

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2005, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present:

Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Pearse Doherty
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill
Cllr. David Alcorn
Cllr. Pádraig Doherty

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Gallagher - Area Manager, Water & Environment
Susanne Tinney – Waste Awareness Officer
Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Building
Brendan Mc Fadden - Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Roisin Mitchell – Planning & Economic Development
Charles Sweeney - Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Berni Gallagher - Staff Officer, Corporate Services

GEA 180/05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

On the proposal of Cllr David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Enda Bonner, the minutes of meeting of the 13th September, 2005 were agreed.

GEA 181/05 TIDY ESTATE PRESENTATIONS

The Acting Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Terence Slowey presented cheques to the successful applicants in the Best Kept Housing Schemes Awards and congratulated them on their continued hard work and dedication.

Category 1(Small Schemes)	Fairhill, Dungloe	€ 400
Category 2(Medium Schemes)	Ard Mc Gill, Glenties	€600
	Ard Patrick, Glenties	€600
Category 3(Large Schemes)	Ballina, Falcarragh	€800

HOUSING & BUILDING PROGRAMME

GEA 182/05 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Area Manager responded to Members queries in respect of same.

The Area Manager advised Members that the Ardara Scheme would be let by the end of November, and Glenties by January 2006.

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested that a list of applicants first preferences by location be drawn up for next meeting.

In response to queries from Members regarding the time frame for the construction of schemes in the 2004-08 Programme, the Area Manager agreed to follow up on the matter and bring a report to the next meeting.

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GEA 183/05 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members reiterated the need for the de-centralisation of S.I.s.

Cllr. Bonner stated that there is a real necessity to arrange reasonable and affordable accommodation for single men. The Committee discussed the inadequacy of contracts and called on the Housing department to implement the penalty clause when work does not commence on time.

GEA 184/05 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda listing casual vacancies as at the 31st October, 2005.

GEA 185/05 NAMING OF COUNCIL ESTATES

Members agreed that local committees should be consulted and involved with the Place Names Committee in naming Council Estates.

GEA 186/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Alcorn requested

- (1) a report on the treatment plant at An Choill scheme following residents health concerns
- (2) that maintenance works be carried out on the Arranmore Scheme.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 187/05 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the status of the 2004-2006 Water and Sewerage Investment Programme.

The Committee expressed their disappointment at the current status of the proposed Gweedore Sewerage Scheme . On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Pearse Doherty ,the Committee requested that Department of Environment Inspectors Liam Doyle and Michael Nolan meet with Council Officials and Members to clarify the current situation.

GEA 188/05 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES

Members noted the report previously circulated in relation to the small capital scheme programme.

GEA 189/05 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 190/05 GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda. In response to a query regarding the re-instatement of the Meenacrieve Road, the Area Manager informed Members that re-instatement is due to take place at this location .

GEA 191/05 PRIVATE SOURCE GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda.

GEA 192/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

192.1 DUNGLOE PLASTIC AND PAPER BANKS

Members expressed their anger and dissatisfaction at the lack of communication in relation to the proposed removal of Paper and Plastic banks from the car park in Dungloe. Members were also unhappy that the media were made aware of the Council's intention by the Environment Service, prior to briefing the public representatives regarding this important local issue.

The Committee noted that a decision had been taken by the full Council that no services would be removed prior to kerbside facilities being introduced and they

were concerned that officials were undermining decisions taken by Elected Members. Members requested the Area Manager to arrange for a map of the Glenties Electoral Area to be prepared highlighting areas where there is no refuse collection. Cllr. Pearse Doherty recommended that favourable consideration be given by the Council to providing a disposal centre for such areas. On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn and seconded by Cllr Bonner, the Committee agreed to retain the Paper and Plastic banks in their current location. The Waste Awareness Officer apologised on behalf of the Environment Service and the Area Manager agreed to communicate Members concerns to the Director of Service as a matter of urgency. Cllr. Pearse Doherty recommended that Bottle Banks be taken into public ownership.

192.2 DUMPING BY ESB CONTRACTORS AT GWEEBARRA BRIDGE

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with Contractors employed by ESB dumping materials at the Gweebarra Bridge and they called on the Area Manager to contact the ESB to remove the rubbish immediately or to instigate enforcement proceedings against the company.

192.3 BOTTLE BANKS/COMPOSTERS

Cllr. Pearse Doherty requested the Area Manager to provide him with details of the number of composters sold from the Dungloe PSC and he recommended that the Environment Service give consideration to providing composters through retail outlets.

Cllr. Alcorn expressed his dissatisfaction at the Council's failure to have the Bottle Banks at Molloy's in Derrybeg emptied on a regular basis.

192.4 SIGN FOR MAGHERACLOGHER BEACH

The Committee requested that the sign for Magheraclogher Beach be re-erected.

192.5 PROPOSED ENGINEERED LANDFILL SITE AT MEENABOLL

Cllr. Enda Bonner raised the issue of inadequate communication with Elected Members regarding this proposal and he requested a paper summary of the list of issues raised by An Bord Pleanála. He requested that his serious concerns regarding the stream at the site be noted by the Project Manager.

192.6 COLLECTION OF FRIDGES AND OTHER WHITE GOODS

The Committee requested that these goods are collected on a notified basis each month.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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GEA 193/05 APOLOGIES FROM AREA MANAGER

Roisín Mitchell, Executive Planner conveyed the Area Manager's apologies to the meeting for his inability to attend.

GEA 194/05 PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting listing planning refusals during the period from September 16th to October 25th, 2005.

GEA 195/05 PLANNING REFUSALS ALONG THE N56

Members debated the issue of Planning Refusals along the N56 and they raised the issue of Government Guidelines being ignored by Planning Officials in favour of dictats from the National Roads Authority.

