

30th November, 2010

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
--

The Adjourned November Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Monday 6th December, 2010 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

Questions and Motions

Items 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Items 24 – 40

Please ensure that you bring the agenda previously distributed to the meeting.

Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 6TH
DECEMBER, 2010

C/613/10 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. C. Harvey, Mayor, L. Blaney, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. Farren, M. Harley, P. Mac Lochlainn, F. McBrearty, N. McBride, C. Mc Conalogue, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. Mc Guinness, S. O' Domhnaill, J. Ryan and T. Slowey.

C/614/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clrs. Mc Eniff and O' Domhnaill who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/615/10 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Seamus Neely, County Manager, Mr Liam Ward, Director of Corporate and Housing, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Joe Peoples, A/Director of Water and Environment, Mr Michael Heaney Director of Community, Culture and Planning, Mr. Garry Martin, A/Head of Finance and Director of Emergency Services, Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, Mr. Michael Mc Garvey, Senior Engineer, Mr Eunan Sweeney Meetings Administrator, Ms Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/616/10 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO THE GREENCASTLE BREAKWATER PROJECT

Clr Farren raised the following issues and asked for clarification in relation to the accuracy of the comments:-

- That the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food considers that Donegal County Council is responsible for the Greencastle Breakwater Project.
- DAFF acted as contractors to the Council for the project.
- DAFF Staff have been withdrawn from the project due to the lack of funding.
- It is Donegal County Council's responsibility to source funding to continue the project.

- That Donegal County Council will pay off its outstanding debt to the Department for marine works in the county by December 2010.

That the Council needed to face up to its responsibilities regarding the breakwater project regardless of the dire financial situation. It was on the proposal of Clr. Farren, seconded by Clr. Mac Lochlainn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council reaffirm its commitment to the Greencastle Breakwater Project in light of the changed financial circumstances”.

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council has applied for sanction to raise a loan to finance its part of the entire project in the event that finance is made available by the relevant government departments. Sanction from the elected members for such a loan was obtained earlier in the year”.

- imperative, he added, that pressure was put on the Department to resume work at Greencastle.
- That fishermen’s lives were being put at risk and that the failure to repair the Shore Walk was causing pedestrians to veer onto the busy main road.

The Director of Service agreed to:

1. Raise the matter with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, when forwarding the final instalment re marine works in the county.
2. To re-examine the situation regarding the Shore Walk.

Clr. Farren, in conclusion, called on the County Manager to take note of the concerns raised and asked members for their full support for the project.

C/617/10

MANAGER’S REPORT ON THE INITIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

The Council considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The County Manager informed members that the changes introduced by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 for the review of the existing Development Plan and the preparation of the new Development Plan clearly indicated that the changes would be strategic in nature.

The review process had, he noted, commenced in July 2010 and allowed for the first time an opportunity for pre – consultation, and the report itself contained a broad content of the submissions received.

He reminded members of the urgency of endorsing the report so as to comply with the legislative timeframes involved.

Mr. Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner outlined the background to and intricacies involved in a range of themed responses based on the significant topics, which had emerged from the publication consultation exercise. Topics covered included:-

- Economic Development
- Rural Housing
- Transport and Communications
- Environment & Heritage
- Renewable Energy
- Tourism
- Gaeltacht, Community and Culture.
- Marine and Coastal Resource

It was noted that the Draft Plan was due to be prepared and published by the 13th February, 2011, and that the preparation process would afford members the opportunity of having their views reflected in the Draft Development Plan.

Arrangement would, he affirmed, be made to facilitate same and workshops would be arranged for early in the New Year. A lengthy debate ensued with members raising a range of issues namely:

- Balanced approach needed in relation to the erection of telecommunications masts incorporating proper consultation procedures, particularly in relation to built up areas.

- Importance of standardising the advertising process for such masts thus ensuring that local communities are adequately consulted re planned developments.
- Issue of additional antennae being added to individual masts to be examined.
- Concerted effort to be made to facilitate community owned wind energy projects.
- Need to strengthen energy infrastructure links with Northern Ireland and other parts of the Republic of Ireland.
- Need to promote and enhance economic development at Electoral Area level in consultation with local stakeholders.
- Query as to the availability of a map outlining areas designated for wind turbines.
- Request that specific recognition be given to border communities in the east of the county as they had lost out in the major development stakes over the past number of years.
- Cognisance to be taken of the Regional Planning Guidelines and their overall implication.
- Need to ensure that uneven development does not occur at the expense of many of our smaller towns and villages.
- Tourism to be actively promoted together with the development of Heritage Towns and dedicated Walkways.
- Request that careful consideration be given to one off-housing in light of the economic downturn.
- Outlined need to review development charges in the context of the current economic climate with a view to reducing same.
- Review requested in relation to Section 47 Agreements.
- Suggested that a waiver system/rates rebate be introduced to encourage development back to Town Centres.

