

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14th MAY, 2007 IN THE
CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

Councillors Present:

Councillor Francis Conaghan
Councillor Rena Donaghey
Councillor Marian McDonald
Councillor Denis McGonagle
Councillor Bernard McGuinness
Councillor Joe Doherty, Mayor Buncrana Town Council

Officials Present:

Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer

Corporate Services:

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager
Marie Deeney, Acting Senior Staff Officer
Una Cresswell, Acting Staff Officer
Joe Peoples, Divisional Manager

Planning & Economic Development Services:

Clare Cronin, Area Manager

Roads & Transportation Services:

Jim McLaughlin, Executive Engineer
Donal Walker, Assistant Engineer

Water, Environment & Emergency Services:

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager
Jim Hyland, Executive Engineer

Apologies:

Pat Gillespie, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager

22.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th March, 2007.

On the proposal of Cllr Denis McGonagle, seconded by Cllr Marian McDonald, the minutes of the meetings held on 12th March, 2007 were agreed.

22.2 Follow Up Report

Aideen Doherty updated Members in regard to follow-ups and the various issues raised at the Electoral Area Meeting held on 12th March, 2007.

22.3 Barrack Hill

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that a full report in relation to the progress at Barrack Hill would be presented at the July IEAC Meeting.

22.4 Inishowen Rural Development Co Ltd/Inishowen Partnership Co

Members were informed that the cohesion process between Inishowen Rural Development Company Ltd and Inishowen Partnership Company is progressing very well.

22.5 Inishowen Family Action Network

Aideen Doherty provided an update on the Family Needs Assessment carried out by the Inishowen Partnership Company. Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that consideration be given to locating a Primary Care Team in Newtowncunningham. Aideen Doherty advised that a meeting was due to take place in relation to this matter at the end of the month and agreed to update Cllr Conaghan.

22.6 Ballyliffin Playground

Cllr Denis McGonagle queried the position in relation to Ballyliffin playground. Aideen Doherty agreed to follow up with Solicitors and clarify the position regarding the site.

22.7 Movice Bye-Laws

Aideen Doherty acknowledged the help of both Cllr Marian McDonald and Garda Danny Devlin in their assistance in relation to Movice Bye-Laws. Aideen advised Members that no submissions/expressions of interest had been received and that the Byelaws now required to be signed into law. On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Denis

McGonagle it was agreed that the Moville Bye-Laws be included on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

22.8 Inch Lake

Aideen Doherty informed the Members that the Inch Level Feasibility Study had been completed in April and that a stakeholders and special interest group workshop will be held in the coming months to discuss the key findings of the Feasibility Study. The findings of the study will be highlighted at a press relation event at the beginning of July.

Cllr Francis Conaghan acknowledged the work of both Aideen Doherty and Kevin O'Connor in relation to Inch Lake and recommended that a deputation be sought to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government in order to advance the project.

22.9 Lough Swilly Ferry Company

Cllr Joe Doherty queried the position in relation to the Lough Swilly Ferry Company. Aideen Doherty advised that the ferry was now ready to go and would re-commence in June.

22.10 Atlantic Drift

Aideen Doherty advised the Members that a number of tourism training workshops took place in March and April and that further workshops will take place in October.

The Project Officer is currently carrying out a skills audit across the county and cross border region in order to identify the human resources gap in the tourism and tourism related industry.

23.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th March 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Marion McDonald, seconded by Cllr, Francis Conaghan the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2007 were agreed.

23.2 Slow Signs at Movice

Cllr Marion McDonald raised the issue of slow signs and flashing lights at Movice School. Jim McLaughlin advised that new signs are to be erected on each approach to the school. Cllr Marion McDonald also raised the issue of the possibility of traffic calming measures for the area between Bath Terrace Lane and the school being introduced. Jim Mc Laughlin agreed to investigate these issues.

