellings, one of which is in relation to anti-social behaviour. Ms. Hannigan confirmed that while no policy was in place to deal with anti-social behaviour, this was being worked up by the Tenant Liaison Officers, and would be brought before Members for their consideration.

Pre-Tenancy Meeting at Bruckless.

Cllr Boyle referred to the recent pre-tenancy meeting with tenants for the new housing scheme at Bruckless and complimented the Housing

Staff for this initiative. He confirmed that this was a good exercise, which left it clear for tenants what their responsibilities were.

Ms. M Hannigan informed Members that this was the first time such a meeting had been organised for a new housing scheme. Those attending the meeting included the Revenue Collector, Clerk of Works, other housing staff and herself. Ms. Hannigan thanked Kathleen Gallagher and Tony Brogan for organising the meeting and confirmed that it was the Council's intention to organise similar meetings for future lettings.

Cllr Pringle concurred with Cllr Boyle's comments, stating that this was the way to go. He stated that it would be an opportune time to encourage tenants to form tenants associations, referring to the training Mr. T Brogan had organised for tenants in Ballyshannon. Ms. M Hannigan confirmed that the tenants had indicated an interest in forming a tenants association in Bruckless and that the Council would work with them to establish this.

DEAC	36.00	Roads and Transportation
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DEAC	36.01	Road Works Programme 2005
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Road Works Programme 2005

Members noted the progress report circulated at the meeting on the road works Programme 2005 and presented by Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation. Members noted the programme was progressing well.

Local Improvement Schemes

Mr. P Thomas informed Members that in Clar Areas, an additional allocation of €100,000.00 for Local Improvement Schemes had been received. He suggested Members meet with him after the meeting to agree one LIS each to be included on the work programme for the additional funding. This was acceptable to Members.

DEAC	36.02	2006 – 2008 Multi Annual Restoration Programme
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2006 – 2008 Multi Annual Restoration Programme

Mr. P Thomas informed Members that the 2006 – 2008 Multi Annual Restoration Programme would have to be finalised shortly. He confirmed to Members that he had drafted the programme on the basis on the Guidelines from the Department of the Environment and Local Government. He further advised that the programme had been drafted on the basis of a fair spread between the four Roads Overseers areas. It was agreed that Members would talk to Mr. Thomas on a one to one basis to finalise the 2006 – 2008 Restoration programme.

DEAC	36.03	Update Reports from DNRDO
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N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass Scheme Update

Members noted the update report on the N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass circulated with the Agenda.

N3 Ballyshannon to Belleek Scheme Update

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda on the N3 Ballyshannon to Belleek Scheme Update.

N15 Tullyearl Roundabout

Members noted the N15 Tullyearl Roundabout Scheme Update circulated with the Agenda.

N15 Laghey – Ballintra Pavement Strengthening Phase 1 (2005)

Members noted the N15 Laghey – Ballintra Pavement Strengthening Scheme update circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr O'Neill raised concerns in relation to the way these works were being carried out and what he considered to be a lack of adequate signage, warning motorists. He referred in particular to a lack of lighting and flashing lights at night, adding that the area was left in a dangerous condition.

He requested clarification regarding what regulations are in force in relation to such situations and confirmation that contractors were meeting these requirements. He also indicated his intention to submit a motion to the full Council in relation to this matter. In response to the concerns raised Mr. P Thomas undertook to follow up the matter with the Donegal National Road Design Office.

N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update

Members noted the N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update circulated with the Agenda.

N15 / R280 Link

Members noted the progress report on the N15/R280 Link circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	36.04	Other Roads Matters
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Land Swap at Ballyshannon

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Boyle, Members agreed that the proposed land swap (Sweeney property at Ballyshannon), proceed to the next stage.

Take over of private estates (Townparks, Ballyshannon)

On the proposal of Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Grimes, Members agreed that the Townparks Estate at Ballyshannon be prioritised to be taken over by the Council.

Road to Landfill at Ballinacarrick, Ballintra

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill for the road to the landfill at Ballinacarrick to be resurfaced, Mr. P Thomas undertook to consider same in the context of the 2006 – 2008 Road Restoration Programme.

Meeting in Killybegs regarding Relief Road

Mr. P Thomas referred to a meeting, which had taken place in Killybegs on the 19th September 2005 regarding the proposed Relief road and informed Members that the proposal would be going on Public Display/Consultation for a further three weeks after which it was hoped to decide on a route for the relief road.

