

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

### **GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

---

**Members Present:** Cllr Terence Slowey  
Cllr David Alcorn  
Cllr Enda Bonner  
Cllr Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr Joe Kelly

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment  
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building  
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services  
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Eunan O Donnell – Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services  
Eamon Browne – Road Safety Officer  
Jamie Gallagher – Road Design Engineer

**APOLOGIES:** Brendan McFadden- Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

#### **GEA 01/08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were agreed.

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
---------------------------

**GEA 02/08    ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Corporate Manager detailing the comparative activity levels during the years 2006 and 2007.

Members complimented staff on the quality service provided through the Dungloe Corporate Services Office.

**GEA 03/08    SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2008**

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Solway, the Committee agreed the schedule of meetings listed hereunder:

(a)    Glenties Electoral Area Committee

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>
March	20th
May	20th
July	15th
September	16th
November	18th

(b)    Islands Committee

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>
March	20th
July	15th
November	18 <sup>th</sup>

**GEA 04/08    COMMUNITY POLICING**

In response to a request from Cllr. Gallagher to invite the Chief Superintendent, An Garda Siochána to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss issues surrounding Community policing in the Dungloe area, the Corporate Manager advised that this matter does not come within the remit of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee.

## ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

### **GEA 05/08 SUMMARY OF 2007 WORKS**

Eunan O Donnell commenced by apologising to the Committee on behalf of Brendan McFadden, Area Manager for his inability to attend the meeting. Members offered congratulations to Brendan McFadden and his wife on the birth of their baby girl.

The Committee noted the report circulated previously detailing expenditure in the sum of €14million on the road network in the Glenties Electoral Area. Members congratulated all staff involved in the execution of the Roadworks programme.

Councillors Doherty and Alcorn criticised the lack of investment in the county road network and requested a response to their submissions from the Roads Service.

### **GEA 06/08 FOOTPATH PROGRAMME**

Eunan O Donnell, Executive Engineer updated Members regarding the status of projects at Loughanure and Dore.

### **GEA 07/08 ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

The Committee highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Roads Service

- Curransport Road
- Dr. Brogan's Road
- Bunawack Road
- Airport Road
- Ardara – Ardaghey Road
- Meenaniller Road
- Gortnaleck Road

### **GEA 08/08 ROAD SAFETY**

Members welcomed Road Safety personnel, Eamonn Browne, Road Safety Officer and Jamie Gallagher, Road Safety Engineer to the meeting and congratulated them for their positive high profile in the local media, and for the success of the school lighting programme.

Cllr. Slowey stressed the necessity for additional legislation to improve school safety and in particular a requirement for distinctive lighting on all school buses.

Cllr. Alcorn highlighted the importance of maintaining lighting infrastructure and requested the Council to sub-contract lighting repairs to local contractors.

The Committee also highlighted issues regarding lack of parking facilities in proximity to schools and the difficulties arising from an increasing number of second level students driving to school.

Eamonn Browne thanked the Committee for their feedback and advised that when he has received recommendations from all Electoral Area Committees, that he will present a report for consideration by the General Purposes Committee.

<b>WATER &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>
--------------------------------

**GEA 09/08 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Service Manager regarding the status of Major Capital Schemes.

In response to criticism from Cllr. Bonner, regarding lack of progress with Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes, the Water Service Manager advised the Committee that the County Manager and officials visited the DOEHLG to expedite these projects.

Cllr. Alcorn expressed disappointment at ongoing delays with the Burtonport Sewerage Project.

In response to queries from Cllr. Doherty regarding the Gweedore Sewerage Scheme the Water Services Manager advised that documents on spatial planning and value for money are about to be submitted to the DOEHLG.

Cllr. Slowey expressed dissatisfaction with the Departments insistence on a 43% local contribution given the minimal rate base in the County.

**GEA 10/08 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager. The Committee requested an update on the status of the Rosses Regional Water Supply Scheme.

**GEA 11/08 GROUP SCHEME PROGRAMME**

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

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to expedite the Tully/Lettercaugh/Meenamara GWS given the availability of funding for the Meenamara Road.

In response to queries from Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Doherty regarding the Tory Island Private GWS, the Water Services Manager advised the Committee that a water boiling order is still in place to comply with the EU drinking water directive, and that discussions are ongoing with the DOEHLG in relation to this Scheme.

**GEA 12/08 DUNGLOE CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Water Services Manager updated Members on progress of this project. In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, the Water Services Manager advised the Committee that there is no provision to transfer recycling facilities from Dungloe to Gweedore.

