

09<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

TO ALL MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
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The Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council, will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford, to consider the unfinished business listed at **ITEMS 10 – 17** motions, **18 – 22** and **24 – 55** of the original agenda.

Please arrange to bring your copy of the agenda as circulated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009.

I understand that workshops on Roads and W.E.E. are scheduled to take place following completion of the Business of the Adjourned Council Meeting and that the respective Directors of Service will be writing to you in that regard.

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Eunan Sweeney  
Meetings Administrator

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL  
COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD  
ON 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

C/441/09 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. B. Byrne, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, G. Crawford, M. Doherty, P. Doherty, R. Donaghey, M. Farren, M.T. Gallagher, M. Harley, J. Harte, C. Harvey, D. Larkin, P. Mac Lochlainn, F. Mc Brearty, N. McBride, C. Mc Conalogue, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, P. McGowan, B. McGuinness, S. Ó Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle, M. Quinn, J. Ryan, T. Slowey.

C/442/09 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning & Economic Development, Mr Seamus Neely, Director Water, Environment & Emergency Services, Mr Michael Heaney, Director, Community, Culture & Enterprise, Mr Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr Liam Ward, A/Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Bartley Mc Glynn, Senior Executive Officer, Finance, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, and Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/443/09 POLICY OF KEEPING TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS AT LEAST 1KM FROM SCHOOLS AND ASSOCIATED VARIATION OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

The following motion had been proposed by Clr. Harte, and seconded by Clr. Larkin, at the Council Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009:-

“ That this Council adopt a policy of keeping telecommunications masts at least 1 km from Schools”.

The following motion had also been proposed by Clr. Quinn, seconded by Clr. Harte, at the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009: -

"That Donegal County Council amends/varies the County Development Plan, Chapter 3, Policy no. TC10, which presently reads:

“The County Council will encourage applicants for telecommunications antennae and support structures to engage in pre-application discussions with local stakeholders with a view to addressing local concerns regarding to siting of same “.

To then read

“The County Council requires applicants for telecommunications antennae and support structures to:

- (1) Advertise their planning application in a local newspaper
- (2) Include with their application all technical data pertaining to the Radio Path Profile, the Beam of Greatest Intensity, Exclusion Zones and Safety Procedures
- (3) Facilitate a pre-application public information meeting at a venue as close as possible to the location of the proposed structure
- (4) Engage in pre-application discussions with local stakeholders with a view to addressing local concerns regarding the siting of same.
- (5) Inform Local Elected Representatives of their application prior to lodgement with the Council.”

Members resumed the debate on both motions, which it had been agreed would be taken together, with many outlining the

need to be vigilant and responsible in granting planning permission for such developments. Prudence, they advised, was necessary given that the long-term effects of the equipment in question still had to be determined. Members queried why the policy in last Plan had been removed and enquired whether its inclusion in the current plan could be overruled by National Guidelines.

It was resolved on the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Crawford, that correspondence be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local

Government outlining their concern at the reduced quorum for An Bord Pleanála Meetings.

They called for planning permissions for Masts/Antennae to be put on hold until such time as the policy surrounding communication antennae had been amended.

It was resolved to adopt and to circulate them to all other Councils.

C/444/09

CONDEMNATION OF CLOSURE OF REPS 4 SCHEME

The following motion was proposed by Clr. Noel Mc Bride, seconded by Clr. McGarvey:-

"That this Council condemn the Minister for Agriculture and the Government for their decision to close the REPS 4 Scheme for new applicants, and that this Council call on our Donegal TDs and senators to object in Oireachtas Éireann to Minister Smith's decision on this matter."

A lengthy debate ensued with a number of Members alledging that the closure of the Reps 4 Scheme would assist the demise of the farming industry in the County and lead to a rise in Farm Assist Payments and cost the State money in the long run. It was acknowledged that Reps payments were in effect a form of subsidy which in a sense compensated farmers for the fact that they were not getting a fair price for their produce.

Clr. Larkin noted that while the scheme had many benefits it had been oversubscribed. While Clr. Blaney affirmed that the reason for the influx of applications to Reps 4 had been due to the phenomenal success of the Farm Waste Management Scheme and that in the New Year there would be a replacement scheme put in place though not on the scale of Reps 4.

The need for cross party support was highlighted and a number of Members called on Clr. Mc Bride to amend the wording of his motion and remove the word "condemn". The Mayor advised that the Reps Scheme had originally been geared towards assisting small rural farmers to remain on the land and that it was important that this objective was not overlooked. Minister Smith, he advised, was reviewing the situation and would be introducing a new scheme in early 2010 to protect small rural farmers. The reality, he

suggested, was that no one would be left without a Reqs payment until March 2010.

Clr. Mc Bride affirmed that he was not condemning the Minister personally but outlining clearly the fact that something needed to be done to assist the farming community before it was too late. He agreed to amend the motion.

Thus, on the proposal of Clr. Mc Bride, seconded by Clr. Mc Guinness, it was resolved to amend the motion as follows and circulate same to all Local Authorities along the West Coast:-

“That this Council condemn the decision by the Minister for Agriculture and the Government for their decision to close the Reqs 4 Scheme for new applicants, and that this Council call on our Donegal TDs and Senators to object in Oireachtas Eireann to Minister Smith’s decision on this matter”.

C/445/09

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN LETTERKENNY

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, the following motion was adopted:-

"That the elected members be given a time for the construction of the new sewage treatment plant in Letterkenny."

Members were informed that:-

“The tender recommendation report for Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO has been completed by the consultants, reviewed by the Council, and has been submitted to the Department for Budget and Water Pricing Approval. Commencement of the project is subject to Budget approval, Water Pricing approval, and contract formalities.”

Mr. Seamus Neely, responding to a number of queries, advised that there was nothing at the minute to suggest that there would not be an early response from the Department and he anticipated that it would be in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Clr. Larkin asked that Members be kept informed of

developments and that an update be provided to the Letterkenny Electoral Area Members as soon as possible.

C/446/09 PROVISION OF FOOTPATH FROM SUPERVALU TO THE WEAVERS ESTATE

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

"That this Council take whatever steps necessary to secure the small section of land on the Trusk Road, Ballybofey so as to extend the footpath from the Supervalu Complex to the Weavers Estate, and to give an update on the progress made at the next meeting of the council."

