

21st October, 2008

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Tuesday 28th October 2008 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

Questions and Motions

Items 14.

Items 20 – 29

Items 31 – 61

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

Eunan Sweeney
Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28th
OCTOBER 2008

C/418/08 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. G. Crawford, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, R. Donaghey, , M. T. Gallagher, C. Harvey, J. Kelly, N. McBride, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, P. MacLochlainn, T. Slowey.

C/419/08 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs. A. Bonner and B. McGuinness and P. Doherty who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/420/08 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development representing the County Manager who was absent on official council business, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Seamus Neely, Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Services, Mr Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Executive Officer, representing the Director of Housing and Building, Mr Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community and Enterprise, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Meetings Administrator, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/421/08 PROGRESSION OF MALIN HEAD AS A STRATEGIC
TOURIST PROJECT

The following motion in the name of Clr. McGuinness was moved on his behalf by Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. McDonald and adopted:-

"That Community and Enterprise Division of Donegal County Council will work to progress, as a priority, the development of Malin Head as a Strategic Tourist Project as identified and agreed by Members of Donegal County Council at their meetings on 8th December 2003 and 6th February 2004."

Members were informed that:-

“Malin Head has been identified as a strategic tourism project for County Donegal and the North West and has been endorsed as such by the members of Donegal County Council (2008). The Community and Enterprise Division is working in a Donegal CDB context with relevant stakeholders such as Fáilte Ireland NW and Inishowen Development Partnership to advance development of this key project.

The Community and Enterprise Division will continue to work to achieve this project over the coming months as a part of the overall tourism product being advanced by the Council working with relevant partners in all parts of the county.”

C/422/08

REQUEST FOR FAILTE IRELAND TO MAKE A FULL PRESENTATION TO DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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

"That Failte Ireland would make a presentation to the full Council in relation to how they are planning to increase both the numbers of people working in the industry and visiting the County and what they are doing to progress the development of sites such as Malin Head, which is a natural tourist attraction minus facilities at present"

Members were informed that:-

“Malin Head has been identified by Donegal County Council and Donegal County Development Board as a key tourism project for the northwest. It is included on the list of priority tourism projects endorsed by Donegal County Council in 2008. In this context, the Community & Enterprise Division are in discussion with Failte Ireland and Inishowen Development Partnership on seeking to identify and secure funding to progress the further development of Malin Head as a Strategic Tourist Project.

Tourism has been identified as a key sector for County Donegal and is a priority area for the Community and Enterprise Directorate in all parts of the County and on a

cross border basis. Donegal County Council are working in partnership with Failte Ireland on developing Tourism infrastructure across the County in areas such as i.e. Walking Routes, Cycling routes, Interpretative panels, Environmental Project (Inch Lake), and Sliabh Liag.”

C/423/08

REMOVAL OF COLPOSCOPY UNIT FROM
LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL

The following motion was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"That this Council has no confidence in the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, following the removal of the colposcopy unit from Letterkenny General Hospital, the downgrading of cancer care services at Sligo General Hospital, and the ongoing cutbacks in services at Letterkenny General Hospital including ward closures."

Clr. Gallagher proposed, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn an amendment to the motion as follows to include reference to the budget debacle about medical cards.

"That this Council has no confidence in the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, following the, debacle in the budget over medical cards for over 70s, the removal of the colposcopy unit from Letterkenny General Hospital, the downgrading of cancer care services at Sligo General Hospital, and the ongoing cutbacks in services at Letterkenny General Hospital including ward closures."

The proposal was put to the meeting and a show of hands resulted in 3 votes in favour and 6 against.

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

Clr. Conaghan advised that his grouping could not support any discussion on the matter unless the words “no confidence” were excluded.

In response Clr. MacLochlainn affirmed that he appreciated the difficulties facing the Fianna Fail grouping but that the matter was one, which necessitated urgent debate.

Clr. MacLochlainn proposed the motion seconded by Clr. Gallagher.

A show of hands was then taken with 4 voting for and 8 against.

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

C/424/08 BUDGET 2009 AND SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR SUFFICIENT FUNDS

Clr. Conaghan stated that he wished to withdraw the following motion as events had now moved forward:-

"Given the Governments decision to bring forward the National Budget Day, that Donegal County Council agree the three basics of budget 2009 i.e. Rates, Commercial Water Charges and Landfill Charges and make an early submission to the Department of the Environment for sufficient funds to deliver members priorities and help sustain the Donegal Economy."