**GEA 13/08 ENVIRONMENT**

Members welcomed the report circulated previously and commended the efforts of the Environment Service during the Christmas holiday period. The Area Manager informed the Committee of the high level of illegal dumping that occurred in the Dungloe, Falcarragh and Gweedore areas over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Environment Service to expedite the appointment of a contractor to remove scrapped cars from Arranmore.

**GEA 14/08 FIRE SERVICE**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Kelly praised the efforts and dedication of firefighters in their prompt attention and actions at emergency situations.

Cllr. Kelly also requested the Fire Service to provide firefighters with steering wheel airbag restraints in the interest of health and safety.

**GEA 15/08 FALCARRAGH MAIN STREET**

In response to a query from Cllr. Kelly, the Water Services Manager informed the Committee that the Water Service have no plans to renew the water mains in advance of roadworks at this locus. The Water Services Manager further advised the Committee that the proposed road project will affect the integrity of the existing water supply system and that the Roads Service will have to consider this issue in their works programme.

The Water Services Manager also requested Members support in the formulation of a policy to upgrade the water supply system as part of any future major capital roadwork projects.

**GEA 16/08 MAGHERY – PUBLIC TOILETS**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding maintenance of the public toilets at Maghery, the Water Services Manager informed the Committee that his department have submitted a costing for public toilet maintenance as part of the 2008 budget process and that the extent of their capability in this regard will be dependent on the budget that is eventually sanctioned by Council.

## HOUSING & BUILDING

### **GEA 17/08 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

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

The Housing Manager updated Members on the status of the Central Heating, Clár and Remedial Work Programmes. The Housing Manager also informed the Committee that he would issue Members with a report detailing the first preference of housing list applicants in the Glenties Electoral Area.

Cllr. Doherty and Cllr. Gallagher commended the Council for the provision of a play area in the Cotteen Scheme.

In response to a query from Cllr. Doherty regarding the proposed scheme at Meenanillar the Housing Manager advised the Committee of ongoing cost negotiations with the Developer.

Cllr. Bonner requested updated reports on the status of S.I. 30035, 6491 and 30064.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding inflated tenant purchase calculations for old Council houses, the Housing Manager advised the Committee that independent valuations are sought and that an appeals process is available to any tenant via the valuation office.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to liaise with Developers to advance turnkey proposals for the electoral area.

Cllr Gallagher requested the Council to investigate if emergency battery powered back- up lights could be provided in the houses of elderly people living alone.

### **GEA 18/08 SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding progress on social housing as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Kelly regarding the suitability of Voluntary Housing for families, the Housing Manager advised the Committee that Voluntary Housing is one method of Housing policy actively promoted by the DOEHLG along with Social Housing.

### **GEA 19/08 CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Housing Manager responded to Members queries in respect of casual vacancies.

<b>COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE &amp; CULTURAL SERVICES</b>
--

**GEA 20/08 PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously detailing the status of the Playground Development Programme 2005-2007, and commended the Community and Enterprise service for the success of the programme.

Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Doherty welcomed the provision of playground facilities on Arranmore and Tory Islands.

Cllr. Alcorn also requested that an official opening of the Arranmore facility be held on the Island during the summer months.

**GEA 21/08 FOREST LINK PROJECTS**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to Wood Energy and Community Woodlands.

**GEA 22/08 HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT, ART AND RURAL TOURISM**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda outlining the status of this project.

**GEA 23/08 DONEGAL INTERPRETIVE PROJECT**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and the Administrative Officer updated Members regarding the status of the project.

**GEA 24/08 RESEARCH AND POLICY**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Administrative Officer informed the Committee of ongoing work in the unit to build on its central repository of baseline information on key economic, social and cultural indicators.

Cllr. Kelly commended the work of the Research and Policy Unit in mapping Cultural infrastructure and the development of cultural directories to identify gaps/overlaps in cultural infrastructure in the County.

**GEA25/08 TRAILS AND WALKING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Cllr. Terence Slowey commended the efforts of Jeremy Smith, Trails and Walking Development Officer in his efforts to promote this leisure activity in the County.

**GEA 26/08 DONEGAL COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

**GEA 27/08 CULTURAL SERVICES**

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting in relation to ongoing cultural services activity.

**GEA 28/08 QUARRY REGISTRATIONS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda, listing all registered quarries in the Glenties Electoral Area, and the Planning Manager responded to Members queries in respect of this matter.

**GEA 29/08 ARRANMORE CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Planning Manager informed the Committee that the site identified in Poolawaddy is unsuitable from a planning perspective due to the scenic coastal location and the limited carrying capacity of the local road network.

Cllr. Alcorn requested the Council to identify an alternative site in response to the urgent requirement for a civic amenity facility on the island.

**GEA 30/08 PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning statistics.

**GEA 31/08 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and congratulated the Planning Service for their increased co-operation with Members.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**