

04th October, 2010

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Monday 11th October, 2010 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

Questions and Motions

Items 10 – 13

Items 15 – 23

Items 25 – 28

Items 30 – 68

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 11th
OCTOBER 2010

C/492/10 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. C.Harvey, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, Crawford, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, D. Larkin, F. McBrearty, N. McBride, C. Mc Conalogue, S. Mc Eniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, S. O'Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle, M. Quinn, and J. Ryan .

C/493/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr. Byrne who was unable to attend the meeting.

C/494/10 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Corporate and Housing, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water & Environment, Mr Garry Martin, A/Head of Finance and Emergency Services, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation, Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Culture and Planning, Mr Con Mc Laughlin, A/Senior Engineer, Mr Fergal Doherty, Executive Engineer, Mr Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, and Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/495/10 SAFEGUARDING OF SERVICES AT LETTERKENNY
GENERAL HOSPITAL, LIFFORD COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL, AND THE SHIEL AND ROCK HOSPITALS
IN BALLYSHANNON.

The Mayor asked Clr. Mc Brearty for his closing comments in relation to the following motion adopted at the Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th September, 2010:-

“That Donegal County Council call on the government to give a commitment to the people of Donegal that the services at Letterkenny General Hospital, Lifford Community Hospital, the Sheil and Rock Hospitals in Ballyshannon be safe guarded from any proposed cuts or closures because of the vital services that these hospitals give to the people of Donegal and the North West and that the government gives a commitment to make up the deficit that Letterkenny General Hospital has in order to save jobs

and the services which are threatened by the inhuman government cut backs."

Clr. Mc Brearty called for justice for the people of Donegal advising that the Government was effectively punishing the most weak and vulnerable in society.

He asked that his motion be forwarded as soon as possible to the relevant Government Departments.

C/496/10 ENGAGEMENT OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE ON EITHER FAS OR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES TO ASSIST IN MUCH NEEDED WORK IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT IS NOT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That consideration be given to the engagement of unemployed people on either FAS or Community Employment Schemes to assist in work that is not being undertaken by the Council and is much needed in our local communities."

Members were informed that:-

“The Public Service Agreement (“Croke Park” Agreement) 2010-2014 provides that there will be full support in the Public Service with programmes and initiatives to support and assist the unemployed, including the rollout of the FAS Work Placement Programme.

The FAS Work Placement Programme provides up to 9 months work experience to 2,000 persons who are unemployed, including graduates, and applies to all sectors of the economy, including Local Authorities. The aim of the Programme is to assist the unemployed to retain their skills levels and/or secure work experience that will assist them in getting a job. There are two streams to the Programme – 1,000 places are for graduates and a second stream of 1,000 places is open to other unemployed individuals. Participants on the Programme may continue to maintain their social welfare entitlements subject to the normal social welfare

rules applying and the placement provider will not incur salary costs.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in Circular Letter LG (P) 09/10 has advised Local Authorities that the placement of individuals under the Work Placement Programme is not affected by the moratorium on recruitment in the public service and has requested Local Authorities to actively engage in the Programme. The maximum number of placements that can be offered is 25. However, any such placements should not displace an existing member of staff or be used to fill a vacant post.

The Council is currently examining potential placements under the Work Placement Programme with a view to offering a number of placements for both graduates and non-graduates under the terms of the scheme. In the event that proposals emerge to extend this Programme, further consultations with trade unions at both local and national level would be anticipated.

It is also understood that discussions are ongoing with FAS on a further proposal to assist apprentices, who have been made redundant. It is understood that Local Authorities would contribute to the scheme in providing on-the-job training and assessment with craft supervision / materials etc. for the trades of Electrical; Carpentry & Joinery; Plastering; Plumbing; Brick & Stone laying; Painting & Decorating. Further details in this regard are awaited.”

It was generally acknowledged that many of those now unemployed could make a valid contribution to the local community through either FAS or CES Schemes.

Such initiatives, it was noted, would allow people gain relevant work experience.

Clr Brogan asked that direct contact be made with FAS in relation to the progression of the Apprenticeship Scheme, and that an update be provided to the Council as soon as practical.

C/497/10

THAT THE LIST OF PROPERTIES REGISTERED UNDER THE NPPR BE MADE AVAILABLE

The following motion in the name of Clr. Harte was not moved:-

"That the list of properties registered under the NPPR be made available so that the ownership of private rented properties can be ascertained, as this would help residents in estates contact landlords when anti social behaviour is coming from these properties."

C/498/10 CALL ON THE COUNCIL TO HAVE MONIES PAID IMMEDIATELY TO PERSONS WHO SOLD LAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF ROAD WIDENING

On the proposal of Clr. McBride, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council take action to have persons paid immediately for lands purchased to facilitate road widening etc."

Members were informed that:-

“The county council do try and have land owners paid as soon as possible where acquisitions for road widening takes place as this contributes to better relations with those same land owners.

In some cases, however, difficulties arise due to problems with title, disputes in relation to ownership etc which can delay payments.

The Council will continue to expedite these payments and be proactive in having problem cases resolved.”

Members asked that a review of all land agreements be carried out with particular emphasis on those cases with outstanding fee payments.

Responding to Members queries in relation to the provision of a tracking system for Section 183s, the Director of Roads and Transportation, advised that steps had been taken to develop such a system.

He said that he was aware that there were specific issues in relation to individual payments for land acquisitions, and that he would be prepared to liaise with individual Members on the cases in question.

C/499/10

THAT THE COUNCIL DEVOTE RESOURCES WITHIN
THE PLANNING SECTION TO ENFORCEMENT AND
TAKE-OVER OF ESTATES

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

"Because of the dramatic reduction in Planning Applications over recent years that Donegal County Council devotes it's resources in the Planning Section to Enforcement and Take-Over of estates."

Members were informed that:-

“The Planning Section has already undertaken some refocusing of its resources and is actively pursuing a large number of enforcement cases, including cases relating to unfinished estates. This requires ongoing monitoring and balancing of resources as there are both existing statutory obligations (other than enforcement) to be met and new obligations arising from the Planning and Development Act 2010 which will necessitate significant resourcing within the immediate future. There is, however, a Council-wide acknowledgement that addressing the issue of unfinished estates is a priority and proposals to tackle the problem on a cross-directorate basis are under active consideration to ensure a consistent and deliverable solution to the problems arising.”

Clr Quinn asked that the Cross Directorate Group, set up to co-ordinate enforcement and takeover matters, bring a report outlining their dedicated plan of action to the next appropriate Council Meeting.

It was acknowledged that significant progress had been made with the pilot project in Letterkenny, and that a similar initiative should now be extended to all Electoral Areas.

A number of issues were identified as needing immediate attention namely:-

- Problem of Sewage Infrastructure.
- Failure to set up dedicated Management Companies.
- Need to address funding issues.
- Necessity of making the best use of the internal resources available to deal with the programme.

