

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF**

### **GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE**

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**Members Present:** Cllr Doherty  
Cllr Alcorn  
Cllr. Gallagher  
Cllr Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr Slowey

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Mc Gill, Area Manager, Housing/Corporate Service  
Frank Sweeney – Senior Executive Planner, Area Manager  
,Planning & Economic Development  
John Gallagher – Senior Executive Engineer, Area Manager  
Water & Environment  
Brendan Mc Fadden – Senior Executive Engineer, Area  
Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise  
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services  
Rodney Irwin, NRDO Office

#### **GEA 53/09                      ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON – GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE**

The Meetings Administrator sought nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Doherty, Cllr Gallagher was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee. There were no other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Gallagher thanked her Proposer and Seconder and outlined the manner in which she intended to conduct area meetings throughout her term of office, specifically requesting that mobile phones be turned to silent and that business be completed prior to 4.30 p.m.

**GEA 54/09**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee extended their congratulations to both Paul Mc Gill and Virginia Mc Loone on their challenging new roles within the Council and requested that correspondence issue to Ms McLoone, expressing appreciation for her dedication and assistance to the Committee throughout her term as Corporate Manager.

The Committee also requested that letters issue to former Councillors Kelly and Bonner acknowledging their contribution to the Electorate of the Glenties Electoral Area throughout their terms as Councillors.

**GEA 55/09**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Doherty the minutes of meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were agreed.

**GEA 56/09**

**REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Doherty, the report from the Workshop held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 was agreed.

## **WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **GEA 57/09 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEME PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager.

#### **57.1 GWEEDORE SEWERAGE SCHEME**

The Water Service Manager informed Members that documents on spatial planning, value for money and water pricing policy have been submitted to the Planning/Spatial Policy Section of the Department of Environment for approval. Cllr Gallagher requested that the Committee lobby TD's, Senators and MEP's to obtain funding to expedite the project.

#### **57.2 DUNGLOE & GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEMES**

In response to queries from the Committee regarding this project, the Water Services Manager advised Members that a site investigation contract is nearing completion in both towns which will enable prospective contractors to correctly price the works.

Cllr Alcorn re-iterated previous requests for the Director of Service to attend the next area meeting to update the Committee on the status of this scheme.

#### **57.3 BURTONPORT SEWERAGE SCHEME**

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn regarding this project, the Water Service Manager advised that the revised scheme has been submitted to the Department for consideration.

### **GEA 58/09 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated previously and presented by the Water Service Manager. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested (i) the replacement of defective water pipes in the Cloughaneely area, and also informed the meeting that water pipes are bursting on a nightly basis in the Meenlaragh to Magheraroarty area (ii) a definitive date for commencement of Gortahork Water Supply Scheme. The Water Service Manager informed the Committee that funding has been sought for the project under the Small Capital Schemes Programme.

**GEA 59/09**

**PROGRESS REPORT GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

In response to queries from Cllr Slowey and Cllr Doherty regarding Group Water Schemes at Rutland Island, Lower Keadue, Tullyard No. 2. Loughderryduff, Farrigans, Ardnagappery, Curransport and Magheraclogher, the Water Services Manager informed the Committee that there is no indication of funding becoming available under the Rural Water Programme.

**GEA 60/09**

**GROUP WATER SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

**GEA 61/09**

**PRIVATE SOURCE GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Water Services Manager.

Cllr Doherty requested the Council to urgently address the absence of a quality water supply on Tory Island.

**GEA 62/09**

**CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and commended the Environment Service for the success of the Dungloe facility.

**GEA 63/09**

**ILLEGAL DUMPING**

The Committee expressed disappointment at the level of dumping adjacent to (i) bottle bank sites at Molloy's Shop in Derrybeg, (ii) Falcarragh and (iii) Mountjoy, Dungloe.

The Area Environment Manager undertook to liaise with the site owners in Derrybeg regarding increased surveillance at this location, and also informed the Committee that the utilisation of covert cameras is currently under consideration.

Members were further informed that illegal dumping at Mountjoy is being monitored and that the perpetrators will be pursued in accordance with the provisions of the Litter & Waste Management Acts.

Cllr Ó Dochartaigh recommended the provision of additional paper recycling sites throughout the electoral area.

## **COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

### **GEA 64/09                      TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 2009**

The Community & Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that at 2 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> July in the Council Car Park adjacent to Foreland Heights, a Press Launch of the interpretive signage and viewing area at Bloody Foreland will be held.

### **GEA 65/09                      FUND MANAGEMENT – MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Members noted the schedule of allocations in the sum of €53093, circulated previously. Cllr Alcorn commended Michelle Mc Gill for her efficiency in administering this scheme.

