

Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall

Oifig Riarthóir na gCruinnithe,
Aras an Chontae,
Leifear.

3ú Eanáir, 2023

Fógra Cruinnithe

Beidh Cruinniú de Ceantar Bardais Dún na nGall ar siúl **De Máirt 10ú Eanáir, 2023, ag 11.30 r.n. in Ionad Serbhísí Pobail, Bhaile Dhún na nGall.**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CEANTAR BARDAS DÚN NA nGALL

A Chara,

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

Mise, le meas

Padraig O'Sirin
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Municipal District of Donegal

Office of Meetings Administrator,
County House,
Lifford.

03rd January 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal will be held on **Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 11.30 am in the Donegal Public Services Centre.**

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL

Dear Councillor,

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

Yours sincerely,

Pauric Sheerin
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Consideration of Minutes of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 13th December 2022.

2. **Update Reports from Council Services:**
 - 2.1 Housing & Corporate Services
 - 2.2 Roads & Transportation
 - 2.3 Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services
 - 2.4 Environment Services
 - 2.5 Community Development
 - 2.6 Planning Services

3. **Date of Next Meeting(s) / Workshop(s)**
 - MD Meeting on Tuesday the 14th February 2023 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 13TH DECEMBER 2022 IN THE PETER
KENNEDY CHAMBER, DONEGAL PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

MDD/157/22 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDD/158/22 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Garry Martin, Director Designate, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Pauric Sheerin, Area Manager, Municipal District of Donegal
Mr. Mark Sweeney, A/Area Manager, Roads/Transportation
Ms. Aideen Quinn, A/Executive Planner, Planning
Ms. Tara Quinn, Executive Architect, Housing Capital
Mr. Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community Development
Ms. Grace Korbelt, Enterprise Officer, Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer, Environment Section
Mr. Enda Monaghan, Senior Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Ms. Caroline Britton, A/Staff Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

MDD/159/22 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- The late Peter Kane, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town, former employee and father of Peter Kane, Executive Engineer, National Roads Office, Donegal Town and father in law of Karen Kane, Water Services Capital Office.
- The late Mary Martin, Spierstown, Donegal Town, mother of Garry Martin, Director of Service.
- The late Patrick H Doherty, Church Road, Carndonagh, father of Aideen Doherty, Ukrainian Response Co-ordinator, Carndonagh PSC.
- The late Marina McGarvey, Glenleary, Ramelton, daughter of Councillor Ian and Marjorie McGarvey.
- The late Donal Gallagher, Killybegs and New York.
- The late Patrick (Pat) McCrea, Old Laghey Road, Donegal Town
- The late George McKane, 23 Dartry View, Kinlough

**MDD/160/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER
2022**

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 26th October 2022 were confirmed.

MDD/161/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Budget Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 5th October 2022 were confirmed.

MDD/162/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 26th October 2022 were confirmed.

MDD/163/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ROADS WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 01ST NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Conaghan the Minutes of the Roads Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 01st November 2022 were confirmed.

MDD/164/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DONEGAL HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposal of Cllr McMahon, seconded by Cllr Sweeny the Minutes of the Economic Development Workshop of the Municipal District of Donegal held on the 17th November 2022 were confirmed.

MDD/165/22 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

CORPORATE SERVICES

Follow up Issues from previous meeting

Mr Sheerin provided an update on the follow up issues from the previous meeting:-

- a) The update regarding the Ballyshannon library was e-mailed directly to the Councillors.
- b) As the Ukrainian Response Co-ordinator had a family bereavement, it is expected a workshop may be held in the new year.

Community Welfare Officer

Cllr McMahon expressed his frustration that the Ballyshannon Community Welfare Office has been without a full-time Community Welfare Officer following the retirement of Ms Bernie McMorrow. Cllr

McMahon highlighted the vital role this Officer plays, particularly, during this current cold spell and noted the large catchment area the Ballyshannon office covers. Cllr McMahon advised that he had rang the Department in Dublin but was unsatisfied with the response. Cllr Sweeny concurred with Cllr McMahon and advised that he had contacted the Dublin office too and had received a similar response. Both Councillors sought the reinstatement of a full-time Community Welfare Officer.

Mr Sheerin noted that it was his understanding that as an interim measure, a Community Welfare Officer from another district has been asked to cover the Ballyshannon area and agreed to submit a letter to the Department of Social Protection.

Minister of Health

Cllr Naughton advised that he has been made aware that two constituents within the Donegal MD, who have unfortunately received a Stage 3 cancer diagnosis, have not been furnished with a medical card automatically. Cllr Naughton noted the financial difficulties a diagnosis of this type brings and recommended these patients should receive a medical card without the need to furnish the Department with financial records. Cllr Naughton noted the number of medical cards issued to refugees and suggested that charity begins at home and individuals who are already suffering enough stress and worry should receive a medical card. Cllr Naughton asked that a letter issue to the HSE and the Minister of Health to highlight this anomaly.

Mr Sheerin agreed to issue correspondence in relation to medical cards.

HOUSING SERVICES

Progress reports on Casual Vacancies, Grants, Loans, Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016, Approved Housing Bodies Development, Housing Assistance Payments/Private Rented Inspections, Housing Need and Lease & Repair Scheme

Members noted the update reports. Mr Sheerin highlighted the reduction in the number of casual vacancies and advised that over €500,000 has been spent in 2022 turning around vacant stock; with one third of this expenditure recoupable from the Department. It is expected the existing three larger projects will be tendered in the new year and advised that twelve units within the Oak Meadows development have been allocated with a tenancy start date before the end of the year.

Mr Sheerin informed the Members that thirty-nine of the forty-nine approved deep retrofit units in Ballyshannon have had their works completed. This project equated to over the €1m and has resulted in the majority of the properties receiving a BER rating of above B2. The

ten tenants that declined the deep retrofit works were informed of the implications of their decision and it is expected that these houses will be part of future deep retrofit programmes. It is anticipated properties within the environs of Killybegs will be selected for this programme in 2023.

HOUSING CAPITAL

Ms Quinn referred to the Housing Capital Report and informed the Members that the Bundoran Phase I project is currently out for tender and also updated the Members in relation to the progress on the land in Ballyshannon. In addition, the SI at Largymore has Part VIII approval and is currently at detailed design stage. Trial holes are being undertaken on the land at Killybegs and it is expected the housing project in Laghey will proceed to Part VIII stage early in the new year. Mr Sheerin agreed to circulate a copy of the Housing Capital report.

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

Deep Retrofit Works

Cllr Sweeny noted the good progress made in reducing the number of households on the housing waiting list and queried the reasons why ten tenants opted out of the Deep Retrofit programme. P Sheerin advised that the reasons ranged from the potential disruption to the household to not wishing to receive new windows and doors or have the open fire removed. These tenants have been informed that should issues occur with their existing heating system or the windows and doors, only minimal repair works will be conducted. As the Members had commended the work of the Housing Staff, P Sheerin agreed to relay the kind comments.

Acquisitions

Cllr McMahon queried did the Council purchase (a) properties within existing housing estates and (b) lands located within the town boundaries. P Sheerin submitted that a 2005 policy decision recommended not to rebuy previously owned Council stock within housing estates, however, private properties are being considered, especially for households that cannot be accommodated within existing social housing stock, subject to the private property meeting the Department's criteria. In terms of land acquisitions, the Council has received over three hundred expression of interests and these are now being currently assessed at a local level. Landowners can still submit expressions of interest and further details are available on the Council's website.

Allocations

Cllr Naughton also welcomed the reduction in the housing waiting list and queried was it possible to obtain the names of the successful applicants who have been offered Council properties. P Sheerin

advised that due to GDPR implications as well as SPC policy decision, the names of successful applicants are only made available to Members who have made representations on a particular housing applicant's file.

Housing Construction Projects

Cllr Naughton expressed his disappointment that the four houses due to be constructed in Laghey are contained within the three-year capital programme with a completion date of 2025 and queried if part of the delay was in relation to Solicitors. Cllr Naughton noted that housing projects can be turned around quickly for refugees and suggested that a similar approach could be taken for Social Housing projects.

Cllr Jordan commended the work of the Housing Section and noted the duration it takes to complete housing projects, suggesting these delays were caused by the Department ensuring approval is obtained at various stages of the project.

P Sheerin advised that delays in relation to Solicitors are minimal when projects are being completed on Council owned land. T Quinn submitted that the project in Laghey is a complicated site with a minimal footpath and involves two boundary landowners; sketch drawings provided to the Department have been returned with additional comments. It is expected this site will require underpinning and the services of a structural engineer will also be required. It is anticipated that this project will be presented before the March or May 2023 plenary meeting for Part VIII approval and the completion date of 2025 is a worst-case scenario.

