

**MINUTES OF THE INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th MARCH 2009 IN  
THE CARNDONAGH PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE**

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor Francis Conaghan

Councillor Rena Donaghey

Councillor Pdraig MacLochlainn

Councillor Denis McGonagle

Councillor Bernard McGuinness

Councillor Dermot McLaughlin, Mayor Buncrana Town Council

**Officials Present:**

**Community, Cultural & Enterprise Services:**

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer

**Corporate Services:**

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager

Una Cresswell, Staff Officer

**Housing & Building Services**

Patsy Lafferty Area Manager

**Planning & Economic Development Services:**

Paul Kelly, A/ Area Manager

**Roads & Transportation Services:**

Stephen Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer/ Area Manager

Jim McLaughlin, Executive Engineer

Trevor Gordon, Executive Engineer

**Water, Environment & Emergency Services:**

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager

**Apologies**

Seamus Canning Town Clerk, Buncrana

Marie Deeney, A/Senior Staff Officer

Councillor Marian McDonald

## **09/09 WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **09.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Dermot McLaughlin, the minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009 were agreed.

### **09.2 Follow Ups from Previous Meeting**

Con McLaughlin, Senior Executive Engineer/Area Manager, circulated an Update Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (Appendix 1) on issues raised at the previous meeting

#### **09.2.1 Tooban Sewerage Scheme**

Con McLaughlin advised the Members that Part 8 for Tooban had recently been advertised. Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that serious objections and concerns have been raised locally concerning the scheme. He suggested that just one scheme be developed for Burnfoot and Tooban with a single discharge point.

#### **09.2.2 Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme**

In relation to Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme, the Members welcomed the news that negotiations were progressing with regard to purchasing adjacent land, and also that the preliminary design is expected in June.

#### **09.2.3 Civic Amenity Site in Buncrana**

Con McLaughlin updated the Members in his report on which private operators were offering Civic Amenity Facilities in the town as requested at the last Inishowen electoral Area Committee Meeting. A discussion took place regarding the lack of a Civic Amenity Site in Buncrana. The Members felt that Buncrana that had a catchment area with over ten thousand people should have a state of the art Civic Amenity Site and also that the provision of this facility should be progressed, as it is included in the Waste Management Plan.

The Members recommended that the public be advised of the private Recycling Facilities that were available in Buncrana at present and the materials that are being accepted by them.

#### **09.2.4 Malin Sewerage Scheme**

The Members welcomed the news that the Malin Sewerage Scheme was near completion and expressed their satisfaction with the works. The Members requested that the restoration of the streets and footpaths be progressed particularly the Millbrook Estate. Con McLaughlin expressed

his gratitude to Thomas Doherty(Millar), Clerk of Works and Shaun Kelly, Resident Engineer who were involved in the scheme and wished them both well, as Shaun Kelly was finishing working with the Council and Thomas Doherty(Millar) was retiring.

The Members expressed their view that all estates in the Malin should be connected to the Malin Sewerage Scheme. Councillor Denis McGonagle enquired as to whether any other individual properties further out of the town would eventually be connected to the scheme. Con McLaughlin confirmed that this was unlikely as part of the current works.

### **09.3 Ballyliffen Sewerage Scheme**

Councillor Denis McGonagle requested an update on the progress of Ballyliffen Sewerage Scheme. Con McLaughlin reminded the meeting of a current planning application with an interest in developing a municipal sewerage scheme also and noted that the application was currently subject to a Further Information request.

### **09.4 Glengad Sewerage Scheme /Culdaff Sewerage Treatment Works**

Councillor Bernard McGuinness requested information on when the upgrading of the Glengad Sewerage Scheme and Culdaff Treatment Works likely to take place.

### **09.5 Pumping Station at Killea**

Councillor Francis Conaghan outlined his concerns relating to the ongoing problems at Killea Pumping Station. Con McLaughlin agreed to look into the matter and report back to the Members.

**10.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009,**  
On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, were agreed.

**10.2 Development Fund Initiative 2008**

Aideen Doherty, Administrative Officer, expressed her appreciation to the Members for presenting cheques to the various groups awarded funding under the Development Fund Initiative for 2008. The presentation took place earlier in the day and was broadcast by Inishowen Community Radio.

