

Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe,
Aras an Chontae,
Leifear.

5ú Nollaig, 2023

Fógra Cruinnithe

Beidh Cruinniú de Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall ar siúl **De Máirt 12ú Nollaig, 2023, ag 11.30 r.n. in Ionad Serbhísí Pobail, Bhaile Dhún na nGall.**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS DÚN NA nGALL

A Chara,

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall. Tá Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Mise, le meas

Linda Mac Cana
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Municipal District of Donegal

Office of Meetings Administrator,
County House,
Lifford.

5th December 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal will be held on **Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 11.30 am** in the **Donegal Public Services Centre.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal. The Agenda is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Linda McCann
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 10th October 2023.
2. Consideration of Minutes of the Budget Workshop held on the 03rd October 2023.
3. Consideration of Minutes of the MD Budget Meeting held on the 24th October 2023.
4. Consideration of Minutes of the Roads Workshop held on the 14th November 2023.
5. Consideration of Minutes of the Roads Workshop held on the 21st November 2023.
6. Attendance of the Youth Council delegation.
7. **Update Reports from Council Services:**
 - 7.1 Housing & Corporate Services
 - 7.1.1 *2024 Schedule of Meetings*
 - 7.2 Roads & Transportation
 - 7.3 Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services
 - 7.4 Environment Services
 - 7.5 Community Development
 - 7.6 Planning Services

Motions

8. *Cllr Niamh Kennedy*
“That this MD calls for financial help and planning, from Failte Ireland, Udaras and Donegal County Council /Donegal Tourism for the Area from Malin Beag to Malin Mor and the Silver Strand Beach as it is the biggest tourist attraction after the Glencolmcille Folk Village and the Sliabh Liag Cliffs in this area. The improvement works on the carpark at the Silver Strand beach which needs attention, lining and barrier etc to be included in the financial help and planning. The huge influx of campervans in the region along with the cruise ship coaches are welcome but planning and investment in the area is required”.
9. *Cllr Barry Sweeny*
“That this MD considers the taking in charge the access path between Colaiste Colmcille and Erne Dale in Ballyshannon”.

Questions

10. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

“What is the status of naming the Killybegs Industrial Road as was requested in this MD last year, the proposed road has the preferred name by the public and this road naming should be carried out with no further delay”.

11. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

“Can a plan of action be carried out for Malin Beag to Malin Mor to the silver strand beach carpark and that where potential road widening is required for buses and coach laybys are needed. Where the road needs draining and where the fencing on the waterside is reinstated by barriers or other equivalent protective infrastructure”.

12. Cllr Tom Conaghan

Is it possible to review the ability of the traffic warden to fine people on the spot for expiration of tax certificate? In my opinion a warning of 5 to 10 days giving people a chance to pay their tax within that time would be sufficient”.

13. Cllr Tom Conaghan

“Is it possible to carry out a review on all speed limits in Donegal Town, in particular in the vicinity of the Abbey Vocational school and all primary schools in the area?”

14. Date of Next Meeting(s) / Workshop(s)

- MD Meeting on Tuesday the 9th January 2024 at 11.30 am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber (as per standing orders)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL
HELD AT 11.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY THE 10TH OCTOBER 2023 IN THE
PETER KENNEDY CHAMBER, DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

MDD/126/23 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Tom Conaghan, Cathaoirleach
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Michéal Naughton
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Barry Sweeny
Cllr Michael McMahon

MDD/127/23 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Linda McCann, A/Area Manager, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Mark Sweeney, A/Area Manager, Roads/Transportation
Ms. Tara Quinn, Executive Architect, Housing Capital
Ms. Mary Daly, Senior Staff Officer, Economic Development
Ms. Fiona Kelly, Staff Officer, Environment Section
Mr. Barney McLaughlin, Administrative Officer, Community
Development
Ms. Aideen Quinn, A/Executive Planner, Planning
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate
Services
Ms. Caroline Britton, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

MDD/128/23 APOLOGIES

Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Pauric Sheerin, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services

MDD/129/23 STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Conaghan welcomed all attendees and referred to Standing
Order No. 64 which stipulates that recording of the meeting is
prohibited.

**MDD/130/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 12TH
SEPTEMBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Jordan the Minutes
of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 12th
September 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/131/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE
WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD
ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Naughton the
Minutes of the Corporate Workshop of the Municipal District of
Donegal held on the 6th September 2023 were confirmed. In

response to Cllr Naughton's query in relation to Bus Éireann, Mr Sweeney submitted that the Council is awaiting further contact from Bus Éireann. Cllr McMahon advised that Bus Éireann held a well attended recruitment day in Bundoran recently.

MDD/132/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ROADS WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Jordan the Minutes of the Roads Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 6th September 2023 were confirmed.

MDD/133/23 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

CORPORATE SERVICES

Cllr Naughton submitted that due to the lack of student accommodation in Letterkenny, Sligo and Derry, students have no choice but to drive to college, however, they are currently experiencing long delays in receiving a driving test date. Cllr Naughton recommended resources be deployed by the RSA to resolve this issue and recommended an additional Driving Tester be recruited to assist in reducing the driving test waiting list here in Donegal. In response to Cllr Naughton's request, Ms McCann agreed to forward correspondence to the RSA.

HOUSING SERVICES

Progress reports on Casual Vacancies, Grants, Loans, Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016, HAP Tenancies, Housing Need, Housing Capital, Approved Housing Bodies Development, and Lease & Repair Scheme

Ms McCann advised that the refurbishment works to the existing 9 casual vacancies is progressing and offers has been released in relation to 8 of these houses. The offers for the 16 units at Oak Meadows have also been released, with the majority of the households accepting them. The Housing Office is currently re-offering 3 of these units. Ms McCann further advised that the construction works at Railway Park (Phase 3) are substantially complete and it is expected offers will be released over the course of the coming weeks. It is anticipated an official opening will take place for Oak Meadows and Railway Park and this is likely to be held next month. It is expected that the 5 units at Rockview in Ballyshannon will be completed shortly and the offers for same will be released thereafter. In relation to the energy retrofit works taking place in Killybegs, Ms McCann advised that these works are nearing completion.

In response to a query raised at the last MD meeting regarding house purchases, Ms McCann advised that over 50 expressions of interests for acquisitions were received within the Donegal MD. Each of these properties were further investigated and it was noted that some were unsuitable for various reasons. As part of the Tenant in Situ Scheme and single acquisitions, offers have been placed on 5 properties to date and the Housing Office is continuing to scan the market for further suitable social housing properties. It is recommended that property owners who wish to place their property on the market, may submit an expression of interest to the Council, with details of same available on the Council's website.

A number of comments / queries were dealt with as follows:-

Phase 1 Drumacrin, Bundoran

In response to Cllr McMahan's query in relation to the commencement date for the Drumacrin housing development, Ms McCann agreed to seek an update on same and it was noted that a meeting will be organised with the existing residents to discuss the Traffic Management Plan.

EERW Scheme

Cllr McMahan welcomed the progression of the energy retrofit works in Killybegs and looked forward to the works commencing next year in Bundoran within the Gaelic Park and Mountain View Housing Estates.

In response to Cllr McMahan query in relation to housing tenants that previously declined the energy retrofit works, Ms McCann advised that these households would be included in future EERW programmes.

Housing

Both Cllr Sweeny and Cllr Naughton welcomed the progression within the casual vacancies work programme and the new housing developments and commended the Housing Teams. Cllr Sweeny suggested that the criteria for the purchase of single acquisitions should be relaxed to allow purchases to proceed, especially if the existing tenants are happy to remain in the property and recommended a cross-directorate approach could be considered, especially for properties that would benefit from the current grant schemes.

Ms McCann welcomed the positive feedback and noted the progression of various social housing options is a priority for the Housing Section of the Council.

MDD/134/23 ROADS / TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT

2023 Roadworks Programme Status Report

Members noted the reports on the Road Works Programme circulated with the agenda.

Follow up Issues from the previous meeting

Mr Sweeney provided an update on the follow up issues from the previous meeting, as circulated by email, that dealt with the following matters: -

Provide contractor details and costings for the scoping and survey works for the proposed Active Travel application for the road between Dunkineely and Killaghtee

These scoping works are being managed by the Active Travel Team in the National Road Design Office. The scoping works is paired with two other projects within the County with an overall contract value of approximately €35,000.00. Traffic surveys have commenced, and topographical surveys will be completed within the next two weeks. Nationwide Data Collection (NDC) are doing the traffic survey's and IO Geomatics are doing the topographical survey's.

Seek an update from the Marine Section in relation to the road lining at Teelin Pier

The Marine Section have advised that line markings have been requested at several piers throughout the County and the Marine Section are planning to bundle these requests and apply for funding to carry out the these works in 2024.

Relay the comments raised in relation to the Cloghore road between Rockfield School and Celtic Wave to the Roads Safety Engineer and continue to explore funding options for flooding mitigation measures

This issue was emailed to the Road Safety Engineer on 12th September 2023 to consider and discuss with the National Roads Office.

Investigate the road surface issue in Bundoran

The Area Roads Office is planning to carry out road resurfacing works in this area in the coming weeks which will address this issue.

Investigate the possibility of adding Drumark to the Ballydevitt sign

Provision is being made to have these signs amended.

Seek an update on the lights at Laghey Bridge

These lights are now operational.

Investigate the possibility of creating 'set down only' parking at the Saimer Childcare Centre in Ballyshannon

This location will be reviewed to see if there is sufficient road width to accommodate this request.

Relay the comments raised in relation to the boat quay in Bundoran to the Marine Section

An email was sent to the Marine Section on 12th September regarding the boat quay in Bundoran and I understand that the Marine Engineer has been in contact with Cllr Mc Mahon to discuss the issue.

A number of comments / queries were dealt with as follows:-

Dunkineely Scoping Works

Cllr Kennedy referred to the traffic concerns in Dunkineely and queried if the Members could receive a copy of the scoping study report when complete as this data would also be beneficial for the Killybegs port development projects. Mr Sweeney agreed to forward a copy of the report when finalized.

Bundoran Boat Quay

Cllr McMahan referred to the tragic incidents that occurred in Bundoran recently and noted that car parking remains an issue for the RNLI when they are responding to emergency call outs. On some occasions there has been difficulty with access to the pier due to cars been parked within close proximity to the entrance to the warehouse and suggested the Roads Section in conjunction with the Marine Section adopt this area. Mr Sweeney submitted that the road to the quay is not a public road and noted that the adoption of this road would result in an already stretched Roads budgets being further stretched and agreed to discuss the issue with the Marine Section as he is aware road lining is to take place at a number of piers throughout the county.

Road Safety Issues at Schools

Following on from the road safety incident at Dunkineely, Cllr Sweeny submitted that he has received contact from a number of schools who wish to highlight road safety concerns and suggested that this issue should be raised by the TII delegation in Dublin along with upgrade works to the N3. As an interim measure, Cllr Sweeny suggested temporary road safety works could be option and asked that consideration be given to the Rockfield and Kilbarron Schools.

Cllr Naughton also submitted that there is a road safety concern at Pettigo National School and suggested that in addition to the completion of the footpath works, road marking should be placed on the approaching road to advise motorists to slow down as there is a school ahead.

Cllr Conaghan referred to traffic congestion outside Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala despite a specific car park being available for the drop off and collection of pupils.

Mr Sweeny advised that the schools have warning signage erected at the approach to schools and suggested that perhaps speed or the lack of attention by drivers remains a significant safety risk. Mr Sweeney also noted a Road Safety Plan has been completed for Kilbarron National School and Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala has been successful in their Green School application.

Cluain Barron

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the commencement of the repair works at Cluain Barron. Mr Sweeney advised that these works are difficult and may require additional funding next year.

Passing Bays and Road Counter

In response to Cllr Sweeny's query in relation to the creation of additional passing bays on the Creevy Pier road and a date for the laying of the road counter at Rossnowlagh Friary, Mr Sweeney agreed to consider the passing bays and install the road counter at Rossnowlagh Friary.

Damaged Railing

In response to Cllr Naughton's query in relation to a damaged railing in the centre of Pettigo Village, Mr Sweeney was aware of the damage and agreed to investigate same.

Donegal Town One-Way System

Although Cllr Naughton welcomed the commencement of the Donegal Town one-way system, he noted that car parking remains an issue and suggested the commencement of a conversation with the Bosco Centre Committee to ascertain if car parking could be made available whilst these works are ongoing. Cllr Jordan concurred with Cllr Naughton as he was aware that high level of traffic congestion is taking place along the road outside the Bosco Centre.

As a trustee of the Bosco Centre, Cllr Conaghan informed the Members that although the Bosco Centre has insurance and liability concerns, positive discussions have commenced with the Committee and they are agreeable to considering a proposal that will work for both the users of their Centre and those who are seeking a car parking space.

Tree & Hedge Cutting

Cllr McMahon sought information in relation to cutting back of trees and hedges and suggested further communication should issue in relation to this matter to advise members of the public of their responsibilities. Cllr McMahon also advised that an overhanging tree at Donaldson's Corner outside Belleek is causing issues for lorry drivers. Cllr Jordan concurred with Cllr McMahon's comments and suggested that the existing hedge cutting policy needs to be reviewed at SPC level as he is aware that a number of landowners receive a notice from the Council to cut back their hedges / trees, however, do

not proceed with the recommended works. Cllr Jordan is also aware that the IFA are seeking a bigger fee for their works and suggested that the Roads Section submit a request to the SPC for a review of the existing policy. Cllr Sweeny also raised the issue of the ash dieback disease and suggested a policy to deal with this issue should also be included as part of the review.

Mr Sweeney agreed to investigate the tree at Donaldson's corner outside Belleek and submitted that hedge cutting information is available on the Council's website. In accordance with the Roads Act it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure trees and hedges are maintained for the safety of those using a public road. As budgets are limited, Mr Sweeney advised the Council carry out annual hedge cutting at specific locations and agreed that the issue of ash dieback needs further discussion at a national level as it is going to become a major issue. Mr Sweeney agreed to raise the issue with Senior Management.

MDD/135/23 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

On behalf of the Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services Directorate, Ms Daly submitted that the Tourism Section will launch the Autumn promotional campaign on the 20th October in Rockhill House, Letterkenny and a new Travel Concierge Service is also due to be launched for worldwide tour operators. The service will include assistance in channelling the best fit for a tour operator's requirements to local businesses on the ground. The Tourism Team has also organised on-line digital marketing training which will be run by Joleene McDermott; the training is due to be held during the months of October and November. The #LoveDonegal campaign reached a wide audience, and the Buy Donegal campaign will be held in November. The North West RegTech Conference will be held on the 25th October 2023. In terms of the Local Enterprise Office, 'Meet the Makers' event will take place in the Lough Eske Castle on the 20th October and the National Women's Enterprise Day will be celebrated on the 19th October.

In relation to the follow ups from the previous meeting, Ms Daly advised that the tender process is progressing for the Westend Outdoor project and a Caravan & Camping Workshop has been organised for the 14th November. A workshop in relation to the Donegal Diamond Outdoor Dining Project will be organised in due course. Ms Daly further advised that a record 367,000 passengers passed through Knock Airport during the first half of 2023 and Donegal Tourism continues to work with the airport in relation to refreshing the Donegal brand. A list of the newly appointed members of the Donegal Tourism Board and Associate Members Committee are available for distribution to the Members following the meeting.

A number of comments / queries were dealt with as follows:-

Ireland West Airport

In response to Cllr Kennedy's query in relation to a detailed breakdown of the passenger numbers passing through Knock Airport, Ms Daly agreed to ascertain further information.

Bundoran Footbridge

Cllr McMahon submitted that the footbridge between McGovern's car park and the public toilets requires repair works and suggested that these works should be considered as part of the overall Westend Outdoor project.

Emergency Services

In light of the recent tragic incidents in Bundoran, Cllr McMahon asked that a note of appreciation be sent all the emergency services that provided assistance at the incidents. Cllr Sweeny concurred with Cllr McMahon. Ms Daly agreed to pass on the sentiments.

Bundoran & Ballyshannon Fire Station

Both Cllr McMahon and Cllr Sweeny sought an update on the Ballyshannon and Bundoran Fire Stations and noted that the existing buildings are deteriorating and are cognisant of the approaching winter months. Cllr Naughton suggested a workshop is organised. Ms Daly agreed to relay the comments raised with Senior Management.

Feasibility Studies

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the progression of the Shared Island Projects and the Community Trial Projects and noted that feasibility studies will assist with future funding applications.

MDD/136/23 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES REPORT

Ms Kelly presented the report for the Environment Section, as circulated with the Agenda highlighting with the following matters:-

- Waste & Litter Management
 - School Bikes for Africa Campaign 2023
 - Ending of exemption for Agricultural Green Waste Burning
 - Solid Fuel Regulations
- Rural Water Programme
 - County Donegal Group Water Scheme Sector
 - Group Water Scheme Takeover Request
 - Resourcing
 - GWS Takeover Project – Works to date
 - Orphan Schemes
 - Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021
 - Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 – 2025

- Measure A8 – Wastewater Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Waste Water Services

Ms Kelly advised that over 130 bikes were donated as part of the school bikes for Africa campaign and the national ending of the exemption for the burning of agricultural green waste is the 30th November 2023. Ms Kelly advised the Tidy Towns Competition was held last week and Ballyshannon win a Town Centre First Award. It was noted that tremendous efforts have been made by all Tidy Town Committees and the majority of the towns were awarded higher points in 2023 compared to 2022.

A number of comments / queries were dealt with as follows:-

Tidy Towns

Cllr Kennedy welcomed the Tidy Town results for Donegal and noted that the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys has announced additional funding for Tidy Town Groups.

Cllr McMahon congratulated Ballyshannon on their recent win and wished to commend the Bundoran Tidy Towns Committee, the TÚS workers and the Litter Warden, Martin Burke. It was noted that Bundoran had increased their points as well.

Cllr Sweeny commended all the Tidy Town Committees in Donegal and noted that as well as Ballyshannon, Buncrana was awarded for their efforts. Cllr Sweeny also commended the Heritage Office on their recent award under the Historic Towns Initiative. Cllr Sweeny submitted that this award was for the facade of the buildings, and therefore it was now important to focus on getting these buildings back into everyday use.

Cllr Naughton also wished to be associated with congratulating Ballyshannon on their recent awards.

Air Pollution

In response to Cllr Kennedy's comment in relation to an unpleasant odour along the Shore Road in Killybegs, Ms Kelly agreed to relay the comments to the Laboratory Section.

Coastal Waste Bins

Cllr McMahon referred to the ongoing issue with birds extracting waste from the bins and sought the installation of alternative bins at coastal locations. Cllr Sweeny also suggested a review of the bins and noted that separate bins for the segregation of waste may be appropriate in certain locations.

Group Water Schemes

Cllr Jordan referred to the detailed Rural Water Programme report and expressed his dismay at the length of time it takes for Uisce Éireann to takeover a scheme. Cllr Jordan urged Uisce Éireann to expedite the taking over of schemes.

Cllr Naughton sought a Rural Water Scheme Workshop.

Burning of Agricultural Green Waste

Cllr Sweeny noted the short time period remaining for the burning of agricultural green waste and queried if an alternative solution was identified for the disposal of this waste as he is aware some chippers or mulchers use diesel to power their equipment.

Japanese Knotweed

Cllr Sweeny referred to the invasive plant, Japanese knotweed, and suggested the Environment Section research the possibility of using an environmentally friendly compost along riverbanks where Japanese knotweed is growing.

Solid Fuel Regulations

Cllr Naughton noted that 90% of the houses located in rural locations are heated by solid fuel and these households should not be refrained from burning either turf or logs. Cllr Naughton submitted that an equitable solution should be identified.

Well Grants

Cllr Naughton noted that 8 applications for well grants have been received to date in 2023 and suggested that the criteria that the property has to be least 7 years old, should be relaxed. Those building new houses which are located over 300 metres from a mains water connection, should be afforded the opportunity to apply for a well grant.

Cashelard Water Issue

Cllr McMahon submitted that the residents and businesses in Cashelard are currently experiencing high levels of limestone in their water which is causing issues with washing machines and electric kettles.

Ms Kelly agreed to relay the comments raised to the relevant departments within the Environment Section.

MDD/137/23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES

Community Development

Mr B McLaughlin noted the report included the following matters:-

- Playground & Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth & Destination Towns

- Leader / RDP Programme
- Peace Plus 2022 - 2027
- Healthy Donegal
- Social Inclusion Unit
- Youth Council Delegation – December MD Meeting

Mr McLaughlin submitted that a delegation request has been received from the Youth Council to attend the next MD meeting. The delegation will comprise of 4 Youth Councillors and Michael McDevitt. A workshop was held recently to discuss the Town & Village Schemes.

Planning Services

Ms Aileen noted the Planning Service Reports, which were taken as read:-

- Development Applications
- Enforcement
- 2023 Planning Clinics
 - 5th October 2023
 - 19th October 2023
 - 2nd November 2023
 - 16th November 2023
- Regeneration & Development Team Report
- Capital Projects Delivery Unit

Ms Quinn advised that 80% of the planning applications received within the Donegal MD have been approved and noted that the County Development Plan consultation period will close for submissions on the 13th October 2023 at 4pm. Ms Quinn further advised the Members that signage has been erected in relation to Rights of Ways. Ms Quinn also wished to be associated with Ballyshannon Historic Town award and advised the Members that the Vacant Property Office has appointed an Executive Planner to join this section.

County Development Plan Consultation

Cllr Jordan noted that the consultation period for the County Development Plan expires on the 13th October and queried the next steps. It was noted that all the submissions will be collated, and details of same will be included in the Chief Executive's Report. It is expected the new plan will be adopted in either May or June 2024.

Cllr McMahon welcome the high attendance at the public consultation event in Bundoran and noted the professionalism of the staff hosting the event.

Right of Way Consultation

In response to Cllr Kennedy query in relation to a list of rights of way, Ms Quinn advised details of same can be found at the back of the

County Development Plan and further information can be obtained from the Policy Unit.

MDD/138/23 DISCUSSION ON SUPPORTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Jordan the following motion was adopted: -

“That this MD contacts the Finance Minister and the Minister for Rural affairs to plead for assistance to small businesses on the streets in our towns; there is a major crisis which is going to have a huge impact on the survival of our towns. Town centre first, town and village renewal schemes, RRDF will be jeopardised by the lack of supports to tackle the many issues for people who are trying to provide a revitalisation of the streets, to create employment and to make our communities a viable place to live. VAT increases, the energy crisis, the new rates valuation, the increase to the minimum wage in rural areas which does not have a footfall due to the inflated hotel prices for visitors, the lack of accommodation for visitors and the increase in rents which people cannot afford, they now have no disposable income to support local businesses. If something isn't addressed very soon there will be multiple closures throughout the County”.

Members were given a response to the motion by the A / Area Manager, Housing & Corporate.

