

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

06 Meitheamh, 2006

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 29 Bealtaine 2006 ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 12 Meitheamh 2006, ag **10.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

S. O'Piobla

Riarthóir Cruinniú Ionadach (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford

6th June 2006

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 29th May, 2006 will be held on Monday 12th June, 2006 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

Yours sincerely

J. Peoples

A/Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

AGENDA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS RETAINED THEIR ORIGINAL
ITEM NUMBERS SO AS TO CORRESPOND WITH REPORTS
ALREADY ISSUED FOR THE MAY MEETING)

- 12. Mayor's Business
- 13. County Manager's Report

MOTIONS

(L) Local
(C) County
(O) Other

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

- 14. Clr. B. Byrne
"That this Council urgently address the issue of water in Glencolumbkille, as we now face into another summer and we have no progress to report to the people of Glen in relation to the Southwest Donegal Water Improvement Plan. (L)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

- 15. Clr. B. O'Neill
"That this Council address the need for Economic and Enterprise development in the Border Village of Pettigo and that key Council Representatives meet Local Community Representatives." (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development Services

- 16. Clr. I. McGarvey

“That someone be asked to provide a plan for Ramelton and that development should be in line with a Heritage Town with such a historical background.” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

17. Clr. A. Bonnar

“That this Council gives approval for the Liskernan/Meenavoy Group Water Scheme to proceed to construction as everything is in order and some people have no water facilities at all.” (L)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

18. Clr. P. McGowan

“That the Council carry out a survey of all youth facilities and community centres across the County with a view to supporting projects in areas which lack facilities in co-operation with other agencies and funding bodies.” (C)

Roads & Transportation Services

19. Clr. J.J. Reid

“That traffic travelling from Ballybofey to Letterkenny and vice versa have the right of way at Kilross junction.” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

20. Clr. Pearse Doherty

“That the Council mark the 25th anniversary of the hunger strike by planting ten trees in Drumkeen and this should be done in conjunction with the local H-Block committee.” (O)

21. Clr. D. Alcorn

“To ensure B.L.G. (Better Local Government) that there is more consultation between the executive of this Council, and its elected members.” (C)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

22. Clr. E. Bonner
“That this Council support the salmon fishermen in their traditional right to fish for wild Atlantic salmon.” (C)

Roads & Transportation Services

23. Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh
“Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall na teorainn luais ag stáisiún na nGardaí An Bunbeag, a shíneadh suas bealach Chois Cládaigh, An Bunbeag, go dtí bealach iontrála/gabhal Pháirc Gnó Ghaoth Dobhair.

That Donegal County Council will extend the speed limits at the Garda Station, Bunbeg, to the entrance of the Gweedore Business Park.” (L)

Housing & Building Services

24. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“I am calling on Donegal County Council to fast track the development/regeneration of the old Fire Station sites at Station Rd, Falcarragh and in Glenties.” (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

25. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council examine the possibility of promoting and co-ordinating a county-wide clean up involving the community and voluntary sector along with other agencies.” (C)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

26. Clr. M. McDonald
“That this Council would ensure, coming into the tourist season, that adequate and appropriate signage of our tourist amenities is achieved and that this be done in conjunction with County Tourism.” (C)

Roads & Transportation Services

27. Clr. D. McGonagle
“That the Council give urgent attention to erecting traffic calming measures at Clonmany, Ballyliffen & Carndonagh.” (L)

Corporate Services

28. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“That this Council conveys our support to the family of the late Henry Cunningham from Carndonagh, in their ongoing efforts to establish the truth behind his murder and calls on the British and Irish Government to fully assist the family in their endeavours.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

29. Clr. T. McDaid
“That this Council supports further expansion of access to GP out of hours service/primary care provision (on a cross-border basis) to include the areas of East Donegal/West Tyrone.” (O)

Roads & Transportation Services

30. Clr. J. Harte
“That traffic calming speed ramps are provided in the Diamond, Raphoe to slow down racers especially at night.” (L)

QUESTIONS

- (L) Local
(C) County
(O) Other

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

31. Clr. B. Byrne

“Where is the regional road sign improvement plan in relation to the R263, can we expect signs before the summer?” (L)

Corporate Services

32. Clr. B. Byrne

“When a councillor emails an official should it not be normal to expect a reply to the same? Have we a policy on this.” (O)

Roads & Transportation Services

33. Clr. B. O’Neill

“Can Donegal County Council bring the Town Centre Car Park development in Ballyshannon to construction stage?” (L)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

34. Clr. B. O’Neill

“Can Donegal County Council immediately erect the "Welcome to Ballyshannon - Heritage Town" (with Town Crest) on all approach roads as discussed nearly 12 months ago in this Council Chamber?” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development Services

35. Clr. I. McGarvey

“How many retentions were applied for in Planning in 2005?” (C)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

36. Clr. I. McGarvey

“Will this Council identify and list walkways etc in the County owing to the fact we have employed an officer in this capacity?” (C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

37. Clr. A. Bonnar
“What progress has the Council made in acquiring additional land down beside the Finn Valley Athletic Centre for the long awaited swimming pool in the Twin Towns which is stagnate at present?”
(L)

Planning & Economic Development Services

38. Clr. P. McGowan
“Can the Council present a report on all housing developments in Convoy, both planned and constructed, so that consideration may be given for the need of an area/town plan to fast track the necessary infrastructure to sustain the amount of development?”
(L)

39. Clr. P. McGowan
“How can Donegal County Council enforce regulations on the "scheme of listed structures" while at the same time not allocating funding to preserve the Council's own list of listed structures, such as the Ivy Bridge at Cloghan which was defaced recently with concrete blocks?” (C)

Housing & Building Services

40. Clr. J.J. Reid
“How much land for housing has the Council got in Donegal in terms of location of land and area of land?” (C)

Roads & Transportation Services

41. Clr. J.J. Reid
“What was the result of the traffic count on the Castlefin/Convoy/Letterkenny roads?” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

42. Clr. Pearse Doherty
“Can the Council give precise details as to the changes in the contract of employment for temporary staff of Donegal County Council roads section, and given the concern that this has raised

with the temporary staff if the council will postpone the introduction of it?" (O)

43. Clr. D. Alcorn
“What is the costing to Donegal County Council of sanding County Roads following oil spillages during year ending 31/12/2005, and how much of this money has been claimed from vehicles that have caused these spillages?” (C)
44. Clr. E. Bonner
“What progress has been made in the new lighting programme which was passed in the Budget in January 2004?” (O)
45. Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
“What is the Council policy with regard to the commencement of roadworks and tarring, as this work appears to start in the summer months?” (C)

Corporate Services

46. Clr. Pearse Doherty
“Can the Council give a detailed breakdown of all the conferences attended by members month by month since the local government elections to the 1st of January 2006, and the travel expenses paid in respect to each conference to each councillor?” (O)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

