

**Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall**

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Leifear.

2ú Eanáir, 2024

**Fógra Cruinnithe**

Beidh Cruinniú de Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall ar siúl **De Máirt 9ú Eanáir, 2024, 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

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**Municipal District of Donegal**

Office of Meetings Administrator,  
County House,  
Lifford.

02<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal will be held on **Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
2. Consideration of Minutes of the Municipal District of Donegal Housing & Corporate Workshop held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
3. **Update Reports from Council Services:**
  - 3.1 Housing & Corporate Services
  - 3.2 Roads & Transportation
  - 3.3 Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services
  - 3.4 Environment Services
  - 3.5 Community Development
  - 3.6 Planning Services
4. **Date of Next Meeting(s) / Workshop(s)**
  - MD Meeting on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> February 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 TUESDAY THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 IN THE PETER  
KENNEDY CHAMBER, DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

**MDD/144/23 MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MDD/145/23 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal  
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. Joy Harron, Senior Economic Development Officer, Economic  
Development  
Ms. Suzanne Bogan, Environmental Awareness Officer, Environment  
Section  
Mr. Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community Development  
Ms. Aideen Quinn, A/Executive Planner, Planning  
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate  
Services

**MDD/146/23 Also in attendance**

Mr. Michael McDevitt, Project Worker, Donegal Youth Council  
Ms. Rowan Buchanan, Youth Councillor  
Ms. Gabrielle Irwin, Youth Councillor

**MDD/147/23 APOLOGIES**

Mr. Pauric Sheerin, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Ms. Caroline Britton, Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

**MDD/148/23 STANDING ORDERS**

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

**MDD/149/23 VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Votes of sympathy were passed in respect of the following:-

- The late Kathleen O'Donnell formerly of Hughies Barr, Killybegs
- The late Maureen McHugh, Ballyshannon, mother of Declan McHugh, former Councillor
- The late Ronan Wilson, Co Tyrone who was tragically killed in Bundoran

- The late Kevin McGlynn, son of Philip McGlynn, former Bundoran Town Councillor

**MDD/150/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Jordan the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/151/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 03<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Budget Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/152/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/153/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ROADS WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Naughton the Minutes of the Roads Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/154/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ROADS WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the Minutes of the Roads Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 were confirmed.

**MDD/155/23 DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

The Members welcomed Ms. Rowan Buchanan, and Ms. Gabrielle Irwin, Youth Councillors and Mr. Michael McDevitt, Project Worker, Donegal Youth Council to deliver a presentation on the work of the Youth Council. Ms Buchanan and Ms. Irwin delivered a detailed presentation to Members.

The main topics covered in the presentation were as follows;-

- The Importance of Young People understanding Democracy
- Programme of Work
- Youth Conference 2023
- Committees they take part on
- Road Safety Show
- Best Practise in Youth Participation Event (CYPSC)
- Cruinniú na nÓg
- Consultations Youthopia
- International Women's Day
- National Showcase
- Drugs, Alcohol Tobacco and Vaping
- Irish Heart Foundation Conference
- Social Media Awareness campaign
- Podcasting

Cathaoirleach Conaghan thanked the Youth Councillors for their detailed presentation and commended them on their good work and opened the floor to Members for questions/comments.

Members complimented the Youth Councillors on their work. In particular, in relation to events that they had ran or participated in, including, Road Safety, use of Social Media Platforms and awareness / education regarding toxic sites and influences of social media, Democracy/Politics and importance of same, wellbeing, alcohol/drugs, vaping, wellbeing, opportunities / education / Youthopia, Youth Conference etc., Equality etc.

A number of other comments/queries were dealt with at the meeting.

Members thanked and complimented the Youth Councillors on their presentation and activities and encouraged them to keep in contact so that the Members could assist / support the Youth Council where possible in their endeavours.

At this point the Youth Councillors thanked Members for their support and taking the time to receive their deputation and departed the meeting.

## **MDD/156/23 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Ms. McCann informed Members that the follow ups from the ' previous meeting had been dealt with and that the responses to the various requested correspondence had been forwarded to Members.

### **Schedule of MD Donegal Meetings 2024**

Ms McCann referred to the circulated Schedule of MD Donegal Meetings for 2024; the Schedule as below was noted.

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

#### **Christmas Holiday Opening Days**

Ms. McCann informed Members that that Council Offices would close for Christmas at 12.30pm on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 and would re-open on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 9.00am. She confirmed that emergency numbers would be published on the Councils website as normal to deal with emergencies only, same as in previous years.

#### **Proposed Section 183 disposal by means of a short term lease of the former Bundoran Town Council offices to Bundoran Community Group.**

Ms. L McCann referred to the discussion at the earlier workshop on the proposed Section 183 disposal of the former Bundoran Town Council offices via a short-term lease to the Bundoran Community Group. Ms. McCann noted that the terms of the lease had been accepted by the Bundoran Community Group which includes monthly rent of €500.00 plus utilities to be paid separately when costs are known. On the proposal of Cllr McMahan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny, Members agreed that the proposed Section 183 proceed to the next meeting of the Plenary Council. Members also thanked Ms. McCann and Mr. Martin for progressing the Section 183 on behalf of the community group. Ms. McCann informed Members that the matter would now proceed formally to the Plenary Council with the expectation that matters could be finalised for the group in January 2024.

## **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 noted the reports circulated with the agenda. In particular, she highlighted the large number of housing allocations during 2023 including 52 houses allocated since September with the completion of new houses in Donegal Town and Ballyshannon. She also confirmed that the Budget Programmes for 2023 have been completed e.g., Deep Retrofit and that preparations are underway for 2024 in anticipation of further allocations for the schemes.

#### **Housing Capital Report**

Ms. T Quinn updated Members on the Housing Capital report. Members noted works on the new housing scheme in Bundoran have commenced and the SI at Kilcar is due to go to tender in January 2024, The proposed development at Fintra Road Killybegs is due to go to Part VIII in May 2024 noting ongoing negotiations with Uisce Eireann to be concluded. Members also noted ongoing considerations regarding surface water disposal at the Laghey site which must be resolved and that final construction drawings are awaited from the contractor for the proposed 35 turnkey houses in Donegal Town.

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

#### **Phase 1 Drumacrin, Bundoran**

Cllr McMahon welcomed the commencement of construction of the 42 housing units in Bundoran and thanked Members and Officials for bringing the project to this stage. He also welcomed that Glebe Builders had won the contract submitting that this will bring much work and economic benefits to the area during construction. He also advised that a meeting had been held with residents and that there will be co-operation for the project. Cllr McMahon requested that a meeting be arranged to include Road Design, Roads, Planning, Housing and Uisce Eireann, to ensure that the access road to the new development can be planned and progressed noting that it is important that this matter is addressed satisfactorily.

Cllr Naughton seconded the request for the meeting, who also referred to a potential zoning issue regarding the land on which the proposed access road may be constructed, which will need to be addressed by the Council. In response to the request for the meeting, Ms. L McCann confirmed she would follow up on same in the New Year.

Members welcomed the commencement of the works on the scheme in Bundoran and commended the progress in general in the Housing Programme.

### **Housing**

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the progress on the Casual Vacancies and the coming on stream of the five new houses in Ballyshannon.

### **Housing Acquisitions**

In response to a query from Cllr Sweeny regarding progress on Housing Acquisitions, with the numbers on the housing waiting list, and in particular e.g. the purchase of existing buildings, Ms. McCann informed Members that there are currently four acquisitions being pursued in this District and that the housing section will continue to source additional acquisitions.

### **Site Acquisition in Ballyshannon**

In response to a query from Cllr Sweeny regarding an update on a site acquisition in Ballyshannon for social housing, Ms. McCann advised she would seek an update and revert to Members.

### **Planning approval for houses at Portnason, Ballyshannon**

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the grant of planning permission for a private housing development at Portnason in Ballyshannon.

### **Pending discussion in Dáil Eireann on proposed Eviction Ban**

Cllr Jordan referred to a proposed discussion due in Dáil Eireann on an eviction ban and sought information on numbers in this district in emergency accommodation and details of what emergency accommodation is available in this District for persons who find themselves homeless. He submitted that the Repair and Lease Scheme is not working and should be discontinued or amended. He referred to the Tenant in Situ scheme and submitted that the cost limits on purchases is too low advising that it is a sellers' market at present. He stated that he wanted an eviction ban and that some of the schemes that are in place to assist persons are not working. He welcomed the new houses that have been completed noting that it means a lot to people to be allocated a house.

In response to the matters raised by Cllr Jordan, Ms L McCann informed Members that there are currently two single persons and a family in emergency accommodation in this District, by means of supported Bed & Breakfast/Hostel type accommodation. She submitted that the housing section liaises with the St. Colmcille Hostel in Letterkenny which provides emergency accommodation. She also referred to the Council actively seeking transition houses that will assist persons to avail of private rented if appropriate e.g if they don't have Landlord references. However emergency accommodation is largely dependent on supported Bed and Breakfast/Hostel Accommodation. Other measures she referred to are the HAP Placefinder and allocations from the Council's own housing stock to assist homeless persons. In relation to the schemes that are currently in place, she informed Members that the housing section through



Headquarters in Lifford provides feedback to the Department of Housing on Schemes. In relation to the Repair and Lease Scheme, she noted that this scheme is a loan, rather than a grant, and is led by the owners if they wish to progress, similar to the Tenant in Situ Scheme. She noted that some schemes are working well and referred to the Croí Conaithe Scheme which is of huge assistance to dereliction.

### **Casual Vacancies**

Cllr Kennedy referred to one of the properties on the Casual Vacancy list which has been vacant since May 2023 and submitted that this was a long time for a vacancy not to be re-allocated.

### **Housing in Donegal Town**

Cllr Naughton welcomed the progress provision of housing in Donegal noting that there will have been around seventy houses allocated in the Donegal area in 2023 which is good news and further welcomed the progress on the Casual Vacancies which has just two houses on same at present. He also noted that other schemes are progressing and that any new houses allocated may help to free up private rented accommodation.

Cllr Conaghan welcomed the progress in the housing provision and thanked officials for all the progress during the years noting that he hoped great progress could also be made in 2024.

### **Fintra Road, Killybegs**

Cllr Kennedy referred to the update on Fintra Road, Killybegs (17 Units) noting the update that part VIII planning would be in May 2024 and submitted that it takes a long time for Capital Projects to be delivered. She referred to the lack of social housing in South Donegal which is a difficulty for the area.

### **Request for a meeting with Uisce Eireann**

Cllr Naughton requested that an 'in person' special meeting be arranged with Donegal County Council and Uisce Eireann as it appears that Uisce Eireann decides if schemes can progress with connection fees etc. that they apply and submitted that it is important that this meeting would take place shortly to discuss these issues.

### **Refusals of offers for housing**

Cllr Naughton referred to great standards of new houses and to the number of refusals of offers and submitted that consideration should be given to stopping Housing Assistance Payments to applicants in the event of refusals of reasonable accommodation. He submitted that he was shocked at the number of refusals.

### **Croí Conaithe**

Cllr Naughton welcomed the progress of the Croí Conaithe Scheme noting 462 active applications, 206 approved applications with 8

houses completed. He submitted that this is a great scheme which will help rejuvenate our towns and villages.

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/157/23 ROADS / TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT**

### **2023 Roadworks Programme Status Report**

Members noted the reports on the Road Works Programme displayed on the screen at the meeting. Due to an oversight the roads report was not loaded onto the Members sharepoint system and Mr. E Monaghan confirmed to Members that he would forward the report to Members immediately after the meeting.

### **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: -

- Circulate a copy of the Dunkineely Scoping Study Report
- Discuss Bundoran Quay car parking issue and road lining with the Marine Section
- Consider the creation of addition passing bays on the Creevy Pier Road
- Install a road counter adjacent to Rossnowlagh Friary
- Carry out works to the damaged railing in Pettigo
- Investigate the overhanging tree at Donaldson's Corner outside Belleek and discuss the review of the Hedge Cutting Policy with Senior Management

### **Part VIII Ballyshannon Bundoran and Donegal Town Active Travel**

Mr. M Sweeney thanked Members for approving the Part VIII Planning Approval for the Active ravel Projects. This was also welcomed by Cllr Sweeny.

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

#### **Donaldsons Corner**

In response to a query from Cllr McMahan if the works at Donaldsons Corner would be completed before Christmas, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would check same and revert to Cllr McMahan.

