

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE

HELD ON 15TH JULY 2008, IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE, DUNGLOE

Members Present: Cllr Kelly
Cllr Slowey
Cllr Bonner
Cllr Alcorn
Cllr Gallagher

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Charles Sweeney, Area Manager, Community & Enterprise
John Gallagher – Area Manager, Water & Environment
Virginia McLoone - Area Manager, Corporate Services
Paul McGill – Area Manager, Housing & Building
Frank Sweeney – Area Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Brendan Mc Fadden – Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Cathal Moss – Road Design Engineer
Jamie Gallagher – Road Design Engineer
Michael Rowsome – Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

APOLOGIES Cllr Pádraig Doherty

GEA 92/08 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

On the proposal of Cllr. Alcorn, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, Cllr Joe Kelly was elected Chairperson of the Glenties Electoral Area Committee.

GEA 93/08 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY 2008

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of meeting of the 20th May 2008 were agreed.

GEA 94/08 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 20TH MAY 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the report from the workshop of the 20th May 2008 was agreed.

GEA 95/08 REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2008

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the report from the workshop of the 18th June 2008 was agreed.

HOUSING & BUILDING

GEA 96/08 PROGRESS REPORT – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 1ST JULY 2008

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Members welcomed progress on the Housing Schemes at Lettermacaward and Acres.

The Housing Manager updated the Committee on progress with proposals for (i) Housing developments at Loughanure and Creeslough and (ii) Turnkey submissions for family type accommodation in Dungloe.

Members were also updated by the Housing Manager in respect of the status of the Central Heating Programme.

Cllr Kelly highlighted the need for Social Housing in the Falcarragh and Gortahork areas and also the necessity to provide accommodation in the Glenties Electoral Area for people at risk from domestic violence.

In response to queries from the Committee regarding outstanding ‘snagging lists’ at Clós Naomh Chonaill, and at the New Houses in Doochary, the Housing Manager advised that retention monies will be withheld until the repairs are completed.

GEA 97/08 SI HOUSING

In response to queries from Cllr Alcorn and Cllr Slowey regarding the lengthy time delays in completing SI houses, the Housing Manager informed Members that the Housing Construction Section have previously engaged private individuals to expedite finalisation of engineering reports and he undertook to liaise with Eamon Canney in this regard.

GEA 98/08 RESPOND HOUSING SCHEME – DUNGLOE

In response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding the allocation of housing in this scheme, the Housing Manager advised the Committee of ongoing co-operation between the Council, HSE and Respond.

GEA 99/08 TRAVELLERS

Cllr Alcorn informed the Committee of his inability to contact the Council’s Traveller Accommodation Officer and requested the Council to proactively address the unauthorised presence of travellers on Council property.

GEA 100/08

ARD CONNELL, GLENTIES

The Committee requested that the Housing, Roads and Water Services liaise to source funding for improvements to this Scheme.

GEA 101/08

PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL HOUSING

Members noted the report circulated previously regarding the status of loans and grants at the 1st July 2008.

GEA 102/08

CASUAL VACANCIES AT 1ST JULY 2008

The Committee discussed the progress report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

Cllr Kelly asked the Housing Service to ensure that tenants who are being relocated by the Council, leave their previous Council accommodation in a satisfactory condition.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

GEA 103/08 MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager. Cllr Gallagher criticised the lengthy time delays in progressing the Major Capital Programme.

Cllr Bonner requested the Water Services Manager to liaise with Sanitary Capital Division in respect of the inclusion of additional areas in the Dungloe Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr Slowey congratulated the Water Services Manager and staff for their efforts prior to the official opening of the Ardara Scheme.

GEA 104/08 SMALL CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRAMME

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

On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn, seconded by Cllr Bonner, the Committee agreed the Small Capital Schemes Programme.

Cllr Bonner highlighted the necessity to improve deficiencies in the Glaserchoo area.

GEA 105/08 GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Water Services Manager. In response to queries from Members regarding the Tully/Lettercaugh/Meenamara Group Water Scheme, the Water Services Manager undertook to liaise with the Sanitary Capital Division regarding completion of the stretch to Tully Bridge.

Cllr Bonner requested the Water Service to expedite progress with proposals for the Bunawack Group Water Scheme.

GEA 106/08 ENVIRONMENT

Members welcomed the environmental report circulated with the Agenda in relation to (i) litter fines issued, (ii) Section 55 notices issued, (iii) Community assisted Clean-ups, (iv) Arranmore clean-ups.

GEA 107/08

FIRE SERVICE

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and Cllr. Slowey praised the contribution of Minister Gallagher for his role in the construction and commissioning of Fire Stations in the Glenties Electoral Area.

GEA 108/08

DUNGLOE CIVIC AMENITY SITE

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and requested that this facility be opened as soon as work is completed.