Members applauded Council Staff who had been instrumental in providing assistance to a number of private estates throughout the county, over the past number of months.

It was acknowledged that many of the current problems could have been averted with adherence to proper planning procedures. This was something, it was agreed, needed to be strictly enforced in respect of all future planning permissions.

The Director of Community, Culture and Planning agreed to update the Council on the findings of the Cross-Directorate Working Group.

Clr. Mc Brearty enquired as to why a previously agreed delegation, scheduled to meet with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on such matters, had not yet been finalised.

C/500/10 CALL FOR THE RETENTION OF CONTROL BY LOCAL COUNCIL PLANNERS AND NOT OF THE NRA OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The following motion was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"That this Council seek an amendment into the spatial planning and National Roads Guidelines that regional and local roads planning applications stay within the control of local council planners and not in the control of the NRA."

Members were informed that:-

"A comprehensive report on the Consultation Draft on 'The Spatial Planning and National Roads, Guidelines for Local Authorities' has been included on the County Council's Agenda for the September Meeting. This matter can be addressed in the context of considering the report."

The motion in the name of Clr. Harley was deemed to have been dealt with in the context of the report issued by Donegal County Council to the Department of the

Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the Consultation Draft, on the NRA Review of Guidelines on “Spatial and National Roads”

C/501/10 ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITION OF ROADS IN THE STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Harvey following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council carry out an assessment of road conditions in the Stranorlar area and compare conditions to other areas of the county so that the 2011 roads grants can be directed to areas of most need, rather than based on road mileage within each Electoral area."

Members were informed that:-

“Both National and County Grant Allocations for Regional and Local Roads have traditionally been done on a pro rata mileage basis. This method has served the county reasonably well in that it is transparent and easily managed.

There is a case for allocation of road grant money on a needs basis and this can be considered if deemed appropriate by the members.

However, inevitably this will lead to a reduction in grant money allocated to some electoral areas. It may be appropriate to discuss this item at an upcoming Roads Workshop.”

Clr. McGowan called for extra funding for roads in the east of the county and an assessment of the resource allocation process.

Members identified the need for a system to deal with Strategic Roads linking the various Electoral Areas and centres of population.

It was suggested that the revenue generated from Motor Tax receipts be retained in the county, and contact made with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to same.

The Director of Roads and Transportation acknowledged that it would take considerable effort to conduct a county-

wide road survey, and advised of the need for exceptional clarity should any change be made to the current system of assessment.

Clr. Mc Gowan stated that there was a need for some sort of system that would allow for the reasonable repair of roads within an acceptable timeframe.

It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the Roads and Transportation Workshop scheduled for later in the evening.

C/502/10

THE PROVISION OF SAND ALONG COUNTY AND REGIONAL ROADS THAT ARE NOT ON THE LIST FOR GRITTING DURING WINTER MONTHS

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

"That this Council discuss the leaving of sand along county and regional roads that are not on the list for gritting during the winter months, in particular because of the severe weather in 2009."

Members were informed that:-

“A specific legislative provision is presently being considered by the Department of Transport to enable local authorities provide materials and equipment for local community organisations or individuals to undertake works to alleviate or mitigate the adverse impact of severe weather (Refer to Recommendation 7 from the Review of Transportation Response to Severe Weather in the Period Nov 09 to Jan 10).

Following a recommendation by the recent Roads SPC, a letter has been sent to the Department of Transport requesting that the above legislation is expedited. Donegal County Council will continue to provide sand at critical locations for staff use.”

A lengthy debate ensued with a number of issues debated including:-

- Having bunkers filled with sand placed in specific locations throughout the county.

- Obtaining assistance from the farming community in severe weather conditions.
- Need for clarification in relation to the use of shore sand in emergency situations.
- Query as to the arrangements in place with Voxporo over the coming months.
- The necessity of updating Members by text on staff cover/availability especially in holiday periods.

The Director of Roads and Transportation in response advised that there were particular issues involved in the use of shore sand and that a particular balance had to be struck in relation to any possible demand. Clarification had, he noted, been sought from the Department but a specific reply was not anticipated.

A number of meetings, he confirmed, had taken place with the Call Centre (Voxporo) and additional lines had been added in response to the difficulties encountered last winter. The Centre had, also, he added, made arrangements to bring in additional staff at short notice.

The County Manager advised that the service contracted for at present was the most cost effective for Donegal County Council and that every effort would be made internally to progress with the Council's own arrangements.

C/503/10 CALL FOR A PLAN TO BE PUT IN PLACE BY THE NRA AND DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO UPGRADE THE N56 ROAD AND FOOTPATHS THROUGH THE TOWN OF ARDARA

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Mc Bride, on behalf of Clr. Slowey , seconded by Clr. Alcorn and adopted.:-

"That the National Roads Authority put in place in conjunction with Donegal County Council a plan for the upgrading of the N56 road and foot paths through the town of Ardara."

Members were informed that:-

“It is proposed to make an application (AF1) to the NRA under pavement grants for 2011 for Ardara streets (an application will also be made for Dunfanaghy Streets). Consideration was given to upgrading the pavement in both these urban areas in both 2009 and 2010, however, the NRA circular in 2008 for the evaluation and prioritisation of pavement works resulted in a concentration of such works outside speed limits because of obvious road user safety considerations.

Funding for footpaths and other ancillary works will be applied for, however, it is likely that funding of these elements will have to be secured from other quarters.”

C/504/10 CALL TO START THE PROCESS TO MOVE THE SPEED LIMIT ON CARNMORE ROAD DUE TO THE CURRENT ROAD SAFETY ISSUE

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

"That this Council start a process to move the Speed Limit on Carnmore Road as a matter of urgency due to the safety issue that is presently on this road."

Members were informed that:-

“At present the Council have not programmed a date for the next review of speed limits. This location has not been raised as a safety issue in previous reviews, but will be reviewed in the next new review of speed limits. In the meantime, Donegal County Council's Road Safety Engineer will review this location to establish what the appropriate measures are to minimise or eliminate any safety issues present.”

The Member's of the Glenties Electoral Area outlined the necessity of moving the speed limit in the interest of road safety.

It was agreed to deal with the matter in conjunction with Item 26(a).

The Director of Roads and Transportation noted that the consent of the NRA would also be required.

C/505/10 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to vary the order of business and deal with the County Manager's Report and addendum at this juncture.

C/506/10 MANAGER'S REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda and addendum circulated during the meeting.

Updates in relation to the following were noted:-

- Notification of additional allocation of €890,000 from the Local Government Fund for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- Visit of the Ambassador of the Philippines to Donegal County Council.
- National Pavement Works 2010
- Fáilte North West-Tourism Development Forum

Signing of Letterkenny DBO Contracts.