#### **Pier Bundoran – parking issue**

Cllr McMahan submitted he would like something done at the Pier in Bundoran e.g., erection of Bollards and height barrier. In response to

same Mr. M Sweeney informed Members, he would arrange to meet with the Marine Engineer to discuss same.

#### **Potholes in Bundoran Area**

Cllr McMahon welcomed the works done on potholes with the Patcher and queried if one could be purchased for this Municipal District. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that the Patcher would be back in the area next week and that a programme of pothole repairs would be in place during 2024. He also informed Members that consideration is being given to either renting or purchasing a Patcher.

#### **Works to be completed at Bosco Moohans Corner on the Drumacrin Road.**

In response to a request for some repair works to be completed at Bosco Moohan's corner, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that the patcher is in the area and these works would be done shortly.

#### **Junction at Saimer Drive, Ballyshannon**

Cllr Sweeny referred to issues with trees at the junction at Saimer Drive, Ballyshannon and also issues with parking on the Right-Hand Side of the Junction. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney advised he would review this junction noting that the cycleway may have an impact on same.

#### **Potholes at Kildoney, Ballyshannon**

Cllr Sweeny queried if the potholes at Kildoney, Ballyshannon had been repaired by the Patcher. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney advised this would be sorted when the Patcher is next in Ballyshannon.

#### **Dunkineely Scoping Report**

Cllr Kennedy raised a number of queries in relation to the scoping report undertaken on Dunkineely, submitting that the time of year and the location of the count may not be truly reflective of the traffic in the area. She submitted that the other side of the town may have produced different results had the survey been undertaken there.

Cllr Jordan submitted that the speeds recorded at Dunkineely have decreased due to the signage erected by parents of the National School children. He submitted that the only long-term solution is for the off road set down area at the school to proceed but that the school is not yet obtaining approval for emergency funding to carry out these works from the Department of Education and asked that a letter of support issue on behalf of the Municipal District, to the Minister for Education supporting the School Principal's application for emergency funding.

In response to the same, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members he would be happy to write a letter of support for the School in their application for funding to the Department of Education, to construct the set down off road parking area at Dunkineely National School, which in any

case was a planning condition on their planning permission for the construction of the extension to the school.

Mr. Sweeney also advised Members he would go through the details of the traffic report on Dunkineely and would feedback any concerns or proposals from Members to the National Roads Office

### **Emergency Funding to Repair Private Roads**

Cllr Kennedy queried if there is any emergency funding to assist persons on private roads that have been damaged by flooding submitting that this is an issue for people to be able to afford to carry out necessary repairs. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that some assistance may be available through the Department of Social Protection, but that Roads would continue to explore if any opportunities to apply for any such emergency funding should the opportunity arise.

### **Industrial Road Killybegs**

Cllr Kennedy referred to her previous request to name the Industrial Road, Killybegs as “The Glenlee Pass” which was agreed by Members. She noted that she had submitted a question on same and noted the response. She proposed that the naming of the road be progressed as a matter of urgency. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jordan and agreed. In response to same, Mr. M Sweeney advised he would refer the matter to Roads Central for follow up, noting that legal advice is being sought.

### **Active Travel – request for a footpath out to Abbots, outside Donegal Town**

Cllr Naughton asked if a footpath could be extended out to Abbots outside Donegal Town. In response to same Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that funding has been secured through a specific development charge for an extension to the footpath at this location. Cllr Jordan also asked if the trees could be cut on the narrow footpath close to this area. In response to same Cllr Conaghan advised that the trees at this location had already been cut.

Mr. M Sweeney also informed Members that the NTA are focusing the funding of Active Travel Scheme on the larger population bases in the first instance and that he is hoping to get projects through the Part VIII Planning process and shovel ready so that if funding becomes available for reallocation, the DMD Roads Office would be ready to progress such projects.

### **Request for a one-way system at Shiel Avenue, Bundoran**

Cllr Naughton requested a one-way system at the Shiel Avenue, Bundoran near St. McCartan’s National School. In response to the request Mr. M Sweeney advised Members he would refer same to Road Design as this would require Part VIII Planning approval noting that he understands that additional staff are being assigned to the Road Design Section next year to assist with such projects.

### **Meeting with TII in Dublin (Delegation)**

Cllr Naughton referred to the recent meeting he attended with TII in Dublin and noted that the continuation of the improvement of the road from Inver to Killybegs is not in the National Planning Framework. He submitted that this needs to be addressed.

Mr. M Sweeney noted the importance of getting this road onto the National Planning Framework so that it major improvements can be funded in the future on this road.

Cllr Naughton noted that a lot of safety works have been carried out on County Donegal roads which is to be welcomed as referred to at the TII meeting.

Cllr Naughton also advised that the TII is introducing a new scheme for safety measures on National Roads.

### **Safety Measures at Laghey**

Cllr Naughton welcomed the positive news on the proposed safety measures at Laghey Junction, noting that the funding has been approved and that the Part VIII will be completed in 2024.

This was also welcomed by Mr. M Sweeney.

### **Greenways/Footpaths**

Cllr Naughton noted that the TII is dealing with Greenways and that this scheme is to get more people walking. He submitted that there needs to be a scheme in each county to provide paths to enable walking to schools, as a lot of schools are outside of the speed limits in towns and villages. He referred to the proposed footpath coming into Laghey and queried if there might be some climate action or other source of funding for same as these type of works would suit a lot of schools.

In response to same Mr. M Sweeney advised Roads would look at the Community and Climate Plan to see if there is a funding source in same that can be used to construct footpaths. He also noted that the Permeability Link Funding for footpaths is to be prioritized and a workshop will be arranged at a later date for same.

Cllr Jordan submitted that the Department of Transport had been asked to review the policy on funding footpath extensions to schools where they are outside to the town/village speed limits.

### **Water running onto Roads**

Cllr Naughton requested that efforts to address water running onto roads and causing damage. In response to same Mr. M Sweeney informed that there is an ongoing programme to deal with this matter which in some instances also involves discussion with Landowners to solve issues.

## **MDD/158/23 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

Ms Joy Harron presented the report for the Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, as circulated with the Agenda with topic headings noted below:-

- Economic Development
  - Economic Development Unit
  - Tourism Marketing Unit
  - Strategic Funding Unit
- Local Enterprise
- Emergency Services
- Appendix – Shared Island Updates

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

### **Donegal Tourism**

Cllr Kennedy referred to a Donegal Tourism Sectoral Forum, which was previously chaired by Mr. Barney McLaughlin which brought all of the Tourism Sector together and was a great source of information sharing and communication for the sector and asked if this could be re-introduced. Cllr Sweeny agreed with same. In response to same Mr. G Martin informed Members that there is an associate grouping in place which is a smaller group than the sectoral forum and that her proposal could be brought to Donegal Tourism for consideration. Cllr Kennedy also asked if the contact details of the Membership of the Donegal Tourism Board could be communicated to Members and Mr. G Martin advised that same would be circulated.

### **Bundoran Water World**

Cllr McMahon congratulated Ms. Aine Temple and Water World on their recent award noting that it had been a very successful year for the centre.

### **Irish Rail**

Cllr McMahon expressed his disappointment at the level of service on the trains running into Sligo submitting that TII and Irish Rail Service was not satisfactory and damaging to attracting visitors to the area. Cllr Sweeny submitted that he recently travelled on the train to Dublin from Sligo and found the service good. Ms. J Harron informed Members that issues with the Irish Rail service were raised before and that she would review same again.

### **Tourism Operator Concierge Service**

Cllr Sweeny queried if this service guided tour operators to certain events / areas and if so, how is it fed in to promote festivals etc. In response to same, Ms. J Harron informed Members that the details of

same are on the website but that she would look at same in more detail and revert to Members via the tourism team. Mr. G Martin also informed Members that Donegal Tourism is the vehicle for marketing tourism and recommended contacting Sarah Nolan in this regard, noting that additional resources are being added to the tourism team in 2024.

#### **Sustainable Arctic and Peripheral Biking Tourism Project**

Cllr Sweeny queried if there are any opportunities with the Sustainable Arctic and Peripheral Biking Tourism Project.

#### **Minor Tourism Related Work Scheme**

Cllr Sweeny queried if there is a deadline for applications and funding for the Minor Tourism Related Work Scheme. In response to same, Ms. Joy Harron advised she would seek additional information and revert to Members.

#### **Campervan facilities funding**

Cllr Naughton queried if all the allocated funding for the Campervan Facilities provision had been paid out noting that there are development charges with such developments which disincentivise such developments which are important to the County. He queried why such a level of development charges would apply for such developments. In response to same, Mr. G Martin advised that the council needed to be mindful that these facilities are provided by the private sector and that it needs to be viable. He advised that the Council does not have sufficient funding to increase the grants but that the costs need to be as such so as not to be unattractive for service providers. He advised that the matter could be reviewed internally.

#### **ATU Apprenticeships**

Cllr Naughton welcomed the €4.7m funding for the ATU Killybegs for apprenticeships which is a good investment for Killybegs and good news for young people.

#### **Broadband Rollout**

Cllr Jordan referred to the National Broadband rollout and asked if there would be a Municipal District Workshop to update Members on same. He noted that some areas of the county still have poor broadband service and the fibre service is necessary in these areas to enable people to work from home. In response to same Mr. G Martin informed Members a briefing had been held with Members in September 2022 and that the issue for the rollout, is resources. He advised there is a broad outline on the website. He submitted that he could ask for a Municipal District presentation, but it was unlikely that it would be granted. He also advised that Northern Ireland is largely complete at this stage and that this will likely free up resources to work on the National Broadband Rollout.

In the interim he submitted that Starlight is a reliable wireless service provider.

### **MDD/159/23 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES REPORT**

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

- Climate Action
  - Notice of the Preparation of the Donegal County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029
  - Community Climate Action Fund
  - Sustainable Energy Communities Programme – Financing for Energy Master Plans
- Waste & Litter Management
  - School Bikes for Africa Campaign
  - Waste Management – End of Year Update
  - Waste Enforcement Priority: Household & Commercial Waste
  - National Food Waste Recycling Week
  - National Waste Enforcement Priority: Producer responsibility initiatives and additional local priorities
- Central Laboratory
  - Public Service Announcements – Water Quality
  - Farm Inspections
  - Amendment of Septic Tank Grant Scheme

Ms. Bogan informed Members that a pack would issue to Members in early January 2024 with a view to seeking the adoption of the Climate Action Plan in February 2024. She also advised that a Community Climate Action Plan Officer is to be in place in January 2024 and that there would be information sessions on the Community Climate Action Fund on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. She also noted the amendments to the Septic Tank Grant Scheme.

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

#### **Community Climate Fund**

In response to a query from Cllr Naughton if the Council can apply to the Community Climate Fund, Ms. S Bogan advised Members that the Council could not as applications have to be community led with the community group taking on a project and obtaining planning permission if required and then delivering the project. In respect of some issues the Council could consider the active travel avenue in respect of new footpaths. She also confirmed that the Environment Section would assist groups with applications groups for funding to the Community Climate Fund.

In response to a further query from Cllr Naughton, Ms. S Bogan informed Members that the Officer dealing with the Community



Climate fund would be in situ, in the second week of January 2024. She also asked that groups are be encouraged to avail of funding through the Community Climate Fund and through the Shared Island funding.

### **Amendments to the Septic Tank Grant Scheme**

Cllr Naughton welcomed the amendments to the Septic Tank grant scheme with increased grants and the removal of the requirement to have a tank registered with Protect Our Water on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013, with the changes coming into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

In response to a request for an update on requested change to the well grant scheme, which Cllr Naughton would work well in conjunction with the Croí Scheme as a lot of applications are in rural areas, Ms. S Bogan advised she would bring the query back to Headquarters for follow up.

### **Bottle Banks Donegal Town**

Cllr Naughton expressed his dissatisfaction that Members were not informed directly regarding the works at the Bottle Banks, Donegal Town which have been temporarily removed to facilitate works on the area. Cllr Kennedy also expressed her dissatisfaction in the manner in which this was dealt with as Members had received a lot of complaints from the public with no prior notice of what was taking place.

Cllr Conaghan noted that he had been working on this issue for some years and was pleased that a resolution was now being implemented. He expressed his thanks to Mr. John McCarron for his efforts to come up with a solution for the bottle banks which are to return to their current location after modifications to the site have been completed.