C/425/08 COMPLETION OF DRAFT LEASE TO BUILD BREAKWATERS FOR THE RNLI TO BE ABLE TO LAUNCH FROM BUNCRANA PIER

On the proposal of Clr. R. Donaghey , seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council urgently complete the Draft Lease as requested to build breakwaters for the RNLI to be able to launch from Buncrana Pier, and that work begin immediately thereafter."

Members were informed that:-

"The list of conditions sent by the Department for the intended Foreshore Lease have been reviewed. A number of matters need to be resolved to allow this Project to be built. A Special internal meeting will be held within the next two weeks to agree the final course of action on each issue that remains to be resolved.

Tenders have been sought for the supply of the rock and five tenders have already been received in April 2008. It is

envisaged that the construction of the breakwater will take 6 - 8 months to complete. It is a condition of the grant, as normal, from the Department that all monies be drawn down by 28th November 2008 and therefore without permission from the Department to 'roll over' the grant into next year, the project could not be completed within existing time constraints.”

Clr. Donaghey advised that she was unhappy with the reply and that the matter was now extremely urgent. She enquired as to whether or not it could be progressed in the next week or two.

Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation affirmed that the outstanding replies would be forwarded to the Department in the coming weeks. As regards the roll over of funding he stated that it was unclear as to whether or not this would happen in 2009.

Clr. Conaghan asked that the matter be tabled for discussion at the forthcoming meeting with the Minister for Transport, Mr Noel Dempsey, T.D., in Letterkenny PSC on the 3rd November, 2008.

Mr McLaughlin agreed to update members as soon as possible on the Departments response.

He also agreed to explore again the possibility of sharing the cost of a dredger with other maritime counties.

C/426/08 DELEGATION TO MEET WITH NRA

It was generally agreed that a delegation from Donegal County Council should meet with the NRA to discuss general progress on national roads and the likely funding for 2009.

C/427/08 GROUP WATER CHARGES

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

"Will this Council address the misinterpretation of a previous motion on Group Water Charges in relation to Development Charges"

Members were informed that:-

“The following reductions are available for the types of Development detailed below:

Developments Granted Permission under the Development Contribution Scheme 2008-2012 (where the Council made the Decision to Grant on or after the 18th of February 2008):

50% Reduction

Single House Developments that connect to Group Water Supply Schemes not taken over by the Council, which do consume public water and where the financial contribution to the Group is €1500 or greater.

100% Reduction

Developments that connect to Group Water Supply Schemes not taken over by the council, which do not consume public water.

Developments Granted Permission Under the Development Contribution Scheme 2006 (i.e. where the Council made the Decision to Grant between the 1st of March 2006 and the 18th of February 2008):

100% Reduction

Developments that connect to Group Water Supply Schemes that do not consume public water.”

Clr. McGarvey stated that it was outrageous that anyone should be obliged to pay double for any service in this county.

Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development confirmed that the matter had been dealt with in the context of the review of the Development Contribution Scheme.

The 50% reduction for single house developments that connect to Group Water Schemes, not taken over by the Council, and which do not consume public water was he noted a satisfactory arrangement.

It was necessary he acknowledged to maintain a reasonable balance when generating income.

Clr. McGarvey noted the reply was unacceptable and that the matter had been dealt with in a most undemocratic way.

C/428/08 DIRECTING OF ORGANIC WASTE FROM BALLINACARRICK DUMP

On the proposal of Clr. S. McEniff, seconded by Clr. F. Conaghan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That the County Council investigate the possibility of directing organic waste from Ballinacarrick Dump for composting and if possible have a report for the next G.P. meeting"

Members were informed that:-

“The county council has been actively encouraging commercial food outlets - hotels and restaurants- to separate food waste at source and to send same for composting. The minister has recently issued two documents giving guidance on the matter. One document, dated 31st July 2008, relates to the collection of biowaste. The other, issued as a consultation document on 19th September 2008, relates to "municipal solid waste pre-treatment and residuals management". The contents of these documents are being considered and their implications for waste management in Donegal will be discussed at a workshop of members proposed to be held next month.”