**10.3 Report on Community, Culture & Enterprise Services**

A Progress Report was circulated along with the Agenda.

**10.4 Barrack Hill**

Aideen Doherty updated the Members on progress at Barrack Hill and advised the Members that planting of the woodland area was currently taking place and was due to be completed shortly.

**10.5 Ballyliffen Playground**

Aideen Doherty informed the Committee that the new playground at Ballyliffen was complete and that an official launch would take place in April subject to a suitable date being agreed.

**10.6 Development Fund Initiative 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan the Committee recommended that the list of schemes to be assisted by the Development Fund Initiative for 2009 as circulated with the Agenda be approved. It was agreed that there would be further discussions on the various projects at a later date.

**10.7 E- Zine Magazine/Diaspora Project**

Aideen Doherty informed the Members that the second edition of the E-zine Magazine had been issued and was available on the County Development Board Website.

**10.8 County Development Board Initiatives**

The Members collectively expressed their concerns with the problems associated with the downturn in the economy and stated that it was important that the County Development Board responded to the economic

situation. Aideen Doherty at the request of the Members, agreed to issue a report on the County Development Board's Initiatives to tackle the associated problems in the Inishowen Electoral Area.

#### **10.9 Mini Pitches at Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh**

Aideen Doherty advised the Committee that final planting has been completed in both locations and that the F.A.I. and the County Mayor will launch both projects in April.

Cllr Francis Conaghan and Cllr Denis McGonagle expressed their appreciation for the mini pitches at Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh respectively. They expressed their gratitude of the excellent facilities provided.

#### **10.10 Research and Policy Unit**

Cllr Dermot McLaughlin, Mayor of Buncrana Town Council queried whether there had been any progress on the research into the implications of the extension of the Buncrana Town Council Boundary. Aideen Doherty advised that work was ongoing between the Research and Policy Unit and Buncrana Town Council and that a report would be issued with their findings. Cllr McLaughlin stated that he looked forward to the report.

#### **10.11 Library at Newtowncunningham**

Cllr Francis Conaghan informed the meeting that a building was now available in the Newtowncunningham area for a library and was hoping that the provision of a library in the Newtowncunningham area is kept on the Agenda.

## **09/11 PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**11.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, 2008.** On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Dermot McLaughlin, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, were agreed.

### **11.2 Update Report**

Members noted the update report as circulated with the Agenda in relation to matters arising from the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009.

### **11.3 Cassey Road/Rockytown**

A lengthy discussion took place on the position of the development of lands at Cassey Road. The Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of progress and stated that the proposed project was ongoing for seven years at this stage. The Members also stated that they believed there was confusion and a breakdown of communications between the services over who was responsible for the project.

Paul Kelly, Acting Area Manager, advised the Meeting that the Planning Service have limited involvement with the overall project and that he understood that a Masterplan for the land was submitted to Buncrana Town Council and that Mr Javed Iqbal, Senior Executive Architect in the Housing Service was currently considering the Masterplan.

The Members requested that development proposals be carried out in conjunction with Buncrana Town Council to advance the project further forward as soon as possible to avoid any further delays.

### **11.4 Unauthorised Development at Church Road, Newtowncunningham.**

Cllr Francis Conaghan requested that a correction in the Planning Agenda be recorded. He stated that it should be noted that this should read Long Lane, Newtowncunningham and not Church Road as stated.

### **11.5 Refusals of Planning Applications.**

Councillor Bernard McGuinness expressed his dissatisfaction with the refusal of certain planning applications. He highlighted a case where an applicant had attended a pre-planning meeting and was not advised that the application was unlikely to be approved. He further stated that the site location or the County Development Plan had not altered between the pre planning stage and the application date.