### **Water Supply in Bundoran and Parkhill**

Cllr McMahon referred to two recent disruptions to the water supply in Bundoran submitting that the water main is in need of replacement and also referred the water quality at Parkhill and Portnason, Ballyshannon and requested an update on same. In response to the request, Ms. S Bogan noted that she did not represent Uisce Eireann but she would bring the request back to Headquarters for follow up.

Cllr Sweeny submitted that it would be timely for Uisce Eireann to plan to replace the water main from Ballyshannon to Bundoran given the proposed cycleway that is due to be constructed which might avoid unnecessary works being carried out after the cycleway has been constructed. He asked that this be communicated to Uisce Eireann. In response to same. Mr. M Sweeney informed Members that this matter has already been brought to the attention of Uisce Eireann.

### **Shed at Water World Bundoran**

In response to a query from Cllr McMahon as to who would be responsible to repair the roof on a shed at Water World Bundoran

which houses the ESB sub-station for Water World, it was clarified that this is a matter for Water World to deal with in liaison with the ESB.

### **Special Areas of Conservation (SECs)**

In response to a request for a Map of the 32 SECs to be made available, Ms. S Bogan informed Members that same is available on the SEAI website.

### **Use of Drones for Illegal Dumping**

Cllr Jordan welcomed that training of staff in the use of drones to assist with the detection of illegal dumping. He also welcomed the approval from the Data Commissioner for the use of CCTV in detecting littering/illegal dumping, which he hoped would allow for more prosecutions of these offenses.

## **MDD/160/23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES**

### **Community Development**

Mr Paddy Doherty noted the report included the following matters:-

- Playgrounds
- Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth & Destination Towns
- Leader / RDP Programme Update

### **Playgrounds**

In response to a query from Cllr McMahon if any additional funding had been provided for the West End Playground in Bundoran, Mr. P Doherty advised Members that there had not been other than the funding already provided.

### **Planning Services**

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

- Development Applications
- Enforcement
- 2023 Planning Clinics
  - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023
  - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Regeneration & Development Team Report
- Building Control & Taking In Charge
- Capital Projects Delivery Unit

Ms Quinn referred to the number of planning applications processed in the Municipal District during 2023. She also highlighted the ongoing activities in the report including the Croí Conaithe update report.

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

## **RRDF**

In response to a request for an update on progress on 'Back to Ballyshannon', given that the process is three years into being and if the potential for housing could be brought into the RRDF either in one element or progressed separately, Ms. A Quinn informed Members that she would ask Mr. Paul Kelly to revert to Members with an update.

## **Building Control**

### **Doonan Court, Donegal Town**

On the proposal of Councillor Naughton seconded by Councillor Jordan 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 Jordan seconded by Councillor Naughton 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.

## **MDD/161/23 DISCUSSION ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AT MALIN BEAG TO MALIN MÓR AND THE SILVER STRAND BEACH**

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

*"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".*

Members were given a response to the motion by the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services.

In speaking to this motion, Cllr Kennedy referred to the area submitting that the area has a lot to offer but needs assistance. She referred to Bed & Breakfasts, Hostels, Coffee Stands, the Silver Strand Beach, Slí Colmcille and the Appalachian trail to name but a few attractions in the area. She referred to the portaloos at Silver Strand Beach that had blown over, the wall that has been promised for the car park at the same location and the need to look after the Malinbeg side of the area. She submitted that of the 30 cruise ships that came this year, all had tourists who went to the area. She submitted that the area requires assistance from Community and Economic Development, Fáilte Ireland and Udaras and asked that the agencies put a plan in place to improve the area to make it more attractive and for the benefit of locals and visitors. She submitted that the area has a lot of potential and also that land is available for Campervan Facilities to be provided.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Jordan submitted that he was glad to second the motion noting that the area needs investment including passing bays on the road and road widening and work on the Silver Strand Car Park. He also noted that the area is on the Wild Atlantic Way.

**MDD/162/23 DISCUSSION ON THE CONSIDERATION TO TAKE IN CHARGE THE ACCESS PATH BETWEEN COLÁISTE CHOLMCILLE AND ERNE DALE IN BALLYSHANNON**

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

*“That this MD considers the taking in charge the access path between Colaiste Colmcille and Erne Dale in Ballyshannon”.*

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

In speaking to his motion, Cllr Sweeny welcomed the response to his motion and submitted that the path has a few issues that could be dealt with. He noted that the path runs into school property and that it is a safe route to get around.

Cllr McMahon in seconding the motion submitted it would be a nice project to bring forward.

**MDD/163/23 REQUEST FOR AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF NAMING THE KILLYBEGS INDUSTRIAL ROAD**

The following question was submitted by Cllr 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”.*

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation.

**MDD/164/23 REQUEST FOR AN ACTION PLAN TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT FROM MALIN BEAG TO MALIN MÓR AND THE SILVER STRAND BEACH**

The following question was submitted by Cllr 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”.*

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation.

**MDD/165/23 REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THE ON-THE-SPOT FINING SYSTEM FOR THE EXPIRATION OF A TAX CERTIFICATE**

The following question was submitted by Cllr 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”.*

Cllr Conaghan received a response from the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation.

**MDD/166/23 REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THE SPEED LIMITS IN DONEGAL TOWN**

The following question was submitted by Cllr 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?”*

Cllr Conaghan received a response from the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation.

**MDD/167/23 Date of Next Meeting / Workshops**

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

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

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

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**Cathaoirleach  
Municipal District of Donegal**

**Minutes of Workshop of Municipal District of Donegal held on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the Peter Kennedy Chamber, Donegal Public Services Centre, Donegal commencing at 11.00 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal  
Ms. Linda McCann, A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

**Apologies**

Mr. Pauric Sheerin, Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Ms. Caroline Britton, Housing & Corporate Services

**Minutes**

**Corporate Services**

**1. Proposed Section 183 – Short Term Lease of former Bundoran Town Council Offices**

Ms. L Mc Cann briefed Members in relation to a proposed Section 183 disposal by means of a short-term lease of the former Bundoran Town Council Offices to Bundoran Community Group. She advised that the monthly rent payable would be €500.00 and in addition, the Community Group would also pay actual utility costs including, heating, lighting, water charges etc. She confirmed to Members that the terms of the lease have been accepted by the Community Group. Following a short discussion, Members confirmed their support for the proposal and advised that they would confirm their agreement to the proposal at the Meeting of the Municipal District which is due to be held after the workshop. Members thanked the officials for progressing the matter on behalf of the Community Group. Ms. McCann confirmed that the matter would be dealt with formally at the MD meeting.

**2. SI House at Trummon West, Laghey**

Ms. L McCann briefed Members in relation to the previous discussions in relation to the SI House at Laghey which as previously agreed, had been advertised for sale by tender in September 2023. She confirmed that 7 tenders had been received and briefed Members on the range of tenders i.e., from €20,000 to €105,000. Members noted that the highest tender had been written to and had confirmed that they would proceed with the purchase and were aware that any proposed disposal was subject to Members agreement via the Section 183 disposal process. It was previously agreed that Members would review the situation after tenders were received. Ms. McCann

Workshop - Municipal District of Donegal on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

briefed Members in relation to numbers on the social housing waiting list for the Laghey area, and regarding potential refurbishment costs for this property.

Following a discussion, Members decided not to proceed with the disposal, given the demand for social housing in the area. Accordingly, Ms McCann informed Members that the proposed disposal would not proceed and that the person(s) who had submitted the highest tender would be informed accordingly.

**This concluded the business of the Workshop.**

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**Area Manager,  
Municipal District of Donegal**

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**Cathaoirleach,  
Municipal District of Donegal**





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

## Municipal District of Donegal

09<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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### **Housing & Corporate**

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## **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

**Casual Vacancies**

<b>Area</b>	<b>BED</b>	<b>Dwelling Vacated</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ballyshannon	3	Keys returned 14/12/2023	Assessment Stage
Laghey	3	Keys returned 13/04/2022	Assessment Stage
Donegal Town	1	Keys returned 08/11/2023	Assessment Stage
Donegal Town	3	Keys returned 07/12/2023	Assessment Stage
Bruckless	3	Keys returned 25/05/2023	Assessment Stage

Position as at 27th December 2023

**HOUSING GRANTS**

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED\INVALID	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HO	2022	89	79	7	2	1
HO	2023	106	78	2	15	11

	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	66	34	6	0	5	4	0	17

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED\INVALID	REAPPLIED UNDER HD GRANT	REF. TO OT	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HM	2022	41	31	5	5	0	0	0
HM	2023	36	21	1	7	0	4	3

**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	15	1	0	8	4	2

**Tenant Purchase Applications 2022 - 2023**

Year	No. of Apps Received	Incomplete Returned	Open Applications	Refused/ Not Eligible	Offer letters Issued	Completed
2022	9	1	4	1	3	0
2023	22	1	16	2	3	0

<b>HAP/PRD</b>	
<b>HAP Tenancies</b>	
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Number</b>
Donegal	202
Letterkenny	679
Glenties	111
Stranorlar	282
Inishowen	422
Sub Total	1696
Tenancies Closed	2909
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>4605</b>
Updated 27/12/2023	

#### Housing Need by Location

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Waiting List (Net Need)</b>	<b>Transfer List</b>	<b>Total Gross Need</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>381</b>
Ballintra	8	8	16
Ballyshannon	34	48	82
Bruckless	6	3	9
Bundoran	40	56	96
Carrick	1	2	3
Donegal	72	44	116
Drimarone	0	1	1
Dunkineely	1	3	4
Frosses	0	2	2
Glencolmcille	3	0	3
Kilcar	2	2	4
Killybegs	11	16	27
Laghey	2	3	5
Mountcharles	3	6	9
Pettigo	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>381</b>
Updated 27/12/2023			

**Housing Capital Update Report  
Donegal Municipal District Meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**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
<b>Construction Stage</b>		
Railway Park, (Phase 3)	Construction works completed 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.	24
Drumacrin, Bundoran Phase 1	Contractor appointed and works have commenced on site. Contract period for the works is 20 months.	42
<b>Design / Tender Stage</b>		
Largymore, Kilcar (SI)	To be advertised for tender in January 2024.	1
<b>Preliminary Design Stage (No of units subject to change)</b>		
New Row, Fintra Road, Killybegs	Engagement is ongoing with Uisce Eireann regarding existing watermains which traverse the site and sewer connection for the development. On site surveys and investigations are complete. The design of the proposed development has to take into consideration requirements for diversions, easements and connection agreements.	17
Laghey	Investigations are ongoing into the options for surface water disposal for the proposed houses to the rear of the site. The abnormal costs associated with surface water disposal on the main street for the houses to the front of the site are also being reviewed. Engagement is ongoing with adjoining landowners in relation to the necessary party wall agreements.	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>

**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. Further acquisitions are being considered by Donegal MD.

### 3. Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

Donegal County Council has opened 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, 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2026. Any enquiries from interested parties should be sent via [eTenders](#).

Separately, turnkey acquisitions at Brookfield, Donegal Town and [Rockview, Ballyshannon](#) are complete providing a total of 43 no. high quality and energy efficient social housing units in Donegal Municipal District.