23.3 Mill Bridge

Cllr Joe Doherty raised the issue of Mill Bridge. Donal Walker informed the Committee that there has been some delay but it was hoped that a contractor be appointed by mid June. Drawings had been sent to the Department and the application had been accepted in principle. Donal Walker stated that he would keep the town Mayor and Cllr Rena Donaghy updated on its progress.

23.4 Pedestrian Foot Bridge at Cockhill

The Committee expressed concerns about the fact that the footbridge had not been built. Cllr Joe Doherty stated that it seemed ridiculous that that the 40 houses could not be allocated owing to the delay in constructing the footbridge.

Donal Walker outlined the background to the project and explained that the provision of a footbridge was a condition of the original planning permission and that it was also required for Health and Safety reasons. The contractor should have constructed the footbridge, however the D.O.H.E.L.G. agreed very recently to fund the footbridge and then the Council got involved. Donal Walker informed the Committee that he hoped a structure, temporary or otherwise would be in place within three to four weeks. However, this could depend on cost. If the costs for a temporary footbridge were excessive it would probably be better to hold

out and build the permanent structure. Donal informed the Committee that he hoped to have costings and a timescale by Wednesday. It was agreed to keep Cllr Joe Doherty advised on progress.

23.5 Carndonagh Pedestrian Crossing

Councillor Denis McGonagle queried the fact that the lights had been put up at the school three or four weeks ago, but were not yet operational. Jim McLaughlin stated that the delays were due to the ESB. Application to connect to the ESB supply can take some time. Jim McLaughlin agreed to follow up this matter with the E.S.B.

23.6 Quarry at Tober Carrigans

The issue of lorries from the quarry using roads at Tober, Carrigans was discussed by the Committee. Donal Walker informed the Committee that he was preparing a report to submit to the Area Manager, Pat Gillespie on Health & Safety issues etc.

23.7 Lenamore Rd Muff

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested an update on the use of the Lenamore Rd. by heavy lorries. Donal Walker confirmed that he had met with residents. There had been a lot of money spent on this road and it was in very good condition, however it appeared to be getting a lot of use from vehicles removing waste from one jurisdiction to another. It was agreed that a report would be presented at the Roads Workshop to be held on 5th June and that the Waste Regulation Officer would be requested to investigate the matter under the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste legislation.

23.8 Adoption of Public Roads

Donal Walker confirmed to the Committee, that Pat Gillespie, Area Manager, was preparing a report in relation to this, which would be presented, at the Roads Workshop for Members in June.

23.9 Movice Green

Cllr Marian McDonald expressed her concerns at the lack of Council workmen attending to the Green in Movice. She advised that the wall in the middle of the green has collapsed and needed urgent attention. She also stated that there used to be four men working on the Green but now there were only two. She requested that picnic tables be provided at the playground and that litterbins be provided.

She raised the question of whether the Council would empty the litterbins in the town if the local businesses provided them.

Jim McLaughlin agreed to investigate these issues.

23.10 Disabled parking in Movice

The Committee recommended that two disabled parking bays be provided in Movice. Jim McLaughlin agreed to investigate this.

23.11 Footpaths at Gillen's Supermarket Movice

Cllr Marian McDonald expressed her dissatisfaction at the dropped footpath at Gillen's Supermarket Movice. Jim McLaughlin agreed to look into it and repair and complete kerbing provided under the Movice E.I.S.

23.12 Residents Parking in Movice

Cllr Marian McDonald raised the issue of residents parking in Movice to the Committee. She stated that it was often very difficult for residents to get parking spaces when they returned to the town. Suggestions on how to deal with this problem were discussed such as residents erecting their own signs /yellow lines /traffic wardens etc. Donal Walker suggested resident passes might be an option.

It was agreed that the Roads Department would consider the possibility of designating residents' parking.

23.13 Lights at Cockhill Road

Following a request from Cllr Joe Doherty, Donal Walker agreed to follow up on solving the problems with the Pedestrian Crossing Lights on the Cockhill Road. Cllr Joe Doherty also requested that the traffic islands should be painted.

23.14 Buncrana Outer Relief Road

A discussion took place regarding the route of the Buncrana Outer Relief Road. It was agreed by the Committee that whilst Inishowen Electoral Area Committee had approved the preferred route, that an opportunity should be given to the landowners to present the alternative route to the IEAC and the Town Council.

23.15 Date for Roads Workshop

It was agreed that the date for the roads workshop would be Tuesday 5th June at 10.00am in the Carndonagh Public Services Centre.

23.16 Malin to Culdaff Road

Cllr Bernard McGuinness agreed to supply a list of the landowners on the Malin to Culdaff Road to the Roads Section.

23.17 Bridge at Ballyliffen Golf Club

Donal Walker informed the Committee that in order to carry out the works at the bridge, the road would have to be closed for two to three days. New Health and Safety regulations stipulate that a proper road closure would have to be in place. Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that this road is not a through road and should not be closed, as there is no alternative route. Donal Walker suggested that landowners may allow traffic through but there were issues with this. Cllr Francis Conaghan suggested that the Members meet with John G McLaughlin, Director of Roads and the Health and Safety Advisor so that a discussion can take place on the new Health and Safety Regulations and their implications can be outlined. The Committee were of the opinion that the regulations would slow everything down to such an extent, that there would be a backlog of the work programme at the end of the year.

23.18 Shore Road Ballyliffen

The Committee discussed the Shore Road at Ballyliffen. It was agreed that alternatives be looked at and funding sourced. This could all be discussed at the Road's Workshop in June.

23.19 Slab Road Junction

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried the possibility of tarring the Slab Road junction to the pump house. Donal Walker advised the Committee that this could be done if there was a surplus of funding, however the developer may have to take some responsibility.

23.20 Entrance at Barrack Hill

The Committee requested that a Progress Report on Barrack Hill be brought to the Road's Workshop in June. There were concerns about the development of the access road. Jim McLaughlin stated this was a special project being dealt with by Eamon Mahon, Road Design in Lifford.

23.21 Carn Brae

Jim McLaughlin informed the members that the work on Carn Brae was commencing this week.

23.22 Staffing Levels - Replacement of Retired Staff

Cllr Denis McGonagle expressed concerns about the fact that when employees retired, that they are not being replaced.

Donal Walker stated that there were issues such as budgetary constraints/seasonal workloads/annualised hours/new Health and Safety measures. These would be discussed at the workshop.

23.23 Container

Cllr Marian McDonald stated that she had several complaints about a container near Brendan's Petrol Station in Drung. Jim McLaughlin agreed to investigate this matter.

24.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 12^h March 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Marian Mc Donald, seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2007 were agreed.

24.2 Affordable Housing, Carndonagh

Patsy Lafferty informed the Members that there was a good response with 13 applications to date. These applications were being considered and the applicants would be invited into the office for interview. The houses will then be allocated.

24.3 Central Heating for house in Foyle Crescent, Moville.

Cllr Marian McDonald requested that central heating be installed in Foyle View Crescent for an elderly tenant. Patsy Lafferty agreed to look into this.

24.4 Swilly View, Inch

Cllr Francis Conaghan queried the progress on Swilly View, Inch. Patsy Lafferty informed the Meeting that Housing Construction had drawn up plans and it was their intention to proceed with this project. Cllr Conaghan asked that Housing Construction make the plans available to local residents for their information as soon as possible.

24.5 Housing Engineer

Cllr Denis McGonagle expressed his concern that a Housing Engineer had still not been appointed. The Members agreed that it was totally unacceptable that an area like Inishowen was without a Housing Engineer for so long. The Members requested that this be addressed immediately. Patsy Lafferty informed the Members that the vacancy had been offered to a candidate on the panel, but this person had turned down the position. The Members suggested that the County Manager be contacted in relation to this as soon as possible. Patsy agreed to do this.

24.6 Tenant Liaison Officer

Cllr Marian McDonald expressed concerns over the fact that the role of Tenant Liaison Officer had been incorporated into the Housing Assessment post. The Committee expressed concerns that the workload

of the Housing Assessment Officer in assessment work, would not allow time for the work of the Tenant Liaison Officer.

24.7 Housing Estate in Merville

In response to a query from Cllr Marian McDonald regarding ongoing problems in a housing estate in Merville, Patsy Lafferty stated that the Tenant Liaison Officer would meet with complainants to discuss the matter, if details of the complaint were submitted in writing.

24.8 Ramps at Ard Bride Carndonagh

Cllr Denis McGonagle raised the issue of the possibility of ramps at Ard Bride, Carndonagh being provided. Patsy Lafferty agreed to look into this matter.

24.9 Central Heating Programme

Patsy Lafferty informed the Committee that tenders had been sought and that he would update members at the next IEAC Meeting.

24.10 Disposal of land - Section 183 for Glebe Carndonagh

On a proposal from Cllr Denis McGonagle, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, it was agreed that this would be included on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

25.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th March 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2007 were agreed.

25.2 Appointment of Jim Hyland as Acting Senior Executive Engineer

Con McLaughlin by way of introducing Jim Hyland advised the Committee that arising from the recent departure of Jim Holohan a number of temporary appointments were arranged. Peadar Mac Rory would be Acting Director of Service. Con McLaughlin would be covering the Divisional Manager role and will be based in Lifford, whereas Jim Hyland will be covering the Area Manager role for Inishowen Letterkenny. The Committee wished Con and Jim both well in their new positions.

25.3 Follow up Reports

The Members considered the report from Con McLaughlin dated 14th May 2007 in relation to follow-ups from the Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting held on 12th March 2007.

25.4 Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that consideration be given to include Bridgend as part of the Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme.

25.5 Buncrana Sewerage Scheme

Members requested that consideration be given to the upgrading of the Sewerage Treatment Works as part of the Buncrana Sewerage Scheme. Cllr Rena Donaghy stated that the scheme was very slow and that SLI's would need to be considered for the Umricam and Tullyarvan areas due to the high level of development there. She suggested that there is a need to fast-forward the progress on this. Con McLaughlin reminded the meeting that for an SLI to progress our Capital Section needed the 60% (development) funding in place in order to avail of the 40% Department funding. He suggested that potential developers in those areas should make contact with the Capital Section in Lifford, to register their interest in an SLI Scheme.

25.6 Lagan Water Supply

Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that the landowners had not been contacted in relation to the site for the proposed reservoir. Con McLaughlin said he would refer this to the Capital Section for follow-up.

25.7 Glengad Water Supply

Following a request from Cllr Bernard McGuinness, as to when the work to extend the supply of water to Glengad will commence. Con McLaughlin advised that commencement of that work was now imminent.

25.8 Malin Sewerage Scheme

Cllr Denis McGonagle queried the delay in starting the Malin Sewerage Scheme. Con McLaughlin stated that he would advise Cllr Denis McGonagle on the start date.

25.9 Merville /Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant

The Committee expressed concerns that the E.I.S. had not been published for the proposed Merville /Greencastle Sewerage Treatment Plant. Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that he had made proposals at the last electoral area meeting and wanted these proposals to be included. Con McLaughlin advised the Committee that the E.I.S would be published this week.