Members were informed that the signing of the contracts for the Letterkenny DBO had been delayed for a short period and that a new date for the signing of the contract would be confirmed in due course.

Payment for Water/Wastewater Services

The County Manager advised that it was imperative that all customers receiving accounts and bills in relation to water/wastewater services made contact with the corporate services offices in their local Public Service Centres.

He confirmed that cognisance would be taken of individual circumstances and the prevailing economic situation, but in instances where there was no engagement a more definitive course of action would have to be taken.

It was intended, he added, that such measures would be the exception and every effort would be made to meet the consumer half way.

The overall process, he acknowledged, would not deviate in any way from measures taken in the past.

Outcome of recent Director of Service Competition.

Members congratulated Mr. Liam Ward, A/Director Housing and Corporate Services on being placed first on the panel following the recent Director of Service Competition, together with Mr. Garry Martin, who would be continuing in his role as A/Head of Finance with responsibility also for the Emergency Services.

Congratulations were also extended to Mr. Joe Peoples on his appointment as Acting Director of Water and Environment.

Delegation from Boston - October 2010

It was noted that a cross-party group of members together with the Deputy Mayor, Clr Pdraig Mac Lochlainn and the Mayor of Letterkenny, Clr Tadgh Culbert had met with the delegation. It was acknowledged that this had served to further promote the case for the inclusion of Donegal within the remit of the US Economic Envoy, Mr. Declan Kelly.

Members were informed that an invitation had been received from the Irish Echo requesting the Mayor to be the keynote speaker at the Annual Golden Bridges Award to be held in Boston in November, 2010.

Invitations had also been received to meetings in respect of the following:

- A business breakfast with Irish American Business Leaders.
- A meeting with the President of the University of Massachusetts by the Republic of Ireland & the Northern Ireland Development Agencies.
- Attendance at the Boston Donegal Association Annual Dinner.
- Meeting with representatives of the undocumented Donegal people living in the greater Boston area.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, it was resolved that the Mayor, Clr. Cora Harvey and Clr Dessie Larkin, Chair of the Planning and Economic Development SPC/ Chair of the County Development Board, together with the County Manager attend the events outlined.

Clr. Mc Brearty outlined his opposition to the trip. The decision, he contended, showed a clear lack of accountability in what were pressing economic times for the vast majority of the population of Donegal.

The Meetings Administrator advised that in terms of the value for money aspect of the trip that a decision was needed sooner rather than later to avoid the payment of increased booking fees.

Thus Clr Brogan proposed, seconded by Clr. P. Doherty that the relevant bookings be made as soon as practical.

The County Manager stated that the trip offered great potential for Donegal and would assist in promoting the county in the context of developing the NorthWest Region. It would also, he noted, help to validate the links created with the Boston Delegation on the 2nd October.

C/507/10 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for lunch until 1.30pm.

C/508/10 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE OF LANDS AT GREENCASTLE PIER, CO DONEGAL TO THE FOYLE FISHERMAN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr.Larkin , seconded by Clr.Blaney, it was resolved to dispose, by way of lease, lands at Greencastle Pier, Carndonagh to the Foyle Fisherman's Co-operative Society limited, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/509/10 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE OF 20 UNSOLD AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS IN CARNDONAGH, MANORCUNNINGHAM, LETTERKENNY, RAMELTON AND MILFORD

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr.Larkin , seconded by Clr. Blaney, it was resolved to dispose, by way of lease, 20 Unsold Affordable Housing Units in Carndonagh, Manorcunningham, Letterkenny, Ramelton and Milford in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/510/10 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ROISIN ACRES, BURTONPORT TO MR PETER WARD, ROISIN ACRES, BURTONPORT

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher , seconded by Clr.Alcorn , it was resolved to dispose, of land at Roisin Acres, Burntonport to Mr Peter Ward, Roisin Acres, Burtonport, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/511/10 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF KILMACRENNAN BUS BAY AND SHELTER

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

Whilst recognising the need for a Bus Shelter, concern was expressed in relation to the issues raised in the Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audit and the fact that specific actions were required to minimise the occurrence of an accident. Responding to these concerns, the Director of Roads and Transportation urged the council to adopt the proposal subject to appropriate action being carried out on matters raised in the audit report.

On the proposal of Clr.Brogan, seconded by Clr.Blaney, the Council approved the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed construction of Kilmacrennan Bus Bay and Shelter, subject to all the issues raised in the Road Safety Audit Report being satisfactorily resolved.

C/512/10 TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO S.I. COTTAGE AT BALLYDERLAN, ST. JOHNS POINT, DUNKINEELY

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle , seconded by Clr. Pringle , the Council approved the carrying out of works under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the proposed construction of 1 No. S.I. Cottage at Ballyderlan, St. Johns Point, Dunkineely.

The Director of Housing and Corporate, responding to a query from Clr. Boyle, agreed to follow up on a number of highlighted S.I applications.

C/513/10 PRESENTATION ON THE OPERATION OF COVERT CAMERAS TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL DUMPING

Mr. Con Mc Laughlin A/Senior Engineer delivered an informative presentation on the use of covert cameras in the Inishowen Electoral Area. In relation to the overall operation, it was imperative, he added, that the overall chain of evidence was protected and that this was done in accordance with data protection regulations. It was acknowledged that the pilot project undertaken in Inishowen had been highly successful and that as a result cameras would be placed at a range of locations throughout the county. This updated technology would allow car licence plates to be read at a distance ,with records being held for a number of days afterwards. Night vision technology it was established could also be used to identify fly tippers during the hours of darkness

Members expressed support for the project and cited the need for the Council to be proactive rather than reactive. The role of the media and local representatives in promoting efforts to curb illegal dumping was also deemed to be of immense importance.

It was suggested that many of the issues raised could be addressed initially through an education programme in local schools, and in conjunction with the work currently being carried out by Ms Suzanne Tinney, Waste Information Officer.

In conclusion, Mr. Mc Laughlin welcomed the positive feedback and stated that the overall aim was not to increase fines but rather to stop illegal dumping all together.

C/514/10 ADOPTION OF THE “ROAD TRAFFIC (SPEED LIMITS- COUNTY OF DONEGAL)(AMENDMENT) BYE-LAWS 2010

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The Director of Roads and Transportation called on Members to adopt as many of the changes as possible . After some deliberation, on the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to adopt the proposed amendments to the current speed limits in Donegal, in the form of the “Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits- County of Donegal) (Amendment) Byelaws 2010”, **subject to the exclusion** of Mín na Cuinge (The Gaoth Dobhair – Gort an Choirce Road(National Road N56) between a point 728 metres west of its junction with the Dún Lúriche Road(Regional Road R251) and a point 55 metres east of the said junction, and that a comprehensive review be undertaken of the locations outlined below:-

- Carnmore Road Dungloe
- Mín na Cuinge (extended length)
- Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny
- Thorn Road, Letterkenny
- N56 west of Dunkineely(on the Killybegs side)

Members asked that the NRA be informed of the suggested changes to the road at Mín na Cuinge.