Members were informed that:-

“The section of land in question was part of the overall land involving the Ballybofey By-Pass and the on-going CPO and that the land owner was reluctant to enter separate negotiations for this small piece. The Local Area Manager has recently met with an auctioneer, who is dealing with a number of landowners on the By-pass including this parcel of land, with a view to separating the land deals. The auctioneer has met with the landowner and is to report back to our local manager shortly on a way forward if at all possible. Further updates can be provided at the local area meeting and a discussion on potential funding can also take place.”

Clr. Harvey stated that she was encouraged by the reply and called for the matter to be actively progressed. She asked that in the interim remedial works such as hedge cutting be carried out in the interests of general road safety. Members asked that a further update on the CPO process for the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass be presented to the Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee.

The Director of Services agreed to follow up on same.

C/447/09 WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR ROADS

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

"That the Council outlines a winter plan/work programme for road maintenance in each Electoral area this winter following the disastrous conditions which many motorists faced last winter."

Members were informed that:-

“Work programmes and maintenance operations are developed and prioritised by staff and members in each electoral area after the overall budget is agreed at headquarters and by the overall Council. Following the allocation of Grants and agreement on the Annual Budget the members in each Electoral Area are requested to prioritise the Road Works programme for the year. This should include allowing sufficient funds to seal weak stretches of road in preparation for the winter and provide for winter gritting and basic maintenance which is under pressure due to the extensive bad weather last winter.

Planning and prioritisation of the annual Roadworks Programme is done at the beginning of each year and at this time of year we are nearing the end of our financial year and the annual programme. The whole process will begin again in a few months time when the 2010 budgets are known.

Local Areas provide progress updates during the year and will be asked to provide an update on the current programme at the next round of Local Area Meetings.”

Members acknowledged the dedication and assistance of all Roads Staff who had worked tirelessly over the previous winter period to salt and grit the county’s roads network. The 2009 Winter Programme, they noted, had been most effective.

Clr. Mc Gowan advised that he was unhappy with the reply and that there was great need for a dedicated plan of action. It was agreed the following demanded immediate attention: -

1. Need to lobby the Department so as to source adequate funding to keep the County's roads salted and properly maintained over the winter period.
2. Necessity of maintaining an adequate level of pothole filling.
3. Drainage together with the effective implementation of standard enforcement measures.
4. Hedge cutting and clearing of overgrowth identified as immediate priorities.
5. Need for specific and effective policies in relation to winter maintenance with Members regularly updated re same at Electoral Area level.
6. The appointment of a dedicated person to deal with all aspects of "Drainage"

Members raised a number of concerns in relation to the capacity of the Roads Fleet to deal with prolonged wintry conditions. They asked that specific information in relation the Health and Safety costs involved in roads maintenance be circulated together with an update on the current Machinery Yard Review process.

A further update was also requested in relation to the N.R.A. takeover of the management of Regional and Local Roads. Members called for supplies of dust/grit to be left at dangerous junctions and steep hills over the winter period. Cllr. Crawford asked that his concerns in relation to the state of the road at Tullyowen, St Johnston be recorded. A serious accident, he contended, was inevitable given the current condition of the road, but that it was preventable.

The Director of Service advised that work on streamlining the winter programme was underway and that Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer would deliver a presentation on the operation of the programme to members. There was no change in procedure since last year but that cognisance would have to be taken of the current budgetary position and the proposed spend for 2010. Responding to queries on the employment of a dedicated person to deal with drainage issues, he advised that this matter would be further explored in the context of the general redeployment of staff. Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer, advised that the Roads and Planning Departments had met on a number of

occasions and that as a result of this collaboration a number of templates in relation to matters of mutual concern would be presented to members.

C/448/09 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting to 2pm for lunch.

C/449/09 HEALTH HAZARD IN ST JOHNSTON

On the proposal of Clr. McBrearty, seconded by Clr. Crawford, the following motion was adopted: -

"That this Council seek the immediate funding necessary from John Gormley the Environment Minister and for the support of all the Donegal TDs especially that of Mary Coughlan Tanaiste who is a TD for Donegal South West, in order to solve the ongoing health hazard in St Johnston and to have work started on a new sewage treatment plant in St Johnston ASAP."

Members were informed that:-

“St Johnston was currently not listed as a Major Capital Sewerage Scheme on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009. It is however listed as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme on the WSIP and in this regard the scheme is at an advanced stage of planning. All SLI schemes require 60% funding from developers through the levying of special development charges. Works to provide a collection system for St Johnston are nearing completion funded under the Small Schemes Programme. This programme is considerably oversubscribed at present and the required funding is not likely to be available from this source for St Johnston going forward.

In Circular letter L3/09 from the Department dated April 2009 the Department announced its intention to discontinue the SLI programme and invited Local Authorities to make a case for the continuation of schemes for which contracts had not been signed. St Johnston Sewerage Scheme is one such scheme which the Council included in its submission dated May 2009. The Council has not received a response to its

submission to date. The Council is continuing to look at short to medium term more cost effective solutions for dealing with known problems at existing private treatment plants in St Johnston, and will also work closely with developers to deliver effective solutions for the wider settlement.”

Members outlined the need for the Council to impress upon the Department the seriousness and urgency of progressing the St Johnston Sewerage Scheme. It was acknowledged that a major part of the problem was the fact that the direct discharge of treated effluent was going into the storm drain rather than the percolation area.

Concern was raised in relation to possible impact on the situation of a proposed planning application for more than 28 houses.

Members requested an update on all Villages and Towns in the county currently awaiting new Sewerage Treatment Plants.

Summing up, Clr. Mc Brearty called for the Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to visit the town and see for themselves the enormity of the problem.

Mr. Seamus Neely, Director advised that there would be an opportunity to debate the matter further at the Workshop scheduled for later in the evening.

