

Minutes of Donegal Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>  
January 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal PSC,  
Drumlonagher, Donegal.

**Members Present:**

Cllr Brendan Byrne  
Cllr John Boyle  
Cllr Thomas Pringle  
Cllr Sean McEniff  
Cllr. John Meehan

**Officials in Attendance**

Gerry Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services  
Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Sharleen Tinney, Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer  
Peadar Thomas, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation  
Michael Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services  
Paul Lyons, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services  
Mary Hannigan, Housing & Building Control  
Paul Christie, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development  
Willie Freeney, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Declan Gillespie, Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Damian McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, DNRDO  
Thomas Fox, Assistant Engineer, DNRDO  
Joe McNulty, Town Clerk, Bundoran Town Council  
Mary Daly, Town Clerk, Ballyshannon Town Council

**Apologies**

Cllr Barry O'Neill  
Cllr Jonathan Kennedy  
Cllr. Philip McGlynn  
Mr. A O'Doherty, Senior Engineer, NRDO.  
Mr. Bernard Cuning, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Capital.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>01.00 Corporate Services</b>
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DEAC	01.01. Consideration of Minutes
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**Consideration of minutes of meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006.**

On the proposal of Cllr McEniff, seconded by Cllr Boyle the minutes of the meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 were adopted.

It was further agreed that matters arising from the minutes would be dealt with under the various service headings.

DEAC	01.02 Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC
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**Activity Levels in the Donegal PSC**

Members noted the activity reports for the Donegal PSC as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. G Gilroy, Area Manager, Corporate Services.

DEAC	01.03 Draft Schedule of meetings for 2007
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**Draft Schedule of Meetings for 2007**

Members considered the draft schedule of meetings for 2007, which was circulated with the Agenda. On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. McEniff the schedule was agreed, subject to the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee being held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** and not the 14<sup>th</sup> March as per the draft schedule. It was agreed the revised Schedule of meetings would circulate to Members.

DEAC	01.04 Vote of Sympathy
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A vote of sympathy was passed to John McCarron, Housing & Building on the recent death of his father-in-law, Mr. Pat Nicholls.

**DEAC 02.00 Water, Environment & Emergency Services**

Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services apologised to Members for his slight delay in arriving at the meeting.

**DEAC 02.01 South West Donegal Water Supply**

**South West Donegal Water Supply**

Mr. M Breslin, Area Manager updated Members on work progressed to date, advising; the Corker and Aughnahoo Group Water Schemes for 2006 were complete and work was ongoing on the Driminardagh, Cashelhill and Lisahully Schemes.

**DEAC 02.02 Major Capital Programme**

**Major Capital Programme**

Mr. M Breslin advised Members if they had issues under the Major Capital Programme they would be conveyed to the Capital Section for attention.

**DEAC 02.03 Civic Amenity Site at Laghey**

**Laghey Civic Amenity Site**

Mr. M Breslin informed Members that the Laghey Civic Amenity Site is almost complete and scheduled to open in March.

**DEAC 02.04 Other Water & Environment Matters**

**South West Donegal Water Supply**

Michael Breslin conveyed apologies on behalf of Mr Bernard Cunning, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Capital Services, who was unable to attend today's meeting because of a prior commitment. However he circulated a written report from Mr Bernard Cunning in response to the concerns raised by Members.

Members were critical of what they considered the inadequate response to their concerns, particularly in relation to the poor standard of the restoration works at Teelin Road. The Cathaoirleach pointed out that these problems had been raised at every meeting since last July and Members had been assured at these meetings that Mr Breslin would take up these concerns as a matter of urgency directly with Mr Bernard Cunning. Members had expected Mr Cunning to attend previous meetings to explain why the matter had not been resolved satisfactory. They were also very critical of Mr Cunnings absence, again today, which they considered to demonstrate a reluctance on his behalf to attend meetings and discuss these difficulties with members face to face. The members of the Area Committee found this unacceptable. Members unanimously agreed that a message issue to Mr. Cunning, from Corporate Services, on behalf of the Electoral Area Committee, and copied to the Director of Water, Environment and Emergency Services, requesting he address as a matter of

urgency the unacceptable standard of 'restoration work' at Teelin Road and that he submit a detailed report on the outcome of this to all members of the Area Committee. Members further requested he be formally invited to attend the next Donegal Area Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

**Bundoran Waste Water Scheme**

In response to a query from Cllr. McEniff regarding the Bundoran Section of the Waste Water project, Mr. P Lyons advised the preliminary report approval was awaited on the Bundoran element and Members would be kept updated on the matter.

**Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme**

In response to a query raised by Cllr. Meehan on an update with regard to the Sewerage Scheme in Ballyshannon, Mr. Lyons informed Members a Contractor is now in place and works are due to commence in March, with anticipated date of completion being March 2008. Cllr. Meehan welcomed this.

