

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR

21 Márta 2006

Beidh an Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhun na nGall ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 27 Márta, 2006, ag **2.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Tá Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

S. O'Piobla

Riarthóir Cruinniú Ionadach (RUNAI CHONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
21st March, 2006

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 27th March, 2006 at 2.00 p.m. in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of County Manager's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

J. Peoples

A/Meetings Administrator (County Secretary)

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Confirmation of Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 13th January, 2006.
- (b) Confirmation of Minutes of Resumed Budget Meeting held on the 18th January, 2006.
- (c) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th January, 2006.
- (d) Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th January, 2006.
- (e) Confirmation of Minutes of Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th February, 2006.
- (f) Confirmation of Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th February, 2006.
- (g) Confirmation of Minutes of General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13th February, 2006.

2. Disposal of Land- Section 211 Planning & Development Act, 2000

- (a) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of land at Murroe, Dunfanaghy to Mr. George B. Hanlon.
- (b) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of a plot of land measuring 0.011 Hectares to the side of No. 10 St. Bridget's Crescent, Drumkeen to John & Bridie Bonner.
- (c) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to exchange plot of land with Mr. Edward Gillespie, Meencorwick, Crolly – SI 3939.
- (d) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of land at The Quay, Donegal Town, to North West Regional Tourism Authority Ltd.
- (e) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of plot of land at Glassagh Lower, Brinaleck to Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Grace McGee.

- (f) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve transfer lands at Moress, Inch Island to the legal and Personal Reps of Mr. John Sweeney, Inch Island.
- (g) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose 0.5 acres at Main Street, Carpark, Donegal Town to Mr. Michael P. Kelly and Mr. Michael J. Kelly.
- (h) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of plot of land attached to the Dispensary Residence, Gweedore Road, Dungloe to Dr. Peter Sweeney.
- (i) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of plot of land measuring 0.0066 hectares to the rear of No. 209 Castleview Avenue, Dunkineely to Eamon & Caroline McNern.
- (j) Notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 to resolve to dispose of plot of land measuring 0.0097 hectares to the side of No. 48 Ernedale Heights, Ballyshannon to David Farrell.

3. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).

- (a) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to 6no. Specific Instance Cottages.
- (b) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to proposed road depot at Carndonagh.
- (c) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Carrick to Kilcar (Phase 1 and 3) Road Realignment R263/L-1195-1.
- (d) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Milford Environmental Improvement Scheme (Phase 11).
- (e) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to Milford Car Park and Access Roads.
- (f) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to 9 No. housing units in Dunkineely, Co. Donegal.

- (g) To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the construction of 10 No. Social Housing units at Drumcarbit, Malin.

4. **Housing Programme**

- (a) To approve recommendation for the provision of two demountable dwellings in each Electoral Area on a pilot basis in 2006.
- (b) To amend the Scheme of Allocation Priorities for Affordable Housing.

5. **Planning Programme**

- (a) Introduction of Pre-Planning Enquiry Facilities.
- (b) To consider the proposed Variation to the Letterkenny and Environs Development Plan 2003-2009 (as varied) (Variation No. 2, the area of the Town Centre Extension – Urban Design Framework).

6. **Corporate Programme**

- (a) Change of title from Cathaoirleach to Méara Chontae/Mayor of the County of Donegal.

7. **Water Environment and Emergency Services**

- (a) To consider report on planning decision for the proposed Meenaboll Landfill.

8. **Roads Programme**

- a) To seek tenders for Mulroy Bay Bridge Crossing and Approach Roads.
- b) To approve Bridge Strengthening Programme 2006.
- c) To note updated policy on Implementing Policy on removal of unauthorised advertising signs (B&B's).

- d) To approve proposed amendments to Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal) Bye-Laws 2005 to integrate the Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass.

9. Community & Enterprise Programme

- a) Foyle Ferry – Greencastle, Co. Donegal – Magilligan, Co. Derry. Review of contract with Foyle Ferry Co. Ltd.
- b) To approve Revised County Bursary & Award Scheme.

10. Conferences

Home:

- a) TJK Conference Company Ltd “The Law of Defamation (libel & slander) as it Affects Councillors” to be held at Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee on the 8th April 2006.
- b) Listowel Arts Conference 2006 “The Importance of the Arts in Urban Regeneration” to be held in the Listowel Arms Hotel, Co. Kerry on the 20th & 21st April 2006.
- c) Waste Management Conference to be held in the Downings Bay Hotel, Downings, Co. Donegal on the 24th – 26th April, 2006.
- d) International Festival of Peace to be held in Tipperary Town on the 21st – 23rd April 2006.
- e) NASC Annual Conference 2006 to be held in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town on the 11th May 2006.

Abroad

- f) CEMR General Assembly Conference to be held at Innsbruck, Austria on the 10th – 12th May 2006.

11. *Cathaoirleach’s Business*

12. *Manager’s Report*

MOTIONS

(C) County

- (L) Local
- (O) Other

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

13. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council have a continuous white line placed on the N15 on the approach to Beechwood grove, Lifford.” (L)

Corporate Service

14. Clr. T. McDaid
“That this Council explores appropriate funding opportunities to upgrade or to provide for needs-based childcare facilities, which meet the requirements of current childcare legislation, in all of it's Public Service Centres, including Corporate Headquarters, and further to foster a partnership-based approach with community-based childcare organisations, which aims to develop affordable childcare provision in each of the Centres.” (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

15. Clr. S. McEniff
“That the Council provide funding in next years estimates for the creation of an entrance to Tullan Strand, Bundoran.” (L)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

16. Clr. I. McGarvey
“That this Council identify and map the location of land required for future requirements on roads in the Milford Electoral area and approach the owners of such land and

draw up contracts for the purchase of same if and when required.” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

17. Clr. N. McBride
“That extra funding be sought from the Department of the Environment for Group Water Schemes in County Donegal.”
(C)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development Services

18. Clr. A. Bonner
“That this Council identify and purchase a site for a playground and park in Ballybofey/Stranorlar area and that funding be earmarked from the Development Contribution Scheme, possible option - lands at Drumboe Avenue.” (L)

Roads & Transportation Services

19. Clr. J.J. Reid
“That the Council re-classify the road leading from Castlefinn through Convoy to Letterkenny from County Road to Regional Road status.” (L)
20. Clr. P. McGowan
“That this Council request the Minister for Transport Mr. Martin Cullen T.D. to consider a derogation on National Road Authority controls of restricted access's on the National Primary roads inside the Ballybofey and Stranorlar Local Area Plan zone.” (L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Planning & Economic Development

21. Clr. D. Alcorn
“That this County Council ensures when Councillors make Reps on behalf of Constituents on Planning matters, and if there is a problem with Planning Applications, that the

Planners revert to the member to discuss the situation with them, before a final decision is made.” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

22. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“I am calling on Donegal County Council to fast track the development/regeneration of the old Fire Station sites at Station Rd, Falcarragh and in Glenties.” (L)

Roads & Transportation Services

23. Clr. T. Slowey
“That this Council discuss what we can do in Donegal as a Local Authority to reduce the carnage on our roads.” (C)
24. Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall na teorainn luais ag stáisiún na nGardaí An Bunbeag, a shíneadh suas bealach Chois Cládaigh, An Bunbeag, go dtí bealach iontrála/gabhal Pháirc Gnó Ghaoth Dobhair.

That Donegal County Council will extend the speed limits at the Garda Station, Bunbeg, to the entrance of the Gweedore Business Park. (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Finance

25. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council discuss the Indecon Report and make a submission to Government on the best funding options available to Donegal County Council to allow this County progress without burdening our businesses any further.” (C)

QUESTIONS

(C) County

- (L) Local
(O) Other

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

26. Clr. G. Crawford
“What plans does this Council have to improve road safety at the junction known as Gallaghers Corner, St. Johnston?”(L)
27. Clr. G. Crawford
“In the interest of Road Safety will this Council carry out a audit of missing junction yield signs and have them replaced?” (C)

Planning & Economic Development Services

28. Clr. T. McDaid
“How many application for retention of unauthorised development have been granted by this Council in the past five years?” (C)

Housing & Building Services

29. Clr. T. McDaid
“Can this Council confirm that it is adhering to Part M of the Building Regulations, which compels that all new housing developments comply with disability requirements?” (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

30. Clr. T. Pringle
“What is the up to date position in relation to the Killybegs Sewer Scheme?” (L)
31. Clr. T. Pringle
“What progress has been made on the Mountcharles Small Capital Scheme and when is it expected that work will be complete?” (L)

32. Clr. J. Kennedy
“Can the old fire station be used for a Youth Centre in Donegal Town?” (L)

Corporate Services

33. Clr. J. Kennedy
“Due to the amount of wasted paper, can the Councils meeting agenda be made available on disc as an option to those who want them?” (O)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

34. Clr. I. McGarvey
“Is it intended to complete the necessary application for the provision of a Reservoir at Ramelton as it is already apparent with ongoing developments that the supply is already under pressure?” (L)