C/450/09

#### SUPPORT FOR THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF GUTH NA GAELTACHTA

Responding to a request from Clr. O’ Domhnaill, Members unanimously agreed that the following motion agreed at the September Council Meeting be forwarded to all Local Authorities: -

"That Donegal County Council support the five principles of Guth na Gaeltachta, which are:

1. To retain Roinn na Gaeltachta under the direction of a Minister of the Gaeltacht.
2. To retain the enterprise responsibilities of Udaras na Gaeltachta.
3. To protect Gaeltacht and Gaeilge education.

4. To retain language development, cultural and arts schemes and amend them if necessary.

5. Funding to be made available for capital works, infrastructure and communities in rural areas such as the Gaeltacht.

C/451/09 TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMODATION OF FIFTY MILLION EURO (€50,000,000) FOR HALF YEAR ENDING 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010

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

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. O' Neill, the Council resolved to authorise overdraft accommodation of fifty million euro (€50,000,000) for half year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

C/452/09 ESTABLISHMENT AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR RURAL WATER MONITORING

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved to defer the establishment and election of members to the County Committee for Rural Water Monitoring to the October Council Meeting.

C/453/09 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT SCHOOLS LOCATED IN TOWN CENTRES

On the proposal of Clr. O'Neill, seconded by Clr. M. Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"I call on Donegal County Council to address the issue of School Safety for Schools located in Town Centres particularly in South Donegal in light of the Traffic Warden situation at Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala in Donegal Town and the absence of a Traffic Warden at Scoil Catriona at College Street in Ballyshannon."

Members were informed that:-

“Generally, Donegal County Council provides €120,000 annually for School Wardens. €5,000 of this is required for training, PPE, and equipment such as STOP signs and uniforms, leaving €115,000 available to employ School Wardens. A School Warden is required at a school for approximately 42 weeks per year to cover the school year. A School Warden is normally required for 15 hours per week at a school to cover morning, lunch and evening times. The hourly rate for a School Warden is circa. €12.73/hour. Further overhead costs and ER/PRSI means this costs the council €17.70/hour or €1,150 per year. This allows a maximum of 10 School Wardens to be employed across the county at any one time. Currently, Donegal County Council has employment contracts with 8 School Wardens, broken down as follows: Donegal Electoral Area - 4 no. Letterkenny Electoral Area - 2 no. (excluding Letterkenny Town Council - who have approx. 6) Stranorlar Electoral Area - 1 no. Inishowen Electoral Area - 1 no. Glenties Electoral Area - 0 no. Currently there are 176 primary schools in the County. It is clear that a review of a) the method used b) the investment in, and c) the location of measures to protect children walking to schools, right across the county, is required. This review should incorporate Donegal County Council's School Safety Measures Review endorsed by the Council on 25th May '09. This will help ensure that Donegal County Council, the 176 primary schools and the 26 secondary schools are getting the greatest possible benefit from the €120,000/year provided for School Wardens and the €25,000/year for School Safety Measures. The School Safety Measures Review report has costed the improvement measures required at these 202 schools at €337,375 in total, meaning that safety at all our schools could potentially be addressed in a three year programme, given the current level of funding and agreement on how it should be prioritised. All schools in South Donegal should be included as part of the overall County Wide Review”.

Clr. O' Neill asked that arrangements for any future sick leave cover be put in place at Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala in Donegal Town, given its location on the crest of a hill and on the main access route in and out of Donegal Town. He

acknowledged the assistance provided by the Roads Section in covering recent sick leave. He highlighted also the need to provide a warden at Scoil Caitriona in Ballyshannon. Members alluded to the recently published School Safety Report and the obvious need to retain the present level of cover in the county. They called on the Donegal Vocational Education Committee to remind all School Boards of the necessity of adequately addressing road safety issues particularly in relation to the parking of school buses. It was suggested that the Road Safety Officer advise the remainder of the schools in the county of the importance of this matter.

Responding to Members queries, Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director advised that all aspects of staff re-organisation would have to be looked at before contacting the Department in relation to the staffing embargo and possible exemptions for School Traffic Wardens.

C/454/09 TO NOTE RESPONSE FROM MR JOHN GORMLEY T.D. MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTENSION OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS

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

Responding to a number of queries in relation to the actual timescales involved, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning and Economic Development advised that there was no reference to retrospection in the Minister's letter and that it looked likely that any extensions would only be effective when the Oireachtas passed the amendment in relation to Section 23 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009. He noted that when the legislation was passed appropriate procedures would be set up to record and deal with such applications.

C/455/09 APPROVAL OF HEG SCHEME 2009

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

It was generally acknowledged that delays in processing applications would cause undue hardship for many students.

A number of Members expressed their appreciation to the staff in the County Secretary's Office who, in difficult circumstances, were working diligently to process large volumes of HEG applications.

It was acknowledged that the late issue of the scheme and an increase in applications had contributed to a large extent to the delays. Members asked that the Department of Education and Science be written to requesting the early roll out of the Scheme in 2010 so as to avoid unnecessary delays in the payment of maintenance grants to students.

The Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Sean Sheridan, informed Members that Donegal County Council operated the H.E.G Grants Scheme on an agency basis for the Department of Education and Science and that the only monies recoupable for the operation of same was the amount of €7388 to cover incidental expenses. Staffing costs had to be borne by the Council. Plans to transfer the operation of the Scheme to the V.E.C had, he noted, not materialised and as a result Donegal County Council had to invest in a new computer system to deal with applications.

He acknowledged the work carried out by the staff in the section and advised that assistance was being sought from other Directorates.

Members highlighted the need to pool staff resources and put adequate staffing in place for the 2010/2011 academic year.

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Mc Guinness, the Higher Education Grant Scheme for 2009 was approved.

C/456/09

ADOPTION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY  
COMMITTEE SCHEME 2009-2014

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

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Slowey, the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2009-2014 was adopted with the SPC Chairs Elect being assigned to the following Committees: -

**Housing & Corporate**

Clr. D. Larkin

**Roads & Transportation**            Clr. P. Mac Lochlainn

**Water, Environment  
& Emergency Services**            Clr. N. Mc Bride

**Community, Cultural  
& Enterprise**                        Clr. T. Pringle

**Planning & Development**        Clr. C. Brogan

It was agreed that the Chairs would hold office for a minimum period of three years and that after that period there would be a rotation in membership.