Paul Kelly explained to the Members that a pre planning meeting was for advice and guidance only and that an applicant is never categorically told at a pre planning meeting that an application will be refused or approved. He added that applicants might have unreasonable expectations of the result of their planning applications. There are many factors to consider when an application is presented and these may not have been available at a pre-planning meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the benefits of pre planning meetings. Cllr Bernard McGuinness also mentioned the level of planning refusals in Inishowen compared to the other electoral areas in the county. Paul Kelly advised the Committee that there were justifiable explanations for the planning decisions made and invited Cllr Bernard McGuinness and any other Members to discuss any planning issue they may have with the Senior Planner and Director of Service next week.

#### **11.6 Masterplans for Buncrana and Environs Planning Applications**

Cllr Rena Donaghey queried the requirement to have a Masterplan for certain developments in the Buncrana and Environs and also the necessity to have this available for public viewing on the Internet. Paul Kelly advised that the requirement for a Masterplan was a policy issue that was currently being looked at. He added that plans have to be available for viewing and as such, there was no basis to withhold the Masterplan.

#### **11.7 Private Housing Estates**

Cllr Dermot McLaughlin queried whose responsibility was it to follow up on housing estates that had not been properly finished. Paul Kelly stated that the first step would be to look at the planning conditions as set out in the planning approval. This should indicate that it was the responsibility of the Developer or the management company to finish the estates. He clarified that if the planning approval had expired it would be an enforcement issue.

#### **11.8 Tober Quarry**

In response to a query from Cllr Francis Conaghan regarding the status of the development at Tober Quarry, Paul Kelly advised that the Planning case is ongoing and Stephen Flynn advised that the Roads Service are also working to solve the ongoing problems.

**12.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009,**  
On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, were agreed

**12.2 Updates and Various Issues**

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, updated Members in relation to various issues previously raised and drew the Members attention to Loans, Grants and the Casual Vacancy Reports.

**12.3 Affordable Housing in Buncrana**

Patsy Lafferty, Area Manager, advised the Committee that agreement has been reached to acquire five units in Buncrana, subject to final legal documents being finalised. The price range has yet to be finalised. Applicants for the units have been interviewed. He added that successful applicants will have the properties allocated to them as soon as possible. Cllr Rena Donaghey and Cllr Dermott McLaughlin both stated that they welcomed this good news and that the fact that there was a decline in house prices meant value for money and presented huge opportunities.

**12.4 Voluntary Housing Schemes in Muff and Newtowncunningham**

Patsy Lafferty advised the Members that potential applicants were being considered for Muff and Newtowncunningham Voluntary Housing Schemes. The Newtowncunningham Scheme provides thirty-four units and the Muff Housing Scheme provides thirty units for elderly people and are due to be completed in the coming months.

**12.5 Leasing Initiative**

Patsy Lafferty outlined details of the Leasing Initiative to the Members. The intention of this initiative is to expand the options for delivering adequate social housing. He stated that property owners are invited to make submissions to Donegal County Council detailing suitable houses or apartments they may have available to lease to the council for social housing. Donegal County Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the leased properties. Patsy Lafferty stated that submissions have to be received by mid April and that only applicants who have five properties or more will be considered.

### **12.6 Cottages at Burnfoot.**

Patsy Lafferty stated that options are being explored for improving the roads at Burnfoot Cottages. Patsy Lafferty stated that he wished to acknowledge the assistance of the Roads Service in looking at ways to deal with the problems.

### **12.7 Remedial Works & Regeneration Programme 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the Committee recommended that funding be sought under the Remedial Works/Regeneration Programme 2009 for the Back Lanes at O Gara Villas, Moville and Surface Dressing at Burnfoot Cottages (in conjunction with the Roads Service).

### **12.8 Social Housing**

Patsy Lafferty advised the committee that the application for approval of the Carrowmena scheme was with the D.O.E.H.L.G. and that a decision is also awaited on the Gleneely scheme.

## **09/13 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **13.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, were agreed.

### **13.2 Consideration of Minutes of Workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey, the minutes of the Roads Workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were agreed.

### **13.3 Update Report /Roadworks Programme 2008**

An Update Report on issues raised at the previous meeting was circulated along with the agenda.