47. Clr. D. Alcorn
“During Community "Clean ups" co-ordinated by local voluntary groups, in co-operation with Environment Section of Donegal County Council, why can the refuse bags collected by these groups, not be left in the Roads Section Depots in Electoral Areas for collection by the small County Council Refuse Lorries? (Keep Donegal Tidy).” (C)
48. Clr. E. Bonner
“Has the preliminary reports for the Dungloe, Falcarragh and Glenties Sewerage Schemes gone to the Department of Environment yet?” (L)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

49. Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
“What are the planning requirements for council playgrounds?” (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

50. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What is the story with the public lights burning 24 hours a day in Carrigans since last August?” (L)
51. Clr. F. Conaghan
“When will the footpath be completed at Bridgend between Bunamayne Cottages and Stoneybridge Estate?” (L)
52. Clr. D. McGonagle
“When will the new speed limits be introduced at the primary schools? (C)
53. Clr. R. Donaghey
“What plans are in place, if any for a new bridge in Cockhill as the situation there is extremely dangerous?” (L)
54. Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn
“What plans do Donegal County Council have to install public lighting on the approach road to Buncrana from the North West Golf Links to the town?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

55. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council how many prosecutions are pending or have been successfully brought for litter offences in the year from May 2005 to May 2006, and the plans to increase this?” (C)
56. Clr. M. McDonald
“To ask this Council what measures are being taken to discourage pet owners from allowing pets to run free and foul in public areas?” (C)
57. Clr. D. McGonagle
“What is the present position regarding Malin Sewerage Scheme?” (L)

58. Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn
“What is the latest update on the feasibility study Loch na mBradán and the potential enhanced water supply to Downings and Carrigart?” (O)

Community, Enterprise & Cultural Services

59. Clr. R. Donaghey
“Would the Buncrana to Rathmullan Car Ferry continue until the end of September 2006 due to the late start?” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

60. Clr. G. Crawford
“What progress is this Council making in improving Customer Services Facilities and Disability Access at County House, Lifford?” (L)
61. Clr. T. McDaid
“What progress had been made in adopting the use of 'plain English' and 'plain Irish' in all aspects of the Council's work as agreed following my motion in November 2005?”

Housing & Building Services

62. Clr. G. Crawford
“When is work likely to commence on the much needed housing scheme in St. Johnston?” (L)
63. Clr. T. McDaid
“Will the Housing Section of this Council ensure that the 'scheme of letting priorities' is made readily available to the public at all public service and outreach centres throughout the county?” (C)

64. **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we look for the government to support the Stardust Victims in every way that they can.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council supports the introduction of a High Hedges law for the control of evergreens, where they become substantial barriers to light and impact adversely on the reasonable enjoyment of a person’s residential property.”

“That having considered the Manager’s report on the provisions of the Strategic Infrastructure Bill, Fingal County Council hereby resolves to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Eireann, and T.D.’s for Dublin North East, Dublin West and Dublin North to express our opposition of the provision of the Bill.”

CLONAKILTY TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Environment and Local Government to amend the planning laws to allow local authorities discretion in relation to the planning aspects of the so-called ‘adult entertainment’ industry. The proposal would be that planning permission be required for all adult entertainment, retail and dance outlets. If passed, this motion will be circulated to other local authorities for their consideration.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on Mr. Michael Martin T.D., Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment to immediately remove the capping on Community Employment Schemes and that this motion be circulated to other local authorities.”

ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL

“The Mayor and Elected Members requested that each Local Authority contact the relevant Authorities in the United States requesting their support in relation to the Undocumented Irish in the U.S. They particularly requested that the key elements of the Kennedy McCain Bill should be included in any final legislation.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for:-

- The statewide roll out of BreastCheck to proceed as rapidly as possible

- Breast Screening to be available, where needed, on a cross-border basis.
- Urgent implementation of measures to address the long waiting lists where breast screening is already available.
- Access to screening for high-risk women, regardless of age.
- Removal of the upper age limit for screen.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That Killarney Town Council call on the Government to give Free Travel Passes to Irish Emigrants living abroad on reaching the appropriate pension age, these on application by the Pensioner. Also, that the Government and President recognise Irish Emigrants living abroad on reaching the great age of one hundred years and send them the Presidential Greeting and Gratuity which they duly deserve having emigrated and supported this Country in tougher times.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources to put a proper buy out scheme in place for the drift net salmon fishermen of Ireland and for those fishermen who don’t avail of the buyout scheme, these fishermen should be offered a proper set-a-side scheme.”

COBH TOWN COUNCIL

“That Cobh Town Council calls on the Irish Government to fully support the Kennedy McCaine bill presently going through the senate in America in support of the undocumented Irish people in the US.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2006 IN THE COUNTY HOUSE,
LIFFORD.

C/260/06 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Larkin, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, Alice Bonnar, Enda Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, P. McLochlainn, B. O'Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle.

C/261/06 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clr. T. McDaid and J. Harte who were unable to attend the Meeting.

C/262/06 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director, Roads & Transportation, Mr. Jim Holohan, Director, Water & Environment, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise, Mr. Joe Peoples, A/Meeting Administrator/County Secretary, Ms. AnneMarie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/263/06 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Apologies were received from the County Manager who was unable to attend the meeting.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of sympathy were proposed to the following

Cathal O'Gallchoir, Community and Enterprise on the death of his father, Joe O'Gallchoir.

Tina McBrearty, Staff Officer, Roads Section on the death of her mother, Bella Devine.

Bridget Sterritt, Central Library on the death of her mother, Mary McGarvey.

Mary Clyde, Housing Section, Milford on the death of her father, Denis Mc Bride.

Bernard McDaid, Maintenance Foreman, Housing, Carndonagh, on the death of his mother, Bridget McDaid.

Valerie Bryce, Community and Enterprise, on the death of her father, Liam Bryce.

The family of the late Eunan McNulty, Letterkenny Roads Section.

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Mayor informed members that a proposal to honour Irish International Goalkeeper, Shay Given had been made prior to the enactment of the Local Government Act, 2001. He noted that a similar proposal would have to be made under the current legislation. Thus on the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McGowan it was agreed to hold a Civic Reception in the County House, Lifford on Monday 26th June, 2006 at 1p.m. to honour the outstanding sporting achievements of Shay Given.

The Mayor thanked all those who had been involved in making such an event possible.

BURSARY AWARDS

It was also agreed to hold the presentation of the Donegal County Council Bursary Awards on Monday 26th June 2006 at 12 noon in the Council Chamber.

NEIL T. BLANEY AUTUMN SCHOOL

Members were informed that the Neil T. Blaney, Autumn School would take place on the 13th and 14th October, 2006 in the L.Y.I.T., Letterkenny.

MAYOR'S GOLF CLASSIC

Clr. Larkin thanked all those who had been involved in the organisation of this event, which had been an outstanding success.