**Croaghlin extension**

In response to a request for an update from Cllr. Boyle on the Croaghlin extension, Mr. P Lyons advised that a report was awaited from the Consulting Engineers. Mr. Breslin further advised he would reaffirm the request in writing for the extension and revert to Members at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

**Group Water Scheme at Roshine, Killybegs**

Following a query from Cllr. Pringle if Roshine, Killybegs would be included in the Group Water Schemes for 2007, Mr. M Breslin advised he would look into the matter and revert to Members at the next meeting.

**Payment to Contractor**

In response to a query from Cllr McEniff in relation to monies owed to a particular contractor, Mr. M Breslin informed Members he was aware of the particular issue and that this would be paid upon completion of the required documentation.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>03.00 Planning &amp; Economic Development</b>
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DEAC	03.01 Consideration of Recent Refusals
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**Consideration of recent refusals**

Members noted the recent refusals report for the period from 01/12/06 to 22/12/2006 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	03.02 Planning Enforcement
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**Planning Enforcement**

Members noted the Planning Enforcement – current status – summary report as at the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	03.03 Planning Statistics
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**Planning Statistics**

Members noted the planning statistics report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 circulated with the Agenda.

DEAC	03.04 Other Planning Matters
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Mr. P Christie conveyed his apologies for his late arrival at the meeting and advised he had been delayed in the Stranorlar Electoral Area.

**O2 Masts located on top of the Bay View Hotel**

In response to a request from Cllr. Boyle for an update in relation to the O2 masts located on top of the Bay View Hotel, Mr. Christie advised Members that one of the meetings referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting had taken place and that the other meeting is scheduled to take place the following day. He further advised Members of correspondence received in the Planning Office from the Killybegs Mast Action Group stating that O2 have taken responsibility and paid for the repair costs of restoring television reception in houses in the Killybegs area. It was agreed Members would be kept up to date with regard to this issue.

**DEAC 04.00 Community, Culture and Enterprise**

**DEAC 04.01 Report on Community & Enterprise Services**

**Report on Community & Enterprise Services**

Members noted the update report on Community & Enterprise Services circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer. A number of issues were dealt with as follows:

**Community Consultation**

**Ballyshannon LAT – HEART Project**

Mr. McLaughlin advised Members that at least 10 out of the 18 who expressed interest with regard to the shop fronts 40% support scheme would avail of the scheme.

**Glencolmkille LAT**

Members noted the Glencolmkille LAT Baseline data had been finalised by the Research and Policy Unit and a schedule of meetings for the year have to be agreed with Udaras.

**Ballyshannon Playground – Mall Park**

Mr. McLaughlin advised Members work was progressing on the tendering for the supply and installation of playground equipment and it was anticipated this would be carried out in tandem with the work at the Mall Park. Mr. McLaughlin advised works would be tendered at the end of the month and it was anticipated to have the playground operational by the summer.

**DEAC 04.02 County Strategy – An Straitéis 2002 - 2012**

**Rural Transport Groups - Facilitation**

Mr. McLaughlin advised the outcome of the submission to Pobal regarding the provision of additional services in South Donegal was awaited

**DEAC 04.03 Nomination of Elected Member as Public Art Program**

Mr. B McLaughlin advised that each Area Committee were asked to nominate a Member to participate in the Public Art Selection Panel Training and represent their Electoral Area on Public Art Selection Panels. It is anticipated that training will commence in April. On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. McEniff, Members agreed Cllr. O'Neill, would represent the Donegal Area.

Following a short discussion Members recommended that each Town Council also be requested to nominate a member onto the Panel. Mr. B McLaughlin undertook to convey Members recommendation to the Arts Manager.

DEAC	04.04 Report on Cultural Services
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### **Report on Cultural Services**

Members noted the additional reports on Cultural Services circulated at the meeting and presented by Mr. B McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise Development Officer. A number of issues were dealt with as follows:

#### **Donegal County Council Scheme of Arts Grants 2007**

Mr. McLaughlin informed Members details of the Donegal County Council Scheme of Arts Grants 2007 would be advertised in the local papers commencing January 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> with a closing date for receipt of applications being Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Flight of the Earls Event, Killybegs – Commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Members noted a number of reports circulated at the meeting, dealing with this matter. Members were also advised that the Flight of the Earls website ([www.flightoftheearls.ie](http://www.flightoftheearls.ie)), which was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 will be an invaluable resource in publicising many events planned throughout the year for the Commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Flight of the Earls.

One such event is a major Maritime Festival in Killybegs being organised by Donegal County Council, Killybegs Community Carnival and the SW Donegal Community Partnership. Invitations to Defence Ministries of Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Germany are being sent to invite them to send naval representatives to participate in the Festival in the summer, (June 28-July 1<sup>st</sup>).