Repair & Lease Scheme

Cllr Kennedy commended the work of the Housing Capital office and anticipated there will be good news in the years ahead for Donegal in terms of new construction projects. In relation to the Repair & Lease Scheme, Cllr Kennedy queried its relevance and suggested that the Croí Cónaithe Scheme be extended to allow applicants to rent the property following the completion of the upgrade works. Cllr Sweeny concurred with Cllr Kennedy and suggested that the Repair & Lease Scheme be either reviewed or discontinued.

Mr Sheerin advised that issues with the Repair & Leasing Scheme has been raised in the past and noted there was a fundamental difference between the Repair & Leasing Scheme and the Croí Cónaithe Scheme. Mr Sheerin advised that the Repair & Lease Scheme involves the allocation of a loan which is repayable over a specific period of time and during this time the property has to be made available for leasing for social housing purposes. It is also noted that under this scheme, a high majority of applicants struggle to obtain a clean and proper title to allow the application to proceed.

Mr Sheerin advised he is aware discussions are ongoing in relation to the Croí Cónaithe Scheme.

Section 183 Request – Disposal of No 12 St Benildus Avenue, Ballyshannon to Mr Harry Doherty

Mr Sheerin sought approval from the Members for the disposal of No. 12 St Benildus Avenue, Ballyshannon to Mr Harry Doherty. On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Conaghan, Members confirmed their agreement to the proposed Section 183 and noted the matter would be on the Agenda for the forthcoming Plenary Council meeting.

Schedule of MD Donegal Meetings 2023

Mr Sheerin referred to the circulated Schedule of MD Donegal Meetings for 2023; the Schedule as below was noted.

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

Mr Sheerin agreed to circulate a copy of the 2023 Schedule.

MDD/166/22 ROADS / TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT

2022 Roadworks Programme Status Report

Members noted the reports on the Road Works programme circulated with the Agenda and Mr Sweeney advised the Roads Section had a very busy year overseeing the completion of projects to the value of €8.5m.

Follow up Issues from the previous meeting

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

Proceed with the release of the Christmas light funding contributions to Donegal Town Community Chamber and the Bundoran Tidy Towns Christmas Lights Committee.

These payments have been processed.

Confirm the commencement time of the Donegal Town One Way System Workshop.

This workshop was held on 1st November 2022.

Liase with Leitrim County Council regarding a virtual meeting to discuss the Lennox Bridge project.

This virtual meeting was held on 17th November 2022.

Progress the takeover of the Cassan Sound Road / High Road, Kilcar.

Yet to commence.

Obtain a price to finalise the footpath works in Bridgetown; thereafter seek approval from the Members to reallocate funding from another town to cover these works.

Currently there is €6,000.00 allocated to the footpaths in Bridgetown and a further €14,000.00 is needed to repave the footpaths on both sides of the road running through the village.

It was agreed to hold a workshop on the 9th January 2023 at 10am to discuss the reallocation of the footpath funding and Housing Estate maintenance programme.

Invite the Senior Engineer to a workshop scheduled to take place on the 7th December to discuss a permanent solution for Laghey junction.

This has been arranged.

Liase with Airtricity regarding faulty lights on the Abbey Mill Road and the Moy Road in Ballyshannon and the lights at the crossing point adjacent to the Killybegs playground.

Contact was made with Airtricity and they were asked to prioritise the repairs to these lights.

Carry out repair works to a gully on the Abbey Mill Road in Ballyshannon.

This issue will be resolved.

Commence the renaming process for the Industrial Road in Killybegs.

Works have commenced on this process and the Area Engineer has issued maps to ascertain the identification of local landowners.

Investigate the possibility of trimming hedges at the entrance to the slip road adjacent to Kelly's Garage on the Mountcharles Road.

This matter has been discussed with the local roads services supervisor and arrangements are being made to have these works completed in January 2023.

Investigate collapsing wall in Ballintra.

This matter is being investigated.

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

Marine Section

Cllr Jordan commended the work carried out by the Roads Section throughout the year and wished to convey his thanks to the Marine Section for providing generators and lighting at the Port Pier whilst busy fish landings were taking place.

Tidy Towns

Cllr McMahon outlined the commendable work carried out in the Bundoran area by the Tidy Towns Committee and asked that an allocation of €1,000 be made available from the Pay & Display Car Parking Fund to purchase materials. On the proposal of Cllr McMahon, seconded by Cllr Sweeny it was agreed to provide an allocation of €1,000 to the Bundoran Tidy Towns Committee.

Regeneration Works

Cllr McMahon sought an update on the regeneration works being carried out on the roundabout at Single Street. Mr Sweeney advised approval with required from the TII prior to the erection of the sculpture.

Winter Maintenance

The Members commended the work of the Winter Maintenance Team.

Cllr McMahon noted the number of times the team carried out gritting in a 24-hour period.

Cllr Sweeny noted that Cashelard was previously gritted and asked if alternative arrangements could be made for schools and residential areas.

Cllr Naughton queried if grit could be made available for use on secondary roads by local residents and landowners and suggested that the Rarooey Road could be considered on the gritting route as it is a busy link road for housing estates, schools and Abbots staff. Cllr Naughton also noted that a number of RSA driving tests were cancelled due to road conditions and queried if this office could be

provided with details of the roads that are being treated during the cold spells.

Cllr Kennedy highlighted the importance of gritting the Meeaneary Road for staff travelling to the Errigal Fish Factory and suggested Members keep a record of the calls received regarding winter maintenance for future discussion at a potential January workshop.

Mr Sweeney agreed to convey the Members comments to the Winter Maintenance Team and advised the roads currently being gritted are as per the agreed Winter Maintenance Programme. Mr Sweeney further advised that people can make contact with the local depot's to collect grit. He also advised that grit heaps have been left out for use on troublesome areas along back roads that are not on the Winter Maintenance Gritting programme and bunkers within housing estates have been topped up with salt. Mr Sweeney agreed to investigate if a grit heap could be left within the vicinity of Rarooey Road.

In relation to the point raised by Cllr Naughton regarding the cancelled driving tests, Mr Sweeney advised that the Roads Gritting Plan is available on the Council's website. Finally, the proposed workshop was welcomed and it was agreed to discuss the Winter Maintenance Programme at the Workshop scheduled to be held on the 9th January 2023.

Roads Improvement Works

Cllr Sweeny wished to commend the recent road improvement works carried out in the Ballyshannon and Bundoran area and queried if the projects that were postponed be completed under the 2023 budget. In response, Mr Sweeney advised that due to costs, projects postponed will be prioritised for 2023 funding.

Road Design

Cllr Sweeny sought an update on the designs for Bishops Street in Ballyshannon. Mr Sweeny advised that following the recent onsite meeting with Cllr Sweeny the designers are finalising the options report and when concluded Road Design will be submitting it to the NTA for approval before the Part VIII stage commences.

Cllr Kennedy sought an update on the Killybegs One-Way System Project. Mr Sweeney agreed to seek an update from Road Design.

Laghey Junction

Cllr Naughton welcomed the interim improvement works on the N15 at the Pettigo / Laghey Road which includes the installation of an island, additional signs, lines and bollards and advised following a workshop with the TII, he is aware additional safety measures such as the installation of a roundabout are in the pipeline. Mr Sweeney wished to emphasis that the until the design process is concluded it is premature to say that a roundabout will be the proposed solution.

Airtricity

Cllr Kennedy asked that a letter issue to Adrian Gardner who works for Airtricity for the exceptional repair service he provides throughout the county. Mr Sweeny agreed to forward an acknowledgement to Adrian Gardner.

Balbane Road

Cllr Kennedy referred to the dropping of the Balbane Road from the 2022 Road Maintenance Programme and advised that this road is in very poor condition. Mr Sweeney submitted that negotiations have taken place with the Environment Section with a view to funding the repairs to the damaged sections of road and it is expected tenders will be sought in the early part of the new year to ascertain the level of funding required to rectify the road infrastructure.

Killybegs Walkability Audit

Cllr Kennedy sought an update on the Killybegs Walkability Audit. Mr Sweeney agreed to seek an update from Charles Sweeney.

Glencolmcille Folk Village Car Park

Cllr Kennedy was aware the Glencolmcille Folk Village car park was a cross-directorate project and sought an update on the proposed project. Mr Sweeney was aware preliminary designs have been completed and agreed to seek an update on same.

Tree Cutting

Cllr Kennedy noted that a number of trees located on the Donegal side of the approach road into Killybegs require cutting back. Mr Sweeney agreed to investigate same.

Section 183 Request – Disposal of land at Inver Glebe to Clive & Geraldine Vance, Keeloges, Inver

Mr Sweeney sought approval from the Members for the disposal of land at Inver Glebe to Clive & Geraldine Vance. On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Naughton, Members confirmed their agreement to the proposed Section 183 and noted the matter would be on the Agenda for the forthcoming Plenary Council meeting.