He confirmed that a total of €14,000 had been raised for both the Diabetes Association and the Irish Kidney Association.

ROAD OPENINGS

The opening of the Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass, Carndonagh Inner Relief Road, and the Letterkenny Business Park were warmly welcomed.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER SCHOOL

The Mayor acknowledged the support of the members in bringing this project to fruition, and the assistance provided by Ms. Joanne Kilmartin, Assistant Staff Officer, Community and Enterprise.

PAN CELTIC FESTIVAL/FLEADH CEOIL

The success of the recent Pan Celtic Music Festival was noted and good wishes were extended to the organisers of the forthcoming Fleadh CEREMONY Ceoil na hEireann

FLIGHT OF EARLS LOGO

The launch of the Flight of the Earls Logo was welcomed with the Mayor calling for widespread support for the use of the logo.

1916 COMMEMORATION CERMONY – DUBLIN

Clr. Larkin advised that he had attended the 1916 Commemoration Ceremony in Dublin and had been most impressed with the level of organisation involved. He requested that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Taoiseach commending all those involved in organising this event.

ROAD SAFETY OFFICER

The advertising of the position of Road Safety co-ordinator was warmly welcomed.

PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS.

Congratulations was extended to all of those who had been honoured at the recent People of the Year Awards

C/264/06

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda

together with the addendum circulated on the 29th May, 2006.

Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director Housing and Building outlined the main points of the County Manager's Report and addendum.

The Mayor in ruling out discussion on the Manager's Report advised that members could if they so wished defer any of the issues contained in the report to the General Purposes Committee Meeting. He requested that a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee be convened to assess possible methods of dealing with this issue.

Clr. McGowan requested that a report on the provision of a One Stop Shop in the Stranorlar Area be provided for the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

C/265/06

SOUTH DONEGAL WATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Conaghan on behalf of Clr. Byrne, and seconded by Clr. McGarvey.

That this Council urgently address the issue of water in Glencolumbkille, as we now face into another summer and we have no progress to report to the people of Glen in relation to the Southwest Donegal water improvement plan.

Members were informed that:-

“Improvements to Water Supplies in South West Donegal are being implemented in a structured and professional manner in line with a Preliminary Report approved under the Rural Water Programme by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. The improvements are being implemented under 5 contracts and to a programme that is largely dictated by external factors. The work programme may be subject to slippage that may result from those external factors. Contract 1 works, which are being implemented using a combination of direct labour works, and contract works are now well advanced. Contract 3 - Southern line - is programmed to commence in late 2006 and Contract 4 - Northern line - which includes the provision of infrastructure to Glencolumbkille is programmed to commence early in 2007. The consultants involved in the scheme have

indicated that it is not possible to tighten the programme further and that progress is dependent on securing Private Scheme Takeover, Land Acquisition, Planning, survey information & data collection, design and compliance with procurement regulations.”

C/266/06 BORDER VILLAGE OF PETTIGO

On the proposal of Clr. O’Neill, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council address the need for Economic and Enterprise Development in the border village of Pettigo and that key Council representatives meet local Community Representatives.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council's Community & Enterprise Division will, through the Economic Development Forum of the CDB and with the support of Planning & Economic Development Directorate, seek to set up a meeting with Community Representatives to identify the local issues.

It should be noted that the Economic Development Workshops, which were initiated in April and which are attended by various development organisations, allows a systematic forum for issues such as these to be raised with the relevant development bodies. The next forum is scheduled for October.”

Clr. O’Neill called for Donegal County Council Enterprise Staff to liase with key Community Workers in the Pettigo area; and advocated that an Enterprise Centre be developed in the town. He noted the importance of capitalising on the tourism potential of the region and asked that key planning applications be prioritised. The importance of Crossborder co-operation was also noted.

C/267/06 RAMELTON DEVELOPMENT

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

“That someone be asked to provide a plan for Ramelton that development should be in line with a Heritage Town with such a historical background.”

Members were informed that:-

“At a meeting of the Milford Electoral Area Committee held on 5th September 2005, a Priority List of Local Area Plans for the area was agreed by Members. The priority list is as follows:-

- Milford
- Rathmullen
- Ramelton
- Kilmacrenman
- Kerrykeel
- Downings

When a Local area Plan is prepared, the Heritage/Historic background of Ramelton will be a major issue to consider and address.”

Clr. McGarvey stated that there was currently inadequate sewerage and water facilities in the town of Ramelton, with sprawling development which warranted supervision and control. The Mayor noting that it would take some time for the introduction of a Local Area Plan advocated the use of monies from the Development Contribution Scheme to improve services and infrastructure.

C/268/06 LISKERNAN/MEENAVOY GROUP WATER SCHEME

On the proposal of Clr. Alice Bonnar, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council gives approval for the Liskernan/Meenavoy Group Water Scheme to proceed to construction as everything is in order and some people have no water facilities at all.”

Members were informed that:-

“This is dealt with in a report to the meeting entitled "Rural Water Programme - Grants for New Group Schemes".

Clr. Alice Bonnar acknowledged that the matter had been dealt with satisfactorily at the Council Meeting on the 29th May, 2006.

C/269/06 SURVEY ON YOUTH FACILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY

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

“That the Council carry out a survey of all youth facilities and community centres across the County with a view to supporting projects in areas which lack facilities in co-operation with other agencies and funding bodies.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Research and Policy Unit of Community Culture and Enterprise are currently carrying out a county wide ‘Community Audit or Strategic Needs Assessment’ of community infrastructure in County Donegal, which will be completed over the coming months. This will identify the range of Community groups and facilities on a countywide basis that will, inter alia, provide facilities to youth. A GIS map will be used to enhance the findings, including identification of areas where deficiencies exist. This and the completed study will be used by the Council and other Development/Funding bodies to inform future policy and practise in delivering responses to identify need.

It is envisaged that on completion of the report that a presentation of its findings will be made to the Council in Autumn 2006.

A County Childcare Census was also carried out for County Donegal by ADM in 2001/02. This census looked at the demand for and supply of childcare services in the county. It estimated existing and future demand by quantifying the existing number of people in each Electoral Division, Age Composition, the Youth Population, Family Units etc. It also highlighted the supply or the number of childcare facilities in the County by location, by type and the number of children attending each centre. However, there is a

requirement for this report to be updated using 2002 or 2006 figures as it is primarily based on the 1996 Census.”

Clr. McGowan called for the provision of basic youth facilities in every area of the County. He acknowledged that in many instances the communities themselves were unaware of the range of services, and funding opportunities available. He also noted that where the facilities were granted and built by the exchequer, that there was no provision for the funding of Youth Worker/Co-Ordinator posts.

The need for greater liaison between services such as the H.S.E. and the Gardaí was also advocated with a number of members citing the need for more volunteer workers in the youth sector. It was also recognised that extensive funding was required, with more emphasis on crossborder issues.