In speaking to this motion, Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the supports provided to businesses during the COVID pandemic period and noted without these supports several businesses would have had no choice but to close their doors. The country is currently experiencing high inflation and a cost of living crisis, which unfortunately, impacts on small businesses operating in rural locations where the footfall is not as high as the bigger towns and cities throughout the country. Cllr Kennedy noted the various initiatives such as the Town Centre First Policy, Town & Village Renewal Schemes and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund that endeavours to revitalise our towns and villages, however, wished to emphasise that small businesses need financial support for their day to day expenses such as rates, heat & light, salaries and insurance costs and a proper policy on bye laws should be implemented to ensure food vans and coffee docks are operating on an comparable basis to the businesses with static premises. Although Cllr Kennedy welcomed the increase in the living wage, this, and the restoration of the VAT rate of 13.5% has a negative impact on the profit margins of small businesses. Cllr Kennedy referred to an article in the Irish Independent written by Owen Clifford that recommended the creation of a focused city centre revitalisation taskforce and suggested the government should seriously consider this proposal and put in place specific support mechanisms to help small struggling rural businesses.

Cllr Jordan concurred with Cllr Kennedy's comments and emphasised that the current energy costs are crippling business and recommended specific policies be put in place to support business operating in rural environments.

As per the response to the motion, Ms McCann agreed to forward correspondence to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Rural & Community Development.

MDD/139/23 DISCUSSION ON THE NEED FOR SPEED RAMPS IN THE BUNDORAN AREA

On the proposal of Cllr McMahan seconded by Cllr Sweeny the following motion was adopted: -

"That this MD look at speed ramps for the Bundoran Area, as soon as possible".

Members were given a response to the motion by the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

In speaking to his motion, Cllr McMahan welcomed the response received and emphasised the importance of reducing traffic speeds within urban areas. Cllr McMahan referred to the issue of speed along a number of routes within the town of Bundoran and sought the installation of speed ramps as soon as possible. Cllr Sweeny concurred with Cllr McMahan and noted that speed reduction is a pertinent issue which can be solved within specific areas with the installation of speed ramps.

MDD/140/23 DISCUSSION ON ROAD SAFETY ISSUES AT DUNKINEELY NATIONAL SCHOOL

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan seconded by Cllr Kennedy the following motion was adopted: -

"That this Municipal District calls on the relevant departments to address the road safety issues at Dunkineely National School".

Members were given a response to the motion by the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

In speaking to his motion, Cllr Jordan referred to the recent road safety incident outside Dunkineely National School whereby a vehicle failed to stop at the red lights, has left a number of pupils, parents and teachers traumatised. Cllr Jordan was aware a proposal was submitted to the Department last week; however, it was subsequently rejected, and the Board of Management were advised to submit an application to the Department of Education under the Summer Works Scheme to develop a carpark facility within the school grounds. In

order to highlight the issue, Deputy Pearse Doherty has submitted a Parliamentary Question and Cllr Jordan asked that the Council exhaust every possible avenue to ensure road safety works are completed at the location and asked that fellow Councillors raise this issue with Oireachtas members and the Minister for Education. Cllr Kennedy submitted that she has also raised this issue at the Joint Policing Committee and noted that handwritten signs have been erected on the approach roads into Dunkineely and parents are currently taking turns to warn approaching traffic to slow down. Despite a request for a speed van and monitoring by the local An Garda Siochana, to date this request has not been fulfilled. As a matter of urgency, Cllr Kennedy also sought a solution to the road safety issue at Dunkineely National School.

MDD/141/23 Date of Next Meeting / Workshops

- MD Budget Meeting on Tuesday the 24th October 2023 at 10am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber
- MD Meeting on Tuesday the 12th December 2023 at 11.30 am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber (as per standing orders)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

A / Area Manager
Municipal District of Donegal

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Donegal

Minutes of the Budget Workshop of Municipal District of Donegal held on Wednesday the 3rd October 2023 commencing at 10am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Service Centre.

Members Present:

Cllr Tom Conaghan, Cathaoirleach
Cllr Michael McMahon
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Barry Sweeny

Officials in Attendance:

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance
Ms Linda McCann, A/Area Manager, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Ms Caroline Britton, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

Apologies

Mr Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal

1. Date for Statutory MD Donegal Budget Meeting

Members noted Tuesday the 24th October 2023 at 10am as the date and time agreed for MD Donegal Budget meeting.

2. Overview of Budget Processes, including approach to General Municipal Allocations for 2024

Mr R Gibson briefed Members in relation to the Budget Processes noting the various meetings that have and will take place such as the CPG meetings, meetings with Directors and Divisional Managers, MD Budget Workshops and the MD Budget meetings etc. He confirmed that the Plenary Council's decision in 2022 to maintain the increase of 15% in the Local Property Tax for a period of two years has allowed for an extra retention of approximately €1.3m in LPT income. He also confirmed that the Plenary Budget meeting is due to be held on Wednesday the 6th December 2023 and that the Capital Programme will be presented to the Members on the same day. As per previous years the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 will be prepared for the March 2024 MD meetings following the announcement of the Roads allocations. Mr Gibson further submitted that the Plenary Budget must be approved by midnight on the 19th December 2023 and there is no major legislative changes to how the budget process is managed for 2024 with the exception of the Reval (Revaluation) process.

3. LPT Allocation for 2024

Mr Gibson informed Members that as per the Members decision at the September 2022 Plenary Council meeting, the increase of 15% in the Local Property Tax (LPT) will be maintained in 2023 and 2024 and this extra income has been allocated to expenditure items such as housing maintenance, public lighting and towards the Council's co-funding capacity. Mr Gibson also advised the Members that for 2024, a new LPT baseline allocation of €1.5m will be received, however, noted that the

special allocation of €2.6m received in 2023 for energy/inflation costs will not be repeated in 2024. Mr Gibson expressed his disappointment at the baseline allocation and noted that local authorities within the Dublin area were in receipt of higher allocations. It is anticipated that the 2024 LPT income is projected to be in the region of €28m (17% of total income) which is comprised of €10.4m collected locally and €17.6m from the central government fund. It was also noted that 80% of the Donegal properties have been valued within the lowest band of (€0k to €200k)

4. Commercial Rates – 2024 Projections

Mr Gibson advised Members that the 2023 rates income had been projected at €38.9m (23% of the total income) and noted the collection rate is buoyant with 78% of the 2022 rates collected to date. Mr Gibson submitted that the Reval (Revaluation) is expecting to result in around 69% of Donegal businesses paying less in rates in 2024 compared to 2023 and noted that a greater share of the rates burden is expected to shift towards telecom and windfarms companies. Tailte Eireann is holding walk-in clinics throughout the county and suggested that businesses who were considering submitting an appeal, to attend one of the clinics first. Mr Gibson further submitted that the valuation system has become more transparent, and an on-line system has been developed to allow users to look at all the other businesses operating within the area. In response to a number of comments / queries raised by the Members regarding the equitability of the Reval rates, Mr Gibson advised that the turnover figures for retail businesses and petrol stations are used to calculate the rates for these types of operations and suggested that the rates bills would not be the most significant expenditure item to cause a business to cease operating. It was also noted that it is expected that one moiety rather than two moieties will commence in 2024, however, businesses will not be pressurised to pay their rates at the beginning of the year.

5. Possible Approaches to Rates Vacancy for 2024 in line with Section 31(1) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014

Mr Gibson advised that it is normal practice to refund or write off the rates for businesses that have vacant commercial properties.

6. Emerging Issues in preparation of 2024 Revenue Budget

- Outturn 2023

In relation to the projected outturn for 2023 Mr. R Gibson noted that there has been no major surprises in terms of the outturn and welcomed the allocation of €2.6m to assist with rising costs of energy and inflation. In terms of the recent Retained Fire Fighters agreement there will be significant payroll costs, however, noted that these costs will not have a major impact on the 2023 outturn. It was also noted that there is an ongoing challenge to reduce the revenue deficit year on year and advised that the figure has been reduced from €17m in 2013 to just under €5m for 2023.

- Emerging Income and Expenditure Issues

In terms of the 2024 budget, Mr. R Gibson advised that the 2023 expenditure was over €175.5m with income from sustainable sources of approximately €170.5m. Unfortunately, this leads to a reliance on exceptional measures such as transfers from reserves which ideally should be replaced with more sustainable revenue streams. Mr Gibson submitted that there may be significant financial challenges in 2024 considering the reduction in NPPR, loss of the exceptional funding of €2.6m,

general pay increases and a greater contribution required for Appendix 8 companies.

7. Proposed Approach to 3 Year Capital Budget Preparation 2024 - 2026 as required by Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

Mr Gibson informed Members that the 3 Year Capital Programme would be presented to the Plenary Council on the same day as the Plenary Budget Meeting and a copy of same will be forwarded to the Members in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the Capital Budget contains projects that can only proceed when appropriate funding has been sourced.

8. Discussions on MD priorities on 2024 Revenue Budget

In response to a number of queries / comments raised by the Members, Mr Gibson advised that the rate of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) is 3% of the market value of the land on the valuation date and noted that this included serviced or serviceable sites. It was also noted that this tax had significant implications for local authorities as land values are based on cost rather than market value and hoped that a derogation would come from central government in relation to local authority owned land.

In terms of recruitment campaigns and staffing issues, Mr Gibson advised that recruitment within the public sector is currently challenging and noted that HR has been provided with additional staff to oversee numerous campaigns. In terms of the appointment of an Assistant Heritage Officer, Mr Gibson advised that the Department of Heritage will not provide a firm commitment to fund the entire costs of this additional role and agreed to relay the comments raised in relation to staffing issues to the Director of Service.

Mr. Gibson thanked Members for their contributions and Members thanked Mr Gibson for attending.

This concluded the business of the Workshop.

A / Area Manager
Municipal District of Donegal

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Donegal

Minutes of Municipal District of Donegal Budget Meeting held at 10am on Wednesday 24th October 2023 in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Service Centre, Donegal Town

MDD/141/23

Members Present

Cllr Tom Conaghan, Cathaoirleach
Cllr Noel Jordan
Cllr Niamh Kennedy
Cllr Barry Sweeny
Cllr Micheál Naughton
Cllr Michael McMahon

MDD/142/23

Officials in attendance

Mr. Richard Gibson, Head of Finance
Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal
Ms. Linda McCann, A/Area Manager, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Municipal District of Donegal
Ms. Caroline Britton, Staff Officer, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community Development
Mr. Barney McLaughlin, Administrative Officer, Community Development

MDD/143/23

Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Donegal for 2024

Mr R Gibson acknowledged the contributions made at the previous budget workshop and advised that the points raised were relayed to the respective Directors of Service and Divisional Managers. Mr Gibson further advised Members the purpose of the meeting today was to confirm and put on record the approach adopted in consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Donegal for 2024. Mr Gibson wished to emphasize that there was no provision in the legislation to adjourn the MD budget meeting.

The following documents as circulated with the Agenda and presented by Mr. Gibson were noted by Members:-

1. Draft Budgetary Plan & General Municipal Allocation for 2024 – Donegal Municipal District
2. Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 – Donegal Municipal District

Mr Gibson expressed his dissatisfaction at the timing under the current regulations in relation to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and noted at this juncture there were a number of uncertainties, such as the rates valuations and the Roads allocation for 2024. It is anticipated further information in

regarding the 2024 commercial rates income will be available by mid-November and the Council is also awaiting confirmation in relation to additional funding to cover the costs of the recent Fire Fighters pay increase. Mr Gibson welcomed the extension of the liability date for Residential Zoned Land Tax and advised that the Department of Enterprise has announced a €250m temporary fund to support business to deal with inflation. In order to prevent the payment of future fines and penalties in relation to carbon emissions, Mr Gibson advised that there is an extensive work programme in place to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions which will also extend to the Council's associated Appendix 8 companies. Finally, Mr Gibson noted that the Members funds were protected and submitted that these funds were beneficial in delivering projects at a local level.

The Plenary Budget meeting is scheduled to be held on the 6th December 2023.

The Members thanked Mr Gibson for his report and wished to make the following comments:-

- In order to discourage vacant properties in town centres should rates be chargeable at a reduced rate.
- Seek a separate funding stream to complete projects that are not currently on the existing work programme eg the one way system at the Rock in Ballyshannon.
- Seek funding for the appointment of additional staff including students, particularly for the Roads, Road Design and Heritage Offices. It was also suggested students be appointed to assist Dog and Litter Wardens.
- Seek specific funding for the erection of crash barriers and the ongoing upgrade of bridges.
- Seek specific housing funding to carry out emergency refurbishment works.
- Seek additional funds to support small businesses.
- Seek additional funding for Tidy Town Committees.
- Provide additional resources to expand the hedgecutting programme.
- It was noted that LIS schemes conducted in our Municipal Districts were finished with a tarred surface rather than a chipped surface.
- Consider capital investment for the construction of toilet facilities at popular destinations rather than hiring portaloos.
- Consider proposals to support local coffee shops and put in place measures to reduce the number of mobile coffee vans.
- Consider proposals to utilise localised development charges to purchase car parking sites within town boundaries.
- Consider proposals to reduce project delivery costs.

- Complete a list of the Council's assets and consider proposals to place some assets on the market for sale.
- Resolve the ongoing issues with the Glencolmcille Car Park and appoint a Section within the Council to lead out on the project.
- Identify a signature project for the Donegal MD, such as the development of a Caravan & Camping Park.
- Provide an update on the Fire Stations for Bundoran and Ballyshannon.

Mr Gibson thanked the Members for the contributions and advised that the points raised would be relayed to the Senior Management Team. In relation to a few of the points, Mr Gibson submitted that:-

- That it is not lucrative to collect rates on vacant properties, particularly within the rural counties.
- The Roads and Housing Section receive a large portion of the budget and additional funding has been made available for housing maintenance and emergency accommodation.
- Additional funding to assist the Tidy Town Committees will be considered.
- Capital expenditure is taking place at some of the popular destinations for the construction of toilet facilities and noted that a new policy was required for the servicing of the facilities thereafter.
- It was agreed the Economic Development Section would take the lead role in the Glencolmcille Car Park.
- The Council has a Property Management System which includes details of all the Council's assets. An analysis has also taken place with regards to the possibility of setting up of a legal department within the Council, however, it was deemed not appropriate as the Council uses various types of legal services. A debt collection agency has been procured, which has resulted in positive income collection figures.
- The Council is proactive in leveraging funding to develop ambitious projects, however, at this junction there is no facilities to drawdown additional finances for the delivery of new capital projects.
- It was agreed development charges could be considered and utilised for the purchase of a site for car parking purposes.
- It was noted that permanent funding is required for the appointment of an Assistant Heritage Officer. The Council is not in a position to part-fund this role, however, it was agreed to relay the proposal to the Director of Service with responsibility for recruitment.
- In relation to an update on the Fire Stations, Mr G Martin submitted that members of the Senior Management Team

along with officials from the Department believe the proposal to construct one fire station rather than two, is the appropriate solution. Should the Members wish to pursue a two-station proposal, additional lobbying with Central Government is required. It was noted that the current condition of the existing fire stations is deteriorating and a decision in relation to the fire stations is required sooner rather than later, as there could be an unsurety that future funding will be available for the construction of new fire stations. Mr Martin agreed to consider providing the Bundoran Fire Station with a temporary portacabin and the Members agreed to meet separately to discuss a way forward.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Naughton the following resolution was adopted by;-

“In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and associated regulations, that this Municipal District adopts a provisional General Municipal Allocation in the amount of €120,000.00 for 2024 at this time”.

Mr. Gibson thanked Members for their adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 for the Municipal District of Donegal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**A / Area Manager
Municipal District of Donegal**

**Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Donegal**

Donegal Municipal District

Roads & Transportation Workshop

Date: 14th November 2023

Time: 15:45pm

Venue: Donegal PSC - Council Chamber

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Naughton, Cllr Kennedy,
Cllr Conaghan, Cllr McMahon. Cllr Jordan.

DCC Staff: Mark Sweeney,

Topic discussed:

1. Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project

The Members were advised that the Barnesmore Gap Greenway project is currently at Phase 2 - Preferred Route Corridor stage and the public consultation on this preferred route corridor will commence on 23rd November 2023 and closes on the 8th December 2023. Information on the preferred route corridor is available online at www.barnesmoregreenway.ie. and the public can also attend the following drop in events at:

- Jacksons Hotel, Ballyboofey from 12:00pm to 20:00pm on 20th November 2023
- Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town from 12:00pm to 20:00pm on 21th November 2023

2. Donegal Town Christmas Lights

The Members were advised that the Donegal Town Community Chamber has again sought a contribution from the Donegal Town Pay & Display Fund to assist with the provision of the Christmas Lights in Donegal Town and the amount being sought this year is €10,000.00.

The Members discussed this request and agreed to contribute the requested amount of €10,000.00 which is to be funded from the Donegal Town Pay & Display funding.

Minutes compiled by: Mark Sweeney A/SEE Roads & Transportation Office, Donegal Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the Workshop.

A / Area Manager,

Municipal District of Donegal

Cathaoirleach,

Municipal District of Donegal

Donegal Municipal District

Roads & Transportation Workshop

Date: 21st November 2023

Time: 10:00am

Venue: Donegal PSC - Council Chamber

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Naughton, Cllr Kennedy,
Cllr Conaghan, Cllr McMahon. Cllr Jordan.

DCC Staff: Mark Sweeney, Michael Canning

Apologies: Cllr Jordan

Topic discussed:

1. Active Travel Project – Footpath at the R925, Killybegs Road, Donegal Town

The Members were briefed on the one submission received in relation to the active travel footpath project on the R925, Killybegs Road in Donegal Town and following a brief discussion on same the Members were happy for the Part 8 proposal for this project to be forwarded for consideration at the Plenary meeting which is scheduled to take place on 27th November 2023.

2. Active Travel Project – R267 Ballyshannon to Bundoran, Cycleway/walkway project.

The Members were briefed on the six submissions and two acknowledgements received in relation to the active travel Cycleway/Walkway project on the R267 between Ballyshannon and Bundoran and following a brief discussion on same the Members were happy for the Part 8 proposal for this project to be forwarded for consideration at the Plenary meeting which is scheduled to take place on 27th November 2023.

Minutes compiled by: Mark Sweeney A/SEE Roads & Transportation Office, Donegal Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the Workshop.

A / Area Manager,
Municipal District of Donegal

Cathaoirleach,
Municipal District of Donegal



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Donegal

12th December 2023

Housing & Corporate

REPORT

1. Casual Vacancies
2. Housing Grants
3. Housing Loans
4. TP Applications
5. HAP Tenancies
6. Household Need by Location
7. Housing Capital Report
8. Lease & Repair Scheme Summary
9. 2024 Schedule of Meetings

Casual Vacancies

Area	BED	Dwelling Vacated	Comment
Donegal Town	1	Keys returned 08/11/2023	Assessment Stage
Bruckless	3	Keys returned 25/05/2023	Assessment Stage

Position as at 29th November 2023

HOUSING GRANTS

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HO	2022	89	79	7	2	1
HO	2023	88	66	2	6	14

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	REAPPLIED UNDER HM GRANT	FURTHER INFO.	REF. TO OT	REF. To ENGINEER	PENDING
HD	2022	47	32	7	1	2	5	0	0
HD	2023	49	27	6	0	3	2	0	11

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	REAPPLIED UNDER HD GRANT	REF. TO OT	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HM	2022	41	30	5	5	0	0	1
HM	2023	33	19	1	7	0	2	4

HOUSING LOANS

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED	PENDING	Further information
Housing Loans	2022	7	2	1	4	0	0
Housing Loans	2023	14	1	0	7	3	3

Tenant Purchase Applications 2022 - 2023

Year	No. of Apps Received	Incomplete Returned	Open Applications	Refused/ Not Eligible	Offer letters Issued	Completed
2022	9	1	7	1	2	0
2023	22	1	19	2	1	0

HAP/PRD	
HAP Tenancies	
Municipal District	Number
Donegal	201
Letterkenny	681
Glenties	113
Stranorlar	283
Inishowen	420
Sub Total	1698
Tenancies Closed	2909
Overall Total	4607
Updated 04/12/2023	

Housing Need by Location

Municipal District	Waiting List (Net Need)	Transfer List	Total Gross Need
Donegal	187	196	383
Ballintra	8	8	16
Ballyshannon	33	46	79
Bruckless	6	3	9
Bundoran	40	56	96
Carrick	2	0	2
Donegal	71	49	120
Drimarone	0	1	1
Dunkineely	2	3	5
Frosses	0	2	2
Glencolmcille	3	0	3
Kilcar	2	2	4
Killybegs	12	16	28
Laghey	3	3	6
Mountcharles	3	5	8
Pettigo	2	2	4
Total	187	196	383
Updated 04/12/2023			

**Housing Capital Update Report
Donegal Municipal District Meeting
12 December 2023**

1. Social Housing Developments – Construction Schemes

Donegal County Council is currently progressing the following social housing developments within the Donegal Municipal District:

Location	Status	No. of Units
Construction Stage		
Railway Park, Donegal Town (Phase 3)	Construction works completed 24 th October 2023. Handover completed to Donegal MD Area team and allocation of houses to tenants commenced 22 nd November 2023. Images of development shown at end of Section 1.	24
Drumacrin, Bundoran Phase 1	Contractor appointment finalised 31 st October 2023 and the Contractor has commenced on site. Contract period for the works is 20 months.	42
Design / Tender Stage		
Lareymore, Kilcar (SI)	Land transfer stage. Detailed design packages have been completed, including Bill of Quantities for tendering purposes. To be advertised for tender January 2024.	1
Preliminary Design Stage (No of units subject to change)		
New Row, Fintra Road, Killybegs	Utility investigation meeting took place with Water Services on 7 th November 2023 following which a CCTV survey to establish information on water main and sewage infrastructure was completed in early December. This information will inform the design which is being developed to advance to Part 8. Decision to be sought from Elected Members at May 2024 Council Meeting.	17
Laghey	Third party engagement with the adjoining landowner is ongoing. The design is currently being progressed taking account of these site constraints, in conjunction with other council services and utility providers. Options for disposal of surface water from the development being pursued.	4
Total		88

Railway Park Phase 3:



2. House Acquisition Programme & Buy & Renew Programme

The completion of the sale of 2 properties in Donegal Town is expected in the coming days. This acquisition will see 2 no. long-term vacant properties brought back into productive use for social housing purposes. A programme of works will be tendered in order that the properties can be brought up to the required standards for letting.

The Donegal MD is considering expressions of interest for potential house acquisitions throughout the municipal district as well as considering options advertised on the market.

3. Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

Donegal County Council has just launched a **new turnkey acquisition process** seeking proposals from Developers to deliver turnkey social housing units to help meet the Council's social housing need. This is a county-wide process and proposals can be made for any town or village throughout the county, on lands suitable for housing purposes.

The Council is seeking developers to make submissions for 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom housing units. Proposals must contain a minimum of 5 units and can include:

- Completed units, including potential regeneration projects.
- Units under construction.
- Units to be constructed on suitable sites.

This process has been advertised on eTenders (reference RFT 2461070), where all documentation and information can be obtained. Submissions must be made in strict accordance with the requirements of the procurement documentation and the deadline for submission is 16.30 on Wednesday, 30th of September 2026. Any enquiries from interested parties should be sent via eTenders.

Construction works to the approved turnkey development at Brookfield, Donegal Town are now complete. The development provides a total of 38 no. high quality and energy efficient social housing units in Donegal Town.

A further development of 5 no. 2 bedroom properties at Ballyshannon is complete and the units are in the process of being handed over to the approved applicants.