GEA 196/05 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting outlining planning statistics.

GEA 197/05 DUNGLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN – WORKSHOP

The Executive Planner advised the Committee that a workshop in respect of the Dungloe Local Area Plan has been scheduled for 12 o'clock in Lifford on Monday 28th November, 2005.

GEA 198/05 REGISTRATION OF QUARRIES

The Executive Planner agreed to furnish Members with a list of quarries that had registered in accordance with the Regulations and showing status of quarries that have been advertised.

GEA 199/05 STAFFING OF THE DUNGLOE PLANNING OFFICE

Cllr. Alcorn queried the position regarding adequate staffing of the Planning Office in the context of timely responses to Members representations.

GEA 200/05 PROPOSED 110KV LINE

Members noted that submissions regarding this proposal should be sent to Gerry Richards, Senior Planner. They wished it be known that the Chairman of the Glen of Glenties Group had made a submission on their own behalf and not on behalf of the ATP Group.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 201/05 PROTOCOL FOR MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

Members considered the revisions to the draft protocol for meetings with Community Groups that were proposed at the Electoral Area Committee Meeting on September 13th, 2005. The Committee unanimously agreed the protocol that will govern future meetings with these Groups.

GEA 202/05 REQUEST FOR MEETING FROM DUNFANAGHY AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Members unanimously agreed to meet with Dunfanaghy and District Development Association in accordance with agreed protocol. This meeting is scheduled in advance of the next Electoral Area Committee meeting on January 24th, 2006 at 11.30 am

GEA 203/05 REQUEST FOR MEETING FROM COISTE FORBARTHA COIS CLÁIDI

Members unanimously agreed to meet with Coiste Forbartha Cois Cláidi in accordance with agreed protocols. This meeting is scheduled in advance of the next Electoral Area Committee meeting on January 24th, 2006 at 12.00 noon.

GEA 204/05 MEETING WITH COISTE FORBAIRT NA ROSANN

As agreed at the Glenties Electoral Area Committee meeting held on September 13th, 2005, Members decided to meet with Coiste Forbairt na Rosann in accordance with agreed protocols. This meeting is scheduled in advance of the next Electoral Area Committee meeting on January 24th, 2006 at 11.00 am.

GEA 205/05 EXTINGUISHMENT OF RIGHT OF WAY AT STRAND ROAD, DERRYBEG

Virginia McLoone, Area Manager presented the report, prepared by Sean Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services together with the Minutes of the Council meeting held on September 26th, 2003, Minutes of the Adjourned Council meeting held on October 20th, 2003 and the High Court Judgement to the Committee meeting.

The Committee noted that the report and documentation presented was by way of a full briefing for the Glenties Members as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group. A lengthy discussion ensued. Members noted that the Council took a decision at the Council meeting on October 20th, 2003 not to proceed with the extinguishment of the Right of Way at Strand Road, Derrybeg and they expressed their dissatisfaction that this item had come before the Glenties Electoral Area

Committee since the extinguishment of the Right of Way at Strand Road is a decision of the full Council.

Councillor Slowey recommended that since it was deemed that Members had acted illegally, they should now seek their own independent legal advice. Councillors Enda Bonner, Terence Slowey, Pearse Doherty and Padraig Doherty acknowledged that there is no restriction on the proposal to extinguish the right of way being revisited by the County Manager but they were opposed to the Council pursuing the matter. Councillor Padraig Doherty, advised that as an Elected Member, he had serious concerns that the extinguishment of the right of way in this case will affect the whole community and will benefit only one developer.

The Committee requested that the following documents be made available to the Committee Members:

- (1) A copy of the legal advice obtained by the County Manager, to the effect that the Council had acted ultra vires.
- (2) A copy of the current Planning Application for the Extension of the Duration of the Permission in this case.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 206/05 CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Committee noted the report that issued with the agenda detailing projects that were not substantially complete at the date of the meeting :-

- (i) National Secondary (N56) Projects
- (ii) EU Co – Financed Projects
- (iii) Strategic Gaeltacht Projects
- (iv) Sheskinarone Widening Works

GEA 207/05 ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS

The Roads Manager circulated a report at the meeting specifying additional allocations in the sum of €1.396 million, received by the Council since July .

Project	Funding
Magheraroarty	300,000
Crolly- Carrickfin	100,000
N56 Portnablagh	150,000
N56 Dungloe-Loughanure	360,000
N56 Derries	100,000
LIS	300,000
Sheskinarone	86,000
TOTAL	1,396,000

Members welcomed the additional funding but acknowledged the pressure on Roads Staff in completing the projects on time. The Committee urged that preparatory work commence earlier in the year.

GEA 208/05 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

The Committee noted that applications must be submitted before year end. Members acknowledged the work of Myrtle Quinn in processing these applications and requested that a letter to this effect issue to her from the Glenties Area Committee.

GEA 209/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

209.1 SPEED LIMIT AT GWEEDORE ROAD

The Committee recommended that the Speed limit on the Gweedore Road should be moved out to Cois Locha.

209.2 OTHER ISSUES

The Area Manager undertook to circulate a response to Members on a list of issues raised at the Meeting.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 210/05 DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Paddy Hannigan, Youth Council Co-Ordinator, introduced Youth Councillors, Helen de Burca and Aisling Ni Frighil who gave the Committee a very comprehensive account of the results of the Donegal Youth Survey. The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Youth councillors on an excellent presentation and complimented them on their superb achievements .

GEA 211/05 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Committee noted the report circulated previously .

GEA 212/05 FUNDING UPDATE

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 213/05 INTER ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda.

GEA 214/05 COUNTY STRATEGY

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the County Strategy.

GEA 215/05 RESEARCH AND POLICY

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