The Mayor referred to the Strategic Needs Assessment of Community Infrastructure currently being carried out by the Research and Policy unit of the Community, Culture and Enterprise Section. He requested that the officials involved contact the Glenmaquin Development Group who are carrying out a similar type audit at local level.

C/270/06

KILROSS JUNCTION

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Alice Bonnar on behalf of Clr. Reid and seconded by Clr. McGowan.

“That traffic travelling from Ballybofey to Letterkenny and vice versa have the right of way at Kilross junction.”

Members were informed that:-

“The layout of this junction includes a ninety degree bend for N13 traffic. Such a layout does not lend itself to allowing the N13 traffic to have the right of way. At present N13 traffic is forced to yield to traffic coming from the Raphoe direction requiring them to slow down approaching the junction. If this yield requirement were removed there would be an increased risk of traffic approaching the junction at speeds which are too high to allow them to negotiate the junction safely. Traffic approaching the junction from the Raphoe direction have a clear view of the N13 ahead. If the

priority of the junction was changed there is an increased risk of driver confusion with the possible result of accidents.

This junction is proposed to be replaced by a roundabout as part of the N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass and with the release of funding for this scheme this junction will be improved in the coming years. In the meantime, the priority of the junction should remain as is to avoid increasing the risk of accidents at this location.”

C/271/06

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGER STRIKE

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty and seconded by Clr. Pringle.

“That the Council mark the 25th anniversary of the hunger strike by planting ten trees in Drumkeen and this should be done in conjunction with the local H-Block committee.”

It was generally agreed that some form of commemoration should take place. A number of members indicated that they had been contacted by residents in the Drumkeen area who were unhappy with the manner in which the petition had been compiled. It was noted that such a viewpoint could lead to friction in this small rural community.

In response to a query from Clr. Conaghan it was established that the land in question was owned by Donegal County Council.

The Mayor noted that a letter detailing some residents concerns had been circulated to all members. This correspondence he noted had been unsigned and therefore bore little credence. It was important he advised that ownership of any such form of commemoration was taken by the Drumkeen Residents themselves.

Clr. Pearse Doherty confirmed that the local H-Block Committee had consulted with the residents and that no-one had been forced to sign a petition against their will. There had been he confirmed overwhelming support, for the project.

Thus on the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McEniff, it was resolved to adopt Clr. Pearse Doherty's motion:-

“That the Council mark the 25th anniversary of the hunger strike by planting ten trees in Drumkeen and this should be done in conjunction with the local H-Block committee” subject to proper consultation with the residents in the area and a two thirds majority being in favour of the proposal. The Mayor confirmed that consultation on the matter would be enacted by Donegal County Council.

C/272/06 BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

“To ensure B.L.G. (Better Local Government) that there is more consultation between the executive of this Council, and its elected members.”

Members were informed that:-

“The new structures established under BLG provides a wide range of mechanisms for interaction between the elected members and management.

The Electoral Area Committee is the forum through which the members engage with the Area Management Teams on the prioritisation, implementation and review of operational work programmes. The Strategic Policy Committees provide opportunities for members and managers to engage constructively in the development of policy, while the Corporate Policy Group has a key role to play in the co-ordination of policy development, including resourcing issues. The full Council, together with the General Purposes Committee, are the principal for a through which the elected members exercise the reserved functions, with advice and assistance from the executive. Examples include the adoption of the Annual Budget, the making of County Development and Local Area plans, and so forth. In addition, workshop meetings are arranged from time to time to focus on specific issues. For example, the Council's capital programme was recently comprehensively reviewed at such a meeting.”

Clr. Alcorn noted that with the introduction of the Pre-Planning Enquiry System, it was impossible to obtain consultation with planners. Thus he called for greater co-ordination of services between Council departments, and requested that member's representations be dealt with in a speedy manner. Donegal County Council he affirmed, provided a wide range of services and was involved in a number of worthwhile projects, throughout the county, many of which needed to be more enthusiastically promoted he added.

C/273/06 SALMON FISHERMEN

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

“That this Council support the salmon fishermen in their traditional right to fish for wild Atlantic salmon.”

Members were informed that:-

“This issue has been discussed at the Fisheries and Coastal Protection Committee of Donegal County Council on a number of occasions. A number of requests have been made to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to meet with the relevant Minister to put forward the concerns of the elected members and the members of the Fisheries and Coastal Protection Committee in relation to this issue.

To date no meeting date has been confirmed by the Department.”

Clr. Enda Bonner called on Donegal County Council to support coastal communities and allow small fishermen to continue to earn a living. It was agreed that there was a need to look at the fishing community as a whole, and not just coastal communities. This industry members noted was the fabric of the rural community and thus peoples rights needed to be protected.

Clr. O'Domhnaill then proposed, seconded by Clr. Blaney that the motion be circulated to all County Councils along the West Coast.

C/274/06 SPEED LIMITS AT THE GARDA STATION, BUNBEG

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Alcorn, on behalf of Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh and seconded by Clr. O'Domhnaill.

“Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall na teorainn luais ag stáisiún na nGardaí An Bunbeag, a shíneadh suas bealach Chois Cládaigh, An Bunbeag, go dtí bealach iontrála/gabhal Pháirc Gnó Ghaoth Dobhair.

That Donegal County Council will extend the speed limits at the Garda Station, Bunbeg, to the entrance of the Gweedore Business Park.”

Members were informed that:-

“A countywide Speed Limit Review was carried out in 2004 culminating in the adoption of new speed limit bye-laws which came into effect in January 2005. Issues regarding speed limits at a number of locations on the National Route are currently being reviewed along with consideration of special speed limits at schools as well as speed limits on certain Regional Roads and speed limits on a number of local roads.

There are no plans to complete another wholesale review of the county's speed limits at this time. If circumstances change at a location such as the changes resulting from the construction of the Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass or the 4-lane Road leading into Letterkenny, then such locations are reviewed individually based on the new justification.”

C/275/06 OLD FIRE STATION SITES AT STATION RD, FALCARRAGH AND GLENTIES

On the proposal of Clr. O'Domhnaill, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“I am calling on Donegal County Council to fast track the development/regeneration of the old Fire Station sites at Station Rd, Falcarragh and in Glenties.”

Members were informed that:-

“It should be noted that the capital allocation from the DOEHLG includes for the realisation of the asset value of the old Fire Stations. In this context, discussions are ongoing with the County Librarian with the view to exploring the possibility of the buildings/sites being used in connection with the Library Service.”

Clr. Alcorn outlined the need to fast track the development of both sites. He welcomed the fact that at a recent S.P.C. meeting the possibility of putting a library in the Old Roads Office in Falcarragh had been discussed.

C/276/06 COUNTY-WIDE CLEAN UP

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

“That this Council examines the possibility of promoting and co-ordinating a County-wide clean up involving the community and voluntary sector along with other agencies.”