MDD/167/22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Ms Grace Korbelt was in attendance to represent the Economic Development, Information systems and Emergency Services Directorate. Members noted the update reports circulated with the agenda dealing with the following:-

1. Economic Development
 - a. Economic Development Unit
 - b. Tourism Marketing Unit
 - c. Strategic Funding Unit

- d. Trail Gazers Bid Project
- e. Strategic Funding Unit
- f. Donegal Diaspora Unit
2. Local Enterprise Office
3. Emergency Services: Fire Service

Ms Korbel highlighted the number of successful businesses within the Donegal MD that obtained accolades at the recent Donegal Enterprise awards event held at the beginning of December.

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

Donegal Awards

Cllr Sweeny wished to congratulate the recipients of the Donegal Enterprise Awards. Cllr McMahon noted that Travers Caravan Park in Bundoran, owned by Neil and Olga Gilliland received an award for their excellent camping and caravan facilities.

Ballyshannon Vision Project

Cllr Sweeny commended the work of the team and noted the great response from the Ballyshannon Workshops. Cllr Sweeny further noted that this initiative has the possibility of being emulated in other towns throughout the county.

Fire Stations in Bundoran & Ballyshannon

Cllr McMahon wished to once again highlight the importance of reaching a decision in relation to the Bundoran and Ballyshannon Fire Stations and noted that the existing buildings are in disrepair and not suitable, particularly, during this cold weather. Cllr Naughton concurred with Cllr McMahon comments.

VAT Rate

Cllr Naughton has been advised that the Economic Development Division and Donegal Tourism would write to the Minister asking to continue with the 9% vat rate for the tourism industry, particularly, in light of increased food and energy costs. Cllr Naughton submitted that the warehousing of VAT is also due to cease in the new year and noted that a lot of businesses will experience cash flow difficulties during the winter months.

Donegal Diamond Outdoor Plan

As the Donegal Diamond Project was due to be completed by the end of 2022, Cllr Naughton sought a workshop to discuss the project further.

Caravan & Camping Grant Scheme

In relation to the Caravan & Camping Grant Scheme, Cllr Kennedy sought clarification on the allocations awarded under this Scheme and queried the exact locations of those who were successful in their

applications, in order to ensure, going forward the allocations will be distributed equitable.

Holiday World 2023 Show

Cllr Kennedy welcomed the reintroduction of the 2023 Holiday World Show which is due to be held in the RDS, Dublin towards the end of January 2023.

TIDE – Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism

Cllr Kennedy noted the TIDE report stipulated that the TIDE Capitalisation plan has been finalised and circulated to all sites. As Killybegs is included in this project, Cllr Kennedy was aware that this element of the project has not been finalised.

Ms Korbel agreed to seek a response in relation to the queries raised.

MDD/168/22 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES REPORT

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

- Waste & Litter Management
 - 2022 Tidy Towns Awards
 - Solid Fuel Regulations 2022
 - Reuse Month in October
 - Litter Fines – Jan to Nov 2022
- Environment Section
 - Social Media – Information Videos
- Climate Action
 - Local Authority Climate Action Plan

Ms Bogan commended the towns who received recognition under the 2022 Tidy Towns Awards and congratulated Buncrana on winning the county award. Ms Bogan noted the solid fuel regulations came into effect from the 31st October 2022 and advised the School Bikes Africa Campaign is accepting donations at the six Recycling Centres. The Environment Section issued forty-eight fines and assisted a high number of community clean ups as well as producing information videos on environmentally themed subjects.

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

Waste Bins

The Members commended the valuable work conducted by Tidy Town Committees throughout the county. Cllr McMahon highlighted the great work carried out by the committee in Bundoran despite the existing waste bins not being fit for purpose and asked for a workshop to discuss this issue further. Cllr McMahon also queried what stage

the legislation was at regarding pursuing prosecutions for illegal dumping.

Ms Bogan advised the request for a workshop will be brought forward to the Management Team and suggested a discussion may also take place with Roads Section regarding suitable bins. Ms Bogan further advised that the amendments to the Litter Pollution Act has been signed through the Oireachtas and we are currently awaiting the legislation.

Disabled Access Portalooos

Cllr Sweeny queried if any accessible portalooos have been placed in Ballyshannon and Rossnowlagh. Ms Bogan agreed to seek clarification from the Management Team.

Litter Fines

Cllr Sweeny noted that forty-eight fines were issued but there appeared to be a discrepancy with the figures with fifteen fines not accounted for. Ms Bogan agreed to seek clarification.

Solid Fuel Regulations

In response to Cllr Naughton's query regarding the new solid fuel regulations, Ms Bogan advised that the regulation is designed to encourage the use of higher quality and less polluting fuels. Staff have been visiting commercial premises throughout the county to raise awareness of the new regulation.

Shower Facilities at Murvagh

As Cllr Naughton was aware Coillte had granted permission for a water connection for showering facilities at Murvagh, an update on same was sought. Ms Bogan advised minor works have been completed and agreed to seek an update on same.

Mens Sheds

In response to a query from Cllr McMahon regarding establishing a Mens Shed in Bundoran, Ms Bogan advised the group to make contact with the Irish Mens Shed Association.

Good Wishes

The Members wished David Friel a speedy recovery and a Happy Christmas.

MDD/169/22 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES

Community Development

Mr. Paddy Doherty, Divisional Manager, Community Development was in attendance to represent Community Development.

Members noted the update reports for the Community Development Section, as circulated with the Agenda dealing with the following matters:-

- Town & Village Renewal – Donegal MD
 - Donegal Town
 - Glencolmcille
 - Carrick
 - Bruckless
- Playground Maintenance
- Walks & Trails
- Sliabh Liag Development Project
- Leader/RDP Programme Update

Mr Doherty advised that Donegal has been awarded Leader funding of €10.4m for the 2023 to 2027 period. This funding will continue to be administered by the LDCD/LAG; in addition, funding in the region of €340,000 has been obtained under the Community Support Fund to provide financial supports to community and voluntary organisations. The Community Support Fund along with the DFI funding will be advertised in January 2023. Mr Doherty further advised the playground inspections have been completed and funding has been granted as part of the three-year capital budget. In relation to the Bundoran Regeneration Project, surveys are currently being undertaken by the Consultants and it is expected a request for tenders will be released in January 2023.

A number of comments were noted as follows;

Funding Awards

Cllr Naughton welcomed the funding awards and Cllr Kennedy noted that Donegal was one of the counties with the highest Leader funding allocation.

Planning Services

Ms Aideen Quinn presented the Planning Service Reports as circulated with the Agenda dealing with the following: -

- Development Applications
- Enforcement
- Q4 2022 Planning Clinics
 - 15th December
- Building Control Report
- Regeneration & Development Team Report
- Capital Projects Delivery Unit

Ms A Quinn advised two additional plenary workshops have been arranged to discuss the four-year review for the County Development Plan and noted that 105 submissions were received as a result of the

'Back to Ballyshannon' public consultation. The Team is currently considering the submissions. Ms Quinn further advised as required by national legislation, the Residential Zoned Land Tax draft map has been published for public consultation. The consultation period closes on the 1st January 2023.

A number of comments were noted as follows;

Ballyshannon Public Consultation

Cllr Sweeny commended the Planning staff for attending the public consultation in Ballyshannon and thanked all those who made submissions. Cllr Sweeny looked forward to good engagement and a project submission when the next round of RRDF funding opens.

Historic Towns Initiative

Cllr Sweeny wished to thank the Team involved in the Historic Towns submissions and congratulated Ramelton and Ballyshannon on their recent awards under this Scheme.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

Cllr Kennedy queried if the Residential Zoned Land Tax was applicable to both land and property. Ms Quinn agreed to revert with further information.

Casual Trading Byelaws

Cllr Kennedy requested an update in the new year on the Casual Trading Byelaws.

Stracomer View, Bundoran

On the proposal of Councillor McMahon seconded by Councillor Sweeny 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 Stracomer View, Bundoran 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 McMahon seconded by Councillor Sweeny 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 Stracomer View, Bundoran 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.

Ashbrook Drive, Ballyshannon

On the proposal of Councillor Sweeny seconded by Councillor McMahon 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 Ashbrook Drive, Ballyshannon 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 Sweeny seconded by Councillor McMahon 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 Ashbrook Drive, Ballyshannon 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.

Orchard Drive, Donegal Town

On the proposal of Councillor Jordan seconded by Councillor McMahon 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 Orchard Drive, 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 McMahon 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 Orchard Drive, 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.

Cllr Jordan commended the work of the Building Control Team and noted the Orchard Drive residents will welcome the taking over of the Estate.

Due to other work commitments, Mr Garry Martin joined the meeting at 1.50pm.

MDD/170/22 DISCUSSION ON THE INVER TO KILLYBEGS ROAD SCHEME

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

“With the Mountcharles to Inver road scheme completed, this Municipal District calls on the (delete ‘TII’) (and replace with ‘Department of Transport’) to complete the remainder of the scheme from Inver to Killybegs”.