Members asked that minutes of Corporate Policy Group meetings be circulated to members of the Council.

C/457/09        CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE REVIEW  
OF THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

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

Clr. Slowey asked that recommendation 3.2 in respect of the attendance of Divisional Managers at Electoral Area Meetings be followed through.

On the proposal of Clr. Brogan, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved to proceed with the re-establishment of the Cultural Committee. It was agreed that members should send their nominations to the County Secretary's Office.

It was also resolved on the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Slowey, to hold a meeting with the Party Whips in relation to the extension of membership of Cross-Border Committees.

Clarification was requested in relation to the operation and workings of the North West Cross Border Group.

C/458/09        AVAILABILITY OF COPIES OF STATEMENTS AND  
STATUTORY DECLARATIONS UNDER SECTION 14  
OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF  
DONATIONS, EXPENDITURE) ACT 1999, AS  
AMENDED

Members noted that the copies of Statements and Statutory Declarations were now available on request from the County Secretary's Office.

C/459/09 TO NOTE THE NAMES OF OFFICIALS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND TRAVELLERS REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED TO THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED DONEGAL LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

The following nominations were noted:

*Council Officials*

- Director of Housing and Building Services when appointed
- Mr. Patrick Mc Laughlin, Divisional Manager
- Mr. Fergus Mc Ateer, Traveller Liaison Officer

*Traveller Representatives*

- Ms Siobhan Mc Laughlin
- Mr. Hughie Leonard.

C/460/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Gallagher , seconded by Clr. O' Domhnaill, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

C/461/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Donaghey, seconded by Clr. McGuinness, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Inishowen Electoral Area Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

C/462/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009

On the proposal of Clr. Mc Garvey, seconded by Clr. Blaney, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of

Meeting of Milford Electoral Area Committee held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

C/463/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009  
On the proposal of Clr. O' Neill, seconded by Clr. Boyle, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Donegal Electoral Area Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

C/464/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2009  
On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Brogan, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

C/465/09 ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2009  
On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Gallagher, it was resolved to endorse the confirmed Minutes of Meeting of Glenties Electoral Area Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

C/466/09 MAYORS BUSINESS  
*Gweedore Flooding*  
The Mayor requested an update on the works completed to date in comparison to the proposed remedial works appraisal forwarded to the Minister.

*Votes of Sympathy*

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Mr. Eugene Mc Cosker on the death of his Mother, Maura.
- The family of the late Michael Gallen, Ballybofey.

*Votes of Congratulations*

Congratulations to be extended to Mr. Shay Given on receiving his 100<sup>th</sup> cap for Ireland, and Mr Phillip Deignan on his recent Tour of Spain stage win.

C/467/09 MANAGERS REPORT (Continued)

Members considered the Manager's Report and Addendums. The County Manager stated that he had dealt with the first two items of his report on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. A number of issues in relation to the Machinery Yard and other staffing related matters had been raised at the adjourned meeting and he would address these at the October meeting.

Members of the Inishowen Electoral Area requested an update on the Greencastle to Magilligan Ferry Service. It was agreed that a working group consisting of Clrs McGuinness, Farren, and MacLochlainn would meet to explore the issue.

**The following Questions and Replies were noted:**

C/468/09 PROVISION OF TURNKEY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT GLENTIES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"What is the position regarding the provision of a Turnkey Housing Development at Glenties and the 8 houses which were listed for Ardara?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“The proposed turnkey scheme in Glenties went through a procurement process earlier this year. This was a two stage process where initial submissions were shortlisted in the 1st stage and those shortlisted were invited to submit detailed tender submissions in the 2nd stage. At the tender closing date only one submission was received which when assessed by the tender assessment panel was adjudged not to have met the minimum quality criteria as established and was thus eliminated from further consideration. There are no current proposals for a turnkey scheme in Glenties and given the current constraints on the public capital programme it is unlikely that funding will be available for such a proposal in the short term.

In Ardara a scheme proposal for 8 units at Molloy's Field has been submitted to the DEHLG for approval to prepare

contract documents but as yet approval has not been received.”

C/469/09 SIGNPOSTING FOR DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

"Will Donegal County Council put a sign for Dungloe at Ann Bonner's shop at Belcruit as this junction is not signposted?"

Clr. Slowey was informed that:-

“This junction received a suite of signs as part of the Regional Road Signage programme. The signs were erected and are currently in excellent condition.

All three signs are in Irish, thus complying with current legislation, with Dungloe signed along the regional route as 'An Clochain Liath'.

A class 1 local road also provides a link between Belcruit and Dungloe. However, this route would not be suitable for large traffic volumes.

For the reasons outlined no further signage is planned at this junction.”

C/470/09 INSTALLATION OF SAFETY MEASURES ON THE N56 GWEEDORE ROAD DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. M.T. Gallagher:-

"What measures does this Council propose to take to ensure that safety measures are installed on the N56 on Gweedore Road Dungloe, at Pete Greene's house as this black spot on the road has accidents happening regularly?"

Clr. M.T. Gallagher was informed that:-

“This section of roadway was surface dressed during the first few weeks of September.

In addition, funding has been sought from the NRA for further safety measures.”

C/471/09 INSTALLATION OF SAFETY MEASURES ON THE ROAD BETWEEN BURTONPORT AND DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. M.T. Gallagher:-

"What measures does this Council propose to take to ensure that safety measures are installed on the road between Burtonport and Dungloe, at James O' Hagens house as this black spot on the road has accidents happening regularly?"

Clr. M.T. Gallagher was informed that:-

“This section of roadway has been surface dressed during mid September.  
In addition, a package of lining measures complete with road studs are to be installed along this section of roadway.”

C/472/09 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE COCKHILL ROAD/WESTBROOK JUNCTION BUNCRANA

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"Following the report from road design section, how soon can Donegal County Council deliver traffic lights at the Cockhill Road/Westbrook Junction, Bunrana to alleviate serious traffic delays at certain times for the local community?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“The Road Design Department completed a report on Westbrook bridge junction in February 2006. The recommendations in that report did not include traffic lights.

The Forward Planning Section of Roads Design have recently been tasked to assess this junction again, considering the changes that have occurred since.