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council funds assistance to local groups for local area clean-ups which usually take place during Spring and Summer time. The assistance takes the form of provision of bags, gloves, litter pickers, skip hire and occasionally our mobile litter units are involved. Demand for assistance was steady last year between April and September, with over 100 groups receiving assistance. This assistance is delivered through the electoral area offices. This support is promoted by the Council in its Greenpiece publication in local newspapers, and by an Taisce through national advertising.

To a great extent the strength and success of these clean-ups stem from the fact that they are local initiatives. In this way the locations are selected by local community groups and the

timing is arranged by them to suit their own particular constraints. It is considered that the scheme works well and would not be improved by imposing any greater degree of Council co-ordination than takes place already.”

Clr. Conaghan advocated that Donegal County Council should co-ordinate such a clean up particularly from a tourism point of view. It was important members agreed that the general public be adequately informed in relation to waste management.

C/277/06 APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE OF OUR TOURIST AMENITIES

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

“That this Council would ensure, coming into the tourist season, that adequate and appropriate signage of our tourist amenities is achieved and that this be done in conjunction with County Tourism.

Members were informed that:-

“This matter is part of ongoing discussion between the agencies involved in Tourism Development with additional and revised signage is being erected as funding permits.”

Clr. McDonald stated that the lack of signage in Inishowen was embarrassing and noted that it should have been provided well in advance of the tourist season. Clr. Larkin requested that signage directing the public to the various Public Service Centres be reviewed.

C/278/06 TRAFFIC CALMING AT CLONMANY, BALLYLIFFEN & CARNDONAGH

On the proposal of Clr. McGonagle, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council give urgent attention to erecting traffic calming measures at Clonmany, Ballyliffen & Carndonagh.”

Members were informed that:-

“Any such introduction of traffic calming should be done in accordance with Donegal County Council Policy. Any specific areas to be considered would be first referred to the Road Safety Engineer for his report and would be adjudicated in accordance with said policy and these three locations will be referred to the Road Safety Engineer. Feedback can be provided at a future Electoral Area meeting.”

Clr. McGonagle welcomed the reply and called for the speedy implementation of same. In response to a query from Clr. MacLochlainn, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director, Roads and Transportation, agreed to provide a reply in relation to the funding aspect of these traffic-calming measures.

C/279/06 SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE HENRY CUNNINGHAM

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. McGonagle, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council conveys our support to the family of the late Henry Cunningham from Carndonagh, in their ongoing efforts to establish the truth behind his murder and calls on the British and Irish Government to fully assist the family in their endeavours”

Clr. MacLochlainn outlined the background to and events leading to the murder of Henry Cunningham. He thanked members for their support, and advised that the intention in submitting the motion had been to express solidarity with the Cunningham family.

C/280/06 ACCESS TO GP OUT OF HOURS SERVICE/PRIMARY CARE PROVISION

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Pringle on behalf of Clr. McDaid and seconded by Clr. O’Neill.

“That this Council supports further expansion of access to GP out of hours service/primary care provision (on a cross-border basis) to include the areas of East Donegal/West Tyrone.”

C/281/06 TRAFFIC CALMING SPEED RAMPS IN THE DIAMOND, RAPHOE

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Crawford on behalf of Clr. Harte, and seconded by Clr. Larkin.

“That traffic calming speed ramps are provided in the Diamond, Raphoe to slow down racers especially at night.”

Members were informed that:-

“Any traffic calming would have to be in accordance with Donegal County Council Policy and this matter will be referred to our Road safety Engineer for examination. This motion would appear to be a matter that would be better referred to the Gardai.”

The following questions were noted.

C/282/06 REGIONAL ROAD SIGN IMPROVEMENT PLAN IN RELATION TO THE R263

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“Where is the regional road sign improvement plan in relation to the R263, can we expect signs before the summer?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

“Approximately 93 directional signs (Advance Directional, Directional and Route Confirmatory) were to be erected on the R263, under phase 3 of the Regional Roads Signage Scheme. The contract for manufacture of same, is currently being let to PWS and it is anticipated that all signs will be with the Area Engineers office by the end of July and installation can begin after that in conjunction with the other work programme in the local area. Specific details on the schedule as it relates to actual installation after delivery of the signs can be discussed further at a local area meeting.”

C/283/06 POLICY ON REPLIES TO COUNCILLOR’S EMAILS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“When a councillor emails an official should it not be normal to expect a reply to the same? Have we a policy on this.”

Clr. Byrne was informed that:-

“When any elected member (or indeed any of our customers) makes contact with the Council, whether in person, by telephone, in writing, or electronically, they are entitled to expect a response. Policies in this area will be set out in unambiguous detail in the new Customer Action Plan.”

C/284/06 TOWN CENTRE CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT IN BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Neill:-

“Can Donegal County Council bring the Town Centre Car Park development in Ballyshannon to construction stage?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“Negotiations are still on-going between the land valuers with a view to agreeing land prices for the various strips of property. When this stage has been successfully completed then we can proceed to the next stage. The car park has already been through the planning process and the Council is eager to get it to the construction stage as it is anticipated that it will be very beneficial to the town of Ballyshannon.”

C/285/06 BALLYSHANNON TOWN CREST

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Neill:-

“Can Donegal County Council immediately erect the "Welcome to Ballyshannon - Heritage Town" (with Town Crest) on all approach roads as discussed nearly 12 months ago in this Council Chamber?”

Clr. O’Neill was informed that:-

“The HEART project, a cross border Intereg funded initiative in conjunction with Strabane District Council and which is aimed at putting in place various forms of infrastructure in designated Heritage towns in the County, will offer a funding opportunity to facilitate this proposal.

This project will be rolled out during late 2006 and 2007 following the employment of a project officer to manage this initiative.”

C/286/06 PLANNING RETENTIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“How many retentions were applied for in Planning in 2005?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“61 retention applications applied for in 2005 out of a total of 7562.”

C/287/06 WALKWAYS LISTED IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Will this Council identify and list walkways etc in the County owing to the fact we have employed an officer in this capacity?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed:-

“This programme of work is ongoing and presently a draft listing is being prepared, by Electoral Area. This will be completed by mid June 2006 and will then be presented to the Electoral Area meetings of the Council in July.”

C/288/06 TWIN TOWNS SWIMMING POOL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alice Bonnar:-

“What progress has the Council made in acquiring additional land down beside the Finn Valley Athletic Centre for the long awaited swimming pool in the Twin Towns which is stagnate at present?”

Clr. Alice Bonnar was informed that:-

“The Council have been progressing plans for the Ballybofey Stranorlar Leisure Centre on the basis that a co-joined facility with Finn Valley Athletic Club is possible and a meeting in this regard is now scheduled with the Elected

Members for early June 2006. In addition to this, work is also continuing on the design of access roads to service the wider masterplan area which ultimately will lead to the identification of the exact areas of land which need to be purchased. Discussions with key landowners are continuing in parallel.”