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

In proposing this motion, Cllr Jordan noted the need to upgrade the route from Mountcharles to Killybegs was first identified back in 2007 and now that the Mountcharles to Inver section has been completed, it is imperative the remaining section is brought up to the same standard. Cllr Jordan highlighted the strategic port of Killybegs, which is one of the biggest fishing ports in Ireland, that is also utilised for wave and wind energy infrastructure. As the remaining section includes Dunkineely, Killaghtee and Bruckless it is important these areas are upgraded to include walking and cycling infrastructure too. Cllr Jordan emphasised that these types of projects, encourage additional people to come and live, work and invest in the area.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Kennedy also highlighted the attributes Killybegs Harbour offers including benefits for the tourism sector and noted that this route includes a number of factories, schools and churches. As there are no safe walking facilities along the route, Cllr Kennedy also emphasised the importance of the upgrade works and noted that the turbine lengths are continuing to increase therefore the road network needs to be appropriate to facilitate the distribution of the wind energy infrastructure. At a recent meeting with the Department of Transport, Cllr Kennedy submitted that a commitment to provide a seed fund of €50,000 was given.

Mr Martin welcomed this motion and looked forward to working with the Members to expand the infrastructure in the south of Donegal and implement the actions and recommendations identified in the Donegal Off-Shore Report. Cllr Jordan acknowledged Mr Martin’s contribution and the support of the Executive in progressing this project.

MDD/171/22 DISCUSSION ON THE DONEGAL TOWN BOTTLE BANKS

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Naughton the following motion was adopted:-

“As a matter of urgency, the Donegal MD calls on the Environment Department to move forward and choose a location for the

recycling/bottle bank in Donegal Town as the current location is unsuitable and in disrepair”.

Members were given a response to the motion by the Director of Service, Environment Section.

In proposing this motion, Cllr Conaghan submitted that he has received in the past a number of replies in relation to this issue, however, to date no progress has been made. Cllr Conaghan stated the existing location is totally unsuitable with a surface that is in disrepair and is willing to meet with all relevant sections within the Council to identify a proper solution to this ongoing issue.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Naughton expressed his frustration and outlined details of where he felt he was misinformed regarding the progress on the project. Cllr Naughton noted a number of motions has been brought forward regarding the relocation of the bottle banks and hoped this current motion would bring about change.

In conclusion, Cllr Conaghan thanked Cllr Naughton for seconding the motion and hoped the matter would be resolved by the new year.

MDD/172/22 DISCUSSION ON UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES WITHIN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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

“That this Municipal District discuss unfinished housing estates in the Municipal District of Donegal, in particular in the Bundoran Area, where a number of estates are awaiting to be ‘taken in charge’ by the Council.”

Members were given a response to the motion by the Senior Executive Engineer, Community & Planning Services

In proposing this motion, Cllr McMahon commended the work of the Building Control Office and especially the work carried out in the Bundoran area. Cllr McMahon noted that there was still a number of estates that lacked basic services such as lighting and sought a meeting to discuss this issue further.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Jordan noted that unfinished estates were unfair to the residents who had purchased properties within the estate, in good faith and understanding that all outstanding works would be completed. Unfortunately, this is not the case and encouraged all agencies to come together to progress the takeover of the estates.

As the motion was passed, a Taking In Charge Workshop will be organised in the new year.

QUESTIONS

MDD/173/22 DISABLED PARKING SPACES IN DONEGAL TOWN

The following question was submitted by Cllr Conaghan: -

“How many disabled parking spaces are currently available in Donegal Town and is there a possibility of increasing this number?”

Cllr Conaghan received a response from the Area Manager, Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

MDD/174/22 MAINTENANCE ON MANHOLE COVERS

The following question was submitted by Cllr Conaghan: -

“Can this MD carry out maintenance on all manhole covers in Donegal Town, several have been reported on both roads and footpaths as being loose and unsafe”.

Cllr Conaghan received a response from the Area Manager, Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

MDD/175/22 Date of Next Meeting / Workshops

- Roads Workshop on Monday the 9th January 2023 at 10am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber.
- MD Meeting on Tuesday the 10th January 2023 at 11.30 am in the Peter Kennedy Chamber (as per standing orders)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Area Manager
Municipal District of Donegal

Cathaoirleach
Municipal District of Donegal



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

Municipal District of Donegal

10th January 2023

Housing & Corporate

REPORT

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

Casual Vacancies

Area	BED	Dwelling Vacated	Comment
Bundoran	3	Tenant deceased on the 25/08/2022	Assessment Complete
Ballyshannon	3	Keys returned 08/07/2019	Tender documents to be prepared
Dunkineely	3	25/08/2017	Tender documents to be prepared
Dunkineely	3	15/12/2017	Tender documents to be prepared
Killybegs	1	Tenant deceased - keys returned 23/05/2022	Assessment Complete

Position as at 23rd December 2022

HOUSING GRANTS

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HO	2021	111	98	9	1	3
HO	2022	85	63	6	8	8

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	REAPPLIED UNDER HM GRANT	FURTHER INFO.	REF. TO OT	REF. To ENGINEER	PENDING
HD	2021	57	46	4	1	0	4	0	2
HD	2022	46	20	3	1	3	11	0	8

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED \ INVALID	REAPPLIED UNDER HD GRANT	REF. TO OT	FURTHER INFO	PENDING
HM	2021	39	29	4	6	0	0	0
HM	2022	42	31	2	4	1	1	3

HOUSING LOANS

	YEAR	TOTAL RECEIVED	APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE	APPROVED	REFUSED \ CANCELLED	PENDING	Further information
Housing Loans	2021	13	0	2	11	0	0
Housing Loans	2022	7	0	0	4	3	0
Housing Loans	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tenant Purchase Applications 2021 - 2022

Year	No. of Apps Received	Incomplete Returned	Open Applications	Refused/ Not Eligible	Offer letters Issued	Completed
2021	14	0	6	2	6	2
2022	9	0	8	1	0	0

HAP Tenancies	
Municipal District	Number
Donegal	212
Letterkenny	705
Glenties	104
Stranorlar	262
Inishowen	432
Sub Total	1715
Tenancies Closed	2577
Overall Total	4292

Municipal District	Waiting List (Net Need)	Transfer List	Total Gross Need
Donegal	148	222	370
Ballintra	5	5	10
Ballyshannon	27	52	79
Bruckless	7	1	8
Bundoran	29	62	91
Carrick	1	0	1
Donegal	55	65	120
Drimarone	1	0	1
Dunkineely	2	4	6
Frosses	1	2	3
Glencolmcille	3	0	3
Kilcar	2	3	5
Killybegs	8	16	24
Laghey	1	4	5
Mountcharles	3	6	9
Pettigo	3	2	5
Total	148	222	370

Updated 28.12.2022

**Housing Capital Update Report
Donegal Municipal District Meeting
January 2023**

1. Social Housing Developments – Construction Schemes

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

Location	Status	No. of Units
Construction Stage		
Railway Park, Donegal Town (Phase 3)	Construction works commenced. All buildings are currently at wallplate/roof level. Due for completion June 2023	24
Design / Tender Stage		
Drumacrin, Bundoran Phase 1	Project has been tendered on eTenders. Tender Return date is 20 th January 2023. Once the Tenders have been received an evaluation panel will complete the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Compliance check 2: Suitability assessment 3: Tender evaluation The Design Team produces a tender report and an application is sent to the Department for approval to appoint a contractor. Anticipated start date on site June / July 2023	42
Largymore, Kilcar (SI)	Part 8 approved by the Elected Members at the September 2022 Council Meeting. Appointment of consultants is ongoing. Anticipated tender date Q2 2023 with construction start date Q3 2023.	1

Preliminary Design Stage (No of units subject to change)		
New Row, Fintra Road, Killybegs	Trial holes due to be carried out in advance of a Stage 1 funding application to the Department.	17
Laghey	An amended design proposal which incorporates off street parking has been sent to the Department for approval. On receipt of approval a Part 8 Planning application will be made.	4
Total		88

2. Housing Acquisition Programme & Buy & Renew Programme

The Council is currently in the process of acquiring 2 no. units under the Buy & Renew Programme at Donegal Town. This acquisition will see 2 no. long-term vacant properties brought back into productive use for social housing purposes. Significant works will be required to the properties following the completion of the contract stage and in advance of letting.

3. Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition

Donegal County Council's turnkey acquisition process is continuing throughout the county. This competitive dialogue procurement process will result in a major capital investment in social housing and initial projects have now been completed under this process. This is a very effective mechanism enabling the Council to feed into the design of the proposal so as to ensure that the end product is suitable for the needs of social housing tenants. Proposals are subject to meeting the requirements of the procurement process, planning, departmental approval and contract.

Construction works to the approved turnkey development at Brookfield, Donegal Town are ongoing by Developer PJ McDermott. The development will provide a total of 38 social housing units as follows: Phases 1 & 2 of the development containing 22 units are complete. Phase 3 of the development is progressing and will provide an additional 16 families/tenants with new homes.