GEA 109/08

PUBLIC TOILETS – DUNGLOE

In response to a query from Cllr Bonner, the Water Services Manager advised that the public toilets in Dungloe will open during the week and the Council will monitor same for anti-social behaviour on an ongoing basis.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEA 110/08 PLANNING STATISTICS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Planning Manager in relation to planning statistics. The Planning Manager informed the Committee that planning applications have reduced to 2002 levels and that the amount of invalid submissions had also reduced considerably.

GEA 111/08 CONSIDERATION OF RECENT REFUSALS

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda outlining refusals in the period from 2/5/08 to 25/06/2008.

GEA 112/08 PLANNING STAFF

The Committee commended the Planning Manager and his staff for the level of co-operation and assistance afforded to Members.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

GEA 113/08 FUND MANAGEMENT

Members noted the report previously circulated outlining the allocations from the Development Fund Initiative 2008 that are being processed and also the schedule of payments processed from the Members Development Fund 2008 in the Glenties Electoral Area. Cllr Slowey acknowledged the contribution of the Council to the success of the McGill Summer school.

GEA 114/08 COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda detailing the current status of the 2005 – 2007 Community Playground Programme. On the proposal of Cllr Alcorn seconded by Cllr Slowey, the committee agreed that Cllr Joe Kelly perform the official Opening of the Arranmore Island Community Playground on the 5th September 2008. Cllr Slowey commended the Community, Enterprise and Cultural Services Manager for his role in the development of the Ardara Community Playground.

GEA/115/08 COUNTY STRATEGY/ COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The Committee noted the report circulated previously in relation to the above.

GEA 116/08 CULTURAL SERVICE REPORT

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda. Cllr Slowey congratulated the Council for the success of the Taobh Tíre project and the achievement of the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award 2008.

GEA 117/08 WATER & MARINE LEISURE

Cllr Bonner requested that the focus of water and marine leisure needs to be expanded from a concentration on Ballyshannon and Bundoran to the rest of the county. Cllr Alcorn requested that the Council address quad activity on Dooley Beach in the interest of Public safety. Cllr Alcorn expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of information on proposals for the development of a Marina in Burtonport.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

GEA 118/08 ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2008

The Roads Manager circulated the Committee with a progress report at the meeting and updated Members on the status of the Programme. Cllr Slowey complemented the Roads Service in respect of the new car park development in Ardara. Cllr Gallagher asked the Roads Service to address footpath requirements in the Burtonport area. Cllr Slowey highlighted the poor state of the repair of the Stranalough road in the Glen of Glenties.

GEA 119/08 LOW COST SAFTEY MEASURES

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the Agenda and at the meeting in relation to accident remedial measures in the Glenties Electoral Area. Jamie Gallagher, Roads Engineer informed the Committee that the priority list for the low cost remedial works is derived from the local area engineers observations, and locations which have been brought to their attention by An Garda Siochana, Elected Members and the public. Members were further advised that the proposed schemes were prioritised following a review of the number of accidents at each location and based on their cost benefit ranking. Cllr Alcorn and Cllr Bonner were unhappy that prioritisation was determined on the frequency of accidents at a location, and requested the council to carry out accident preventative measures at the Old Dungloe Fire Station.

GEA 120/08 N56 UPDATE

Cathal Moss, Roads Engineer circulated reports at the meeting in relation to:

- (i) N56 National Secondary Pavement and Minor Improvement Projects 2008
- (ii) N56 National Secondary Pavement and Minor Improvement 2009 Funding Application.

Cllr Bonner criticised the transfer of €125,000 from the N56 Doochary Junction to Dungloe Road, and requested that the Roads Service provide Members with a breakdown of expenditure costs in the sum of €175,000

on this project. Cllr Bonner also expressed extreme frustration at the lack of priority afforded to the Meenacarn bends design works and requested that NRDO Senior Management be advised of Members dissatisfaction in this regard.

Members expressed dissatisfaction at the disgraceful condition of the N56 Kilraine to Glenties Road.

Cllr Kelly asked the Roads Service to ascertain the reason for the reclassification of the road from the Port Bridge to Ballyraine as a national secondary route.

GEA 121/08

TAKEOVER OF NON COUNTY ROADS

Cllr Bonner requested that the takeover of non-county roads be included on the agenda of the next area meeting.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GEA122/08

ACTIVITY REPORT

The Committee discussed the report presented by the Corporate Manager and circulated with the agenda outlining the increase in the levels of business conducted in the Dungloe Public Services Centre during the first six months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. The Corporate Manager also informed the Members that the percentage of business conducted 'as Gaeilge' was as follows:

- (i) Motor Taxation – 10%
- (ii) Personal Callers – 12%
- (iii) Telephone callers - 6%

GEA 123/08

DONEGAL AIRPORT COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed the correspondence circulated with the Agenda from the Donegal Airport Committee

On the proposal of Cllr Slowey, seconded by Cllr Bonner, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Donegal Airport Committee at the September Electoral Area Meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING