

**MINUTES OF MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON 14th MARCH
2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Ian McGarvey, Chairman
Cllr Liam Blaney
Cllr Noel McBride

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Brendan McFadden, Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Mr Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Mr Charles Sweeney, Community Enterprise, Development Officer
Mr John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr Paul McGill, Area Manager, Housing
Mr Gerry Keeney, Executive Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services
Mr Aidan McGrenra, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Ms Mairead Shields, Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Mr Liam Edwards, Executive Engineer, National Roads Design Office
Ms Ann Blake, Youth Council Co-Ordinator
Mr Liam Boyle, Youth Council Member, Milford Electoral Area
Mr Dermot Friel, Youth Council Member, Milford Electoral Area

**MEC10/05 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF MILFORD ELECTORAL
AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2005**

On the proposal of Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Blaney, the Minutes of the Milford Electoral Area Committee held on 17th January 2005 were agreed.

MEC11/05 HOUSING & BUILDING

11.1 Progress Report – Housing Capital Programme

The Members noted the progress report on the Housing Capital Programme that circulated with the Agenda.

TURNKEY DEVELOPMENTS

Having regard to depopulation, Members requested that the Council consider the option of providing 4-6 unit Turnkey Developments in the more rural areas of the Electoral Area.

Paul McGill, Area Manager advised the meeting that he would ascertain the need in such areas from the information being provided from Housing Applicants in accordance with the Assessment of Housing Need.

He also advised the meeting that it is anticipated that expressions of interest would be sought from Developers in the near future regarding the provision of further Turnkey Developments in the Milford Electoral Area.

COLMCILLE CLOSE – KERRYKEEL

Members requested that a progress report regarding the repairs to houses at Colmcille Close, Kerrykeel be forwarded to them.

11.2 Progress Report – Social Housing

The Committee noted the report on Social Housing that circulated with the Agenda.

11.3 Casual Vacancies

The Committee considered the Casual Vacancy report that circulated with the Agenda.

Members expressed concern at the delays in letting Casual Vacancies. Paul McGill, Area Manager advised the meeting that when properties become vacant, it is Council policy to upgrade older housing stock before re-letting and this is a contributing factor to the delays.

CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME – 2005

Paul McGill, Area Manager, Housing & Building advised the meeting that it is anticipated that 23 – 25 houses in the Milford Electoral Area will be installed with Central Heating in 2005.

He proposed to compile a list of older stock of houses within the Electoral Area for Members and invited proposals from them for inclusion on the list for their consideration prior to being forwarded to

the Department of The Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval.

REMEDIAL WORKS SCHEME

Paul McGill, Area Manager advised the meeting that a similar list will be compiled under the Remedial Works Scheme to include the replacement of windows and doors and invited proposals from Members for consideration by them prior to forwarding to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval.

11.4 Peace II – Proposals for 2005

Paul McGill, Area Manager, advised the meeting that funding for general maintenance works on Housing estates is available again this year and that he was now seeking Members views on proposals for including the housing scheme in Churchill and the housing scheme at Lower Mount Marian, Milford for general maintenance works.

On the proposal of Councillor Liam Blaney, seconded by Councillor Noel McBride, it was agreed that funding be sought under the Peace II Programme 2005 for works at Skeog Cottages, Churchill and Lower Mount Marian, Milford.

11.5 Clar allocation for 2005 – Housing Milford

The Members considered the report regarding the Clar allocation for 2005 that had circulated with the Agenda.

On the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Councillor McBride it was agreed that funding be sought under the Clar Programme for works at St. Bridget's Terrace Kerrykeel.

MEC12/05 COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

12.1 Presentation from Donegal Youth Council, Milford Electoral Area Representatives

Councillor McGarvey, Chairman welcomed the representation from the Members of the Youth Council for the Milford Electoral Area namely Liam Boyle, Dermot Friel and Ms Ann Blake, Youth Council Co-ordinator to the Meeting.

Liam Boyle and Dermot Friel made a presentation to the Meeting on projects being undertaken by the Youth Council to include information on the following:

- School Transport – Lough Swilly
- Donegal Youth Audit – surveying 2000 students throughout Donegal regarding youth facilities, school, work & financial pressures, alcohol, drugs, health issues, bullying etc.
- Donegal Fermanagh Youth E Forum – provide an online communication channel between Fermanagh Shadow Youth Council and Donegal Youth Council Young Peoples Forum, National Children’s Office
- Dail na nOg
- Scholar Card, dual-purpose cards (ID and discount) for second level students
- Interschools events – Loreto Community School & Mulroy College
- www.donegalyouthcouncil.ie - updated by youth councillors

The Members thanked the Members of the Youth Council for their excellent presentation and offered them their support in their work.

Liam Boyle thanked the Members for giving them the opportunity to attend today’s meeting.