Chip Bay at Beaghy, Ballyshannon

In response to a request from Cllr O'Neill to have fencing/barriers erected at the Council Chip Bay, at Beaghey, Ballyshannon, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members at an early date.

Signs at Meamore School, (Mulreany Brae and Church Brae)

In response to a request for additional signage to be erected at Meamore School, Killybegs, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members at an early date.

Castleogary Inver

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle for safety signage to be erected at Castleogary, Inver where recent road improvements have led to increased speed on the Ardaghey – Ardara Road, Mr. P Thomas undertook to meet with Cllr Pringle at the location to agree what measures might be appropriate to address the concerns raised.

Footbridge at Drimarone

Cllr Pringle referred to a footbridge at Drimarone which had been damaged by flooding and for which the Fisheries Board had no funding to repair. Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members in the matter.

Finger Post at Pettigo for Belleek

In response to a request for an update on the erection of a finger post sign at Pettigo for Belleek, Mr. Thomas advised Members that this will be erected in the near future.

Road at Tievedully, Brenter

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle for the road at Tievedully, Brenter to be repaired which has got into poor repair as a result of forestry harvesting, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that the Council had received €20,000.00 from Coillte to carry out this work and that this would be done shortly.

Stretch of Road from Lignaul to Ardaghey

In response to a request from Cllr Pringle for the Council to carry out repairs on a stretch of road from Lignaul to Ardaghey, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members in relation to same.

Rossnowlagh Road Area – Footpaths

In response to a query from Cllr Grimes in relation to an area between Ashbrooke and Woodlands where there is no footpath, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that this might have to be constructed by the developer as part of the planning conditions and undertook to check and to revert to Members at an early date.

Footpaths Ballyshannon

Cllr Grimes requested a schedule of where each of the phases of programmed footpath works, which would show where works will begin and end, in order that residents can be made aware of when and where works will be carried out.

Mr. D Gillespie confirmed that this could be marked on the ground for the benefit of residents and undertook to have same carried out at Ballyshannon. These could be amended if additional funding became available.

Request for Traffic Calming Measures at Hugh Colhouns and Harveys Point Junctions.

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for Traffic Calming measures at Hugh Colhouns and Harveys Point Junctions on the Clar

Barnes Road, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that this matter had been pursued before with the National Roads Authority. The NRA Road Safety Officer had looked at the Junctions and indicated that he was satisfied that they were appropriate but undertook to pursue the matter again with the National Roads Authority.

Signage for Playground at Bosco Centre

In response to a request for signage to improve the safety for children using the new playground at the Bosco Centre, Mr. P Thomas undertook to have a look at same and to revert to Members at an early date.

Request for a Pedestrian Crossings at the Diamond, Donegal Town.

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for full Pedestrian Crossings to be developed at the Diamond, Donegal Town, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that the current provisions at the Diamond does not provide for full pedestrian crossings. This required courtesy from all road users including pedestrians. He confirmed that he would have another look at same and revert to Members.

Speed Ramps in Residential areas

In response to a request from Cllr Kennedy for the erection of speed ramps in the residential areas of O'Duignan Avenue, Drumrooske and St. Josephs Tce., Mr. P Thomas informed Members in order for this to happen, it would be necessary to have the agreement of all the residents including the exact location of the ramps. He pointed out that not all residents are usually in favour of ramps because of the noise of cars passing over them, particularly at night, but that if agreement could be reached with residents then he would have a look at same.

Request for a wall at Inver to replace hedge

In response to a request from Cllr Boyle for a wall to be erected in front of Eamonn Kelly's house at Inver where the hedge had been taken away to facilitate road works, Mr. P Thomas suggested that a

meeting be arranged with Mr. Kelly and Mr. W Freeney, Executive Engineer to discuss the matter.

Request for Green Bollards at Brener, Dunkineely

In response to a request from Cllr Boyle for green bollards to be erected at the entrance to a private estate at Brener, Dunkineely, Mr. P Thomas informed Members that Green Bollards are strictly for County Roads and not private roads as set down by the National Roads Authority. He also advised that there was nothing to prevent the residents themselves putting up reflectors of another colour, at their entrance.

Programme to Replace Green Bollards

In response to a query from Cllr Pringle if there was a programme to replace damaged green bollards, Mr. P Thomas confirmed to Members that there was.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee would take place in the Donegal PSC at 2.00pm on the 22nd November 2005.

This concluded the business of the meeting.