Stage 4 approval has also been obtained from the Department for a turnkey development at Rockview, Ballyshannon. The development is being delivered by Parkfort Developments Ltd. will comprise 5 no. 2 bedroom units. The Council has entered into a contract with the Developer and delivery of the 5 no. units.

In addition, Council officials are continuing to dialogue with Developers in relation to an additional valid proposal for Donegal Town for 35 units and Members will be fully informed of these proposals upon receipt of final departmental approval.

4. Lands / Property for Social Housing Purposes

The Council is planning to develop further projects on existing landbank in various locations throughout the county. Preliminary designs are underway for a number of these sites and are informed by the pertaining approved social housing need at local level.

In parallel with the construction and turnkey programmes outlined above, 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 / shortfall.

In addition to the current expression of interest advertisement on the Councils' website for parcels of land, derelict sites / buildings with the potential to deliver social housing, the Council is also separately identifying parcels of land with social housing potential in areas of need.

A number of suitable parcels of land have been identified across the Donegal MD and engagement / negotiations are ongoing directly with landowners / agents to acquire these lands. In this regard the Council has currently 1 offer accepted, subject to contract, in Ballyshannon.

Approved Housing Bodies Developments - Donegal Municipal District

Funding Programme	Scheme / Project Name	No of Units	Approved Housing Body	Current Status
CAS Construction	Drumrooske, Donegal Town	10	Oaklee	Construction works complete

Repair & Lease Scheme Summary

MD	Applications					
	Received	No. of Units	Awaiting assessment	Rejected	Progressing	Total
Inishowen	24	27	7	17	0	24
Donegal	17	41	1	16	0	17
Glenties	19	19	1	18	0	19
Letterkenny	25	32	0	25	0	25
Stranorlar	22	70	9	13	0	22
Total	107	189	18	89	0	107

**Donegal Municipal District
2023 Roadworks Programme
Status Report -10th January 2023**

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	€6,608.59	€0.00	€12,337.59	€34,341.41
	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	€19,828.72	€52,004.50	€30,163.50
	Kilcar			€3,200.00	€3,200.00			€0.00	€0.00	€3,200.00
	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		€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€10,000.00
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	€21,522.68	€17,500.00	€0.00	€39,022.68	€57,688.32
	Laghey		€8,300.00	€8,000.00	€16,300.00		€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€16,300.00
	Bridgetown			€6,000.00	€6,000.00			€0.00	€0.00	€6,000.00
	Pettigo		€8,300.00	€10,000.00	€18,300.00		€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€18,300.00
Totals		€149,438.00	€132,800.00	€284,856.00	€567,094.00				€289,646.32	€277,447.68

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	€0.00	€17,246.37
16	Ballyshannon Area	€105,492.62	€0.00	€105,492.62
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
Total amount			€130,596.00		€90,733.51	€39,862.49

Donegal MD Active Travel Projects

Jan	Project Name	Project Description	Project Band	Current Phase	Phase 6 Construction Date planned	DCC Comments
DU/21/0002	Proposed Footpath between the Niall Moore National School & Foresters Hall carpark Killybegs	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
DU/21/0008a	Ballyshannon, Bishop Street	Provision of footpath on (L-2465-1)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 3 - Preliminary Design	Q3 2024	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , preliminary design ongoing, one-way system required,
DU/21/0008b	Donegal Town, Killybegs Road	Provision of infill section of footpath on the Killybegs Road (R925)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 4 - Planning and Stat Approvals	Q3 2024	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, NIS required, planning and CPO 2023
DU/21/0008c	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	Q1 2024	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design and land purchase ongoing
DU/21/0008d	Killybegs, Church Road	Construction of infill section of footpath, drainage and public lighting on Church Road (LP1315-1)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Q3 2022	Construction works ongoing,
DU/21/0008e	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 to be issued to NTA
DU/21/0008f	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 completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/21/0008g	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	Q2 2024	TOBINS appointed, detail design and land purchase ongoing
DU/21/0008h	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 completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/21/0009a	Glencolumbcille	Proposed footpath improvement works in Glencolumbcille (R263)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q2 2022	Works completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/21/0009b	Carrick	Proposed footpath improvement works in Carrick (R263 & L1125)	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 7 - Close Out and Review	Q4 2021	Works completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/21/0023	Safe to Schools Programme - Scoil Aodh Rua & Nuala	Safe to Schools Programme	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 2 - Concept and Options	Q1 2023	Green Schools to undertake delivery plan in Q2 2023 to allow Prelim design to commence
DU/21/0024a	TOWNPARKS BALLYSHANNON PED CROSS	Low Cost Junction Tightening / Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	Band 1 < 0.5mil	Phase 6 - Construction	Q3 2021	Works ongoing.
DU/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 2023
DU/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
DU/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 completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/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 completed - final close out report required 2023
DU/22/0002	Donegal Town One Way system	It is proposed to introduce a One-Way System onto Tirchonail Street, Castle Street, Water Street and New Row within Donegal Town. The scheme will provide crossing points, new wider footpaths, widening of existing footpaths, landscaped pedestrian refuge islands, traffic calming.	Band 2 < 10mil	Phase 5 - Detailed Design and Tender	Q3 2023	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design ongoing. Contractor to be appointed Q1 2023, site supervision required
DU/22/0005	Ballyshannon to Bundoran Active Travel Scheme	Old N15 (now R267) Bundoran to Ballyshannon Cycling Greyway	Band 2 < 10mil	Phase 3- Preliminary Design	Q1 2024	TOBINS Consultant Engineers appointed , preliminary design ongoing, Part 8 Planning 2023
DU/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	Q2 2023	TOBINS Consultant Engineers, detail design & land acquisition ongoing. Construction 2023
DU/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 2023
DU/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.

Phase No	Description of phase
1	Scoping & Purpose
2	Concept & Options
3	Preliminary Design
4	Planning & Statutory Approvals
5	Detailed Design & Tender
6	Construction
7	Close Out & Review

Donegal MD										
2023 LIS Priority List -										
2023 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	

2023 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

Donegal EDU Municipal District Report January 2023

Content

1. Economic Development

1.1 Economic Development Unit

1.2 Tourism Marketing Unit

1.3 Trail Gazers Bid Project

1.4 Strategic Funding Unit

1.5 Donegal Diaspora Unit

2. Local Enterprise Office

3. Emergency Services - Fire Service

1. Division: Economic Development

1.1 Economic Development Unit

Project / Activity Report

Title	Economic Development Unit
Donegal MD	Ballyshannon Vision Project: The pilot initiative to support and empower the capacity of key stakeholders has now concluded and three specific focus project areas have emerged with group leaders and areas of work mapped out. The 'Town Teams' will be supported by the Business Concierge Service and other Council services as appropriate to develop their specific project areas with a total of 16 volunteers involved. A follow-up progress meeting is scheduled for February 2023.
Countywide	<p>Property Solutions: The team is progressing 13 property solution opportunities across the county. These are queries relating to the purchase of council owned lands for Economic Development purposes.</p> <p>Killybegs Marine Cluster: Work with the Killybegs Marine Cluster is ongoing and the group recently supported a new pilot schools programme via the Alpha Innovation Centre and a publicity campaign highlighting opportunities in the blue economy.</p> <p>Caravan, Camping and Campervan Study: recommendations from the Caravan, Camping and Campervan study being implemented along with internal and external stakeholders. The Caravan, Camping, Campervan and Motorhome Facilities grant Scheme: the grant scheme, targeting the Private Sector and Community and Voluntary sector has now been evaluated and grants awarded. Letters of Offer are currently with successful applicants and the Council are working to determine project schedules for drawdown, with consideration given to increasing costs and pressures on local business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marketing: A dedicated caravan, camping, campervan and motorhomes webpage has been developed on govisitdonegal.com. The EDU are reviewing this work in partnership with the Tourism Unit.

#BuyDonegal 2022

#BuyDonegal is continuing to drive traction, locally, nationally and internationally with over 350 businesses participating in the 2022 edition. To date (Dec 15th) the campaign has reached over 5m people on social media.

Relocation Marketing Campaign

Following a tender process, a marketing agency, bigO Creative, has been appointed to develop a relocation marketing campaign to attract talent nationally and from overseas, while showcasing Donegal as a desirable location to live and build a career. The campaign will roll-out in Q1 2023.

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

	Impressions (last 28 days)	Total Followers
Linked In	28,900	4,410 (+56)
Twitter	25,300	2,442 (+31)
Instagram	5,254	3,660 (+163)
Facebook	30,040	1,805 (+63)
Donegal.ie	5.6K Web Users (4 weeks 16 November – 14 December)	
	18 News Items Published	

Shared Island

Donegal County Council were awarded funding for a series of new innovative projects under the Irish Government's Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme and will be working in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in the coming year. The Economic Development Unit will be leading out on three projects and are currently scoping requirements for feasibility assessment and governance structures, in preparation for procurement of consultants in early 2023.