Planning & Economic Development Services

35. Clr. I. McGarvey
“Is it not necessary to consider the future planning at Shore Rd., Ramelton as regards the height and dominance of such buildings in this area?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

36. Clr. N. McBride
“When does Donegal County Council plan to carry out pipe replacement on Milford/Portlean water main?” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

37. Clr. A. Bonner

“What works have been done to date, and what money was spent of the approx ¾ million allocation on the upgrading of the Convoy Sewerage Treatment Plant?” (L)

38. Clr. A. Bonner

“What is the findings of the Hydraulc Analysis Report carried out on the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Sewer Network and what is the schedule of work for upgrading and replacement of pipes that are at full capacity?” (L)

Roads & Transportation Services

39. Clr. J.J. Reid

“What action do the Council intend to take with the ESB in regard to their total failure to provide a service to the Council?” (C)

40. Clr. J.J. Reid

“Has the Council received any up to date report from the N.R.A. regarding the Ballybofey/Stranorlar ByPass?” (L)

41. Clr. P. McGowan

“Following my previous motions in relation to Castlefin Bridge, will the Council write to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr. Dick Roche T.D. asking that this Regional Road Cross Border bridge be considered for special department funding?” (L)

Finance

42. Clr. P. McGowan

“Can a detailed breakdown of commercial rates per Electoral Area be given, including any business/area receiving wavers or reductions for 2005/2006?” (C)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation Services

43. Clr. D. Alcorn

“Can the Roads Section of Donegal County Council set up a procedure to reply to letters and queries submitted by the elected members of this Council?” (C)

44. Clr. D. Alcorn
“Have Donegal County Council come to any arrangement with the ESB to have all the outstanding works, for which orders have been placed for a considerable time carried out without further delay?” (C)

45. Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
“Cén uair a dhéanfaidh an comhairle Contae áthúradh & deisiú ar dhromchla uachtarach chéidh Mhachaire Rabhartaigh agus an bóthar isteach?

When will Donegal County Council repair and renew the upper end and entrance to Magheroarty Pier?” (L)

46. Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
“An bhfuil aon phlean ag an Comhairle Contae chun seirbhísí m.s. foscadáin, leithris, seomraí feithimh & saoráidí eile a sholáthar ar chéidheanna farantóireachta ar fud na contae?

Has Donegal County Council any plans to supply necessary facilities such as shelters, toilets, waiting rooms and other facilities at the Ferryports in the county?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

47. Clr. B. O'Domhnaill
“Can Donegal County Council provide a Bottle Bank incorporating can & plastic facility in Dunlewey?” (L)
48. Clr. B. O'Domhnaill
“Can Donegal County Council actively pursue a county wide policy or county wide programme of effective street cleaning in towns/villages removal of chewing gum on pavements/walkways/streets?” (C)
49. Clr. T. Slowey
“What is the timescale for the reclamation of closed landfills in Donegal. How much will it cost and are the Council

going to seek special funding from the Department of the Environment? Have any communications or checks of enforcement regarding this issue been received from the Environmental Protection Agency?” (C)

Corporate Services

50. Clr. T. Slowey
“What procedures have each section of Donegal County Council put in place to ensure that letters of representation from the 29 Elected Members of this Local Authority are answered?” (O)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Housing & Building Services

51. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What progress has been made by this Council in tidying up the derelict remains of the old hall at back street Carrigans?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

52. Clr. F. Conaghan
“When will work commence on the upgrade of the Tober/Castlethird Group Water Scheme and the construction of the reservoir as part of Lagan Desert Phase 3?” (L)

53. **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council rejects the Hanley Report as it relates to Nenagh and all County Hospitals and demands the retention of full Acute Medical, Surgical and Accidents and Emergency Services in these Hospitals.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Council write to the Minister for the Environment in the following terms: The Council is very concerned that the contribution from Repak is a very small fraction of the

costs this Council is incurring in arranging for the recycling of packaging waste and calls on the Minister for the Environment to properly implement the Principle of Producer Responsibility and require Repak to pay fully for the costs of recycling packaging waste being put on the market by its members and that the motion be circulated to all other waste authorities in the Republic.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to allow tenants of the voluntary housing sector i.e. Respond and Cluid to purchase their homes as in the case of local authority tenants and that this motion be circulated to all members.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“In light of the negative impact that implementation of the Nitrates Directive will have on the farming sector, the Minister for Agriculture and Food be requested to come up with a workable solution to this serious problem as a matter of urgency.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“This Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to review the way it calculated its earnings in respect of SSIA's and any future saving/pension incentive scheme for the purposes of student grants so that the less well-off will not be penalised for saving for their child's education.”

COBH TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the Department of Health and the Department of Education to set up a pilot scheme to train students in the life saving skill of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in our local second level schools.”

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2006 IN THE
COUNTY HOUSE LIFFORD

C/125/06

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. D. Larkin, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonnar, E. Bonnar, J. Boyle, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, R. Donaghey, J. Kennedy, N. McBride, T. McDaid, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, P. McGowan, Pádraig O'Dochartaigh, T. Pringle, J.J. Reid, T. Slowey.

C/126/06

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director of Housing, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning & Economic Development, Mr. Jim Holohan, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, Mr. B. Boyle, Head of Information Systems, Mr. Gary Martin, S.E.O., Ms. Helena O' Toole, Senior Planner, Mr. Michael McGarvey, Senior Engineer, Mr. Geoffrey Browne, I.S. Project Leader, Mr. Daragh McDonough, I.S. Project Leader, Ms. Cliodhna Campbell, Executive Engineer, Ms. Sinead Harkin, Executive Planner, Mr. Joe Peoples, A/Meetings Administrator, Ms. Ann Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

C/127/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF BUDGET
MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th January 2006 were adopted.

C/128/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. J.J. Reid, the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 18th January 2006 were adopted.

C/129/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH JANUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. McBride, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th January, 2006, were adopted.

C/130/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH JANUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the Minutes of The Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 30th January, 2006, were adopted, subject to Min C/57/06 being deferred for consideration to the General Purposes Committee Meeting to be held on the 10th April 2006.

Clr. McGowan contended that Min/C57/06 contained a number of inaccuracies and proposed that it be deferred for consideration to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting on the 10th April 2006.

In response to a query from Clr. McDaid, the Mayor advised that it was the responsibility of Clr. McGowan to detail the various inaccuracies, for consideration by the Council.

However, because of the number of inaccuracies which were being put forward for consideration the Mayor requested that the Members agree to defer the matter to the next General Purpose Meeting which is in keeping with normal council procedures.

Clr. Reid then proposed, seconded by Clr. McDaid that the Minutes of the Meeting of Donegal County

Council held on the 30th January 2006 be adopted as presented.

In accordance with standing orders a vote was taken as Clr. Reid's proposal that the minute as presented be adopted.

This resulted in 8 voting for, with 13 voting against.

Those voting in favour were: -

Clrs. Boyle, Pádraig O'Dochartaigh, McBride, McDaid, McGarvey, Pringle, Reid and Slowey. (8)

Those voting against were: -

Clrs. Alcorn, Blaney, A. Bonnar, E. Bonner, Byrne, Conaghan, Donaghey, Kennedy, Larkin, McDonald, McEniff, McGonagle, McGowan. (13)

The Mayor declared the motion to adopt the minute lost.

Mr. Joe Peoples, A/Meetings Administrator advised that it was imperative that the inaccuracies concerned were listed for the record and he requested that Clr. McGowan submit the details of the proposed amendments, to his office in writing, for circulation to the members in advance of the General Purposes Meeting.

C/131/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 6th February 2006, were adopted.

C/132/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 13TH FEBRUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. McGarvey, the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of

Donegal County Council held on the 13th February, 2006, were adopted.

C/133/06

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
THE 13TH FEBRUARY 2006

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 13th February 2006, were adopted.

C/134/06

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MURROE,
DUNFANAGHY

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

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, it was resolved to dispose of 0.240 ha land at Murroe, Dunfanaghy, to Mr. George B. Hanlon, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/135/06

DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT NO. 10 ST
BRIDGETS CRESCENT, DRUMKEEN TO JOHN
AND BRIDIE BONNER

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

On the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, it was resolved to dispose of 0.011 hectares of land at the side of No 10 St Bridget's Crescent, Drumkeen to John and Bridie Bonner, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/136/06

EXCHANGE OF PLOT OF LAND WITH MR.
EDWARD GILLESPIE, MEENCORWICK,
CROLLY.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, it was resolved to exchange plot of land

measuring 0.157 hectares with Mr. Edward Gillespie, Meencorwick, Crolly in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/137/06

DISPOSAL OF PLOT LAND AT THE QUAY,
DUNGLOE TO NORTH WEST REGIONAL
TOURISM AUTHORITY LTD.