### **GEA 66/09                      “DONEGAL-COMMUNITY IN TOUCH/DÚN NA NGALL – POBAL I DTEAGMHÁIL” – E ZINE.**

The Community & Enterprise Manager informed Members that the fourth edition of the Donegal E-Zine was recently published and is distributed to people all over the world who have a connection to or interest in Donegal and provides information on local news, events and stories of interest.

### **GEA 67/09                      SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Members were informed that the Council will hold its first Social Inclusion Week from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and the core objective of the project is to raise awareness of and promote social inclusion amongst the staff, management and elected Members of Donegal County Council.

### **GEA 68/09                      DONEGAL PRIDE OF PLACE**

The Community & Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that 3 no. Community and Voluntary Groups from the Glenties Electoral Area were successful in the 5 categories of Pride of Place Awards Scheme 2009, and that the groups will go on to compete in the Co-operation All Island Pride of Place Competition.

**GEA 69/09                      TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

The Committee were informed that the Council is developing a 'Toolkit' in recognition of the importance of supporting the Community and Voluntary sector in Donegal.

**GEA 70/09                      COMMUNITY SMOKE ALARM SCHEME**

The Committee welcomed the supply and installation of two ten year self-contained battery operated smoke alarms in over 630 vulnerable households and also additional Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government funding for this scheme in 2009.

**GEA 71/09                      PEACE III ACTION PLAN**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda.

**GEA 72/09                      DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

In response to recommendations from the Committee, the Community and Enterprise Manager undertook to arrange for a deputation from the Youth Council to attend the next electoral area meeting.

**GEA 73/09                      RESEARCH & POLICY UNIT**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager.

**GEA 74/09                      LIBRARY SERVICE**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the extent of the damage caused to the Library in Gaoth Dobhair as a result of flash flooding on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009. Members requested that the Chief Librarian circulate Members with proposals for relocation of the Library Service in Gaoth Dobhair.

Cllr Slowey expressed disappointment at the reluctance of the Library Service to develop a permanent facility in Glenties.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

**GEA 75/09**

### **ROADS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee discussed the status of the Roadworks Programme circulated at the meeting and presented by the Area Roads Manager.

The Roads Manager responded to Members queries in relation to:

- (i) Regional and Local Roads Restoration Programme
- (ii) Regional Roads Surface Dressing
- (iii) Local Roads Surface Dressing
- (iv) EU Co-Financed Works
- (v) LIS Programme
- (vi) Community Involvement Schemes

The Roads Manager undertook to revert to Members regarding the individual roads that they highlighted during the meeting.

**GEA 76/09**

### **GWEEDORE FLOODING**

The Committee commended the success of the Council's involvement in the multi-agency reaction to the destruction in the Gweedore area. Cllr Gallagher requested that Members provide a list of issues to the Roads Manager prior to the meeting scheduled with the OPW and Roinn na Gaeltachta, to progress their action plan to alleviate problematic issues in the Gweedore area. The Roads Manager undertook to keep Members updated in respect of any developments arising from this meeting.

**GEA 77/09**

### **ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn, the Roads Manager advised Members that due to budgetary restrictions, that road maintenance works on Arranmore Island will be carried out by Direct Labour.

**GEA 78/09**

### **JUNCTION – GREEN'S CORNER, DUNGLOE**

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that he has been in contact with the NRDO and that a report will be available for the next area meeting.

**GEA 79/09**

### **SPEED LIMITS – CARNMORE ROAD, DUNGLOE**

In response to a query from Cllr Alcorn, the Roads Manager undertook to revert back to the Committee regarding the extension of the speed limits from Supervalu to Dungloe lake.

**GEA 80/09**

### **HEDGE CUTTING**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding hedgecutting issues, the Roads Manager advised Members that the Council are processing a list of non-compliant landowners for follow-up action, following initial visits from Council officials. Cllr Doherty and Cllr Alcorn advised the Council to liaise with Community groups to address the issue of overgrown briars and bushes on public roads.

**GEA 81/09**

### **DRAINAGE**

Cllr Doherty requested the Roads Service to prioritise drainage improvement works to prevent the increasing incidence of water from public roads flooding private streets. The Roads Manager updated the Committee regarding ongoing co-operation between the Roads and Planning Service to develop a template to address this matter.

**GEA 82/09**

### **BRIDGE MAINTENANCE**

Cllr Doherty expressed disappointment at the prevalence of numerous rundown bridges throughout the electoral area and requested the Council to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Slowey requested the Council to carry out repairs to the Bridge at Drimnalough on the Glenties/Fintown Road to cater for any emergency services that are required in the locality.