Members are aware that an additional turnkey proposal for Donegal Town for 35 units is being progressed. This proposal has received its connection offer from Uisce Eireann. Stage 3 approval has been received. We currently await finalised drawings from the Developer in order that we can progress the proposal to Final Tender and contract stage. Members will be fully informed of these proposals upon receipt of final departmental approval.

4. Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes

The Council is actively pursuing the acquisition of lands suitable for housing purposes, in towns and villages where there is currently not a social housing solution available. In the Donegal MD, the following provides an update:

1. An offer to acquire lands in Bundoran has been made. Decision awaited from vendor.
2. An offer to acquire ~~Ballyshannon~~ has been agreed, subject to contract and availability of utility connections.
3. Additional lands are being considered across Donegal MD and Members will be informed of same upon the Council progressing to make offers to acquire.

Repair & Lease Scheme Summary						
Applications						
MD	Received	No. of Units	Awaiting assessment	Rejected	Progressing	Total
Inishowen	25	28	2	23	0	25
Donegal	19	46	1	18	0	19
Glenties	20	20	0	20	0	20
Letterkenny	34	59	7	27	0	34
Stranorlar	26	83	13	13	0	26
Total	124	236	23	101	0	124
Updated 01/12/2023						

Schedule of MD Donegal Meetings 2024

MD Donegal meetings commence at 11.30 am as per Standing Orders.

Month	Date
January	Tuesday 9 th
February	Tuesday 13 th
March	Tuesday 12 th
April	Tuesday 9 th
May	Tuesday 14 th
June	Tuesday 11 th
July	Tuesday 9 th
September	Tuesday 10 th
October	Tuesday 8 th
October	MD Budget meeting – <i>date to be agreed</i>
December	Tuesday 10 th

**Donegal Municipal District
2023 Roadworks Programme**

Status Report - 12th December 2023

Donegal MD - Programme Summary		
Funding	Works	No of projects
€1,030,078.00	Road maintenance	45
€4,344,514.00	Road Improvement	54
€279,535.00	Drainage	22
€70,000.00	Housing estates	2
€25,000.00	low cost safety	1
€184,264.00	Community Involvement Schemes	4
€156,900.00	Local Improvement Schemes - Tranche 1	7
€196,069.00	Local Improvement Schemes - Tranche 2	10
€88,000.00	Climate adaptation	2
€35,000.00	Regional road Bridge maintenance	1
€6,409,360.00		148

Donegal Municipal District

Agreed 2023 Road Maintenance (Surface Dressing) Programme

Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area	Works Type	Year	Length (m)	Width (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Estimated Cost (EURO)	Status
2023 Regional & Local Road Surface Dressing										
R	R262/6	Frosses Glenties Patching	14	SD	2023	510	7	3570	€19,635.00	Completed
LS	LS6495-1	Heney's (Patching)	14	SD	2023	950	4.75	4512.5	€22,130.00	Completed
LP	LP1865-1	Ballydevitt - Drumark (Patching)	14	SD	2023	1025	5.5	5638	€27,760.00	Completed
LS	LP6315-1	Mountcharles Forge Road	14	SD	2023	1300	4.2	5460	€26,870.00	Completed
LP	LP1815-1	Mountcharles Glencoagh (Tarmac)	14	SD	2023	800	4.5	3600	€17,956.98	Completed
LP	LP 1515-2/3	Meenabraden (Tarmac)	14	SD	2023	1000	5.75	5750	€28,320.00	Completed
LP	LP1415-3	Calhame - to Bogside Jnc	14	SD	2023	1200	4	4800	€23,570.00	Completed
LP	LP1425-1	Ballycroy St Johns Point	14	SD	2023	1000	3.75	3750	€18,320.00	Completed
LP	LP1665-3	Rock Road Doorin	14	SD	2023	1000	3.5	3500	€17,070.00	Completed
LP	LP1685-4	Meenaguse	14	SD	2023	1250	3.2	4000	€19,625.02	Completed
						10035		44580	€221,257.00	
LP	LP1265-3	Portnacrosch	15	SD	2023	1200	3.4	4080	€20,400.00	Completed
LP	LP1415-2	Loughmult/ Calhame	15	SD	2023	1300	3.7	4810	€24,050.00	Completed
LS	LS5645-1	Meenabraden/ Meencloy	15	SD	2023	1600	5.5	8800	€44,000.00	Completed
LP	LP1215-3	Lergadaghtan/Muckross	15	SD	2023	1400	3.5	4950	€24,750.00	Completed
LP	LP1185-1	Cougish Link road	15	SD	2023	1000	3	3000	€15,000.00	Completed
LS	LP1115-1	Derrylaghan/Kilbeg	15	SD	2023	1200	4.2	5040	€25,200.00	Completed
LP	LP5015-3	Loughaherk toward straboy	15	SD	2023	1600	4	6400	€27,996.86	Completed
LS	LS5075-1	Kinakillev	15	SD	2023	1000	3.3	3300	€16,500.00	Completed
LP	LP1025-2	Malinmore	15	SD	2023	1200	5	6000	€30,000.00	Completed
LS	LS5195-1	Derrylaghan rowards Cuskary	15	SD	2023	1100	3.5	3850	€19,250.00	Completed
LS	LT11151	Derrylaghan rowards Cuskary g	15	SD	2023	700	3	2100	€10,500.00	Completed
LP	LP1395-1	Calhame towards Gilbertstown	15	SD	2023	900	4.5	4050	€20,916.14	Completed
						14200		56380	€278,563.00	
LP	L-2255-1	Ballintra Gables	16	RM	2023	630	5.00	3150	€15,750.00	Completed
LP	L-2305-1	Rockhill	16	RM	2023	450	4.00	1800	€9,000.00	Completed
LS	L-7745-1	Ardgillew	16	RM	2023	1100	3.30	3630	€18,150.00	Completed
LS	L-7815-2	Lough Unshin	16	RM	2023	1400	4.00	5600	€28,000.00	Completed
LP	L-2525-2	Moy Road (O'Mahony's to Tow	16	RM	2023	1000	5.50	5500	€27,500.00	Completed
R	R-231-5	Rossnowlagh	16	RM	2023	1000	6.50	6500	€35,750.00	Completed
LS	L-7475-1	Barr of Ballynacarrick	16	RM	2023	1700	3.50	5950	€32,725.00	Completed
LP	L-2485-4	Cliff Road to Knader	16	RM	2023	1040	4.50	4680	€23,400.00	Completed
LP	L-7835-1	Cliff Road to Corlea	16	RM	2023	300	5.00	1500	€7,500.00	Completed
LS	L-7795-2	Corlea	16	RM	2023	300	5.00	1500	€7,500.00	Completed
LS	L-7825-1	Corlea to Derrewkillev	16	RM	2023	1400	3.00	4200	€21,000.00	Completed
	L-7675-2	Abbeylands to Cowpark	16	RM	2023	1000	4.00	4000	€22,850.00	Completed
						11320		48010	€249,125.00	
LP	L 1935-1	Raily Park /Drumroske East	17	RM	2023	1100	5	5500	€27,500.00	Completed
LP	L 1965-1	Harveys Point	17	RM	2023	1100	5.5	6050	€30,250.00	Completed
LP	L 2025-1	St Ernans	17	RM	2023	1200	5	6000	€30,000.00	Completed
LP	L 2185	Ballintooly /Rath	17	RM	2023	1200	5	6000	€30,000.00	Completed
LT	L 21451-0	Carrick West	17	RM	2023	1100	3.5	3850	€19,250.00	Completed
LT	L 20952-1	Ballykillowen	17	RM	2023	1100	3.5	3850	€19,250.00	Completed
LS	L 7345-3	Kimmid Depot	17	RM	2023	1150	3.5	4025	€20,125.00	Completed
LT	L 22652-0	Carn	17	RM	2023	2400	3.5	8400	€42,000.00	Completed
R	R233	Lough Derg	17	RM	2023	1200	5	6000	€33,000.00	Completed
R	R267	Abbots	17	RM	2023	740	7	5180	€0.00	Dropped
LP	L2125-1	Lagheybarr	17	RM	2023	1000	4	4000	€29,758.00	Completed
						13290		54855	€281,133.00	
									€1,030,078.00	

Donegal Municipal District

Agreed 2023 Road Improvement Programme

T1 Additional RI Funds

2023

Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area	Year	Width	Length (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Estimated Cost (€)	Status	Comments
R	R262/3	Frosses - Meenagran	14	2023	6	820	4920	€214,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LP	LP2615/1	Main Street Mounthcharles	14	2023	8	450	3600	€110,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LP	LP1515/3	Ardaghey - Ardara (Meenabraden)	14	2022	5.5	740	4070	€145,897.76	Completed	Additional RI money
LP	LP1845/3	Ballydevitt - Altadoo	14	2023	6.5	650	4225	€118,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP1665/3	Rock Road Doorin	14	2023	3.75	700	2625	€73,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP1575/3	Killian N S - Drumnacarry	14	2023	3.5	450	1575	€44,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP1585/1	Drumnacarry - Ballymacahill	14	2023	3.5	450	1575	€44,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP1375/5	Leagans - Meenawullaghan	14	2022	3.5	1000	3500	€72,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP16251	McGranes Post Office (Patch)	14	2023	20	25	500	€16,500.00	Completed	
LS	LS6175/1	Salthill - Mounthcharles Leonards	14	2023	3.75	300	1125	€33,750.00	Completed	
LP	LP1815/1	Crossroads	14	2023	5	300	1500	€71,280.00	Completed	
LS	LS975/1	Drungorman	14	2023	3.75	550	2063	€39,160.00	Completed	
LS	LP1645/4	Doorin Line	14	2023	6	240	1440	€47,520.00	Completed	
						6675	32718	€1,029,107.76		
R	R263-14	Cashel hill	15	2023	6.7	700	4690	€160,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
R	R263 - 4	Killybegs streets	15	2023	9.0	450	4000	€170,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LP	LP1345-2	Binroe	15	2023	3.5	700	2450	€78,000.00	Completed	
LP	L1365-1	Drumaghy	15	2023	11.0	200	2200	€60,000.00	Completed	
R	R230	Meenaneary to crove	15	2023	6.5	500	3250	€100,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LS	LS5295-1	Strabinnna	15	2023	3.0	700	2100	€39,543.66	Completed	
R	R-263-11	Meenavaghan	15	2023	6.7	700	4690	€150,000.00	Completed	
LS	L-1175-1	Kilbeg (out of Kilcar)	15	2023	5.0	400	2000	€0.00		Dropped
LP	L-1215-1	Towney Road	15	2023	6.0	400	2400	€61,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LS	L1295-2	Balbane	15	2023	3.5	800	2800	€50,000.00	Completed	
LP	LP1025-3	Meenaveen	15	2023	5.0	350	1750	€70,000.00	Completed	
R	R263-17	Malinbeg towards silver strand	15	2023	4.0	500	2000	€80,000.00	Completed	Additional RI money
LS	LS5465-1	Straleeny - Aghayeevoge	15	2023	4.5	450	2025	€50,016.34	Completed	
						6850	36355	€1,068,560.00		
R	R 267	Bundoran Streets	16	2023	9.0	300	2700	€50,000.00	Completed	
LP	L-2315-1	Smugglers Creek Rossnowlough	16	2023	5.0	300	1870	€50,000.00	Completed	
LS	L-7675-1	Coolmore to Spaddan	16	2023	4.0	1400	5600	€137,600.00	Completed	
LP	L-2525-3	Four Masters (Moy Road)	16	2023	6.0	230	1380	€34,500.00	Completed	
LP	L 75152	Alla-Lurgan	16	2023	3.2	1000	3200	€86,400.00	Completed	
LP	L 7985-1	Lisaholly North	16	2023	4.4	300	1320	€35,640.00	Completed	
LP	L 7275-1	Legnanornoge	16	2023	3.2	1700	5440	€151,286.00	Completed	
LP	L7115-2	Lacklom (Timoney House to Xroads)	16	2023	4.0	300	1200	€32,400.00	Completed	
LS	L7815-1-2	Cashelard (Quarry)	16	2023	3.5	1000	3500	€94,500.00	Completed	
LP	L7875-3	Ballymunterhiggins - Ardroughill	16	2023	5.0	1000	5000	€85,000.00	Completed	
LP	L7515-2	Ardpatton - Alla	16	2023	3.75	1000	3750	€101,250.00	Completed	
LP	L2545-1	Ballymunterhiggins (Mangre RD)	16	2023	3	1000	3000	€51,000.00	Completed	
LP	L-2535-1	Ballymunterhiggin (Higginstown)	16	2023	5	500	2500	€87,847.00	Completed	
R	R280	Church Road	16	2023	7	350	2450	€70,000.00		Additional RI money. Moved to Bundoran Streets
L	L-2425-5	Ballyshannon Streets	16	2023				€9,750.84		Additional RI money
						10380	40460	€1,077,173.84		
R	R267	Donegal Streets	17	2023	7	500	3500	€112,000.00	Completed	
R	R232	Pettigo Road	17	2023	7	500	3500	€172,786.00	Completed	
LP	L1835-1	Greenan Lough Eske	17	2023	4.5	1000	4500	€78,354.00	Completed	
LS	L 8065-2	Crilly Lettercran Chapel	17	2023	3.5	1000	3500	€59,500.00	Completed	
LS	L6685-2	Meenadreen	17	2023	3.5	650	2275	€45,500.00	Completed	
LS	L6765-2	Drumcroagh continuation of last year	17	2023	3.5	1000	3500	€70,000.00	Completed	
LP	L1835-3	Corracramp Rd to Tawnawully Old sch	17	2023	4	1000	4000	€0.00		Dropped
LP	L2125-1	Lagheybarr	17	2023	4	1000	4000	€128,000.00	Completed	
LS	L6785-2	Glackens to Ardnagasson	17	2023	3.5	700	2450	€49,000.00	Completed	
LS	L6505-1	New Line Barnes	17	2023	3.5	1000	3500	€70,000.00	Completed	
LP	L2125-3	Ranenney Barr PJ towards Willie Mc Gr	17	2023	3.5	1000	3500	€59,500.00	Completed	
LT	L65052	Ardnawark Danny Dunnion	17	2023	3.5	750	2625	€52,500.00	Completed	
LS	L7365-2	Junction Lough Derg Rd to T junction M	17	2023	3.5	650	2275	€45,500.00	Completed	
LP	L1975-1	Corveen Depot Rd	17	2023	3.5	700	2450	€49,000.00	Completed	
LP	L1965-1	Friary Lough Eske	17	2023	3.5	700	2450	€49,000.00	Completed	
LP	L2055-1	Laghey (Urban)	17	2023	8	200	1600	€56,000.00	Completed	
LS	L-8035-2	Grousehall	17	2023	4	1250	5000	€73,032.40	Completed	Additional RI money
						13600	49625	€1,169,672.40		
								€4,344,514.00		

Donegal Municipal District Drainage Works

Area	% of Budget	Budget	Description of Works	Road No.	Estimated Cost	Area totals	Status
County Budget		€1,351,680.00					
Donegal MD %		€279,535.00					
14	23.58%	€65,904.18	Inver Village: Pipe roadside Drain with 900mm S&S pipe for a distance of 60M	LP1565-1	€19,404.18	€65,904.18	Completed
			Killian: Bernard Boyles 40M of 750mm S&S pipes	LS5825-1	€10,000.00		Completed
			Altidoon: Pipe roadside drain to prevent Slippage (CIS O Driscolls) 60m	LP1845-3	€8,000.00		Completed
			St Johns's Point: Ballycroy St Johns Point (Shovlins) pipe existing drain for 40m	LP1425-1	€10,000.00		Completed
			Inver (Port) at Kennedys 225mm new drainage pipe required along road edge - 80m	LP1565-1	€8,500.00		Completed
			Newtown: Pipe roadside drain with 600mm S&S pipe to prevent slippage (20m)	LP6445-2	€10,000.00		Deferred to 2024
15	24.58%	€68,696.90	Muckross: pipe open drain + 1 nr road crossing (100m)	LP-1215-3	€16,000.00	€68,696.90	Completed
			Kilbeg: Pipe existing open drain (70m) to dealing with road slippage	LP-1175-1	€15,000.00		Completed
			Church road: pipe existing open drain + 1 nr road crossing + gullies (100m)	LP-1315-1	€17,696.90		Completed
			Lergadaghtan: pipe existing drain with a suitably sized pipe and install road gullies (50m)	LP-1065-1	€10,000.00		Completed
			Aghragh: Pipe existing open drain to prevent slippage. 100m	LS-5165-1	€10,000.00		Completed
16	24.70%	€69,033.45	Lacklom (Road Flooding)	L-7115-2	€14,033.45	€69,033.45	Completed
			Derries Road (2 x Culverts)	L-2335-4	€20,000.00		Completed
			Pipe Ditch (Rockhill) - (Road Pushing)	L-2305-1	€15,000.00		Completed
			Smugglers Creek (Water on Road - Potholing)	L-2315-1	€10,000.00		Completed
			Moy Road (Flooding) (Culvert Crossing)	L-2525-3	€10,000.00		Completed
17	27.15%	€75,900.47	Cullionbuoy Road crossing repair road (McAnawes) ESB Outage	L 2095-6	€15,000.00	€75,900.47	Completed
			Meendreen	L 1954-1	€15,000.00		
			Road crossing chamber repair road (Killymard)	L 1935-1	€7,500.00		Completed
			Pipe Rd edge gulleys repair road (Drumroske Flyover)	L 6965 -1	€7,500.00		Completed
			Replace 2no Rd crossings raise Rd level (Blue road Shannagh)	L6915-2	€9,000.00		Completed
			Pipe Rd edge 50 mts gulleys repair road (Aghadowey)	R232	€11,263.25		Completed
			Install overflow pipe to prevent Rd flooding	R233	€10,637.22		Completed
			Pipe Rd edge 50 mts gulleys repair road (Lough Derg Road - corner before sawmill)				
		€279,535.00	TOTAL		€279,535.00		

Donegal MD public lighting infill works

Public Lighting Infill Works						
Area	Location	Description	Total Cost	Status	Total Spent	Remaining balance
14	Drimark, Donegal Town	Infill lighting - 7 additional lights at Drimark on Local	€10,871.00	Completed	€27,662.46	-€541.46
	Mountcharles	Lower End Mountcharles –	€6,750.00	Completed		
	Mill Park Hotel, Doonan	Proposed lighting from Doonan Roundabout to	€9,500.00	Completed		
15	Kilcar	Lighting improvement	€10,650.00	Completed	€11,181.57	€18,193.43
	Killybegs	Old Fintra Rd near Glenlee	€18,725.00	Yet to commence		
16	Ballyshannon	Rossnowlagh Link Road.	€30,000.00	Completed	€25,864.00	€4,136.00
17	Killymard, Donegal Town	Extend existing public lighting past the school and	€11,600.00	Completed	€26,025.48	€18,074.52
	Tirconnail Street & Castle Street, Donegal Town	Infill lighting needed along the public road at Tirconnail Street on local	€10,000.00	Yet to commence		
	Killymard, Donegal Town	Killymard Church to Drumrooske Housing	€22,500.00	Completed		
Total amount			€130,596.00		€90,733.51	€39,862.49

Donegal MD footpath repair works

RSS Area	Location	Year	Budget	Spent	Remaining Balance	% Complete
14	Mountcharles	2018	€5,729.00	€5,729.00	€0.00	100%
		2019	€16,600.00	€6,608.59	€9,991.41	40%
		2020	€24,350.00	€0.00	€24,350.00	0%
	Dunkineely	2020	€23,432.00	€9,650.34	€13,781.66	41%
	Frosses	2019	€16,600.00	€2,759.97	€13,840.03	17%
		2020	€23,432.00	€0.00	€23,432.00	0%
	Area 14	2022	€6,346.67	€0.00	€6,346.67	0%
	TOTALS		€116,489.67	€24,747.90	€91,741.77	21%

RSS Area	Location	Year	Budget	Spent	Remaining Balance	% Complete
15	Killybegs	2018	€15,568.00	€15,575.78	-€7.78	100%
		2019	€16,600.00	€16,600.00	€0.00	100%
		2020	€50,000.00	€51,817.02	-€1,817.02	104%
	Kilcar	2020	€3,200.00	€0.00	€3,200.00	0%
	Glencolmcille	2019	€8,300.00	€0.00	€8,300.00	0%
		2020	€16,314.00	€0.00	€16,314.00	0%
	Carrick	2019	€8,300.00	€0.00	€8,300.00	0%
		2020	€1,700.00	€0.00	€1,700.00	0%
Area 15	2022	€17,246.00	€8,669.00	€8,577.00	50%	
	TOTALS		€137,228.00	€92,661.80	€44,566.20	68%

RSS Area	Location	Year	Budget	Spent	Remaining Balance	% Complete
16	Ballintra	2020	€11,214.00	€11,214.00	€0.00	100%
	Ballyshannon	2018	€95,244.00	€79,716.99	€15,527.01	84%
		2019	€16,600.00	€10,375.66	€6,224.34	63%
		2020	€35,000.00	€30,966.14	€4,033.86	88%
	Bundoran	2019	€16,600.00	€16,600.00	€0.00	100%
		2020	€25,000.00	€25,000.00	€0.00	100%
	Area 16	2022	€105,493.00	€10,639.00	€94,854.00	10%
	TOTALS		€305,151.00	€184,511.79	€120,639.21	60%

RSS Area	Location	Year	Budget	Spent	Remaining Balance	% Complete
17	Donegal Town	2018	€32,879.00	€24,048.00	€8,831.00	73%
		2019	€16,600.00	€17,500.00	-€900.00	105%
		2020	€47,214.00	€586.70	€46,627.30	1%
	Laghey	2019	€8,300.00	€9,359.00	-€1,059.00	113%
		2020	€4,000.00	€0.00	€4,000.00	0%
	Bridgetown	2020	€20,000.00	€19,778.00	€222.00	99%
	Pettigo	2019	€8,300.00	€880.35	€7,419.65	11%
		2020	€10,000.00	€0.00	€10,000.00	0%
Area 17	2022	€26,424.34	€0.00	€26,424.34	0%	
	TOTALS		€173,717.34	€72,152.05	€101,565.29	42%