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

On the proposal of Clr. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, it was resolved to dispose of 0.276 acres of land at The Quay, Dungloe, to North West Regional Tourism Authority Ltd, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/138/06

EXCHANGE OF PLOT LAND AT GLASSAGH
LOWER, BRINALECK TO MR AND MRS.
EDWARD & GRACE MAGEE

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

On the proposal of Clr. Pdraig O'Dochartaigh, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved to: -

1. Transfer the lands shown on map "A" - Area 0.161 hectares and outlined in red from Edward & Grace McGee, Glassagh Lower, Brinaleck, Co Donegal to Donegal County Council and to grant a R.O.W to Donegal County Council over the lands coloured yellow on Map "A" and shown X- Y on Map "A" also.
2. In exchange for lands outlined above to transfer lands shown on Map "B" - 0.175 hectares area and outlined in red from Donegal County Council to Mr. & Mrs. Edward and Grace McGee, Glassagh Lower, Brinaleck, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
3. All reasonable costs in connection with land exchange to be borne by Donegal County Council.

C/139/06

DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT MORESS, INCH ISLAND TO THE LEGAL AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF MR. JOHN SWEENEY

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

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to transfer plot of land measuring 0.591 hectares (1.463 acres) at Moress, Inch Island to the Legal and Personal Reps of Mr. John Sweeney, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/140/06

DISPOSAL OF 0.5 ACRES AT MAIN STREET CAR PARK, DONEGAL TOWN TO MR. MICHAEL P. KELLY AND MR. MICHAEL J. KELLY

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

On the proposal of Clr. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. Byrne, it was resolved to dispose of 0.5 acres of land at Main Street Car Park, Donegal to Mr. Michael J. Kelly and Mr. Michael P. Kelly, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/141/06

DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND ATTACHED TO DISPENSARY RESIDENCE, GWEEDORE ROAD, DUNGLOE TO DR. PETER SWEENEY

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

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to dispose of 0.4 acres of land (walled garden) attached to Dispensary Residence, Gweedore Road, Dungloe, to Dr. Peter Sweeney, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/142/06

DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND ATTACHED TO THE REAR OF NO 209 CASTLEVIEW AVENUE,

DUNKINEELY TO EAMON & CAROLINE
MCNERN

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

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, it was resolved to dispose of 0.0066 hectares of land to the rear of No 209 Castleview Avenue, Dunkineely to Eamon and Caroline McNern, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/143/06

DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND TO THE SIDE OF
NO. 48 ERNEDALE HEIGHTS, BALLYSHANNON
TO MR. DAVID FARRELL

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

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Byrne, it was resolved to dispose of 0.0097 hectares (0.024 acres) of land to the side of No. 48 Ernedale Heights, Ballyshannon to Mr. David Farrell, in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 & Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/144/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO 6 NO.
SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES

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

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Conaghan, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to 6 no. Specific Instance Cottages at various locations was approved.

C/145/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO
PROPOSED ROAD DEPOT AT CARNDONAGH

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

On the proposal of Clr. McGonagle, seconded by Clr. McDonald, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the

Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to Proposed Roads Depot at Carndonagh was approved.

C/146/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO CARRICK TO KILCAR (PHASE 1 AND 3) ROAD REALIGNMENT R263/L-1195-1

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

On the proposal of Clr. Byrne, seconded by Clr. P. O' Dochartaigh, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the Carrick to Kilcar (Phase 1 & 3) Road Realignment R263/L –1195-1 was approved.

C/147/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (PHASE 11)

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

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. Mc Bride, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the Milford Environmental Improvement Scheme was approved.

C/148/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO MILFORD CARPARK AND ACCESS ROADS

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

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to the Milford Carpark and Access Roads were approved.

C/149/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO 9 NO HOUSING UNITS AT DUNKINEELY, CO DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Clr. Boyle, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to 9 No. Housing Units in Dunkineely was approved.

C/150/06

TAKING OF DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NO. SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT DRUMCARBIT, MALIN

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

On the proposal of Clr. McGonagle, seconded by Clr. McDonald, the carrying out of works under Part XI Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, with regard to 10 No. Social Housing Units at Drumcarbit, Malin was approved.

C/151/06

TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PROVISION OF TWO DEMOUNTABLE DWELLINGS IN EACH ELECTORAL AREA ON A PILOT BASIS IN 2006

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

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McGowan it was resolved to provide two number Demountable Dwellings in each Electoral Area on a pilot basis during 2006.

C/152/06

TO AMEND THE SCHEME OF ALLOCATION PRIORITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn it was resolved to amend the Scheme of Allocation Priorities for Affordable Housing to include the following: -

Income test: -

(a) Single income household – where the gross income in the previous tax year multiplied by 2.5 is equal to or less than €100,000 or such increased limit, which may be from time to time set by the Department Circular.

(b) Two income household- where the gross of the principal income in the previous tax year multiplied by 2.5 plus the gross of the secondary income (previous tax year) is equal to or less than €100,000 or such increased limit which may be set from time to time by Department Circular.

C/153/06

INTRODUCTION OF ONLINE PRE-PLANNING ENQUIRY FACILITIES

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development informed members that it was intended to launch the new Online Pre Planning Enquiry Service in April 2006.

Mr. Daragh McDonough provided a brief demonstration on the operational functions of the new system.

Mr. Coyle thanked the Head of Information Systems, Mr. Brian Boyle, and Mr. Daragh McDonough, I.S. Project Leader for their assistance in rolling out the facility, which he hoped would reduce the number of pre-planning enquiries currently being processed by staff in the various planning offices.

The service could also be accessed in the Public Libraries throughout the County and details of all valid applications would also be provided he confirmed.

Mr. Coyle then introduced Ms. Helena O'Toole to the meeting and informed members that she had recently taken up the position of Senior Planner with Donegal County Council.

Ms. O'Toole alluded to the sample Pre-Planning Information Form which had been circulated for members information and confirmed that the

introduction of the new Pre-Planning Enquiry Facilities was essential for effective compliance with Section 247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

In recognising that there were times when members of the public needed to talk to specific Planners, Ms. O'Toole outlined the timetable for Pre Planning Enquiry Meetings in each of the Electoral Areas.

Members welcomed Ms. O'Toole and wished her well in her new appointment. The advent of the new service was warmly welcomed. Clr. Alcorn outlined the need for adequate staffing in the Planning Department of the Dungloe Public Services Centre.

In response to a number of queries raised by members Ms. O'Toole confirmed that: -

In relation to the absence of the Area Manager (Planning) information could be provided by the Executive or Assistant Planner in the area in question.

It was anticipated that 15-minute time slots would be

adequate to deal with the business in hand, with information being sought in advance to keep the meeting focused.

The new service was a change from the current practice and that the Planning Service was now obliged to maintain a record of any such meetings.

The provision of holiday cover would be examined and that further discussion on this matter would take place at Electoral Area Level.

Clr. McGowan called for the service to be reviewed after three to four months so that an effective reappraisal could be provided.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2003-2009 (AS VARIED)
(VARIATION NO 2 THE AREA OF THE TOWN
CENTRE EXTENSION – URBAN DESIGN
FRAMEWORK)

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

Mr. Francie Coyle informed those present that the reason for the proposed variation was to respond to the policy objective regarding the future development of the lands in question, taking into consideration the expansion of the town centre yet ensuring connectivity with the established town centre. It dealt with a number of items he added namely the set back of building lines, Road Lines, Riverside Parks, and Linear Parks.

Clr. Larkin welcomed the report, noting that there were a number of excellent submissions. He advised however that much work had to be done before the proposed variation could be adopted by Letterkenny Town Council.

He requested that:-

Discussions take place with Letterkenny Athletic Club in relation to a number of concerns raised.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Reid it was resolved that the Council make the Variation to the Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan entitled Letterkenny & Environs Development Plan 2003-2009 (as varied) (Variation No 2) The Area of the Town Centre Extension - Urban Design Framework subject to amendments made by Letterkenny Town Council and to carry out the publication and notification procedures as required by Section 13(8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2004.

C/155/06

CHANGE OF TITLE FROM CATHAOIRLEACH
TO MEARA CHONTAE/ MAYOR OF THE
COUNTY OF DONEGAL

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

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. McGarvey it was resolved “In accordance with the provisions of Section 32 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we the members of Donegal County Council hereby resolve that the holder of the office of Cathaoirleach shall henceforth be given the title of **Méara Chontae Dhún na nGall/Mayor of the County of Donegal** and the Leas-Cathaoirleach shall be given the title **Leas-Mhéara Chontae Dhún na nGall/Deputy Mayor of the county of Donegal**.

C/156/06

TO CONSIDER REPORT ON PLANNING
DECISION FOR THE PROPOSED MEENABOLL
LANDFILL

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

The County Manager informed those present that the purpose of the report was to put members on notice that it was intended to use the provisions of Article 117 of the Planning and Development Regulations, SI No. 600 of 2001 (Scoping Request) to address the basis of An Bord Pleanála’s refusal to sanction the development of a landfill site at Meenaboll. This was essential he affirmed as the Draft Replacement Waste Management Plan was due to come before members within the next six weeks.

In relation to site selection Clr. E. Bonner enquired as to where and when it was agreed to identify between 2 and 4 sites within the county as suitable landfill sites. He also queried the original designation of Meenaboll as Category 1 landscape and noted that Category 3 was perhaps more appropriate.

