

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr David Alcorn  
Cllr Pádraig Doherty  
Cllr Séamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr Terence Slowey

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Mc Gill- Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Services  
John Gallagher –Area Manager Water & Environment, S.E.E  
Brendan Mc Fadden –Area Manager, Roads & Transportation,  
S.E.E  
Frank Sweeney –Area Manager, Planning & Economic  
Development  
Charles Sweeney-Area Manager, Community & Enterprise  
Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer, WEE Services  
John McElwaine, Executive Engineer, WEE Central Services  
Damian McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO  
Management  
David Whiteside, Doran Consultants  
Stephen McCrory, Executive Engineer, Road Design  
Berni Gallagher, Staff Officer, Corporate Services

**GEA 87/10**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Terence Slowey the minutes of the meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were agreed subject to the following amendment of Minute GEA 57/10.

“The Area Manager, Roads & Transportation, in response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, clarified that costings for Dungloe/Doochary had been prepared as part of the proposals for the strategic Roinn na Gaeltachta Programme. The Roads Manager advised members that the Dungloe/Maghery route will be considered under future Restoration Improvement Programmes.”

## **COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

### **GEA 88/10 DEVELOPMENT FUND INIATIVE**

Members noted that letters of offer have issued in relation to the €108,000 Development Fund and that it is anticipated all projects will be complete and funding drawn down by October/November 2010.

### **GEA 89/10 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND 2010**

The Committee welcomed the allocation of funding detailed at the Workshop held prior to the Electoral Area Meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Terence Slowey, the following projects were agreed.

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>ALLOCATION</b>
Bealach na Gaeltachta	€2,800
All Ireland Curragh Championship	€1,850
Ballyboes Mass Rock	€1,850
Guth Gafa Film Festival	€ 500

### **GEA 90/10 DAMHLANN AN GHLEANNA**

Councillor Seamus O'Domhnaill was nominated as representative to an Iontabha Stiúrtha. Cllr. David Alcorn proposed and Cllr. Slowey seconded this nomination at the Workshop held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

### **GEA 91/10 PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME**

The Committee were informed that Loughanure and Glenties playgrounds have been prioritised and provisional works completed. The Area Manager was requested to update the groups involved on the funding available for both projects.

### **GEA 92/10 SAIL WEST**

Cllr. Doherty in welcoming the report, emphasised the importance of tourism in Donegal and requested the Area Manager to update the Committee on the current position regarding Marina projects in the County. The Area Manager agreed to send information on the Sail West project to the Councillors.

**GEA 93/10**

**WOMEN INTO PUBLIC LIFE PROJECT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda detailing results of the “Women into Public Life Project” regarding gender gap.

**GEA 94/10**

**DONEGAL COMMUNITY IN TOUCH**

Members praised the Community in Touch project and proposed that Donegal County Council send letters of congratulations to Joe Coll, Meenlaragh who signed for Manchester United and also Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh as Donegal Person of the Year 2010.

**GEA 95/10**

**KEEPING WARM INIATIVE 2010**

The Committee complimented the continuation and financing of this initiative.

**GEA 96/10**

**DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

In response to the Members concerns regarding continued funding for the Youth Co-ordinator’s position, the Area Manager emphasised that the Youth Council is regarded as a priority.

**GEA 97/10**

**LIBRARY SERVICE, GWEEDORE**

In response to Members concerns that the Gweedore Library has not been re-instated since the flooding in June 2009, the Area Manager informed the Committee that an application for funding is currently with both the Department of the Environment and Roinn na Gaeltachta.

**GEA 98/10**

**COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE GRANT**

The Area Manager agreed to forward Heritage Grant application forms to Members.

# **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## **GEA 99/10 WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

Paul Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer, WEE Services circulated a report on the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 which was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010. In response to Members concerns that the proposed Gweedore Sewerage Scheme had not progressed significantly, Paul Kilcoyne advised the Committee that he was confident the scheme would be delivered. Cllr. O Domhnaill stated that Donegal County Council must ensure the provision of the 20% of the costs as required.