Members expressed their support for this event and suggested the event be developed as far as Lough Swilly. Mr. McLaughlin informed the meeting it was envisaged the 'warships' were to come into Killybegs, and advised there were other events being planned for the Swilly including participation of 'Tall-ships'.

#### **Donegal County Museum Exhibition from Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass**

Members noted as per report circulated at the meeting, the exhibition Lost and Found Rediscovering the Past on the N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass, which opened in December 2006, and was running until the end of March 2007.

#### **Donegal Libraries**

Mr. McLaughlin informed Members the Bundoran Library were continuing with reading groups for adults and teens and that foreign language material was purchased and would soon be available for both adults and children in all libraries.

#### **Donegal County Childcare Committee**

Members noted the report on the Donegal County Childcare Committee as circulated and presented by Mr. McLaughlin at the Meeting of the Electoral Area Committee.

DEAC	04.05 Presentation from Donegal Local Development Company
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Mr. B McLaughlin welcomed Ms. Mary O'Neill, A/Community Development Co-ordinator, Donegal Local Development Company Limited (DLDC) to the meeting to provide a presentation to Members.

Ms. O'Neill updated the meeting on the Company's activities under programmes for local development, social inclusion, LEADER and National Rural Development. Members noted 2007 is an interim year until the new National Development Plan is published. Ms O'Neill advised Members work was currently being carried out on a programme of activities, with training and information days planned during the year. It was noted 24 individuals were currently working with Community groups with the assistance of DLDC. Ms. O'Neill extended an invitation to Members to an official launch of the Active Citizenship Programme on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in the Lifford offices. Mr. B McLaughlin undertook to revert to Members with details of the launch prior to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>05.00 Housing &amp; Building</b>
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DEAC	05.01 Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme
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**Housing Capital Programme.**

Members noted the Housing Capital Programme Progress Report circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing and Building.

DEAC	05.02 Progress Report - Social Housing
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**Progress Report - Social Housing**

Members noted the progress report on Loans and Grants circulated with the Agenda and presented by Ms. Mary Hannigan, Area Manager, Housing and Building.

DEAC	05.03 Casual Vacancies
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**Casual Vacancies**

Ms. Hannigan informed Members that a number of houses listed on the Casual Vacancies report as circulated with the agenda had been offered since the issue of the agenda. Members noted the following houses were now gone from the list; 16 Coughlan Avenue; Drimarone, Letterbarrow; 55 Cummins Hill, Killybegs and 25 Lawne Park, Ballyshannon.

In response to a query raised by Cllr. Boyle if the demountable dwelling in Ballyloughan, Bruckless was ready to be let, Ms. Hannigan confirmed the dwelling was now ready for letting.

DEAC	05.04 Other Housing Matters
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**Sites at Killybegs/Kilcar**

Ms. Hannigan advised that the Part 8 process for the sites at Killybegs/Kilcar would be brought before Members at the meeting of the full Council in February.

Cllr. Pringle referred to the proposed Part 8 at Killybegs and in particular to the intention to provide access to further lands in the area. He suggested this matter could be of concern to residents in the area and asked that this proposal be included in the Part 8 application for public consultation.

**Affordable Housing, Donegal Town**

Ms. M Hannigan advised Members that 12 buyers had been selected for the new affordable housing in Donegal Town.

<b>DEAC</b>	<b>06.00 Roads &amp; Transportation</b>
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DEAC	06.01 Road Works Programme 2006
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Members noted the Final Progress Report on the 2006 Road Works Programme circulated with the Agenda as presented by Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager, Roads and Transportation.

DEAC	06.02 Road works Programme 2007
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**Road works Programme 2007**

Mr. P Thomas, Area Manager briefed Members of the NRA allocations for the forthcoming year for the Donegal Electoral Area, which had just been announced. Mr. Thomas also confirmed the allocations from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government would be known by the end of the week. It was agreed a full Draft programme to be presented to the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

DEAC	06.03 Donegal Electoral Area Restoration 2007
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Members noted the updated Donegal Electoral Area Restoration Report for 2007 as circulated and presented by Mr. P Thomas at the meeting of the Electoral Area Committee. Mr. Thomas advised this had been agreed two years ago as a multi annual programme. He stressed that Health and Safety procedures would be a major element in future years. All works carried out must now have a safety plan, risk assessment, improvement plan, which would involve a lot of additional work. In order to implement these procedures and have these jobs complete by the end of the year an early start must be made. He requested members agreement to begin this process on the basis of this list.

Following a short discussion, and confirmation from Mr. P Thomas that the Conlin Road, Killybegs was included in the 2007 Programme, on the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. Pringle, it was agreed that Mr. P Thomas proceed to programme and commence the 2007 Road Restoration Programme on the basis of an anticipated allocation of €2.7M. This would enable the preparatory work e.g. Health & Safety Statements, work programming etc. to proceed.