Clr. Reid noted that over €1 million had been spent on Coravaddy and Meenaboll. The way forward he affirmed was to examine all possible alternatives in conjunction with the scoping request.

It was agreed that the overall consultation process needed to be reviewed.

A number of members indicated that it was now time to explore the possibility of exporting waste and also look at the benefits of the incineration process.

C/157/06

SEEKING OF TENDERS FOR MULROY BAY BRIDGE CROSSING AND APPROACH ROAD

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

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. McBride the seeking of tenders for the Mulroy Bay Bridge Crossing and Approach Road was approved.

C/158/06

TO APPROVE BRIDGE STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME 2006

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

A number queries were raised in relation to bridges at the following locations: -

Ballinaglack, Meenaboll, Meenaroy, and Meenacuing.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation noted that the type of works proposed in the programme could not be facilitated at Meenaboll. He agreed to provide Clr. Alcorn with a response in relation to his queries on the bridges at Tully, Cruit, Rosses, Gweedore and Meenamara.

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGarvey, the Bridge Strengthening Programme 2006 was approved.

C/159/06

TO NOTE UPDATED POLICY ON REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORISED ADVERTISING SIGNS

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

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation advised that the report had been issued so as to inform members that Donegal County Council would recommence removing unauthorised B&B signage as and from the 21st April 2006.

A number of members welcomed the plans to consult with the public and called for the standardisation of B&B signage.

Clr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh said that it was regrettable that the policy was being implemented at the start of the tourist season. It would have been more appropriate he advised to commence this campaign in October at the close of the tourist season.

The cost of providing of signage was also deemed to be a stumbling block to standardisation.

Clr. Reid stated that he was unhappy with the current policy in relation to the provision of mobile sandwich boards.

C/160/06

TO APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) (COUNTY OF DONEGAL) BYE LAWS 2005 TO INTEGRATE THE BUNDORAN BALLYSHANNON BYPASS

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

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that the amendments were required in order to integrate the new road layouts as a result of opening of the N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass Scheme.

In response to members queries on a general speed limit review, Mr. McLaughlin advised that a review was under way in relation to the following: -

1. Schools
2. Regional Roads
3. Set number of National Roads.

It was he advised not a widespread review, and specific reasons would have to be provided in relation items 1-3 above.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. McGarvey the proposed amendments to Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Donegal) Bye-Laws 2005 to integrate the Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass were agreed in accordance with Section 9 of the Roads Traffic Act 2004.

C/161/06

FOYLE FERRY- GREENCASTLE, CO DONEGAL – MAGILLIGAN, CO DERRY. REVIEW OF CONTRACT WITH FOYLE FERRY CO LTD.

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

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. Donaghey it was agreed that the contract with the Foyle Ferry Co. Limited be amended as follows:-

1. Effective from 14th June 2005 to 13th June 2007, each Council would provide an annual subvention, in consideration for services provided, of Stg £50,000 (approximately €75,000) to the Ferry Company as part of an extended and amended contract. As part of this proposal the sharing of excess revenues would be abolished effective from 14th June 2005.
2. Effective from 14th June 2007 TO 13th June 2009, the ferry service will be provided to the Councils on a non-subvented, zero cost basis, with each council effectively licensing the current operator to provide the service for this period.
3. Effective from 14th June 2009, it was proposed that a full open tender would be requested in line with current interpreted restrictions of existing contract.
4. As per Schedule attached it was proposed effective from 1st May 2006 that fares would be increased as indicated. This was deemed reasonable, as current fares have been in place since mid 2003.
5. As part of the proposal for the service to be provided on a non-subvented basis effective from June 2007, it was proposed that the Ferry Company would have the option of increasing fares in line with the Consumer Price Index, to take account of year-on-year increases (This figure is generally in the range of 2% - 3%) this request is deemed reasonable in view of the need to respond to normal cost increases in business.

It was also agreed that the concessionary fares for OAPs & Children would remain the same for 2006,

subject to ratification also by Limavady Borough Council.

Clr. Blaney affirmed that he was unhappy with the decision taken in relation to the fare structure at the General Purposes Committee Meeting on the 12th December 2005. He questioned the validity of this decision, which he affirmed had been taken at 17 minutes past six.

The Mayor advised that he should make a formal note of his objections and submit in writing to the Meetings Administrator.

C/162/06

TO APPROVE REVISED COUNTY BURSARY AND AWARD SCHEME

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

On the proposal of Clr. Conaghan seconded by Clr. Slowey the revised County Bursary and Award Scheme was approved.

C/163/06

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved that any member who wished could attend the following conferences:-

TJK Conference Company Ltd “The Law of Defamation (libel & slander) as it Affects Councillors” to be held at Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee on the 8th April 2006.

Listowel Arts Conference 2006 “The Importance of the Arts in Urban Regeneration” to be held in the Listowel Arms Hotel, Co. Kerry on the 20th & 21st April 2006.

Waste Management Conference to be held in the Downings Bay Hotel, Downings, Co. Donegal on the 24th – 26th April, 2006.

International Festival of Peace to be held in Tipperary Town on the 21st – 23rd April 2006.

NASC Annual Conference 2006 to be held in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town on the 11th May 2006.

Opinion Polls Conference to be held in the Great Southern Hotel, Rosslare on 31st March – 1st April, 2006.

C/164/06

CONFERENCES ABROAD

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Conaghan, seconded by Clr. McGowan, it was resolved that 2 no. members could attend the following conference: -

CEMR General Assembly Conference to be held in Innsbruck, Austria on the 10th – 12th May 2006.

C/165/06

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Mayor's Golf Classic

Clr. Larkin advised that the above event would take place on the 11th May 2006. He noted the ongoing contribution of Mr. Brian Boyle, Head of Information Systems, Mr. Sean Dunnion, I.S. Project Leader and Ms Kathleen Browne, Staff Officer to the project, and asked members to donate €200 from their Development Contribution Scheme Allocations towards the event.

USA Trip

Clr. Larkin informed members that the trip to the United States for the recent St Patrick's Day celebrations had been an outstanding success. It had he advised once again served to promote the economic and cultural well being of the county. He thanked the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Ms Ann Marie Conlon, Communications Officer and Mr. Shane Wallace of Wallace Media for their assistance. He also acknowledged the commitment and outstanding contribution made by Ms Kathleen

Browne, Staff Officer, Corporate Services who had organised the trip and accompanied the group to America.

Clr. Larkin affirmed that both Clr. Blaney and himself were most appreciative of the welcome extended by both the Donegal Associations in Philadelphia and New York.

Members then viewed to a short video presentation outlining the highlights of the trip.

Technical Improvements – Council Chamber.

The Mayor welcomed the installation of the new technical facilities in the Council Chamber.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Clr. Ciaran Brogan on the birth of his baby son.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of Sympathy were proposed to the following:-

Jennifer McClay, Corporate Services, Donegal Town, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Iris Elvin.

Hughie Gallagher, Waterworks Inspector, Gortahork, on the death of his wife Mrs. Mary Gallagher.

Hugo Gallagher, Waterworks Caretaker, Gortahork, on the death of his mother Mrs. Mary Gallagher.

Michael Breslin, Waterworks Caretaker, Glenties/Ardara, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Brid Breslin.

Hugh Breslin, Waterworks Caretaker, Glenties/Ardara, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Brid Breslin.

Tony O'Connell, Buiding Supervisor, Carndonagh on the death of his father, Mr. Robert O'Connell (Bert).

P.J. Clerkin, Technician, Architects Office, Lifford on the death of his father Mr. Seamus Clerkin.

Marian Doherty, Revenue Collector, on the death of her father, Mr. Jack McMullin.

Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, Roads on the death of his mother, Mrs. Anna Lynn.

Gerry Gallagher, Environment, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Catherine Gallagher.

Nina Quigley, Library Assistant, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Emira Corbett.

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate Services, on the death of his father, Mr. Sam Kelly.

Mairead Lynch, Planning, Dungloe on the death of her mother, Mrs. Cathleen Lynch.

The Family of Albert Fullerton, son of the Late Clr. Eddie Fullerton

C/166/06

MANAGER'S REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, together with the addendum circulated prior to the meeting.

Copies of the Indecon Review of Local Government Financing were distributed to Members

The County Manager outlined the main points of his reports.

He congratulated the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor on the success of their recent visit to the United States, and extended thanks to Ms. Kathleen Browne, Staff Officer, Corporate Services who had carried out much of the preparatory work for the trip.

Mr. McLoone advised that he intended to bring a report on the Gateways Investment Priorities Study to the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee in the near future.

He paid tribute to Mr. Jim Holohan, Director of Water Environment and Emergency Services who had been

involved in the drawing up of D.B.O Contracts on a nation-wide basis. He thus welcomed the signing of the Donegal Bay Wastewater Management Scheme and noted that similar developments were to follow for Killybegs/Bundoran/Letterkenny and Gweedore. The upgrading of the Sewerage Network would be the next major development he added.