Acknowledging the broad spectrum of issues raised, the County Manager advised that there would be an opportunity over the coming weeks to discuss these in a workshop format.

He advised that a review of development charges was not part of this process and a matter for another day.

It was thus agreed to hold a workshop in relation to the review of the Development Plan on Thursday 20th January, 2010 at 10.00am in the County House, Lifford, at which a date for a further workshop would be agreed.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Mc Garvey, it was resolved to endorse the recommendations set out in the County Manager's Report and proceed with the preparation of the Draft County Donegal Development Plan.

C/618/10 FUNDING TO SUBVENT THE GREENCASTLE/MAGILLIGAN AND BUNCRANA/RATHMULLAN FERRIES.

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council support the funding required to subvent the Greencastle/Magilligan and Buncrana/Rathmullan Ferries”

Members were informed that :-

“A tender process was completed in 2010 for the provision of a service on the Foyle - as a result of this and as a result of a subsequent negotiated process the cost subvention of €200,000 from April 2010 to March 2011 was agreed but in respect of one year only. The service on the Swilly concluded in September with the Lough Foyle Ferry company providing a scheduled service for 94 days at a cost of €85,000. An application has, in conjunction with a funding proposal for the service on Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly, been submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body under the ‘Rural Development’ measure of Interreg IVA. The application for the ferry service is one of the projects which has been deferred pending clarification on a number of issues and submission of some additional supporting documentation. Officers will pull the required information together and forward it to SEUPB. This will include a review of the costs previously submitted and prioritisation of the elements contained within the application.”

Clr Mc Guinness requested that a copy of all correspondence forwarded to the Minister and the Department to date be made available.

It was essential, he added, that the matter be considered on a county-wide basis given the economic and social benefits for the region, and the fact that other projects such as Carrickfin Airport and City of Derry Airport were supported on an ongoing basis.

Members acknowledged that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find the necessary funding and that the Inishowen Electoral Area could not continue to support the ferry services from their community development fund monies.

Clr Brogan said that it was imperative that a clear and concise message went out that both ferries would be operating in 2011.

The Director of Community, Culture and Planning advised that various funding options had been explored with little success. There was, he noted, a current application for Interreg IV A funding, though this was on hold at present pending the submission of additional supplementary information.

It would, he advised, be possible to make the details of the submission available at Electoral Area level.

In conclusion, Clr. Mc Guinness outlined the necessity of maintaining the ferry services as part of a centrally funded county-wide strategic project.

C/619/10

TO APPROVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2011

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator advised members that Option 1 provided for 5 meetings with motions and 5 meetings without thereby creating a balance between dealing with the major strategic issues facing the Council vis a vis the representational and day to day operational issues.

It would, he noted, allow an opportunity in January to follow up on matters arising from the Budget, and ensure that less business had to be transacted at the July Meeting, thus

allowing for clearance of any outstanding issues going into the summer recess.

Option 2, he affirmed, was based on current arrangements. On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, it was resolved to adopt the Schedule of Meetings for 2011, as set out in Option 1 thus providing for 5 meetings with motions and 5 meetings without, with motions and questions now due for submission in the following months:

February, April, June, September, and November.

C/620/10 TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY ON DONEGAL LOCAL TRAVELLERS ACCOMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

A number of members expressed the view that the position should be filled by a member of the Inishowen Electoral Area, as a decision was pending in relation to the location of a transient site in Inishowen.

After some deliberation, on the proposal of Clr. Mc Guinness, seconded by Clr. Farren, it was resolved that Clr. McBreaty fill the vacancy on the DLTACC, arising from the resignation of Clr. Martin Farren.

C/621/10 TO NOTE STATUS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Harvey, it was resolved that:-

- 1) The Meetings Administrator contact the Farming Pillar re the outstanding representation on the Housing & Corporate and the Planning & Economic Development SPCs.
- 2) Contact be made with An Taisce in relation to their outstanding nomination on the Planning & Economic Development SPC.

- 3) The Town Managers be consulted re the 5th nominee from the Town Councils and agreement reached prior to the next scheduled Council Meeting.