DEAC	06.04 NRA Allocations - Ballyshannon and Bundoran
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**NRA Allocations for Road Works in Ballyshannon and Bundoran**

Mr. Thomas outlined to Members the contents of a letter of response from Mr. M Nolan, National Roads Authority regarding allocations for Ballyshannon, which he received on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The correspondence pointed out that the allocations had been made on condition these works would be carried out in 2006, which

Members accepted was not possible because of the installation of Broadband and the delay in the Ballyshannon Sewage Scheme. The NRA now sought an indication of when these works would be completed and undertook to review the request. Mr. Thomas advised Members that at the moment it would be quite difficult to know exactly when the Sewerage Scheme works would be complete.

Cllr Meehan expressed his disappointment and concern that the funding may not be allocated in 2007 and ultimately would be lost to the town. Mr. P Thomas re-iterated that he felt the response from the NRA was a positive one. It depended on the sewerage works being largely completed to allow the resurfacing of these streets to take place. An indication of when this would be will be given to the NRA and this will be followed up.

At the request of Members, Mr. Thomas agreed to issue a copy of the letter received from the NRA to all Members.

Cllr Meehan also expressed his annoyance that the meeting requested some months ago in relation to Bypass issues had still not been held.

Cllr McEniff queried if any specific allocations had been made from the NRA for the works requested by Bundoran Town Council in 2007. Mr. Thomas undertook to look into the matter and advise Members.

DEAC	06.05 Update from DNRDO
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Mr. D McDermott, Executive Engineer, DNRDO and Mr. T Fox, Executive Engineer, DNRDO attended the meeting to address the following issues.

**N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update**

Members noted the N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs (Five Points) Scheme Update Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. T Fox informed Members that it is envisaged preliminary design work be progressed to enable a Part VIII planning application to be prepared and advertised before the end of January, dependant on approval from the NRA. Following the completion of the consultation process, a report would then be presented to Members for their consideration.

Cllr. Boyle raised his concern regarding a house beside Inver Bridge, which is in close proximity to the road. Would works be carried out there to have the road straightened and what effect would this have on the house. Mr. Fox advised he would look into the matter and advise.

**N15 Ballyshannon / Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update**

Members noted the N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass Scheme Update Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

Ms. M Daly referred to the previous requests for a meeting to be arranged with Ballyshannon Town Council and the DNRDO/Roads to iron out snagging issues in relation to the Bypass raised by Cllr Meehan earlier, and enquired if it would be possible for the meeting to take place in the coming weeks. In response, Mr. D McDermott, confirmed that the meeting could be arranged for a date in February if adequate notice is given to both the DNRDO and the contractor. It was agreed that

the Ballyshannon Town Council would agree a date and advise the DNRDO who would arrange for the contractors attendance.

DEAC	06.06 Other Roads Matters
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**Rock Road at Bundoran**

In response to a query from Cllr. McEniff if any funding had been made available for the Rock Road at Bundoran, Mr. Thomas advised a full programme of the allocations would be drawn up and presented to Members at a meeting of the Electoral Area Committee for consideration.

**Extinguish Rights of Way**

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. Boyle, Members agreed to extinguish the Right of Way as requested by Michael McMenamin.

On the proposal of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. McEniff, Members agreed to extinguish the Right of Way requested by John Boyle at Corveen, Donegal.

**N56 Five Points towards Ardara**

Cllr. Pringle expressed concern with regard to the condition of the road from the Five Points, Killybegs towards Ardara, where a lot of surface water was lying on the road. Mr. Thomas undertook to look into same with a view to programming the necessary works and to revert to Members in relation to same.

**Junction at Killybegs**

Cllrs. Boyle and Pringle both raised their concerns at the danger to pedestrians at the junction at Killybegs. There was a lack of vision lines, when crossing to the Post Office from the Main Street in Killybegs. In response, Mr. W Freeney undertook to look at the matter with the Road Safety Engineer and revert back to Members at the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee.

**CPO**

Mr Thomas outlined the continuing difficulties in relation to ongoing efforts to acquire the necessary land to enable the proposed works at the Carpet Factory in Killybegs to go ahead.

On the proposal of Cllr. McEniff, seconded by Cllr. Meehan, it was agreed to proceed with the acquisition of this land by Compulsory Purchase Order.

**Funding for Car Park**

In response to a query from Cllr Meehan if any discretionary monies may be available for the Mall car park, in Ballyshannon in 2007, Mr. P Thomas advised he would check this and revert to Members at a future meeting.

Minutes of DEAC Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007

**Next meeting.**

As agreed, the next meeting of the Donegal Electoral Area Committee will be held on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre.**

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

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Gerry Gilroy,  
Area Manager,  
Corporate Services.

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Cathaoirleach,  
Donegal Electoral Area Committee