

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher  
Cllr. Terence Slowey  
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh  
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Enda Bonner  
Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Michael McGarvey - A/Director Water & Environment  
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Brendan McFadden - Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Damian McDermott - Senior Executive Engineer, NRDO, Project Delivery  
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise  
Sinéad McClafferty - Executive Planner  
Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise  
Brian McBrearty - Assistant Waste Regulation Officer  
Michael Rowsome - S.S.O Corporate & Motor Tax

**GMD 37/17**

**MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were confirmed.

<b>PLANNING &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
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**GMD 38/17**

**Summary of Planning Applications**

Members discussed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Executive Planner.

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested that the Planning Service revert to the previous reporting format which listed the appeals, the refusals and the corresponding file references.

**GMD 39/17**

**Enforcement**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting.

**GMD 40/17**

**Central Planning Unit**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Executive Planner in relation to the following work programmes:

- County Development Plan Review
- Tier 2 Local Area Plans
- Additions to the Record of Protected Structures
- Conservation Grant Schemes
- EU-Funded Hericoast Project

**GMD 41/17**

**Take-Over Housing Estates / Unfinished Estates**

Cllr. Slowey requested clarification from the Planning Service in relation to the statistics in respect of the Glenties Municipal District.

**GMD 42/17**

**Planning Clinics**

The Committee welcomed the schedule of Planning Clinics circulated at the meeting and Cllr. Gallagher commended the provision of a decentralised Planning Service.

**GMD 43/17**

**Coastal Management Plan**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Planning Service to expedite the formulation of a Coastal Management Plan in light of the increasing number of aquaculture development applications in coastal communities.

<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ENTERPRISE</b>
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**GMD 44/17**

Members welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager regarding:

- (i) ASCENT Project
- (ii) Aire de Service points
- (iii) Provision of Inclusive equipment in playgrounds
- (iv) Outdoor Play Facilities Enhancement Scheme

**GMD 45/17**

**Donegal Youth Council**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously regarding ongoing activities promoted by the Youth Council and the Community & Enterprise Manager advised that Youth Councillors will attend a future Municipal District Meeting.

**GMD 46/17**

**Donegal Age Friendly Strategy**

Members discussed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager regarding the 3 year age friendly strategy.

The Committee commended the establishment of the Donegal Older Persons Council as a sub structure of the Age Friendly Alliance to assist in the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh complemented the Council and the GAA's organisation of a day for older people in Mac Cumhaill Park, Ballybofey on the 26<sup>th</sup> February for the Donegal v Dublin league game.

**GMD 47/17**

### **Donegal Walks and Trails**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager regarding the status of maintenance, development and promotion of walks and trails in Donegal including cycle routes and Greenways.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted his frustration at the utilisation of DFI monies to fund walks in West Donegal in contrast to the major investment in better quality development in the East of the County. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the A/Director of Service to relay the concerns of the Glenties MD to the Senior Management Team in relation to lack of major walks and trails infrastructural investment in West Donegal.

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr Ó Domhnaill the Committee recommended that Francis Conaghan, Paths and Trails Development Officer be invited to next MD meeting.

The Community & Enterprise Manager informed the Committee that:

- (i) Funding has been secured to advance the feasibility study on the Letterkenny to Burtonport Old Railway route for a possible greenway.
- (ii) Sustrans Consultants have been appointed to undertake a site survey and a community/stakeholder consultation.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig asked the Council to promote linkages between Walkway Trails and kayaking activities.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with Gweebarra Valley Tourism regarding signposting and amenity developments.

**GMD 48/17**

**Any Other Business**

48.1

Cllr. Gallagher requested:

- (i) Dates for roll out of Community Action Plan
- (ii) Information regarding 'town twinning' project
- (iii) The library service to initiate promotion of a 'Booktown' in Donegal.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the I.S. Service to liaise with Eir to invite a representative to attend a Workshop/MD meeting to discuss the rollout of Broadband.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig queried the possibility of local community groups utilising available space in the Dungloe PSC for various artistic and entertainment activities.

48.2

**DEIS Programme**

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig criticised the omission from the Deis Programme of Gortahork & Ranafast National Schools by the Department of Education and requested that Departmental representatives be invited to meet Councillors to address Members concerns. Cllr. Slowey informed the meeting that it would be more beneficial that representations be made to the Department of Education via TD's in the County and Cllr. Bonner concurred with this recommendation. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh were of the opinion that Departmental policy was to force amalgamations, criticised the lack of an appeals process and the negative effect on Irish language schools.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the increasing financial burden imposed on all schools and the crippling cost of water charges.

## Housing & Corporate

**GMD 49/17**

### Grants

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the current status of the following grants:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Housing Adaptations
- Mobility Aids

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update on a submission from an elderly resident in Ard Mór, Dungleoe regarding the provision of suitable access to outside drying facilities.