C/515/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE POLICY IN RELATION TO THE SELECTION OF BACKHOE ROADERS (JCBS)

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr Harley, it was resolved to endorse the policy in relation to the selection of Backhoe Roaders (JCBs).

- C/516/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2010
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan , seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Rural Water Monitoring Committee held on the 16th June, 2010.
- C/517/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH MAY, 2010
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 19th May, 2010.
- C/518/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH JULY, 2010
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 27th July, 2010.
- C/519/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH JULY, 2010
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan , seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 13th July, 2010.
- C/520/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF ISLAND COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH MARCH, 2010
On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Island Committee held on the 9th March, 2010.
- C/521/10 TO NOTE MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JULY, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr Larkin, the Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 19th July, 2010 were noted.

C/522/10 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF DEPUTATION FROM GWEEBARRA CONSERVATION GROUP

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The Meetings Administrator recommended that a decision on this application be deferred to the October Council Meeting to enable him to get further information from the applicants on the objective of the delegation and the preparation of an overall report on requests on hand, that had been approved by the Council but had not been accommodated because of the volume of business before the Council.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin , seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to defer consideration to the October Meeting.

C/523/10 CALL FOR THE REINSTATEMENT BY BUS EIREANN OF BUS SERVICES RECENTLY REMOVED IN THE KILLYBEGS, KILCAR, GLENCOLMCILLE AND PETTIGO AREAS

On the proposal of Clr. Pringle, seconded by Clr. Boyle, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council calls on Bus Eireann to reinstate the bus services recently removed serving Killybegs, Kilcar, Glencolmcille and Pettigo and to engage in proper consultations in advance of future timetable changes."

Members were informed that:-

“The Council will communicate with Bus Eireann regarding the withdrawal of services in South West Donegal and Pettigo and seek to have them engage with local communities in advance of future timetable changes.”

It was noted that the withdrawal of the service had created considerable difficulties for the general public in South West Donegal.

Clr. Pringle asked that Bus Eireann be informed of Member's views and the need to reinstate the specific services immediately.

C/524/10

TO NOTE CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan , seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following Conference Reports was noted: -

- Clr. Brendan Byrne – Mid West Regional Authority Conference held in Limerick 4th and 5th February, 2010.
- Clr. Patrick McGowan – LAMA Conference held in Sligo on 9th and 10th April, 2010.
- Clr. Brenday Byrne – Border Regional Authority Conference held in Cavan Town on the 15th April, 2010.
- Clr. Martin Harley – New EPA Guidelines for Single Homes Conference held in Bushypark, Co. Galway on the 23rd, 24th and 25th April, 2010.
- Clr. David Alcorn – Defamation Seminar for Councillors held in Limerick on the 28th and 29th May, 2010.
- Clr. Dessie Larkin – Byrne Perry Summer School Entwined Histories II Ireland France and America held in Gorey 25th to 27th June, 2010.
- Clr. Thomas Pringle – Elected Members Training Seminar Wind and Solar Energy held in Birr 25th and 26th June, 2010.
- Clr. Terence Slowey – Elected Members Training Seminar Wind and Solar Energy held in Birr 25th and 26th June, 2010.
- Clr. Dessie Larkin – Local Government Roads and Transport Services held in Skibereen 9th and 10th July, 2010.
- Clr. Dessie Larkin - Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 held in Maynooth 17th July, 2010.
- Clr. Terence Slowey – The Parnell Summer School held in Rathdrum 8th to 13th August, 2010.

C/525/10

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor informed the Council that the Deputy Mayor, Clr. Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, also accompanied by a number of staff had met with the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Dr. Norman Hamilton on the 4th October, 2010 in the County House, Lifford. The meeting she noted, had been, most informative and constructive.

C/526/10 CONSIDERATION OF MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Members considered the following motion in the names of Clrs Mc Bride, Slowey, Ryan, M. Doherty, Harley, Boyle, Mc Guinness, and O' Neill, which had been accepted at the Council Meeting on the 27th September, 2010:-

“That Donegal County Council opposes the Government’s introduction of a Public Service Obligation (PSO) levy on electricity bills that will increase the cost of electricity to householders and businesses by an average of 5%”

Members debated the severe implications such a levy would have on the most vulnerable in society.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Bride, seconded by Clr. Pringle, it was resolved to adopt the above motion.

It was further resolved to send a copy of the motion to Mr. John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and to circulate same to all Local Authorities for consideration.

The following Questions and Replies were noted:

C/527/10 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUSING PURCHASING 2008 AND 2009

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"How many houses (multiple and single) were purchased by Donegal County Council in 2008 and 2009 and can the council specify from whom they were purchased, the purchase price, the auctioneer/agent used and the legal cost of transfer?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“In 2008, 21no. houses were purchased under the Social Housing investment Programme at the following locations: Letterkenny 13, Ballybofey/Stranorlar 3, with single units at Manorcunningham, Carraigart, Ballyshannon, Muff and Falcarragh. The average purchase price for these units was €162,302.00 in Letterkenny, €149,500.00 in Ballybofey/Stranorlar, the average costs of the remaining units was €234,400.00 reflecting the fact that these units were generally larger and were acquired in the main to cater for particular needs of applicants.

In 2009, there were 8 no. social houses purchased and 5 no houses for resale as affordable houses. The locations were: Culdaff 4, and single units at Ballyshannon, Muff, Quigley's Point and Meeenahalla (Glenties). The affordable units were all acquired in Buncrana with an average cost of €150,000.00. The average cost in Culdaff was €163,500 with the average cost for the remainder being €174,625.00.

House purchases are sourced on the open market normally through Estate Agents and the units are independently valued by agents appointed by the Council to ensure the price paid reflects the market value of the houses. The acquisitions are normally required to cater for special needs of applicants or in areas where there is a large social housing need that cannot be met through the direct provision of social housing units.

The conveyencing is handled by the Council's solicitors Messrs. V P McMullin and the Council obtain a budget cost of 1.5% of the purchase price of the house to cover all costs in connection with the acquisition.”

C/528/10

STATUS AND STATISTICS OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION GRANTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2010/2011

The following question was submitted by Clr.
McConalogue:-

"What is the number of third level grant applications received this year, both new and renewals, and will all those who have submitted the required information be paid their maintenance grants before the end of October?"

Clr. McConalogue was informed that:-

“608 new applications had been received for Higher Education Grants for 2010/11 academic year by the closing date of 31st August 2010. A further 30 applications have been received since.

500 Renewal Applications have been approved for payment for the forthcoming academic year. There are still 294 continuing students who have not submitted their Results and Renewal forms.