It was agreed on the basis of the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group that a deputation from Donegal County Council would meet with the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. Noel Dempsey, to request: -

1. 100% funding for the Flagship Greencastle Harbour Project by the Department of the Marine.
2. The designation of the harbour as a Fishery Harbour Centre.
3. The harbour remaining in the control of the Department.

The County Manager acknowledged the quality of work carried out by the Donegal County Archives Service in relation to the Schools Outreach Project.

The County Council led Peace 11 Task Force Allocation of €2.6 million to various projects throughout the county would reap long term benefits the County Manager noted. He applauded the sterling work carried out by the Evaluation Committee.

The County Manager agreed to Clr. Pringle's request to have D.B.O s included and discussed at the next meeting.

A number of members were unhappy that there would be no discussion on the Manager's Report, particularly in relation to the Indecon report. Clr. Larkin advised however that standing orders did not contain any provision for the Manager's Report to be discussed.

He confirmed that he was prepared to allow discussion of same on receipt of a valid proposal to do so.

Thus on the proposal of Clr. Reid, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner it was agreed to discuss the following: -

“That this Council discuss the Indecon Report and make a submission to Government on the best funding options available to Donegal County Council to allow this County progress without burdening our businesses any further.”

A copy of the report was then circulated to members.

Clr. Conaghan stated that it was now time to focus on how this county could move forward, and look ultimately at the allocation of our own resources. It was imperative he added that all avenues were explored and that matters were progressed through the Inter Departmental Group.

He called for the setting up of an Equalisation Fund to create a funding basis for many of the smaller projects in the county.

A number of members indicated however that the Indecon report had been a weak effort at reform and had provided no mechanism for raising money at local level.

Clr. Larkin advised that the Local Government Fund was not in any way helpful to the economic development of the county and that the government had not taken on board any of the initiatives put forward by Donegal County Council. Given the current trend in unemployment and the decline of many traditional industries it was essential he advised that a special case be made for this county.

Clr. Conaghan affirmed that he was open to suggestion from both the County Manager and the various Directors of Service as to how we move forward.

Mr. McLoone stated that he would be looking for guidance from the members on how exactly they wanted to handle this situation. An appropriate start he advised would be to review the funding gap in the county over the next three years, through determining the various income needs and sourcing funds from the relevant funding agencies. It would he advised be necessary to apply for an increased allocation from the Local Government Fund, with similar increases being sought for projects dependent on matching funding. Dialogue would he affirmed be maintained with the Department of the Environment and Local Government. He agreed to work with members on a systematic basis and indicated that financial matters would be included on the agenda for every second meeting.

Clr. Reid then proposed, seconded by Clr. Slowey that this council rejects the Indecon Report.

Clr. Conaghan advised that it was irrelevant whether or not the council rejected the report, and affirmed that the way forward was to follow the advice of the County Manager.

MOTIONS

C/167/06

N15 APPROACH TO BEECHWOOD GROVE, LIFFORD

The following motion proposed by Clr. Alcorn on behalf of Clr. Crawford and seconded by Clr. McDaid, was adopted.

“That this Council have a continuous white line placed on the N15 on the approach to Beechwood grove, Lifford.”

Members were informed that:-

“Regarding the solid white line on the N15 at Beechwood Park, based on discussions with our Regional Road Safety Engineer in the NRDO, he has no objection to the provision of a solid white line at

this location from in and around the speed limit signs, into town.

Furthermore, the NRA has an ongoing contract for the renewal of white lines along this road and other national routes. This will be added to the that programme of works and will be undertaken in the coming months.”

C/168/06

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES IN ALL OF IT’S PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRES

On the proposal of Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Pringle, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council explores appropriate funding opportunities to upgrade or to provide for needs-based childcare facilities, which meet the requirements of current childcare legislation, in all of it's Public Service Centres, including Corporate Headquarters, and further to foster a partnership-based approach with community-based childcare organisations, which aims to develop affordable childcare provision in each of the Centres.”

Members were informed that:-

“The council has provided crèche facilities for employees in each of the five Public Service Centres consistent with our policies on family friendly working arrangements.

While the interest from employees has been limited to date it is kept under review through the partnership process.

The facility in Donegal Town is on short-term lease to the Donegal Town Community Playgroup until the construction of their premises is complete. The arrangement has worked well for both parties but the council cannot become a major service provider in this area. However we will be happy to work in partnership with community based childcare providers to provide help/advise on securing funding.”

Clr. Pringle stated that two of the Public Service Centres were no longer meeting with current childcare regulations, and that there had been no qualitative research carried out amongst staff in relation to the quality of service required.

It was noted that the lack of facilities presented a barrier to women who wished to work in the council and that the way forward was to work in tandem with the County Childcare Committee.

C/169/06

TULLAN STRAND, BUNDORAN

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Kennedy, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council provide funding in next years estimates for the creation of an entrance to Tullan Strand, Bundoran.”

Members were informed that:-

“Options for the resolution of this issue will be reviewed with representatives from Roads, Environment and Marine Leisure over the coming months, with a view to finalising a proposal for consideration in the context of Budget 2007.”

C/170/06

MAP THE LOCATION OF LAND REQUIRED FOR FUTURE REQUIREMENTS ON ROADS IN THE MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. Reid, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council identify and map the location of land required for future requirements on roads in the Milford Electoral area and approach the owners of such land and draw up contracts for the purchase of same if and when required.”

Members were informed that:-

“As and when Road schemes in Milford Electoral Area are identified, the Council will progress these schemes through the Part VIII procedure (following

design process where required) and same shall then be submitted for Part VIII Planning Approval at the appropriate Council Meeting. The exact extents of lands required for schemes can be identified upon receipt of Part VIII approval for same. Land maps can then be prepared and forwarded to Area Engineers to discuss with affected landowners.

The Road Design Forward Planning Team are endeavouring to complete as much advance planning as possible at various locations throughout the county as indicated in Budget Book 2006.”

C/171/06

GROUP WATER SCHEMES IN COUNTY

DONEGAL

On the proposal of Clr. McBride, seconded by Clr. McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That extra funding be sought from the Department of the Environment for Group Water Schemes in County Donegal.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Rural Water Block Grant for 2006 has been notified to the Council. An allocation of €4,290,000 has been received for the year, broken down as follows:-

Connecting to Public Mains (85% funded) -
€1,000,000

Take-Over of Group Water Schemes (100% funded) -
€1,500,000

Upgrading of Group Water Schemes
Capital Grants 85% funded - € 140,000

New Group Scheme Proposals (85% funded) -
€1,000,000

Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes (75% funded) - €650,000.

The allocation is disappointing when compared with our application for €8,563,010.

A comprehensive report on the Rural Water Block Grant 2006 will be presented to the Rural Water Monitoring Committee at its next meeting on 29th March and to the following General Purposes Committee of the Council on 10th April 2006.”

Members were in agreement that a special case should be made for the county in terms of funding for Group Water Schemes.

Clr. Larkin enquired as to whether or not the Department of the Environment and Local Government had put forward any proposals for dealing with uneconomical Group Schemes.

C/172/06

PURCHASE A SITE FOR PLAYGROUND AND PARK IN BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR AREA

On the proposal of Clr. A. Bonner, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council identify and purchase a site for a playground and park in Ballybofey/Stranorlar area and that funding be earmarked from the Development Contribution Scheme, possible option - lands at Drumboe Avenue.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Planning & Economic Development Service and Community Culture and Enterprise Service will arrange to pursue this proposal.”

Clr. Bonner noted that funding had been identified on a number of occasions in the Ballybofey/Stranorlar area. There had been rapid economic growth she noted with no corresponding amenities provided.

Clr. Reid while recognising that a park was needed urgently was unhappy with the suggestion that Development Contribution monies be used to fund

same. He stated that consideration should be given to the 24 acres of land currently available at Brogans.

C/173/06

RECLASSIFICATION OF ROAD LEADING FROM CASTLEFINN THROUGH CONVOY TO LETTERKENNY

On the proposal of Clr. J.J. Reid, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council re-classify the road leading from Castlefinn through Convoy to Letterkenny from County Road to Regional Road status.”

Members were informed that:-

“Reclassification of Roads to Regional status is a matter for the Minister for Transport in consultation with the Local Authorities. Consideration can be given to the inclusion of this road in any future submission based on the fact that it is used as a vital link from Northern Ireland to Letterkenny and the increase in the volumes of traffic in recent years.”

Clr. Reid requested that a traffic count be taken and made available to members at a future meeting of the council.

C/174/06

RESTRICTED ACCESS'S ON THE NATIONAL PRIMARY ROADS INSIDE THE BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR LOCAL AREA PLAN ZONE

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council request the Minister for Transport Mr. Martin Cullen T.D. to consider a derogation on National Road Authority controls of restricted access's on the National Primary roads inside the Ballybofey and Stranorlar Local Area Plan Zone.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Local Area Plan area includes a considerable length (in excess of 5km) of national primary routes

where the maximum speed limit of 100kph applies. A derogation of National Roads Authority controls, as suggested, could lead to an increased number of access points onto these national primary routes with a resulting decrease in carrying capacity and road safety of this important network. Such derogation could also have implications for future funding of major national roads projects in this county. It is not recommended that this Council seek the derogation as suggested.”