Clr. McEniff asked that a report on the matter be provided.

The following questions and replies were noted:-

C/429/08 PLANS TO ESTABLISH A PLAYGROUND IN BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

"As work is about to commence on a playground in Stranorlar, what plans is there to establish a playground in the town of Ballybofey?"

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“Community & Enterprise are continuing in discussions to identify a suitable site in Council ownership in Ballybofey for the creation of a playground.

The provision of play and recreation facilities is a key area of activity for Donegal County Council. In addition to the Stranorlar playground, the Council have been responsible for the development of 37 playgrounds in various locations in Donegal over the past three years. Every effort will be made to advance the identification of a suitable site in Ballybofey for the purposes of a playground.”

C/430/08 TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY LANDS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS IN CONVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. P. McGowan:-

"Can the Council give a detailed update on transfer of community lands (N/W Housing) to Community Groups in Convoy, which have funding identified for projects?"

Clr. P. McGowan was informed that:-

“There are three different projects proposed for the lands in question, each of which are being promoted by three separate groups as follows: Convoy Community Playgroup (Playgroup Facilities), Convoy District Development Association (Community Resource Centre) and Convoy Community & Environmental Committee (Playground). The land is presently owned by North and West Housing and their Solicitors are presently writing to the individual groups outlining the steps to be taken to effect the transfers and thus allow the projects to move forward.”

C/431/08 NEW FIRE ENGINE FOR FIRESTATION IN STRANORLAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

"Is there any application with the Department for a new fire engine for the new firestation in Stranorlar?"

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“It is not the practice to make individual application for particular fire stations for new fire appliances. Donegal County Council submitted a five-year replacement programme to the DOEHLG in December 2007. In that programme the existing Stranorlar appliance was scheduled for replacement in 2011. Delivery of the programme as proposed is not assured.

The practice is that when a new appliance is received, the needs of the whole service are assessed and the location of the new appliance is decided based on that assessment. The assessment considers such factors as the age of existing appliances, their condition at that time and the demand for service from each station.”

C/432/08 AREAS IN COUNTY PRONE TO FLOODING

The following question was submitted by Clr. P. McGowan:-

"Can the Council discuss what steps are necessary to identify and manage areas within the County which are becoming prone to flooding, the Office of Public Works have a Flood Management programme which can be accessed?"

Clr. P. McGowan was informed that:-

“The OPW are currently working with Donegal County Council on Flood Studies in Raphoe and Letterkenny. Funding for both projects is being provided by the OPW. The Raphoe study in particular is likely to recommend a major flood alleviation scheme for which funding will be sought from the OPW. The OPW have indicated to Donegal County Council Officials that their involvement in such schemes is limited. It is not envisaged that they would extend their current commitments to a countywide basis.

Such a countywide Flood Management Programme would require resources and funding from Own Resources, well in excess of the existing Flood Study provision of €25,000.”

C/433/08 PLANS TO DEAL WITH MAJOR OVERGROWTH
ALONG ROADS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. Alcorn:-

"What plans have Donegal County Council to deal with the major overgrowth along our roads presently, which is leaving some of the roads dangerous?"

Clr. D. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council introduced its policy on hedgecutting in 2003 and basically the policy places responsibility on the landowner/occupiers to cut hedges in accordance with the Roads Act.

As part of continuing to implement the policy the council intend to :

1. Notify landowners of their responsibilities regarding hedge cutting.
2. Erect notices along roads where hedges have to be cut.
3. Organising hedge cutting where it is the County Council's responsibility to do so.

In addition the County Council intend to organise an advertisement campaign in both the press and radio informing landowners of their responsibilities.”

C/434/08 REMOVAL OF SIGNAGE WHEN ROAD WORKS
COMPLETED

The following question was submitted by Clr. T. Slowey:-

"What protocols are in place within the roads section to ensure the removal of signage when road works have been completed?"

Clr. T. Slowey was informed that:-

“Signage at Roadworks is generally carried out in accordance with " Guidance for Control and Management of Traffic at Roadworks " issued by the Department of Transport in October 2007.

This document includes a project closeout sheet which is signed off when a project is completed. This would include removal of temporary signs.”

