

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8th March, 2005
IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Pearse Doherty
Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
Cllr. Brian Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. David Alcorn
Cllr. Terence Slowey

Officials in Attendance:

James Boyle, Divisional Manager, Roads & Transportation
Paul McGill, Area Manager, Housing & Building
Eamonn Canney, Senior Engineer, Housing Construction
Charles Sweeney, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Brendan Mc Fadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan O'Donnell, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Bryan Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Virginia Mc Loone, Area Manager, Corporate Services
John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water & Environment
Roisin Mitchell, Executive Planner
Charles Sweeney, Community & Enterprise Development Officer
Peter Donaghey, Sanitary Design Engineer
John McElwaine, Sanitary Design Engineer
Michael Rowsome, SSO, Corporate Services

Others in Attendance:

Eithne Nic Lochlainn, MFG
Cathal Mac Suibhne, Udaras na Gaeltachta
Seán Ó Gallachóir, Udaras na Gaeltachta

**GEA 30/05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th
JANUARY 2005**

On the proposal of Councillor David Alcorn, seconded by Councillor Pearse Doherty, the minutes of meeting of the 19th January, 2005 were agreed.

**GEA 31/05 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF WORKSHOP HELD ON 19th
JANUARY 2005**

On the proposal of Councillor David Alcorn, seconded by Councillor Pearse Doherty, the minutes of Workshop held on 19th January 2005 were agreed.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GEA 32/05 ROAD SERVICE MAINTENANCE 2005

The Committee were circulated with a report detailing the funding and programme of works proposed for 2005.

A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the distribution of maintenance monies.

In response to Cllr Pdraig Doherty's criticism of the Roads Service for presenting the Maintenance Programme as a 'fait accompli', the Area Manager informed the Committee of the considerable consultation undertaken in drafting the Programme.

The Committee criticised the distribution of street cleaning and litter collection maintenance monies and requested:

- (i) Area Water / Environment Manager to liaise with Senior Staff Officer Environment, in respect of the Environment budget.
- (ii) Mobile litter unit to reschedule route.
- (iii) Pursue offenders who illegally dump rubbish.
- (iv) A further breakdown of litter collection and street cleaning costs for the current year and similar figures in respect of 2004 for comparative purposes.

On the proposal of Councillor David Alcorn seconded by Councillor Terence Slowey, the Road Service Maintenance Programme 2005 was agreed with the exception of street cleaning and litter collection maintenance expenditure. The Area Manager agreed to investigate if any cost savings could be achieved in respect of issues highlighted by the Committee. Members agreed that any savings achieved from the above exercise be allocated to street cleaning in Gweedore, Annagry and Mullaghduff.

GEA 33/05 BRIEFING ON PART 10 FOR BELLANMORE – MEENAGOLAN EU SCHEME

Members were circulated with a map and were briefed on the proposed realignment of the regional road at the above location.

Councillor Slowey requested that a bus parking bay be incorporated into the scheme.

GEA 34/05 ISLANDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On the proposal of Councillor Alcorn, seconded by Councillor Slowey, the Committee requested that the recommendation set out hereunder be forwarded for inclusion as a motion on the agenda of the May Council meeting; “that specific criteria be drawn up and a special case be made for the provision of public lighting on the Islands of Donegal”.

The Committee requested the Roads Service to prepare a report for the next area meeting detailing specific criteria and guidelines that should be incorporated into an Islands Public Lighting Programme.

GEA 35/05 ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Members highlighted various road maintenance issues for the attention of the Roads Service and also requested that the gritting programme be extended to include:

- (i) Maas to Portnoo road
- (ii) Ranafast Road

GEA 36/05 ADDITIONAL €500,000 FUNDING APPROVED IN BUDGET 2005

The Divisional Manager informed the Committee:

- (i) that this money has been set aside, to cover increased insurance costs and arrears to work force charged initially to Departmental Grants in error.
- (ii) that agreement had been reached with the department to spend €86,000 in the Glenties Electoral Area on 1 no. improvement work scheme.

The Committee highlighted their frustration and anger at the insufficient funding allocated to maintenance of roads in the Glenties Electoral Area.

Councillor O Domhnaill expressed disappointment at the decreasing allocation of own resources towards the maintenance programme and queried if finance was being diverted into projects that the IDA and Enterprise Ireland should be financing.

Councillor Alcorn requested that the Director of Roads meet the Glenties Electoral Area Committee to discuss the requirement for additional maintenance funding.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 37/05 INTEGRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS

Eithne Nic Lochlainn made an informative presentation to the Committee outlining the role played by MFG in local community development.

GEA 38/05 FOLLOW UP ITEMS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda in relation to issues raised at the previous Electoral Area Meeting. Councillor Bonner and Councillor Pearse Doherty requested that the Community & Enterprise Unit liaise with the Derryveagh and Glenties branches of the Dyslexia Association to ensure that both groups are aware of the availability of finance from the Community Development Fund.

GEA 39/05 COMMUNITY LIAISON

Members noted the report previously circulated in relation to Community Liaison.

GEA 40/05 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding ongoing community consultation.

GEA 41/05 FUNDING UPDATE

Members discussed the report previously circulated in relation to the above issue. The CEDO informed the Committee that Seamus McBride (Research Officer) has been employed to examine the possibilities for community groups to develop recycling projects.

GEA 42/05 INTER ORGANISATIONAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee noted the report previously circulated regarding the above.

GEA 43/05 COUNTY STRATEGY

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda, detailing ongoing initiatives in relation to the County Strategy.