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. Finalised drawings are awaited 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	0	19	0	19
Glenties	20	20	0	20	0	20
Letterkenny	35	60	8	27	0	35
Stranorlar	26	83	3	23	0	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>
Updated 28/12/2023						

**Donegal Municipal District  
2023 Roadworks Programme  
Status Report - 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024**





# Donegal Municipal District

## 2024 Road Improvement Programme

**2024**

Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area	Year	Width	Length (m)	Total Area of work (sq.m)	Estimated Cost (EURO)	Status
		To be agreed when funding is announced							
								€0	

## Donegal MD footpath repair & public lighting infill works

### 3 Year Programme

Footpath Works										
RSS Area	Location	Year 1 Budget 2018	Year 2 Budget 2019	Year 3 Budget 2020	Overall Total Amount	Spent to date Year 1 2018	Spent to date Year 2 2019	Spent to date Year 3 2020	Overall total spent	Remaining balance
14	Mountcharles	€5,729.00	€16,600.00	€24,350.00	€46,679.00	€5,729.00	€17,515.99	€1,873.82	€25,118.81	€21,560.19
	Dunkineely			€23,432.00	€23,432.00			€9,650.00	€9,650.00	€13,782.00
	Frosses		€16,600.00	€23,432.00	€40,032.00		€2,759.75	€0.00	€2,759.75	€37,272.25
15	Killybegs	€15,568.00	€16,600.00	€50,000.00	€82,168.00	€15,575.78	€16,600.00	€51,817.02	€83,992.80	-€1,824.80
	Kilcar			€3,200.00	€3,200.00			€2,958.60	€2,958.60	€241.40
	Glencolumbkille		€8,300.00	€16,314.00	€24,614.00		€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€24,614.00
	Carrick		€8,300.00	€1,700.00	€10,000.00		€7,919.45	€1,772.90	€9,692.35	€307.65
16	Ballintra			€11,214.00	€11,214.00			€11,214.00	€11,214.00	€0.00
	Ballyshannon	€95,244.00	€16,600.00	€35,000.00	€146,844.00	€79,716.00	€10,375.66	€30,966.14	€121,057.80	€25,786.20
	Bundoran		€16,600.00	€25,000.00	€41,600.00		€16,600.00	€25,000.00	€41,600.00	€0.00
17	Donegal Town	€32,897.00	€16,600.00	€47,214.00	€96,711.00	€24,048.08	€17,500.00	€586.70	€42,134.78	€54,576.22
	Laghey		€8,300.00	€8,000.00	€16,300.00		€9,450.16	€0.00	€9,450.16	€6,849.84
	Bridgetown			€6,000.00	€6,000.00			€19,788.65	€19,788.65	-€13,788.65
	Pettigo		€8,300.00	€10,000.00	€18,300.00		€880.35	€0.00	€880.35	€17,419.65
<b>Totals</b>		<b>€149,438.00</b>	<b>€132,800.00</b>	<b>€284,856.00</b>	<b>€567,094.00</b>				<b>€380,298.05</b>	<b>€186,795.95</b>

#### DMD 2022 Footpath Repair works

RSS Area	Location	Budget 2022	Overall spent	Remaining balance
14	Ardaghey Area	€6,346.67	€0.00	€6,346.67
15	Killybegs Area	€17,246.37	€14,894.81	€2,351.56
16	Ballyshannon Area	€105,492.62	€10,867.79	€94,624.83
17	Donegal Area	€36,424.34	€0.00	€36,424.34

#### 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		
	Mountcharles	Lower End Mountcharles –	€6,750.00	Completed		
	Mill Park Hotel, Doonan	Proposed lighting from Doonan Roundabout to	€9,500.00	Completed	€27,662.46	-€541.46
15	Kilcar	Lighting improvement	€10,650.00	Completed		
	Killybegs	Old Fintra Rd near Glenlee	€18,725.00	Yet to commence	€11,181.57	€18,193.43
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		
	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	€26,025.48	€18,074.52
<b>Total amount</b>			<b>€130,596.00</b>		<b>€90,733.51</b>	<b>€39,862.49</b>



**Donegal MD Active Travel Projects**

Jan	Project Name	Project Description	Project Band	Current Phase	Phase 6 Construction Date planned	DCC Comments
DL/21/0002	Proposed Footpath between the Niall Moore National School & Foresters Hall carpark Killibegs	Construct a footpath leading from a drop off carpark to the main entrance of the Niall Moore National School	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q4 2021	Works completed - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/21/0008a	Ballyshannon, Bishop Street	Provision of footpath on (L-2465-1)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , preliminary design ongoing, public information evening complete, introducing a One-Way system could be challenging in order to achieve the project objective.
DL/21/0008b	Donegal Town, Killibegs Road	Provision of infill section of footpath on the Killibegs Road (R925)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed, Planning received Nov 2023, detail design and land requirements to be progressed 2024.
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	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed, Planning received 2022, detail design and land requirements to be progressed 2024.
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 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2022	Works complete - Final Close out report to be issued to NTA
DL/21/0008d	Kilcar	Proposed footpath extension to Kilcar National School (R263-8)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q4 2021	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/21/0008e	Kilcar	Proposed footpath extension past local church to nearby car park (R263-8)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2022	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
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	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed, Planning received 2022, detail design and land requirements to be progressed 2024.
DL/21/0008g	Bundoran	Construction of an infill section of footpath along the L-2575-1 to link the Crest of the Wave housing estate to the existing public footpath.	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2022	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/21/0009a	Glencolumbcille	Proposed footpath improvement works in Glencolumbcille (R263)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q2 2022	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/21/0009b	Carrick	Proposed footpath improvement works in Carrick (R263 & L1125)	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q4 2021	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/21/0023	Safe to Schools Programme - Scoil Aodh Rua & Nuala	Safe to Schools Programme	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Q4 2024	Green Schools delivery plan received Q4 2023 Prelim design ongoing. Planning likely required.
DL/21/0024a	TOWNPARKS BALLYSHANNON PED CROSS	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2021	Works completed - final close out report required 2024
DL/21/0024b	BUNDORAN TOWN PED CROSSING LIGHTS UPGRADE	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2021	Works completed - final close out report required 2024
DL/21/0024c	ROCK RD BALLYSHANNON, PED CROSSING	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2021	Works completed - final close out report required 2023
DL/21/0024d	COLLEGE ST BALLYSHANNON, PED CROSSING	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q3 2021	Works complete - Final Close out report issued to NTA
DL/22/0001	Cycle Parking Donegal Town MD	Installation of bike parking facilities.	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q2 2022	Works complete - Final Close out report to be issued to 2024
DL/22/0002	Donegal Town One Way system	It is proposed to introduce a One-Way System onto Tirchonaiil 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 6 - Construction	Q4 2023	ACS Civil Ltd have been appointed to carry out the works. Works to be completed by Q2 2024.
DL/22/0005	Ballyshannon to Bundoran Active Travel Scheme	Old N15 (now R267) Bundoran to Ballyshannon Cycling Greyway	Band 2 <10mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	Q3 2024	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , Planning received Nov 2023, detail design 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	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, Planning received and detail design & land acquisition ongoing.
DL/22/0003	Laghey Village (Old Laghey 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	Q4 2025	Options to be considered to deliver footpath link in 2024
DL/22/0014	Malinmore Footpath , Glencolumbcille	Glencolumbcille - provision of a footpath along the R263 West of Glencolumbcille in the direction of the Folk Village.	Band 1 <0.5mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	Q4 2025	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design ongoing.

**Donegal MD Community Involvement Schemes 2024**

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	
			To be agreed when funding is announced									
										€0.00		

**Donegal MD**

**2024 LIS Priority List -**

**2024 Budget**

To be agreed when funding is announced

**DMD %**

18.6715%

**DMD Budget**

										Total	
RSS Area	Location	Percentage of budget	Budget	Priority	LIS No	PSCI Rating	Townland	Engineers cost estimate	Notes	Status	
14	Ardaghey	44.73%	€0.00								
15	Killybegs	27.64%	€0.00								
16	Ballyshannon	9.82%	€0.00								
17	Laghey	17.82%	€0.00								
								Total	€0.00		
								Budget	€0.00		
								Balance	€0.00		

**2024 Specific improvement Grant**

MD	Road Number	Location	Description	LA Allocation	Status
Donegal		Yet to be announced			



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

**Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services Directorate**

**Master Municipal District Report January 2024**

**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**

**Appendix 1 – Shared Island Project Updates November 2023**

**1. Division: Economic Development**

**1.1 Economic Development Unit**

**Project / Activity Report**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Economic Development Unit</b>				
<b>Letterkenny/ Milford MD</b>	<b>Letterkenny 2040 Strategic Urban Regeneration Site – Phase 1 (Alpha Innovation Centre, Beta Business Centre &amp; Public Realm):</b> Project to go to tender in January 2024 for construction contract, with construction expected to commence on site in Q3 2024 and estimated project completion date set for Q3, 2025.				
<b>Stranorlar/ Lifford MD</b>	<b>Lifford Lands:</b> Planning application for enabling infrastructure has been approved An Bord Pleanála. Procurement for construction of enabling infrastructure is progressing. The EDU is engaging with prospective companies and other parties in relation to the development of this site.				
<p><b>County Wide</b></p> <p><b>#BuyDonegal / #CeannaighDúnnanGall 2023</b></p> <p>The 2023 #BuyDonegal campaign ran for a period of 5 weeks until 2 December 2023. This award-winning initiative, which will be in its fourth year, showcased the high-quality and renowned Donegal brands across a wide range of sectors including creative, services, tourism, and retail. Over 300 businesses have been involved in the #Buydonegal campaign to date. A website has been developed to showcase the businesses <a href="http://www.buydonegal.com">www.buydonegal.com</a></p> <p><b>Donegal Tech Advocates</b></p> <p>Donegal Tech Advocates was established in order to promote, grow and empower the Tech sector across Donegal. Plans for 2024 include the development of branding and a focus on growing the membership. A launch event will be held later in the year.</p> <p><b>Relocation Marketing Campaign</b></p> <p>The #MoveToDonegal campaign has reached over 3.5 million across all social media platforms and received over 65 relocation enquiries. The team have been working with TG4 and WDC on the TV show ‘Move West’. The Donegal episode will be aired in January 2024.</p> <p><b>InvestDonegal Communications Update</b></p> <p>Latest key stats for the InvestDonegal LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and web accounts are as follows;</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="203 1724 938 1829"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="203 1724 365 1755"><b>Impressions (last 28 days)</b></th> <th data-bbox="743 1724 938 1755"><b>Total Followers</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 1793 365 1824">Linked In     15,589</td> <td data-bbox="743 1793 938 1824">4,981(+45)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Impressions (last 28 days)</b>	<b>Total Followers</b>	Linked In     15,589	4,981(+45)
<b>Impressions (last 28 days)</b>	<b>Total Followers</b>				
Linked In     15,589	4,981(+45)				



Twitter 17.8K 3,937(+953)

Instagram 2,652 4,178(+26)

Facebook 31,292 2,074 (+25)

Donegal.ie 3.4K Web Users

8 News Items Published.

### ALPHA Innovation Update

#### ***New Series - Innovation Campfire:***



ALPHA Innovation is delighted to announce our new #InnovationCampfire Series which will take place on the second Wednesday of each month. This series provides employees and entrepreneurs an opportunity to take a moment out of their busy days to see the world through a different lens. Over the coming months, our 10-minute sessions will:

- Showcase inspiring innovation stories from around the world.
- Learn from the experiments, tests, fails, quick wins, and big successes of others.
- Enable participants to be part of a growing community of like-minded individuals.
- Allow participants to shape future sessions by volunteering to tell a story they are passionate about

The first episode was live on 13<sup>th</sup> of December, and you can watch back by You can watch back by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/233241176726354>.

#### **Online Selling Workshop:**

ALPHA Innovation recently collaborated with the Inishowen Development Partnership and the #BuyDonegal team to deliver an 'Online Selling Workshop' on Friday 17 November, to prepare businesses for the upcoming Black Friday selling period and the #BuyDonegal campaign. Hosted in the Inishowen Innovation hub in Bunrana, the 3-hour session was delivered by Grace Shields of Social Scene PR and went through:

- How to get started selling online.
- Explored how to maximize sales during #BuyDonegal and Black Friday.
- Developing a strategy to increase revenues in 2024.
- Gained an understanding of applying for support such as Local Enterprise Office Donegal's Trading Online Voucher.

Participants left with a prioritized Action Plan to drive sales in their business over the festive period.

### **Shared Island Funded Projects Update**

Scoping and Feasibility Studies along with Business Cases have been completed for four projects namely NW RegTech Initiative, Slí Colmcille, Crossborder Innovation Plazas and Regenerative Tourism Initiative. This work was funded under the Shared Island Local Authority Grant Scheme. Project documentation has been submitted to both the Shared Island Unit and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in accordance with the grant scheme. See November MD report appendix 1 for further detail.

### **Investment in the North West City Region:**

#### **Golden Bridges and the US Trade Mission 2023**

This took place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 attended by the NWCR delegation. Joe Kennedy III, US economic envoy to Northern Ireland also attended.
- As part of the US trade mission 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, 4 were from the Life Sciences sector and 6 were from the Tech, Saas, AI sector.
- The 'Ireland's North West City Region' brand was promoted throughout the US Trade Mission and at Golden Bridges 2023 through using new branded marketing collateral.
- The NWCR delegation met with contacts in Philadelphia to discuss tourism collaboration opportunities with agreement to explore the potential of a golf tourism focused initiative between the US and the North West City Region.
- The NWCR delegation met representatives of CSC Station, Wilmington, Delaware in relation to their Innovation Hub and potential collaborations with the North West City Region.
- The Donegal Association Philadelphia hosted an evening reception for NWCR delegates. This event provided an opportunity to build relationships and nurture connections with the Diaspora in Philadelphia and to showcase the latest developments and inward investment initiatives in the North West City Region.
- The NWCR delegation met with management of 'Pennovation Works' an Innovation Centre in Philadelphia. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss Innovation Centre business models and approaches.