C/622/10 TO NOTE REPORT ON ACTIVITY LEVELS OF THE FOYLE FERRY SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD 14TH JUNE 2009 TO 13TH JUNE, 2010.

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

C/623/10 TO NOTE REPORT ON ACTIVITY LEVELS OF THE SWILLY FERRY SERVICE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON 2010.

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

C/624/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH MAY, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Ryan, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 27th May, 2010.

C/625/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH JULY, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Farren, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 20th July, 2010.

C/626/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND JUNE, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Garvey, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 2nd June, 2010.

C/627/10 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved to endorse the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 14th September, 2010.

C/628/10 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

Members noted the Confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Corporate Policy Group held on the 20th September, 2010.

C/629/10 TO NOTE VARIOUS CONFERENCE REPORTS

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Gowan , seconded by Clr Harvey, the following Conference Reports were noted: -

- Clr. John Ryan – A.M.A.I. held Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th September, 2010.
- Clr. Seamus O’Domhnaill – L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar held Friday 8th to Saturday 9th October, 2010.
- Clr. Brendan Byrne – L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar held Friday 8th to Saturday 9th October, 2010.
- Clr. Mickey Doherty – L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar held Friday 8th and Saturday 9th October, 2010.
- Clr. John Ryan – L.A.M.A. Autumn Seminar held Friday 8th and Saturday 9th October, 2010.
- Clr. John Ryan – Planning and Development Amendment Act 2010 held Friday 15th to Sunday 17th October, 2010.
- Clr. Mickey Doherty – Planning and Development Amendment Act 2010 held Friday 15th to Sunday 17th October, 2010.
- Clr. Mickey Doherty – Alternative Energy Competing with Europe held Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th October, 2010.
- Clr. John Ryan – Alternative Energy Competing with Europe held Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th October, 2010.
- Clr. Jimmy Harte – Flood Relief Infrastructure Conference 2010 held Thursday 28th October, 2010.

C/630/10 AUTHORISATION OF REPRESENTATION AT A SEMINAR, MEETING OR EVENT

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 & 2010 and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. Mc Gowan, it was resolved to authorise the attendance of members at the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

1. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for attendance at conferences.
 2. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance and complying with the legal requirements.
 3. The submission of a Conference Report by any member attending a conference.
- Elected Member's Training Seminar – Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 to be held from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December, 2010 to be held from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th December, 2010.
 - Central Border Region Working Together – “Mental Health and Cross-Border Social Exclusion” Irish Central Border Area Network Ltd Network Seminar to be held Friday 10th December, 2010 at the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo.
 - CBM together with NUI Galway – The Key Role of Local Government in Promoting Disability Inclusion – Ireland and the World to be held Monday 6th December, 2010 at the G Hotel, Galway.
 - Councillor's Training Seminar – The Local Government Budget 2011 to be held Friday 10th to Sunday 12th December, 2010 at The Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford
 - Elected Member's Training Seminar – Building Regulations, Renewable Energy Requirement, Home Insurance to be held Friday 17th to Sunday 19th December, 2010 at the Manor West Hotel Spa and Leisure Club, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

- Irish Renewable Energy Summit 2011 to be held Thursday 20th January, 2011 at the Fairways Hotel Conference Centre, Dundalk.

C/631/10 ISSUES FACING THE UNDOCUMENTED IRISH IN AMERICA

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council contact all relevant authorities and raise the need for addressing the serious issues facing the undocumented Irish in America including many Donegal people taking into account the following:-

1. The problems encountered in obtaining visas.
2. The need to reinstate the 245 (i), which would benefit a large majority of the undocumented Irish.
3. Necessity of reducing detention times for Irish Citizens detained on an overstay of their waiver, together with the assurance that there would be no associated criminal conviction."

Members were informed that:-

“The Boston Irish Group which represents and campaigns for undocumented Irish in the New England region has been in contact with Donegal County Council in relation to the issues facing Irish people in this situation in the light at present. This group includes a large number of Donegal people. The group is campaigning for the following:

- Obtaining a visa for the undocumented Irish
- Reinstatement of 245i which would benefit a large number of the undocumented Irish.
- Reduction in detention time for Irish Citizen detained for overstay on their waiver.

The Boston Irish Group have been lobbying policy makers in the US with regard to this situation. They are also seeking to highlight their situation at home in Ireland with view towards seeking to influence relevant authorities in the US”.