To date, they have completed a geometric survey and are carrying out a turning count survey in the coming weeks.

After the analysis of this data, an informed recommendation can be made regarding the provision of traffic lights. Electoral Area Members will be aware of the proposed workshop with Buncrana Town Council in relation to traffic priorities for Buncrana and it is suggested that this junction and the associated improvements to Westbrook bridge be considered further at this meeting in November.”

C/473/09 ERECTION OF FOOTBRIDGE IN CLONMANY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McConalogue:-

"Will the additional finances necessary for the erection of a footbridge in Clonmany be provided by the County Council?"

Clr. McConalogue was informed that:-

“The overall estimated cost of this project of between €155,000 and €190,000 dependent on the structure chosen. Specific charges to the value of €60,000 have already been collected.

The works described fall into the category of capital projects and have (at this level of cost) been funded over the last number of years from one of the following sources:

1. From the Council's own resources using funding for the Development Contribution Scheme.
2. From the Discretionary Improvement grant from the Department of Transport along with the Discretionary Improvements agreed with members in the budgetary process.

The former funding source has proved unsustainable in the last 24 months and the latter grant has fallen by approximately 50% following the April supplementary budget.

Given the foregoing, it is apparent that the provision of a footbridge is beyond the resources of the Council in the

current calendar year. The finalisation of our budget (capital and/or revenue) for 2010 may facilitate projects such as this at a future date.

It should be noted that the project would require planning consultation in accordance with Part 8 of the Act and procurement of suppliers in accordance with national guidelines.”

C/474/09 TIMEFRAME FOR BUNCRANA TO LINK IN WITH PROJECT KELVIN

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

"When will Buncrana link into and benefit from the Project Kelvin infrastructure?"

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that:-

“Project Kelvin is designed to link the Letterkenny Co-Location facility on the Council's Metropolitan Area Network to Transatlantic and European fibre optic cabling.

Backhaul connectivity to the Councils' MAN's in Letterkenny and Buncrana is provided by ESB Telecoms.

The question of linkages is a commercial matter between Hibernia Atlantic and ESBT. Following completion of the Kelvin project no infrastructural works will be required.

The Council have indicated to both Companies that such inter-connectivity would be extremely beneficial to the Council's networks and to telecommunications capacity in the County generally.”

C/475/09 COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLAYGROUND AT CLOS PHADRAIG CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. McConalogue:-

"What is the estimated commencement date for the construction of a new playground at Clos Phadraig in Carndonagh?"

Clr. McConalogue was informed that:-

“In 2003 Donegal County Council set a beacon ‘That by 2010 no child living in the county should be more than 10 miles from a playground’. In April this year the Council met its target with the establishment of 37 playgrounds. These facilities have been realised with the assistance of communities throughout the county.

An investment of over €3m drawing on funds from Donegal County Council, Peace I and II, National Children’s Office and donations from individuals has been made. The play facilities aim to embrace one of the positive outcomes for Children set out by central Government. Whilst the Council recognises this achievement there remains a need for continued support and investment in the development of play facilities in the county.

Clos Phadraig playground is being funded through the Department of Environment & Local Government and a total of €50,000 has been allocated to the development of the playground. Community & Enterprise together with the Housing Tenant Liaison Officer have been working in cooperation with the local residents to determine the design of the playground. The procurement process is concluded and the contract will be awarded in the coming days. It is intended that construction will commence immediately with a ten week time frame to complete.”

C/476/09

#### MALIN HEAD TOURISM

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"What is the current position regarding Malin Head Tourism Project?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“Donegal County Council have been working with Donegal County Development Board partners on the development of a tourism development strategy for Malin Head since 2008.

Donegal County Council in conjunction with Inishowen Development Partnership, Loughs Agency, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Malin Head Community Association are members of the Malin Head Tourism Development Steering Group.

Malin Head has been identified by the members of Donegal County Council and by Donegal County Development Board as a strategic tourism project for County Donegal and the North-West region. The sustainable development of Malin Head as a key tourism product is a priority for Donegal County Council.

Donegal County Council and stakeholders have secured funding of €225,000 through the INTERREG IVA Programme for the development of Malin Head as an environmental tourism product. The Malin Head INTERREG project is scheduled to commence in early 2010. Donegal County Council continues to investigate other funding possibilities to complement existing plans and to achieve its aims.

In 2008, Donegal County Council completed a Malin Head Interpretative Planning project which resulted in the installation of 5 tourist interpretative panels in the Malin and Malin Head area.

Malin Head is one of a number of strategic tourism projects identified for development by Donegal CDB and Donegal County Council. Others included Inch Levels, Slieve League and the Columban Trail.”

C/477/09

BARRACK HILL/TOWN PARK DEVELOPMENT

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

"What is the current position regarding the Barrack Hill/Town Park development in Carndonagh?"

Clr. McGuinness was informed that:-

“Work on the basecourse surfacing will be completed within the next month and the footpath surfacing will be completed by the year end. Phase I of the access road will be

substantially complete by the 31 December 2009. Efforts are also being made to source funds for development of the Town Park at this location.”

C/478/09 INTENDED PLAN FOR MILFORD PSC

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"What is the intended Plan for Milford PSC, and how many services and staff will be retained there?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“A progress report on the reorganisation of staffing and structures will be presented in the County Manager's report to the September meeting.”

C/479/09 RENTAL AMOUNT FOR 2008 ON PROPERTY RENTED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

"How much rent was paid by this Council for property during 2008 and to date for 2009?"

Clr. McGarvey was informed that:-

“The information needed for the reply to this question is being compiled at present and will be made available as soon as it is completed.”

C/480/09 BROADBAND COVERAGE FOR THE GLENSWILLY, CHURHCILL AND GARTAN AREAS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"Can this Council have a update on the progress being made to bring much needed broadband coverage to the people of the Glenswilly, Churchill and Gartan areas?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The National Rural Broadband scheme is designed to provide broadband services to rural areas of the Country including 52 electoral divisions in Donegal. The Department of Communications Energy & Natural

Resources have contracted 3 Ireland to provide this service. The Churchill rural area is covered by the scheme and 3 Ireland are required to provide services by September 2010 at the latest.