- The NWCR delegation attended the IABCN Life Sciences Summit 2023, which provided an opportunity to network and discuss potential collaboration opportunities.
- The Boston State House representatives hosted a reception with NWCR delegates to further strengthen civic links with Boston MA and update on the opportunities and challenges facing the NWCR.
- A meeting between IDA & INI US East Coast with North West City Region representatives took place to agree pathways on collective branding and marketing to accelerate inward investment location determination for the NWCR.
- Other meetings were held with key US coast contacts including Harvard University and the World Trade Centre in Boston.

### **North West City Region - Irish Embassy Event in London**

This North West City Region event was hosted by Ambassador Martin Frazer on 4th December 2023 at the Embassy of Ireland in London. The objective of this event was to promote Ireland's North West City Region in relation to trade and investment and to demonstrate the competitive advantages of doing business in the North West City Region. The event is also marked the 25-year anniversary of the Good Friday agreement and to share success stories of how the region has evolved since from an economic development perspective and highlighted the benefit to businesses of locating in this region which can provide seamless market access to both the EU and UK. The Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Cllr. Martin Harley and Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Patricia Logue along with Council Executive representatives were in attendance.

Approximately 60 guests attended the event including key business and community representatives, partner organisations, key influencers and Diaspora representatives. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships with the Diaspora and other key contacts in the UK.

And included a panel discussion moderated by Tip O'Neill recipient 2023, Caroline McLaughlin, Executive Director at Morgan Stanley, UK. Panelists included Denis Curran, Head of Regions, Property and Enterprise Development at the IDA and Darragh McCarthy, CEO at FinTrU.

The event was also supported by stakeholders including the IDA Ireland, Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland, Atlantic Technological University, Ulster University, Donegal ETB and the North West Regional College along with businesses operating in the region. Those who attended are being invited to continue to engage with the NWCR via the various social media channels and ezines.

### **Irelandnw.com Website**

The NWCR website has been updated with the new branding and with new content.

### **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:

- 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: We continue to promote the ‘campers code’ on Govisitdonegal.com.
- Signage: New signage has been successfully trialled at various pilot locations to encourage responsible disposal of waste and to direct campers to private sector sites to avail of services there. This will be rolled out to other locations in 2024.
- Marketing: The Tourism Unit has delivered a marketing campaign via a dedicated page on Go Visit Donegal providing information on the camper code, private sector sites, waste disposal and service point information. New campaigns will run in 2024.
- Campers Service Point Review: A review of the workings and management of existing service units has been conducted and presented to the Economic Development SPC.

### Concierge Service

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](mailto:economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie)

### Diaspora

**Open Call to Artists – Tip O’Neill Annual Irish diaspora Award Re-design** – Calls for artists submissions for a new design of the annual Tip O’Neill Irish Diaspora Award is now open. Details of project requirements can be found on Donegal.ie and Donegal County Council website. Deadline for submissions – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to [info@donegal.ie](mailto:info@donegal.ie)

**London Irish Centre:** A Donegal-themed event is confirmed for the London Irish Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with Packie Bonner and Shay Given alongside ETB and HSE promoting our relocation campaign and employment opportunities in the county.

**Scottish Diaspora:** Collaboration ongoing with the Donegal Scotland Diaspora group on a number of upcoming initiatives:

- 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 - Event now confirmed for 25<sup>th</sup> April 24.

### Contact Person

**Joy Browne – Senior Economic Development Officer**

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**Mobile** – +353 (87) 614 7496

**E-Mail** – [dmcchrystal@doneglcoco.ie](mailto:dmcchrystal@doneglcoco.ie)

## **1.2: Tourism Marketing Unit**

### **Project Activity Report**

#### **Holiday World Show 2024**

Event taking place in RDS, Dublin from Fri 26th – Sun 28th January 2024. The show is expected to attract over 550 exhibitors, and 40,000 attendees. Donegal Tourism Unit have invested in purchasing their own stand and branding for this event and to be utilised at future promotional events. Sixteen local providers will be exhibiting and promoting their business alongside Donegal Tourism at the Holiday World Show stand. 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](http://www.holidayworldshow.com)

#### **New Tourism Brochure 2024**

Our Tourism Brochure for 2024 will be ready for Holiday World 2024 at the end of January.

#### **Age Friendly/Disability Strategy**

Tourism Team 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**

Tourism Team 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.

#### **Donegal 550**

Donegal Tourism is part of the Steering Group looking at celebrating Donegal Town 550 in 2024. A calendar of events is currently being collated and a final weekend of celebrations taking place in the fourth quarter of 2024.

#### **Tourism Ireland Marketing Plans 2024**

Donegal Tourism will attend the launch of Tourism Ireland's Marketing Plans for 2024 in January which will give an insight into the year ahead, there will also be an opportunity to attend one-to-one workshops with their overseas business exchange staff.

#### **Shoulder Season Campaign Spring 2024**

Donegal Tourism will re-start its shoulder season campaign, which ran in autumn 2023, again in February 2024. The aim of this campaign is to drive incremental visitors to our county in the non-peak period.

#### **TOURBO Project**

The implementation is continuing of the Interreg European TOURBO project, led by Seville Chamber of Commerce, which will help small and medium sized tourism businesses with green and digital transformation. 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**

SUB (Sustainable Arctic and Peripheral Biking Tourism Project) is progressing and will provide businesses with an opportunity to learn from various good practice approaches across Europe to encourage sustainable biking business.

### **Supporting the development of Golf Tourism**

**Golf Cluster Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January in Letterkenny Golf Club.

### **GoVisitDonegal.com Website**

**2023 (Jul 01<sup>st</sup> – Dec 18th)** - Users 144,756- Page Views 369,465.

Festival and Events is the most viewed page – views 33.031

### **Online & Social Media Updates – Go Visit Donegal**

**Facebook:** Facebook had a reach of 109,968. Donegal announced as Lonely Planet Top Places To Visit was the highest reaching post.

**Instagram:** Instagram had a reach of 14,745. The best performing content related to Donegal It's Yours campaign.

**LinkedIn:** There was an increase of 35 new followers.

**Twitter:** 2,964 impressions over the last 28 days.

**TikTok:** TikTok has 58 followers.

### **Donegal Tourism CLG**

The board of Donegal Tourism CLG 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 on a weekly basis.
- Compilation and distribution of monthly email newsletter.

### 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.
- Producing the annual “Reeling in Bundoran” blog gives a retrospect of 2023. The top 5 Instagram posts will be shared from each month from December 20<sup>th</sup> until New Year’s Eve.

### Website

- the Discover Bundoran website continues to perform strongly year on year with the pages views from 2022 (Jan-Dec 308,589) being surpassed by the end of November this year. The website will surpass the targets set for 2023.

**Website users and page views:** 2023 (Jan-Dec 11th) - Users 143,081 - Page Views 317,280

### Waterworld

Marketing plan for the 2024 season is waiting to be approved by SMT and the board.

### Other activities:

- A further training event has taken place for the new Discover Bundoran Volunteer Events Team which has 23 volunteers. Colm Croffy from AOIFE (Association of Irish Festival & Events) gave a three-hour workshop on various aspects of event organisation and promotion.

Tourism Officer attended the Cruise Ireland meeting in the royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin.

<b>Contact Person</b>	Sarah Nolan <a href="mailto:sarahnolan@donegalcoco.ie">sarahnolan@donegalcoco.ie</a> Acting Head of Tourism Unit 074 91 94241
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### **1.3: Strategic Funding Unit**

#### **Project / Activity Report**

**Strategic Funding Unit** – exploring EU and National Funding Opportunities that support the objectives set out in the **Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024**

#### **PEACE Plus**

The SFU is currently exploring opportunities around PEACE Plus, in particular the Investment Area 2.2, the Innovation Challenge Fund. 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>

#### **CPMR General Assembly**

Donegal County Council will continue its membership of the CPMR in 2024. Atlantic Arc Commission Hub meetings will be held on 31 January & 1st February 2024 incorporating meetings of the Fisheries & Aquaculture Working Group and the Atlantic Tourism & Culture Working Group.

#### **Project Partnership & Development**

The SFU is exploring several 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.

#### **Two new EU projects successfully funded.**

The SFU applied for two projects under the Interreg Europe funding call and both have been successfully funded, the Green Hydra and EDIN project. They will launch in late January/early February 2024.

The *Green Hydra* project's main scope is to improve national, regional, or local policies for involving SMEs across the whole hydrogen value chain by ensuring better conditions for the following:

- promoting Green Hydrogen as a viable energy transition solution.
- greening existing value chains and creation of new ones.
- financing for testing equipment.
- upscaling innovations related to green hydrogen products and services.
- supporting identifying needs for skills, knowledge development, education and communication and measures for their upscaling.
- identifying new social and economic measures of energy transition project

The *EDIN* project is focused on Digital Nomads (DN) in European regions. Promoting regions as viable locations for digital nomads to work represents an opportunity for the sustainable development of partner regions. The EDIN project intends to engage in knowledge exchange learning on how to adapt or change policy instruments in order to attract digital nomads to the variety of member states involved in the project in order to fully exploit the benefits they can bring to the regions in the form of talent, tech and tourism.



**AER Summer Academy 2024**

DCC hosted the Summer Academy in Donegal in 2022 in partnership with Udarás na Gaeltachta. The next Summer Academy youth focused event will take place in Norway in August 2024. There will be an opportunity for Donegal County Council to send 2 delegates to this event, 1 youth and 1 adult and host a workshop at the event, which is expected to bring over 150 people from across EU member states and beyond.

**Contact Person****Joy Browne – Senior Economic Development Officer****Mobile:** +353 (87) 0619360**E-mail:** [joybrowne@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:joybrowne@donegalcoco.ie)

## 2. Local Enterprise Office

### Summary of December 2023 Outputs/Events:

**Grant Aid (M1)** – Business Expansion, Priming (Start-Up) & Feasibility -51 Businesses have been approved Grant Aid in 2023 totalling **€713,412**. The next EVAC meeting will take place on 1st February 2024.

**Trading Online Vouchers** – 64 Businesses approved support in 2023 to trade online with a value of **€141,423**.

**Mentoring 2023** – 303 Businesses have received this support in 2023

**Training** – 2,592 Business attendees at 105 Events in 2023.

**Micro Finance Ireland** – 2023 - 10 applications submitted to MFI. A total of €156k in loan finance recommended by LEO Donegal and approved by MFI.

Digital Start – 24 applications approved in 2023.

Green for Business – 21 applications approved in 2023.

Energy Efficiency Grants - 1 application approved in 2023.

Lean For Business – 17 applications approved in 2023.

### **European Enterprise Network (EEN)**

LEO Donegal, on behalf of the LEO network and the Enterprise Europe Network in Ireland, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, at the Merits Innovation Thinkspace in Naas County Kildare.

The second Brokerage event, title **“Meet the Buyer – Construction, Engineering, & Sustainable Energy”** will occur on the **9<sup>th</sup> of February 2024** at Mount Lucas, County Offaly.

### **Ambition - Excellence in Local Government Award**

The LEO initiated Ambition Programme won the Chambers Ireland Diversity & Inclusion award at the Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin. Ambition is a pre-accelerator programme which focuses on female entrepreneurs. The most recent programme engaging 15 early-stage female entrepreneurs concluded in December at an in-person event in the Harvey’s Point Hotel.

### Upcoming Events/Programmes:

#### **Start Your Own Business Programme 2024**

The Start Your Own Business Programme is recommencing on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and is already fully booked. This will be the first of 7 Programmes scheduled to take place during 2024. The February programme is starting on 6<sup>th</sup> February and is available for booking on the LEO Donegal website.