The Senior Engineer informed Members that it is hoped the Dungloe & Glenties Sewerage Schemes will be commenced within the 3 year Programme period. Cllr. Doherty expressed disappointment that the Dunfanaghy Portnablagh Sewerage Scheme had been dropped as did Cllr. Alcorn and Cllr. Gallagher regarding the removal of the Burtonport Sewerage Scheme from the programme. With regard to the Burtonport Scheme, Paul Kilcoyne stated that this scheme is not regarded as a National priority under the Department's criteria but that he would discuss this case with the Area Manager.

## **GEA 100/10 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager in relation to the Small Capital Schemes Programme. Cllr. O'Domhnaill highlighted water discoloration issues in relation to the Gortahork Water Treatment works.

The Committee welcomed the Water Conservation Stage 3 works allocation of €200,000 for pipe replacement which all agreed is crucial. Cllr. O'Domhnaill stated that Magheraroarty to Glasherchoo and Ballybooes to Derryreel piping required replacement and Cllr. Doherty suggested the Meenaleck to Ranafast route be prioritised. Paul Kilcoyne SEE stated he would discuss and agree the areas requiring replacement with the Area Manager, Water Services.

## **GEA 101/10 GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES**

The Committee considered the reports previously circulated in relation to Group Water Schemes under construction and private source schemes. Cllr. Slowey requested the Water Service to re-prioritise the Lower Tullyard Scheme.

**GEA 102/10 CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Area Manager informed the Committee that 50 tonnes of electrical equipment was accepted free of charge at the site between June 2009 and March 2010 and that a free collection of household hazardous waste materials will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**GEA 103/10 ILLEGAL DUMPING**

In response to Members concerns regarding the extent of indiscriminate dumping, the Area Manager informed the Committee that the Council is currently trialling a travelling CCTV camera.

Cllr. O' Domhnaill requested that skips be provided on Innisboffin Island to facilitate the Islanders in an environmental clean up and removal of old cars from the Island.

**GEA 104/10 PUBLIC TOILETS**

Members requested the Water Services to address maintenance and development requirements at Narin, Dooley, Bunbeg, Gola and Burtonport.

## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **GEA 105/10 PLANNING STATISTICS**

Members noted the Planning Statistics report for the period up to 31 March 2010 circulated with the agenda and presented by Frank Sweeney, Area Manager.

### **GEA 106/10 PLANNING REFUSALS**

Members noted the report detailing recent refusals up to 13 May 2010 as circulated with the agenda.

### **GEA 107/10 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

Members noted the Enforcement Statistics report for the period up to 31 March 2010 circulated with the agenda.

### **GEA 108/10 EXTENSION OF DURATION**

In response to Members queries regarding the requirements for extension of duration, the Area Manager informed the Committee that these requirements are covered in a new bill which has not been enacted as yet.

### **GEA 109/10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Cllr. O Domhnaill stated that it would be more appropriate to have Economic Development as part of Cultural Services. The Area Manager explained that the Planning Service has a role to play in any development/investment proposals prior to formal application.

### **GEA 110/10 EPA REGULATIONS**

In response to Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher's concerns regarding the new EPA Regulations, the Area Manager stated that very few applications had been refused under these new regulations.

### **GEA 111/10 STAFFING**

The Area Manager briefed the Committee on the current staffing situation, stating that John McFeely, Assistant Planner had been appointed to the Glenties Electoral Area as an interim measure.

### **GEA 112/10 PRE-PLANNING MEETINGS**

Members were informed that the current industrial action precluded staff from meeting with Councillors.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING**

### **GEA 113/10                    HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Members noted the Housing Capital Programme Progress Report circulated with the agenda. The Committee expressed continuing concern at the lack of progress on the Lettermacaward Scheme and frustration at the lack of communication between Housing Construction and local Councillors.

The Area Manager agreed to arrange a meeting with the Committee and the Housing Construction Manager.