C/289/06 REPORT ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN CONVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Can the Council present a report on all Housing developments in Convoy, both planned and constructed, so that consideration may be given for the need of an area/town plan to fast track the necessary infrastructure to sustain the amount of development?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“At the Meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee held on 4th July 2005, Members considered a priority list of Local Area Plans, previously agreed by the Electoral Area Committees. In the Stranorlar Area, the agreed priority list was as follows:-

1. Convoy
2. Killygordon/Crossroads
3. Drumkeen
4. Cloghan
5. Liscooley & Doneyloop.

The issue of examining the future housing needs of Convoy, will be considered within the scope of a detailed assessment of the situation arising in the settlement, through the process of preparing a Local Area Plan for the area. Through the investigations, which will be undertaken, the potential infrastructural constraints and site suitability will be, tested and examined, within the ambit of a public consultation process. It would be premature to prepare a Report as requested, in advance of the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Convoy.

A report on local area planning for the entire county will be brought before the Council to decide on priorities in the Autumn.”

C/290/06 SCHEME OF LISTED STRUCTURES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“How can Donegal County Council enforce regulations on the "scheme of listed structures" while at the same time not allocating funding to preserve the Council's own list of listed structures, such as the Ivy Bridge at Cloghan which was defaced recently with concrete blocks?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“Ivy Bridge, at Cloghan is not included on the County Council's Record of Protected Structures. Government Guidelines in regard to the operation of the Conservation Grants Scheme, exclude Public Authorities, including the County Council, from availing of such grant aid. The maintenance of the bridge is carried out by Roads and Transportation.”

C/291/06 LANDBANK FOR HOUSING

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“How much land for housing has the Council got in Donegal in terms of location of land and area of land?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“The Council has numerous parcels of landbank for housing throughout the County. The total area of this landbank is approx. 162.4 acres. A breakdown of the landbank throughout the six electoral areas shows the following:-

- Inishowen E.A. - 50.48 acres
- Donegal E.A. - 31.72 acres
- Glenties E.A. - 14.05 acres
- Letterkenny E.A. - 31.1 acres
- Milford E.A. - 25.07 acres
- Stranorlar E.A. - 10.0 acres.

The Council is continually seeking to acquire suitable landbank for future housing needs. The recent housing needs assessment study has shown a significant change in the profile of housing need and this has triggered a review of aspects of our housing policy, which is currently the subject

of discussion at Electoral Area Workshops. Consequent to this review there may be a need for a change of focus on the type of landbank to be acquired e.g. smaller sites close to the centre of towns and villages to accommodate smaller units and apartment type accommodation.

C/292/06 TRAFFIC COUNTY RESULT OF THE CASTLEFIN/CONVOY/LETTERKENNY ROADS
The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“What was the result of the traffic count on the Castlefin/Convoy/Letterkenny roads?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“This count will be done in the next month and the results will be reported back at the following Electoral Area meeting.”

C/293/06 CHANGES IN THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT FOR TEMPORARY STAFF OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pearse Doherty:-

“Can the Council give precise details as to the changes in the contract of employment for temporary staff of Donegal County Council roads section, and given the concern that this has raised with the temporary staff if the council will postpone the introduction of it?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“The introduction of Annualised Hours/Flexible Working Arrangements was a key element of the agreement reached between Management and the Unions in 2005 in relation to the implementation of Parallel Benchmarking in Donegal. The Elected Members approved the Parallel Benchmarking Pay increases to employees at the G.P. Meeting on 12th December 2005. The report presented to the G.P. Committee included the letter of sanction from the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 30th November, 2005 in addition to the submission made by

Donegal to the Department seeking this sanction. It was clear from the submission that the pay increases were being recommended on the basis of productivity measures, which included the introduction of Annualised Hours/Flexible Working Arrangements. Agreement had been reached locally with Unions following the intervention of the Labour Relations Commission and the Labour Court.

Donegal Co. Council are now in the process of introducing Annualised Hours/Flexible Working Arrangements in 2006. A Joint Management - Union Working Group has been established and has been meeting to monitor and review the operation of the Annualised Hours/Flexible Working Arrangements and this review will conclude at the end of 2006.

It should be noted that the recruitment, retention and any Industrial Relation issues relating to the employees of the Council are Executive Functions under the Local Government Acts.”

C/294/06 OIL SPILLAGES DURING YEAR ENDING 31/12/2005

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“What is the costing to Donegal County Council of sanding County Roads following oil spillages during year ending 31/12/2005, and how much of this money has been claimed from vehicles that have caused these spillages?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“We have been gathering specific information over the last week from each electoral area in an effort to reply to this question fully. Unfortunately, the various pieces of information has not been obtained and it will be another few days before the answer can be provided. It will then be provided directly by mail. It is regretted that the information is not available today.”

C/295/06 NEW LIGHTING PROGRAMME PASSED IN THE BUDGET IN JANUARY 2004

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

“What progress has been made in the new lighting programme which was passed in the Budget in January 2004?”

Clr. Enda Bonner was informed that:-

“Road Design have assigned a dedicated staff member to survey the existing lighting stock, with a view to establishing its type, age, condition and gaps within towns. Most Electoral Areas are currently working on drawing up lists of infills and extensions within speed limits to be returned to the Lifford office. Some Areas have completed this. Once all areas have returned these lists they will be sent to the various areas for the members to prioritise.

Concurrent with this, the Council is developing new contract documentation for erection and maintenance of the Council's public lighting stock. The Council is also working on two new policy proposals in relation to public lighting within Donegal. Both Policies will be referred to the SPC process for consideration. Both policies will be aimed at increasing the standard of lighting for the general public and reducing the full life cost of the lighting fixture at the new standard.

Returning to the Public Lighting Programme, once the members have prioritised the respective lists, the Road Design Survey will be used to design schemes and the new contract will be used to price these schemes.”

C/296/06

ROADWORKS AND TARRING

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh:-

“What is the Council policy with regard to the commencement of roadworks and tarring, as this work appears to start in the summer months?”

Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“In accordance with the Institute of Asphalt Technology Guidelines for Surface Dressing the 'National' Surface Dressing season is from April to September whereas in the North West from May to August is regarded as the Surface

Dressing season due to the colder temperatures. The recommended minimum working temperatures for Bitumen Emulsions are road temperatures of 8 degrees and air temperatures of 6 degrees. These guidelines very much limit when the County Council can carry out the majority of their work. The works are also limited by the availability of sprayers as when the weather is favourable all areas are looking for sprayers. There is also a limited number of sprayers available from the private sector.

In general preparatory works for Surface Dressing and Restoration Works begin around the beginning of March by doing drainage works, filling potholes, etc. For the larger contracts earthworks season is normally regarded as from the end of April to the end of September depending on the nature of the works and weather conditions.