**Lean, Green & Digital for Business Information Sessions**

Information Sessions for Lean, Green and Digital productivity supports will take place in January and early February to raise awareness of the scope of each programme and encourage sign-up. Businesses can sign-up for these free events through the Local Enterprise Office website.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/donegal>

***Donegal Stories:*** Website highlighting the businesses of Donegal that have been supported by the LEO. <https://donegalstories.ie/>

**Contact Person**

Brenda Hegarty, Head of Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

074 9160735

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### 3. Emergency Services – Fire Service

#### Fire Service Monthly MD Report (January)

Activity	Number of: (November) <sup>1</sup>		Total for year	
<b><u>Fire Service Operations</u></b>				
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	53		702	
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	61		892	
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	3		70	
<b><u>Operational Activity Breakdown November 2023</u></b>				
	Turnouts		Incidents in County	
	Fires	Special Services	Fires	Special Services
Donegal Fire Service	20	41	14	37
Northern Ireland Fire Service	2	1	2	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>53</b>	
<b><u>Fire Prevention</u></b>				
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	22		221	
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	47		N/A	
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	66		N/A	
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	18		200	

Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	0	11
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	0
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	5	38
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	7	221
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:	0	55

**Current data is only available up to the end of November 2023.**



**ENVIRONMENT MD REPORT – January '24**

**CLIMATE ACTION**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Adoption of the Final Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	A pack for Members including Chief Executive's Report on Public Consultation Submissions, and the Final Climate Action Plan for adoption will be issued in mid 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.
<b>Contact Person</b>	Lorraine Arbuckle, Climate Action Co-ordinator <a href="mailto:larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie">larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie</a>

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Community Climate Action Fund announced</b>
<b>Project Description/ Activity</b>	<p>Donegal County Council has opened applications under the Community Climate Action Fund and is accepting applications from the <b>29<sup>th</sup> December 2023 until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024</b>.</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>There are two strands of funding available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strand 1: focuses on direct climate action building low carbon communities;</li><li>• Strand 1A: focuses on cross-border projects in partnership with communities and organisations in Northern Ireland.</li></ul> <p>The fund is open to not-for-profit community groups and clubs.</p>

A series of public information sessions will be held by Donegal County Council as follows:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Venue:</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	7pm – 8pm	Online Webinar – registration details to follow.
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	7pm - 8pm	Letterkenny Public Service Centre, Eircode F92TNY3
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	7pm - 8pm	Dungloe Public Service Centre, Eircode F94H4CF
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan '24	7pm - 8pm	Carndonagh Public Service Centre, Eircode F93YV1N
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	7pm - 8pm	The Base Enterprise Centre, Stranorlar, Eircode F93 VAK6
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	7pm - 8pm	Donegal Town Public Service Centre, Eircode F94DK6C

Any group considering making an application is advised to contact the Community Climate Action Officer at [climateactionfund@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:climateactionfund@donegalcoco.ie) in advance of making an application.

For more information on the fund and the application process visit [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

**Closing Date for Applications 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.**

**COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

**Coming Soon!**

The Community Climate Action Fund is due to launch on 29th December 2023 to support climate action in local communities.

**Public Information Sessions**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **Online Webinar - Registration details to follow**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **Letterkenny Public Service Centre**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **Dungloe Public Service Centre**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **Carndonagh Public Service Centre**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **The Base Enterprise Centre, Stranorlar**
- 30<sup>th</sup> Jan '24 - 7pm - 8pm - **Donegal Town Public Service Centre**

For more information visit [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Applications will be invited from communities located in Donegal for small, medium and large projects.

 **Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council
  **Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
**GNIOMHÚ AR SON NA HAERÁIDE**  
CLIMATE ACTION  
Donegal County Council
  **Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland
  **Tionscadal Éireann**  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

# COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

## Strand 1(a) Shared Island Community Climate Action

Launch date 29th December 2023

Strand 1A:  
Focuses on cross-border projects in partnership with communities and organisations in Northern Ireland.

### Themes include:

- Community/Energy
- Sustainable Travel
- Food & Waste
- Shopping & Recycling
- Local Climate & Environmental Action

For more information visit [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

For details of upcoming information sessions on the above fund visit [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Applications will be invited from communities located in Donegal with a partner in Northern Ireland



Riailas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

### Contact Person

Lorraine Arbuckle, Climate Action Co-ordinator  
[larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie](mailto:larbuckle@Donegalcoco.ie)



<p>Activity / Project Title</p>	<p>Christmas Greenpiece</p>
<p>Project Description/ Activity</p>	<p>The collage features several key messages:         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Donegal Recycling Centres:</b> Christmas &amp; New Year Holiday Arrangements (Monday 25th &amp; Tuesday 26th December - all sites closed; Monday 1st January 2024 - all sites closed). For normal opening hours, visit <a href="http://www.brysonrecycling.org">www.brysonrecycling.org</a> or <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie">www.donegalcoco.ie</a>.</li> <li><b>STOPFoodWaste.ie:</b> Turn your Christmas leftovers into delicious meals. Examples include Turkey, Cheese, Cranberry Sauce; Vol-au-vents; and Turkey, Muesli, Cream, Puff Pastry. Tip: 'Love your turkey leftovers this Christmas. Why not try...?'</li> <li><b>Recycling - Free of Charge:</b> Glass, Cars, Aerosols, Textiles, Household Appliances, Mobile Phones, Car Batteries, Sewing Machines, Soft Plastic.</li> <li><b>Recycling - Charge Applies:</b> Paper, Cardboard, Coasting Oil, Engine Oil, Tyres, Gas Bottles, Plastic, High Plastic, Soft Plastic.</li> <li><b>Recycle your Glass &amp; Cans:</b> at over 70 Bring Bank locations. Please: Do not litter, Do not put plastic into the banks, Do not leave empty boxes.</li> <li><b>RECYCLE YOUR "NATURAL" Christmas Tree FOR FREE THIS JANUARY:</b> From Tuesday 2nd January to Saturday 27th January 2024. 16 Locations throughout the County, visit <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie">www.donegalcoco.ie</a>.</li> <li><b>FOOD WASTE HACKS:</b> If you're breaking eggs and some shells gets in, use another piece of the shell to get it out again. Freeze sliced fruits/berries/herbs to add to drinks as "ice cubes". Use strawberry tops and squeezed lemons twice! Keep celery stems in water to keep them fresher for longer. Top up a frozen pizza with all the vegetables you've got. Give staling baguettes new life by slightly wetting their surface and warming in the oven.</li> </ul> </p>
<p></p>	<p>The Council has been encouraging householders to recycle as much as possible over the festive season. Christmas is a time where we have a lot of excess packaging, all plastic packaging including soft plastics can now be placed into your <b>household recycling bin</b>, together with paper and card and tins and cans, just remember to keep them clean, dry and loose.</p> <p>Householders are also encouraged to use the local <b>Recycling Centres</b>, the centres accept a wide range of materials for recycling including all electronic or electrical goods free of charge. For more information all materials that are accepted, charges and opening hours visit <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie">www.donegalcoco.ie</a>.</p> <p>This time of year can be a busy time for the <b>bring bank network</b> for the recycling of glass and cans, if a bank is full please do not leave material at the banks but return at another time.</p>

	<p><b>Make preventing food waste a New Year's resolution!</b> Check out <a href="http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie">www.stopfoodwaste.ie</a> for amazing leftover recipes for the festive season and fantastic tips of reducing your food waste. Remember to use your Food Waste Bin for any food waste left if you are in a Food Waste Bin area.</p> <p>The Council has carried out <b>an advertising campaign</b> in local newspapers with the Greenpiece, radio advertising with Ocean Fm, Highland Radio, social media campaign covering promotion of the recycling centres, household recycling bins, food waste prevention, WEEE recycling and Christmas Tree Recycling. We also carried out digital advertising with local online news sites.</p>
<b>Contact Person</b>	Matthew Byrne, Waste Regulation Officer <a href="mailto:Mbyrne@Donegalcoco.ie">Mbyrne@Donegalcoco.ie</a>



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

**Municipal District of Donegal**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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
  
4. Donegal Youth Council
  
5. Social Inclusion Unit
  
6. Community Funding Opportunity



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

Municipal District: Donegal

Activity / Project Update: January 2024

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>PLAYGROUNDS 2023</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	<b>Annual maintenance of Playgrounds</b>
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	1. Works consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacement of broken and damaged equipment</li><li>• Replace worn safety tiles and remove trip hazards</li><li>• Grease all equipment that contains bushes, bearings, shackles, etc.</li><li>• Carry out repairs along edges of safety surfaces</li></ul> <u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Safety Inspection Reports have been completed with necessary repairs identified.</li><li>• Repair works have been tendered with a submission deadline in February 2024 to appoint a playground Maintenance works contractor for 2024.</li></ul>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b> <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment of tender submissions.</li></ul>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie">jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie</a>



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

**Activity / Project Update: January 2024**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Bundoran Waterworld Playground Refurbishment</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refurbishment of the Bundoran Waterworld Playground, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co</li></ul>
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation with the Bundoran National School undertaken.</li><li>• Designs and tender documents published.</li><li>• Tender submission return deadline of 30/06/2023</li><li>• Received a number of submissions from playground contractors and the tender evaluation is ongoing.</li><li>• Contract Documents issued to the successful contractor to undertake the refurbishment works.</li><li>• Works expected to commence late October / early November and will take approximately 8-9 weeks to complete.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b> <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aiming to have playground open to the public early Q1 of 2024.</li></ul>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie">jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie</a>



**Comhairle Contae  
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Donegal County Council

**Activity / Project Update: January 2024**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>St John Bosco Playground Refurbishment (Donegal Town)</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refurbishment of the St John Bosco Playground, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co</li></ul>
<b>Budget</b> (if applicable)	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site survey completed.</li><li>• Design works have commenced on a plans to refurbish to the playground.</li></ul>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b> <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop plans and share with community group for feedback.</li></ul>
<b>Contact Person</b> (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie



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

**Activity / Project Update: January 2024**

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





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

**Activity / Project Update: January 2024**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Killybegs Playgrounds Refurbishment</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Refurbishment of the Killybegs Playgrounds, funded through the Community Recognition Fund and Donegal Co Co</li></ul>
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initial meeting with community groups to discuss the project and their vision for the playgrounds.</li><li>Donegal Co Co technical staff undertaking detailed surveys of each playground.</li><li>Surveys complete.</li><li>Initial design works in progress to develop plans for the playgrounds.</li><li>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.</li><li>Design and tender documents ready to publish, awaiting confirmation from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine before issuing tender documents due to land lease conditions.</li></ul>
<b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b> <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aiming to publish tender documents on etenders in Q1 of 2024.</li></ul>
<b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Tel: 074-9172568 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie">jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie</a>





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

**Activity / Project Update: January 2024**

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

<p><b>Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period</b> <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aiming to publish tender documents for a contractor to undertake the wayfinding signage and streetscape works.</li><li>• Installation of artwork late Q1/early Q2 of 2024.</li></ul>
<p><b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; 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: January 2024**

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



**Activity / Project Update**

**January 2024**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	Rural Development Programme/LEADER
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	Donegal Local Community and Development Committee are the Local Action Group for County Donegal, with responsibility for the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 & Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	€13,413,875 (Additional funding received 2019) <i>Note: Project costs €10,063,586, administration and animation costs €3,350,289</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022 €2,861,598 project costs €953,866 for Administration & Animation.
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>  <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 are rolling out the LEADER Transitional programme on behalf of the LAG (Local Action Group). The LEADER Transitional programme is effective from 1st April 2021 and runs until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022. €45 million is allocated nationally for the Transitional Programme and €20 million from the EURI programme. 62 projects in Donegal are now approved by Pobal under the Transitional & EURI programmes and Letters of Offer have issued/are pending, granting LEADER funding to a value of €2,861,598.
<b>Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period</b>	All funding awarded to the Donegal LAG under the Transitional LEADER programme and EURI programme has been allocated but LDCs will continue to engage with promoters on the ground regarding any potential underspend or decommitments.

	<p>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 completed the draft LEADER Local Development Strategy, with this Strategy approved in October. Contract agreements have now been signed on behalf of the Donegal LCDC, Donegal County Council and local Implementing Partners to deliver the programme in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i></p>	<p>Ciaran Martin <a href="mailto:cmartin@donegalcoco.ie">cmartin@donegalcoco.ie</a></p>




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

**Municipal District: All**

**Activity / Project Update**

**January 2024**

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Donegal Youth Council</b>
<b>File:</b>	
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	
<b>Budget (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status</b>	<p><u>Road Safety Show:</u> Each year the Donegal Youth Council, as part of their work with the Donegal Road Safety Working Group supported the Road Safety Road Show held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of October. This event saw young people from schools all over Donegal attend and hear of the very real dangers of the roads.</p> 
<i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<p><u>Letter to Minister:</u> Donegal Youth Council has written a letter to the Minister for Health concerning the issue of vaping. While a new law is to be passed on Christmas to restrict the age of vapes to over 18 and some regulations on advertising, the Youth Council feel more needs to be done. Members have highlighted the following need to be restricted or banned in their letter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ban of flavours</li></ul>

- Ban of colourful packaging and make more like cigarettes
- Ban on vaping in public spaces, similar to smoking
- Ban of advertising towards young people including social media.
- 

Wakeaton:

Donegal Youth Council members joined Foroige in a wakeaton for Homelessness. This was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October as part of Focus Ireland's "Shine a light" campaign for the homeless. Young people raised €830 for Focus Ireland while also staying awake all night to create awareness and discuss the issue of homelessness in Ireland.



