

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

HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2007, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

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

Officials in Attendance:

Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Charles Sweeney – Administrative Officer, Community Enterprise & Cultural Services
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Michael Rowsome – SSO, Corporate Services
Damien McDermott – NRDO, Road Design, Engineer
Damien O Sullivan – Assistant Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Kellie Gallagher – Youth Council, Co-ordinator.

Youth Councillors: Pauric McCallig – Rosses Community School
Patrick Molloy – St, Columbas Glenties

**GEA 167/07 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th
SEPTEMBER 2007**

On the proposal of Cllr. David Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Enda Bonner, the minutes of meeting of the 18th September 2007 were agreed.

GEA 168/07

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Councillors updated the Committee in relation to their campaign highlighting the lack of public transport in the Glenties Electoral Area and also their initiative to develop a Scholar Card offering discounts on transport and retailers.

GEA 169/07

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF ICE PLANT

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and at the meeting, and presented by the chief Marine Technician. On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn seconded by Cllr Bonner, Members agreed to accept the offer from Bord Iascaigh Mhara to transfer ownership of the Ice Plant on Burtonport Pier to Donegal County Council.

GEA/170/07

INSTALLATION OF BARRIER ON HARBOUR WALL AT FERRY RAMP, ARRANMORE

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Chief Marine Technician. On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Padraig Doherty, the Committee recommended that works proceed as a priority and that a sum of €5350 be allocated from the Development Contribution Scheme to fund the installation of a safety barrier on the harbour wall at the ferry ramp on Arranmore.

GEA 171/07 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme as at the 9th of November 2007, circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Cllr Bonner and Cllr Alcorn expressed appreciation to the Housing and Road Services for their contribution to the resurfacing of the Ard Crone Housing Estate in Dungloe. In response to queries from Cllr Slowey and Cllr Bonner regarding resurfacing requirements at Council Estates in Glenties and Creeslough, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that a possible source of funding might emerge from the 2008 Clár Programme.

Cllr Bonner and Cllr Alcorn requested the attendance of both Eamon Canney Housing Construction, and the Director of Housing at the next electoral area meeting to update Members regarding the status of any proposals to provide turnkey developments in Dungloe.

Cllr Doherty welcomed progress in relation to the development of 23 units at Meenanillar in Derrybeg. In response to a query from Cllr Slowey, the Housing Manager agreed to provide reporting details on the location preference of housing list applicants.

GEA 172/07 PROGRESS REPORT – SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

Members discussed the progress report on Social Housing as at the 9th of November 2007, previously circulated and presented by the Housing Manager. Cllr Alcorn criticised the unacceptable delays in processing SI applications and requested the Housing Service to issue a report explaining delays in any SI's that are not processed before the year- end.

Cllr Doherty requested the Council to ensure that contracts with SI developers specify acceptable completion dates.

GEA 173/07 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

The Committee noted the progress report on Social Housing as at the 9th November 2007 circulated with the agenda. The Housing Manager updated Members regarding administration of the following housing grants by the Council from 1st November 2007;

- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for people with a disability,
- Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme,
- Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

GEA 174/07 PROGRESS REPORT – CASUAL VACANCIES

The Committee discussed the progress report as at the 9th November 2007 circulated with the agenda and the Housing Manager informed Members that the Housing Service intend to reduce the number of casual vacancies.

GEA 175/07 TIDY ESTATE PRESENTATION

The Area Chairman, Cllr Slowey presented cheques to the representatives of the successful participants in this competition and he congratulated and commended them for their contribution to the improvement of their local areas.

SMALL ESTATES -	FAIRHILL, DUNGLOE
MEDIUM ESTATES -	ST PETERS TERRACE, DUNGLOE
LARGE ESTATES -	BALLINA, FALCARRAGH

GEA 176/07 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Planning Manager informed the Committee that it is anticipated that the yearly volume will decrease by approximately 300 applications. The Planning Manger also advised the Committee that an increase in Further Information requests along with pre planning meetings has reduced the numbers of refusals in the electoral area.