C/175/06

FINAL DECISIONS ON PLANNING
APPLICATIONS

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. A. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this County Council ensures when Councillors make Reps on behalf of Constituents on Planning matters, and if there is a problem with Planning Applications, that the Planners revert to the member to discuss the situation with them, before a final decision is made.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Planning and Development Act 2000, together with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 set out very strict procedures and directions in terms of both timeframes for dealing with applications and the handling of any submissions or observations.

Given the tight statutory timescales for processing applications, it is not feasible to include a formal provision to revert to members for discussion while still concluding the decision making process within the allocated period. Planning staff do however facilitate the elected members as much as possible. Workshops are being arranged with each electoral area committee to discuss a number of issues and I would be happy to discuss this matter with the members at local level.”

Feedback from the planning service and accessibility to the relevant staff were deemed to be very important

in terms of members dealings with the planning service.

C/176/06

REDUCE THE CARNAGE ON OUR ROADS

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. McGowan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss what we can do in Donegal as a Local Authority to reduce the carnage on our roads.”

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council remains committed to reducing the numbers of road user killed or injured on our roads. To do this, the Council has adopted a policy on the consideration of hazardous locations and continues to identify and assess these locations within the framework of this policy. By operating in this way the level of external funding received by the County Council for low cost accident remedial works can be maximised and the monies received are targeted where they will be most effective.

In addition to this, the levels of funding made available for accident remedial works from the County Councils own resources has increased from €25,000 in 2004, to €225,000 in 2005 and €325,000 in 2006.

Furthermore, every road realignment and environmental improvement scheme is subject to a road safety audit under the conditions set out in Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), HD 19/01. This is additional to the works already undertaken by the National Roads Authority.

Through the collision prevention programme, local council officials meet regularly with local members of the Garda to discuss local issues and areas of co-operation.

School Children are among the most vulnerable of our road users. Donegal County Council continues to

operate the school safety initiative and this year will provide safety measures at a further 10 schools in the county under this programme. In addition to this, under the CLÁR programme Donegal County Council will provide school flashing lights at a further 13 schools in 2006. This will mean that every national school within a CLÁR area will have a set of school flashing lights. Furthermore the County Council will continue to advise schools on simple practical measures that can be introduced by the school to improve safety. Finally the County Council has increased the funding available to provide additional school crossing wardens around the county and are currently reviewing the speed limits outside schools throughout the county.

The best way to effect a real improvement in road safety is for a wholesale change in attitude from all road users. That means me, you and anyone who drives, cycles or walks on the public highway. Education is the best way to achieve this and the Donegal Road Safety Working Group (endorsed by Shay Given) is working to educate and encourage people through their road safety campaigns in the local press and on local radio. Donegal County Council are active members of this group and contributed to the latest campaign, BELT UP – seat belts save lives.

Donegal County Council are preparing to appoint a full time Road Safety Awareness Officer, one of only a few in the whole country. This person will co-ordinate the work of the Road Safety Working Group and ensure that tasks are followed through. In addition, there remains huge potential in forming local interest groups where members of the community with an interest in road safety could meet and bring forward local initiatives for local people, the new Road Safety Awareness Officer could facilitate these meetings.

Donegal County Council sponsors the Garda Road Safety Quiz and purchased road safety CD roms for

every national school in the county. The Council continues to distribute Benny the Bear rulers, pencils, balloons and stickers at local public events to promote Benny's messages of Slow Down, Don't drink and drive, Wear your seatbelt, Be safe Be seen. In addition they also distribute reflective armbands and encourage their use.

Donegal County Council in co-operation with its partner agencies continue to strive for a reduction in injuries and deaths on our roads and will endeavour to achieve this through the initiatives listed."

Members were in agreement that this motion was indeed timely and that every effort should be made to improve where possible road conditions. The necessity of educating young people on the various aspects of road safety was also considered necessary. Initiatives such as cheaper insurance for young drivers within specific time frames, and the need for a greater Garda presence was also discussed. It was noted that road markings were often confusing for many drivers. It was agreed that speed signs should be available in both kilometres and miles.

The Mayor called for extra funding to be made available for the appointment of a Road Safety Co-ordinator.

Clr. Slowey in conclusion called on the Minister for Education, Ms Mary Hanafin to include road safety as a core subject within the current secondary school curriculum, and endorsing same by having it rolled out as a national policy. He asked that she be informed of this request in writing.

He called on the Boards of Management in schools countywide to examine the level of bus/car/pedestrian interaction in their locality and examine the findings in the context of implementing valid health and safety practices.

The following questions were noted:-

C/177/06

ROAD SAFETY AT THE JUNCTION KNOWN AS
GALLAGHER'S CORNER, ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr.
Crawford:-

“What plans does this Council have to improve road safety at the junction known as Gallagher's Corner, St. Johnston?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“This junction is being re-designed as part of the Part 8 Planning application that is being advertised at present under the R265 Rossgier to St Johnston Non - National road project. The 2006 Budget is 300,000.”

C/178/06

AUDIT OF MISSION JUNCTION YIELD SIGNS

The following question was submitted by Clr.
Crawford:-

“In the interest of road safety will this Council carry out a audit of missing junction yield signs and have them replaced?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Directional Road Signs are being upgraded this year as part of the National Signage programme on Regional Roads. All our Roads Areas are being requested to check for missing Yield Signs while doing this work and have them replaced. In order to assist us in this process, if county councillors know of individual Yield Signs missing they should notify the local Area office.”

C/179/06

RETENTION OF UNAUTHORISED
DEVELOPMENTS

The following question was submitted by Clr.
McDaid:-

“How many applications for retention of unauthorised development have been granted by this Council in the past five years?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“Computer records identifying retention applications are available from January 2002 and from that date to 23 March 2006 there were 92 applications granted for retention of development. This represents 0.5% of the total applications (17,833) granted over this period.”

C/180/06

PART M OF BUILDING REGULATIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr.

McDaid:-

“Can this Council confirm that it is adhering to Part M of the Building Regulations, which compels that all new housing developments comply with disability requirements?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that:-

“Under the Building Control Act 1990, it is the responsibility of the Building Designer, Builder and Owner to ensure that all new Buildings, including Material Alterations etc, comply with the relevant Building Regulations.

The Council as Building Control Authority carry out inspections to monitor compliance with the Building Regulations and is obliged by the DEHLG to inspect between 12% and 15% of construction starts in any given year. Last year, the Building Control Unit inspected 17.4% of construction starts and as part of these routine inspections, compliance with Part M. 2000 Access for People with Disabilities was monitored. Where non-compliance with any part of the Building Regulations is discovered, the designer, builder or owner is instructed to carry out remedial works to ensure compliance.

The Housing Design Section, which deals with the Social and Affordable housing in the county, is fully aware of the requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations 2000, (access for people with disabilities) and is complying with these in design of their Social and Affordable Housing Schemes and any other design work carried out by this section.”

C/181/06

KILLYBEGS SEWER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What is the up to date position in relation to the Killybegs Sewer Scheme?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Killybegs Sewerage Scheme consists of 2 contracts - contract 1 wastewater treatment works, main pumping station, rising mains, and outfall; and contract 2 industrial and municipal networks. Both contracts are at contract document stage and require DEHLG approval to proceed to tender stage. Under DEHLGs National Water Services Pricing Policy a Water Charging Report must also be approved by the DEHLG before the scheme can proceed. What this means is that the DEHLG must approve the funding mechanism for the scheme. Killybegs is complicated by the fact that agreement was reached with the Fish Processing Industry with regard to infrastructure provision which predated National Water Services Pricing Policy. A Water Charging Report was submitted to DEHLG in May 2005 and no feedback has been received to date. In order to advance the scheme the Council are now submitting a phasing proposal to the Department for core conventional contract works which will include industrial and municipal pipelines in the town centre. This is expected to be submitted to the Department in April 2006.”

C/182/06

MOUNTCHARLES SMALL CAPITAL SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“What progress has been made on the Mountcharles Small Capital Scheme and when is it expected that work will be complete?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that:-

“Under the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme substantial pipelaying work was carried out in Mountcharles/Frosses in 2005 and significant improvements to the water treatment plant are planned for 2006 subject to funding being confirmed. In this regard Part 8 Planning will be advertised shortly and tender documents are also in preparation. Construction is expected in 2006.”

C/183/06

OLD FIRE STATION IN DONEGAL TOWN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Kennedy:-

“Can the old fire station be used for a Youth Centre in Donegal Town?”

Clr. Kennedy was informed that:-

“Funding for the programme of replacement of fire stations is provided by the Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government. This funding meets 100% of the cost less the value of the old station. In order for the council to balance its Capital Account it is necessary to dispose of the old stations in such a way as to generate the required capital. The council's total property holding is presently being evaluated in order to develop strategies to provide matching funding for the council's entire building programme which includes area offices, depots as well as new fire stations.”