25.10 Land Swap at Station Road Carndonagh

Con McLaughlin in his report to the meeting advised the Committee of detailed negotiations between the Council and McLaughlin Bros, Carndonagh regarding the swap of a small parcel of grounds at Station Road, Carndonagh. The land swap involves a parcel of land owned by the Council for a strip of land required by McLaughlin Bros. Cllr Denis McGonagle questioned whether this would affect the old railway line. Con McLaughlin confirmed that it would not. The Committee agreed with the proposal and recommended that a Section 143 Notice be included on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

25.11 Litter Wardens

Concern was expressed at the growing levels of illegal dumping in the area and if the Litter Warden was dealing with this. Con McLaughlin informed the Committee that the Litter Warden had been off sick for some time but measures were in place to try and cover his work. Cllr Marian McDonald requested that more litterbins be in place in Merville as during the summer months, the current amount of bins was insufficient to meet

the requirements. Suggestions were put forward on how to solve the current problems including the use of a Central Enforcement Unit to deal with the problems.

25.12 Litter Bins At Shroove Beach

Cllr Marian McDonald requested that litterbins be placed at Shroove Beach now ahead of the season as the beach was already attracting a lot of visitors.

25.13 Public Toilets in Moville

Cllr Marian McDonald expressed her concerns over the fact that the public toilets in Moville were not open. She requested that they be open immediately for the summer. Con Mc Laughlin explained that the Public Toilets would be open for the summer season as they tend to be vandalised when they are open all year round.

25.14 Bylaws for Culdaff Beach

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed concerns about the problems associated with jet skis and quads at Culdaff Beach. He suggested that Bye Laws should be in place. Con McLaughlin said that he accepted the issues raised but these were countywide problems that needed to be addressed. There were complicated legal and environmental issues. The Committee suggested that designated areas for camping /Jet Ski should be looked at.

Con Mc Laughlin agreed to follow up on these matters.

25.15 Special Development Charges at Ballyliffin

Cllr Denis McGonagle advised the Committee, that Developers in Ballyliffin were being requested to pay Special Development Charges of €9,000 per house to connect to the Sewerage Scheme. Cllr McGonagle felt that this was prohibitive and stated that the Developers were prepared to pay a Development Charge of €3,000 to €3,500. Cllr Denis McGonagle proposed that the charge be reduced as outlined and Cllr Rena Donaghy seconded this. Con McLaughlin stated that Clonmany and Ballyliffin, Sewerage Treatment Works both needed upgrading. A Preliminary Report was at an early stage. One option is to take effluent from Ballyliffin to Clonmany. The figure of €9,000 was reached by dividing the estimated cost of the project by the quota of houses allowed in the C.D.P. He advised that if the Special Development Charges were reduced, that the Council would have to come up with the balance of the funding as no capital funding were available for that works.

25.16 Developers Proposals for Bored Wells

Cllr Rena Donaghy outlined details from a group of sixteen developers who had an Architect prepare proposals to supply their developments from bored wells as a temporary measure until the infrastructure upgrade for the area was delivered. Collectively they were offering to contribute to that upgrade. Con McLaughlin stated that he had met with the Architect in this regard. He advised the Committee that caution was needed with respect to the proposed use of wells for multiple housing, from the point of view of sustainability in terms of water quality and quantity. He went on to note that such proposals would make developers Water Service Providers, which in turn would have responsibilities that many developers may not be fully aware of.

He noted that the Council are to consider the funding proposal for the infrastructure required which is of the order of €4m. He also reminded the meeting that issues remain in those areas with respect to wastewater treatment, which has also been conveyed to the Architects representing the developers.

26.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 12th March, 2007

On the proposal of Cllr Marian McDonald, seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March, 2007 were agreed.

26.2 Workshop with Agents

Clare Cronin, Area Manager informed the Committee that there would be another Planning Workshop. This was likely to be in the autumn.

26.3 Quarry at Tober

Clare Cronin, advised the Members that the Tober Quarry was being inspected and that the members would be updated

26.4 Local Area Plans

Clare Cronin stated the Local Area Plans would be dealt with after the review of the County Development Plan. It was likely this would not take place until 2008

26.5 Additional Telephone Availability for Agents

Clare Cronin informed the Committee that a new telephone slot for Agents was now available on Thursday afternoons. This has eased the pressure on Wednesday afternoons and appears to be working well, she stated. Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that this coupled with additional staff was welcomed.