Donegal MD Active Travel Projects

Donegal Town MD Active Travel					
Jan	Project Name	Project Description	Project Band	Current Phase	DCC Comments
DL/21/0008c	Killybegs, Church Road	Construction of infill section of footpath, drainage and public lighting on Church Road (LP1315-1)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Completed
DL/21/0024a	TOWNPARKS BALLYSHANNON PED CROSS	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Completed
DL/22/0002	Donegal Town One Way system	It is proposed to introduce a One-Way System onto Tirchonail Street, Castle Street, Water Street and New Row within Donegal Town. The scheme will provide crossing points, new wider footpaths, widening of existing footpaths, landscaped pedestrian refuge islands, traffic calming.	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	Started
DL/22/0005	Ballyshannon to Bundoran Active Travel Scheme	Old N15 (now R267) Bundoran to Ballyshannon Cycling Greyway	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , preliminary design ongoing, Part 8 Planning obtained in November 2023,
DL/21/0008b	Donegal Town, Lough Eske Road	Provision of infill section of footpath on the Lough Eske Road (L-1915-2)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design and land purchase ongoing
DL/21/0008f	Donegal Town, Old Golf Course Road	Design associated with the construction of an infill section of footpath on the Old Golf Course Road (L-2155-1) linking a large residential area to the school,town centre etc.	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	TOBINS appointed, detail design and land purchase ongoing
DL/22/0006	Pettigo National School Footpath (R232)	Upgrade of existing substandard footpath including undermining of the existing footpath. There is a school located on one side and the local church is located on the town side. A solution in line with DMURS to include for the provision of a footpath and traffic calming would be beneficial to this section of road and also to the areas amenities.	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design ongoing. Construction 2023
DL/21/0008b	Donegal Town, Killybegs Road	Provision of infill section of footpath on the Killybegs Road (R925)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 4 - Planning and Stat Approvals	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, Part 8 planning obtained in Nov 23
DL/21/0008a	Ballyshannon, Bishop Street	Provision of footpath on (L-2465-1)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , preliminary design ongoing, one-way system required, public consultation took place on 29th June 2023
DL/21/0023	Safe to Schools Programme - Scoil Aodh Rua & Nuala	Safe to Schools Programme	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Green Schools to undertake delivery plan in Q3 2023 to allow Prelim design to commence
DL/24/xxx	AIB Junction, Fintra Road One-Way Killybegs	One-way system to provide footpath links	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	In house design to be submitted to the NTA as a scheme for 2024
DL/22/0014	Malinmore Footpath , Glencolmille	Glencolmille - provision of a footpath along the R263 West of Glencolmille in the direction of the Folk Village.	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design ongoing.
DL/22/0003	Laghey Village (Old Laghery Road) Footpath	Infill section of footpath on the Old Laghey Road, Laghey including a footbridge across the river to link the Riverbank Avenue housing estate to the existing footpath leading to the nearby national school. Consultant appointment and inception report	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Options to be considered to deliver footpath link in 2023

2023 Specific improvement Grant					
MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal	R232	Glenmore Bridge - Laghey Pettigo Road	Bridge widening works	€150,000	
	R263/L1195	Halls Junction - Kilcar	Junction improvement works	€300,000	

2023 Strategic improvement Grant Regional & Local Road					
MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal	R263	Fintra Bridge Road Realignment Works	Road Realignment Works	€2,000,000	

DMD Housing Estates								
Estimated cost of repair works to back lanes								
2023 Budget - €70,000.00 - (Yet to be confirmed)								
RSS Area	Estate name	Town	Works requested	Cost estimate (€)	Works costed (description of what is included in the price)	Priority list agreed at workshop on 09.01.23	Amount	Status
16	Cluain Barron	Ballyshannon	Upgrade drainage and surfacing on the back lane.	€94,300.00	Drainage of 0.5km of road, accommodations works (drainage) and surfacing DBM 14mm	1	€50,000.00	Phase 1 Completed
14	Bay View Terrace	Mountcharles	Upgrade back lane	€20,000.00	Install drainage where required, adjust ironworks, Overlay existing road with AC14 macadam. Approximate area 500m2	2	€20,000.00	Completed
Total							€70,000.00	

Donegal municipal District					
Safety Improvement Works					
MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal	R267	Low cost remedial measures at SuperValu Donegal Town	Low cost remedial measures, non national road	€25,000	Completed

Donegal MD Community Involvement Schemes 2023											
Funding available in 2023											€184,264.00
Project Number	RSS Area	Road Number	Road Name	Length of work (m)	Total Area of work	Overall Cost of work	% LC	LC	WIL	Budget	Status
362	14	LS6365-1	School Lane Mountcharles Mountcharles (Phase 2)	305	1600	€60,000.00	20%		€12,000.00	€48,664.00	Completed
393	14	LP1845-1/2/3	Ballydevitt Altidoo (Phase 3)	TBC	TBC	€62,000.00	20%		€12,400.00	€49,600.00	Completed
215	15	L-51151-0	Malinbeg Bog Road Malinbeg	1500	3750	€20,000.00	20%		€4,000.00	€16,000.00	Completed
438	16	L-8005-3	Cloghore	700	2800	€87,500.00	20%		€17,500.00	€70,000.00	Completed
										€184,264.00	

Donegal MD				
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2023 LIS Tranche 1 Funding Priority List -				
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2023 Budget	840,509.00			
DMD Budget	€156,950.00			

Ref_No	ADDRESS	Work Area	Amount	Status
170080	Castleogary	14	€15,500.00	Completed
170403	Ardaghy	14	€19,000.00	Completed
170180	Drumnaherk	14	€25,000.00	Completed
170046	Dooley	15	€11,000.00	Completed
170511	Aughera	15	€26,000.00	Completed
180053	Barr Hill House, Ballymacaward, Ballyshannon	16	€31,000.00	Completed
190285	Townagorm	17	€29,400.00	Completed
			€156,900.00	TOTAL

Donegal MD				
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2023 LIS Tranche 2 Funding Priority List -				
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2023 Budget	€1,050,000.00			
DMD Budget	€196,069.00			

Ref_No	ADDRESS	Work Area	Amount	Status
230017	Inver Glebe, Dunkineely	14	€13,824.00	Completed
170841	Drimarone	14	€13,824.00	Completed
170653	Ballymacahill	14	€12,000.00	Completed
190284	Coolshannon	14	€25,200.00	Completed
170817	Ballydevitt	14	€16,384.00	Completed
170404	Ballydevitt	14	€19,040.00	Completed
170869	Calhame	15	€16,000.00	Completed
170749	Meenahoaghan	15	€26,000.00	Completed
180227	Rockhill	16	€17,000.00	Completed
170685	Loughultan	17	€36,797.00	Completed
			€196,069.00	Total

2023 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works					
MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal	R262	St Alberts Bridge Min Ui Chathain, Frosses to Glenties Road	Raise road level to mitigate against future flooding	€60,000	Completed
	L-1125-1	Straleel North Carrick	Upsizing culvert to mitigate against future flooding.	€28,000	Completed
				€88,000	

Donegal Municipal District					
Regional Road Bridge Maintenance					
MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal	R263	Kilcar (Adjacent to national school)	Culvert replacement works	€35,000	Completed



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services Directorate

Donegal Municipal District Report December 2023

Content

1. Economic Development

1.1. Economic Development Unit

1.2. Tourism Marketing Unit

1.3. Strategic Funding Unit

2. Local Enterprise Office

3. Emergency Services – Fire Service

4. Appendix:

Shared Island Project Updates November 2023

1. Division: Economic Development

1.1 Economic Development Unit

Project / Activity Report

Title	Economic Development Unit
Countywide	<p data-bbox="462 512 1003 541">#BuyDonegal / #CeannaighDúnnanGall 2023</p> <p data-bbox="462 583 1448 772">The 2023 #BuyDonegal campaign was launched on Monday, 20 November and will run for a period of 5 weeks until 2 December 2023. This award-winning initiative, which will be in its fourth year, showcases the high-quality and renowned Donegal brands across a wide range of sectors including creative, services, tourism, and retail.</p> <p data-bbox="462 821 1401 1010">Over 300 businesses have been involved in the #Buydonegal campaign to date, with a global audience of 13.9 million in 2022 across more than 70 countries globally. The campaign was launched with an event held in the Mount Errigal Hotel and was well received. More details on the campaign are available at https://donegal.ie/buydonegal</p> <p data-bbox="462 1058 1188 1087">Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 - 2029 Workshop</p> <p data-bbox="462 1129 1438 1360">On 22nd November the EDU held a workshop with key county representatives in areas of economic development, business, education, community, and innovation to receive input and direction on what areas should be focused on when drafting the goals and action points for the 2023 – 2029 Local Economic and Community plan. The event was attended by reps from over 15 organisations both in person and online.</p> <p data-bbox="462 1409 763 1438">Donegal Tech Advocates</p> <p data-bbox="462 1480 1448 1711">The Donegal Tech Advocates group was established in order to promote, grow and empower the Tech sector across Donegal in order to benefit the county as a whole and showcase Tech as a highly effective cluster. The aim for this initiative is to encourage collaboration among industry members and members to develop, retain and attract new talent to the region. Details of the launch event will be made available once confirmed.</p> <p data-bbox="462 1759 854 1789">Relocation Marketing Campaign</p>

Donegal County Council’s Relocation marketing campaign #MoveToDonegal has reached over 3.5 million across all social media platforms and received over 65 relocation enquiries. The team will be working with TG4 and WDC on the upcoming period on their Move West initiative which will add impetus to this campaign. This campaign has been shortlisted in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 for “Promoting Economic Development”.

InvestDonegal Communications Update

Latest key stats for the InvestDonegal LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and web accounts are as follows;

	Impressions (last 28 days)	Total Followers
Linked In	18,758	4,993(+46)
Twitter	17.8K	3,937(+953)
Instagram	2,304	4,152 (+25)
Facebook	14,227	2,049 (+9)
Donegal.ie	3.4K Web Users	

8 News Items Published.

Shared Island Funded Projects Update

Deadline for completion of the Shared Island projects and drawdown of funding: 30th November 2023. See November update attached in Appendix 1 below for further detail.

Investment in the North West City Region:

Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council on several key projects for supporting and stimulating Inward Investment in the region as follows:

Collaborative NWCR Events

The department are also working with colleagues in DCSDC on the development of the NW Reg Tech Initiative which was presented to the Lord Mayor of City of London at event in Guildhall in Derry on 24th November.

Golden Bridges and the US Trade Mission 2023

This took place from 14th to 17th November 2023 and was a very successful trade mission that incorporated both meetings and events showcasing the North West City Region.

- The annual Golden Bridges Conference took place on 17th November 2023.
- The 'Pathfinder Go To Market' programme was very successful in partnership with the LEO and Alpha Innovation and facilitated by Catalyst. 10 businesses from the North West City Region travelled to the US to take part.
- Networking events were held in the Donegal Association of Philadelphia and the IABCN hosted a Life Science Summit.
- Irish Consulate General of Boston and the State House both held receptions for the NWCR delegates.
- There were several meetings with key US contacts.

North West City Region - Irish Embassy Event in London

- This event will be hosted by Ambassador Martin Frazer on 4th December 2023 at the Irish Embassy in London.
- This is an opportunity to promote the North West City Region to key contacts in the UK.
- The event will include a panel discussion moderated by Tip O'Neill recipient 2023, Caroline McLaughlin.

Irelandnw.com Website

The NWCR website has been updated with the new branding and with new content. The NWCR LinkedIn and Twitter social media pages are updated regularly with new content about the North West City Region.

Caravan, Camping and Campervan Initiatives

Donegal County Council continues to implement the actions set out in the KPMG Study into the Caravan, Camping and Campervan Sector including the following areas of work:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCCMF Grant Scheme: €180,000 was allocated to this grant scheme with 9 applicants who returned Letters of Offers including 7 businesses and 2 voluntary organisations. These projects are ongoing. • Code of Conduct: A ‘campers code’ has been developed and is promoted on social media. • Signage: New signage has been trialled a various pilot locations to encourage responsible disposal of waste and to direct campers to private sector sites to avail of services there. This has been very successful to date. • Marketing: The Tourism Unit has delivered a marketing campaign via a dedicated page on Go Visit Donegal providing information on the campers code, private sector sites, waste disposal and service point information. • Campers Service Point Review: A review the workings and management of existing service units has been conducted and presented to recent SPC meeting. <p>Concierge Service</p> <p>The Concierge Service provides support to those interested in doing business in Donegal. The EDU team is planning a social media campaign to promote it over the coming months. The contact email for this service is economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie</p>
Diaspora	<p>London Irish Centre: A Donegal-themed event is confirmed for the London Irish Centre on 8th February 2024. Additional details to follow once finalised.</p> <p>Scottish Diaspora: Collaboration ongoing with the Donegal Scotland Diaspora group on a number of upcoming initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting events to collate material in Scotland for the “Donegal Emigrant Working lives in Scotland” project in conjunction with Donegal County Councils Heritage Office. • EDU Team is working with Irish Consulate in Scotland with a view to hosting an event to showcase the unique relationship between Donegal and Scotland
Contact Person	<p>Joy Browne – Senior Economic Development Officer</p> <p>Mobile – +353 (87) 061 9360</p> <p>Email – joybrowne@donegalcoco.ie</p>

	<p>Daniel Mc Chrystal – Senior Economic Development Officer Mobile – +353 (87) 614 7496 E-Mail – dmchrystal@doneglcoco.ie</p> <p>Eoin Leonard - Diaspora Officer Mobile: +353 (87) 360 5678 E-mail: eleonard@donegalcoco.ie</p>
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1.2: Tourism Marketing Unit

Project Activity Report

Holiday World Show 2024

This event is taking place in RDS, Dublin from Fri 26th – Sun 28th January 2024. It is anticipated that the show will attract over 550 exhibitors, and 40,000 attendees over the weekend. Donegal tourism Unit is investing in new branding for their stands for the show this year which may be utilised by other departments in the Economic Development Division. The Tourism Unit are liaising with the show organisers in relation to PR in advance of the show and securing prizes for the show competition.

Details are available on the Show website: www.holidayworldshow.com

Launch of Autumn Donegal Tourism Campaign



The Go Visit Donegal 'It's Ours' Shoulder Season campaign launched on 20th October, as of 23 November our Shoulder Season campaign content has reached 8.7M people on social media with 1.1M video views overall and 51K engagements. Since launch the campaign posted 120 pieces of content across 5 social media channels in 9 locations. One post known as "The Hero Video" has reached over 7M people.

Age Friendly/Disability Strategy

Donegal Tourism continues to participate in both groups to see where the Tourism Industry in the county can learn from consultation. A draft action plan for Nairn Portnoo is currently being drafted.

Dungloe to Glenties Cycleway

Donegal Tourism continue to participate in the newly formed working group to organise and market an official opening and to promote the 25km cycleway going forward in the first quarter of 2024. A production company has been procured to produce marketing materials for this event.

TOURBO Project

The Council has commenced the implementation of an Interreg Europe consortium, led by Seville Chamber of Commerce to deliver the TOURBO project, which will help small and medium sized tourism businesses with green and digital transformation known as the 'Twin Transition'. At the beginning of 2024 calls for expressions of interest will be launched targeting experts in digitalisation/sustainability from all partner countries to advise MSMEs in Greece and Marche regions (Marche and North Aegean regions are the sole partner regions). For more information visit <https://www.interregeurope.eu/tourbo>

Sustainable Arctic and Peripheral Biking Tourism Project

The Council has secured €428,600 to deliver this project which will provide businesses with an opportunity to learn from various good practice approaches across Europe to encourage sustainable biking business.

Donegal 550:

Donegal Tourism is part of the Steering Group looking at celebrating Donegal Town 550 in 2024. A public meeting will take place on Monday 11 December at 7pm in the Abbey Hotel. A calendar of events is currently being collated and a final weekend of celebrations taking place in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Supporting the development of Golf Tourism

Golf Cluster Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for 18th January in Letterkenny Golf Club.

GoVisitDonegal.com Website

October 24th – 20th November

2023 (Jul 01st - Nov 21st) - Users 131,082 - Page Views 343,545

Festival and Events is the most viewed page – views 31,262

Online & Social Media Updates – Go Visit Donegal

Facebook: Facebook had a reach of 486,845 up 187.5%

Instagram: Instagram had a reach of 363,755 an increase of 562.4% in the last month. Instagram saw a growth of 711 followers up 41.4%. On Instagram Donegal It's Yours campaign was the highest and best performing content. It had a brilliant impact with posts reaching 99.4K organically.

LinkedIn: In the last month, there was an increase in page views, with a rise of 810% directly relating to Donegal It's Yours campaign and the Lonely Planet award. LinkedIn saw an increase of 294 new followers.

Twitter: Twitter impressions show an increase of 170.4% and 43 new followers over the last 28 days.

TikTok: TikTok saw a minor growth of 10 new followers.

Donegal Tourism

The Associate Members Committee of Donegal Tourism had a meeting on 21st November. A key agenda item for this meeting was to present on the report provided by Lyndsey Reynolds who facilitated the September meeting. The overall goal is to redefine the role of the committee, its members and Donegal Tourism. The board of Donegal Tourism have their next meeting scheduled for January 10th, 2024.

Grant Schemes

Minor Tourism Related Works Grant Scheme

All successful applicants under the 2023 MTWGS have been issued letters of offer and applicants are getting works underway. The team will continue to liaise with all applicants to ensure the smooth drawdown of funds in a timely manner.

Regional Festival & Events Grant Scheme

All successful applicants to this grant scheme have been issued letters of offer and work is underway with the various festivals that have been completed to drawdown this funding. All funding must be drawn down by December 2023 as this is then recouped from Failte Ireland at the end of each year.

Bundoran

Marketing

- Promotion of Christmas activities and dedicated Christmas page on website.
- 2024 Activities and Events Calendar is nearly complete.
- Continuing to update blogs and content on website.
- Compilation and distribution of monthly email newsletter.
- Working on 2024 marketing plan
- Promotion of County Development Plan Bundoran event.
- Influencers: Influencer Sarah Hanrahan was in Bundoran at the invitation of Failte Ireland on the first weekend in November. Cassie Stokes also did a “Best of Donegal” feature which she recorded in Bundoran which had 88.6k views on Instagram.

Bundoran Tourist Office

- Tourist Office open 4 days a week (Tue-Sun).
- Currently one TÚS employee working.

Website and Social Media

- Maintaining a social media presence for the town on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
Scheduling of content to direct social media users to the website to increase traffic.
- Creation of website content and updating of event/music listings.

Users of discoverbundoran.com up 8.8 % Jan 1st – Nov 17th v 2022, Page views up 6.42% on same period & Sessions up 11.8% on same period.

Website users and page views:

2022 (Jan-Nov 17th) – Users 126,129 -Page Views 285,886

2023 (Jan-Nov 17th) - Users 137,231 - Page Views 304,260

Waterworld

Marketing activities for the 2024 season are being drafted. Waterworld is expected to open around Easter 2024.

Other activities:

- The first two trainings have taken place for the new Discover Bundoran Volunteer Events Team which has 23 volunteers. There will be a further training session in December with AOIFE (Association of Irish Festivals & Events).
- Tourism Officer attended Buy Donegal 2023 launch in Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny.

Contact Person	Sarah Nolan sarahnolan@donegalcoco.ie Acting Head of Tourism Unit 074 91 94241
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1.3: Strategic Funding Unit

Project / Activity Report

Title	Strategic Funding Unit – exploring EU and National Funding Opportunities that support the objectives set out in the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024
Countywide	<p>PEACE Plus</p> <p>The SFU is currently working with Alpha Innovation on a potential concept note focused on the Innovation Challenge Fund under PEACE Plus. SEUPB has provided a new timetable of calls for applications to the PEACEPLUS Programme for 2021-2027 on their website. Please visit: https://www.seupb.eu/funding/current-funding-opportunities</p> <p>CPMR General Assembly</p> <p>The General Assembly and 50th anniversary of the CPMR took place on 15-17 November 2023 in Saint-Malo (Brittany, France) attended by Donegal County Council’s Political Representative, Cllr. John O’Fearraigh.</p> <p>Project Partnership & Development</p> <p>The SFU is exploring a number of project opportunities under the Atlantic Area Programme and is liaising with Council staff and other potential partners on project concepts related to air quality, green infrastructure, fishing sector ecosystem innovation and tourism.</p> <p>Innovation Fund Calls Opening Soon</p> <p>On Thursday 23rd Nov 2023, DG Clima and CINEA opened two Innovation Fund calls for proposals ,the calls make up to €4.8 billion available for industry and clean tech players in Europe to support the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Net-Zero Industry Act.</p> <p>The Innovation Fund 23 Call (IF 23 Call) will offer funding of up to €4 billion for projects in various sectors, including decarbonisation, clean tech</p>

	<p>manufacturing, maritime and energy-intensive industries. The application window will be open until early April 2024.</p> <p>The Innovation Fund 23 Auction (IF23 Auction) aims to support renewable hydrogen production. Auctions are a new financing mechanism under the Innovation Fund and a key element of the EU Hydrogen Bank. A €800 million budget will be available for bidders (project developers). Bids can be placed until early February 2024.</p> <p>Other areas of work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● EU Funding Programme Reviews● Participation in project scoping meetings with potential partners● Participation in EU network meetings such as CPMR, AER etc.● Funding Needs Analysis of Council Divisions● Regular Strategic Funding Newsletters
Contact Person	Joy Browne - Acting Senior Staff Officer Mobile: +353 (87) 0619360 E-mail: joybrowne@donegalcoco.ie

2. Local Enterprise Office

Activity / Project Title	The Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
Role and Remit	<p>The Local Enterprise Offices is positioned nationally as the “<i>First Stop Shop</i>” for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office Donegal provides advice, information and support to those starting up or growing their business in Donegal. Grant is potentially available for businesses that meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Further information available here - localenterprise.ie/donegal Contact number: 074-9160735</p>
Outline of Work	<p>General Overview – Highlights:</p> <p><u>Summary of November 2023 Outputs/Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Aid (M1) – Business Expansion & Priming (Start Up) - 50 Businesses have been approved Grant Aid. Value of total Grant Aid Approvals YTD is €710,912. Next EVAC meeting will take place on 1st February, 2024. • Trading Online Vouchers – 52 Businesses approved support to trade online with a value of €114,023. • Mentoring YTD – 278 Businesses have received this support. • Training – 1,566 Business attendees at 91 Events YTD. • Micro Finance Ireland – YTD 9 applications submitted to MFI. A total of €151k in loan finance recommended to MFI by LEO Donegal. • A total of 7 online Start Your Own Business (SYOB) programmes have been held in 2023. 129 participants have completed the 7 programmes this year. The next programme is commencing on 09/01/2024.

Creative Coast

The LEO Donegal and external consultants are developing a 3-year action plan for the creative industry in Donegal and expect to have it finalised in the coming weeks.

Raphoe Flood Relief Scheme

The Local Enterprise Office assisted the Red Cross in the administration of the Scheme. The scheme provided Emergency Flood Relief to Small Businesses and Community, Voluntary, and sporting bodies affected by the flooding. A single once-off contribution toward the damage of up to a maximum of €5,000 was available, based on an application form and verification by the Local Authority. 7 Applications were received, 4 of which were small businesses and 2 were voluntary organisations. All applications under the Scheme have now been assessed.

Creelough Small Business Humanitarian Scheme.

The Local Enterprise Office assisted the Red Cross in the administration of the Scheme. A total of €173,475 has been approved under Scheme A and Scheme B. Under Scheme A, €109,940 was awarded to 25 businesses ranging in value from €840 to €5,000. 6 of these businesses were awarded additional funding of €63,535 under Scheme B, ranging in value from €2,894 to €15,000. All applications under the Scheme have now been assessed.

Food Coast

A Taste of Collaboration is joint initiative between Food Coast Donegal, and Enterprise Causeway, Northern Ireland. The aim of the project is to encourage mutual learning and networking, explore opportunities for product development, joint visitor experiences, packages, itineraries and developing closer links between the Causeway Coastal Route and the Wild Atlantic Way. The Food Coast Donegal delegation enjoyed a hugely successful visit to Bushmills in September. The return visit to Donegal is on Tuesday, 28th of November 2023, at Castle Grove Country House, where the very best Donegal has to offer will be showcased. Following the first Food Coast Donegal Strategy implementation meeting in October, two industry clusters were initiated. The

Restaurant/Chef cluster had its inaugural meeting on the 6th of November whilst the Food/Drink producer cluster had their preliminary meeting on the 8th November 2023. Each Cluster discussed ambitious proposals for 2024, with the aim of elevating the Donegal food and beverage offering to a new, unique position on the national map.