C/184/06

COUNCIL'S MEETING AGENDA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Kennedy:-

“Due to the amount of wasted paper, can the Councils meeting agenda be made available on disc as a option to those who want them?”

Clr. Kennedy was informed that:-

“During 2006 the Council will endeavour to maximise the investment made in purchasing laptop computers for Council Members by providing as much information as possible in digital format.

At this stage virtually all members have received their computers. The I.S Department are assisting members with the installation of broadband connections where possible. Presentation equipment and networking facilities are also being installed in the Council Chamber.

A secure extranet for Council Members will be provided where all relevant information including Council Meeting papers and reports will be available.”

C/185/06

RESERVOIR AT RAMELTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Is it intended to complete the necessary application for the provision of a Reservoir at Ramelton as it is already apparent with ongoing developments that the supply is already under pressure?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The long term water services infrastructure needs for the Ramelton area will be examined as an extension of the scope of the Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme which is currently on the Water Services Investment Programme as a scheme to advance through planning. Short term needs if required will have to be funded/ part funded from development charges and the implementation of such works shall be

dependent on development demand sufficient to fund the works.”

C/186/06

FUTURE PLANNING AT SHORE RD,
RAMELTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Is it not necessary to consider the future planning at Shore Rd., Ramelton as regards the height and dominance of such buildings in this area?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The designation of Ramelton as a Heritage Town is a material consideration in planning terms and the character and height of existing historic structures at Shore Road is part of the context of any development proposals therein. This context has already been given careful consideration in making planning decisions and will continue to comprise a relevant factor when assessing planning submissions in the area to ensure development is sympathetic to its surroundings.”

C/187/06

MILFORD/PORTLEAN WATER MAIN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

“When does Donegal County Council plan to carry out pipe replacement on Milford/Portlean water main?”

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The first tranche of funding approved by the DEHLG for Water Conservation Pipe Replacement Programme has been expended in full. Priorities for the second tranche of pipe replacement funding have been identified which include the replacement of the Milford/ Portlean watermain and these priorities are currently being discussed with the Department. It should be noted however that the Departments priority

for the next stage of water conservation funding is the completion of all stage 1 water conservation works which does not include pipe replacement works. In this context it is difficult to predict when further pipe replacement works might be implemented but the Council will continue to press the Department for pipe replacement funding in parallel with the implementation of the stage 1 water conservation works.”

C/188/06

CONVOY SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“What works have been done to date and what money was spent of the approx ¾ million allocation on the upgrading of the Convoy Sewerage Treatment Plant?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“Convoy Sewerage Scheme is currently on the Water Services Investment Programme 2005-2007 as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme. It is also listed on the Small Schemes Priorities Revised Programme 1994-1999. The works underway at present involve upgrading of a section of trunk gravity main, construction of inlet works, screens and grit removal plant, stormwater handling facilities, and improved sludge handling facilities. These works are funded under the Small Schemes Programme and are approximately 90% complete. Further works to upgrade the plant to provide full secondary treatment are proposed which will be funded under the Serviced Land Initiative. These works will take place in 2006.”

C/189/06

BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR SEWER NETWORK

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“What is the findings of the Hydraulic Analysis Report carried out on the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Sewer Network and what is the schedule of work for

upgrading and replacement of pipes that are at full capacity?”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that:-

“The Hydraulic Modelling Report for the sewer networks in Ballybofey and Stranorlar is substantially complete. It has identified various areas of both networks that are surcharging and which require upgrading/ rehabilitation. The funding of works on the existing networks will be the subject of an application to the Department for approval to implement the works under the Major scheme listed on the Water Services Investment Programme 2005-2007. Urgent works at Back Lane Ballybofey are however being prioritised for implementation and tenders will be sought in the next number of weeks. Funding for these works is from development charges some of which have already been levied.”

C/190/06

ESB FAILURE TO PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THE COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr. J.J. Reid:-

“What action do the Council intend to take with the ESB in regard to their total failure to provide a service to the Council?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“Since our meeting with the ESB last November, we have had various follow-up discussions. The ESB has completed some work but has not been able to clear the backlog at the pace indicated last November. The ESB has indicated at the beginning of March that they are in discussion with a contractor themselves with a view to tendering out some of the work to help clear the backlog.”

C/191/06

BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR BYPASS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Reid:-

“Has the Council received any up to date report from the N.R.A. regarding the Ballybofey/Stranorlar ByPass?”

Clr. Reid was informed that:-

“No recent reports have been received from NRA in relation to this project. Following on from the Donegal County Council delegation to NRA in January of this year NRDO staff have met with NRA officials and have agreed to review the design of the scheme and determine if any scope exists to allow for a reduction in costs. This review is currently in progress.”

C/192/06

CASTLEFIN BRIDGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Following my previous motions in relation to Castlefin Bridge, will the Council write to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Mr. Dick Roche T.D. asking that this Regional Road Cross Border bridge be considered for special department funding?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The DOEHLG have pointed out on numerous occasions that projects such as Castlefin Bridge must be prioritised and included under Proposals for Improvement Works on Non National Roads as outlined lastly in Circular letter RLS 30/2005 dated 9th August 2005. The County Council can write to the minister outlining the difficulties associated with the inclusion of such a large project in our list of schemes. i.e. because Castlefin Bridge will be such a large project all other projects could potentially have to be reduced or dropped while this large bridge project was being funded.”

C/193/06

BREAKDOWN OF COMMERCIAL RATES PER ELECTORAL AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

“Can a detailed breakdown of commercial rates per Electoral Area be given, including any business/area receiving wavers or reductions for 2005/2006?”

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The following sets out details of gross rate demands for 200 for County Council Services as issued per Electoral Area based on Net Effective Valuations of €259,866.32 notified. In terms of the Rates system the Revenue Collector is the key attribute value on which the information is structured. As each Collected is based on an Electoral Area this allows for the extraction of information as set out hereunder.

	Electoral Area		2/3 Remissions Income Foregone Based on 2006 Multiplier of €69.85	Number of Properties	Year Remissions will Expire
1.	Inishowen Electoral Area	€2,463,223.44	€7,699.02	4	2006/2007 (1) (3)
2.	Donegal Electoral Area	€4,508,855.19	€7,905.77	4	2006/2008/2011 (1) (1) (2)
3.	Glenties Electoral Area	€2,840,719.03	€69,941.50	5	2007/2010 (4) (1)
4.	Letterkenny Electoral Area	€ 945,100.68	€ 0.00		
5.	Milford Electoral Area	€ 833,520.87	€6,207.57	1	2010
6.	Stranorlar Electoral Area	€2,136,830.50	€1,418.66	1	2008
7.	Central Collector*	€4,423,412.74	€ 0.00		
Total		€18,151,662.45	€133,172.52	15	

* Central Collector refers to rate customers dealt directly with by office staff in Lifford such as ESB, Eircom, O2, etc., whose headquarters are based outside of the county and Donegal County Council properties. In relation to County Council properties it is

intended to assign them to Revenue Collector areas in future years.

It is anticipated based on most recent information available to me and following my examination of the schedule of uncollected rates for 2005 that €1,500,000 approximately may prove to be irrecoverable for reasons of closure, revision to domestic, for letting, renovation, etc. Given this information the nett proceeds from Commercial Rates in 2006 may be of the order of €16.6m approx.

Monies raised from commercial rates is a bottom-line income source and is required along with proceeds from the Local Government Fund to be used on a county wide basis across all programmes where income in such programmes does not cover expenditure levels in the programmes.

We have no waiver scheme for commercial rates in operation for any area or business sector in this county. However I have included details of rates income foregone in respect of 2/3 remissions granted by the Elected Members on the basis of criteria then applying over the past years and year(s) when same is due to expire (Please note these amounts are not included in the gross demand).

Under E U Competition rules 2/3 remission of commercial rates is no longer available.

C/194/06

ROAD SECTION TO SET UP A PROCEDURE TO
REPLY TO LETTERS AND QUERIES
SUBMITTED BY ELECTED MEMBERS.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Can the Roads Section of Donegal County Council set up a procedure to reply to letters and queries submitted by the elected members of this Council?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“The County Council have a procedure in place in relation to issuing of replies to county councillors. However different Areas employ different methods of communicating information in relation to all sorts of queries. A lot of information is communicated through the Electoral Area meetings, discussions with individual councillors, phone calls, text messages, emails, etc. In some cases formal letters are not deemed necessary if it thought that the item has been covered sufficiently in the methods mentioned above. It is accepted that where a county councillor requests a formal reply this should be issued within a reasonable time period.

It is understood that specific concerns have been identified in the Glenties Electoral Area and this will be followed up to establish the facts and the options available to address the issues involved. The balance between writing on multiple queries versus addressing matters as part of the normal work programme and series of meetings needs to be examined. This issue will be examined in further detail to determine how best to resolve it.”