C/435/08 SKELETON STAFF OVER ANNUAL HOLIDAYS

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. Alcorn:-

"Why is Donegal County Council not leaving skeleton staff to deal with urgent business during the annual holidays at the beginning of August?"

Clr. D. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council retain skeleton staff in certain Areas to cover essential maintenance work such as street cleaning etc. However in other Areas it is normal practice to allow all staff take their annual leave during August with the understanding that in an emergency situation a number of workers would be available to be called out or could be called in from an adjoining Area.

During August of this year a number of workers in different Areas returned from holidays to help with the emergency situation which arose due to severe flooding.

The County Council very much appreciate the cooperation of its workforce during these situations and encourage the type of flexibility shown during August of this year.”

C/436/08 COSTS OF AGREEMENT WITH LAING O’ROURKE

The following question was submitted by Clr. T. Slowey:-

"What is the duration and costs of the agreement entered into by Donegal County Council with Laing O'Rourke for the installation and reading of non domestic water meters?"

Clr. T. Slowey was informed that:-

“Tenders were invited by public advertisement through Ireland and the EU, including the publication of Notices in the OJEC (Official Journal of the European Communities) and e-tenders.ie (Irish Public Procurement Website), for a Design, Build, Operate Contract for the Donegal Non-Domestic Water Metering Project.

The Contract included:

- The survey of all potential non-domestic properties and connections connected to public water supply schemes and certain Group Water Schemes,
- The location of customer water connection pipes and the design, supply and installation of meters and meter chambers,
- The design, supply and installation of a meter-reading system,
- The design, supply and installation of remote meter-reading “transponders” on meters supplying customers with high water use and on meters at locations which would be difficult to access,
- The design, supply and installation of a database and records system for the management of information relating to Properties, Customers, Connections, Meters and Meter-Readings,
- The design, supply and installation of all hardware and software necessary to link the meter-reading and database systems to Donegal County Council’s Customer Billing and Customer Service systems,
- The maintenance and management of the installed meters for a period of 10 years,
- The maintenance, management and updating of the installed database for a period of 10 years,
- The taking of meter-readings for a period of 10 years.

The Design-Build Stage of the Contract commenced in September 2006 and concluded in December 2007. The

works completed by the Contractor during the Design-Build Stage included:

- The survey of 15,000 potential non-domestic properties and connections,
- The installation of 6,550 standard meters and meter chambers on 12mm (half-inch) customer connection pipes,
- The installation of 280 medium-sized meters and meter chambers on 20mm – 50mm (three-quarter-inch to two-inch) customer connection pipes,
- The installation of 250 large-sized meters and meter chamber manholes on 80mm – 150mm (three-inch to six-inch) customer connection pipes,
- The installation of meter-reading “transponders” on 2,635 meters,
- The establishment of a database and records system and all system links to Donegal County Council’s Customer Billing and Customer Service systems.

The Design-Build Stage of the Contract was completed at a total cost of €5,475,000 nett of VAT (€6,214,000 inclusive of VAT at 13.5%)

Following completion of the Design-Build Stage, Donegal County Council identified further non-domestic properties and connections which require metering by the Contractor. Most of these properties and connections are located on Group Water Schemes where agreements with the trustees were not in place to enable meter installation to be undertaken within the Design-Build Stage. The Contractor has commenced works on surveying and installing meters on these properties and connections, at similar unit cost rates to the Design-Build Stage. The additional works will be undertaken in the period mid-2008 – mid-2009. The additional works will include the installation of approximately 800 additional meters at an additional cost of approximately €767,000 inclusive of VAT at 13.5%

The Operate-Maintain Stage of the Contract commenced in January 2008 and will conclude in December 2017. The works being undertaken by the Contractor during the Operate-Maintain Stage include:

- The maintenance and management of the installed 7,000 – 8,500 meters for a period of 10 years,
- The maintenance and management of the installed 2,600 – 3,000 meter-reading “transponders” for a period of 10 years,
- The maintenance, management and updating of the installed database of 15,000 – 20,000 records for a period of 10 years,
- The taking of 20,000 – 30,000 meter-readings per annum,
- The uploading of the meter-readings and all associated information to Donegal County Council’s Customer Billing and Customer Service systems for a period of 10 years.