All renewal students who have submitted their Results and Renewal Forms and any new undergraduate or postgraduate students who have returned their letter of offer stamped by the college to this in time will be included in the first payment run. No definitive date has been set for this payment run; however, it is hoped that it will take place before the end of October.”

C/529/10

TIMEFRAME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REGARDING THE PROMOTION OF WIND ENERGY IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McConalogue:-

"When will the variation to the County Development Plan in relation to promoting wind energy in the county, as agreed by the Council, be completed?"

Clr. McConalogue was informed that:-

“Invitations to a number of Consultants were issued some time ago to provide services to effect the Variation to the County Donegal Development Plan as instructed by Members. Submissions have now been received and the services of one of the Consultants are being procured. Work on the project will start immediately, this will involve screening and scoping for both the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment procedures and baseline information collection. Once these reports are prepared, details of the precise wording for the Variation

will have to be agreed with the Elected Members and a public consultation process will have to be undertaken, which should be completed by the early Spring of next year.”

C/530/10 TOTAL CAPITAL AND CURRENT FUNDING TO DATE FOR LETTERKENNY PROJECTS AN GRIANAN THEATRE, REGIONAL CULTURE CENTRE, AURA LEISURE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"How much money has the Council contributed to date (capital and current) to the following projects in Letterkenny:

- (a) An Grianan Theatre
- (b) Regional Culture Centre, and
- (c) Aura Leisure Centre?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“(a) A Loan for An Grianan Theatre in the sum of €1,111,080.80 (£875,000) was drawn down in 1999. Annual capital repayments of €102,000 are made 50% of which is recouped from Letterkenny TC. Between 1999 and 2009 a total of €835,000 was paid to An Grianan and provision has been made to pay a further €100,000 in 2010.

An annual payment towards operational costs is also made by Donegal Co Council which to date has totalled €125,000.

(b) Regional Culture Centre: Total capital expenditure was €4.9million to which DCC contributed €400,000. Revenue contributions by DCC from 2007 - 2009 totalled €695,000.

(c) Aura Leisure Centre: The total capital cost was €24.5m. DCC has made no payment from our revenue account to this cost.”

C/531/10 PROGRESS ON CONVENING A MEETING OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE AN GRIANAN OF AILEACH

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"In line with a council motion passed earlier this year, what progress has Donegal County Council made with convening a meeting of the relevant stakeholders to promote Grianan of Aileach?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The County Donegal Heritage Office has contacted key stakeholders and a meeting has been organised for Thursday, September 30, 2010 in the County Museum, Letterkenny to discuss, as requested, the promotion of Grianan of Aileach as a heritage site. Key stakeholders have been asked to outline their roles as they see them in relation to Grianan of Aileach in advance of the proposed meeting to facilitate discussion.”

C/532/10 PROGRESS IN APPOINTING A DESIGN TEAM FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF BUNCRANA LEISURE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

"What progress has been made in relation to appointing a Design Team to allow refurbishment work to Buncrana Leisure Centre?"

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“The request for tenders from consultants was issued to the shortlisted candidates on 25th August 2010. The date for return of tenders is 15th October 2010. It is expected that the successful Candidate/ Design Team will be known within four weeks of the return of tenders, with the design/ contract document work starting shortly thereafter subject to agreement on funding.”

C/533/10 PLANS TO RENAME THE FULLERTON DAM AND TO ERECT DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"In line with a recently passed council motion, what plans have Donegal County Council made to officially rename the Fullerton-Pollan Dam and reservoir as the Eddie Fullerton Dam and reservoir and what plans have been made to erect new directional signage to the dam on the approach roads from Carndonagh, Quigley's Point and Buncrana?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The motion was passed at the July Council Meeting 2010. Location of signs will be discussed with the Roads and Planning sections and the proposed locations will be brought to Electoral Area level for discussion and agreement. The wording proposed on the signs is 'Eddie Fullerton Reservoir'.”

C/534/10 PRESENTING OF THE SPORTS BURSARY AWARDS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"When will we see the sports bursary awards presented and when were they administered last?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The Sports Bursary Awards for 2010 will be presented at the end of November / beginning of December 2010. The last full presentation of the awards took place in 2007. One award was made from the scheme in 2008.”

C/535/10 ALLOCATION OF MONIES FROM MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND TO IMPROVE ISLAND COMMUNITIES IN ROADS AND LIGHTING ON PIERS AND WATER SERVICES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Can we as a Council allocate some of our Development Fund to assist with improvement for our Island Communities in Roads, Lighting on Piers and Water Services for example €1,000 each?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The Council has three principal development funds which are administered by the Community, Culture and Planning Directorate - the Development Fund Initiative (DFI), the Tourism Development Fund (TDF) and the Members Development Fund (MDF). Allocations from each of these funds are at the discretion of the Members of Donegal County Council subject to complying with sections 66 & 67 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The Development Fund Initiative (DFI) is a funding source provided by Donegal County Council to support initiatives in various forms of development including: economic, social, cultural, heritage and various related initiatives. It is allocated by Members on an electoral area basis and the allocations from the fund for 2010 have been agreed by the Members.

The Tourism Development Fund (TDF) has been initiated by Donegal County Council to provide financial assistance to project promoters in the preparation and planning of tourism development projects in the county. These funds are allocated by Members on an electoral area basis and the allocations from the fund for 2010 have been agreed by the Members.

The Members Development Fund (MDF) is a small but flexible source of funding provided to assist groups in the development of locally based community projects and group activities. Annual funding is allocated to this initiative, which is apportioned to each of the 29 Members of Donegal County Council who have sole discretion over the allocations from their Members fund.”

C/536/10 UPDATE ON PROVISION OF WI-FI COVERAGE TO THE MAIN STREET IN LETTERKENNY UNDER THE ERDF

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"May I have an update on my motion to bring Wi-Fi coverage to Main Street Letterkenny under the ERDF works?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The Council's Information Systems Department is providing technical assistance to the ERDF works in Letterkenny. During construction work additional ducting and access facilities will be laid to allow easier access to the Council's Metropolitan Area Network for potential customers. It will be a matter for Letterkenny Town Council to decide if public Wi-Fi facilities will be provided on completion. Town Council officials are currently investigating various issues connected with this proposal. Technical advice will be provided by the County Council as required.”

C/537/10

LOCALLY BASED WORKERS, SUPPLIERS AND COMPANIES AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"What steps can Donegal County Council take to ensure positive discrimination for locally based workers, suppliers and companies when awarding Public Contracts?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

“Competition and value for money requirements prohibits the Council from discriminating in any way in the award of supplies, services, or works contracts. The Council does however try to ensure that local suppliers, consultants, and contractors have a fair and reasonable chance of competing in public contracts.