As can be seen from above our road works are limited very much to the main summer season. However we are continually pushing to have preparatory works and earthworks started as early as possible in the springtime.

C/297/06 BREAKDOWN OF COUNCILLORS EXPENSES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pearse Doherty:-

“Can the Council give a detailed breakdown of all the conferences attended by members month by month since the local government elections to the 1st of January 2006, and the travel expenses paid in respect to each conference to each councillor?”

Clr. Pearse Doherty was informed that:-

“As with a similar question asked at an earlier meeting, it will take a little time to compile the information requested. This will be forwarded as soon as it is available.”

C/298/06 COMMUNITY “CLEAN-UPS”

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“During Community "Clean ups" co-ordinated by local voluntary groups, in co-operation with Environment Section

of Donegal County Council, why can the refuse bags collected by these groups, not be left in the Roads Section Depots in Electoral Areas for collection by the small County Council Refuse Lorries (Keep Donegal Tidy).”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council funds assistance to local groups for local area clean-ups which usually take place during Spring and Summer time. The assistance takes the form of provision of bags, gloves, litter pickers, skip hire and occasionally our mobile litter units are involved. Demand for assistance was steady last year between April and September, with over 100 groups receiving assistance. This assistance is delivered through the electoral area offices. This support is promoted by the Council in its Greenpiece publication in local newspapers, and by an Taisce through national advertising.

The volume of waste materials collected during these Clean-ups can be considerable. The most cost-effective way to dispose of it is by placing a hired skip in the immediate area where the clean-up is happening. If this service were to be discontinued and groups encouraged to bring the waste to the local roads depot instead, for disposal by the Mobile Litter Units it would raise Health and Safety, and security issues about public access to roads depots, possibly disrupt the work at those depots and add a further burden to the already overstretched workload of the Mobile Litter Units. It is considered that the scheme works well in its present form and would not be improved by the changes suggested.”

C/299/06

DUNGLOE, FALCARRAGH AND GLENTIES
SEWERAGE SCHEME REPORTS

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

“Has the preliminary reports for the Dungloe, Falcarragh and Glenties Sewerage Schemes gone to the Department of Environment yet?”

Clr. Enda Bonner was informed that:-

“The Preliminary Reports for Dungloe, Glenties, and Falcarragh Sewerage Schemes were substantially complete. Under Circular L1/06 certain supporting documentation is required to be submitted to the Department with Preliminary Reports and these documents are being prepared in the case of all 3 schemes. Part 8 Planning documents for Dungloe and Glenties are also being prepared with a view to commencing this planning process shortly. The relevant planning process for Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme may be an Environmental Impact Assessment and the need for this is being assessed at present.”

C/300/06 COUNCIL PLAYGROUNDS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh:-

“What are the planning requirements for council playgrounds?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 sets out what constitutes a development carried out by a local authority. The Planning Authority considers that the development of a playground carried out within the functional area of a local authority on behalf of or in partnership with the local authority can be treated the same as local authority own development. This being the case, the development of a playground, the estimated cost of which does not exceed €126,000.00, does not require a formal Part 8 planning application. However, where the intended location of the playground is deemed by the Planning Authority to be an area of special amenity, it may be necessary to seek formal approval.

Where the development of a playground is community-led or private-led, it is advisable that the planning authority be contacted as such developments will generally require that a formal planning application be submitted.”

C/301/06 PUBLIC LIGHTING BURNING 24 HOURS A DAY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What is the story with the public lights burning 24 hours a day in Carrigans since last August?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The ESB has confirmed that the fault at Carrigans is now repaired and also indicated that repair of this fault had been programmed a number of times but more urgent work had to be attended to. In these cases there is no extra cost to the County Council as each light is on a yearly charge. However, it is acknowledged that lights should not be running during daytime.”

C/302/06 FOOTPATH AT BRIDGEND

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“When will the footpath be completed at Bridgend between Bunamayne Cottages and Stoneybridge Estate?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The completion of this footpath would be carried out during the 2006 school summer holidays. Funding would be from development charges.”

C/303/06 NEW SPEED LIMITS AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“When will the new speed limits be introduced at the primary schools?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that:-

“The legal change in the byelaws that will enable the 'selected restricted time' speed limits to be erected outside primary schools in Donegal, can be completed in a period of approximately three months. However this has to be coupled with the identification of funding for the erection of same, as both must take place at the same time. To date there is no identified funding for the erection of special speed limits outside schools and it is anticipated that they will be done on a prioritised basis. The cost will vary at each school

depending on if it is an electronic selected-restrictive sign or if it is a fixed sign.”

C/304/06 BRIDGE IN COCKHILL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“What plans are in place, if any for a new bridge in Cockhill as the situation there is extremely dangerous?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“A footbridge adjacent to the existing road bridge is to be provided as part of a housing development currently underway.

A replacement road bridge will be included in any realignment of the Carndonagh road currently on display as part of the public consultation of the Outer Relief Road.

Ultimately, funding for any new bridge at Cockhill will need to be prioritised in conjunction with other projects.”

C/305/06 PUBLIC LIGHTING ON THE APPROACH ROAD TO BUNCRANA FORM THE NORTH WEST GOLF LINKS TO THE TOWN

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“What plans do Donegal County Council have to install public lighting on the approach road to Buncrana from the North West Golf Links to the town?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council have no plans at this time to install public lighting along this section of road. Over the years the elected members have submitted motions to have this work carried out but funding has not been made available to-date.”

C/306/06 LITTER OFFENCES

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council how many prosecutions are pending or have been successfully brought for litter offences in the year from May 2005 to May 2006, and the plans to increase this?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“The Council had two cases in the period May 2005 to May 2006 for breaches of the Litter Pollution Act. Both of these cases were concluded in early 2006.

Firstly, at Letterkenny District court on 17th January, the Council successfully prosecuted an individual in the Stranorlar area for breaches of the Litter Pollution Act and the Waste Management Act. The case related to the holding of a large volume of waste in the vicinity of a private house in a manner that was in breach of the provisions of both Acts. Total fines of €6,000, plus costs, were imposed. This case is now subject of an appeal.

At Letterkenny District court on 6th March 2006, an Estate Agent was prosecuted for three breaches of the Act. The offences related to advertising signs erected in contravention of Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act. The signs were erected at Merville, Newtowncunningham and Buncrana in 2004. A fine of €500 was imposed in respect of each offence, plus costs.

The Council was currently examining a number of cases and it was intended that these would be referred to our solicitors for prosecution in the coming months. In addition, the Council has four cases pending at present for breaches of the Waste Management Act, with a number of others under consideration.”

C/307/06

PET OWNERS FROM ALLOWING PETS TO RUN FREE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDonald:-

“To ask this Council what measures are being taken to discourage pet owners from allowing pets to run free and foul in public areas?”