Further information is available on the following websites <http://www.three.ie/nbs/index.htm> and [www.dcenr.gov.ie](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie)”

C/481/09 AMENDMENT OF RATEABLE VALUATIONS TO COINCIDE WITH FALL IN COMMERCIAL RENTAL VALUES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harte:-

"In light of the fall in commercial rental values does the Council expect rateable valuations to be amended accordingly?"

Clr. Harte was informed by the Head of Finance that:-

“The Valuation Act 2001 provides for a complete revaluation of properties in all Local Authorities. I understand this work has progressed in South Dublin and Fingal County Councils. It was the intention to have the work completed within a certain timeframe which has since proved unrealistic. It is not known at this stage when this work will commence in the Donegal Local Authorities.

It is unlikely therefore, that valuations will be arbitrarily reduced in any event given the timing and other issues affecting one valuation versus another. There is no indication that all valuations or indeed any necessarily reflected the more recent market value rentals. Many of the valuations in County Donegal date back to the 1970's/1980's or earlier. The following is a profile of the Commercial Rate Base 2009 as presented to the Elected Members at the 2009 Statutory Budget meeting:-

		Properties
Valuations under	€19.99	1,601
Valuations	€20.00 - €37.99	- 784
Valuations	€38.00 - €63.49	- 608
Valuations	€63.50 or over	- 808
	Total	3,801

If rateable valuations are adjusted, there will be a positive or negative impact on the amount of income from rates. It must be pointed out that any reduction in the Net Effective Valuation will mean a reduction in available income from rates which in turn will mean that reductions in discretionary expenditure need to be identified as the Council Budget must be in balance as between Income available and Planned Expenditure.

The Net Effective Valuation applicable when the 2009 Budget was adopted was €280,000. When the General Annual Rate on Valuation (Rates Multiplier) of €74.46 is applied this results in an amount of €20,848,801 for Rates to be levied. Any adjustment to either the Net Effective Valuation or the Rates Multiplier impacts on the amount of Rates to be levied.”

C/482/09 CUTTING DOWN OF BUSHES OBSCURING ROAD SIGNS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harte:-

"Will the council endeavour to cut down bushes that are obscuring road signs throughout the county?"

Clr. Harte was informed that:-

“In general the responsibility for cutting hedges and bushes along our roads lies with the land owner. The Council have had a good response from landowners in relation to cutting hedges over the last few years.

However there are situations where normal hedge cutters cannot get close enough to cut hedges around signs leaving them obscured. In these circumstances Area Engineers and Supervisors are being asked to make a special effort to have signs cleared of obstructions in the interest of safety of road users.”

C/483/09 PLANS FOR FOOTPATH WIDENING FROM BALLYMACOOL TERRACE TO O'DONNELL PARK

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"I am requesting an up-to-date on the County Council's plans regarding the road from Ballymacool Terrace to the new roundabout at O'Donnell Park, particularly in relation to the widening of the footpath?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

“This section of the R250-2 can be considered in two sections. Firstly the section from O Donnell Park east toward Letterkenny Leisure Centre and including the area in front of the Leisure Centre. Secondly the section from the Leisure centre towards Ballymacool Terrace.

In relation to the first section a design for a realigned road including widening has been prepared and the public consultation process has been completed. Following this the members of the Council considered the report of the Manager and the project may proceed at time of the Council’s choosing as the Members did not amend the proposed development or resolve that they should not be carried out. The design requires the procurement of land to the west of Letterkenny Leisure centre which may require a compulsory purchase order which has not been progressed. The estimated cost of the 300m scheme is in the order of €450,000 excluding land costs.

In relation to the second section a preliminary route alignment has been considered as part of the Swilly Southern Relief Road within the Letterkenny Integrated Land Use & Transportation Study and the proposed link from Letterkenny Leisure Centre towards Oldtown. This preliminary alignment has not been the subject of detailed design or public consultation through the planning process. Moreover the Swilly Relief Road is considered a medium to longterm priority in the study (when compared to the Letterkenny Relief Road and other projects). Further development of this alignment in conjunction with the Swilly Relief Road is required prior to finalising proposals for Members. An allocation has been made by the DOT in 2009 towards preliminary design of the Swilly Relief Road and this will include the junction with the R250 described above.

In relation to the footpath along the existing road the width is unsatisfactory being less than 2m generally and less than 1.2m in places. However given the limited width of the road generally and its poor alignment, it is not recommended that the footpath be widened. Scope does however exist for refurbishing the existing kerbing and surface which is in poor condition. The overall estimated cost of this work is approximately between €60,000 and €80,000 for the 400m involved. The works described fall into the category of maintenance projects and have (at this level of cost) been funded over the last number of years from one of the following sources:

1. From the Council's own resources using funding from the selective maintenance heading of the Council's annual budget.
2. From the Discretionary maintenance grant from the Department of Transport.

In the Letterkenny Electoral Area these monies have largely been utilised carrying out activities such as street sweeping and ad hoc maintenance activities agreed with members from time to time. In this regard it is considered unlikely that the footpath could be restored in the current calendar year. The finalisation of our budget (capital and/or revenue) for 2010 may facilitate projects such as this at a future date."

C/484/09

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE AURA LEISURE CENTRE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Quinn:-

"Has Donegal County Council agreed a date on which work on a pedestrian crossing at the Aura Leisure Centre will commence?"

Clr. Quinn was informed that:-

"The overall estimated cost of this project is approximately €40,000 dependant on the particular system chosen. The works described fall into the category of capital projects and have (at this level of cost) been funded over the last number of years from one of the following sources:

1. From the Council's own resources using funding for the Development Contribution Scheme.
2. From the Discretionary Improvement grant from the Department of Transport along with the Discretionary Improvements agreed with members in the budgetary process.

The former funding source has proved unsustainable in the last 24 months and the latter grant has fallen by approximately 50% following the April supplementary budget. Given the foregoing, it is apparent that the provision of a controlled crossing is beyond the resources of the Council in the current calendar year. The finalisation of our budget (capital and/or revenue) for 2010 may facilitate projects such as this at a future date. In this context the project is being reviewed with a view to ascertain whether one or more uncontrolled crossing(s) would provide adequate safe crossing points. The traffic speeds in the area have also been noted and it is apparent that the posted speed limit is routinely being exceeded. The Council as Roads Authority will be contacting the Gardai in relation to this.”