26.6 UB1 Policy

The workshop planned for Agents' regarding UB1 was cancelled. Clare Cronin said a new date had not been set.

26.7 Enforcements

Cllr Joe Doherty expressed his dissatisfaction that there was not a dedicated Enforcement Officer for Buncrana. Clare Cronin said that enforcement for that area was part of the planner's duties for that area and that it was a resource issue. The Committee suggested that there should be a Central Enforcement Office in Lifford.

26.8 Section 47 Agreements

Cllr Bernard McGuinness requested that clarification is required in relation to Section 47 Agreements. Clare Cronin stated that she would refer his concerns to a Senior Planner for clarification.

26.9 Refusals

The Committee suggested that Members and Agents should be given prior notice that refusals are going to be issued.

26.10 Planning Statistics

The Committee noted the high level of planning statistics

Joe Peoples advised the committee that a number of meetings have taken place with Buncrana Town Council regarding the provision of outreach services in Buncrana similar to the model used in Ballyshannon.

It is intended that the public will have access to the following services in Buncrana:

- I Plan
- Information on Council Services
- Advise on Rates of Duty etc for Motor Tax
- Motor Tax on line service for people with Credit Cards

Joe Peoples also advised the meeting that a new website is being developed for Buncrana which will be launched later in the year.

The members raised a number of issues regarding the level of service that will be provided. Joe Peoples explained that the provision of a full service in Buncrana would have financial and staffing implications but agreed to examine the provision of a cash receipting service.

07/28

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the IEAC will take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Tuesday Monday 17th July, 2007 commencing at 10.00 am.

Appendix 1
WATER & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES
Report to Inishowen EAC Meeting 14th May 2007

1.0 - Consideration of minutes of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee meeting held on 12th March 2007

2.0 - Update reports from previous meeting:
From minutes of previous meeting 12th March 2007, using same notation

18.3 Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme

Road Design & Water Services have discussed this and based on the proposed new road realignment the option for a site for the WwTW has been modified slightly. The landowner concerned has also been consulted.

Water services have now started the process of consulting with the other statutory state bodies including the NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Services) and the NRFB prior to the finalisation on the preferred option for treatment of wastewater generated in Burnfoot. This will take a number of months and when completed will be put forward to the Councillors as a Part 8 planning process.

05.2 Buncrana Sewerage Scheme

The brief for the appointment of consultants for the network evaluation has been sent to the DEHLG for approval. It has been modified to take into account new regulations regarding the appointment of consultants issued by the Department of Finance late last year. Approval awaited.

Lagan Water Supply / Desertegney Water Supply:

Capital Design office has advised that Contract preliminaries are being gone through at present. Construction can begin once the contractors insurances, bond, pension scheme are in place and a contract signed.

3.0 & 4.0 - Progress Reports Rural Water Programme:

Updated progress reports included with agenda:

- Group Scheme Programme
- Small Capital Schemes

5.0 Proposed land swap (off Station Road, Carndonagh)

See attached proposal from Seamus McLaughlin, McLaughlin Bros., Carndonagh for a direct swap of a parcel of land between McLaughlin Brothers and DCC. This

proposal is the culmination of some prolonged negotiations between the parties, since initial enquiry in 2004.

McLaughlin Bros are presently developing their lands at Station Road and wish to acquire a strip of lands (see marked plot 'A') held by DCC (from former site of old sewerage scheme). Following initial enquiry in that regard, comments were sought from each of the DCC services. Road Service expressed an interest in securing a corresponding strip of lands for a future link road from Station Road. The map attached with the proposal indicates a solution, which represents a swap of lands of equal proportions, which will satisfy both the needs of McLaughlin Bros and DCC (Roads).

I recommend your approval of this proposal as attached.

**C. McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer,
Area Manager, Water and Environment Service,
11th May 2007**