Donegal Engineering Network

A new Engineering Profitnet group convened in November. This comprises approx. 6 members of the previous Profitnet group and new members from the wider Donegal Engineering Network. The members will meet monthly in a confidential and facilitated environment and will decide the topics of workshops and learning visits going forward.

In November, Donegal Engineering Network arranged a visit for the members to BLECH Expo, Stuttgart, Germany.

Export Development

LEO Donegal is developing an Export Development Programme scheduled for early 2024. This program will be designed to provide participants with a structured framework for enhancing their export capabilities, fostering global market access, and ultimately contributing to the economic strength of Donegal. Through these initiatives, we remain dedicated to empowering the Donegal small business community and positioning them for success in growing sales outside of Ireland.

European Enterprise Network (EEN) Conference Bilbao

Representatives from the Local Enterprise Office attended the EEN Annual Conference which took place on Nov 15th in Bilbao, Spain. The annual conference is the major event of the Network and this year's event saw over 800 participants from over 50 countries taking part. The event which ran for 3 days with 109 speakers, provides a global forum for network partners, EU Officials as well as SME managers to meet, and learn from each other in order to improve the quality of Network services and the way the network works together. Next year's event will be taking place in Budapest, Hungary.

Letterkenny Chamber Annual Gala Ball & Chamber Awards

Members of the Local Enterprise Office, Donegal, attended the Letterkenny Chamber Annual Gala Ball & Chamber Awards ceremony held in the Clanree Hotel on 10th November. LEO Donegal sponsored the Young Business Person of the Year Award which was won by James Garvey from Rossnowlagh Surf School.

Ambition Accelerator Programme

Ambition is a pre-accelerator programme which focuses on female entrepreneurs. 15 businesses were selected in September to participate in the fourth programme for Donegal's early-stage female entrepreneurs. The Programme will be finishing in December.

The Programme has been nominated for the Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Diversity & Inclusion category which is taking place on Thursday 23rd November in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin Airport.

Upcoming Events/Programmes:**SYOB Network & Learn Events**

LEO Donegal is hosting a further in-person network and learn event taking place on November 24th @ 12pm in the PSC Donegal Town.

This follows a successful initial event held in the ii Innovation Hub Buncrana in October. At the event, graduates of the SYOB online programme met in-person, engaged with LEO staff and heard from guest speaker Emma Boylan, who presented a social media masterclass for business start-ups.

Donegal Enterprise Awards

Eleven businesses have been shortlisted for the 2023 Donegal Enterprise Awards ahead of the ceremony which will take place on Friday December 1st in Rockhill House Estate, Letterkenny.

A total prize fund of €14,000 across 11 categories will be on offer for the shortlisted businesses. An invite for the ceremony was issued to all Elected Members. For more click on the link below

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Donegal/Enterprise-Development/Donegal-Enterprise-Awards/localenterprise.ie/donegal>

Upcoming Brokerage Events

LEO Donegal, on behalf of the LEO network, will be delivering 6 Brokerage Events in 2024/2025 aimed at connecting SMEs with international buyers. The first of these brokerage events, “Meet the Buyer – Food and Nutrition” will be taking place on **January 31st 2024** at the Merits Innovation Thinkspace in Naas County Kildare. The second Brokerage event will occur on the 9th February and be targeted towards the engineering sector. Further details on this will follow when available.

IMMERSE

LEO Donegal applied to Creative Ireland for funding to deliver the IMMERSE project, a collaboration between Donegal County Council, Eirmersive, Connected Hubs, Regional Enterprise Offices (MidWest/North West/West), CREW, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Western Development Commission. The project, a multi-agency, pan-regional proposition across the Atlantic Innovation region, will focus on the Content Creation Sector. Funding of €68,000 was awarded from the Creative Communities Action Fund.

The Western Development Commission will submit a draft report to LEO Donegal in late November 2023, prior to final submission to Creative Ireland.

Ongoing Programmes:

Digital Start

YTD – 33 Donegal LEO Client applications received for this support.

The objective of Digital Start is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

Green for Business

YTD – 21 Donegal LEO Client applications received for this support.

This FREE programme, which has recently been re-branded to Green For Business, helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant worth up to €2,500 and showing them how small changes can have a big impact on their company.

Energy Efficiency Grant

YTD – 2 LEO Client applications received for this support.

The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000.

Lean For Business

YTD – 19 LEO Client applications received for this support.

LEAN provides strategic intervention for businesses to work with third party consultants worth up to €4,500 (Client contribution €200). It is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector – it is not just for manufacturing companies.

	<p>Scale-X</p> <p>Scale-X North West is due to conclude on Wednesday November 22nd. The 11-week Accelerator Programme for start-up entrepreneurs, with the potential for fast growth, saw a diverse group of manufacturing and internationally traded service businesses from Donegal and Leitrim go through a rigorous deep dive into their business to understand the metrics to drive their success. At the final event, each business will present their business pitch idea to a judging panel.</p> <p><u>Donegal Stories:</u> Website highlighting the businesses of Donegal that have been supported by the LEO. https://donegalstories.ie/</p>
Contact Person	<p>Brenda Hegarty, Head of Enterprise</p> <p>Local Enterprise Office 074 9160735 Brenda.Hegarty@leo.donegalcoco.ie</p>

3. Emergency Services – Fire Service

Fire Service Monthly MD Report (December)

Activity	Number of: (October)¹		Total for year	
<u>Fire Service Operations</u>				
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	64		649	
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	77		829	
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	8		67	
<u>Operational Activity Breakdown October 2023</u>	Turnouts		Incidents in County	
	Fires	Special Services	Fires	Special Services
Donegal Fire Service	37	40	28	36
Northern Ireland Fire Service	3	5	3	5
Sub Total	40	45	31	41
Total	85		72	
<u>Fire Prevention</u>				
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	18		199	
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	28		N/A	

Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	71	N/A
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	17	182
Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	0	11
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	0
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	2	33
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	13	214
Fire Safety Complaints received:	0	26
Fire Safety Complaints dealt with:	0	25
During Performance Inspections carried out:	0	1
Fire Safety awareness presentations delivered:	1 ²	55

1. **Current data is only available up to the end of October 2023.**
2. **Fire Safety at Home presentation provided to Chime Charity organisation in Letterkenny PSC on October 12th by members of Letterkenny Fire Brigade.**

4. Appendix: Shared Island Project Updates November 2023



SHARED ISLAND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROJECT/ PARTNER	FUNDING SCOPE	PROJECT SUMMARY	PROJECT UPDATE (NOVEMBER 2023)
NW Decarb Project (€312,500) DCSDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager Feasibility Study Business Case/EA Communication plans <p><i>DCC lead: Con McLaughlin (Water & Environment Services)</i></p>	<p><i>North West Decarb – Exemplar Decarbonised Public Buildings & Transportation Project</i> - a cross-border exemplar project as part of commitments by both Councils to reduce energy emissions in public buildings through the NW Regional Energy Agency and for NW City Region to become a leader in achieving international climate change targets. The project is part of the NW Regional Energy Strategy to reach a net zero carbon region by 2045.</p> <p>4 designated decarbonisation zones (DZs): (DCC) <i>Carndonagh and Gortahork /Falcarragh</i> (DCSDC) <i>Castleberg and St Columb's Park and surroundings (Waterside, Derry City).</i></p>	<p>Tender for 'Provision of Services to complete a Feasibility Study for the North West Decarb Project' procured in Dec 2022 and included Feasibility, Business Case/Economic Appraisal & Communication Plans. Plan Energy appointed as supplier and Project Manager appointed early 2023. Engagement undertaken with public building owners (schools, Garda stations, hospitals etc) was the first public facing engagement of the NW Regional Energy Agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 – 56 initial energy audits completed Phase 2 – 30 detailed energy audits completed (15 each in DCC and DCSDC areas) Feasibility Study and Business Case submitted to Shared Island.
NW RegTech Initiative (€185,000) DCSDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager Feasibility study Business Case/EA Site specifications <p><i>DCC lead: Deirdre Harte (Economic Development)</i></p>	<p>A North West RegTech Initiative is being developed by DCC, DCSDC, Catalyst and ATU as part of a proposed all-island national institute in Regulatory Technology – with proposed campuses in Letterkenny and Derry /Londonderry.</p> <p>It will bring together companies, academics and public bodies to drive world-class research and innovation in RegTech – working across sectors, regulators and borders to become a recognised world leader in regulatory technology. Project Manager appointed Dec 2022 and Project Board established.</p>	<p>Series of initial stakeholder engagements events took place in February 2023 in Letterkenny and Derry. Tender for 'Provision of Scoping/Feasibility Study and Business Case/Economic Appraisal' procured in March/April with Stratagem Partners appointed as successful supplier in May 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful international regulatory conference held on 25th October 2023 at ATU, with DCSDC & DCC joint mayoral reception in Derry on 24th October. Feasibility study and business case submitted to Shared Island by 30 November 2023 deadline, recommending the establishment of the world's first International Regulatory Supercluster in the North West City Region.
Sli Cholmille Project (€300,000) DCSDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Manager Scoping study Business Case/EA Design toolkit 	<p>The Sli Cholmille is a 250 km walking/ pilgrimage route linking key Colmille related sites across Donegal and Derry, with the ambition to link across NI to Scotland. It will support cross-border tourism, recreation and connect communities through the shared heritage of Colmille.</p>	<p>Tender for 'Scoping Study, Business Case/Economic Appraisal and Design Toolkit' procured in April. Also included design toolkit and branding guidelines. Outdoor Recreation NI appointed as lead consultant with sub-contractors Paul Hogarth, Tandem & Cogent Consulting.</p>

	<i>DCC lead: Deirdre Harte (Economic Development)</i>	Feasibility assessment to include route development, identification of capital infrastructure and marketing requirements, design toolkit and business case/EA. Project Manager appointed Dec 2022 and Project Board established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-border animation took place during October 2023 with a focus on the Lifford-Strabane and Derry-Inishowen areas and including events in Gartan, Strabane and Greencastle. Branding guidelines and design toolkit completed. Scoping study and business case submitted to Shared Island by 30 November 2023 deadline.
Regenerative Tourism (€187,500) FODC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study (incl options appraisal & concept design) Business case/EA Marketing / engagement plan <i>DCC lead: Catherine McLaughlin (Economic Development)</i>	<p>To develop a regenerative tourism project which will act as key catalyst for positive social and environmental change - with a view to integrating the cross border region's place, past and people in a shared future, based on a principle of high value creation yet low ecological footprint.</p> <p>The project aims to become a global reference and exemplar to inspire other destinations for conservation, collaboration and sustainability.</p>	<p>Consultancy team lead by Toposophy Ltd appointed in May to undertake a Feasibility Study including: (1) scoping assessment for option appraisal (2) business case/economic appraisal and (3) Cluster Development & Marketing Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The feasibility study and business case which recommends the development of a number of cross border trails and recreational hubs as a basis for the establishment of a strong regenerative tourism destination in the area of South and East Donegal and Fermanagh Omagh, was submitted to Shared Island by the 30 November deadline.
Innovation Plaza (€220,000) FODC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study (incl options appraisal & concept design) Business Case/ EA Implementation Strategy <i>DCC lead: Catherine McLaughlin (Economic Development)</i>	<p>To develop innovation plazas in Ballyshannon and Irvinestown, working with cross border and national networks and developing knowledge sharing to assist in the growth of identified sectors (<i>renewable energy, advanced manufacturing & engineering, creative tech/digital media and agri-food</i>).</p> <p>The project seeks to deliver transformative urban regeneration interventions to make the towns more attractive places to visit, work and live.</p>	<p>Consultancy team lead by Venture International appointed in June to undertake a Feasibility Study including: (1) Scoping assessment/ engagement for option development (2) Business Case/ Economic Appraisal (3) Site Assessment, high level design spec/ costings and Implementation Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The feasibility study and business case recommends the establishment of a co-located Regional Cross border Shared Learning and Business Development Centre specialising in the areas of food, built heritage skills and climate adaptation through the restoration and repurposing of the Ballyshannon Workhouse and the identification and implementation of energy efficiency measures at the Enniskillen Workhouse. The Feasibility Study and Business Case was submitted to Shared Island by the 30 November deadline.

FUNDING BREAKDOWN	SHARED ISLAND	MATCH	TOTAL
NW Decarb Project	€250,000	€62,500	€312,500
NW RegTech Initiative	€150,000	€35,000	€185,000
Slí Cholmcille Project	€250,000	€50,000	€300,000
Regenerative Tourism	€150,000	€37,500	€187,500
Innovation Plazas	€176,000	€44,000	€220,000
TOTAL	€976,000	€229,000	€1,205,000



ENVIRONMENT MD REPORT – December ‘23

CLIMATE ACTION

<p>Activity / Project Title</p>	<p>Notice of the Preparation of the Donegal County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</p>
<p>Project Description/ Activity</p>	<div data-bbox="412 684 1442 909" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Notice of the Preparation of the Donegal County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that Donegal County Council has, pursuant to Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, prepared a Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</p> <p>Submissions or observations can be made within the period specified in this notice on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan from Thursday 9th November to Friday 8th December 2023 at 4:00pm (both dates inclusive); and • from Thursday 9th November to Thursday 21st December 2023 at 4:00pm (both dates inclusive) for the Natura Impact Statement and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report. <p>The Draft Donegal County Council Climate Action sets out how the local authority will promote a range of mitigation, adaptation, and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government’s overall national Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.</p>

	<p>The Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is accompanied by an Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I.435 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011) for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Statement, pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</p> <p>Submissions or observations on Donegal County Council’s Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and on the environmental reports (SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement) are hereby invited in writing from statutory bodies, the public and any interested parties. All written submissions or observations will be duly considered and taken into consideration before the making of the final plan.</p> <p>Copies of the Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Online at https://consult.donegal.ie/ ➤ Donegal County Council Offices and Public Service Centres: Monday to Friday - 9.00am to 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County House, The Diamond, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 Y622 • Drumlonagher, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal, F94 DK6C • Bóthar Ghaoth Dobhair, An Clochán Liath, Co. Donegal, F94 H4CF • Malin Road, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, F93 YV1N • Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, F92 TNY3 • Main Street, Milford, Co. Donegal, F92 TD0P • Twin Towns Community Library, The Base Enterprise Centre, Railway Road, Stranorlar, F93 VAK6 (Monday 10am - 2:30pm, Tuesday: 12pm - 4.30pm & 5.30pm – 8pm, Wednesday: 9.30am – 1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm, Thursday: 9.30am – 1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm, Friday: 9.30am – 1pm & 2pm - 5.30pm) <p>Adoption of the Final Plan</p> <p>A pack for Members including Chief Executive’s Report on Public Consultation Submissions, and the Final Climate Action Plan for adoption will be issued on 12th January 2024. This will allow time for Members review ahead of Plenary meeting on 21st February where Adoption of the CAP will be sought in accordance with our statutory obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, 2021.</p>
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Lorraine Arbuckle, Climate Action Co-ordinator larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title	Community Climate Action Fund due to be announced
Project Description/ Activity	 <p>COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND</p> <p>Coming Soon!</p> <p>The Community Climate Action Fund is due to launch in December 2023. This fund is to support climate action in local communities.</p> <p>Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Community / Energy ➔ Sustainable Travel ➔ Food & Waste ➔ Shopping & Recycling ➔ Local Climate & Environmental Action <p>For more information visit www.donegalcoco.ie</p> <p>Applications will be invited from communities located in Donegal for small, medium and large projects.</p> <p>Details of launch date and upcoming information sessions to follow.</p> <p>     </p> <p>Donegal County Council will soon announce the opening date for the application process for the Community Climate Action Fund.</p> <p>The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) is a new programme to support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action at a local level. Donegal County Council in association with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), will provide funding to local communities for projects that promote community climate action.</p> <p>The objective of the CCAP is to build low carbon, sustainable communities, which will, in turn contribute to the national climate and energy targets.</p> <p>There are two strands of funding available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand 1: focuses on direct climate action building low carbon communities • Strand 1A: focuses on cross-border projects in partnership with communities and organisations in Northern Ireland.

	<p>About the CCAP</p> <p>This funding is part of the Community Climate Action Programme, which supports projects and initiatives that facilitate climate action within local communities. The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs.</p> <p>The CCAP can fund 100% of all eligible costs for the project and there are three project sizes eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale projects < €20,000 • Medium scale projects €20,000 to €50,000 • Large scale projects €51,000 to €100,000 <p>Projects must deliver a direct positive impact on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or helping communities adapt to the consequences of climate change.</p> <p>The 5 themes of the programme are as follows with some examples of projects that may be applied for:</p> <p>Theme 1: Community & Energy LED community lighting, small renewable energy projects (solar / hydro / wind), rainwater harvesting, retrofitting community buildings (windows & doors, insulation, LED lighting, heat pumps)</p> <p>Theme 2: Sustainable Travel Cycle parking / racks, improving cycle way access, safe and active routes to schools, eCargo bikes, bike repair hubs</p> <p>Theme 3: Food and waste Community composting facilities, community gardens / allotments, community fridges</p> <p>Theme 4: Shopping and recycling Swap shops, water filling stations, single use plastics elimination, musical instrument reuse, paint recycling, toy library</p> <p>Theme 5: Local climate and environmental action Climate resilience - measures to reduce harmful effects of extreme climate events such as planted mounds to slow flood water, constructed storm water wetlands. Mini forests, dispersed orchards (fruit trees), community gardens, roof gardens, pollinator projects</p> <p>Further details and details of information sessions will be posted in the coming weeks. For more information on the funding criteria visit www.donegalcoco.ie/</p>
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Lorraine Arbuckle, Climate Action Co-ordinator larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title	Sustainable Energy Communities Programme – Financing for Energy Master Plans
Project Description/ Activity	<p>Donegal County Council have teamed up with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to pilot a new bridging finance programme aimed at Sustainable Energy Communities in the County.</p> <p>The SEAI plays a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy and practices. The SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme engages and enables citizens to work together to achieve their energy goals.</p> <p>At present there are 32 SECs in Donegal. Search Our Sustainable Energy Communities Network SEAI Benefits of the SEC Programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve financial and energy savings • Improve public wellbeing and comfort from energy efficient buildings • Boost local knowledge, skills and employment • Build capacity and leverage funding • Contribute to climate change targets • Support an equitable transition to a low carbon society <p>A key starting point for SECs is the preparation of a local Energy Master Plan (EMP). This Plan provides the SEC with a road map for achieving the benefits listed above. EMP Grants of between €10,000 and €25,000 are available from SEAI to claim back costs incurred during its preparation.</p> <p>Donegal County Council are now providing further assistance through a Memorandum of Understanding with SEAI. The Council will provide SECs with short term up-front funding to ensure the necessary cash flow is available during Energy Master Plan preparation pending receipt of SEAI grants. DCC has partnered with SEAI to encourage further uptake of the SEAI grant and help more Donegal based SECs develop their own local Energy Master Plan.</p> <p>Donegal County Council joins 17 other Local Authorities nationally by participating in this initiative and encourages SECs to contact their relevant SEC Mentors for further information on eligibility criteria and how to sign up.</p> <p>Contact Details: Stevie Donnelly, Sustainable Energy Communities Mentor Programme, Atlantic Technological University Stevie.Donnelly@atu.ie</p>
Contact Person	Lorraine Arbuckle, Climate Action Co-ordinator larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie

WASTE AND LITTER MANAGEMENT

<p>Activity / Project Title</p>	<p align="center">School Bikes for Africa Campaign</p>
<p>Project Description/ Activity</p>	<div data-bbox="477 304 1365 911" data-label="Image"> </div> <p align="center">Letterkenny Rotary Club's Annual School Bikes Africa Appeal</p> <p>Donegal County Council is once again delighted to support and promote the Letterkenny Rotary Club's annual School Bikes Africa Appeal in conjunction with Donegal County Council and Bryson Recycling. The annual appeal is being promoted this October to coincide with National Reuse month. However, the good news is that this appeal will continue throughout the year.</p> <p>As in previous years, bicycles suitable for refurbishing should be strong and sturdy, mountain bike style, have minimum 24" wheel size and mountain bike type tyres. Racer style bikes are not sought as part of this collection. Suitable bikes can be dropped off at any of the Council's six Recycling Centres (Laghey, Dungloe, Carndonagh, Stranorlar, Letterkenny & Milford).</p> <p>Donated bicycles will be transported to Loughan House, Co. Cavan one of the Irish Open Prison Centres, where they will be refurbished prior to being shipped off to The Gambia. To date, Rotary have transported approximately 5000 bikes to Africa, and the Irish Prison Service through Loughan House has been involved from the outset.</p> <p>For information on the opening times for your local Recycling Centre visit www.donegalcoco.ie or https://www.brysonrecycling.org/donegal-recycling-centres/</p>
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer Matthewbyrne@donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title	WASTE MANAGEMENT – END OF YEAR UPDATE
Project Description/ Activity	<p>A large amount of Waste Management, Circular Economy, Litter Control and Community Engagement took place in 2023.</p> <p>There is a considerable amount of compliance assistance and enforcement work being planned for 2024 to meet the Local Authorities obligations including local, regional and national targets.</p> <p>The Environment litter and waste team will continue to work with many stakeholders and through the Regional Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CU WERLA) to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach with other agencies and organisations where appropriate to maximise resources where possible.</p> <p>National Waste Enforcement Priority: Tackling illegal waste activities and multi-agency sites of concern</p> <p>Inspections are ongoing, work programmes and the annual environmental plan tracks actions throughout the year e.g. legal documentation issued, site inspections etc.</p> <p>11 court cases progressing throughout 2023 and we have examples of cases that are taking 5+ years and still ongoing. The level of compliance within the county has improved in recent years and the standard of waste facilities and waste collection has also improved.</p> <p>1.1 Multi Agency Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two sites that were notified to Donegal County Council through the Gardaí were recently prosecuted in court and convictions under the waste management act were secured along with costs. ➤ Enforcement staff attended court multiple times in 2023 and achieved a number of successful outcomes with fines imposed, tonnes of waste lawfully removed and disposed of and expenses awarded to the Council. ➤ Extensive resources are required to progress this work area. ➤ The team are looking at ways to communicate these outcomes effectively to the wider community.

