

26<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

TO : EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of Donegal County Council, requisitioned by the Mayor, will be held on ***Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2006*** at 2.30pm in the County House, Lifford, to consider the appended agenda.

You are hereby requested to attend.

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J. Peoples  
A/Meetings Administrator

#### AGENDA

1. EU Co-Financed Schemes for Non-National Roads - Prioritise County-wide list for 2007.
2. Prioritise schemes for expenditure of County Development Charges 2006. (Report to be circulated).
3. Transport 21.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2006 IN THE COUNTY  
HOUSE LIFFORD.

C/575/06

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. E. Bonner, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, Alice Bonner, J. Boyle, F. Conaghan, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, J. Harte, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. McBride, T. McDaid, M. Mc Donald, S. Mc Eniff, D. McGonagle, P. McGowan, P. O'Dochartaigh, B. O'Domhnaill, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid, T. Slowey.

C/576/06

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer, Mr. Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Ms. Cliodhna Campbell, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Pat Gillespie, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Peadar Thomas, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Charlie Kerr, Executive Engineer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/577/06

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs. Brogan, Byrne, Crawford, McGarvey, McGuinness, MacLochlainn and O'Neill who had advised that they were unable to attend the meeting.

EU-CO FINANCED SCHEMES FOR NON-NATIONAL  
ROADS PRIORITISATION OF COUNTY-WIDE LIST  
FOR 2007

**Electoral Area Priority Lists**

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation asked members to confirm that the Electoral Area lists were correct and noted that amendments made at the Area Meetings had now been included.

**Donegal Electoral Area**

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Boyle, the following priorities for the Donegal Electoral Area were agreed, together with their inclusion on the County-Wide Priority List at the specified levels of funding:-

1.	R263 Killybegs to Malinbeg	€400,000
2.	R232 Laghy to Pettigo	€400,000
3.	Industrial Roads, Killybegs	€400,000
4.	Ballintra- Rossnowlagh	€300,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,500,000</b>

**Glenties Electoral Area**

On the proposal of Clr. Bonner, seconded by Clr. O'Domhnaill the following priorities for the Glenties Electoral Area were agreed, together with their inclusion on the County-Wide Priority List at the specified levels of funding.

1.	R251 Glenveagh to Dunlewey	€400,000
2.	R262 Frosses to Glenties	€400,000
3.	R252 Millwheel to Ballybofey	€400,000
4.	R257 Magheraroarty	€400,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,600,000</b>

The Mayor expressed his concern that the members in the Glenties Electoral Area had not been advised of the necessity of applying for 20% extra funding.

**Inishowen Electoral Area**

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the following priorities for the Inishowen Electoral Area were agreed, together with their inclusion on the County-Wide Priority List at the specified levels of funding:-

1.	Buncrana Inner Relief	€1,200,000
2.	R238 Merville	€ 300,000
3.	R238 Redcastle -Merville	€ 300,000
4.	Fahan/Bridgend	€
	<b>Total</b>	€1,800,000

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Services, Roads and Transportation noted that every effort was being made to pursue the progression of the Burnfoot By-Pass and the Derry to Buncrana Road with the N.R.A.

Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer advised that members would be updated on the status of the Burnfoot By-Pass at the next meeting.

**Letterkenny Electoral Area**

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr Harte, the following priorities for the Letterkenny Electoral Area were agreed, together with their inclusion on the County-Wide Priority List at the specified levels of funding:-

1.	R250 Sallaghgrane Link	€ 400,000
2.	R245 Woodlands Jn	€ 400,000
3.	R265 St Johnston to Rossgier	€ 600,000
4.	Pramerica Roundabout- Windyhall	€
	<b>Total</b>	€1,400,000

Clr. Larkin enquired as to the position of the following projects:-

- Design criteria for the Sallaghagrane Link Road.
- River Crossing Dunnes Stores to Sallaghagrane
- Unifi Junction

He called for the Pramerica Roundabout to be prioritised, and for the progression of the link to Windy Hall.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation advised that staff from the Road Design Section would attend the next Letterkenny Electoral Area Meeting and update members on the steps required to complete the Sallaghagrane Link Road.

He also noted that there were difficulties in obtaining funding from the N.R.A for the Business Park Road, and that funding would possibly have to come from development charges together with a contribution from Letterkenny Town Council.