- **The North West Regulatory Tech Cluster project** is a proposal to develop an all-island national institute in Regulatory Technology ('RegTech') in the North West. DCC will work with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Catalyst, ATU and other partners to develop campuses in both Letterkenny and Derry. A project manager for two Shared Island projects (Slí Cholmcille and RegTech) was appointed on 5th December 2022 to drive the process forward.
- **Innovation Plaza** to develop cross-border enterprise opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing & engineering and agri-food.
- **Regenerative Tourism** involving engagement with the region's place, past and people, seeking to attract high-yield environmentally conscious visitors.

North West City Region

Donegal County Council continue to work in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council on a number of key projects for supporting and stimulating Inward Investment in the region.

- **Inward Investment Strategy:** both councils have worked with OCO Global to develop a three-year Investment strategy for the region. Follow up actions and potential funding options have been developed on this with pitch propositions currently being finalised in partnership with OCO Global, focusing on key investment sectors.
- **Talent Solutions:** both councils are working with Abodoo to develop a mapping platform to demonstrate the range of skills in the region to help attract FDI to the Northwest of Ireland.
- **Communications:** The EDU continue to collaborate with DCSDC on promoting the North West City Region for investment and business opportunities including via LinkedIn and Twitter platforms. This work will tie into the Inward Investment Strategy in the coming year, with a current focus on the Talent Solutions survey. Both Councils conducted joint communications to promote the Investment Event held in Dublin.

You can follow respective LinkedIn and Twitter Platforms :
[@NorthWestCityRegionIreland](#)

	<p>Atlantic Economic Corridor: The Donegal County Council are working with Local Authority partners along the western coast to progress mutually beneficial projects and initiatives around economic development.</p> <p>There are 2 Donegal based projects due for launch in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving West on TG4 –The show, which is produced by Dundara Television in association with The Western Development Commission puts a spotlight on the Atlantic Seaboard counties. Throughout the series the show follows the lives of individuals and families who have moved or are in the process of moving to a new home along the Atlantic coast. The episode on Donegal will be shown on 1st February. • Donegal More to Life Video – A stunning new video will shows scenes of home, work and life up and down the West of Ireland – and declares: “This is more than just a place. This is a way of life. It’s where work/life balance flourishes. This is the West of Ireland, where there is more to life.” The video for Donegal is due to release in January 2023. Date TBC. <p>Concierge Service: The EDU are available to support existing businesses, potential business start-ups or businesses looking to relocate or wishing to expand and who need advice on accessing a wide range of Council services and supports including broadband connectivity. Please contact the EDU by email economicdevelopment@donegalcoco.ie.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Ciaran Martin - ciaran.martin@donegalcoco.ie (086) 8261760</p> <p>Rosita Mahony – rosita.mahony@donegalcoco.ie (087) 2510128</p>

1.2 Tourism Marketing Unit:

Project/Activity Report

Outline of Work	<p><u>Marketing Updates</u> Holiday World Show 2023</p> <p>This event is taking place in RDS, Dublin from Fri, 27th – Sun, 29th January 2023 and is the first post-Covid Show since 2020. It is anticipated that the show will attract an audience of 70,000 over the weekend.</p> <p>There will be 16 individual booths and 18 businesses will be attending the show under the Donegal Tourism brand.</p>
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The Tourism Unit is 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

Production of Tourism Brochure 2023

The A4 Tourism Brochure has been developed every year by the Tourism Unit since 2017. It is widely recognised as a valuable resource. The brochure allows for easy demonstrations of the county and its visitor attractions.

The Tourism Unit is currently revamping the Tourism Brochure which will be ready for mid-January 2023. With the environment and sustainability in mind, a condensed A5 printed brochure will be developed with QR codes linking to the website which will link the readers to the www.govisitdonegal.com website for more information. A viewable and printable PDF version will also be available.

TBEX FAM Trip

A representative from TBEX (Travel Bloggers Exchange) visited **from the USA in early December to examine the facilities within the county to host this major tourism conference.** TBEX is the world's largest conference and networking event for online travel journalists and travel industry companies. Its previous conferences have generated 16.2 million monitored blogs and tweets.

The conference has the potential to bring over 550 delegates from across the globe to Donegal and it is an excellent opportunity for the tourism industry in the county to engage with the world's most influential travel bloggers and leading digital content creators.

#BuyDonegal 2022 Campaign

The Tourism Unit is supporting the Economic Development Team during the #BuyDonegal campaign. Tourism offers are listed on the govisitdonegal.com website. Week 4 of the campaign is focused on tourism and service providers and will be led by the tourism team. Accommodation offers have been promoted throughout the week.

In addition, a social media competition ran on Facebook from Nov 30th – Dec 5th attracting large numbers to the Go Visit Donegal Facebook page and highlighting the #BuyDonegal campaign.

Ireland in Music – Season 3

	<p>Donegal County Council continues to support the ‘Ireland in Music’ TV show which offers a huge international exposure in key markets overseas. Filming for series 3 began in September 2022, with broadcasting to commence in the first quarter of 2023.</p> <p>Further PR will follow once dates are confirmed.</p> <p>Filming locations in Donegal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drumboe Woods, Ballybofey. - Amphitheatre, Árainn Mhór. <p><u>International Distribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 Europe-wide screenings via European Broadcasting Union. - 3-year licensing deal with SBS Australia to broadcast and feature on IIM on the SBS On-Demand platform, viewed by 2.86million Australians each year. - IIM received a primetime slot on RTE1, RTE+1 and remains on the RTE Player for 1year. - Major partnership with USPBS member, WNET, who have broadcast IIM 57 times across New York, New Jersey and Long Island. - Social impressions: 1,507,482+ - TV viewership to date: Ireland 136k+ / USA 411k+ / Australia 38k+ <p>Christmas Lights Switch On 2022</p> <p>The tourism unit has been sharing images of the Christmas lights switch on and Christmas events happening throughout the county, promoting towns & villages to the wider audience.</p> <p>TIDE – Atlantic Network for Developing Historical Maritime Tourism</p> <p>Donegal County Council has developed three virtual reality experiences. All three experiences have been launched – Napoleonic era – ‘The Storm, The Sea – The Saldanha’, the Spanish Armada experience – ‘Wrath of the Atlantic, Wrecks of the Armada’ & World War 1 era - ‘Beware! Convoy Below!’ with promotional videos promoting all experiences.</p> <p>All experiences are continually promoted on websites & social media platforms. Information panels for sites to be installed in December.</p> <p>The collation content for the platform is ongoing. A six-month extension has been awarded with additional outputs to continue to develop the experiences. Claim 6 was audited and inspected by First Level Controller in early December.</p>
Donegal MD	Bundoran Marketing

	<p>Continued preparation of marketing plan 2023. Ongoing weekly podcast production delivered every Friday. Compilation and distribution of monthly email newsletter.</p> <p>Bundoran Tourist Office Tourist Office open 4 days a week. Currently one TÚS employee working and one volunteer.</p> <p>Website and Social Media Maintaining a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Scheduling of content to direct social media users to the website to increase traffic. Creation of website content and updating of event/music listings.</p> <p>Users of discoverbundoran.com up 41% Jan 1st – Dec 14th v 2021, Page views up 49% on same period & Sessions up 45% on same period.</p> <p>Website users and page views: 2021 (Jan-Dec) - Users 96,654 - Page Views 207,219 2022 (Jan-Dec 14th) - Users 131,811 - Page Views 299,459 The webcam remains the most viewed page on the site accounting for almost 13% of all pageviews in 2022.</p> <p>Waterworld Setting up of voucher marketing campaign on website. Preparing marketing plan for 2023 season.</p> <p>Other Working with DCC team on Bundoran Oceanside project/Public Toilets. Continuing to work on various elements of the Tourism Masterplan with Fáilte Ireland. Working with Fáilte Ireland on finalising other elements of Oceanside project above. Christmas lights with Bundoran Tidy Towns.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Sarah Nolan Acting Head of Tourism Economic Development Division 087 2691977</p>

1.3. Trail Gazers Bid Project

Project/Activity Report

Activity / Project Title	Trail Gazers Bid Project
Activity / Project Description	‘To quantify the return to the local economy for every euro invested in walks and recreational trail infrastructure ‘
Budget	€2.6 M
Progress to date within quarter* - inclusive of current status	<p>In 2018, Donegal County Councils Research & Policy Unit successfully led an application to the Atlantic Area Programme under objective 4.2 ‘Enhancing natural and cultural assets to stimulate economic development’.</p> <p>This transnational project is managed by the Research & Policy Unit (Lead Partner), working with 9 different partners located across Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal.</p> <p>The project sets out to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quantify the impact of key strategic investments in walks and recreational trail infrastructure can have on stimulating rural communities, using sensors data, counters, surveys of users, businesses, communities etc.• Develop and trial a range of practical initiatives and interventions such as business to consumer initiatives, digital marketing tools etc to enhance the return.• Work with communities, businesses and other key stakeholders in the area to develop community plans and initiatives around the site.• Develop a range of community trail ambassadors to champion the sites as catalysts for the development of rural economies.• Our site for research purposes is Inch Levels and post project completion it is likely that key learning and methodology can be applied to other sites in the county and region through an extensive capitalisation programme. <p>SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS Website: www.trailgazers.eu</p>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TrailgazersB
 Twitter: twitter.com/hashtag/TrailGazers
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/trail.gazers
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/trailgazers>
 #TrailGazers

PROGRESS

- Following our Walkability Audit of our pilot trail on the 18th October, a report has been produced with general observations in relation to our pilot trail at Inch Wildfowl Reserve. Trail Gazers is delighted to have been successful with a Slaintecare Application in order to carry out some of the recommendations raised following this audit. Procurement will start in the new year.