**GEA 83/09**

### **NATIONAL SECONDARY PAVEMENT SURFACING WORKS 2009**

Rodney Irwin from the National Roads Design Office circulated the Committee with a report on progress to date in relation to the National Secondary Pavement Surfacing Works Allocation for 2009 of €1,000,000.

The Committee were informed that:

- Schemes requiring urgent patching work have been ranked and compiled in accordance with NRA criteria.
- Prioritisation of sections has been carried out in accordance with the NRA Pavement Condition Evaluation procedure.
- NRA approval has been received for 2 contracts covering approximately 34 patches in 10 locations.

- Sections outside of speed limits are being given priority over those within urban areas.
- On site works are programmed to take place in August/September 2009.

The Committee expressed disappointment and frustration at the minimal investment in Donegal and at the neglect of the Donegal Road network by the NRA.

**GEA 84/09**

### **ROAD CONTRACTS**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding the tendering process, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that the Council have rigid tender guidelines and that he will liaise with Cllr Ó Domhnaill directly in this regard.

## **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **GEA 85/09 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to refusals issued during the period from 24.4.2009 – 26.6.2009.

### **GEA 86/09 PLANNING STATISTICS**

The Committee discussed the planning statistics circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager. Members were informed that notwithstanding the decline in planning applications, the Glenties Electoral Area was in receipt of the highest percentage of applications in the County.

### **GEA 87/09 SITE ASSESSMENTS**

In response to queries from the Committee regarding the costs borne by planning applicants carrying out site assessments, the Planning Manager advised Members that the assessments are mandatory.

### **GEA 88/09 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill & Cllr. Doherty criticised the increased financial burden experienced by planning applicants arising from the imposition of development charges. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to consider a 5 to 7 year time frame for the payment of development charges to ease the burden on first time applicants.

## **HOUSING & BUILDING**

### **GEA 89/09 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the progress reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Members were updated by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of Turnkey developments at Loughanure, Creeslough and Meenanillar.

In response to queries regarding the anticipated date for the letting of the Lettermacaward scheme, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Council are awaiting further settlement on site, and completion of snagging lists. The Housing Manager also undertook to liaise with the Roads Service regarding lighting of the scheme.

Cllr Alcorn & Cllr Slowey requested updates on turnkey proposals for Dungloe & Glenties areas respectively.

### **GEA 90/09 LEASING PROGRAMME**

The Housing Manager advised the Committee that:

- (i) Leasing proposals have been invited across the County and that further details will be available at the September meeting.
- (ii) The Council are not currently permitted to purchase individual houses.

### **GEA 91/09 SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES**

The Committee welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda and Cllr Alcorn congratulated the efficiency of the Housing Service in expediting progress of SI house completions.

### **GEA 92/09 SOCIAL HOUSING**

Members discussed the report circulated previously in relation to the status of the Social Housing Programme at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

In response to concerns raised by the Committee regarding difficulties experienced by applicants in obtaining Council loans, the Housing Manager stated that notwithstanding the stringent criteria specified by the Department of the Environment, that the Council treat all cases on their own merits and as sympathetically as regulations permit.

Cllr. Slowey commended the work of Mary Clyde, Housing Assessment Officer, for her assistance in the allocation of units at the St Vincent De Paul Housing Development in Ardara.

**GEA 93/09 CASUAL VACANCIES**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda detailing the status of casual vacancies as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Housing Manager informed the Committee that repairs are required to some housing units due to modernisation requirements.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **GEA 94/09    ACTIVITY REPORT**

Members noted the comparative activity reports in business transacted in the Corporate Service during the six months ended June 2008 and 2009.

### **GEA 95/09    JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill and Cllr Gallagher were nominated to represent the Glenties Electoral Area Committee on the Donegal Joint Policing Committee in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Garda Síochana Act, 2005. Cllr Alcorn was also nominated to the above Committee in the event that further Members were required to make up the selection of 14 no. local authority Elected Members for County Donegal. Proposers and seconders were as follows:

**Cllr Ó Domhnaill:** Proposed by Cllr Slowey and seconded by Cllr Alcorn.

**Cllr Gallagher:** Proposed by Cllr Doherty and seconded by Cllr Slowey

**Cllr Alcorn:** Proposed by Cllr Ó Domhnaill and seconded by Cllr Slowey

### **GEA 96/09    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed to convene the next meeting of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the Dungloe Public Service Centre.

### **GEA 97/09    TIDY TOWNS UMBRELLA GROUP**

Cllr Alcorn requested the Council to liaise with the above group.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**