C/485/09 DATE FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF ROAD WORKS IN WOODLANDS/LISNENNAN AREA

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

"When will the long overdue road works take place in the Woodlands/Lisnennan area?"

Clr. Larkin was informed that:-

“The L-1144 Lisnennan Road has over the last number of years started to fail. This failure is almost entirely due to the construction of a large number of residential developments on the road.

A number of road improvements (including road resurfacing /widening and lining) were conditioned on developers on the Lisnennan Road in 2006/2007. These works were conditioned to be carried out prior to first occupation of the developments. Additionally 1100m was scheduled to be

restored using funding from the restoration improvement grant of the Department of Transport in the current year (2009).

As Electoral Area members will be aware this latter grant was cut following the April supplementary budget, but following consultation with Members the works were reprioritised to provide some restoration works. Additionally the area roads staff have been in discussions with the relevant developers towards obtaining a financial contribution towards the works in lieu of compliance with their planning conditions related to resurfacing and ensuring completion of other drainage and environmental related works conditioned as part of their development.

This process is nearly concluded with the developers having largely completed all drainage and kerbing works and with tenders returned for the overlay works. Final agreement with the developers in relation to their contribution is anticipated in the coming weeks at which time the overlay works will be completed.”

C/486/09

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT  
WORKS TO THE CHURCHILL WATER SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"What is the update on the proposed improvement works to the Churchill Water Scheme?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The Churchill Water Supply Scheme is a Group Scheme that has been taken in charge by Donegal Council. It has been included on a list of water quality deficient schemes by the Department and is therefore included as a priority scheme on the Rural Water Programme. The Preliminary Report on proposed improvements to the scheme was submitted to the Department in September 2008 and this was subsequently approved by the Department in April 2009. In summary the Council has been given approval to provide a new modular water treatment works, a new reservoir, and new intake and rising main, all subject to completion of statutory processes including abstraction order, land

acquisition, planning compliance, and procurement compliance. While these processes will take some time to complete the Council will endeavour to carry out limited works which will result in improved security of supply to consumers in the area. No timeline for the major works can be given at this time.”

C/487/09 MILFORD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBride:-

"What is the start date for the Milford Environmental Improvement works?"

Clr. McBride was informed that:-

“The Planning & Economic Development Directorate proposes to undertake an Urban Renewal Scheme in Milford consisting of the construction of an off-street car park (Phase 1) and an environmental improvement scheme (Phase 2) along the Main Street. The progression of Phase I of the project had been dependent on the acquisition of two separate land holdings. The acquisition of the larger land holding was concluded in May 2008 and agreement for the acquisition of the remaining land holding has been agreed.

The tender documentation for both phases was placed on e-tenders on the 23rd April 2009 for return by the 19th June 2009. The EIS Technical Team will have the tender assessment process completed within the next two weeks. When this is completed together with consideration of all options in relation to carrying out the works by contract, direct labour or a combination of both, the council will be informed of the position.

The Council must also have due regard to Circular FIN 03/2009 regarding ‘Control and Monitoring of Local Authorities Contribution to the General Government Balance (GGB)’ and the Council’s ability to adhere to same. This may be a factor in deciding the commencement date for the scheme.”

C/488/09 ERECTION OF TOURISM/HERITAGE SIGNPOSTING  
ALONG THE BALLYSHANNON BY-PASS TO  
PROMOTE BALLYSHANNON

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Neill:-

"Will Donegal County Council in conjunction with the NRDO erect Tourism/Heritage Signing along the Ballyshannon By-Pass to help promote Ballyshannon?"

Clr. O'Neill was informed that:-

"The Council will in conjunction with NRDO staff conduct an audit of Tourism signage into Ballyshannon and subject to the outcome of the audit seek to address any shortages subject to available funding."

C/489/09 NO MAINS WATER SUPPLY TO 26 HOUSES IN  
LITTERBRICK, GLENFIN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"What plans does this Council intend to take to address the fact that there is 26 houses in Leitirbrick, Glenfin with no mains water supply, and is there any immediate plans to connect this area to a mains supply?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

"Letterbrick is approximately 3.5km from the Lough Mourne Public Water Supply distribution network and 8.5km from the Fintown Public Water Supply distribution Network. The feasibility of connecting the Fintown Water Supply to the Lough Mourne supply including Letterbrick and other unserviced areas in between was examined in 2007. The results of that study indicated that as well as extending the Lough Mourne network, improvements at the Lough Mourne headworks and substantial upgrading of pipelines between Ballybofey and Corlecky is required. This scale of improvements can only be effected through the progression of the Lough Mourne Letterkenny Major Capital Water Supply Scheme and while the Lough Mourne scheme is progressing it is unlikely that Letterbrick will benefit in the short term."

C/490/09 FLOODING IN RAPHOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harvey:-

"What practical steps have the Council taken to prevent a recurrence of flooding in Raphoe?"

Clr. Harvey was informed that:-

“During the summer months Donegal County Council area staff have undertaken extensive cleaning of drainage system in Raphoe including road gullies, drainage channels and drainage grills within the town to help prevent a recurrence of the flooding.

Regarding the overall flood study, Jacob's Consulting Engineers have now issued the final version of their pre-feasibility study on Raphoe flooding which was received by Donegal County Council on 18th September 2009 following OPW approval. In the report, the consultant has identified 7 flood risk management options appropriate for further consideration. The next stage will be to undertake a feasibility study which will identify the preferred solution. Donegal County Council have requested a further meeting with the OPW to discuss how to progress this project. This meeting is provisionally scheduled for October 2009. A copy of the report will be presented at the next available Stranorlar EAC Meeting.”