- Trail Gazers Toolkit – The Legacy has now been completed and will be available on our website for any groups or organisations to use in relation to their trails.

- In line with our development options arising from our stakeholder engagements, final upgrading works are now completed. This was key output from the Trail Gazers Project and will play an important role in creating more public awareness of the site.



Project Targets for the next quarterly* reporting period

- Launch Project Toolkit.
- Preparation of the final project claim
- Final infrastructural works to be carried out under our Slaintecare application.

Contact Person

Mary McBride
marymcbride@donegalcoco.ie

1.4 Strategic Funding Unit:

Project/Activity Report

Title	Strategic Funding Unit – exploring EU and National Funding Opportunities that support the objectives set out in the Donegal County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024
All MD's	<p>SFU Webinars</p> <p>The SFU has delivered 10 webinars to date focused on EU funding opportunities and project development support. These webinars are available to view on YouTube.</p> <p>SFU E-mail Newsletter</p> <p>The SFU has distributed 13 e-mail newsletters in 2022 to both internal staff and external contacts with information on funding opportunities, project development supports and events.</p> <p>SFU and Local Authority Funding Strategy 2023</p> <p>A Strategic Funding Unit Strategy was developed in 2020 and this strategy will come to an end in 2022. The SFU is now working with the <i>North West Regional Assembly</i> on developing a Local Authority Funding Strategy following consultation with the SMT. This new NWRA Local Authority Funding Strategy will include an action plan for the coming years in relation to maximising opportunities arising from the current EU funding programme period of 2021 – 2027.</p> <p>YOUTHopia- Generating Perspectives for Cohesion</p> <p>Following the launch of the "YOUTHopia- Generating Perspectives for Cohesion" project, Donegal County Council will be working on a proposal to host a 'future fair', an event showcasing the opportunities in the North West for young people including skills and education, employment and entrepreneurship. The European Year of Skills will be 2023. This project will also include a 4-day training workshop in June</p>

	<p>2023 where young people can participate in a training programme in media and communication skills delivered by international media agency Café Babel.</p> <p>Exploration of EU Funding Opportunities with the North West Tertiary Education Cluster (NWTEC)</p> <p>The SFU has met with representatives of the NWTEC to discuss potential collaboration on EU funding opportunities including engagement in the YOUTHopia project in 2023. NWTEC is comprised of the four main Educational Institutions in the region, and includes Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Donegal Education & Training Board (DETB), Ulster University (U.U) and North West Regional College (NWRC). Further engagement is planned for 2023.</p> <p>URBACT & IFI Project</p> <p>Following the success of the URBACT playful paradigm project, Donegal Sports Partnership has been successful in securing funding via the International Fund for Ireland for a cross-border active play project. Working in collaboration with Donegal County Council and local stakeholders, this project will be piloted in Donegal Town, Letterkenny and Derry.</p> <p>Project Partnership & Development</p> <p>There are several new EU project proposals being reviewed on a daily basis. The SFU is receiving invitations to join consortiums from a number of sources. These are being reviewed and sent to the relevant Directorates on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Other areas of work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Funding Programme Reviews • Participation in project scoping meetings with potential partners • Participation in EU network meetings such as CPMR, AER etc. • Funding Needs Analysis of Council Divisions • Regular Strategic Funding Newsletters
Donegal MD	<p>Donegal Diamond – Outdoor Public Space Scheme</p> <p>Part 8 planning permission is approved. Capital works/construction procurement is ongoing in Nov/Dec 2022. Tender assessment will take</p>

	<p>place in Jan/Feb 2023 with a view to appointing a construction company in Feb 2023. The arboriculturist report is complete. Once the construction company is appointed the timescale for the works to be completed will be determined and communicated locally. The SFU is engaging with local community groups in relation to elements such as seating, planters, trees etc.</p> <p>Donegal Town Pier and Diamond Masterplan</p> <p>The Masterplan for both the Pier and the Diamond is well developed. Further consultation with key stakeholders is required before it is finalised. This will take place in the New Year. The internal team is also looking at what elements of the Masterplan could be completed in a staged approach to development and investigating potential funding, foreshore licenses etc.</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme – Bundoran Oceanside</p> <p>Part 8 planning has been approved for the Bundoran Oceanside project. Capital works tendering is underway with a view to appointing a construction company in January 2023 and commencing work by February 2023 with a view to completion in April/May 2023. This will be followed by a launch event. Bundoran lettering is also being developed for the main beach area. The public conveniences refurbishment will be completed by end December 2022.</p> <p>Minor Tourism Related Grant Scheme Application</p> <p>The Strategic Funding Unit has been successful in applying to the Minor Tourism Related Grants Scheme to refurbish the promenade at the Thrupenny Pool in Bundoran. Capital works procurement is underway.</p>
<p>Contact Person</p>	<p>Joy Harron</p> <p>Acting Senior Staff Officer</p> <p>Mobile: +353 (87) 0619360</p> <p>E-mail: joyharron@donegalcoco.ie</p>

1.5 Donegal Diaspora Unit:

Project/Activity Report

Title	Donegal Diaspora Unit
Countywide	<p data-bbox="461 436 854 470">Donegal Connect 2023 / 2024</p> <p data-bbox="461 508 1373 630">Plans for 2023 have already commenced and dates are hoped to be agreed upon, before the end of the year with a funding application for the Global Irish Festival Series 2024 also due for submission.</p> <p data-bbox="461 667 971 701">Tip O’Neill Irish Diaspora Awards 2023</p> <p data-bbox="461 739 1373 907">A consultation exercise with the O’Neill family has been completed for the Tip O’Neill Irish Diaspora Awards 2023. A provisional date of 16th September 2023 has been agreed upon with procurement to commence in early 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="461 945 1010 978">Donegal Diaspora Website / Social Media</p> <p data-bbox="461 1016 1396 1184">A communications plan on the use of the Diaspora website and associated Diaspora social media channels is currently taking place with further updates to follow. <i>Donegal Diaspora social media statistics as of 16/12/2022 are as follows:</i></p> <p data-bbox="461 1222 938 1255">LinkedIn – 1,123 (up 25) connections</p> <p data-bbox="461 1293 886 1327">Twitter – 4,008 (up 19) followers</p> <p data-bbox="461 1365 915 1398">Facebook – 5,750 (up 29) followers</p> <p data-bbox="461 1436 883 1470">Instagram – 262 (up 9) followers</p> <p data-bbox="461 1507 639 1541">#BuyDonegal</p> <p data-bbox="461 1579 1373 1701">From 5th – 9th December #BuyDonegal had a Diaspora themed week. with giveaway prizes from Magee 1866, Donegal Rapeseed Oil, Jacinta Callaghan Art amongst others.</p> <p data-bbox="461 1738 695 1772">Scottish Diaspora</p> <p data-bbox="461 1810 1396 1885">A meeting was held between the Diaspora Officer and Donegal County Council Ambassador Packie Bonner with the aim of establishing a strong</p>

	<p>Diaspora network within key Scottish cities such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. Further meetings will take place in 2023 with Tourism Ireland also to be involved.</p> <p>Diaspora Consultation</p> <p>The Diaspora Officer is currently working on plans for a consultation exercise to ascertain the views of the Diaspora and other relevant organisations in relation to ongoing work to develop Diaspora connections/networks that will inform the future strategy.</p>
Contact Person	<p>Eoin Leonard</p> <p>Diaspora Officer</p> <p>Mobile: +353 (87) 360 5678</p> <p>E-mail: eleonard@donegalcoco.ie</p>

2. Division: Local Enterprise Office

Project / Activity Report

Activity / Project Title	The Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
Role and Remit	<p>The Local Enterprise Offices is positioned nationally as the “<i>First Stop Shop</i>” for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office Donegal provides advice, information and support to those starting up or growing their business in Donegal. Grant is potentially available for businesses that meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Further information available here - localenterprise.ie/donegal</p> <p>Contact number: 074-9160735</p>

Outline of Work	<p>General Overview – Highlights:</p> <p><u>Summary of October Outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Aid –
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- 35 Businesses have been approved Grant Aid.
- Value of total Grant Aid Approvals YTD is €795,360.40
- Trading Online Vouchers – 44 Businesses approved support to a value of €88,828.34
- Mentoring YTD – 152 Businesses have received this support
- Training – 1,434 Business Attendees YTD.
- Student Enterprise Programme – The latest programme began in September for this academic year. 769 Donegal students are participating in 15 schools.