#### **13.3.1 Pier in Buncrana**

Cllr Dermot McLaughlin, Mayor of Buncrana raised the issue of the condition of pier in Buncrana that he had raised at the previous meeting. Stephen Flynn accepted that the pier needed a "tidy up" that will be carried out. He advised the Members that Rules for the Harbour are expected to be in place before the ends of the year, and that Water Charges are not currently being charged for water used on the pier. Cllr Rena Donaghey stated that the National Tidy Towns Competition judging was going to take place in June and that the current state of the pier would effect marking in the competition.

Stephen Flynn stated that he would contact Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer with the Marine Service to deal with outstanding issues.

#### **13.3.2 Dooish Road/Churchtown Road**

Stephen Flynn advised the Members in his report that L8171-2 was surfaced dressed in 2008, the L8171-3 was restored under Clar 2008 and that the Church Town Road is currently being tendered for consideration under the 2009 Restoration Programme.

Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that he wished to thank the engineers involved.

#### **13.3.3 Gortree Road**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that work on the Gortree Road was scheduled to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009.

#### **13.3.4 Francistown Junction**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that this location is Number 12 Priority on the Inishowen Development Charges Low Cost Safety List. Jamie Gallagher, Road Safety Engineer is available to meet members to discuss the matter.

#### **13.3.5 Flooding at Monfad**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that the flooding on the Monfad Road has been investigated. The flooding is primarily an issue between the landowners and the Roads Authority will follow up where required where issues arise under the Roads Acts.

#### **13.3.6 Take Over of Roads**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that a draft report for the takeover of the road at Newtowncunningham N.S. would be presented to members at the next meeting.

#### **13.4 Local Improvement Schemes.**

The Committee was advised that a total allocation of €185,294.55 had been made to the Inishowen Electoral Area in 2009. A lengthy discussion took place on Local Improvement Schemes in the Inishowen Electoral Area. Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that there were eighty-eight applications in 2008 in the Inishowen Electoral Area of which forty-eight were ineligible and that he could not understand why Inishowen has so many ineligible roads. There was a consensus by the Members that Inishowen was the largest electoral area but had the smallest allocation for Local Improvement Schemes. Cllr Bernard McGuinness gave an example of an allocation to another electoral area where there is a road that raises the average cost dramatically, so that every year this electoral area is automatically awarded a larger allocation.

It was suggested that the allocation be made on a countywide rather than electoral area based. Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn said an analysis of roads that had been passed and refused in the Inishowen Electoral Area would be useful in presenting evidence if there is lack of consistency in the county.

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that these issues had been raised before and need to be discussed further at Strategic Policy Committee level. He further stated that Department Guidelines have to be followed in the Local Improvement Scheme allocation and that Department criteria is always complied with.

### **13.5 Non - National Surface Dressing Programme**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that the N.R.A. had decided that the Surface Dressing Grant and the Pavement Grants are to be combined. Proposals for expenditure on any surfacing on these roads have to be brought before the N.R.A. Pavement Inspectors for their approval. Currently N.R.D.O. staff and Council staff are preparing reports based on the criteria set out by the N.R.A. for route selection.

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan seconded by Cllr Rena Donaghey the Committee recommended that the Non - National Surface Dressing Programme for 2009 that was circulated with the agenda (Appendix A) be approved.

### **13.6 Restoration Improvement Programme**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that all roads described to the Committee in September 2007 were being progressed. The Department of Transport, however, have confirmed to the Council that all contracts will require Department approval prior to commencement.

### **13.7 Street Lighting Programme**

Stephen Flynn advised the Committee that at the January Meeting the Committee recommended that Street Lighting improvements be carried out in Carndonagh. A costing was carried out for the available funding of €67,065 and it was proposed to carry out the works in order of priorities listed (1 - 7) in the report circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr Denis McGonagle seconded by Cllr Francis Conaghan the Committee recommended that that works in Carndonagh be carried out in order of the priorities as listed in the report circulated with the Agenda.

### **13.8 Bridge Strengthening Priority List**

The Committee was advised that Road Design Office was preparing the Bridge Strengthening Priority List for 2009 and that the Committee's approval to the Bridge Strengthening Priority List for the two maintenance areas in the Inishowen Electoral Area as circulated with the agenda was required. Work has been completed on the Cleagh Shamrock Bridge and Cannytown Bridge which were the number one priority bridges on the 2008 Priority List.