Clr. Gallagher outlined the urgency of the motion and advised that a new perspective on the matter was required.

The Director of Community, Culture and Planning cited the need to keep the matter high on the agenda of both the Irish and the US administrations.

It was agreed that all relevant authorities be contacted including the Department of Foreign Affairs and the US Administration in relation to the plight of the Undocumented Irish.

On the proposal of Clr. Harvey, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved that the motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.

C/632/10 MAYOR'S BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:-

- Michael Callaghan, Water Services, Milford on the death of his mother, Annie Callaghan.
- Brian Mc Menamin, Stranorlar Fire Service, on the death of his baby son, Brian James Mc Memamin.
- Brenda Ferguson, Road Design on the death of her sister, Jeanette Ferguson
- David Robb, Road Design on the death of his mother, Maisie Robb.

Roads Staff

Sincere thanks was extended to Roads Staff involved in the roll out of the Winter Maintenance Programme.

Donegal Youth Council

The Mayor asked that every effort be made to ensure that post of Youth Council Co-ordinator was retained.

The County Manager noted that there were contractual issues and agreed to investigate the matter further.

Boston Trip

The Mayor updated members in relation to the recent trip to Boston, outlining the nature of the meetings held. She stated that the visit had been very well received and she was

confident it had made an impact. She noted that many beneficial contacts had been made particularly in relation to the development of economic and social links.

Efforts, had been made to highlight the plight of the undocumented Irish.

She extended sincere thanks to both the County Manager and the Chair of the County Development Board, Clr. Larkin \for their assistance during the trip.

C/633/10 MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager outlined the main aspect of his report and addendum circulated prior to the meeting.

Severe Weather Conditions.

The County Manager expressed his sincere appreciation to all Roads/Water & Environment and ancillary staff involved in the roll out of the winter maintenance programme. He complimented all concerned on the excellent service provided. He acknowledged the assistance of the media in the process and thanked them for their fair and balanced coverage of events.

Mr. Michael Mc Garvey & Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineers, updated members in relation to ongoing road conditions and the efforts to date to keep the county's roads in a passable condition.

It was acknowledged that there were some difficulties in relation to the water supply in certain areas but that the problems being encountered were not on par with the conditions experienced earlier in the year.

Responding to Clr Mc Brearty's query in relation to an alleged attack on one of the Council Gritting Lorries, the County Manager advised that the incident was an exception rather than the rule and would be followed up.

Boston Trip November 2010.

An outline of the itinerary was provided together with the outcomes of the various meetings attended by the delegation from Donegal County Council during November 3rd – November 6th, 2010.

Donegal Peace III Action Plan

Members were informed of the launch of the Sharing the Learning Website, booklet and photographic exhibition.

The following Questions and Replies were noted:

C/634/10 DISTRIBUTION OF SALT/SAND AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"What advice has the Council received from the Department regarding the distribution of salt/sand at various locations throughout the County which will can be accessed by local communities?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

“The Department of Transport recommends in the recent report *"The review of the transport response to severe weather in the period November 2009 to January 2010"* that " A specific legislative provision should be enacted enabling local authorities to provide materials and equipment to local organisations or individuals to respond to emergency situations such as prolonged severe weather and empowering those community organisations or individuals to undertake works to alleviate or mitigate the adverse impact of the particular event. In such circumstances, neither the local authority nor the community organisation or individual should be liable to any action for damages arising from the exercise of those functions. The Department through the office of emergency planning is liaising with the office of the Attorney General on this recommendation. This was discussed at the Donegal County Council roads and transportation special policy committee meeting held on the 13th September 2010. This committee recommended that a letter should be written to the Department requesting the expedition of the liaisons. This letter was written on the 22nd September 2010. No response has been received to date.”

C/635/10 INFILL OF PUBLIC LIGHTING

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

"Has Donegal County Council completed the infill of public lighting in the towns that have been prioritised in early 2010?"

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

"It is intended that these will be completed by mid Decemeber 2010."

C/636/10 INSTALLATION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN ORDERED

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"When will all outstanding lights on order be installed and by whom?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

"The programme will be completed by mid Decemeber 2010 by Airtricity Utility Solutions."

C/637/10 TIMESCALE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE EIS IN MILFORD AND THE TOTAL COST OF THE EIS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Blaney:-

"When does Donegal County Council intend to have the EIS in Milford completed and what was the total cost of the works?"

Clr. Blaney was informed that:-

"The date for substantial completion of the works is Tuesday the 30th of November 2010.