Ms. Cliodhna Campbell, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that details were being checked in relation to Part V111 submissions for the link to Pramerica.

The UNIFI Link Road was an important link Mr. McLaughlin confirmed, and that there was a need to prioritise individual steps so as to be in a position to seek N.R.A Funding.

### **Milford Electoral Area**

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride the following priorities for the Milford Electoral Area were agreed:-

1.	R251 Foxhall to Churchill	€ 350,000
2.	R246 Kerrykeel to Eelburn	€ 350,000
3.	R245 Milford to Carrigart	€ 350,000
4.	R245 Milford	€ 350,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,400,000</b>

Members expressed concern that Keadue Bridge and Bunlin Bridge had not figured in the priority listings.

### Stranorlar Electoral Area

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alice Bonner, the following priorities for the Stranorlar Electoral Area were agreed:-

1.	L3004 Dreenan Bridge Approach Roads	€ 550,000
2.	Donegal Road - Glenfin Road	€ 360,000
3.	R252 Ballybofey – Brockagh	€ 300,000
4.	Elatagh Bridge	€
	<b>Total</b>	€1,210,000

Members expressed concern at the non-inclusion of Castlefin Bridge, but agreed to retain Elatagh Bridge as the fourth priority.

Clr. Reid proposed, seconded by Clr. McGowan, that a proposal be made to the N.R.A to fund the Link Road as part of Ballybofey-Stranorlar By-Pass project.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads and Transportation agreed to contact the N.R.A.

Members voiced strong concern that the Roads Maintenance Budget was being continually depleted, with funds being redirected to other projects at the expense of the County Road Network.

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty, it was resolved to adopt the 2007 County-Wide List of EU Co-Financed Schemes for Non-National Roads based on the priorities outlined above for each Electoral Area.

C/579/06

### PRIORITISATION OF SCHEMES FOR EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES 2006

Members considered the report circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Director of Roads and Transportation outlined the funding available from Roads Development Charges for

both the Low Cost Accident and Improvement Works Scheme. He asked members to note that in accordance with the “old” Development Charges Scheme, money collected in a DED could only be spent in that DED. There would, he confirmed, be instances where members would have to approve draw down from charges collected under the new Development Contribution Scheme. Completion of works under both schemes, he noted, was scheduled for the end of April 2007. It was also confirmed that an updated list of charges collected would be provided for the Capital Programme Review on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Low Cost Accident Schemes.**

Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, outlined the criteria used to select schemes for inclusion on the Low Cost Safety Works Programme. He confirmed that a total of €300,000 income from Development Charges together with €24,000 from the Road Traffic Safety Fund was available to carry out the relevant works, and would allow works to progress on Schemes 1 to 23 as listed. It was noted that monies from the old Development Charges Scheme would be used first, and then income from the Development Contribution Scheme.

Clr. Boyle proposed, seconded by Clr. Kennedy, that Item No. 27 -Unprotected Cliffs at Rossnowlagh be moved to No. 18, with the proposals for signage and lines at Rossnowlagh moved to position number 27. The Director of Roads and Transportation confirmed that the corresponding variation in the Area Estimate funding would be looked at again in the context of this change.

Responding to a query from Clr. Conaghan, Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer agreed to the possibility of including Con’s Brae (Carrigans) on the 2007 Low Cost Accident List.

### **Improvement Works Roads**

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that works were scheduled for completion by the end of April 2007.

### **Letterkenny Electoral Area**

Members agreed the allocation of €350,000

### **Milford Electoral Area**

Members agreed the allocation of €210,000. In response to representations from Clr. McBride, Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer agreed to look at the possibility of completing design specifications and preliminary costings for a number of bridges in the Milford area. The Director of Roads and Transportation advised that it was anticipated that additional funding would be available for bridges in 2007.

### **Glenties Electoral Area**

The Mayor requested an update on the monies allocated in the Glenties Electoral Area under the old Development Charges Scheme, and called for further clarification on the list of schemes provided, given that the Glenties Electoral Area had only received €80,000 for improvement works. The Director of Roads and Transportation agreed to liaise with the Director of Planning and ascertain the possibility of using Town and Villages Monies. He also agreed to check the criteria for allocating monies collected under the old scheme. It was agreed that the members, together with the Area Manager, would prioritise the relevant improvement works. It was also agreed that works at Marble Hill would be prioritised and included within the 80,000 budget allocated.