C/195/06

ESB OUTSTANDING WORKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Have Donegal County Council come to any arrangement with the ESB to have all the outstanding works, for which orders have been placed for a considerable time carried out without further delay?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that:-

“Since our meeting with the ESB last November, we have had various follow-up discussions. The ESB has completed some work but has not been able to clear the backlog at the pace indicated last November. The ESB has indicated at the beginning of March that they are in discussion with a contractor themselves with a view to tendering out some of the work to help clear the backlog.

As approved in Budget 2006, the Council has made a provision for an engineer to gather data and mapping on all of our existing lighting stock with a view to being able to advertise for tenders for this service. This is consistent with the deregulation of the market.”

C/196/06

MAGHERROARTY PIER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh:-

“Cén uair a dhéanfaidh an comhairle Contae áthúradh & deisiú ar dhromchla uachtarach chéidh Mhachaire Rabhartaigh agus an bóthar isteach?”

“When will Donegal County Council repair and renew the upper end and entrance to Magheroarty Pier?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“Last year this Council received an application to examine the upgrade of this important link. Plans are at an advanced stage, which include road resurfacing, footpaths and public lighting.

At a recent meeting between Officials and Roinn na Gaeltacht, it was agreed that part of the anticipated Strategic Gaeltacht Road Monies for 2006 could be utilised for this upgrade.

Following the Strategic Road 2006 Allocation, the local area members will be briefed on the timeframe and the funding options available for these works, at Electoral Area Level.”

C/197/06

FACILITIES AT THE FERRYPORTS IN THE COUNTY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh:-

“An bhfuil aon phlean ag an Comhairle Contae chun seirbhísí m.s. foscadáin, leithris, seomraí feithimh &

saoráidí eile a sholáthar ar chéidheanna farantóireachta ar fud na contae?”

“Has Donegal County Council any plans to supply necessary facilities such as shelters, toilets, waiting rooms and other facilities at the Ferryports in the county?”

Clr. Pádraig O’Dochartaigh was informed that:-

“The Foyle Ferry Service, which commenced in May 2002, has recently (March 2006) seen the putting in place of a permanent waiting room and toilets at the Greencastle Ferry Port. This is part to the current service provider offices and includes a shelter, information point regarding tourism activities, toilets and waiting rooms to facilitate the Ferry service in question. The service provider has provided these facilities with the aid of €10,000 grant from Interreg 3A

Preliminary discussions have been held with (Planning and Economic Development / Town and Village Renewal) in respect of Rathmullan and a proposal to explore the possibility of putting in place a shared services building sector on the Rathmullan shore front which would, interalia, include a shelter/waiting room and toilets in addition to other potential uses. Subject to discussion with and agreement of the members to detailed proposals, it would be targeted to have the facility in place (subject to availability of finance etc) for the 2007 season.

There are no plans to hand in relation to the provision of proposed facilities at Bunrana although a letter has been forwarded to Bunrana Town Council asking for a meeting with them to explore possible linkages relating to the Swilly Ferry service going forward.

The Ferry Services serving both Tory and Aranmore are provided in a private sector capacity (although sub vented via Roinn na Gaeltachta). As part of the Atlantic Drift project (the council led, interreg co-

funded initiative) have provided to each ferry service ticket machines and ancillary hard wear and soft wear at a cost. of €10,000 each. A joint marketing campaign as part of the Atlantic Drift project has also benefited for 2005 and 2006.”

C/198/06

BOTTLE BANK IN DUNLEWEY

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Domhnaill:-

“Can Donegal County Council provide a Bottle Bank incorporating can & plastic facility in Dunlewey?”

Clr. O’Domhnaill was informed that:-

“If a suitable site can be identified in Dunlewey DCC will install recycling banks for glass (brown, green and clear) and cans (drink and food). In selecting a bring bank site the main criteria are as follows:

Serviceable by an articulated lorry.

Requires adequate and safe car parking.

Requires adequate lighting for use in darker months and to deter abuse.

Requires additional space to allow for further expansion of services.

The local waste collector provides a kerbside collection service for mixed dry recyclables including plastic, paper, cardboard, metal cans, etc.”

C/199/06

STREET CLEANING

The following question was submitted by Clr. O’Domhnaill:-

“Can Donegal County Council actively pursue a county wide policy or county wide programme of effective street cleaning in towns/villages removal of chewing gum on pavements/walkways/streets?”

Clr. O’Domhnaill was informed that:-

“In the County Councils Area of responsibility street cleaning is carried out under the Road Maintenance

section. Street Cleaning is prioritised as part of each areas road maintenance work for the year and is competing for funding under several headings such as pothole filling, drainage, verge trimming etc.”

C/200/06

TIMESCALE FOR THE RECLAMATION OF
CLOSED LANDFILLS IN DONEGAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What is the timescale for the reclamation of closed landfills in Donegal. How much will it cost and are the Council going to seek special funding from the Department of the Environment? Have any communications or checks of enforcement regarding this issue been received from the Environmental Protection Agency?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“Closed landfills are divided into 2 categories i.e. those that are currently licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency which include Muckish, Glenalla, Drumabodan, Balbane, and Churchtown, and those that are not. However under section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 Local Authorities are required to compile a register of historical and abandoned landfill sites as stated in the Councils draft Replacement Waste Management Plan. The focus of the EPA to date has been on the rehabilitation of the licensed sites and in this regard works were carried out on Muckish and Glenalla in 2005 at a cost of €1.3m. Works on Drumabodan are proposed for 2006 at an estimated cost of €1.25m and works on Churchtown are scheduled to take place in 2007/ 2008 at an estimated cost of €3.75m. The scale of works to unlicensed landfills required by the EPA is unclear at present so costs cannot be determined at this stage. In response to a recent circular from the DEHLG the Council have sought funding from the Department for the works planned in 2006 but it should be noted that the total National fund is limited to €10.0m and the maximum grant available is 75% of the total cost.

Audits are carried out on a periodic basis by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council respond proactively to matters raised by the EPA.”

C/201/06

LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION FROM THE 29 ELECTED MEMBER

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What procedures have each section of Donegal County Council put in place to ensure that letters of representation from the 29 Elected Members of this Local Authority are answered?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“Members have raised from time to time the inconsistencies in responding to representations and indeed in some cases responses are not being provided which is completely unsatisfactory and unacceptable. The new Customer Action Plan, which will be discussed with the Corporate SPC at their next meeting, will provide for defined standards in responding to all contacts, with particular reference to representations from elected members on behalf of constituents. In the meantime, this does not diminish our responsibility to respond in a timely way to the members.

A purpose built customer contact management system (to include reps from the elected members) will be operational by the middle of this year to record and monitor responses to members representations. This should lead to considerable improvements in this area. In the interim if details of unanswered representations are provided to the Directors they will be followed up as a matter of priority.”

C/202/06

DERELICT REMAINS OF THE OLD HALL AT BACK STREET, CARRIGANS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What progress has been made by this Council in tidying up the derelict remains of the old hall at back street Carrigans?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“The Area Housing Engineer has inspected this property and has recommended works that are necessary to make the site safe including the removal of the remaining steps at the entrance and the fencing off of the site with a 1.8 metre high close board fence to prevent public access It has proved difficult to ascertain locally who precisely owns this property and we are at present requesting our legal advisors to carry out the necessary searches to find the owners so that the requisite statutory notices under the Derelict Sites Act can be served. Should these searches not prove fruitful then the notices can be placed on the property in line with the provisions of the Act.”

C/203/06

UPGRADE OF THE TOBER/CASTLETHIRD
GROUP WATER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“When will work commence on the upgrade of the Tober/Castlethird Group Water Scheme and the construction of the Reservoir as part of Lagan Desert Phase 3?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that:-

“Tenders for the upgrade of the Tober Castlethird GWSS are expected to be sought in the next number of weeks. As a result of a modified design the implementation of the works are not dependent of the implementation of the Lagan Desert Phase 3 scheme although Tober Castlethird will ultimately benefit from water infrastructure to be provided under the Lagan 3 scheme.”

C/204/06

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council rejects the Hanley Report as it relates to Nenagh and all County Hospitals and demands the retention of full Acute Medical, Surgical and Accidents and Emergency Services in these Hospitals.”

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Council write to the Minister for the Environment in the following terms: The Council is very concerned that the contribution from Repak is a very small fraction of the costs this Council is incurring in arranging for the recycling of packaging waste and calls on the Minister for the Environment to properly implement the Principle of Producer Responsibility and require Repak to pay fully for the costs of recycling packaging waste being put on the market by its members and that the motion be circulated to all other waste authorities in the Republic.”

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to allow tenants of the voluntary housing sector i.e. Respond and Cluid to purchase their homes as in the case of local authority tenants and that this motion be circulated to all members.”

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“In light of the negative impact that implementation of the Nitrates Directive will have on the farming sector, the Minister for Agriculture and Food be requested to come up with a workable solution to this serious problem as a matter of urgency.”

MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

“This Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to review the way it calculated its earnings in respect of SSIA's and any future saving/pension

incentive scheme for the purposes of student grants so that the less well-off will not be penalised for saving for their child's education.”

COBH TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the Department of Health and the Department of Education to set up a pilot scheme to train students in the life saving skill of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in our local second level schools.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

