

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

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**Members Present:** Cllr Kelly  
Cllr Gallagher  
Cllr Bonner  
Cllr Slowey  
Cllr Alcorn  
Cllr Doherty

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise  
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Cathal Moss – Road Design Engineer

**GEA 124/08                      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup>  
JULY 2008**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were agreed.

**GEA 125/08                      REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Bonner, the report from the Workshop of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 was agreed.

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

**GEA 126/08**

### **PROGRESS UPDATE – ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

The Roads Manager circulated the Committee with a progress report detailing the status of the 2008 Roadworks Programme.

The Roads Manager informed Members of the necessity to formulate a 3 to 5 year Strategic Gaeltacht Roads Plan and agreed to place this matter on the Agenda of a forthcoming Workshop.

Members were also advised that a Workshop would be scheduled to discuss a report on the takeover of non County roads, which was circulated to the Committee.

Cllr Alcorn complemented the Roads Services on the successful completion of the Tully Bridge project and requested that a ceremony be held to recognise the efforts of all those involved.

**GEA 127/08**

### **ROADS MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Alcorn requested the Roads Service to deal with the dangerous positioning of manhole covers at Belcruit Crossroads and Keadue areas and to pursue the relevant agencies for funding.

Cllr Alcorn & Cllr Gallagher informed the Committee of a spate of accidents in the Milltown Bridge area and asked the Council to carry out road safety measures at this location.

Cllr Gallagher notified the Council of the absence of public lighting on the Pole Road, Dungloe to the new Housing estate.

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher regarding speeding vehicles on the Bunbeg to Derrybeg road, the Roads Manager advised that he would liaise with the Gardai in this regard.

Cllr Gallagher requested the Roads Services to cut overgrown hedges in the Ardunnes area in the interest of safety of school schoolchildren boarding buses at this locus.

**GEA 128/08**

### **N56/NRDO MINOR IMPROVEMENTS**

Cathal Moss, NRDO Engineer updated the Committee on the status of N56/NRDO Minor Improvements at:

- (i) Doochary Junction to Dungloe
- (ii) Lettermacaward Remedial Works
- (iii) Kilraine – Glenties R262 junction and Design review
- (iv) Dunfanaghy to Falcarragh
- (v) Tirlin to Drumnaraw School

Cllr Bonner strongly criticised the transfer of funding from the Glenties Electoral Area of €1.3 million for projects at Meenacarn Bends, Doochary Junction and Lettermacaward.

Cllr Bonner requested a breakdown of expenditure incurred on the Lettermacaward Remedial Works and also a report on the projects that the Council intend submitting to the NRA for funding. Members requested that a stretch of roadway at Tangeavane be upgraded as a priority.

Cllr Slowey requested the NRDO to seek funding for the upgrading of a stretch of roadway at Brogans Brae, and also criticised the lack of transparency in respect of NRA expenditure on Donegal Roads.

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Slowey, the Committee requested the attendance of Aidan Doherty, Senior NRDO Engineer at the next Electoral Area meeting.

**GEA 129/08****MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager regarding the status of the following projects:

- (i) Gweedore Sewerage Scheme
- (ii) Dungloe & Glenties Sewerage Schemes
- (iii) Burtonport Sewerage Scheme
- (iv) Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme
- (v) Dunfanaghy Portnablagh Sewerage Scheme
- (vi) Gortahork Water Supply
- (vii) Ardara Sewerage Scheme

Cllr Gallagher expressed concern at the substantial increase in costings for the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes over an eighteen month period.

Cllr Gallagher and Cllr Alcorn welcomed the submission of the revised Burtonport Sewerage Scheme to the Department for consideration.

**GEA 130/08****SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the Small Capital Schemes Programme.

**GEA 131/08****GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

Members discussed the progress report circulated with the agenda regarding the status of the Group Water Scheme Programme.

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn regarding the proposed Ruthland Island Scheme, the Water Service Manager advised the Committee of the necessity to obtain a Foreshore Licence prior to any development.

Cllr Slowey requested the Council to expedite the provision of Water Supply in the Leaconell Maghera area.

**GEA 132/08****GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda in relation to the Environmental Work Programme.

- 133.1 Members requested the provision of a Civic Amenity Site for Arranmore.
- 133.2 The Environment Manager updated the Committee on the status of the Dungloe Civic Amenity Site.
- 133.3 In response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding the provision of bottle banks in Ardara the Environment Manager advised Members that various site options are being considered.
- 133.4 The Committee congratulated Tidy Town Committees in the Glenties Electoral Area for their success in the 2008 Tidy Town Awards. Cllr Slowey congratulated the Glenties Tidy Town Committee on their achievement of a Gold Medal.
- 133.5 In response to a query from Cllr Bonner regarding the public toilets in Dungloe, the Environment Manager informed the Committee that the toilets would remain open to the public in the absence of anti social behaviour at this location.
- 133.6 The Environment Manager undertook to liaise with Kevin McCloskey regarding the recently advertised draft Local Bye Laws and issues of jet ski usage highlighted by Cllr Kelly.
- 133.7 Cllr Kelly requested the Council to establish and promote a 'call line' for reporting illegal dumping activity in the County.
- 133.8 In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher, the Environment Manager advised Members of the absence of any funding for removal of dumped asbestos.
- 133.9 The Environment Manager informed Members of the necessity to upgrade sewage treatment facilities in the Annagry area in response to concerns expressed by Cllr Gallagher.

<b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GEA 134/08                      PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager.

The Planning Manager advised Members that applications have declined to 2002 levels and informed the Committee that in excess of 100 applications were submitted in respect of grants for slatted sheds.

The Planning Manager also highlighted the decline in planning refusals to 8.1% and emphasised the value of utilising Further Information requests as an alternative to refusals. Members also welcomed the decline in the submission of invalid applications.

**GEA 135/08                      CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda detailing refusals in the period from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008 to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

**GEA 136/08                      ENFORCEMENT**

In response to queries from the Committee regarding the destruction of road networks during development, the Planning Manager advised Members of ongoing collaboration between the Roads and Planning Services to address this issue.

**GEA 137/08                      DEVELOPMENT ON N56**

In response to Members criticism of current NRA policy to appeal permission granted by the Council to An Bórd Pleanála, the Planning Manager advised the Committee of conflicting NRA National policy and County Development Plan policies.

**GEA 138/08                      LOCAL AREA PLANS**

Cllr Kelly highlighted the necessity for a Gaeltacht Plan in conjunction with Udaras na Gaeltachta and the Committee criticised the absence of local area plans in the Glenties electoral Area.

**GEA 139/08                      LOCAL PLANNING SERVICE**

Cllr Alcorn and Cllr Slowey commended the co-operation of planning staff with Members.

<b>COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL SERVICES</b>
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**GEA 140/08                    WATER & MARINE LEISURE**

The Community and Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that the Water and Marine Leisure Coordinator would attend the November meeting.

**GEA 141/08                    FUND MANAGEMENT**

Members welcomed the report circulated with agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager listing allocations being processed from the 2008 Development Fund Initiative. The Committee also welcomed the payment of €8000 from the Tourism Product Fund towards the Fountain Centrepiece in Glenties Public Park.

**GEA 142/08                    COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager outlining the completion of the 2005 – 2007 Programme and the current status of the 2008 – 2010 Community Playground Programme.

Cllr Kelly congratulated the Community and Enterprise Manager on the success of the opening of the Arranmore Island Community Playground.

**GEA 143/08                    INTER AGENCY DEVELOPMENT**

The Community and Enterprise Manager updated Members in relation to an application made to include Falcarragh and the Twin Towns in a European Rural Retail Partnership Project.

**GEA 144/08                    CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated regarding Cultural Services in the County. Members requested the attendance of Eileen Burgess at the next Electoral Area meeting to update the Committee in relation to proposals for Library facilities in Glenties.

Cllr Alcorn congratulated Ronan McGarvey on his success in the primary school photo competition.

## HOUSING & BUILDING

**GEA 145/08**

### **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

The Housing Manager informed Members that the Housing Service is:

- (i) At an advanced stage in their review of up to 5 no. Turnkey proposals for Dungloe.
- (ii) Considering land purchase for social housing in the Falcarragh area.

Cllr Bonner requested details in relation to turnkey submissions in the Dungloe area.

Cllr Kelly highlighted the urgent requirement for housing in Dunfanaghy and urged the Council to borrow funding to expedite the Housing Programme.

Cllr Alcorn informed the Committee of an applicant whose SI application was refused after a 4-year delay and expressed concern at this unacceptable situation.

In response to a query from Cllr Gallagher the Housing Manager informed the Committee that retention monies are withheld from contractors who fail to complete specifications as detailed in their contract with the Council.

**GEA 146/08**

### **SOCIAL HOUSING**

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn, the Housing Manager confirmed that certain housing grants for elderly people previously processed by the HSE are now being dealt with by the Council since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

**GEA 147/08**

### **CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

**GEA 148/08**

**HOUSING STAFF**

Cllr Gallagher expressed appreciation for the assistance received by her from former Housing staff Nicole Boyle and Marie Martin.

**GEA 149/08**

**DERELICT SITES**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**