	<p>1.2 Waste Enforcement Priority: Construction and demolition waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to review resource waste management plans and planning applications & submit comments where appropriate. ➤ Investigate illegal/unauthorised sites and enforcement actions where appropriate. ➤ Input to consultation processes e.g. Greenfield soil and stone as a by-product consultation.
	<p>Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer Matthewbyrne@donegalcoco.ie</p>

<p>Activity / Project Title</p>	<p>Waste Enforcement Priority: Household and commercial waste</p>
<p>Project Description/ Activity</p>	<p>Further roll out of household food waste bins. Collectors reporting 17,500 households provided with a three bin service as of September 2023. Information shows that the number of households in the County with a waste collection service has increased further in 2023 to over 49,000. Work required in 2024 to achieve uptake and participation of the three bin service and further validate data.</p> <p>The team continue to review and analysis information e.g. annual returns, waste collection permit conditions and vehicle checks.</p> <p>Multi agency vehicle checkpoints were carried out at locations throughout the County in 2023. These joint operations prove a valuable mechanism to further strengthen relationships with agencies such as An Garda Síochána, Revenue, The Department of Social Protection, The Road Safety Authority and others. They portray an important visual message about multi agency actions to tackle illegal and unauthorised waste activity to prevent pollution and protect the environment.</p> <p>Waste Annual Returns: Accurate waste data plays a critical role in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring Irelands progress towards EU, national and regional targets, - Producing national statistics on waste generation, collection, disposal, recycling and recovery rates - Providing an evidence base guide to policy and - Providing evidence in the enforcement of alleged offences <p>National waste statistics and indicators also play an important part in clearly conveying the impacts and opportunities of waste management to Irelands people, its environment and progress towards a ‘circular economy’.</p>

In 2023 there were over 80 Waste Collection Permit (WCP) returns for validation by Donegal County Council and more than 50 Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and/ or Certificate of Registration (CoR) returns.

In October 2023 90% of WCP's were validated and 94% of WFP/CoR's. Joint online validations were carried out with the Regional Waste Management Planning Office in 2023 in line with the protocol.

A considerable amount of resources were allocated to this body of work in 2023 to further improve the quality of information being submitted and therefore the accuracy of information presented for waste data analysis and projections. A report will be produced in Q1 2024 as part of scheduled reporting to quantify this.

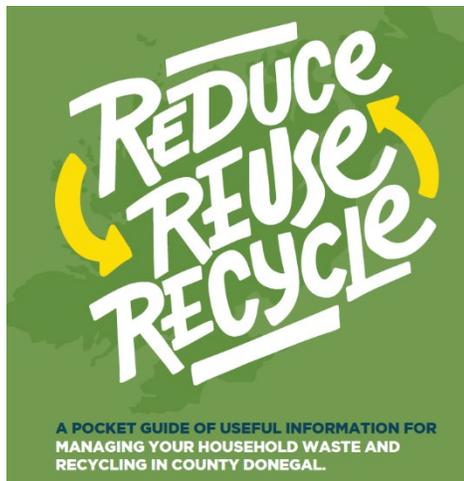
Donegal is an active member of the **AR waste validation working group** and is also represented on various sub groups that have formed to look at key themes associated with this important work area such as waste characterization and waste codes.

Waste characterisation –64% of what is in the household residual bin should not be in it. Education and price incentivisation will help improve things somewhat. Tools to be examined to address this in 2024.

30 in-person household waste surveys were carried out in Sept 2023 in Falcarragh. The particular area selected was chosen as a result of a number of criteria including collectors reporting high refusals of brown bins and / or low participation of the three bin service and the town is also a decarbonisation town, to link with the work of the climate office.

Pocket guides were distributed to participating households. The information gathered through this process will be built on going forward, for example quite a number of those interviewed did not realise that if they were having works done to their house they are responsible for the waste.

Communications work was undertaken to address this including public service announcements on local radio stations and information provided on Donegal County Council social media platforms.



The **pocket guides** are proving very popular and Environment staff have been contacted by other LA's looking to produce similar guides. Environment staff assist other LA's where possible.

The team continue to promote **mywaste.ie** and are looking at ways to direct people to resources on the *mywaste* website.

	<p>Donegal’s draft household waste presentation bye laws are in line to go through public consultation process and work is ongoing in this area. When the bye laws are in place they will support targeted enforcement work in problem areas.</p> <p>Commercial waste inspections are underway. These will also provide an opportunity to signpost businesses to the resources available on the mywaste.ie website.</p> <p>Further changes in legislation are set for 2024 that will place even greater responsibility on waste collectors to achieve source segregation and Donegal will be working with the Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Lead Authority (CU WERLA) to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach in this area.</p> <p>Donegal is part of a National Food Waste Project. In 2024, thousands of household customers in Donegal will get kitchen caddie packs for food waste as part of this project. Caddie packs were distributed to members of the public at events held throughout the County as part of National Food Waste Recycling week.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer Matthewbyrne@donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title

Events were held throughout the County in 2023 for National Food Waste Recycling week

Project Description/ Activity



Contact Person

Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer
Matthewbyrne@donegalcoco.ie

Activity / Project Title	National Waste Enforcement Priority: Producer responsibility initiatives and additional local priorities
Project Description/ Activity	<p>All operators subject to producer responsibility initiatives registered with appropriate organisation(s).</p> <p>Good regulatory compliance at all waste facilities including those owned by local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 inspections in relation to farm plastics - 18 inspections in relation to packaging regs – suspected major producers - 21 inspections in relation to tyre regulations <p>CCTV - The Environment team have been working closely with Inland Fisheries re GDPR. Inland Fisheries have the cameras out and got approval from data commissioner therefore Donegal. CU WERLA and Fisheries are going to work together to further develop the procedures that will allow for the roll out of the cameras again.</p> <p>Drones - Waste and Litter staff have been trained, licences in place, drone work in progress thanks to CU WERLA for support and guidance without whom this would not have been achievable. Environment staff share learnings with other LA's.</p> <div data-bbox="662 913 1182 1312" data-label="Image"> <p>A photograph showing two men standing outdoors on a paved area. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and the man on the right is wearing a grey jacket. They are both holding a large, grey drone with four propellers. In the background, there are green trees and a white car parked on the left.</p> </div> <p>Anti-Dumping initiative funding 2023 DCC successfully secured €107,000 in funding in 2023. This funding supported projects throughout the county including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resources for community groups, - bulky waste projects, - clean ups, - signage, - cameras and containers.



'Think global, act local'

Environment staff feed into consultation processes and participate in working groups and discussion groups that shape legislation and enforcement priorities e.g.

- Input to incentivised charging study.
- Participated in consultation group re proposed amended commercial kerbside conditions.
- National waste management plan for a circular economy.
- Donegal are an active member of the AR waste validation working group and a member of the 'list of waste codes' sub group.
- Greenfield soil and stone as a by-product consultation

In 2023 the Environment team also provided submissions to the draft climate action plan and the County Development plan for County Donegal.

Donegal County Council have successfully campaigned for legal mechanisms to allow for excess material from construction jobs to be reused and repurposed. This reuse of material is in keeping with the circular economy and Climate Change targets and it is anticipated that there will be sites more involved in this area in 2024.

Litter

Between January and October '23, the litter wardens examined over 500 complaints, pursuing legal actions against offenders.

Collaborating with a dedicated team of 5,000 community volunteers, they facilitated more than 500 cleanups through the mobile litter units.

Additionally, the wardens actively engaged with local schools, delivering talks on the importance of litter and recycling.

Complementing these efforts, the environment team crafted various in-house videos for social media campaigns, covering topics such as litter, beaches, and community awareness initiatives like "Man in the Van."

Their unwavering dedication extends to collaborating with Tidy Towns groups throughout the County on a weekly basis, resulting in increased points for all towns in this year's competition.



Knowledge exchange

On the 29th and 30th May 2023, delegates from all over Ireland directly involved in environmental legislation and in particular waste enforcement came together at an event organized by the Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE) in conjunction with the Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities (WERLA's).

Donegal County Council presented at this event alongside speakers from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the WERLAs, the National Trans Frontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) and local authorities throughout Ireland.

Sale and Use of Solid Fuel - Coal

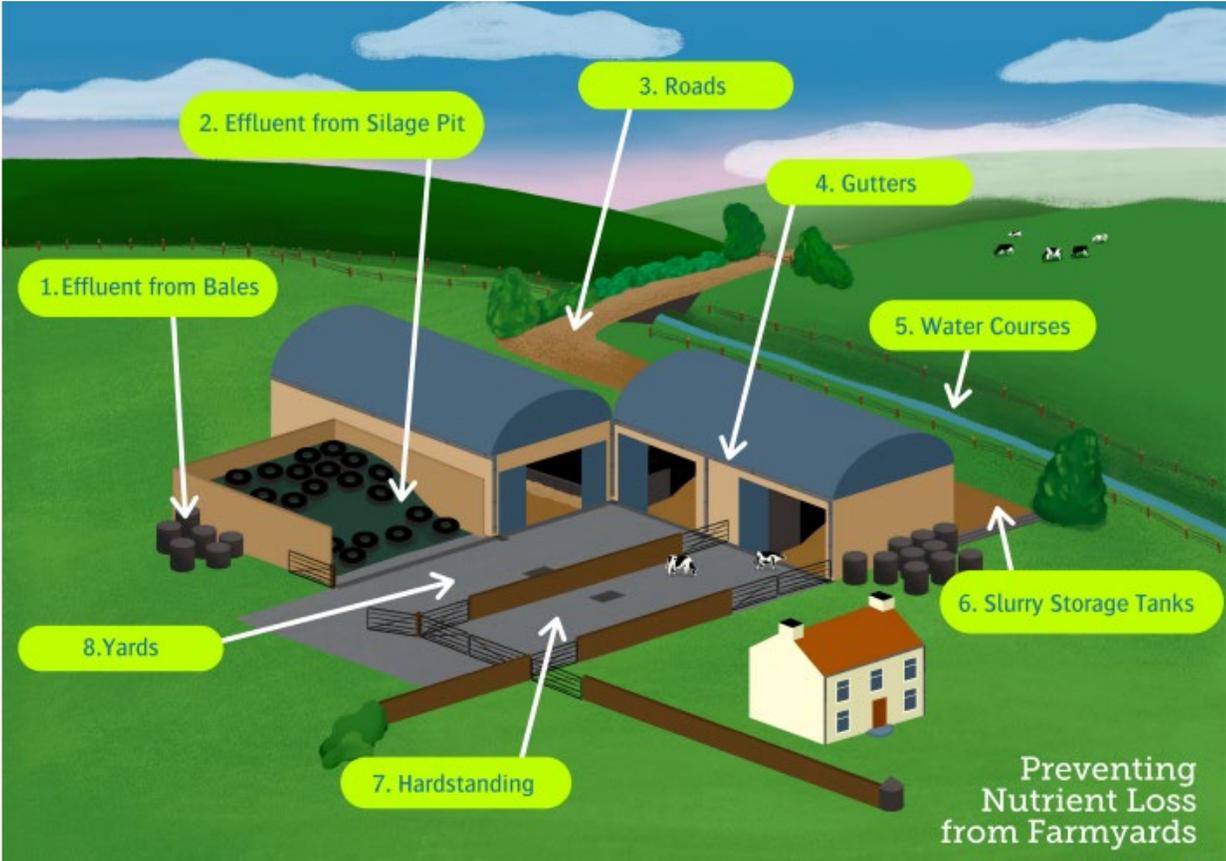
Donegal are leading the way in this area and are providing support to other Local Authorities. This work involves;

- Inspections at retailers
- Sampling and analysing coal products
- Education campaigns, including door to door visits
- Installation of fixed and mobile air monitors
- Monitoring online sales
- Multi Agency Checkpoints
- Legal Prosecutions

Contact Person	Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer Matthewbyrne@donegalcoco.ie
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CENTRAL LABORATORY

<p>Activity / Project Title</p>	<p>Public Service Announcements (PSA's) – Water Quality</p>
<p>Description/ Activity</p>	<p>The follow Public Service Announcement is on local radio during the month of November:</p> <p>“Donegal County Council would like to remind farmers of the importance of good agricultural practice in protecting water-courses over the wet winter period. Make sure soiled water from yards, roadways or the poaching of land doesn’t enter waters and keep out-wintered stock away from streams and rivers by fencing off. Locate supplementary feeding points at least 20 metres from waters and not on bare rock. Fix any broken gutters and downpipes to keep clean roofwater off dirty yards and divert all silage effluent and soiled water to a storage tank.”</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Chemist joe.ferry@donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title	Farm Inspections
Description/ Activity	<p>Donegal County Council have engaged a contractor to start the 2023/24 winter season farm inspection programme, commencing with follow-up visits to farms inspected in 2022 in the Manorcunningham, Newtowncunningham and Raphoe areas.</p> <p>First time inspections at farms located in 'At-Risk' catchments will continue until year end. The main focus for these inspections will be farmyards including slurry & manure storage, silage effluent and storm water collection.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Preventing Nutrient Loss from Farmyards</p>
Contact	<p>Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Chemist joe.ferry@donegalcoco.ie</p>

Activity / Project Title	Amendment of Septic Tank Grant Scheme
Description/ Activity	<p>On the 4th November 2023, Minister Darragh O’Brien, <i>Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage</i> issued a press release (available at https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/40ec0-minister-obrien-announces-increase-in-septic-tank-grants/) announcing changes to the current grant schemes, increasing the maximum grant from €5,000 to €12,000 and removing the requirement for homeowners to have registered their DWWTS with <i>Protect Our Water</i> on or before 1st February 2013. These changes are due to come into effect on the 1st January 2024.</p> <p>Donegal County Council is currently awaiting a Department Circular letter to obtain further clarification on eligibility and how the amended grant scheme may be accessed. This information will be made available to homeowners as soon as it has been received.</p>
Contact	<p>Joe Ferry, Senior Executive Chemist joe.ferry@donegalcoco.ie</p>



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District of Donegal

12th December 2023

1. Playgrounds
 - a. Bundoran
 - b. Donegal Town
 - c. Ballyshannon
 - d. Killybegs.

2. Failte Ireland Platforms for Growth & Destination Towns.
 - a. Bundoran Destination Towns
 - b. Platforms for Growth Tullan Strand

3. Leader / RDP Programme Update



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: Donegal

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	PLAYGROUNDS 2023
Project Description/Activity	Annual maintenance of Playgrounds
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p>1. Works consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement of broken and damaged equipment• Replace worn safety tiles and remove trip hazards• Grease all equipment that contains bushes, bearings, shackles, etc.• Carry out repairs along edges of safety surfaces <p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Rospa Inspection Reports have been completed with necessary repairs identified.• Repair works have been tendered with a submission deadline in February 2023 to appoint a playground Maintenance works contractor for 2023.• Tender assessment for playground maintenance contractor underway.• Maintenance repair works to playgrounds commenced March 2023.• Planned 2023 repairs are complete, any emergency repairs if required will be dealt with as soon as possible.• Annual safety inspections completed.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue routine inspection of playgrounds.• Prepare tender documents for 2024 playground maintenance works.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Bundoran Waterworld Playground Refurbishment
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refurbishment of the Bundoran Waterworld Playground, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consultation with the Bundoran National School undertaken.Designs and tender documents published.Tender submission return deadline of 30/06/2023Received a number of submissions from playground contractors and the tender evaluation is ongoing.Contract Documents issued to the successful contractor to undertake the refurbishment works.Works expected to commence late October / early November and will take approximately 8-9 weeks to complete.Refurbishment works have commenced and progressing on programme. The weather will determine when the safety surfacing can be laid as this cannot be laid below a certain temperature.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aiming to have playground open to the public early Q1 of 2024.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	St John Bosco Playground Refurbishment (Donegal Town)
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refurbishment of the St John Bosco Playground, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co
Budget <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Site survey completed.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aiming to commence design work on the playground refurbishment in Q1 of 2024.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Ballyshannon Mall Park Playground Refurbishment
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refurbishment of the Ballyshannon Mall Park Playground, funded Donegal Co Co & the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation with the three Ballyshannon National Schools undertaken.• Draft designs in progress.• Tender documents have been published on etenders to seek submissions from suitable contractors. The tender return date is the 20th of October 2023.• Tender review process complete.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue Contract Documents to successful tenderer, aiming to commence refurbishment works Q1 of 2024.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Killybegs Playgrounds Refurbishment
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refurbishment of the Killybegs Playgrounds, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial meeting with community groups to discuss the project and their vision for the playgrounds.• Donegal Co Co technical staff undertaking detailed surveys of each playground.• Surveys complete.• Initial design works in progress to develop plans for the playgrounds.• Design proposals were shared with the Killybegs Community Council who got feedback from the local community. Minor design amendments are being made to address feedback.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aiming to publish tender documents on etenders in Q1 of 2024.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Bundoran Destination Towns (Fáilte Ireland Co-Funded)
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of artwork on the three approach roundabouts to Bundoran; Tullaghan/Drumacrin/Finner• Installation of wayfinding signage throughout Bundoran• Streetscape improvement works to; Central Lane/Renisan's Lane/Meehan's Lane
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Architect appointed to delivery the project.• Part 8 Planning secured for the wayfinding signage and streetscape improvement works.• Tender documents/detailed designs being prepared for the wayfinding signage and streetscape improvement works.• Artist selected for the roundabout artwork, contract documents being completed.• Artist contract documents completed and issued, site meeting held with Artist and his engineer to discuss the works.• Consultation ongoing with TII regarding approval for Artwork on the N15 roundabouts.• Part 8 Planning Application for the installation of artwork on the Tullaghan, Drumacrin & Finner roundabouts opened to public consultation on the 15th September.• Reviewing detailed designs for the wayfinding signage and streetscape works.• Part 8 planning for the earwork on the Tullaghan, Drumacrin and Finner roundabouts secured at the November 2023 Council meeting. Review meeting held with Artist's design team to commence fabrication of artwork in January 2024.• Reviewing project cost estimates to keep within available budget.

<p>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aiming to publish tender documents for a contractor to undertake the wayfinding signage and streetscape works.• Installation of artwork late Q1/early Q2 of 2024.
<p>Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i></p>	<p>John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie</p>



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Activity / Project Update: December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Platforms for Growth Tullan Strand Funded by Fáilte Ireland
Project Description/Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a Facility Centre for Water Based Activities at Tullan Strand in Bundoran along with improved access to Tullan Strand Beach.
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross departmental meetings being held with different sections of the Council to fully understand project requirements and future maintenance requirements.• Draft tender documents prepared to seek a Consultant to develop site specific designs and secure planning permission.• Discussions with local stakeholders and landowners.• Meeting held with local stakeholders from Bundoran.• Tender documents were published on etenders seeking a professional design team.• Submissions received and tender assessment process underway.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issue Contract Documents to successful tenderer in Q1 of 2024 and commence works towards a planning application.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

Municipal District: All

Activity / Project Update

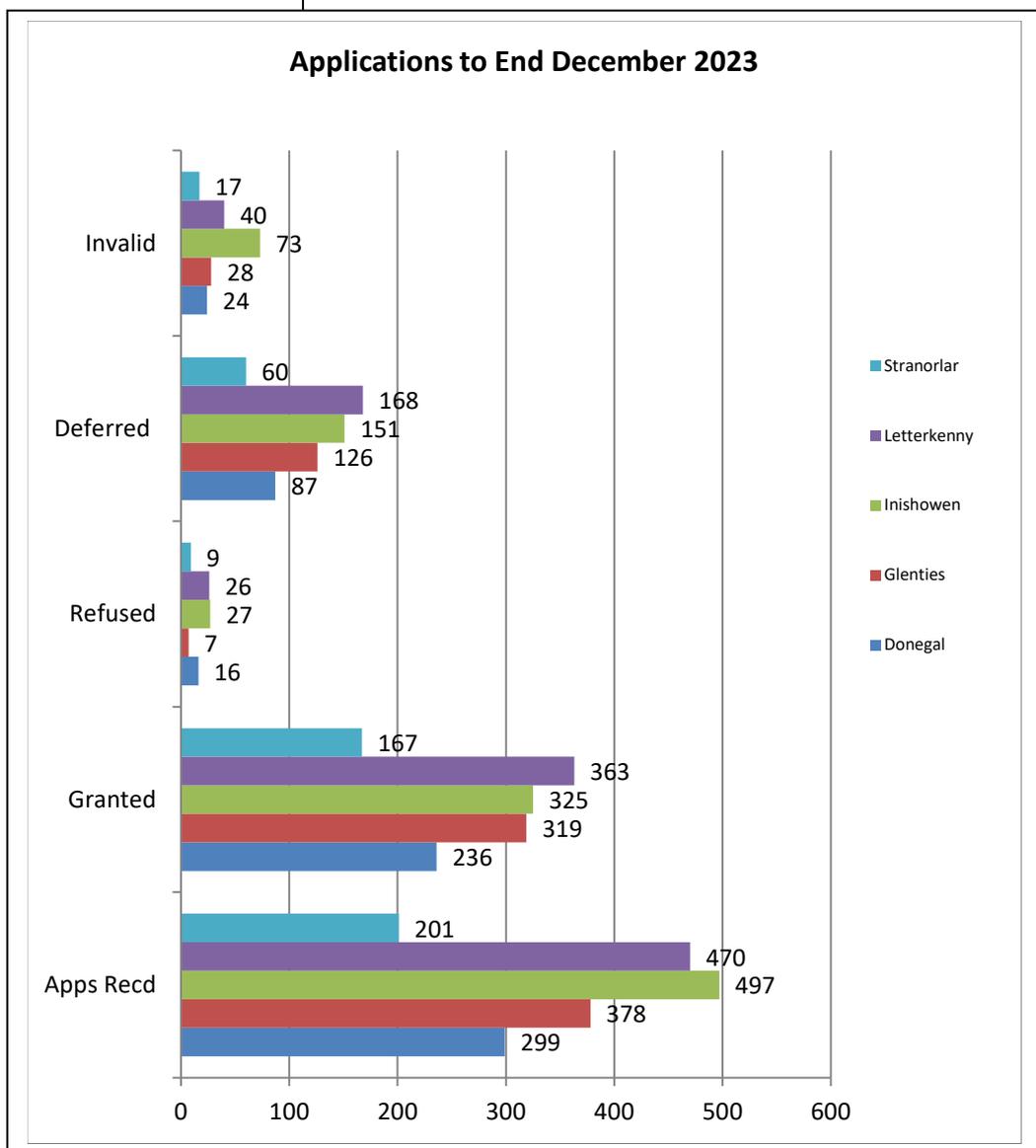
December 2023

Activity / Project Title	Rural Development Programme/LEADER
Project Description/Activity	Donegal Local Community and Development Committee are the Local Action Group for County Donegal, with responsibility for the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2023-2027
Budget <i>(if applicable)</i>	€10,400,000 Allocated to County Donegal
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	There are 4 Implementing Partners within the county; Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC), Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), Údarás Na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán, who will be implementing the LEADER Programme on behalf of the LAG (Local Action Group).
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	Donegal County Council as Lead Financial Partner, in collaboration with our four implementing partners, Donegal Local Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán have completed the draft LEADER Local Development Strategy which was submitted on 14th July 2023. Clarifications and further information were submitted with the DRCD recently advising that the Local Development had been approved with the Funding Agreement currently being finalised
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Ciaran Martin cmartin@donegalcoco.ie



Donegal MD Meeting
12th December, 2023

	Item	Update										
1	Development Applications											
	(1) Statistics	<p>Donegal MD Totals Year to End Nov 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td>299</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granted</td> <td>236</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferred</td> <td>87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table>	Applications received	299	Granted	236	Refused	16	Deferred	87	Invalid	24
Applications received	299											
Granted	236											
Refused	16											
Deferred	87											
Invalid	24											



2	Enforcement									
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Donegal MD</th> <th>To end Nov 2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Cases</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closed Cases</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding cases on record since 2012</td> <td>222</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donegal MD	To end Nov 2023	New Cases	1	Closed Cases	1	Outstanding cases on record since 2012	222
Donegal MD	To end Nov 2023									
New Cases	1									
Closed Cases	1									
Outstanding cases on record since 2012	222									
3	Notes & Monthly Schedule	<p>Pre planning clinics are on a telephone call only basis (ring 074 9153900) between 9.00am and 12.30pm on the dates outlined below.</p> <p>The pre planning clinic calls will be taken by the Executive Planners and shall be for substantial applications only.</p> <p><u>Planning Clinics 2023:</u> 30th November, 2023 14th December, 2023</p> <p>Please see website for further dates. http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/</p>								
4	Casual Trading									
5	Regeneration & Development	See Appendix A								
6	Building Control & Taking in Charge	See Appendix B								
7	Central Planning Unit									
8	Capital Projects Delivery Unit	See Appendix C								
9	Conservation									
10	Further Information <i>Click on web links to access information.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly List of applications and decisions: http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/ • Planning Service email (to be used in correspondence with the planning service): planning@donegalcoco.ie • Planning Webpage: www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/ • Planning Application Online Query – https://www.eplanning.ie/DonegalCC/SearchTypes <p>File Retrieval Form – to be used for file retrieval and search requests: www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf</p>								



APPENDIX A



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Regeneration & Development Team
Community Development & Planning Services

Report to December (2023) Municipal District Meetings

1.0 RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

1.1 EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 2 RRDF PROJECTS (2020)

1.1.1 Back to Ballyshannon – A transformational project to re-energise, re-imagine and sustain the social, cultural, historical, physical and economic fabric of Ballyshannon's historic town centre.