The total Construction Costs for the Milford EIS and Carpark are estimated to be €34,194.40 excl. VAT."

C/638/10 PROVISION OF RESPITE HOUSING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL NEAR TO LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Will the Council set about investigating the possibility of providing in partnership with key stakeholders respite housing in close proximity to LGH for families of patients attending Letterkenny General Hospital?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The provision of respite housing is an area which would traditionally be considered under the Capital Assistance Scheme. However up until this time, it would be more for the “patient” to move into rather than the family of the patient.

Given the slow down in the economy and the decreasing funds available, the Council, more recently, has been progressing the voluntary scheme’s, particularly the Capital Assistance Scheme, through inter agency meetings with the Health Service Executive (HSE). The Council is targeting special needs cases where it is clear that the Council’s own existing social housing programme of direct build, leasing / rental accommodation scheme is unable to cater for the needs of these clients. The categories of special needs being targeted are as follows:

- HSE – Physical / Sensory
- HSE – Elderly
- HSE – Learning Disability
- HSE – Mental Health
- Emergency / Homeless
- Local Groups
- Local Authority’s own Elderly applicants

Having regard to the fact that the scheme is targeted towards the special needs cases, it is important to have a close relationship with the HSE to determine the actual need in the first instance, the suitability of the provisions being planed, and the support services required from the HSE including confirmation that funding is available.

The matter raised in the question submitted will be raised with the HSE in the context of the next quarterly review which is due to take place in December.”

C/639/10 OFFER OF COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK FOR SALE TO EXISTING TENANTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"Is the Council now offering its entire Housing Stock to existing Tenants, if so will they put a loan Policy in place?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government has announced that new applications for purchase of dwellings under the existing Tenant Purchase Scheme for houses, which provides discounts on the purchase price related to length of tenancy with no claw back on profits from resale, will cease in early 2012. The Council have therefore notified the relevant tenants accordingly.

A tenant can apply to purchase their Local Authority House if they have at least 12 months tenancy. Most Local Authority houses can be bought with the exception of: Caravans, Mobile Homes or Demountable Dwellings (whether on wheels or not) that are capable of being moved from one place to another.

1-bedroom houses.

2 bedroom houses which are first let to tenants who are 55 years of age or over on the date of commencement of tenancy.

Separate and self-contained flats (including Duplex Units) in a premises, divided into two or more flats, which would require arrangements for the upkeep and management of common areas, works or services other than by the purchaser.

Houses that, in the opinion of the Housing Authority, ought not to be sold for reasons of good estate management or on account of their structural condition, or ought not be sold for the time being on account of any proposals the Authority may have to carry out works of improvement to the houses.

In relation to a loan policy, all applications for loans are assessed in line with a credit policy which was implemented by the Council on foot of revised regulations introduced in 2009.”

C/640/10 COUNCIL PLANS TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE 1916 RISING

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Will the Manager put in place the proper personnel/structure to plan for the centenary of the 1916 rising in 2016?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising/Eirí Amach na Cásca will take place in 2016. It is envisaged that there will be a major national commemoration of this key event in Irish history. Previous national commemorations were held on the 50th Anniversary in 1966 and the 90th Anniversary in 2006.

Donegal County Council itself has in recent years led out on major commemorations such as the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls/Imeacht na nIarlaí in 2007. Projects are underway at present with regard to commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster/Plandáil Uladh.”

C/641/10 POWERING ON OF PUBLIC LIGHTING IN CROAGHAN HEIGHTS LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"What is the delay in having public lighting which was erected in Croaghan Heights Lifford 12 months ago powered on?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“This is a problem between ESB Networks and Airtricity. An undertaking has been received to have these lights lit within the next two weeks.”

C/642/10 OPERATION OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT CASTLEFIN BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Please can a full report be given on the traffic lights operation at Castlefin Bridge as there is ongoing problems with vehicles not being able to pass each other safely resulting in damage to both bridge walls and vehicles?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

"The full report will be prepared by Road Design and presented at a future Stranorlar Electoral Area Meeting. Time has meant that it was not ready for the November Council Meeting."