### **Donegal Electoral Area**

Members agreed the allocation of €265,000 with two additional schemes to be included by the Area Roads Manager.

### **Stranorlar**

Members agreed the €230,000 allocation.

### **Inishowen Electoral Area**

Members agreed the €65,000, allocation subject to confirmation that that monies collected under the old scheme would be spent locally and further consideration given to spending revenue from the new Development Contribution Scheme.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Alice Bonner, funding of €1,700,000 for Improvement Road Works was approved, in principle, subject to clarification that the monies collected under the old Development Charges Scheme in specific towns would be spent in the area of collection, and that under the Development Contribution Scheme monies would be spent in the Electoral Area where collected, except where there was a clear agreement to topslice monies for specific projects i.e. those with no other funding sources.

The County Manager advised that the decisions taken in relation to the Low Cost Accidental Schemes and the Improvement Works Roads would be incorporated into the review of the Capital Programme scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

C/580/06

REQUEST TO HAVE MOTION DISCUSSED AT  
GENERAL PUROPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

Clr. A. Bonner advised that she would be unable to attend the Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006, and requested that the subject matter of her motion (Item No. 12), as listed on the agenda of the September Council Meeting, be included as an item for the General Purposes Committee Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2006.

C/581/06

TRANSPORT 21

The Director of Roads and Transportation outlined the main points of the Councils submission to the Network Development Branch, Road Services Northern Ireland, in relation to the Strategic Road Improvement Programme 2015, and the joint response issued on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. Whilst many issues had been resolved, he noted that two matters in particular had yet to be completed, namely:-

- Arrangement of Meeting with Mr. David Cairns, Minister with responsibility for Regional Development in Northern Ireland.

- Meeting with the Minister for Transport to discuss Rail Infrastructure and the continued backing of Donegal Airport.

Mr. Aidan O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, NRDO informed the Council that the NRDO was prioritising the works listed in Transport 21 in particular the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass, N15 Lifford-Stranorlar/Ballybofey, Ballbofey-Letterkenny, and N15 Barnesmore Gap Design, and it was intended to seek funding for all of these projects.

A report on Transport 21, circulated by Mr. O'Doherty, outlined the progress to date on the selected schemes. The report outlined the specific aims of Transport 21, and focused on a range of projected national developments over the coming years. The necessity of cross border co-operation for the purpose of strategic planning was also examined.

Member's attention was also drawn to this Council's submission to the Strategic Road Improvement Programme 2015, and specifically to the following recommendations:-

- That a joint group be formed, comprising forward planning/design staff from the roads service in both jurisdictions to assess the cost benefits and environmental impacts of a high quality rationalised road network serving the region as a whole.
- That the group consider the joint rationalisation of plans and priorities for various strategic transport improvements being planned within the North West area including Derry, Letterkenny, Limavady, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Lifford/Strabane.
- That the group review how a jointly co-ordinated plan for the North-West would fit in to priorities for the wider region including plans for major inter-urban linkages between the Letterkenny/Derry Gateway and Dublin and Belfast.

Mr. O'Doherty noted that such collaboration would indeed be beneficial and allow all of those involved to pool a range of resources.

The County Manager affirmed that the best strategy appeared to be the use of the North-West Gateway Initiative, through concentrating on the Derry/Letterkenny link. He called on members to endorse the submission to the Strategic Road improvement Programme 2015, and advised that this initiative would allow Donegal County Council to work with the various District Councils, Cross Border Groups etc. whilst lobbying the relevant ministers on both sides of the border.

He also noted that both the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Development Strategy recognised the need to co-ordinate and encourage spatial planning thus developing the North West centered on Derry as a hub.

A number of members voiced dissatisfaction with the proposals outlined in Transport 21, and specifically that the Letterkenny/Derry link and the spur to Buncrana had effectively been ignored.

At this juncture, the Mayor reminded members of the time limit on the discussion, under Standing Orders for conclusion of the meeting.

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to 10.00am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006 so as to allow sufficient time to debate the range of issues raised in Transport 21.

This concluded the business of the meeting.