The Operate-Maintain Stage of the Contract will have a total cost of €750,000 nett of VAT (€907,500 inclusive of VAT at 21%) per annum at 2008 values. The Operate-Maintain Contract Costs are subject to inflation in line with labour and materials inflation rates published by the CSO (Central Statistics Office).”

C/437/08 OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OF DONEGAL COAST

The following question was submitted by Clr. M. T. Gallagher:-

"Following the unanimous decision made by this Council to pass a motion raised by myself on the issue of Oil and Gas exploration of the Coast of Donegal, what progress has been made to date on this motion?"

Clr. M. T. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Donegal CDB established a Wave/Tidal Energy Working group which is looking at all aspects of marine based energy. This group has written to the Minister to request a meeting to discuss this broad sector. Some additional work has to be carried out by the Working Group prior to meeting with the Minister and this is being advanced at present. The issues raised at the Council meeting of the 9th June will be placed on the agenda of the meeting for discussion.”

C/438/08 ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE MEETINGS
BETWEEN SUPERINTENDANTS AND LOCAL AREA
COMMITTEES

The following question was submitted by Clr. M. T. Gallagher:-

"Following the unanimous decision made by this Council to pass a motion raised by myself regarding Superintendants meeting twice yearly with local area committees, what arrangements have been put in place to facilitate these meetings and when will they commence?"

Clr. M. T. Gallagher was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council are awaiting final guidelines with regard to the model for roll out of the Joint Policing Committee on a countywide basis. It is expected that this information will be available to us in the not too distant future. On receipt of this information arrangements will be put in place for formal consultation with the Chief Superintendent and other relevant officers at county and area level as appropriate.”

C/439/08 PLANS FOR OLD COUNCIL OFFICES IN
CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. McGonagle:-

"Have any plans been made for the old Council offices in Carndonagh?"

Clr. D. McGonagle was informed that:-

“Following the completion of the construction of the new Carndonagh Fire Station, there is a capital balance deficit of €45K which needs to be accrued from the asset value of the old station.

While the Council has no immediate plan for this building, the future use of this site could be considered in the

context of a larger overall development, which would provide a landmark building at a strategic location.”

C/440/08 MEETING WITH TANAISTE

The following question was submitted by Clr. B. McGuinness:-

"What is the up to date position in relation to our request for a meeting with An Tanaiste, Mary Coughlan, and the Donegal Oireachtas members, and also has there been any response to our request for a meeting with Minister Noel Dempsey along with Kerry County Council, regarding the downgrading of Malin Head Coastguard Station?"

Clr. B. McGuinness was informed that:-

“Arising from telephone conversations with the Direct Secretary to Minister Dempsey on the 12th and 15th August, the 3rd November 2008 has been provisionally reserved in the Minister’s diary for a meeting in Letterkenny with representatives of the Council in relation to Malin Head Coastguard Station. There is no further information available in relation to the Council’s request that the Minister receive a joint deputation from Donegal and Kerry County Councils.

In relation to motion on the subject passed at the Council meeting on 28th July last, a letter issued to An Tánaiste, Ms Mary Coughlan, T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment on the 6th August seeking a meeting in relation to the matter. An acknowledgement issued on 26th August.”

C/441/08 PLANS TO CONTINUE FOOTPATH ON THE CLONMANY TO BALLYLIFFEN ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. McGonagle:-

"Have the Council any plans to continue the footpath on the Clomany to Ballyliffen road?"

Clr. D. McGonagle was informed that:-

“This footpath project has been prioritised within the overall Development Contribution Scheme for the Inishowen Electoral Area. It shall be allocated funding in agreement with Members. Currently clarification is being sought in relation to land availability to facilitate the project.”

C/442/08 WHEN WILL WORK COMMENCE ON SLIPWAYS AT GLENGAD AND MOVILLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. M. McDonald:-

"Given that money from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has been in place for some months now and the fact that we should not be returning monies allocated, when will works commence on the slipways at Glengad and Moville?"

Clr. M. McDonald was informed that:-

“Glengad repairs to slipway - The total cost of this project is €35,000. Both DAFF and DCRGA have approved funding of €13,125 each. The balance of €8,750 has to come from DCC.