On the proposal of Cllr Francis Conaghan seconded by Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn the Committee recommended the Bridge Strengthening Priority List for 2009 as circulated with the agenda be approved.

### **13.9 Update on Development Contribution Scheme - Cockhill Footbridge**

Stephen Flynn stated that they had encountered difficulties with a number of the approved schemes and that other approved schemes are advancing.

In relation to Cockhill Bridge the following Statement was made.

*"The R238 north from Buncrana, of which Cockhill Bridge forms a part, is a strategic route within the County Development Plan providing the main route at a local level to access services Buncrana from smaller settlements and the wider rural area . This is recognised also within the adopted Buncrana Town and Environs Development Plan.*

*The Development Plan adopted by both Donegal County Council and Buncrana Town Council includes proposals for an outer relief road for Buncrana which allows for a "route tie in" between "Kearney's Pass" on the Cockhill Road and the R238 northwest of Cockhill Bridge. This tie in will require the construction of a new bridge downstream of the existing Cockhill Bridge. This bridge location has a number of important advantages over the existing bridge. Firstly it provides better alignment than the existing alignment when approaching from the north, the bend to the left being removed. Secondly it reduces traffic in the vicinity of Cockhill Church and National School. Thirdly it improves traffic movements when approaching from the south by eliminating the sharp left turn over the bridge. Finally the new alignment at Kearney's Pass provides a safe junction for both pedestrians and other road users. For these reasons the adopted route including the new bridge location is considered to be a better solution than major upgrading of the existing bridge.*

*Works such as these are beyond the limited financial base of either Buncrana Town Council or Donegal County Council and have been funded over the last number of years from EU co-financed grants and more recently specific improvement grants by the Department of Transport. These grants have typically made approximately €1,700,000 available to the Inishowen Electoral Area in latter years. Buncrana has benefited significantly from these grants both in improvements to access to the town along the R238 from Burnfoot north and in the development of the Inner Relief Road over the last number of years. For 2009 the allocation of €1, 0 00,000 toward the Inner Relief Road has been made. The Council is committed to completing the existing elements of these projects prior to undertaking any further elements of the overall infrastructure. For this reason it is unlikely that a new Bridge shall be*

*completed in the short term in the absence of alternative funding sources.*

*The Inishowen Electoral Area Committee in 2008 allocated funding of €100,000 from the general Roads Development Contributions scheme toward the provision of improvements at the existing bridge as an interim solution pending the above long term proposal. A proposal for a footbridge to address the pedestrian safety issues has been explored and costed at in excess of €250,000. The entire Development Contribution Scheme allocation for the Inishowen Electoral Area to fund works from Malin head to Newtowncunningham in 2008 was €333,000 and would be anticipated to diminish based on the Council's budget adopted in January. In addition to the general roads Development contribution scheme, Specific Development Charges have been levied on adjoining developments towards improvement works at the bridge. These together with the general allocation by members of the Inishowen Electoral Area are insufficient to provide a footbridge and the associated access to it.*

*The proposal for traffic signals to address the pedestrian safety, as well as the traffic congestion caused by two way traffic unable to pass on the narrow bridge has been developed by the Donegal County Council. The proposal provides for a continuous footway across the bridge and onto a new footpath from the Chapel and adjacent shop via a pedestrian crossing. A plan of the proposal is attached. This proposal was presented to the public meeting of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee in December 2008 where I understand the Derry Journal were in attendance.*

*The Council's Road Section have met with a number of local residents involved in the recent protest and have listened to their concerns in relation to parking, access for lorries and the safety of pedestrians. The Council will seek to address these concerns within the construction of the scheme and in the context of improving the poor access and parking existing in the vicinity of the bridge today. Members of the public should be assured that the Council's core objective in the implementation of this scheme is safer access for pedestrians across the bridge and regional road. Some minor delays may occur for individuals travelling the route at off peak times however the Council must balance this minor inconvenience for individual drivers with the safety of public generally.*

He advised the Members that it was unlikely that there would be a new footbridge at Cockhill in the short term due to lack of funding.