Youth Conference:

The Donegal Youth Conference, formally known as the AGM was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. 125 young people from schools and youth organisations from all over the county attended the event. On the day, young people had discussion tables on the top 3 topics voted for last year of:

1. Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping
2. Mental Health
3. Social Media/Body Image

Young people were also given post-it notes on the day to highlight young face in their local communities and post them on their MD boards laid out across the room. A report of all findings from the discussions will be published early in the new year.



Vaping Conference:

Members of the Donegal Youth Council attended a conference held by the Irish Heart Foundation on the issue of vaping and Tobacco Endgame. This was held in Dublin and members heard from experts from New Zealand, the Netherlands and HSE on the day. It is hoped to work more with the Irish Heart Foundation going forward in relation to the issue of vaping.



#### Foroige Showcase:

Members of the Donegal Youth Council attended the North West Regional Showcase. This event brought Foroige projects together and gave members a chance to meet with young people and discuss their work. Members also spoke with local TD and youth service managers to highlight some of the issues facing young people.



#### LCEP (Local Economic and Community Plan):

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, members took part in a consultation on the LCEP for Donegal. On the day members discussed how the quality of life for young people could be improved in Donegal and how to retain young people in the county from immigrating.





**Podcast:**

The Donegal Youth Council's new podcast has been released with the first 2 episodes looking at the issue of vaping followed by an episode on the Youth Conference. The podcast will continue in the new year with episodes to discuss the other top issues and interviews with experts.




<p><b>Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period</b></p>	
<p><b>Contact Person</b> <i>(to include telephone number &amp; e-mail address)</i></p>	



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

Municipal District: ALL

### Activity / Project Update

Activity / Project Title	Social Inclusion Unit
<b>Progress to date and current status</b>	<p><b>Pride of Place Awards</b> Pride of place award took place in Armagh City Hotel with the following representing Donegal for 2023: Ballyshannon Regeneration Group in category Creative Places, Church Hill Community Development in category population 200-1500, Twin Towns Community Garden in category of community wellbeing, Letterkenny Indian Community Centre in category of communities welcoming new communities, Carndonagh Traders in category population 1500-4000. Congratulations to Carndonagh Traders who were presented as winners of the National award in their category.</p> 
	<b>United Nations' International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.</b>

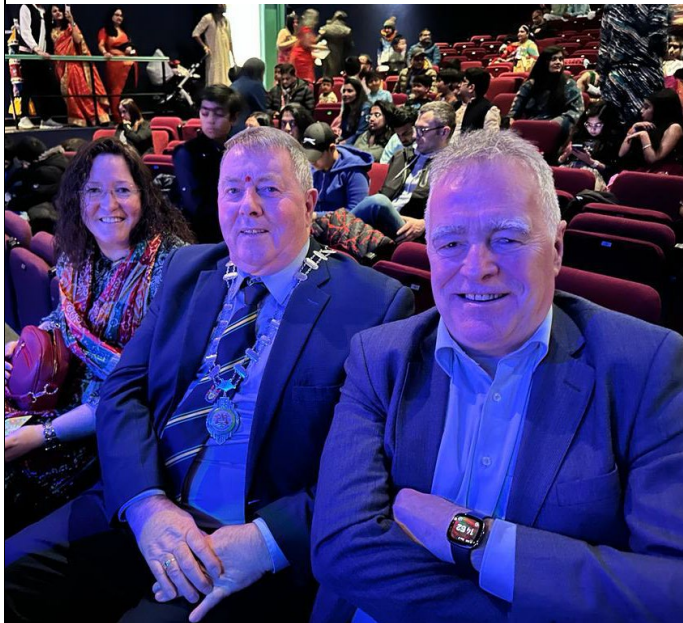
The event was hosted at the Regional Cultural Centre on Wednesday, November 29 with a screening of a Palestinian short film followed by traditional Palestinian food in Burrito Loco. This was a showcase of Palestinian culture and music. Days like this gives us the platform to highlight diversity and to showcase the Palestinian Culture here in Donegal.



### **EU Belong**

Donegal as lead on work package 4(delivery of integration strategy) with deliverable 4.1 and 4.2 complete and 4.3 to be completed by February. 2 Pilot project initiatives delivering actions from the Black and Ethnic Minority Strategy will commence in Jan 2024 lead by Donegal Intercultural Platform and Inishowen Development Partnership. EU Belong project continues to attend online knowledge sharing events.

### **Letterkenny Indian Community Celebrated - Diwali**



Diwali represents the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

Donegal Diwali was held in the An Grianan Theatre to get members engaged in Indian cultures, festivals, foods, people, and languages. This was a lovely Sunday afternoon of Indian food, dance, song, language and fun.

### **One Donegal - Social Inclusion Week 2024, 17 March – 23 March**

The week provides an opportunity to highlight the various activities undertaken locally to involve and include everyone in our County. The

	<p>programme of events provides an occasion to increase our awareness and understanding of inclusion and diversity in Donegal. We are currently working on the programme of events for this week with invites to all groups to hold events.</p> <p><b>Black and Minority Ethnic Inclusion Strategy</b></p> <p>There was a well-attended November meeting of the Implementation team where we had workshop on the LECP plan. We are currently collating the work completed in 2023 to add to the Monitoring and evaluation report.</p>		
<b>Contact Person</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="373 600 803 699">           Christina O'Donnell  <a href="mailto:codonnell@donegalcoco.ie">codonnell@donegalcoco.ie</a>            0879192272         </td> <td data-bbox="803 600 1424 699">           Charles Sweeney  <a href="mailto:charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie">charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie</a> </td> </tr> </table>	Christina O'Donnell <a href="mailto:codonnell@donegalcoco.ie">codonnell@donegalcoco.ie</a> 0879192272	Charles Sweeney <a href="mailto:charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie">charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie</a>
Christina O'Donnell <a href="mailto:codonnell@donegalcoco.ie">codonnell@donegalcoco.ie</a> 0879192272	Charles Sweeney <a href="mailto:charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie">charlesseaney@donegalcoco.ie</a>		



# Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

## COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Donegal County Council invite applications in respect of the following funding Programme: -

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### Development Fund Initiative

#### Development Fund Initiative 2024

Donegal County Council invite applications in respect of the following funding Programme: -

#### Development Fund Initiative 2024

This Fund is available to support initiatives in various forms of development including: economic, social, cultural, heritage and various related initiatives which will benefit local communities, areas and groups throughout the county.

Details of this fund are available

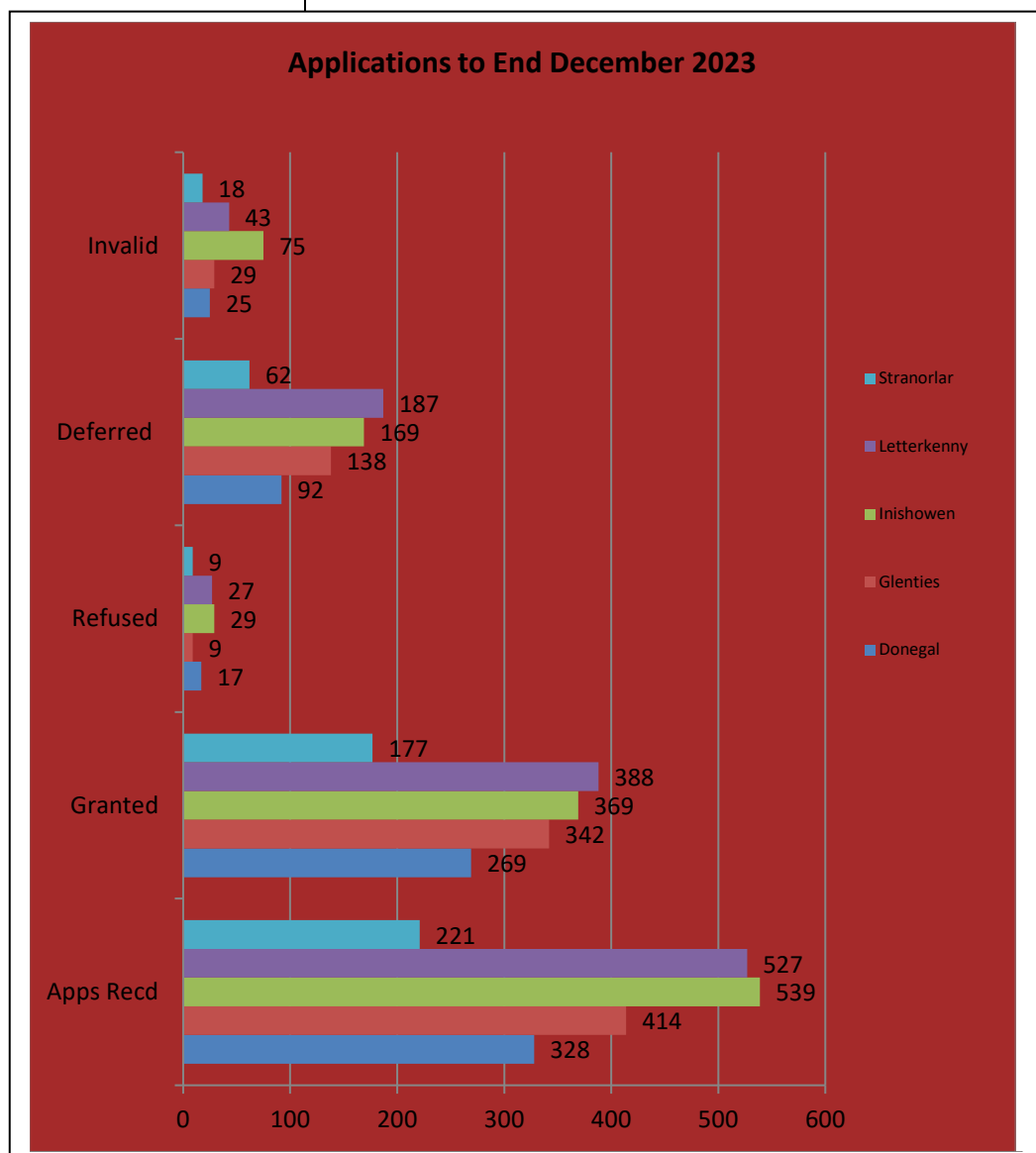
at <https://www.donegalcoco.ie/community/fundingforyourgroup/>

or can be requested by email: [dfi@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:dfi@donegalcoco.ie) or by phoning 074 9172341/087  
1141094

The closing date for receipt of completed applications under this fund is **4pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.** Applications received after this time/date will be deemed ineligible

**Donegal MD Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Item	Update												
<b>1 Development Applications</b>													
(1) Statistics	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Donegal MD Totals Year to End Dec 2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td>328</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granted</td> <td>269</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferred</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donegal MD Totals Year to End Dec 2023		Applications received	328	Granted	269	Refused	17	Deferred	92	Invalid	25
Donegal MD Totals Year to End Dec 2023													
Applications received	328												
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Invalid	25												





<b>2</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>									
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Donegal MD</th> <th>To end Dec 2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Cases</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closed Cases</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding cases on record since 2012</td> <td>225</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donegal MD	To end Dec 2023	New Cases	3	Closed Cases	0	Outstanding cases on record since 2012	225
Donegal MD	To end Dec 2023									
New Cases	3									
Closed Cases	0									
Outstanding cases on record since 2012	225									
<b>3</b>	<b>Notes &amp; Monthly Schedule</b>	<p><b>Pre planning clinics are on a telephone call only basis (ring 074 9153900) between 9.00am and 12.30pm on the dates outlined below.</b></p> <p><b>The pre planning clinic calls will be taken by the Executive Planners and shall be for substantial applications only.</b></p> <p><u>Planning Clinics 2024:</u> 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 Please see website for further dates. <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/">http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planningclinics/</a></p>								
<b>4</b>	<b>Casual Trading</b>									
<b>5</b>	<b>Regeneration &amp; Development</b>	See Appendix A								
<b>6</b>	<b>Building Control &amp; Taking in Charge</b>									
<b>7</b>	<b>Central Planning Unit</b>									
<b>8</b>	<b>Capital Projects Delivery Unit</b>	See Appendix B								
<b>9</b>	<b>Conservation</b>									
<b>10</b>	<b>Further Information</b> <i>Click on web links to access information.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly List of applications and decisions: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/">http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/</a></li> <li>Planning Service email (to be used in correspondence with the planning service): <a href="mailto:planning@donegalcoco.ie">planning@donegalcoco.ie</a></li> <li>Planning Webpage: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/">www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/</a></li> <li>Planning Application Online Query – <a href="https://www.eplanning.ie/DonegalCC/SearchTypes">https://www.eplanning.ie/DonegalCC/SearchTypes</a></li> </ul> <p>File Retrieval Form – to be used for file retrieval and planning search requests: <a href="http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf">www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf</a></p>								

## APPENDIX A



Rialtas na  
hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

### Regeneration & Development Team Community Development & Planning Services

## REPORT TO THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS JANUARY 2024.

### 1.0 Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Funding is provided from the Department of Rural and Community Development and calls for application to the Fund are sought under two categories. **Category 1** relates to projects with all necessary planning and other consents in place and which are ready to proceed, i.e shovel ready. **Category 2** projects are those which require further development to become ready for Category 1 status.