Moville improvements to slipway - The total cost of this project is €60,000. Funding of €22,500 each has been approved by DAFF and DCRGA and the balance of €15,000 has to be funded by DCC.

The works cannot proceed until counterfunding through the DCS is approved by Council. Some exploratory works have been undertaken at Glengad however and we will be carrying out a further survey at the next spring tide, at the beginning of October to ascertain the best way of expediting the works, if counterfunding is approved.”

C/443/08 WORK ON COCKHILL BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. R. Donaghey:-

"When will work begin on Cockhill Bridge, Bunrana to allow the safe crossing of school children, Mass goers and vehicles?"

Clr. R. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has allocated €100,000 to this project in 2008-2009. The design options for project are currently under review and a consultant is in the process of being appointed to consider a signalised junction which would facilitate pedestrians. Councillors shall be kept informed at Electoral Area Meetings of progress on this important project over the coming months.”

C/444/08

MOVILLE/GREENCASTLE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following question was submitted by Clr. M. McDonald:-

"What precisely held up the Environmental Impact Assessment (Moville/Greencastle Sewerage Scheme) from going back to an Bord Pleanala for a year, given that it was completed and with them this time last year?"

Clr. M. McDonald was informed that:-

“In letter from An Bord Pleanala dated 03 January 2008 An Bord Pleanala directed the Council to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Moville Greencastle Sewerage Scheme. The Environmental Impact Statement prepared earlier was reviewed by consulting engineers, legal opinion was obtained and it is now ready for submission to an Bord Pleanala.

The EIS will be published and submitted to An Bord Pleanala in parallel with the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order documentation. This will allow both processes be dealt with together at one Oral Hearing. The delay has arisen in connection with finalising the CPO Notices and documentation from a legislative and legal perspective. The EIS/CPO is now ready for publication and

the relevant Certificates and Manager's Order authorising their publication are being prepared.”

C/445/08 TENDERING DESIGN TEAM FOR BUNCRANA LEISURE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. R. Donaghey:-

"What progress has been made with regard to the Tendering Process for a Design Team to progress work at Buncrana Leisure Centre?"

Clr. R. Donaghey was informed that:-

“Recent changes to national procurement rules and conditions of engagement for consultants dictate that the process of tendering which commenced in October 2006 is no longer applicable. Therefore the tendering process must be re-run. An advertisement re-commencing the process will be dispatched to the OJEC week commencing 29th September 2008. The matter of matching funding will also need to be addressed in the short term.”

C/446/08 GLENSWILLY ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. Larkin:-

"Will this Council as matter of urgency deal with the very dangerous parts of the main Glenswilly road which have failed?"

Clr. D. Larkin was informed that:-

“Quotations have been sought for extensive patching on this section and work will be carried out this year.”

C/447/08 SWILLY DIVERSION

The following question was submitted by Clr. D. Larkin:-

"When will the Council have the design for the Swilly Diversion complete given the fact that the department funded it to the tune of 200,000k at the end of last year?"

Clr. D. Larkin was informed that:-

“The Department of Transport approved the Pre-Qualification Documents for this project in June of this year. Subsequently, the Pre-qualification process has been completed and seven consultants were prequalified to tender in early July.

Tender documentation for design of this scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Department Of Transport for their consideration. We await their approval.

Subject to Departmental approval, it is anticipated that a consultant will be appointed for the Swilly Relief Roads and Bridges Project by the end of 2008.”

C/448/08 RAW SEWERAGE AT BALLYRAINE

The following question was submitted by Clr. C. Brogan:-

"What progress has been made on the preferred option of the interim solution on the spillage of raw sewerage onto the road at Ballyraine and the works needed on the overflow tanks?"

Clr. C. Brogan was informed that:-

“Significant wastewater trunk sewer improvements were carried out in Letterkenny under Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme contract 1 - Network Improvements. This contract did not include the upgrading of the trunk sewer infrastructure between Ballyraine and the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Magherennan. These works will be carried out as part of the Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO contract, which will be tendered shortly.

In the absence of these works there have been some flooding / overflow events, caused by heavy rainfall at times of high tide in the river. Two measures have been designed to alleviate this risk, one already implemented and the other to go ahead shortly.