### **GEA 114/10                    SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Committee noted the Progress Report on Social Housing circulated with the Agenda. Members welcomed the re-instatement of the housing grants, but expressed disappointment that the qualifying age had been increased. Cllr. O Domhnaill conveyed his dissatisfaction that visual impairment is not recognised as being a disability under the Grant system. The Area Manager informed Members that application decisions are bound by the policy as newly adopted but noted the Committee's concerns.

### **GEA 115/10                    CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee noted the report in relation to casual vacancies at 17.5.2010 which was circulated with the Agenda. Members welcomed the Area Manager's assurance that notifications regarding casual vacancies would be forwarded to them. Cllr. O Domhnaill expressed his dissatisfaction in a delay of 9 months in the filling of a casual vacancy.

### **GEA 116/10                    FAIRHILL HOUSING SCHEME, DUNGLOE**

The Area Manager agreed to follow up on Cllr. Alcorn's query regarding responsibility for footpath repairs at the Fairhill Housing Scheme.

### **GEA 117/10                    MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONS**

The Area Manager noted the Committee's frustration at the current work to rule, whereby representations were not being responded to.

<b>ROADS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>
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**GEA 118/10**

**OWENTUCKER BRIDGE, ARDARA**

Mr. David Whiteside, Doran Consultants briefed the Committee on the impending works to enhance pedestrian safety at Owentucker Bridge. Works will be funded by the NRA and will go to contract in September/October 2010. Traffic management will be addressed during the works and discussion is underway with the Fisheries Group.

**GEA 119/10**

**N56 PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered the report circulated at the meeting and presented by Damian McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO Management, detailing the following allocations for 2010.

	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Allocation (€)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>National Secondary Pavement Surfacing Works 2010</b>	<b>650,000</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>National Secondary Weather Related Pavement Rehabilitation 2010</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Doochary Junction to Dungloe</b>	<b>350,000</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Tirlin to Drumnaraw</b>	<b>700,000</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Stragar to Meenavalley</b>	<b>659,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>2,459,000</b>

The SEE informed Members that a difficulty has arisen in relation to the Tirlin/Drumnaraw project, in that the Roads Service is not in a position to carry out the works by Direct Labour. Due to the excessive time required to tender and manage this contract, given the limited NRA staff available, Mr. McDermott advised the Committee that this project cannot progress significantly in 2010. In response to Cllr. O'Domhnaill's concerns that if the Tirlin job were not carried out, no further grant would be made available, the SEE assured the Committee that some works would be conducted and that the Dunfanaghy/Falcarragh section could avail of part of the Tirlin funding.

**GEA 120/10****BRIDGE STRENGTHENING**

The Committee considered the Bridge Strengthening report by Stephen Mc Crory, Road Design which was circulated at the meeting.

The Roads Area Manager informed the members that as the sum available for 2010 works is €50,000, only the first two bridges listed below can be funded :-

1	Mully
2	Derryconnor School
3	Lough Barra
4	Near Kerrytown School

**GEA 121/10****N56 SPEED LIMITS**

The Area Manager requested the members approval for the following amendments to Speed Limits along the N56 :-

**MEENACUING :**

Reduction of the Speed Limit from 100kph to 80kph from a point approximately 42 metres west of the intersection of the Turf Burning station road with the N56-46 to a point approx. 705 metres east of this junction.

**CROLLY VILLAGE :**

Extension of the Speed Limit on southern side of Crollly Village to a point approx. 233 metres south of the junction with the R259. This will also necessitate the introduction of Speed Limits on the R259 at a point 106 metres approx. west of the above junction.

**DUNFANAGHY :**

Relocation of the 50/60kph speed Limits to a point approx. 22 metres north of the existing position.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Terence Slowey, the proposals were agreed allowing the Roads Service to proceed to the next stage of the process.

**GEA 122/10****SPEED LIMIT CARNMORE ROAD, DUNGLOE**

Cllr. Alcorn requested that consideration be given to extending the Speed Limit on the Carnmore Road. The Area Manager explained that this Speed Limit was originally located further out of town prior to an NRA decision to move it back towards the town and it was therefore unlikely that another change would be sanctioned.

Cllr. Alcorn requested a report on this Speed Limit for the next Committee meeting.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**