12.2 Report on Community, Culture & Enterprise

Charles Sweeney, Community, Enterprise and Development Officer presented the progress reports on:

- Community Consultation
- Funding Update
- Inter-organisational development
- “An Straiteis – County Strategy

Provision of Playground Facilities

The Members noted that applications received from Community and Voluntary Sector in respect of the provision of playground facilities were currently being evaluated.

In a response to a query regarding the number of applicants within the Milford Electoral Area, Charles Sweeney, Community, Enterprise and Development Officer agreed to have a report for Members at the next Electoral Area committee Meeting.

Funding Update

The report on funding under measures 3.3/3.4 and 4.2A of the Donegal County Council led Peace II Task Force was noted by Members.

In a response to a query at there not being any projects from the Milford Electoral Area included in the funding under Measure 4.2A, Charles Sweeney, Community, Enterprise & Development Officer advised the meeting that information sessions regarding funding availability under Peace II had taken place across the County and that this included the Milford Electoral Area.

Members requested that further promotional activity should be carried out within the Electoral Area advising groups of funding opportunities under the various measures.

Having regard to the earlier presentation made by the representatives of the Milford Youth Council, Charles Sweeney, Community, Enterprise & Development Officer agreed to make contact with the Milford Youth Project with a view to discussing funding options.

MEC13/05 WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services presented reports on:

- Large Capital Schemes
- Small Capital Schemes
- Group Schemes
- Fanad Regional Water Supply Scheme
- Drumacloghan GWS
- Collection of Fridge Freezers
- Civic Amenity Site
- Home Composting

He advised the meeting that John McIlwaine would attend the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting to brief members on progress on the Large Capital Schemes.

DOWNINGS WATER SUPPLY

John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services advised the meeting that work has been ongoing in relation to water conservation in the Downings/Carrigart area with a view to alleviating water shortages in these areas especially during the summer period.

He also advised the meeting that as part of the water conservation project, a number of unauthorised connections have been identified in the area.

Having regard to the Council's handling of these unauthorised connections, the Members unanimously agreed to give a one month period to a Consumer for the purposes of regularising the water connection.

The Committee recommended that revenue received from regularising water connections should be spent in the Electoral area in which it is collected.

RAMELTON WATER SUPPLY

Members expressed concern at the ongoing water shortages in much of the Ramelton area.

John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services advised the meeting that work was ongoing by the Council on the water services in the Ramelton area to include the provision of a 4" mains in the area as opposed to a 3" mains which is the current situation.

In tandem with this, the Committee noted that work was ongoing having regard to water conservation and a number of valve replacements, meter replacements and provision of new meters on a number of premises was being carried out in the area.

The Members welcomed the actions being taken by the Water Services in the Ramelton area.

However, the Members expressed concern that the public are not being made aware of when water is going to be turned off and urged that notification be given of approximate times when this is likely to happen.

The Members recommended that a public campaign be organised in relation to water conservation that would also contribute to alleviating water shortages in the Ramelton area.

Gerry Keeney, Executive Engineer advised the meeting that the Council had employed a full-time water conservation officer in the County.

The Members welcomed this appointment and complimented the water services staff on their work in this area thusfar.

Replacement of Water Pump – Ballymagowan

Members requested that they be kept informed of progress in this area having regard to the replacement of the water pump.

Fanad Regional Water Supply Scheme – Phase 1 Contract – Eastern Network

The Members noted the Report on the Fanad Regional Water Supply Scheme – Phase 1 that circulated with the Agenda.

In a response to a query regarding the completion date for works on this phase, John Gallagher, Area Manager advised the meeting that he was confident that the Contractors would have the works complete as per the contract.

The Members requested that they be kept informed of progress on this scheme.

Glenalla GWSS

In a response to a query regarding funding options for the Glenalla Group Water Supply Scheme, John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services agreed to look at options available and revert to Members accordingly.

Councillor Blaney recommended that additional income collected from the non-domestic metering programme in the Milford Electoral area should be sourced to help to fund the provision of a Group Water Supply Scheme in Glenalla.

Members requested that a list of Group Water Supply Schemes having financial difficulties in the Milford Electoral Area be made available to them at the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

Home Composting

The Members considered the report on Home Composting that circulated with the Agenda.

John Gallagher, Area Manager, Water, Environment & Emergency Services advised the meeting that Suzanne Tinney, Waste Information Officer with Donegal County Council will attend the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

Meenabol Landfill

Members requested that Donal Casey, executive Chemist, attend the next Milford Electoral Area Committee Meeting to brief Members on progress to date in relation to the proposed landfill at Meenabol. Members expressed concern at the possibility of waste being transferred from the Letterkenny area to this landfill.

MEC14/05 CORPORATE SERVICES

Mairead Shields, Staff Officer, Corporate Services offered apologies to the Meeting for Virginia McLoone's, inability to attend today's meeting.