That being said, Circular 10/10 of 13 August 2010 from the Department of Finance conveyed the decision of the Minister for Finance to issue guidelines to public contracting authorities aimed at having them structure their competitive processes for public contracts in a manner which would facilitate increased participation by Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) while continuing to ensure that all procurement is carried out in a manner which is legal, transparent and secures best value for money for the taxpayer.

This guidance sets out measures to promote the involvement of SME's in a manner which is consistent with the principles

and rules of the existing public procurement regulatory regime and highlights practices to be avoided because they may unjustifiably hinder small businesses in competing for public contracts.

The terms of this circular and the attached guidelines will be implemented by all staff involved in contract procurement.

It should also be noted that the Council, on a daily basis, purchases goods and services from locally based suppliers which would run into many million euro on an annual basis.”

C/538/10 REMOVAL OF BOULDER FROM ENTRANCE TO PROPERTY AT BRIDGEND, RAMELTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Has Donegal County Council any intention of removing a boulder placed at the entrance to a property at Bridgend, Ramelton bought from Mr Hugo Whoriskey at a cost of €80,000 as it restricts access of vehicular traffic and is also a R.O.W. where boats were taken out or launched during Fishing Season?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

The boundaries of the parcel of land purchased from Mr Whoriskey will be pegged on week commencing 20 September 2010. The fencing of this property is scheduled for week commencing 27 September 2010. At that stage, consideration will be given to providing clear access to council property.

C/539/10 RATHMULLAN TRAFFIC AUDIT WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING IN PLACE A ONE WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"Has a traffic audit taken place in Rathmullan with the view to putting a one way traffic system in place in the town?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“Road Design are currently collating data for the purpose of analysing traffic management in Rathmulan. It is envisaged that a report and recommendations will be available by the end of 2010.”

C/540/10 INCLUSION OF THE ROAD FROM KINDRUM JUNCTION TO THE CARRIGART/MILFORD ROAD JUNCTION (ACROSS HARRY BLANEY BRIDGE) BE INCLUDED IN THE WINTER GRITTING PROGRAMME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"Can the road from the Kindrum Junction to the Carrigart/Milford road junction (Across Harry Blaney Bridge) be included in the winter gritting programme?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“It is not possible to include this road on the winter maintenance priority gritting programme as the present resources are fully committed.”

C/541/10 UP TO DATE POSITION REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE FOUR LANE ROAD BETWEEN THE DRY ARCH AND PORT BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan :-

"What is the current position with regards to reduction of speed limit on the four lane road between Dry Arch and Port Bridge as agreed by this Council?"

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

“In general, the speed limit on National Roads is 100kph except national roads in built-up areas. Under the 2004 Road Traffic Act a county council may make bye-laws (“special speed limit bye-laws”) specifying a special speed limit for certain roads. In 2007, the Council made such bylaws for roads in the County. A county council is not permitted to make bye-laws relating to a national road without the prior written consent of the National Roads Authority. In the case

of the N14 between the Dry Arch and Port Bridge no such consent has been received.”

C/542/10 TIMEFRAME FOR THE SIGNING OF CONTRACTS FOR NEW DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Brogan:-

"When will the contracts be signed to allow work to start on the new design, build and operate sewerage treatment plant in Letterkenny?"

Clr. Brogan was informed that:-

“Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO is listed on Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 as a ‘contract to start’. The contract has been tendered, and the tender report, budget, and water pricing have been agreed. It is expected that contracts for the implementation of the works will be signed by early October 2010.”

C/543/10 EFFLUENT SEEPAGE FROM MILFORD SEWERAGE PLANT INTO LOUGH FERN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"Is Donegal County Council satisfied that there is no seepage of effluent into Lough Fern from the sewerage plant in Milford?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

“There is a discharge from the Milford Wastewater Treatment Works to the receiving waters of Maggy’s Burn which itself flows for circa 2km before discharging to Lough Fern. While the 2008 Environmental Agency Protection Agency Report entitled ‘Water Quality of Rivers’ considered Maggy’s Burn to be ‘polluted’ the effects of the discharge on Lough Fern have not been clearly established. Milford Sewerage Scheme is listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 for County

Donegal as a 'scheme at planning', and consultants are currently being procured to advance the scheme."

C/544/10 PROVISION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FINTRAGH BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne :-

"Can this council make provision for preliminary designs for improving Fintragh Bridge on the R263 in light of the expected completion of the industrial road Killybegs in 2011 which is funded through the strategic roads grants?"

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

"The Bridge Design Team in Lifford are examining this bridge along with a number of other high profile bridges in the Donegal Electoral Area with a view to bringing a report before the local area sometime early in the New Year."

C/545/10 UPDATE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE WATER MAINS AT TOWNEY AND TEELIN TO RHANNAKILLA REPLACED

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

"What is the up to date position on the possibility of replacing the old water main at Towney Road Kilcar and the water main Teelin to Rhannakilla both of which are prone to burst and breakages?"

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

"The most appropriate programme for dealing with replacing and upgrading deficient water supply pipes is the Water Conservation Programme under the Departments Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 for County Donegal (WSIP). There are three entries on the WSIP namely Water Conservation Stage 1 and 2 Works, Water Conservation Stage 3 Works Advance Works at the Rosses, and Water Conservation Stage 3 Pipe Replacements Priority 1's. The budget for stage 1 & 2 works has largely been committed to the establishment of district metering areas and water management systems, and the commencement of leak

detection activities. The department have indicated that they will provide limited funding for urgent advance stage 3 (pipe replacement) works and further funding will only be committed when the Council has submitted its report on Priority 1 Pipe Replacement. It is expected that this report will be submitted to the Department early in 2011.”

C/546/10 UP-TO-DATE POSITION REGARDING THE
BUNDORAN SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

"What is the up to date position re the Bundoran Sewerage Scheme?"

Clr. McEniff was informed that:-

“Bundoran Sewerage Scheme is included in the bundle of contracts entitled ‘Donegal Group B Sewerage Schemes’ which is included on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 under the heading ‘contracts to start’. This means that the contract is expected to progress to construction stage within the 2010-2012 period. It is considered that this programme is achievable given that the contract documents are at an advanced stage of preparation and which are expected to be completed and ready for submission to the Department by early 2011.”

C/547/10 UP-TO-DATE POSITION OF THE
KILCAR/GLENCOLUMBKILLE LOCAL AREA PLAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

"What is the up to date position of the Kilcar/Glencolumbkille Local Area Plan?"

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

“A working draft of the Kilcar/Glencolumcille Local Area Plan will be presented for consideration to the Members of the Donegal Area Electoral Committee, at the next available meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th November 2010.”

C/548/10 LACK OF NOTIFICATION BY THE COUNCIL TO SECOND HOME OWNERS OF WHEN THEIR YEARLY MONIES ARE DUE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

" Why do the Council not send notice in writing to people who own second houses when their yearly monies are due?"