€100,000 funding was available for the project under the Development Contribution Scheme but the projected costs far exceed this sum, he added, €15,000 had already been spent on design etc and that €85,000 was left from the fund. The interim solution of traffic lights was discussed at length. Whilst Members were aware of the safety issues, Cllr Bernard McGuinness stated that a local businessman had complained of how traffic lights would be detrimental to their business and read out a submission that he had received from a local business in the vicinity of the bridge.

The Members discussed several options and solutions at length emphasising their frustrations at the delay at installing a footbridge. It was agreed that the existing bridge was inadequate and that action needs to be taken.

Stephen Flynn advised the Members that as the Roads Service does not have a detailed design, just a preliminary design for a steel bridge that is a basic layout plan and assessment of options dating back to 1994. A detailed project brief for the project including detailed drawings and specification was required and Department Procurement Guidelines would have to be adhered to, he added. The footbridge would have to go out to tender as Donegal County Council would not be building the footbridge themselves.

The Members stated that they had believed that there was already a design in place for the footbridge and were surprised to learn that this was not the case. Trevor Gordon pointed out that design was also required for footpaths, approach works and two road crossing points that would require Part 8 planning approval. The D.C.S allocation was due to be spent by April 2008.

The Committee recommended that the balance of the Development Contribution Scheme allocation of €85,000 be ring fenced for the footbridge, approach roads, crossing points etc and that Design and Build options be looked at and that the matter be considered at the May I.E.A.C. Meeting.

### **13.10 Cockhill Bridge**

Following the discussion relating to the building of a footbridge at Cockhill, the Committee emphasised strongly that a new road bridge at Cockhill was long overdue. The Members collectively stated that for a town the size of Buncrana, the current bridge was totally inadequate. It was requested that a design for the bridge be progressed as soon as possible. Stephen Flynn stated that the provision of a new road bridge at Cockhill was the Council's preferred option but that this would require

D.O.T. approval and funding. Existing funding constraints would make the advancement of plans for the bridge very difficult to progress.

### **13.11 Cassey Road Junction**

On the proposal of Cllr Dermot Mc Laughlin seconded by Cllr Padraig Mac Lochlainn the Committee recommended that the works recommended at the Cassey Road Junction be carried out.

**14.1 Consideration of Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009**

On the proposal of Cllr Rena Donaghey, seconded by Cllr Denis McGonagle, the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009 were agreed.

**14.2 Sympathy Notice**

Cllr Bernard McGuinness expressed his sympathy on behalf of the Members of the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee to Cllr Marian McDonald's on the death of brother in law who passed away recently.

**14.3 Staffing Contracts**

The Members expressed their concerns over the termination of temporary contracts and the effect this would have on services provided to the public. Cllr Francis Conaghan stated that he was aware that staffing matters were not a function of the Members, but would hope that as many staff as possible be retained.

**14.4 Deputation by Marketing Manager of Inishowen Tourism at next Inishowen Electoral Area Committee Meeting**

Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness advised the Committee that a request was made by Inishowen Tourism for its Marketing Manager to make a presentation at the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting. This was agreed.

**14.5 Metropolitan Area Network System**

Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn queried the effectiveness of the area networks created a couple of years ago and asked how this could be developed to assist small towns in being more attractive locations for businesses and for job creation. Stephen Flynn, who had previously worked on the project, advised the Members that the project was rolled out in Letterkenny and six other towns in the county, He stated that the project was managed by the Department and Donegal County Council and was driven by demand. It is a high speed network that can be bought into by independent operators. Eunan Kelly, Corporate Area Manager stated that he would request updated report from the Council's Information Services Section to the next Inishowen Electoral Area Meeting.

**14.6 Deputation from Inishowen Rugby Club**

Eunan Kelly advised the Committee that Deputation from Inishowen Rugby Club was unable to attend today's meeting. It was agreed to invite the deputation to make a presentation at the next I.E.A.C. Meeting.

**08/15 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the IEAC will take place in the Carndonagh P.S.C. on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009 commencing at 10.00 a.m.