Value: €247,500. (RRDF funding approved €185,625)

Update: Acquisition of the key regeneration site in Market Yard was completed by year end 2022. The Team now continues to work towards the publication of a planning scheme, so as to develop this project as a shovel ready capital project targeted for future Category 1 RRDF funding.

Further to the public consultation period on the draft plans held in October-November 2022, the Team is continuing to engage with key stakeholders in relation to the feedback received. This includes the local Business Chamber, ESB and Bus Eireann. Good progress is being made in this regard. A workshop was held with Members on July 13th to update them on this evolving consultation and design process.

1.1.2 Ramelton Historic Town Centre – A Restorative & Transformational Public Realm Scheme.

Value: €249,159 (RRDF funding approved €186,869)

Update: A Part 8 planning scheme for this project was published on Tuesday 1st February 2022 and a Chief Executives Report on the proposed development was brought before the Elected Members at a Plenary Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 6th of April, 2022 and it was decided to proceed with the development as proposed.

The Detailed Design phase is now completing and it is intended to open a construction tender in Q1 2024 ahead of a projected commencement on site in early Q2 of 2024. The Team will continue to update and advise Members on progress and key milestones as this project moves towards commencement on site. The process of project handover to the Council's Capital Project Delivery Unit (CPDU) has also commenced in anticipation of imminent progression to site. CPDU will manage the construction and handover stage of the project.

The Regeneration and Development Team completed the submission of a Category 1 capital funding application to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the capital delivery of this project by the 12 noon deadline on Friday 29th April 2022. The submitted project had a total project value of €7,949,868.

On 10th November 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced that €6.3m had been awarded under the Fourth Call for Category 1 Projects of the RRDF for the "Ramelton Re-Imagined" regeneration Project. This represents a full award of the RRDF funding sought. Work is now nearing completion on the Detailed Design and preparation of a Tender Package for this project, together with arrangements for handover to the Capital Project Delivery Unit for onward delivery.

1.2.2 THIRD CALL FOR CATEGORY 2 PROJECTS UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

On 6th January 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced that €1.17m had been awarded under the Third Call for Category 2 Projects of the RRDF for the "Repowering Buncrana" regeneration Project.

Due diligence has been completed on this project and a formal letter of Offer together with an associated Funding Agreement was received on 10th May 2022. The Funding Agreement was subsequently accepted and formally returned to the Department on 18th May 2022. The project was submitted to the DRCD for Decision Gate 2 Pre-Tender Approval on Monday 20th March, 2023. Decision Gate 2 approval was subsequently received on 3rd April, 2023

The Elected Members of the Inishowen Municipal District were updated on the status of this project at workshop on the 23rd October 2023. It is now intended to progress this project to tender and preparations are continuing in this regard.

A sale agreed position has also now been reached in respect of the town centre acquisition interest enabled by this project. The property concerned is the former Garda Barracks at St. Orans Rd, Buncrana. The Council's legal services are closing out and completing this acquisition. The property will be redeveloped as an economic development proposition as a part of this project with a forward view towards job creation and inward investment.

1.3 FOURTH CALL FOR CATEGORY 1 PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY) UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

On 17th December 2021 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced the fourth call for Category 1 applications to the €1 Billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

The closing date for the receipt of proposals was 12 noon on Friday 29th April 2022.

As described at Point 1.2.2. above the Ramelton Re-Imagined regeneration project, with a value of €7,949,868 was submitted under this call.

On 10th November 2022 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced that €6.3m had been awarded under the Fourth Call for Category 1 Projects of the RRDF for the “Ramelton Re-Imagined” regeneration Project. Work will now continue to complete the Detailed Design and preparation of a Tender Package for this project, together with arrangements for handover to the Capital Project Delivery Unit for implementation on site.

1.4 FIFTH CALL FOR CATEGORY 1 PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY) UNDER THE RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

On 10th November 2023 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced the fifth call for Category 1 applications to the €1 Billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

The focus of this fifth call for category 1 applications is to support projects that have the potential to assist in revitalizing rural towns and villages, that will drive greater economic activity and footfall, address vacancy and dereliction, ensure the re-use of heritage and other buildings and provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure which will assist in attracting people to live, work and invest in rural areas. The types of projects that can be funded under this call include:

- Measures to address vacancy and dereliction and encourage town centre regeneration.
- Projects which encourage the co-location of facilities to create a focal point of activity in a landmark or prominent location which can help to drive greater footfall and support businesses.
- Large scale infrastructure and public realm projects.
- Projects which make a clear contribution to the economic development of a town including island communities.

Support can extend to provide assistance for the management and development of a project, once construction is completed, for a maximum of 3 years.

Category 1 applications are capital projects which are ready to commence with the necessary planning consents in place, are at an advanced stage of design,

satisfy the public spending code and are procurement ready. This is a competitive application process and Local Authorities can submit a maximum of 3 applications for large scale and ambitious in nature projects. The minimum request per project is €500,000 with no upper limit but projects seeking over €10m would be considered exceptional in nature.

In recognition of the classification by the EU Commission of the North West Region as a Transition Region, grant aid of 90% will apply with 10% to be provided in matching contributions by the Council – this 10% matching contribution can be in the form of Local Authority investment, community investment or philanthropic contributions.

The deadline for submission of applications is **12 pm on Tuesday 8th February 2024**. As confirmed to Elected Members at the November Plenary meeting of the Council, work is underway to bring forward applications for Regeneration Projects in Rathmullan and Creeslough under this Call.

1.5 Rathmullan RRDF Project Development work

A formal Part 8 planning scheme for this project was published on Thursday 24th November 2022. Submissions or observations were required to be made in writing on or before 4:30pm on Wednesday 18th January 2023. A Chief Executives Report on the proposed development was brought before the Elected Members for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Council on 13th February 2023 when Members decided to proceed with the development as proposed.

Work is now ongoing to prepare the project for application to the fifth call of Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) for category 1 (capital) projects. FPM Accountants (Ireland) Ltd have been appointed to prepare an Economic Appraisal of the project in accordance with the financial requirements of the Call and this work is presently ongoing.

The project is a partnership with Rathmullan The Way Forward CLG.

1.5 Milford Town Centre First Plan

GM Design Associates Ltd were appointed as the successful consultancy service to deliver the Town Centre First Plan for Milford on Tuesday 14th February 2023.

The Stage 1 Report entitled ‘Milford TCF Plan Baseline Profile’, was presented to the Elected Members at a Workshop on the 5th of May 2023. This Report directly informed the Draft Milford Town Centre First Plan which was published for public consultation from the 10th of July to the 4th of August 2023. A workshop was held with the Elected Members on the 14th of November 2023 at which a summary of the Stage 2 Consultation Process and the feedback from the same was presented to Members. An outline of the

proposed amendments to the Draft TCF Plan was also presented and agreed with the Members together with the proposal to develop and prepare a planning scheme for the development of lands at Lower Mt. Marian, identified as one of the key regeneration proposals in the TCF Plan. It was also agreed with the Members that the Team would actively pursue the options for redevelopment of the former Milford Hotel & Town Hall site, which was identified as the highest priority regeneration proposal by the public. On this basis the Elected Members endorsed the final TCF Plan as presented together with the proposal for advancement of the regeneration proposals and a date for final publication and launch of the Plan was agreed. A further workshop was held with the Community Stakeholder Group on the evening of the 14th of November at which support generally for the final TCF Plan as presented was confirmed as well as the proposal for the development of a project to planning stage.

Subsequently, the official **publication and launch of the Milford TCF Plan** took place at the Milford PSC on Wednesday the 29th of September 2023, which was attended by Members & officials of Donegal County Council and representatives of the Community Stakeholder Group and the consultants, GM Design Associates. The consultants have now progressed to Stage 4 of the project for the development of, consultation on, and publication of a statutory planning scheme for the lands at Lower Mt. Marian as per the Design Concept Plan presented in the TCF Plan. It is envisaged that this process will complete in Quarter 2 of 2024 and will position the proposal for future funding opportunities. The Team will continue to update and advise Members on progress as this project moves towards a planning scheme as well as any other projects that may advance on foot of the final Plan.

1.6 Creeslough Village Plan and Community Regeneration Project

Donegal County Council, the Creeslough Working Group and the Creeslough Community Association supported by Arup have been working throughout 2023 to prepare a Village Plan and community regeneration project for the Creeslough Community.

The final Creeslough Village Plan is currently undergoing translation services, before formatting and printing services to prepare the Plan for final launch. It is anticipated that official publication and launch will take place early in the New Year and the arrangements for same will be confirmed in consultation with Elected Members in advance.

A formal Part 8 planning scheme for the Community Regeneration project was published on the 24th July 2023. A Chief Executives Report on the proposed development was brought before the Elected Members for consideration at the September Plenary Meeting of the Council when Members decided to proceed with the development as proposed.

Work is now ongoing to prepare the project for application to the fifth call of Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) for category 1 (capital)

projects. FPM Accountants (Ireland) Ltd have been appointed to prepare an Economic Appraisal & Business Plan of the project in accordance with the financial requirements of the Call, together with Company Formation Services and this work is presently ongoing and progressing well with the assistance and participation of key community stakeholders. This work is also being assisted by Structural Design, Site Investigation and QS Services to prepare the final application for submission.

2.0 URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)

2.1 Existing approved URDF project in Letterkenny (application submitted 2018; final approval to proceed received September 2019)

This first application secured €1.9m in URDF monies, match funded by €600,000 for three sub-projects. Sub-project A, preparation of Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy is now complete and available at www.letterkenny2040.ie. The Letterkenny 2040 project won the Landscape Institute 2023 Award in London on the 3rd November 2023 in the category of Excellence in Master-planning and Urban Design. These awards celebrate people, places and nature and the way that landscape projects can connect them. The Mayor of the Letterkenny – Milford MD, Cllr. Kevin Bradley attended the awards ceremony with Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner; Sinead McCauley, Senior Executive Planner and representatives from the Paul Hogarth Company. The project was also shortlisted in the Royal Town Planning Institute Awards 2023 in the category of Excellence in Plan Making Practice.

Sub-project B, CPO in respect of the Letterkenny 2040 Strategic Urban Regeneration Site, significantly progressed having served Notices to Treat and Enter in March and April 2023. On 8th May 2023, Donegal County Council took possession of the CPO lands required to enable the delivery of Phase 1 development of the site as regards Alpha/Beta office accommodation and public realm infrastructure. Negotiation on compensation continues in parallel. Acquisition by agreement of remaining property at 29 and 31 Port Road to enable Phase 2 completed on 2nd August 2023 and both properties are also now in the possession of Council.

In addition, a Recommendation has been prepared to progress the business case for an Affordable Housing Scheme in respect of the residential component of the Concept Masterplan relating to the remainder of the strategic site (Phase 2). As a result, this part of the site will transfer to Housing colleagues with alignment and input from both the Regeneration and Development Team and the Capital Projects Delivery Unit. Further updates will be brought to the Letterkenny-Milford MD in this regard as this work develops.

Please refer to Capital Project Delivery Unit MD reporting for update as regards the public realm sub-project.

2.2 Successful application to the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (May 2020)

A Letterkenny- Milford MD workshop is arranged for Tuesday 16th January 2024 in relation to further URDF program wide updates.

The Councils successful application to URDF Call 2, entitled ‘Letterkenny 2040 (Phase 1): To Re-energize and Connect the Historic Town Centre’ secured a provisional allocation for total project cost of €18.1m (comprising €13.6m URDF support together with match funding committed by the Council in the sum of €4.5m). Total project uplift was secured at Decision Gate 1 in relation to Preliminary Business Case to take account of inflation resulting in total project cost of €19.3m (comprising €14.5m URDF support and €4.8m match funding by Donegal County Council). Project costs will remain under review at each stage of project development and as the approval gateways under the Public Spending Code are navigated.

The project will advance five sub-projects to varying stages as follows:

- The further enhancement of the Cathedral Quarter
- The re-purposing of the Courthouse
- Strategic land assembly towards:
 - Renewal of Lower Main Street
 - Advancement of a Regional Transport Hub
 - Enhancement of ‘LK Green Connect,’ walking, cycling and parkland infrastructure.

DHLGH approval to proceed with tendering processes and acquisitions was secured on 7th March 2023 following approval of the Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy. DHLGH advise that each sub- project will now progress on its own timeline including the preparation of individual Final Business Cases prior to appointment of construction contractor.

Accordingly, steps are being taken to proceed with each sub-project as set out in the following table.

Next steps set out in letter of approval to proceed.

Sub-project	Nature of DHLGH approval/ Project activity
Sub-project A: Market Square element	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer to Capital Project Delivery Unit MD Report update s this project has been handed over.
Sub-Project A: Cathedral Quarter Park and Church Lane Shared Surface Scheme	<p>Proceed acquisition processes for land required. The following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avison Young appointed to take forward all previous engagement and act on Councils behalf as regards further offers/

	<p>acquisitions/ CPO. Valuation Report to be received early December 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next step: Consideration of further offers and requirements and timeline for publication of CPO. <p>Proceed to procurement of architect-led team for all design stages (planning consent, detailed design & site supervision)</p> <p>This project will be led through the next stage of design and consultancy services by the Regeneration and Development Team with feed-in from the Capital Projects Delivery Unit. The following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Draft tender for architect-led team prepared and now under review for opening of procurement process as soon as possible.
<p>Sub-project B: Renewal at Lower Main Street</p>	<p>Proceed acquisition processes for land required. The following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avison Young appointed to take forward all previous engagement and act on Councils behalf as regards further offers/ acquisitions/ CPO. Valuation Report to be received early December 2023. Next step: Consideration of further offers and requirements and timeline for publication of CPO.
<p>Sub-project C: Revival of the Courthouse</p>	<p>Proceed to procurement of consultancy services to prepare ‘Product identification/Visitor Experience Plan.’</p> <p>This project will be led through the next stage by the Regeneration and Development Team and will involve multiple workshops at MD level. The following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPIC Heritage Consulting Ltd appointed to prepare a Visitor Experience Plan/ Product Identification Plan and Business Plan for the development of a major visitor attraction at the Courthouse. Inception Workshop with Letterkenny-Milford MD held on 21st November 2023. Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop: 16th January at 10am.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder Forum workshop: 16th January (PM) - Public drop-in event: 17th January 2024. - Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop: 1st February at 11am. ▪ Options being explored for application to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme for minor repair works. ▪ Engagement with schools being instigated to request input into the project.
<p>Sub-project D: Strategic acquisition to enable a Regional Transport Hub</p>	<p>Proceed acquisition processes for land required. This project will be led through the next stage by the Regeneration and Development Team in collaboration with Road Design. The following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avison Young appointed to take forward all previous engagement and act on Councils behalf as regards further offers/ acquisitions/ CPO. Valuation Report to be received early December 2023. • A meeting with NTA and representatives of the Councils Roads, Planning, Regeneration and Community Development Teams took place on 10th July 2023 in relation to transportation in Letterkenny inclusive of the Regional Transport Hub project. As regards the Regional Transport Hub, a funding commitment was secured from NTA to enable the engagement of consultancy services to move the project forward to the next level as regards scale, scope, further engagement with transport providers and operational requirements. Draft tender package is being prepared in this regard for internal review initially followed by NTA feed-in prior to opening of a procurement process. • Consultation with Local Link ongoing in relation to private bus operators.
<p>Sub-Project E; Strategic acquisition to enable LK Green Connect</p>	<p>Proceed acquisition processes for land required This project will be led through the next stage by the Regeneration and Development Team. Progress on acquisition is to some degree dependent on capacity to progress Part 8 for phase 2 of LK Green Connect and in this regard, it is noted that in-house resources are severely under pressure across both URDF and RRDF work programmes.</p>

	<p>Notwithstanding, the following actions have been commenced/underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Part 8 in relation to the Cultural Corridor element of the project approved by Donegal County Council on 27th November 2023.▪ In -house team commenced steps to develop a Part 8 for Phase 2 (from constructed Phase 1 to Pearse Road). This involves land owner and stakeholder engagement, EIA/AA consideration, topographical survey, ground condition consideration, engagement with Irish water, development of design concept.▪ Valuation services of Avison Young being engaged in relation to phase 2 (from constructed Phase 1 to Pearse Road)▪ Avison Young appointed to take forward all previous engagement and act on Councils behalf as regards acquisition of lands required to deliver the Cultural Corridor element of the scheme.
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2.3 ‘The Eat Out’ Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project, Letterkenny
‘The Eat Out’ Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project at the public space to the front of An Grianan Theatre secured Part 8 planning consent at the plenary Council meeting in November 2022. Detailed design of this project enabled in the context of the further development of the concept contained in the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy via the appointment of The Paul Hogarth Company and O’Connor Cronin Sutton Engineers is well advanced. The Regeneration Team provided support and input into the detailed design process which is led by Community Development wherein a procurement process for construction contractor closed for tender submissions on 16th August 2023 and appointment of contractor is anticipated. Further updates are being provided by Community Development.

2.4 Letterkenny Cultural Corridor
Part 8 proposed development for the ‘Cultural Corridor’ section of LK Green Connect was approved at the plenary meeting of Donegal County Council on 27th November 2023.

Arrangements are being made to engage the services of a Quantity Surveyor to cost the project in anticipation that it may form part of Councils application to URDF call 4 when the programme opens.

2.5 2nd Phase of LK Green Connect

In-house team commenced steps to develop a Part 8 for Phase 2 (from constructed Phase 1 to Pearse Road). A full update will be provided at the planned MD workshop on 16th January 2024 however the programme of work involves:

- land owner and stakeholder engagement
- EIA/AA consideration
- topographical survey
- ground condition consideration
- engagement with Irish water
- development of design concept.

2.6 Youth/Community focused project at Lower Main Street

Early engagements with Letterkenny Youth Club and Donegal Youth Service have commenced to further explore the potential for a youth/community focused project at Lower Main Street as envisaged within the Design Concepts contained in the Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy and relating to a number of Councils acquisition interests under URDF Call 2 successful application. In this regard, a partnership in principle has been agreed. Following progress on relevant land acquisition under the Councils URDF Call 2 project, it is targeted to commence design processes as regards a future capital scheme at this location. Timeline for commencement of design work is likely to be Q1 of 2024 at the earliest and is highly dependent on capacity of in-house resources. Updates will be provided to Members on ongoing basis including at planned MD workshop on 16th January 2024.

2.7 Collaboration with Housing Section of Donegal County Council

Collaborative working arrangements have been established with the Housing Section of Donegal County Council to explore and develop social/affordable housing schemes on key regeneration sites within the town centre generally and, more specifically at Lower Main Street and at Phase 2 of the Strategic Urban Regeneration Site located between Pearse Road and Ramelton Road. Members will be updated as this work progresses.

2.8 URDF Call 3

On the 11th July 2023, Minister O'Brien announced an allocation of €4m under URDF Call 3 for Donegal County Council in relation to Letterkenny Regional Centre. URDF Call 3 focusses on enabling Local Authorities to tackle long-term vacancy and dereliction in Letterkenny town centre and on the acceleration of residential development. The programme will provide a rolling fund to Local Authorities to enable acquisition and design and civil works that may be required to de-risk property to make it more attractive for onward sale. A funding agreement has been completed and returned to DHLGH and a further return is to be completed for return to DHLGH by a deadline of 25th August 2023.

A full and detailed update will be provide at the planned MD workshop on 16th January 2024. In the interim, steps have been initiated to progress the programme and these reflect the wider CPO Activation programme involving:
Step 2: Identification of and engagement with owners of properties on the URDF Call 3 approved programme.

Step 3: Communication regarding the various schemes and measures in place to support bringing the property back into use, and

Step 4: Where owners of vacant and derelict properties cannot be identified or where they are unwilling to engage, use of available legislative powers in relation to compulsory purchase or acquisition of such properties alongside consideration of addition to Derelict Sites Register. Acquired properties will subsequently be made available for sale on the open market.

2.9 Other

The Regeneration and Development Team continue to engage in other regeneration related work areas in Letterkenny, engage with key stakeholders on a rolling basis and support other sections of Donegal County Council as required and across several other activities.

3.0 CROI CONAITHE VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT SCHEME

The Council administers the Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The grant schemes, which came into operation in July 2022, provides grants to property owners to refurbish properties that have been vacant for two years or more for use as their principle private residence or to be made available for rent. The level of grant funding available is €50,000 or €70,000 if the property is derelict. The grants are increased by 20% for off-shore island properties. To date, the Council have processed 462 applications with 206 approved and 16 rejected on the basis that they do not meet the scheme criteria mainly relating to the proposed works or that the property has not been vacant for two years or more and built on or before 2007. The balance of applications is either awaiting further information from the applicant or at first technical inspection stage. There are eight applicants who have completed the works and these are currently being processed for payment, with one applicant fully paid at this stage.

Applications received are now being processed within 2 weeks of receipt and once validated are having the first technical inspection carried out between 4-6 thereafter. To summarize, when an application is submitted and if all supporting documentation is included and all is in order, a decision is given between 6-8 weeks.

4.0 COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER ACTIVATION FUND

In April 2023, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage launched the CPO Activation Programme for the activation of vacant and derelict properties. The main steps of the programme include:

Step 1: Identification of vacant and derelict properties

Step 2: Identification of and engagement with owners.

Step 3: Communication regarding the various schemes and measures in place to support bringing the property back into use, and

Step 4: Where owners of vacant and derelict properties cannot be identified or where they are unwilling to engage, use of available legislative powers to compulsory purchase or acquire such properties. The acquired properties may subsequently be used for social housing, made available for sale on the open market or used for other purposes.