GEA 177/07 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS

In response to a query from Cllr Bonner regarding the refusal of permission for the construction of a wind turbine in Ardara, the Planning Manager informed Members that the hub height of commercial scale turbines shall not exceed 25 metres as outlined in the County Development Plan 2006/2012. The Planning Manger also responded to Members queries regarding the Design Guide.

GEA 178/07 REGISTRATION OF QUARRIES

The Planning Manager undertook to issue a list of registered quarries to the Committee.

GEA 179/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE ON ARRANMORE

Cllr Alcorn requested a report from the Planning Service regarding the suitability or otherwise of the site identified on Arranmore for development of a civic amenity site.

GEA 180/07 REVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A lengthy debate ensued regarding the workshop held to review the County Development Plan. Councillors Doherty, Bonner & Alcorn criticised sections of the media for their unfair coverage of the review of the holiday home quota in rural areas and also the manner in which the media obtained details of the workshop. Cllr Bonner and Cllr Doherty stated that the idea of the workshop is to discuss ideas prior to making any decisions, and that the public will have an opportunity to make observations and submissions during the public consultation period.

Cllr Alcorn informed the Committee that the Development Plan 2006-2012 stipulated a review of holiday home policy within 1 year of adoption, and that any issues he highlighted in the workshop were for the betterment of the County.

Cllr Slowey expressed disappointment that high standards of respect and courtesy were not maintained at the workshop and that any recommendations agreed at a workshop have to go to the full Council for a decision.

Cllr Gallagher stated that her constituents had a right to be aware of the issues discussed by public representatives and queried the need for privacy in this regard.

In a response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding the number of holiday home permissions granted in 2007, the Planning Manager estimated that 31 applications had been approved.

GEA 181/07 ENFORCEMENT

Cllr Slowey requested the Planning Service to implement a protocol in conjunction with the Roads Service to pursue contractors who damage the road network during construction. The Planning Manager informed the Committee of proposals to assign a full time Planner to deal with enforcement.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES
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GEA 182/07 COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE SECTION REPORT

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and the Administrative Officer updated Members regarding the status of the;

- (a) Placenames Committee,
- (b) Heritage, Environment & Arts and Rural Tourism cross border initiative,
- (c) Donegal Interpretive Project.

The Committee acknowledged work carried out by the Community & Enterprise Section in respect of Playground Development, Doe Castle improvements and development of the Road Safety Strategy.

GEA 183/07 CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

The Committee noted the report circulated in relation to;

- (i) Archive Service
- (ii) Heritage Service
- (iii) Museum Service
- (iv) Library Service
- (v) Glenties Electoral Area Activities
- (vi) Public Art.

GEA 184/07 DONEGAL CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to progress of this Committee.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 185/07 N56 UPDATE - NRDO

Damien McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Committee in relation to:

- (i) Work in progress being carried out by the NRDO in relation to the Glenties Electoral Area,
- (ii) The Status of the A5 inter urban road and connections to County Donegal,
- (iii) Health & Safety Issues.

Cllr Bonner requested the NRDO to expedite progress on the Meenacarn Bends project and to install public lighting at Meenacuing as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Doherty highlighted road safety issues at Dore School and at An Chuir.

Cllr Slowey raised issues in relation to (i) bridge on the main street Ardara, (ii) Kilrane –Glenties road (iii) Hillhead- Ardara Road, (iv) Necessity for Duchas to implement a cull in the interests of road safety.

GEA 186/07 ROADS STAFF

The Roads Manager introduced Damien O Sullivan Assistant Roads Engineer to the Committee and informed Members of his role in the Roads service. Cllr Alcorn congratulated the Roads Service for their contribution to the success of the 2007 Roadworks Programme and requested the employment of temporary roads workers earlier in the year. Members were informed that the Assistant Engineer is working on the takeover of roads and that it is hoped that a report will be available for the next area meeting.

GEA 187/07 3 YEAR RESTORATION PROGRAMME 2008-2010

On the Proposal of Cllr Pdraig Doherty, seconded by Cllr David Alcorn, the Committee agreed the list circulated with the agenda, of non-national roads schemes in order of priority to be funded from 2008-2010 Restoration Improvement Grants.