Clr. McDonald was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council currently employs two Full Time Dog Wardens who are fully occupied checking for dog licences, collecting stray and unwanted dogs and responding to complaints regarding dogs causing nuisance, fouling, mauling sheep, biting people etc. In 2005, 5950 licences were issued, 1169 dogs were dealt with at the Shelter in Glencar, and they responded to 770 complaints. To date in 2006 they have responded to 340 complaints. Under Section 9 of The Control of Dogs Act 1986, all dogs must be kept "under effectual control" and where the wardens come across situations where this is not the case, they check for licenses, advise, admonish and/or fine the owner.”

C/308/06 MALIN SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGonagle:-

“What is the present position regarding Malin Sewerage Scheme?”

Clr. McGonagle was informed that:-

“Tenders for Malin Sewerage Scheme will be invited in the next 2 weeks. An amended foreshore application for a section of pipeline, and a Part 8 planning procedure for a re-located pumping station are also underway. In parallel with these procedures the Council will also submit to the Department the documentation required under circular L1/06 which will include application for an approved budget to construct the scheme.”

C/309/06 WATER SUPPLY TO DOWNINGS AND CARRIGART

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“What is the latest update on the feasibility study Loch na mBradán and the potential enhanced water supply to Downings and Carrigart?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“An improved water supply to Downings, Carrigart, and surrounding areas has been examined under two schemes -

Cranford Water Supply Small Scheme (Rural Water Programme) and Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme (Water Services Investment Programme 2005-2007. Consultants have developed a network model, which has indicated possible pipeline improvements, some of which are currently being implemented on the Councils behalf by developers. Other network, pumping station, and reservoir improvements may be deliverable under the Rural Water Upgrade and Take-over Programme and these are being investigated. In addition Donegal County Council in-house staff have examined and assessed various raw water sources, which would have the capacity to supply some or all of the region. The Council's hydrological assessment indicates that a dam at Loch na mBradán is incapable of meeting the projected demands and a number of more suitable sources including Lough Nacreight are being considered.”

C/310/06

BUNCRANA TO RATHMULLAN CAR FERRY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Donaghey:-

“Would the Buncrana to Rathmullan Car Ferry continue until the end of September 2006 due to the late start?”

Clr. Donaghey was informed that:-

“A review of the proposed arrangements will take place on the commencement of the service. The value of extending the service beyond the date originally agreed is questionable in view of the probable demand/activity levels for the service based on experience of previous years.”

C/311/06

IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICES FACILITIES AND DISABILITY ACCESS AT COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What progress is this Council making in improving Customer Services Facilities and Disability Access at County House, Lifford?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Construction work in connection with the improvement of access is expected to be completed by Tuesday 6th June.

These improvements included automatic doors, disabled friendly counter, new lift, upgrading of toilets including the provision of disabled toilet facilities.

Reception facilities have also been provided for the Three Rivers Centre.”

C/312/06 USE OF ‘PLAIN ENGLISH’ AND PLAIN IRISH

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“What progress had been made in adopting the use of 'plain English' and 'plain Irish' in all aspects of the Council's work as agreed following my motion in November 2005?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“A review is being undertaken by the Communications Officer of all of our application forms, information leaflets, etc to ensure that any unnecessary jargon or complicated language is eliminated (in both the Irish and English versions). A guide for staff in the use of plain English has also been compiled and will form the basis for training of relevant staff.

The draft Customer Action Plan, which was recently discussed by the SPC, will set a range of objectives for ensuring that all of our services are as customer friendly as possible.

Where customers or elected members come across examples of poor practice, I would be grateful if they would bring them to my attention.”

C/313/06 HOUSING SCHEME IN ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“When is work likely to commence on the much needed housing scheme in St. Johnston?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“In 2005 the Council Acquired 11.08 acres of landbank in St. Johnston. It is not intended that all of this land will be earmarked for Social Housing solely but may accommodate

other types of housing namely affordable, voluntary and possibly private housing. Design work on the initial phase of social and affordable housing on this land is well advanced and will entail the construction of 22 social housing units and 4 affordable houses. It is intended to have a Part 8 planning proposal placed before the Elected members for consideration at the July Council Meeting and subject to such a proposal being approved it is then intended to proceed to tender with a site start programmed for October 2006.”

C/314/06 ‘SCHEME OF LETTING PRIORITIES’

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will the Housing Section of this Council ensure that the 'scheme of letting priorities' is made readily available to the public at all public service and outreach centres throughout the county?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“As The Scheme of Letting Priorities has been adopted by the members of the Councils, it can be made available to the public at all Public Services Centres and Outreach Centres throughout the County.

Arrangements have also been made to have the Scheme of Letting Priorities available on the Council's website.”

C/315/06 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we look for the government to support the Stardust Victims in every way that they can.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council supports the introduction of a High Hedges law for the control of evergreens, where they become substantial barriers to light and impact adversely on the reasonable enjoyment of a person’s residential property.”

“That having considered the Manager’s report on the provisions of the Strategic Infrastructure Bill, Fingal County Council hereby resolves to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Eireann, and T.D.’s for Dublin North East, Dublin West and Dublin North to express our opposition of the provision of the Bill.”

CLONAKILTY TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Environment and Local Government to amend the planning laws to allow local authorities discretion in relation to the planning aspects of the so-called ‘adult entertainment’ industry. The proposal would be that planning permission be required for all adult entertainment, retail and dance outlets. If passed, this motion will be circulated to other local authorities for their consideration.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That we call on Mr. Michael Martin T.D., Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment to immediately remove the capping on Community Employment Schemes and that this motion be circulated to other local authorities.”

ENNIS TOWN COUNCIL

“The Mayor and Elected Members requested that each Local Authority contact the relevant Authorities in the United States requesting their support in relation to the Undocumented Irish in the U.S. They particularly requested that the key elements of the Kennedy McCain Bill should be included in any final legislation.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council calls for:-

- The state-wide roll out of BreastCheck to proceed as rapidly as possible
- Breast Screening to be available, where needed, on a cross-border basis.
- Urgent implementation of measures to address the long waiting lists where breast screening is already available.
- Access to screening for high-risk women, regardless of age.

- Removal of the upper age limit for screen.”

KILLARNEY TOWN COUNCIL

“That Killarney Town Council call on the Government to give Free Travel Passes to Irish Emigrants living abroad on reaching the appropriate pension age, these on application by the Pensioner. Also, that the Government and President recognise Irish Emigrants living abroad on reaching the great age of one hundred years and send them the Presidential Greeting and Gratuity which they duly deserve having emigrated and supported this Country in tougher times.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford County Council call on the Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources to put a proper buy out scheme in place for the drift net salmon fishermen of Ireland and for those fishermen who don’t avail of the buyout scheme, these fishermen should be offered a proper set-a-side scheme.”

COBH TOWN COUNCIL

“That Cobh Town Council calls on the Irish Government to fully support the Kennedy McCaine bill presently going through the senate in America in support of the undocumented Irish people in the US.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