C/643/10 PLANS FOR THE PROVISION OF A LOCALISED HELP LINE OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Has the Council finalised plans to provide a more local help-line response for those who may need Council support over the Christmas holiday season?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

"The Elected Members were presented with a comprehensive report at the Special Meeting held on 15th January, 2010 in relation to the Council's response during the severe weather period in December 2009 and into January 2010. As part of this report, it was acknowledged that there were difficulties with the Call Centre arrangements that were in place over part of that period. The report confirmed the Council plans to fully review all aspects of our response to the severe weather including the arrangements available to the public for lodging queries and complaints. A number of meetings have taken place with the current Call Centre, with final arrangements to be confirmed at a further meeting to take place within the next week. At this point in time, the Council is satisfied that the Call Centre will be in a stronger position to cover a further period of severe weather should it arise during the upcoming Christmas and New Year Holiday period. Senior Council staff will closely monitor this situation however and if necessary, local arrangements will be put in place to deal with exceptional circumstances should the need arise."

C/644/10 PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS FOR BALLYBOFEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Can a report be given on providing public toilets for Ballybofey so that funding can be included in this years allocation as after all this area of Ballybofey and Stranorlar would have an all year round demand with thousands of persons passing through every day.

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

"Expressions of interest for the provision of this service have been sought through public advertisement but no response was received.

The cost of providing a purpose built facility is significant in the context of service priorities and the competing demands on the Councils limited financial resources."

C/645/10 UPDATE ON THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF LIGHTS FOR PIERS AND SLIPWAYS ON OUR SMALL ISLANDS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"What is the update regarding the new lights proposed for piers and slipways on our small islands, and has any progress been made in securing funding for this work?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

"A report was presented to the islands meeting in Dungloe PSC on the 14th September outlining the various lighting needs on the islands. The total estimated cost of the provision of public lighting on the islands is estimated at €84,500 and an application has been submitted to An Roinn Cnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais and Gaeltachta for funding."

C/646/10 MONIES DUE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR WORKS COMPLETED ON THEIR BEHALF BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"How much money is owed to Donegal County Council by Government at this time to each of the Council Service

Area's for work already completed on their behalf by this Local Authority?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The various Government Departments owe Donegal County Council €9,484,026.26 as at 31st October 2010. This is a figure that varies significantly at any given date. The amount owed at 31st December 2009 (as per the Annual Financial Statement) was €14,134,770.00. Expenditure is incurred initially by the Council and is subsequently recouped from the various Departments. In instances where it is possible expenditure going out of the account is matched by income coming into the account so as to avoid or minimise overdraft interest costs. Queries in regard to some claims can also lead to delays in recoupments. The principal areas of recoupments from Government Departments at present are Housing, Roads, Water Services, Higher Education Grants and VEC Pensions.”

C/647/10 STATUS OF DUNGLOE AND GLENTIES SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"What is the present status of the Dungloe and Glenties Sewerage Schemes, where contract documents were submitted to the Department of Environment and Local Government on the 9th April 2009 and 19 months later no permission has been given to this County Council to go to tender on these vital projects for the towns of Glenties and Dungloe?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The Dungloe Glenties Sewerage Scheme DBO contract is included on the Departments Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 as a contract to start. It is understood that the contract documents for the contract are currently being examined by the Department with a view to approval issuing in quarter 4 - 2010 or quarter 1 - 2011. As soon as approval issues the Council expects to be in a position to run the tender process for the contract after which a construction budget will be sought from the Department.”

C/648/10 COST OF THE DISPOSAL OF WHALES WASHED UP ON RUTLAND ISLAND AND POSSIBLE REIMBURSEMENT OF THESE COSTS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

"What was the overall cost on Donegal County Council in disposing of the 33 Whales that were washed up on Rutland Island, Burtonport and will Donegal County Council get reimbursed for this expenditure?"

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

"The estimated cost is €10,000. At this stage not all of the payments have been made for the clean-up exercise. The Council will not be reimbursed for these costs."

C/649/10 TIMEFRAME FOR THE CIRCULATION OF MINUTES OF ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS INCLUDING MINUTES OF SPCS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"When will the minutes of all Council committee meetings, including SPCs be circulated to all councillors?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

"Minutes of electoral area and general committee meetings, when confirmed, are included on the agenda of Council meetings for endorsement. Policy recommendations emerging from the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) are placed before the Council for decision, as they arise. The SPC Scheme adopted by the Council for the period 2009 - 2014 provides for the circulation of minutes of SPC meetings to all councillors. Minutes of some SPC meetings are being circulated and arrangements will now be made with the Directors servicing the committees to ensure that it happens with all the SPCs."

C/650/10 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLIC LIGHTS ERECTED THIS YEAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"How many public lights were erected this year?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“194 new public lights were erected in County Donegal in the calendar year to date in County Donegal.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.