GEA 44/05 RESEARCH & POLICY

The Committee noted the report previously circulated in relation to research and policy projects. Councillor Slowey congratulated Community & Enterprise Unit in respect of the quality of the GIS maps prepared for the recent presentation by the County Manager to An Taoiseach and Government Ministers.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA 45/05 DEPUTATION FROM COISTE MHUIRE BUNBEG / DERRYBEG

The Chairman welcomed a deputation from Coiste Mhuire Bunbeg / Derrybeg to the meeting.

Reports were circulated at the meeting from

- (i) Director of Planning and Economic Development.
- (ii) Choiste Mhuire Doirí Beaga – Bunbeg

The Deputation informed the Committee of their dissatisfaction with the Councils execution of Environmental Improvement Works and failure to complete the programme of works at Bunbeg and Derrybeg under the Urban and Village Renewal Programme.

The Deputation also criticised the report from the Director of Services, Planning and Economic Development, which listed items of work that have not been carried out.

The Committee thanked the deputation for their presentation and recommended that

- (i) Correspondence issue to the Director, to express the Committee's dissatisfaction with his report and
- (ii) On completion of Caroline Dickson's report, that a meeting be arranged with Coiste Mhuire Bunbeg / Derrybeg and the Consultant Architect

GEA 46/05 MEDIA ATTENDANCE AT AREA MEETING

Councillor Pearse Doherty requested that workshops be arranged prior to commencement of Area Meetings to minimise any inconvenience that may be caused to media personnel interested in attending future meetings.

GEA 47/05 TRANSLATION SYSTEM

Councillor Pearse Doherty and Councillor Terence Slowey requested that the Council arrange permanent facilities for the provision of a translation service.

HOUSING & BUILDING PROGRAMME

GEA 48/05 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated in respect of progress on the Housing Capital Programme, and the Area and Divisional Managers responded to queries regarding same.

The Divisional Manager updated Members on turnkey proposals for the Electoral Area and stated that the aim of the Housing Service is to supply the maximum number of houses in the shortest possible time frame.

Councillor Slowey requested a report on the Housing Landbank in the electoral area.

The Committee congratulated housing staff on progress achieved to date.

GEA 49/05 PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and at the meeting in relation to S. I housing.

Members highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Housing Service:

- (1) Unacceptable delays in processing contractor's payments and expressed concern that many contractors might be reluctant to tender for future S. I works.
- (2) S.I reports are out of date.
- (3) Applicants are experiencing lengthy delays from application stage to construction completion stage.
- (4) Delays in processing ERG and DPG applications due to issues concerning the Occupational Therapist.
- (5) Extent of the housing need in Dungloe and requirement for a focused report in respect of this issue.

The Divisional Manager informed members that proposals for improvement of the S.I process are to be brought before the Housing SPC Committee.

Cllr Bonner requested greater co-operation between the Housing and Planning Services to ensure that any proposals for housing are dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

GEA 50/05 CASUAL VACANCIES

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda listing casual vacancies as at the 28th February, 2005.

GEA 51/05 PEACE 11 AND CLÁR FUNDING

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the availability of funding of communal works in the Council's housing schemes in the sum of up to

- (i) €60,000 – Peace 11
- (ii) €20,000 - Clár Programme

On the proposal of Councillor Enda Bonner, seconded by Councillor Padraig Doherty the Committee agreed to seek funding under the two programmes for the estates listed hereunder:-

Chapel Road – Dunfanaghy
Drimaghy Park – Ardara
Ard Chroine – Dungloe
Stranacorkra – Derrybeg (completion of works).

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

GEA 52/05 ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

Peter Donaghey, Sanitary Design Engineer made a presentation to the Committee in respect of an updated Assessment of Need for water services capital works in the electoral area, and circulated members with a detailed report in respect of same.

The Committee were advised of :

- (i) Current investment needs for County Donegal for water and wastewater
- (ii) Proposals for a prioritised list of projects and
- (iii) Need for a strategic investment plan for the medium to long term requirements for the County.

Mr Donaghy and Mr McIlwaine, Sanitary Design Engineers responded to Members queries regarding the presentation.

GEA 53/05 WORK PROGRESS CHARTS

The committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda detailing the status of : -

- (i) Large Capital Schemes
- (ii) Small Capital Schemes
- (iii) Group Water Schemes

The Sanitary Engineers responded to Members queries in respect of the large and small Capital Scheme programme.

Members asked to be kept abreast of developments in respect of all schemes.

In response to queries from Members regarding Meenmore / Meenatinney, Shallogans and Gola Island group water schemes, the Area Manager stated that reports will be available at the next area meeting.

GEA 54/05 MEENABOLL LANDFILL SITE

Members requested the Environment Service to initiate further meaningful Consultation with the local community in respect of the proposed landfill site at Meenaboll. The Area Manager undertook to liase with the County Chemist regarding Members concerns.

GEA 55/05 BLUE FLAG STATUS FOR DOOEY BEACH

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to Dooley Beach. Councillor Bonner requested the Environment Service to carry out the necessary works to enable Dooley Beach achieve Blue Flag status.

GEA 56/05 PROVISION OF TOILET FACILITIES

The Area Manager informed Members of proposals for the provision of portaloos at Burtonport Pier. The Committee requested that similar facilities be provided on Bunbeg Pier, Gola, Port Arthur and Falcarragh beaches.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 57/05 PLANNING REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting.

GEA 58/05 PLANNING STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting detailing up to date planning statistics.

This concluded the business of the meeting