1 New screens have been installed at the Grove Burn Pumping Station which has had the effect of reducing the

instance of pump failure. Pump failure at this location has been a risk factor in flooding events.

2. New interim overflow arrangements have been designed and implementation works are planned to go ahead without delay subject to funding being available.”

C/449/08 MASTERPLAN AT BIG ISLE

The following question was submitted by Clr. C. Brogan:-

"At what stage is the proposed Masterplan for the Big Isle as agreed by this Council?"

Clr. C. Brogan was informed that:-

“A Brief for an Environmental Assessment of potential alternative and appropriate uses of this sensitive Natura 2000 site has been prepared. Consideration is being given to inviting consultants to carry out this specialised area of work, When this work is completed a decision can then be made on finalising the Masterplan. I will be signing off on the Brief this week and I will keep Members informed on the progress of this project.”

C/450/08 AMOUNT SPENT ON CONSULTANTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. B. Byrne:-

"How much has this Council spent on consultants/outside expertise across the various departments/sections in 2005,2006,2007?"

Clr. B. Byrne was informed that:-

“In responding to the question I’m having regard to guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the requirement to cut Consultancy costs by 50% in 2009. It states, that as a general rule, there is a requirement for a cut of 50% in costs associated with the use of Consultants regardless of whether the consultant is utilised in the discharge of a statutory function or otherwise, however, infrastructural consultancy fees are excluded from this requirement.

The Table below breaks down the total amount paid for Consultancy Services for each of the years, 2005, 2006 and 2007 under Capital Infrastructure Development and Revenue by Directorate:

	2005	2006	2007
Directorate RevenueOperational Costs CapitalInfrastructure Development RevenueOperationalCosts CapitalInfrastructureDevelopment RevenueOperational Costs CapitalInfrastructureDevelopment			
Housing	24,753	221,803	3,478
Roads	158,390	1,968,806	118,672
Wee	5,748	4,151,945	19,114
Planning	12,463	76,743	21,241
CCE	359,599	248,383	178,624
Corporate	73,358	105,840	139,834
Finance	681	4,381	3,719
Total	634,992	6,667,680	451,350
			6,611,011
			612,947
			6,589,094

Total for Year 7,302,672 7,062,361 7,202,041

The Capital Infrastructure Development Consultancy costs are associated with the provision and improvement of infrastructure such as Roads, Water Supply Schemes, Waste Water Schemes, etc. Some examples of the schemes and their estimated cost to final construction are:

Roads Project	Cost	Consultancy	Costs to-date
Ballyshannon/Bundoran By-Pass	€5.00m	€0.98m	
N56 Mountain Top	€26.75m	€0.59m	
N56 Mountcharles	€4.76m	€0.07m	

Water Services

Donegal Bay Group A DBO	€30.20m	€2.50m
Ardara Sewerage Scheme	€8.40m	€0.67m
Carndonagh Sewerage Scheme	€9.00m	€0.22m
Letterkenny Boreholes	€4.00m	€0.47m

The consultancy costs in the Community, Culture & Enterprise Directorate are primarily incurred in The Marine Leisure Section and in The Heritage Section.”

C/451/08 KILCAR VILLAGE RENEWAL PHASE 2

The following question was submitted by Clr. B. Byrne:-

"When can we expect Kilcar Village Renewal Phase 2 to commence?"

Clr. B. Byrne was informed that:-

“Phase I of Environmental Improvement Scheme has been completed and has allowed for the progression of Phase II works, which will provide for a continuation of improvement works, incorporating significant improvement works at the Udarás na Gaeltachta owned property, the erection of a retaining wall opposite the Udarás na Gaeltachta buildings with footpath and the realignment of the road. The Part VIII process for Phase II has commenced with submissions invited during the period September 15th, 2008 – November 14th, 2008.

As a considerable portion of the proposed works will be undertaken on behalf of Udarás na Gaeltachta, the project’s progression is subject to the finalisation of funding availability from Udarás na Gaeltachta and An Roinn Gnothaí Pobail Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta.

A comprehensive review of co funding required from the DCS for environmental improvement works is underway at present. Subject to funding it is envisaged that the scheme could commence early in the New Year.”