Clr. McEniff was informed that:-

“Liability to pay the annual NPPR charge is based on self-assessment and self-declaration. The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 places the responsibility of discharging liability on any individual owning relevant property at the liability date.

There is no legal requirement on local authorities to issue invoices or reminder notices to those liable to the charge. However, the NPPR Central Bureau has been responsible for conducting press releases in the national media (print and radio) with a view to notifying and reminding individuals of their obligations. Donegal County Council has added to this by conducting media campaigns locally in Donegal and across Northern Ireland, in the press and on the radio, during the periods July to November 2009 and March to July 2010. In late October 2009, 75,000 leaflets were delivered to residences across Donegal with a view to reaching every household in the County.

In April of 2010, the Central NPPR Bureau issued reminder emails to all those who had registered an email address with their registration and payment for 2009

A reminder will issue shortly to all customers whose account reference (based on 2009 payments) shows an outstanding balance at 17th September 2010.”

C/549/10 NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CONTRACTS UNDER THE HOUSING LEASING SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

"How many contracts are being progressed in the county under the housing leasing scheme and in what areas are they located?"

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

The Social Leasing Programme commenced in April 2009. Since its inception, and as of 22nd September 2010, Donegal County Council has received a total of 181 applications. This amounts to a total of 1126 units.

Of the 181 applications received,

70 have been rejected (main reasons – Greenfield sites, need not compatible to units offered),

37 have had assessment postponed (main reasons - insufficient need for units at this time or non compliance with statutory obligations),

8 applications (66 units) have been accepted subject to conditions : 10 units at Dunfanaghy, 4 units at Gortahork, 29 units at Donegal Town, 6 units at Muff, 14 units in Milford, 1 unit in Gleneely, 1 unit in Carndonagh, 1 unit in Culdaff. No leases have been signed to date as outstanding information awaited from unit owners/developers.

66 applications are still under assessment.

The above details are represented below on an electoral area basis

	Donegal	Glenties	Inishowen	Letterkenny	Milford	Stranorlar
Total Applications	28	24	40	33	19	37
Rejected	13	9	20	13	4	11
Postponed	5	2	6	7	5	12
Accepted	1(29no.)	2(14no.)	9(no.)	0	1(14no.)	1
Ongoing Assessment	9	11	10	13	9	14

C/550/10 INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL FARMERS IN THE DRAINAGE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF CLASS 2 AND CLASS 3 ROADS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Will the Council explore the idea of involving local farmers and other interested persons in road maintenance such as drainage and repairs as there is a large work force which could be utilised to carry out maintained works on class 2 and class 3 roads if agreement could be reached, while leaving the busier National Primary/Secondary, Regional, and Main County Roads to our existing Roads Staff to maintain and upgrade?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The idea of involving local farmers and other interested persons in road maintenance has been considered over the past number of years. This can be of assistance where water is discharging from an owner’s property onto the public road and causing damage.

However, it is not deemed appropriate for the County Council to request private individuals to carry out work along public roads without the proper training, supervision and in general compliance with current Health and Safety legislation.

As with motion 19 in relation to having sand deposited for the use of the public along roads it may take new legislation to allow local authorities to cooperate with an initiative such as this.”

C/551/10 ERECTION OF STOP YIELD SIGN AT THE JUNCTION OF COOLATEE HOUSES WITH MALIN ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Will this Council erect Stop Yield Signs at the junction of Coolatee Houses with Main Road and put the necessary signage on the main road also?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

It is agreed that the proposed signs are necessary and these will be erected as soon as possible taking into consideration the workload of the workmen in that area at present

C/552/10 PREVENTION OF ROADSIDE PARKING AT THE LIFFORD ST JOHNSTON JUNCTION AT ROSSGIER
The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Will the Council put in place the necessary precautions to prevent roadside parking at the Lifford - St Johnston Junction at Rossgier?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

"It is proposed to overlay a section of the N14 near the Rossgier Junction over the coming weeks. Lining work to prevent roadside parking at this location will be incorporated into these works."

C/553/10 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES ON THE RAPHOE TO ST JOHNSTON ROAD AT CARRICKADAWSON AND CASTLETOWN
The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"What is the current position with road safety on the Raphoe to St Johnston road via Carrickadawson via Castletown as both stretches of this road have had a number of accidents and would need crash barriers erected in order to increase the safety of motorists on these dangerous stretches of road?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

"A safety check will be carried out on the R236 between Carrickadawson and St Johnston over the coming weeks and on completion of same a report with any recommended measures will be brought before the Stranorlar Electoral Area for their consideration."

C/554/10 FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN BALLYBOFEY
The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Will the Council include funding for Public Toilets in Ballybofey in this years budget as was agreed at the Stranorlar Electoral Area Meetings, given that public convenience facilities have been provided right across the

County by the Council, yet there is a greater demand in Ballybofey than most other places?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The Council has been engaging with Business owners in Ballybofey in an effort to reach an agreement whereby an established business would provide a public convenience service to the public for an agreed rental/ fee. A notice was published in the local papers in this regard in July 2010 but no response was received. Contacts are ongoing with businesses and the local Members will be kept informed of progress. While the option of the Council constructing its own facilities is an option that can be considered as part of the annual Budget process, it is likely to be prohibitively expensive and is a less desirable solution when potential vandalism and anti-social behaviour factors are taken into account.”

C/555/10 PROGRESS INTO ONGOING SEWERAGE PROBLEMS AT HAZELWOOD ESTATE LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Has any progress been made in relation to the ongoing sewerage problem at Hazelwood Estate Lifford?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Hazelwood is a private estate which has not been taken over by the Council. It is one of a number of estates across the county where issues have arisen with regard to the quality and serviceability of private infrastructure. While the Council has intervened on a number of occasions and on an emergency basis in the interests of the environment and public health, it cannot on its own solve the problem due to the likely costs involved. A working group has been set up within the Council led by Planning to consider the nature and extent of the problems, and to recommend pilot policy solutions as appropriate.”

C/556/10 UPGRADING OF OLD WATER SCHEMES IN THE STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"What is the current position of the upgrading of old water schemes in the SEA and the associated cost of this?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“The Stranorlar Eectoral Area is currently principally served by a single public water supply scheme (Lough Mourne Water Supply) which delivers water to its consumers via an extended network. The condition of some of the network in some locations is of some concern particularly in times of heavy demand. The most appropriate programme for dealing with replacing and upgrading deficient water supply pipes is the Water Conservation Programme under the Departments Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 for County Donegal (WSIP). There are three entries on the WSIP namely Water Conservation stage 1 and 2 Works, Water Conservation Stage 3 Works Advance Works at the Rosses, and Water Conservation Stage 3 Pipe Replacements Priority 1’s. The budget for stage 1 & 2 works has largely been committed to the establishment of district metering areas and water management systems, and the commencement of leak detection activities. The department have indicated that they will provide limited funding for urgent advance stage 3 (pipe replacement) works and further funding will only be committed when the Council has submitted its report on Priority 1 Pipe Replacement. It is expected that this report will be submitted to the Department early in 2011. It is expected that the Department will approve works for water conservation stage 3 works in packages in excess of €3.0m value.”