GEA 188/07 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2007 – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee discussed the roads progress report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager. Members congratulated the roads service for the success of the 2007 Programme. The Committee highlighted the following roads for the attention of the roads service;

- Potholes in Belcruit, Keadue, Burtonport
- Bunaninver Pier to Meenaclady Bridge Road
- Danny Kayes Road
- Dr Brogan's Road

- Meenaleck Road
- N56 Safety requirements at Maas
- Meenacladdy
- Ardara, Glengesh road signage
- Curransport Road
- Whitecross Road, Ranafast

GEA 189/07 VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Committee passed a vote of sympathy to the McBride Family Derrybeg on the tragic death of Patrick Mc Bride.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

GEA 190/07 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and the Water Services Manager updated Members on the status of Major Capital Schemes in the Electoral Area.

GEA 191/07 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report previously circulated detailing the status of the Small Capital Scheme Programme.

GEA 192/07 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

Members discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and the Water Service Manager responded to queries regarding schemes at Shallogans, Meemore West, and Lettercaugh. Cllr Slowey complimented the Water Services Manager and his staff for their efforts during the year.

GEA 193/07 CIVIC AMENITY SITE

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the status of works on the Dungloe Civic Amenity Site. The Water Services Manager advised Members of the cost involved in removing material from the current recycling facilities in Dungloe and stated that there are no plans to transfer these facilities to Gweedore.

GEA 194/07 RETIREMENT

Cllr Alcorn requested that a letter of appreciation be issued to Paddy Boyle on the occasion of his retirement after 41 years service to the Council.

GEA 195/07 ENVIRONMENT

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and commended the litter warden for his efforts to address illegal dumping.

GEA 196/07 ARANMORE ISLAND

The Committee noted the reports circulated with the agenda detailing progress to date in relation to removal of illegally dumped waste.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 197/07 DEPUTATIONS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Committee agreed the draft protocols (Appendix 1) circulated at the meeting to streamline the business of the Committee regarding the acceptance of deputations from Community Groups.

GEA198/07 COISTÍ LE CHÉILE

The Corporate Manager updated Members in relation to a root and branch review in progress in the Community & Enterprise Service relating to the integration of Local Government and Local Development. Pending completion of this review and adoption of a report and recommendations by the Full Council, the Area Committee decided that it is premature to meet Coistí le Chéile and requested the Corporate Manager to act accordingly.

GEA 199/07 COISTE FORBARTHA COLCHÉIM

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from Coiste Forbartha Colchéim at the next area meeting.

GEA 200/07 BUDGET 2008

The Corporate Manager requested Members to submit to her any issues that they wish to have considered in the context of the 2008 budget for referral to the Head of Finance.

GEA 201/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to convene the next area meeting on Tuesday January 15th 2008.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

APPENDIX 1

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

DEPUTATIONS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Following a review of existing protocols to streamline the business of the Committee regarding the hearing of deputations from Community Groups, the Glenties Electoral Area Committee amended arrangements as follows -

- With the exception of a day on which a meeting of the Islands Committee is convened, the Committee shall hear a deputation from a Community Group on the same day as the Glenties Electoral Area Committee meeting.
- The Group shall submit their request for a deputation to be heard, together with an agenda of 3-5 items for consideration at the next Glenties Electoral Area Committee meeting held after the date of receipt of the request.
- The Committee may by resolution, decide to receive or not to receive the deputation and in the former instance the provisions of the two following Standing Orders will apply to the deputation.

“S.O 72 The privilege of a deputation shall be confined to the making of two short addresses and the presentation of a submission, the total time taken not to exceed fifteen **(15)** minutes.

S.O.73 The deputation may be questioned by Members of the Council but shall not be entitled to ask questions.

- Deputations shall be limited to three persons.
- Due to time constraints and the large number of Community Groups in the Glenties Electoral Area, the Committee shall give consideration to hearing a deputation from a Group once only in an eighteen month period.
- The Corporate Area Manager shall coordinate responses to agenda items and forward them to Members one week in advance of the meeting.