The Council have undertaken Step 1 to identify vacant and derelict properties through the GEO Directory. This survey is being undertaken in the following towns, which includes town identified at the workshops held with Elected Members in July 2023. The surveys will be rolled out to other towns over the coming months:

Municipal District	Towns		
Letterkenny-Milford MD	Ramelton	Carrigart, Manorcunningham	Rathmullan, Milford
Donegal MD	Donegal Town	Ballyshannon	Bundoran, Dunkineely
Glenties MD	Dungloe	Ardara	Faclarragh
Inishowen MD	Carndonagh	Buncrana	Moville, Malin
Lifford-Stranorlar MD	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	Lifford	Raphoe

To date, over 1,600 properties have been surveyed with 850 confirmed as vacant and 50 as derelict. The team has now commenced Step 2 to identify and engage with the property owners to make them aware of the supports available to bring the vacant property back into productive use and to date 38 contacts have been made. The Members will be kept up to date as we progress through the work programme.

Regeneration & Development Team
December 2023

APPENDIX B

Municipal District of Donegal December 2023

Building Control & Taking in Charge
Community Development & Planning Services

REPORT

1. Building Control Activity
 - a. Commencement Notices
 - b. Disability Access Certificates
2. Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates

Building Control Activity

a. *Commencement Notices*

In 2022, 556 Commencement notices were submitted, representing 429 new buildings and 127 building alterations or extensions. This compares with 565 Commencement notices in 2021 representing 634 new builds and 138 building alterations or extensions.

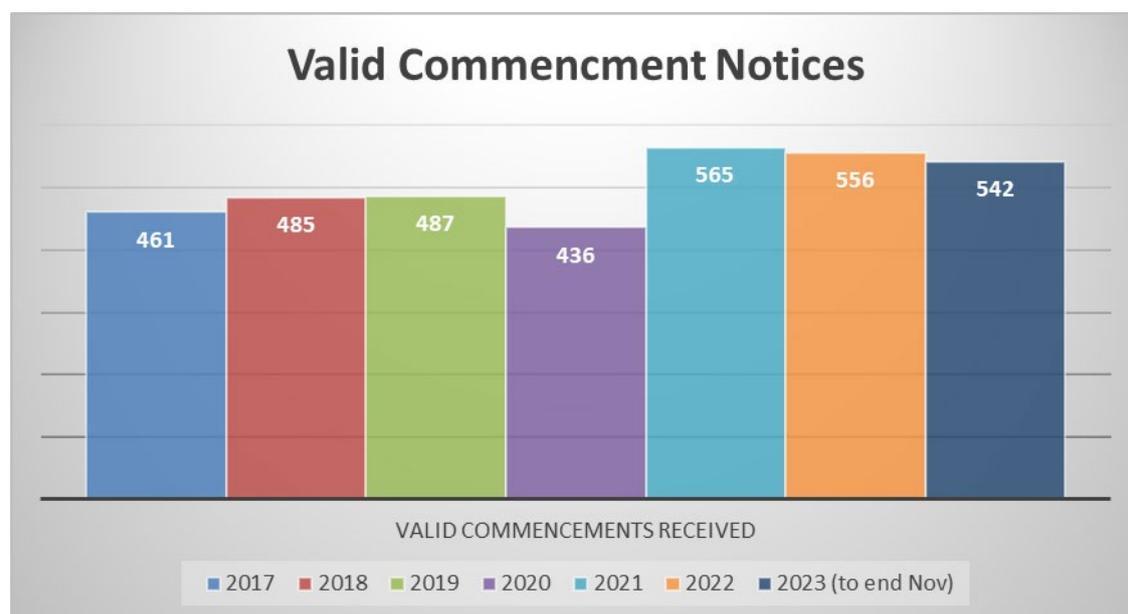
The number of "Opt-out" Commencement Notices submitted in 2022 was 312, more than 56% of the overall total submitted. So far in 2023, the Opt-Out Commencement Notice represents 54% of the notices submitted.

As reported previously, this consistent level of submission of these type of Commencement Notices remains a concern. Where these types of Commencement Notices are being used the owners have declared themselves to be competent to ensure that the works comply with the Building Regulations and are therefore taking on ALL the responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Regulations.

Annual figures:

Up to the end of November, there have been 542 Commencement Notices submitted in 2023, representing 556 new build projects and 153 building alterations or extensions. This is an increase from 531 CNs in the same period in 2022 representing 511 new build projects.

As stated above, in 2022 there were 556 Commencement Notices received. These represented 658 building projects of which there were 531 new units. 120 of these new units were in developments classified as "multi-unit developments." To date in 2023 there have been nine commencement notices for a multi-unit developments with a combined total of 115 units.



Types of Commencement Notices:

- i) Commencement Notice with Compliance Documentation: An Assigned Certifier is appointed to oversee the construction and to ensure that there is compliance with the Building Regulations.
- ii) Commencement Notice with Opt Out: This can be used for single dwellings only. The owner is given the option to “opt out” from the Certification Process. They are still legally obliged to comply with the Building Regulations. For this type of commencement notice, an assigned certifier is not appointed, and the owner must sign a declaration to ensure that the building is constructed in accordance with the relevant Building Regulations.

It needs to be stressed here that if this option is chosen, then the Owner is declaring that they are “Competent” and will ensure that the works comply with the Building Regulations. These are still subject to spot check inspections and must provide compliance documentation upon request.

- iii) Commencement Notice without Compliance Documentation: This is referred to as a Short Commencement Notice and requires minimal documentation. It cannot be used for:
- The construction of a new dwelling house.
 - An extension to a dwelling involving a total floor area greater than 40m².
 - Any works that require a fire certificate
- iv) 7 Day Notice: This type of notice is used, where a fire certificate has been applied for but has not yet been granted.

2023- Jan 1st to November 30th				
Type	No. Of CNs	New Builds	Building Alterations/Extensions	Multi Dwelling
				1 no. 11 Unit, 1 No. 8 unit, 1 no. 10 unit, 1 no. 10 unit, 1 no. 12 unit, 1 no. 29 unit, 1 no. 22 unit, 1 no. 6 unit, 1 no. 7 unit
CN with Documentation	153	262	54	
7 day notice	61	34	27	0
CN without Documentation	52	34	22	0
CN with Opt Out	276	226	50	0
Total	542	556	153	

b. Disability Access Certificates (DAC):

A Disability Access Certificate (DAC) is a Certificate issued by the Building Control Authority and states that the works or building to which the application relates will, if constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted, comply with the requirements of Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations 1997 - 2011.

Except for houses and certain agricultural buildings, a DAC is generally required for all new buildings, including apartments and flats. A certificate is

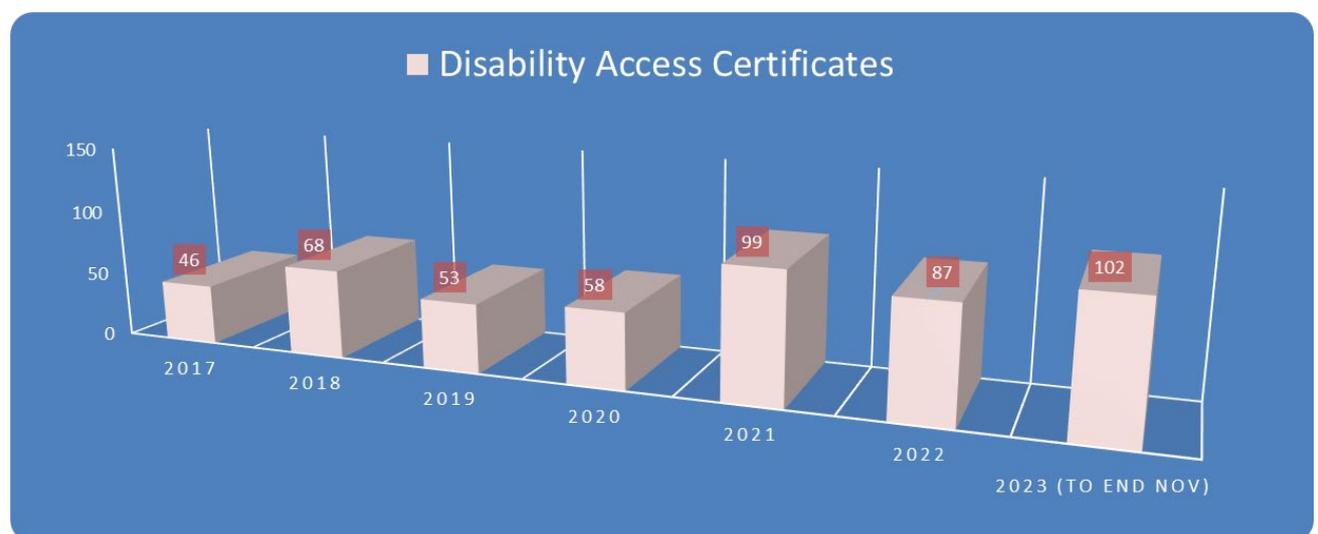
also required for material changes of use and certain alterations and extensions to buildings.

A building **may not** be opened, operated, or occupied or permitted to do so unless a DAC has been granted or pending determination of an appeals process.

The Building Control Authority is obliged to determine all DAC applications within 8 weeks of receipt unless an extension of time is agreed with the applicant.

The Building Control Department received 87 DAC applications in 2022. This compares with 99 in 2021, 58 applications in 2020 and 53 in 2019.

So far in 2023, up until the end of October, there have been 102 DAC applications compared with 84 applications in the same period in 2022.



Taking in Charge of Private Residential Estates.

The Taking in Charge team is today presenting the following estate in the Municipal District to Members seeking approval to complete the Taking in Charge process:

- Doonan Court, Donegal Town

Where it is proposed to declare a road to be a Public Road under Section 11 of the Roads Act, Members are obliged, under subsection (1)(b)(ii) to consider the financial implications for the Roads Authority of the proposed declaration.

However, in the case of a development which has not been completed satisfactorily and an application for takeover has been received and the Planning Authority has not commenced enforcement proceedings within the appropriate period, subsection (1)(b)(ii) of section 11 of the Roads Act shall be disregarded.

In this instance however, the financial implications are not significant, with no specific issues which have not already been resolved within the estate being raised by the Area Roads Department.



*Planning & Development Act (2000 as amended) – Section 207
Roads Act, 1993 – Section 11
Planning and Development Act, (2000 as amended) – Section 180*

The Planning Authority for the Donegal Municipal District is seeking a resolution for the making of an **ORDER**, in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate **Doonan Court, Donegal Town** as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estate.

Furthermore the Planning Authority for the Donegal Municipal District is seeking a resolution for the making of an **ORDER**, in accordance with Section 11(1) of the Roads Act 1993, that the roads within the housing estate **Doonan Court, Donegal Town** over which a public right-of-way will now exist, as shown on the attached map, are hereby declared to be a public road.

It is **noted** that consequent on the making of this Order, the Council is required to take in charge any sewers, watermains, or service connections and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development in accordance with Section 180(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

When water services infrastructure is taken in charge by a planning authority pursuant to section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the water services legislation provides that it will be subsequently transferred to Irish Water by Ministerial Order.

Section 11 of the Roads Act requires that the financial implications of the declaration as a public road be considered. The financial implications are not significant, with no specific issues within this estate being raised by the Area Roads Engineers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paddy Mullen".

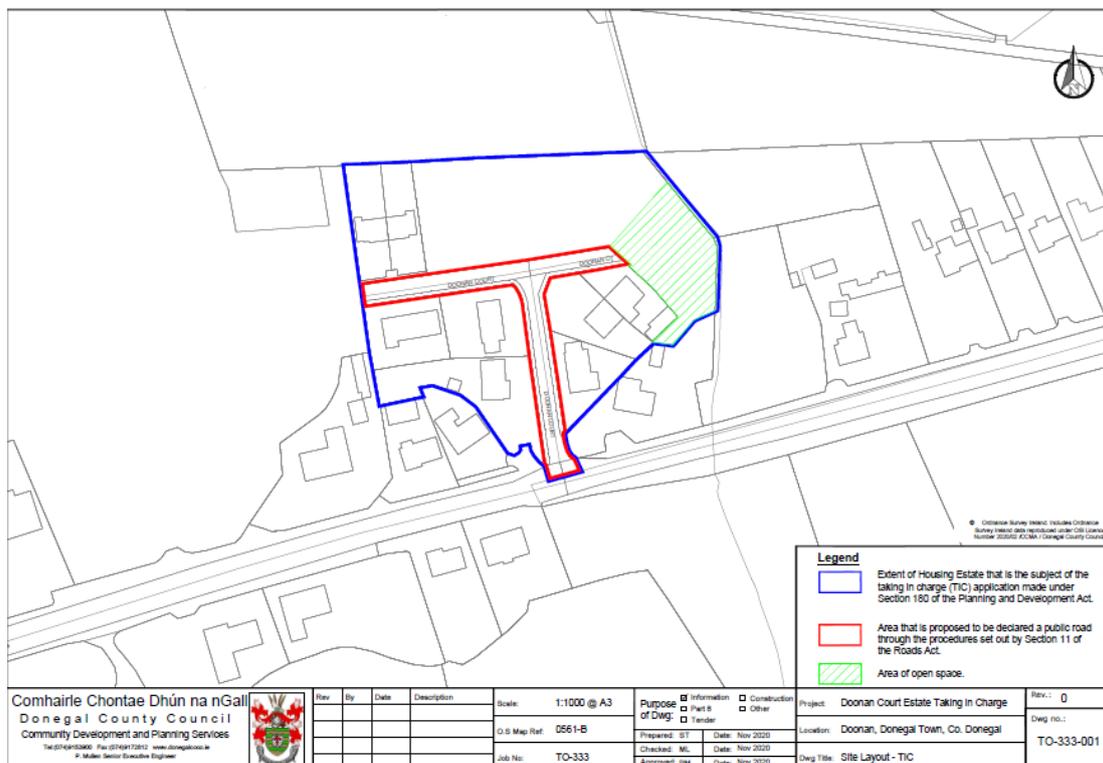
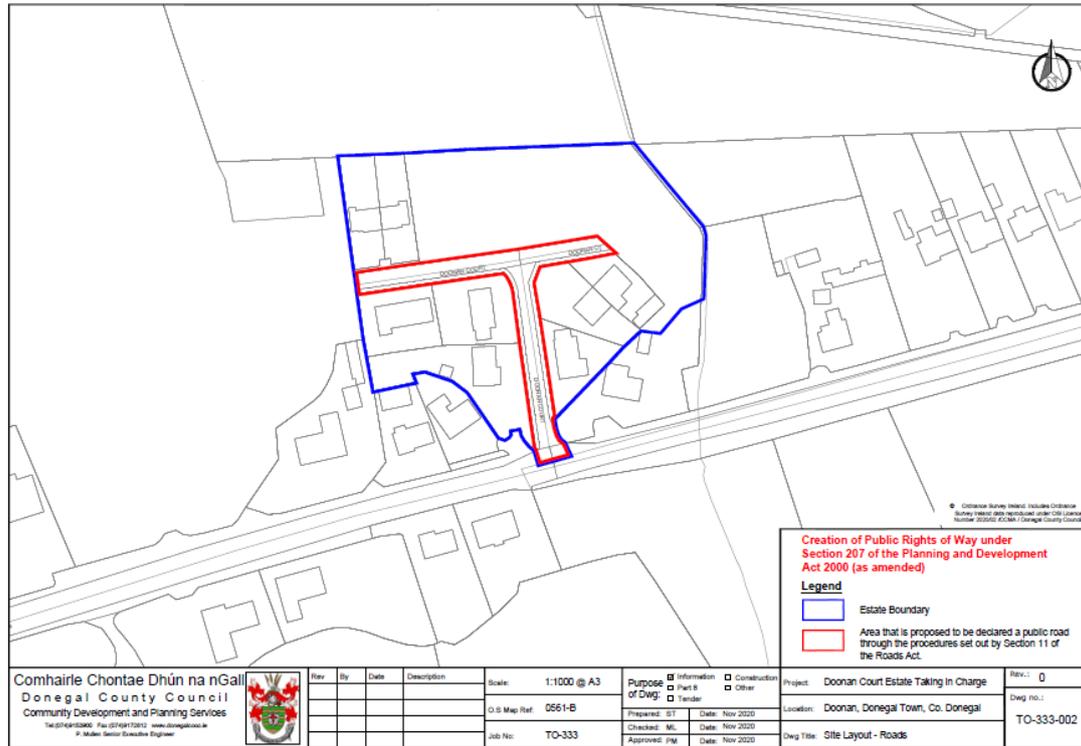
Paddy Mullen
Senior Executive Engineer
Community & Planning Services

On the proposal of Councillor _____ seconded by Councillor _____ it is **resolved** that the Council **make an order** in accordance with Section 207 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the creation of a public right of way over the estate roads within the housing estate **Doonan Court, Donegal Town** as set out in the attached maps, to enable it to proceed with the taking in charge of the estates.

On the proposal of Councillor _____ seconded by Councillor _____ it is **resolved** that the Council **make an order** in



accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare the estate roads within the housing estate **Doonan Court, Donegal Town** to be a public road and **note** the consequential provisions contained in Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) whereby this Council will also take in charge the water services infrastructure and the public open spaces or car park within the attendant grounds of the development and will subsequently transfer the water services within the estate to Irish Water.



APPENDIX C

CAPITAL PROJECTS DELIVERY UNIT

Report to Donegal Municipal District Members: Dec 2023

Activity / Project Title	Killybegs 2040
Project Description/Activity	<p>Killybegs 2040 is a transformative town centre regeneration project which forms part of the longer-term regeneration strategy.</p> <p>The project elements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The change of use, extension and modification of Island House (currently an existing derelict and vacant building) to provide a tourist information and reception centre, digital hub, public conveniences, café space, and all associated site development works. An extension is proposed at first and second floor levels and will include a glass viewing area. • Provision for a 1000 sq m civic space and alterations to road layout and car parking arrangements, including footpaths, open paved areas, planting, landscaping, public seating etc. The improved car parking and road layout will improve access to both Island House and the Civic Space to support overall regeneration plans. • Acquisition of key regeneration sites for the future delivery of appropriately located additional car parking and linkages between Main Street and Shore Road.
Budget	€5.4m
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status	<p>Works are progressing on Island House. External and Internal blockwork is complete and roof covering has been installed with windows now measured and in fabrication.</p> <p>Works on public realm are continuing, with sections along the Shore Road and Main Street substantially complete. Works to the main central realm area have commenced with structural concrete works underway to form the steps and ramps.</p> <p>The 'Coal Yard' temporary car park for the project is now operational.</p>
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p>It is anticipated that Island House works will progress with windows to be installed and internal first fix works to commence.</p> <p>Works on the public realm space will continue with the Diamond central civic space and car park to be significantly progressed.</p>
Contact Person(s)	Michael Quigley, A/Executive Engineer Ardal McDermott, A/ Senior Executive Engineer



Donegal Municipal District - 12th December 2023 Motions

Agenda Item No.8

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09003

Submitted By: Cllr. Niamh Kennedy**Assigned To:** Economic Development

Motion "That this MD calls for financial help and planning, from Failte Ireland, Udaras and Donegal County Council /Donegal Tourism for the Area from Malin Beag to Malin Mor and the Silver Strand Beach as it is the biggest tourist attraction after the Glencolmcille Folk Village and the Sliabh Liag Cliffs in this area. The improvement works on the carpark at the Silver Strand beach which needs attention, lining and barrier etc to be included in the financial help and planning. The huge influx of campervans in the region along with the cruise ship coaches are welcome but planning and investment in the area is required."

Signed Off By:

Response: There are a number of separate aspects to this motion. In relation to the car park at Silver Strand, work is ongoing within the Council to address this and the MD will be advised once this is completed. Substantial capital funding, not currently available under Roads budgets, would be required to put in place a fit for purpose, modern car park at this location and options on funding will be explored once the initial internal work is completed. The Donegal Caravan and Camping Study adopted and being implemented by the Council sees a range of enabling actions being delivered and it is envisaged that this will assist in dealing with both the opportunities and challenges presenting from such visitors. With regard to the general suggestion around Malinbeg, Malinmore and Silver strand, a meeting can be requested of Udaras na Gaeltachta and Failte Ireland but it is suggested that greater clarity is needed, in advance of such a request, in relation to what the ask is of them.

Agenda Item No.9

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09008

Submitted By: Cllr. Barry Sweeney**Assigned To:** Roads

Motion "That this MD considers the taking in charge the access path between Colaiste Colmcille and Erne Dale in Ballyshannon. "

Signed Off By:

Response: Subject to the consent from the landowner this request can be facilitated as the public do use this path. A land dedication form will however need to be filled out and signed by the landowner and the Council which will include details of who will be responsible for the various elements of the path. We would see the fencing along the school side as being the property and responsibility of the school and the wall on the opposite side as being the property and responsibility of the adjacent landowner.



Donegal Municipal District - 12th December 2023 Questions

Agenda Item No.10

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09004

Submitted By: Cllr. Niamh Kennedy**Assigned To:** Roads

Question "What is the status of naming the Killybegs Industrial Road as was requested in this MD last year, the proposed road has the preferred name by the public and this road naming should be carried out with no further delay."

Signed Off By:

Response: Initial clarification has been sought in relation to this procedure, however, further queries in relation to this process is required.

Agenda Item No.11

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09007

Submitted By: Cllr. Niamh Kennedy**Assigned To:** Roads

Question "Can a plan of action be carried out for Malin Beag to Malin Mor to the silver strand beach carpark and that where potential road widening is required for buses and coach laybys are needed. Where the road needs draining and where the fencing on the waterside is reinstated by barriers or other equivalent protective infrastructure."

Signed Off By:

Response: To facilitate this request it will be necessary to secure the specific funding needed to carry out the road widening, drainage, fencing and layby works and one way of securing this funding could be through the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). If the community are interested in applying for a CIS I will arrange for a application form to be sent on to them.

Agenda Item No.12

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09005

Submitted By: Cllr. Tom Conaghan**Assigned To:** Roads

Question "Is it possible to review the ability of the traffic warden to fine people on the spot for expiration of tax certificate? In my opinion a warning of 5 to 10 days giving people a chance to pay their tax within that time would be sufficient."

Signed Off By:

Response: The parking section have advised that fines issued by traffic wardens for non payment of motor tax are only issued to vehicles where the motor tax certificates has expired for more than two months. This two month period is more than sufficient time to pay the motor tax on the vehicle.

Agenda Item No.13

Office Ref:DLMD-2023-09006

Submitted By: Cllr. Tom Conaghan**Assigned To:** Roads

Question "Is it possible to carry out a review on all speed limits in Donegal Town, in particular in the vicinity of the Abbey Vocational school and all primary schools in the area?"

Signed Off By:

Response: Both areas mentioned are within the urban area which has a 50kph speed limit. A Speed Limit Review is currently ongoing and there will be a public consultation for the speed limit review in early 2024 subject to elected member approval. New speed limit review submissions will be accepted as part of the upcoming public consultation. Note however there is a pending national review on speed limits and i understand that this is before the Cabinet at present and my understanding is that in urban areas the proposal is to reduce the speed limit form 50kph down to 30kph in built up areas like town centres and housing estates. Subject to cabinet approval, a new set of Department of Transport Guidelines would then be created and issued for future Speed Limit Reviews. This would see potential for a significant change in speed limit for Donegal Town.