**GMD 50/17**

### Casual Vacancies

Members noted the progress report on casual vacancies as at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017, circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager who informed the Committee of targets to reduce the turnaround time frame by 10% on the 2016 figures.

**GMD 51/17**

### Acquisitions

Members discussed the progress report on Housing acquisitions as at the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager.

The Committee commended the Housing Service in respect of the success of the acquisition programme.

The Housing Manager undertook to include a Housing Capital update in future progress reports.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Housing Service to promote town centre developments which would facilitate a reduction in transport costs for older persons and also boost economic activity.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Housing Service to pursue contact with the Respond Housing Association in relation to sourcing additional unoccupied units for social housing in the Dungloe area.

The Housing Manager agreed with Members that additional housing is necessary in the Dungloe area and that an advertisement for a turnkey package will be published in the near future.

Cllr. Bonner requested an up to date report on the Housing need in the Glenties MD.

**GMD 52/17**                      **Capital Assistance Scheme**

The Housing Manager updated the Committee on the status of proposals for development in Dungloe of 3 Housing Units with 5 bedrooms per unit by the Donegal Parents and Friends Group.

**GMD 53/17**                      **Retrofit Programme**

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey, the Housing Manager updated the Committee on the status of the retrofit and insulation scheme.

**GMD 54/17**                      **Best kept Council Housing Scheme 2016**

The Housing Manager welcomed award winners to the meeting and complemented and congratulated all recipients of prizes for their voluntary contribution to the maintenance and improvement of their respective Housing schemes. The Best kept Scheme winners were as follows:

- Large Scheme    - Ballina, Falcarragh
- Medium Scheme - Ard McGill, Glenties
- Small Scheme    - Ailt Aoibhinn, Phase 2, Meenaniller
- Best Improved - Clós Naomh Dúigh, Annagry
- Special Efforts - Ailt Aoibhinn, Phase 1, Meenaniller

**GMD 55/17**

**County Secretariat**

The Committee requested that Corporate Services liaise with the County Secretariat regarding the issue of notification to Councillors in respect of CPG & SPC Meetings.

<b>WATER &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**GMD 56/17**

**Marram Grass Transplanting**

The Committee welcomed the notification in relation to a practical training workshop to be held at Carrickfin Beach on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2017.

**GMD 57/17**

**Environment Awareness**

The Committee noted the reports circulated at the meeting and presented by the A/Assistant Waste Regulation Officer in relation to:

- (i) Green schools
- (ii) Smoky Coal
- (iii) Tidy Town Amenity Grant
- (iv) Anti Litter Campaigns
- (v) Bikes 4 Africa
- (vi) 2017 Enforcement and Statistics
- (vii) Public Conveniences

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the Environment Service for their assistance to community clean up campaigns and requested continuation of the same level of services.

**GMD 58/17**

**Coastal Protection**

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding depletion of sand dunes in Ballyness Bay, the



A/Director of the Environment Service undertook to liaise with appropriate officials in this regard.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding coastal protection applications in respect of Maghery and Portnoo the A/Director of the Environment Service advised that an invitation has been extended to the OPW for a meeting and that he will obtain an update.

**GMD 59/17**

**Water Services - Irish Water**

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with Irish Water in relation to:

- (i) Completion of Dungloe Sewage Treatment
- (ii) Study of Dungloe Bay as regards water quality and also a clean up of the Bay including rack removal.
- (iii) Connection of a number of residences to the new water main being laid between Fintown and Glenties.

Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Slowey also requested that representations be made to Irish Water in relation to:

- (i) the necessity for road closure to be scheduled off peak season and
- (ii) the status of replacement piping works.

The A/Director of Water & Environment advised the Committee that Irish Water have agreed to meet the Municipal District Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup> March prior to the Plenary Council Meeting. Members were also informed that a visit to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Dungloe will be arranged.

## **Roads & Transportation**

### **GMD 60/17      Follow up Issues**

The Committee noted the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Roads Manager regarding follow up issues from the January Municipal District Meeting which were discussed in detail at the Roads Workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **GMD 61/17      Adoption of Programmes discussed at Workshops on 19.1.2017 and 14.2.2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Bonner the Committee agreed the following programmes detailed in the report circulated at the meeting:

- Level of service re. Maintenance expenditure 2017
- Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing 2017)
- Restoration Improvement 2017

### **GMD 62/17      NRDO Update**

The NRDO Senior Executive Engineer advised the Committee on the status of the second phase of the N56 upgrade and proposals for the third phase from Kilkenny to Letterilly.

Cllr. Bonner highlighted the condition of the cycleway along the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and requested that representation be made to the contractors in this regard.

### **GMD 63/17      Gritting Programme**

Members agreed to meet with Coiste Forbartha Anagaire in a workshop at 10.30 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> March in Creeslough prior to the Municipal District Meeting.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**