C/491/09 CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATH BETWEEN CHAPEL STREET AND THE NEW FINN VALLEY COLLEGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Can the Council outline a plan/timeframe to construct a footpath between Chapel Street Stranorlar and the New Finnvalley College site at Drumboe Stranorlar as works need to be completed prior to opening of the College?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“Final land take maps are being prepared for this project. Adequate funding for the overall project, estimated to be a minimum of €500,000, is required and has not yet been identified. Given the need for land purchase and the

identification of funding, it is not possible to set a timeframe for completion of the construction of the footpath.”

C/492/09 FUNDING TO REPLACE THE ELACTAGH BRIDGE CLOGHAN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGowan:-

"Can the Council prepare the necessary documents and request funding from the various funding agencies such as DoEHLG, Clar and Roinn Na Gaeltachta etc, to replace the Elactagh Bridge Cloghan R-252-7 which is in a dangerous condition?"

Clr. McGowan was informed that:-

“The County Council have plans in place to provide new section of road on the R257 which would bypass Elactagh Bridge which is in poor condition.

Funding for this type of work would normally come from the Department of Transport through the Specific Grants scheme. Priorities for these schemes are initially agreed by the members in each electoral area. It is noted that Elactagh Bridge works have not been prioritised by the members in Stranorlar this year and so no application will be made for this scheme to the DOT.

Indications are that no money will be allocated from Roinn Na Gaeltachta or Clar for Strategic roads in the coming year. However this scheme would be high priority should money become available.”

C/493/09 FUNDING FOR THE TOBER ROAD

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"Will the Council seek funding for the Tober road and if funding is not forthcoming for this road will the Council prioritise funding when it becomes available?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“The road in question has been raised by members of the previous Council at Electoral Area Level in Inishowen. The

L8281-1 from Church Town to Tober has been severely damaged over the last number of years by heavy lorries associated with a quarry in the area. This quarry is the subject of investigation by the Planning Section of the Council.

The Area Roads Staff have prepared a cost for the road restoration and estimated this at approximately €100,000.

The road in question was not prioritised in 2007 for the 2008- 2010 restoration programme although it is accepted that it would qualify for works under that programme given its current condition. It is considered unlikely that the Department of Transport would provide additional funding for restoration of a particular road in the current financial year given that the allocation was reduced from €15.2m to €9.3m.

In relation to 2010 it is apparent that the road could be prioritised, but this would need to be done in consultation with members in the Electoral Area factoring in the roads not completed in 2009 due to the reduction in the grant described above, and the likelihood of a similar, (or reduced) grant in 2010 resulting in a reduced number of roads from the 2010 list when compared to the original programme.”

C/494/09

CURRENT POSITION OF THE RAPHOE FLOOD PREVENTION STUDY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"What is the current position of the flood prevention study with regards to Raphoe?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“Jacob's Consulting Engineers have now issued the final version of their pre-feasibility study on Raphoe flooding which was received by Donegal County Council on 18th September 2009 following OPW approval. In the report, the consultant has identified 7 flood risk management options appropriate for further consideration. The next stage will be to undertake a feasibility study which will identify the preferred solution. Donegal County Council have requested

a further meeting with the OPW to discuss how to progress this project. This meeting is provisionally scheduled for October 2009. A copy of the report will be presented at the next available Stranorlar EAC Meeting.”

C/495/09 DELAY IN PLACING SCENE ATTENDED TAPE AT R.T.A. LOCATIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"Why has there been such a delay in having 'scene attended' tape or an alternative put in place at R.T.A. locations - which has been brought before the Road Safety Group?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“The Road Safety Officer referred this request to the Donegal Road Working Group for consideration. The principle of making it clear to road users that the Emergency Services had attended the scene was accepted as beneficial. However, the group members raised a number of issues which required additional research before the scheme could be developed. Members researched these issues and the item remained on the agenda of the monthly meetings of the Donegal Road Safety Working Group.

The issues raised by the group included:

> Safety - The Garda Síochána conducted research into the number of other police forces using this type of initiative. The only service identified was in England and the initiative has subsequently been discontinued. This was following an incident where a Police Officer marked a site as attended and the body of the driver lay undiscovered until the vehicle was being removed a day later. They further raised the issue of the tape becoming detached from the tree/post at one end and blowing across the road causing a hazard to other motorists.

> Environmental – As none of the Emergency Services could commit to returning to the scene to remove the ‘attended tape’ littering was identified as a potential problem. Research was conducted by the Road Safety

Officer to identify biodegradable tape and ink as a possible solution to this issue but the cost was prohibitive.

Taking the above factors into consideration it was decided by the group members that the principle of highlighting the fact that the scene had been attended was important but 'scene attended tape' was not an appropriate mechanism.

Alternatives were identified including biodegradable traffic cones and A4 window stickers. The window sticker was finally agreed on as the best option taking into consideration safety, environment and cost. This was subsequently designed over the summer months (See attached file - design number 2) and approved by the Donegal Road Safety Working Group on the 4th September 2009.

Following discussion between the Emergency Services it was agreed that the Gardaí should carry the window stickers and manage their use. The Garda Traffic Inspector brought the initiative before a meeting of the Garda Superintendants on the 21st September 2009 to obtain permission for a six month trial in Donegal. The Chief Superintendent before making a decision has referred the matter to the Garda Síochána Legal Team in Dublin for consideration.

The Donegal Road Safety Working Group awaits the outcome of this process before taking the initiative to the pilot stage. The Traffic Inspector is happy to discuss the matter further with any Elected Member and he can be contacted at Letterkenny Garda Station."

C/496/09

COUNCIL POSITION ON PROBLEMS IN PARTLY OWNED COUNCIL ESTATES ESPECIALLY BEECHWOOD GROVE LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. McBrearty:-

"What is the Council position on the problems associated with 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 Beechwood Grove, Lifford and similar problems in other partly owned Council estates?"

Clr. McBrearty was informed that:-

“There are complaints of water running into the Council estate from adjacent landholdings which are outside the control of the Council. Officials are continuing to explore means of resolving this issue with the third parties in question.”

C/497/09 TRAFFIC RAMPS AT THE CONEYBURROWN ESTATE  
LIFFORD

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

"When will traffic calming ramps promised for Coneyburrow Estate Lifford be put in place?"

Clr. Crawford was informed that:-

“These ramps will be provided within the next four weeks.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_