14.1 Consideration of Request from Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Letterkenny Branch to present a deputation to Milford Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Councillor McBride, the request from the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Letterkenny Branch to present a deputation to Milford Electoral Area Committee was agreed and will be received at the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting on 16th May 2005.

14.2 Correspondence from Hills of Donegal Tourism re proposed Twinning Project

The Committee noted the correspondence from the Hills of Donegal Tourism regarding proposed twinning project with Belgentier.

MEC15/05 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor McGarvey, Chairman, on behalf of the Committee offered sincere condolences to Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development on the death of his father.

Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, on behalf of his family thanked the Committee for their kind expressions of sympathy during his recent sad bereavement.

15.1 Planning Statistics

The Committee noted the report on the Planning Statistics that circulated with the Agenda.

Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, proposed to contact the Members individually regarding planning statistics.

15.2 Consideration of Recent Refusals

Members considered and noted the report on recent refusals of Planning Applications that circulated with the Agenda.

Again, Eunan Quinn, Area Manager, offered to contact the Members individually regarding the report on recent refusals.

MEC16/05 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

Members expressed their get well wishes to Charlie McAteer.

**16.1 Roadworks Programme 2005
(Outcome of Workshop dated 25/02/05)**

Surface Dressing

On the proposal of Councillor Noel McBride, seconded by Councillor Liam Blaney, the Surface Dressing Programme 2005 was agreed (Appendix A)

Restoration

On the proposal of Councillor Noel McBride, seconded by Councillor Liam Blaney, the Restoration Programme was agreed (Appendix B)

Roads Maintenance

The Members unanimously agreed the Maintenance Budget Distribution for 2005 (Appendix C)

Clar Schemes

The Members unanimously agreed the 2005 Clar Allocation for the Milford Electoral Area as follows:

CLAR Schemes

Milford Electoral Area Clar Priorities 2005

Allocation €1,000.00

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Road Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
1	LT 63221	Meenawilligan / Craghy, Churchill	1500	€20,500.00	€20,500.00
2	LT11221	Carrowkeel / Glebe	1500	€30,000.00	€50,500.00
3	LS 5112-1	Magheraderg to Grainne Chapel	1500	€20,000.00	€20,000.00

16.2 Briefing on Part 8 Documents for Foxhall – Churchill EU Co-Financed Scheme

The Committee noted the report on the proposed road realignment R251 Foxhall to Churchill – Phase 3 that was circulated at the Meeting. In a response to a query regarding costs for the proposed new route, the Committee noted that figures were not available for today's meeting. After a lengthy discussion Members requested that costs be made available to them on the existing route as well as the proposed new route.

Brendan McFadden, Area Manager advised the meeting that he will seek this information from the Road Design Office and circulate to Members prior to the Council meeting taking place on 29 March 2005.

16.3 Disposal Of Land at Tirhomin – Milford

The Members considered the report and maps regarding disposal of land at Tirhomin, Milford to Mr Duncan McCallum that circulated with the Agenda. (Appendix D).

On the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Councillor McBride, the proposal to dispose of land at Tirhomin outside Milford is to proceed to full Council for consideration.

16.4 N56 Mountain Top Project

Councillor McGarvey, Chairman welcomed Liam Edwards, Executive Engineer, Donegal National Roads Design Office to the meeting.

Mr Edwards circulated a progress report on the N56 Mountain Top Project at the meeting.

The Committee noted that this year's funding allocation is €6 Million and will be used to construct Phase 1, continue with land acquisition for the entire scheme and allow finalisation of the Phase 2 design.

The Committee also noted that all landowners subject to the CPO that had not previously been affected by Site Investigation or Fencing Contracts were served with Notices to Enter during 2004.

In a response to a query regarding the breakdown of the €6 million funding allocation, Mr Edwards, Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that the estimated cost of Phase 1 is 2.5 million with the remaining 3.5 million being used for the purposes of land acquisition, design works and to advance construction works on phase II of the Scheme.

In a response to a further query regarding land acquisition, Mr Edwards, Executive Engineer advised the meeting that 38 land deals have been complete with a further 35 to be complete.

Members noted that work on phase I will not be delayed as a result of outstanding land deals being completed.

Councillor Blaney recommended that the village of Kilmacrennan be by-passed having regard to safety and traffic control in the village and that arrangements should be made to have a public consultation in relation to this matter.

Mr Edwards, Executive Engineer, advised the meeting that he would relay these recommendations to the National Roads Authority for their attention.

The Members requested breakdown of figures for Land Purchase to be forwarded to them.

Mr Edwards agreed to forward these details to the Milford Area Manager to communicate to Members.

The Members thanked Mr Edwards, Executive Engineer, Donegal NRDO for his presentation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Milford Electoral Area Committee will take place on Monday, 16th May commencing at 10.00 am in accordance with the adopted schedule of Electoral Area Meetings for 2005.

This concluded the business of the meeting.