C/557/10 CURRENT POSTIONING WITH THE PROCESSING OF HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS FOR 2010/2011

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"How many applications did Donegal County Council receive at 31/08/2010 for Student Support Grants and how many of them are fully processed to-day, and what was the total number of applications received at 31/08/2009?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

608 new Applications were received for Higher Education Grants by 31/08/10. A further 30 have been received since the closing date. 421 new applications were received by 31/08/09

120 Applications have been approved, 69 have been deemed ineligible or transferred to VEC. However, 400 new applications in total have been processed and of these further information is awaited on 211 applications.

Approx 150 Post Graduate Applications were received. 91 of these have been contacted to date - 30 of these applicants have received a decision and a further 61 have been contacted seeking further information.

The remaining applications will be dealt with in the date order in which they were received. It is hoped that all applicants will be contacted within the next few weeks.

C/558/10

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RUNNING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"What is the cost of heating, lighting and general maintenance of each of the Public Services Offices including the Headquarters of the Council in 2009?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The 2009 cost of heating, lighting and general maintenance of each of the Public Services Offices including the Headquarters of the Council was as follows:

Carndonagh PSC	€116,972
Donegal PSC	€217,620
Dungloe PSC	€110,351
Letterkenny PSC	€165,159
Milford PSC	€87,534
Headquarters Lifford	€295,500

It should be noted that the figure for HQ in Lifford includes all the building occupied by the Council in Lifford, including

County House, Three Rivers Centre, Station Island, Road Design Building, Machinery Yard & Stores etc.

Some of the costs associated with the heating, lighting and general maintenance are attributable to other agencies who are occupying the Public Service Centres.”

C/559/10 HOUSING GRANTS NUMBERS FOR 2008, 2009 AND 2010

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"How many Housing Grant applications did Donegal County Council receive under (a) Older People Grants (b) Housing Adaption Grant (c) Disability Grants for year ending 31/12/2008, year ending 31/12/2009 and to 31/08/2010?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

The following table sets out the information requested:

	Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme	Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme	Housing Adaption Grant Scheme for People with a Disability
Year ending 31/12/2008	796	220	402
Year ending 31/12/2009*	556	117	198
Year to 31/08/2010	166	47	136

* Having regard to the Council's then exposure on grants, it ceased accepting any new applications under the three schemes on the 29th July, 2009. On the 27th October, 2009, it was decided to resume acceptance of new applications although no processing of same would take place until the position as regards funding was decided. On the 26th April, 2010, revised policy on grants was adopted and the Council resumed processing of applications thereafter.

C/560/10 N56 UPGRADING CONCERNS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE NEW CLOS NAOMH CONAILL HOUSING ESTATE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Why did the Housing Section of Donegal County Council not enforce a planning condition when Clos Naomh Conaill Housing Estate in Glenties was contracted, which would have seen the road from the N56 to the entrance of this estate upgraded?" The non enforcement has made it necessary for the five Glenties Electoral Area Members to make a provision of €60,000 in 2011 for the work from a much reduced roads

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Council acquired a turnkey scheme known as Clos Naomh Conaill in Glenties in 2003. The main construction period on the scheme was in 2003 and 2004. The developer obtained planning permission for the development under ref no. 01/2934. Condition no.3 of the permission required the Developer to construct a footpath and public lighting from the scheme entrance to the Main St. in Glenties and this condition was complied with. Condition no.12 required that any damage occurring to the public road during construction should be made good to the satisfaction of the Executive Engineer (roads) for the area. The Area Engineer made several visits to the area during constructions and had discussions with the Area Housing Engineer exclusively regarding the footpath provision. There is no record of any representations to the Housing Engineer regarding damage to the county road during construction and thus there was no requirement by the contractor to carry out any repairs as required by condition 12. There was no condition in the planning permission to upgrade the said county road.”

C/561/10 NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE LONG-TERM RENTAL SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"How many applications has this Council received for the new long-term rental scheme in each electoral area?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

The Social Leasing Programme commenced in April 2009. Since its inception, and as of 22nd September 2010, Donegal County Council has received a total of 181 applications. This amounts to a total of 1126 units.

Of the 181 applications received,

70 have been rejected (main reasons – Greenfield sites, need not compatible to units offered),

37 have had assessment postponed (main reasons - insufficient need for units at this time or non compliance with statutory obligations),

8 applications (66 units) have been accepted subject to conditions : 10 units at Dunfanaghy, 4 units at Gortahork, 29 units at Donegal Town, 6 units at Muff, 14 units in Milford, 1 unit in Gleneely, 1 unit in Carndonagh, 1 unit in Culdaff. No leases have been signed to date as outstanding information awaited from unit owners/developers.

66 applications are still under assessment.

The above details are represented below on an electoral area basis

The above details are represented below on an electoral area basis

	Donegal	Glenties	Inishowen	Letterkenny	Milford	Stranorlar
Total Applications	28	24	40	33	19	37
Rejected	13	9	20	13	4	11
Postponed	5	2	6	7	5	12
Accepted	1(29no.)	2(14no.)	9(no.)	0	1(14no.)	1
Ongoing Assessment	9	11	10	13	9	14

C/562/10 NUMBER OF WATER SCHEMES THAT NEED REPLACEMENT IN EACH ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Gallagher:-

"How many water scheme's are still in need of replacement in each electoral area?"

Clr. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Where are few water networks across the county that would not benefit from some investment and upgrading on a periodic basis to ensure they perform at their optimum. It is however not practically or economically possible to deal with all of them concurrently and prioritisation is required. The most appropriate programme for dealing with replacing and upgrading deficient water supply pipes is the Water Conservation Programme under the Departments Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 for County Donegal (WSIP). There are three entries on the WSIP namely Water Conservation stage 1 and 2 Works, Water Conservation Stage 3 Works Advance Works at the Rosses, and Water Conservation Stage 3 Pipe Replacements Priority 1’s. The budget for stage 1 & 2 works has largely been committed to the establishment of district metering areas and water management systems, and the commencement of leak detection activities. The department have indicated that they will provide limited funding for urgent advance stage 3 (pipe replacement) works and further funding will only be committed when the Council has submitted its report on Priority 1 Pipe Replacement. It is expected that this report will be submitted to the Department early in 2011 and at that point there will be a greater knowledge and awareness of the scale and prioritisation of the problems. It is expected that the Department will approve works for water conservation stage 3 works in packages in excess of €3.0m value.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Certified: _____
Mayor.

Date: _____