C/452/08 ROCK ARMOUR AT FINTRA BEACH

The following question was submitted by Clr. T. Pringle:-

"When will the rock armour at Fintra Beach be repaired, the carpark is being undermined and there is a risk that the carpark could subside putting the blue flag at risk for next year?"

Clr. T. Pringle was informed that:-

“This project is not listed on the Coastal Erosion Programme 2007 - 2013 as approved by Council in March 2008. The Marine Section will inspect the site and report back with recommendations and costings.”

C/453/08 CONTRACTS FOR S.I. HOUSES

The following question was submitted by Clr. T. Pringle:-

"What contractors have been awarded contracts for S.I. houses in the last twelve months and what steps have been taken to ensure that they are compliant with the Construction Industry Pension Scheme?"

Clr. T. Pringle was informed that:-

“In the last twelve months total of 22 SI Cottages have had contracts awarded or about to be awarded involving 10 different Contractors. It is a condition of engagement that all of the contractors appointed are in compliance with the Registered Employers Agreement, which agreement involves having an appropriate pension scheme in place for the employees. In all of the above contracts the contractors are members of the CWPS (construction workers pension scheme) and the Council has been furnished with letters confirming same from the CWPS office in Dublin.”

C/454/08 MILFORD TOWN RENEWAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. I. McGarvey:-

"When can Milford Town Renewal go ahead?"

Clr. I. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The contracts for the final portion of land required for the access road are to be signed today. The tender documents are being prepared at present. All going well the project should go to tender in November with start date early in 2009.”

C/455/08 MILFORD CARPARK AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. L. Blaney:-

"When does this Council propose to carry out works on the new Car Park and Environmental Improvement Scheme in Milford, which is long overdue?"

Clr. L. Blaney was informed that:-

"The contracts for the final portion of land required for the access road are to be signed today. The tender documents are being prepared at present. All going well the project should go to tender in November with start date early in 2009."

C/456/08 MILFORD RESERVOIR EXTENSION

The following question was submitted by Clr. I. McGarvey:-

"When will the extension of Milford Reservoir go ahead as it is important for extension of water supply to existing services and extension to Glenvar area?"

Clr. I. McGarvey was informed that:-

"A Manager's Order accepting the tender report for Fanad Regional Water Supply Stage 2 contract 1 which includes the laying of watermains to Glenvar and the construction of a reservoir in Milford has been signed and it is expected that work will commence on site in quarter 4 of 2008."

C/457/08 SPEED LIMIT AT FANAVOLTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. L. Blaney:-

"Will this Council move the speed limit on the northern side of Fanavolty to a distance of 100 metres of the Toame junction as was requested by local Gardai?"

Clr. L. Blaney was informed that:-

“The Road Design Road Safety Engineer will examine this junction as part of the current work programme. It is envisaged that this will be carried out in Q1 2009. The findings of the audit will be presented for discussion the the Milford Electoral Area Committee. The review will give consideration to the need to adjusting the speed limit location.”

C/458/08 The following motions from other authorities were noted:-

FERMOY TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Government to enact legislation whereby any individual who pays rates or service charges to a Local Authority be entitled to vote in that Local Authority’s elections and that we circulate details of the motion to councils countrywide to seek their support.”

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“A large proportion of motorcycle accidents resulting in serious injury and death are directly related to road conditions and in particular road repairs. In light of this I would call on all councils throughout Ireland to insist that road works be finished to a high standard for all road users and adequate warning of road works be monitored on a daily basis.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That Killarney Town Council call on the Minister of Social and Family Affairs to change the rules governing the Back to Education Allowance.”

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council contact the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting that he use every diplomatic measure at his disposal to influence the authorities in Belarus with a view to reversing their decision to not allow children in that region to travel to Ireland.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

At the July meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members discussed the invaluable service being provided by MABS offices throughout the country and the particular difficulties currently being encountered by MABS office staff in trying to deal with the increasing numbers of people seeking their advice. The Members unanimously resolved:

“That a letter should issue to the Taoiseach and the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in this regard highlighting this issue and requesting that no cut-backs be considered in this area and that the matter of the provision of additional funding and additional Advisors be considered.”

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on each Local Authority to use fair-trade products in their canteen where possible. This would help to give wage for those who work to produce such products.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.