#### 1.1 Summary update of Projects

**Table 1** below provides a summary update on the current status and delivery of projects under the RRDF.

**Table 1: Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Projects**

Project	Type	Value (includes DCC co- funding)	Current Status/Delivery
Back to Ballyshannon	Category 2 (2020)	€247,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site acquisition completed.</li> <li>Team working towards the publication of a planning scheme.</li> <li>To be targeted for future Category 1 Funding</li> </ul>
Ramelton Re-imagined/Historic Town Centre	Category 2	€249,159	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part 8 approved April 2022</li> <li>Construction tender to open in Q1 2024.</li> </ul>
	Category 1 (2022)	€7,949,868	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handover to CPDU imminent.</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate to commence on site in Q2 2024 (through the CPDU).</li> </ul>
Repowering Buncrana	Category 2 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Call)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sale agreed on former Garda Barracks property.</li> <li>• Tender for consultants to be advertised January 2024 to include public consultation and publication of a planning scheme.</li> <li>• To be targeted for future Category 1 Funding.</li> </ul>
Rathmullan (in partnership with The Way Forward Rathmullan CLG).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8 approved February 2023.</li> <li>• FPM Accountants (Ireland) Limited appointed in November 2023 to undertake an Economic Appraisal.</li> <li>• To be submitted for funding under the fifth call (closing date 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024).</li> </ul>
Milford Town Centre First Plan		€100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre First Plan launched November 2023</li> <li>• GM Design Associates preparing a statutory planning scheme for the lands at Lower Mount Marian (including further public consultation) to be completed by Q2 2024.</li> <li>• DCC to progress other priority projects identified in the Plan.</li> <li>• Projects to be targeted for future funding calls.</li> </ul>
Creelough Village Plan and Community Regeneration Project (in association with the Creelough Working Group, Creelough Community Association and Arup).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Plan to be launched in early 2024 (prepared by Arup on a pro bono basis).</li> <li>• Part 8 for Community Regeneration Project approved in September 2023.</li> <li>• FPM Accountants (Ireland) Limited appointed in November 2023 to undertake an Economic Appraisal.</li> <li>• To be submitted for funding under the fifth call (closing date 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024).</li> </ul>

### **1.2 Fifth Call for Category 1 Projects (shovel ready) under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).**

In November 2023 a fifth call for Category 1 projects was announced. 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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. As confirmed to Elected Members at the November 2023 Plenary meeting of the Council, work is underway to bring forward applications for Regeneration Projects in Rathmullan and Creeslough under this Call.

## **2.0 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).**

Funding is provided from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for towns with a population in excess of 10,000 which includes Letterkenny in this County, with calls for application to the Fund sought under two categories. **Category 1** relates to projects with all necessary planning and other consents in place and which are ready to proceed, i.e shovel ready. **Category 2** projects are those which require further development to become ready for Category 1 status.

### **2.1 Summary update of Projects**

**Table 2** below provides a summary update on the current status and delivery of projects under the URDF.

**Table 2: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Projects**

<b>Call</b>	<b>Value of Project (includes DCC co-funding).</b>	<b>Projects and current Status/Delivery</b>
<b>Call 1</b> (approved September 2019)  3 Sub-Projects	€3m	<b>1 Prepare Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed 2022.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>2 Letterkenny Urban Regeneration site.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC took possession of the former ESB site and adjacent lands through a CPO in 2023.</li> <li>• Site to be developed for the Alpha/Beta Office accommodation, public realm and Housing.</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Public Realm/Linear Park Phase 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opened June 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Call 2</b> (May 2020 and approved March 2021)</p> <p>6 Sub Projects</p>	<p>€19.3m (€4.8m DCC co-funding)</p>	<p><b>1. Re-image public space at Market Square.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refer to report from the Capital Projects Delivery Unit Report who are delivering this project.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Cathedral Quarter Park and Church Lane Shared Surface Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuations obtained and land acquisition offers made.</li> <li>• Avison Young appointed in Q4 2023 to take forward all previous engagement and act on Council's behalf as regards further offers/acquisitions/CPO.</li> <li>• Council to consider further offers and advance any acquisitions/CPOs.</li> <li>• Proceed to procurement of architect-led team for all design stages (planning consent, detailed design and site supervision) – procurement process to open as soon as possible.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Renewal at Lower Main Street</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuations obtained and land acquisition offers made.</li> <li>• Avison Young appointed in Q4 2023 to take forward all previous engagement and act on Council's behalf as regards further offers/acquisitions/CPO.</li> <li>• Council to consider further offers and advance any acquisitions/CPOs.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Revival of the Courthouse</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023.</li> <li>• <b>Next steps:</b></li> <li>• Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop: 16<sup>th</sup> January at 10am.</li> <li>• Stakeholder Forum workshop: 16<sup>th</sup> January (PM)</li> <li>• Public drop-in event: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</li> <li>• Letterkenny-Milford MD workshop: 1<sup>st</sup> February at 11am.</li> <li>• Options being explored for application to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme for minor repair works.</li> <li>• Engagement with schools being instigated to request input into the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Strategic acquisition to enable a Regional Transport Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avison Young appointed to take forward all previous engagement and act on Councils behalf as regards further offers/ acquisitions/ CPO.</li> <li>• Funding commitment secured from the 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.</li> <li>• Draft tender package sent to the NTA in December 2023 for feed-in prior to opening of a procurement process.</li> <li>• Consultation with Local Link ongoing in relation to private bus operators.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Strategic acquisition to enable LK Green Connect</b></p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8 in relation to the Cultural Corridor element of the project approved by Donegal County Council at the November 2023 Plenary meeting.</li> <li>• In-house team has commenced steps to develop a Part 8 for Phase 2 (from constructed Phase 1 to Pearse Road).</li> <li>• Valuation services of Avison Young being engaged in relation to phase 2 (from constructed Phase 1 to Pearse Road) and lands required for the Cultural Corridor element of the Scheme.</li> </ul>
Call 3 (March 2023 and approved July 2023).	€4m	Revolving fund for acquisition costs of long-term vacant property or sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December 2023, <b>15</b> letters issued to property owners and <b>23</b> Notices of Enquiries affixed to properties to try and identify the owners.</li> </ul>
"The Eat Out' Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8 approved November 2022.</li> <li>• Please refer to the report from Community Development who are delivering this project.</li> </ul>
Letterkenny Cultural Corridor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 8 approved November 2022.</li> <li>• Valuation services of Avison Young being engaged in relation to lands required for the delivery of the Scheme.</li> <li>• Services of Quantity Surveyor being engaged to provide cost estimates for the scheme.</li> <li>• To be targeted for future URDF funding call.</li> </ul>
Youth/Community focused project at Lower Main Street		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early engagements with Letterkenny Youth Club and Donegal Youth Services have commenced.</li> <li>• Avison Young appointed in Q4 2023 to take forward all previous engagement and act on Council's behalf as regards further offers/acquisitions/CPO.</li> <li>• In tandem, targeted to carry out capacity testing of potential lands available to clarify viability of the project and to undertake further engagement with stakeholders- NB this is subject to</li> </ul>

		availability of in-house architectural resources.
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### 3.0 Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme.

The Croi Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme opened for applications in July 2022 and **Table 3** below provides further details of the applications received to-date.

**Table 3: Summary of Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications**

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>Applications Finalised</b>	<b>289</b>
• Approved	273
• Deemed not eligible (eligibility criteria not met – vacancy/proposed works).	16
<b>In progress (first technical inspection/awaiting information from applicant).</b>	<b>221</b>
<b>Withdrawn (by applicant)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Properties Refurbished</b>	<b>8</b>
Grants Recouped	1
Requests for grant recoupment (in progress).	7
<b>Breakdown of Applicants received per Municipal District</b>	
Letterkenny – Milford MD	129
Inishowen MD	125
Lifford – Stranorlar MD	77
Glenties MD	97
Donegal MD	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>

- Grants are recouped on completion of works and on submission of vouched expenditure. The applicant must also complete a Charge Document which is prepared by the Local Authority to register a charge on the property to the value of the grant obtained.
- The timeframe for processing application is approximately 5 – 6 weeks where the applicant has submitted all supporting documentation at the outset.
- Donegal currently have the second highest number of grant applications processed nationally.

- Plans have been announced to extend the Local Authority Home Loan scheme to applicants of the Vacant Property Refurbishment grant scheme also and more detail are due in early January.
- Drop in event to be arranged in Raphoe early 2024 – this will bring to 18 the total number of such events to date.

#### **4.0 Compulsory Purchase Order Activation Fund/Survey of Vacant Properties**

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 with owners regarding the supports available.
- Step 4:** Consideration of options available to owners and DCC.

The Council have undertaken Step 1 to identify vacant and derelict properties through the GEO Directory. This survey has been undertaken in the towns listed in **Table 4** below and will be carried out in further towns over the coming months:

**Table 4: Towns Surveyed under the CPO Activation Fund**

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Towns</b>		
<b>Letterkenny-Milford MD</b>	Ramelton	Carrigart, Manorcunningham	Rathmullan, Milford
<b>Donegal MD</b>	Donegal Town	Ballyshannon	Bundoran, Dunkineely
<b>Glenties MD</b>	Dungloe	Ardara	Faclarraigh
<b>Inishowen MD</b>	Carndonagh	Bunrana	Moville, Malin
<b>Lifford-Stranorlar MD</b>	Ballybofey- Stranorlar	Lifford	Raphoe

The identification of property owners and engagement has commenced (Steps 2 and 3) and is ongoing. **Table 5** provides the current update which will be further updated as we progress Steps 2 and 3 in all towns.

**Table 5: Delivery of CPO Activation Fund (to date).**

<b>Total Properties surveyed to date (Step 1)</b>	<b>1,723</b>
Properties identified as being Vacant	890
Properties identified as being Derelict	63
Properties not vacant	770
<b>Owner Identification/Engagement (Steps 2 and 3) in the following Towns:</b>	
<b>Ballybofey/Stranorlar</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Carndonagh</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Lifford</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Malin</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total (to date)</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Outcome/Responses (from Steps 2 and 3)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Letter issued	88
Hold/Monitor (e.g property for sale)	21
Closed out	12
Ongoing (e.g. investigations)	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Letter issued	15

**Regeneration and Development Team.  
 January 2024.**



## APPENDIX B

### CAPITAL PROJECTS DELIVERY UNIT

#### Community Development and Planning Services

Report to Donegal Municipal District Members: Jan 2024

<b>Activity / Project Title</b>	<b>Killybegs 2040</b>
<b>Project Description/Activity</b>	<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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Acquisition of key regeneration sites for the future delivery of appropriately located additional car parking and linkages between Main Street and Shore Road.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	€5.4m
<b>Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status</b>	<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>
<b>Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly /</b>	It is anticipated that Island House works will progress with windows to be installed and internal first fix works to commence.



<b>quarterly reporting period</b>	Works on the public realm space will continue with the Diamond central civic space and car park to be significantly progressed.
<b>Contact Person(s)</b>	Michael Quigley, A/Executive Engineer Ardal McDermott, A/ Senior Executive Engineer