Upcoming Programmes:

Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Enterprise Ireland is working with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to help Irish businesses manage and mitigate the economic impact of the current crisis in Ukraine.

The Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme is a €200 million fund to assist viable but vulnerable firms in manufacturing and internationally traded services. It is aimed at businesses experiencing significant difficulty as a result of increased energy costs.

The Scheme offers two streams of support to manufacturing and Internationally Traded Services companies.

Stream 1 is a liquidity measure that will help viable manufacturing and Internationally Traded Services companies experiencing trading difficulties. The overall aid under this measure will not exceed €500,000 and will typically be provided on a co-funded basis. The minimum aid award is €20,000.

Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Údarás Na Gaeltachta and the Local Enterprise Office are the approved granting authorities for Stream 1.

Stream 2 will provide aid for additional costs due to exceptionally severe increases in natural gas and electricity prices experienced by energy-intensive businesses. The aid will be in the form of direct grants and the overall aid per undertaking will not exceed 30% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of €2 million. The minimum aid award is €20,000. Applicants will be required to demonstrate measures undertaken or planned to improve energy efficiency.

For both Streams applicants must submit an energy efficiency plan, ratified by senior management of the company.

Companies should contact Enterprise Ireland (EI) via the website: www.enterprise-ireland.com/ECS. The EI Hub team will do some initial checks to make sure companies can avail of the scheme. If validated as eligible, the companies are emailed an Application pack and an EI Development Advisor or their equivalent in the LEO are notified.

Subject to the normal assessment criteria, the applications are then evaluated and decisioned by the relevant authority.

Currently the Streams have two different closing dates. **Stream 1 is open until the 1st December 2022**, though this will likely be extended into the New Year and **Stream 2 is open until 31st March 2023**.

To date, information packs for Stream 1 & 2 have been issued to one firm in Donegal. Information sessions will be taking place in the New Year to provide the opportunity for companies in Donegal to learn more about the scheme's qualifying criteria and how to apply.

Scale-X Blue Economy

Scale-X Blue Economy is an 11-week Accelerator Programme which is targeted at start up entrepreneurs with the potential for fast growth in the Blue Economy i.e. the Marine engineering, marine research, marine energy, value added fish processing sectors. The programme focuses on giving you a deep understanding of the metrics that can drive your success, the skills to build financial models that stand up to investor scrutiny, and industry engagement and mentorship that give you valuable insights to adapt your business model to create the perfect fit.

Who is eligible?

- Any founder(s) with ambitions to grow their business globally.
- Any founder(s) with the potential for fast growth in the marine engineering, marine research, marine energy or value-added fish processing sectors
- A potential spin-out from an existing firm or third level institution
- A commitment to grow your business from Donegal, no matter where in the world you live right now.
- The programme is open to residents of County Donegal

Further Info:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Donegal/Training-Events/SCALE-XBLUE/>

The programme will begin in April 2023.

Donegal Enterprise Awards

The Awards celebrate the achievements of Donegal's small business sector over the past year. The awards recognise and celebrate the success stories of small business owners from all over the county. The following awards were announced and presented at the County Donegal Final of the competition, held on Friday 2nd December 2022.

Award Categories – Overall Prize Fund €14,000

- Best Established Award (over 18months trading) – Prize Fund €3000 – Silver Strand Ropes, Patrick McLaughlin, Moville.
- Best Established Award Runner-Up (over 18months trading) – Prize Fund €1000 – Irish Gap Year, Ryan Allen, Bundoran.
- Best Start Up Award (less than 18months trading) – Prize Fund €2000 – Bon Appetit, Eugene Gallen, Killygordon.
- Best Start Up Award Runner-Up (less than 18months trading) – Prize Fund €1000 – North Fox facilities services Ltd, Clonmany.
- Best Donegal Enterprise Export Award – Prize Fund €1000 – Niche Specialist Staffing, Gareth My Glynn, Bridgend.
- Best Donegal Enterprise Innovation Award – Prize Fund €1000 – Ample – Caroline Friel, Inishowen.
- Best Donegal Enterprise Green Award - Prize Fund €1000 – Donegal Bees – Thomas Ellis, Glencolcille.
- Best Donegal Enterprise Digital award - Prize Fund €1000 – Caitlin NicGabhan, Bunbeg.
- The Food Coast – Enterprise Award - Prize Fund €1000 – Little Mammias, Jon Geary, Donegal Town.

- The Creative Coast – Enterprise Award – Prize Fund €1000 – Molloy & Son, Kieran Molly, Ardara.
- Donegal Engineering Cluster - Enterprise Award - Prize Fund €1000 – Diorite, Ian Mason, Bunrana.

Ongoing Programmes:

Digital Start

YTD - 23 Donegal LEO Clients receiving this support worth €99,000

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

Digitalisation supports competitiveness, productivity, and value creation and covers five main areas:

1. Data processing and analysis (i.e. gathering customer trends, values insights)
2. Cloud computing (i.e. moving software/data to the cloud for accessibility)
3. Cybersecurity (i.e. protecting records, information, IP and data from attacks)
4. Internet of Things (software/technology connectivity)
5. Industry 4.0 (i.e. process automation in manufacturing facilities and utilisation of AI)

Digital Start provides strategic intervention for businesses to work for FREE with third party consultants worth up to €4,500 to:

- assist them identify where they are on their digital business journey,
- develop a digital adaptation plan based on their identified need,
- implement their digital adaptation plan.

Green for Micro

YTD - 9 Donegal LEO Clients receiving this support worth €19,926

This is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving them access to a green consultant worth up to €2,500 who will show them small changes that can have a big impact on their company.

Developing a 'greener' policy can offer many benefits to businesses, including:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation.
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts.

Lean For Micro

YTD - 16 Donegal LEO Clients receiving this support worth €65,975.50

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

Lean tools and techniques address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation. In a nutshell, Lean is about doing things quicker, better and saving costs. Lean strives to remove waste and to continually improve a company.

Ongoing Cluster Development Programmes:

Food Coast Donegal

The Food Coast Donegal is an initiative facilitated by the LEO to support, celebrate and grow the Donegal Food Sector.

- 40 certified members.
- Just under 200 network members.

Current activities:

- The Food Coast Strategy Review is close to completion and should be finalised early in the New Year.
- In the planning stage of taking a group of Donegal food producers to St Joseph's University in Philadelphia for a week to attend lectures and field trips. The visit is scheduled to take place in March 2023, to coincide with St Patrick's day, and 20 businesses are due to take part.

Creative Coast Donegal

Creative Coast Donegal's aim is to support the building of a strong creative and digital economy in Donegal with businesses that are robust, confident, financially viable, and collaboration-friendly, all impacting positively on the local economy in terms of job creation, as well as being pro-active and competitive on an international stage.

There are currently 204 members of the Creative Coast Donegal network. These members are creative business owners throughout Donegal from various sectors within the Creative industry.

The LEO Donegal and external consultants are in the final stages of developing a 3-year action plan for the creative industry in Donegal.

Throughout September & October, Creative Coast Donegal delivered 7 pilot Creative Network Meetings for the Design and Craft sectors in four locations throughout the county. These network meetings were created based on the feedback directly from the creatives themselves and informed by the Creative Coast Donegal Skills Audit Insight report. Around 80 people attended the in-person meetings, which provided an opportunity for the creatives to network with one another and learn from industry experts in Ireland. These experts delivered masterclasses

on a range of different skills such as social media strategy, financial management, brand development, etc.

The meetings have now moved to an online format and we have seen greater numbers of people in attendance. Feedback from both the in-person and virtual events has been positive. Three more online meetings are happening during November/December, concluding the pilot stage of the creative network meetings. Friel Consulting will provide a report in early December that will include recommendations on how the network should proceed.

In November, Creative Coast Donegal hosted the 'Yarns' conference – a celebration of the strength and heritage of the Fashion & Textile industry of the Northwest region. In collaboration with Strabane City & Derry City Council, the event took place in Letterkenny and Derry on the 18th & 19th of November. Various high-profile speakers from within the creative industry in Ireland, including Sonya Lennon, Paula Hughes, Aisling Farinella, and Deirdre McQuillan, facilitated workshops, delivered 1:1 training, and presented keynote addresses, to increase ambition, build skills, and inspire the creative community in the northwest.

Yarns was very well received by all who attended and received widespread social media coverage. Creative Coast Donegal is currently collecting written feedback from each of the attendees which will inform the development of similar events in the future.

Donegal Engineering Cluster

The ambition of the ***Donegal Engineering Cluster*** is to expand, strengthen and enhance the existing engineering group in Donegal by,

- Facilitating inter-firm knowledge sharing and enhance learning.
- Increasing market knowledge within the cluster.
- Identifying new opportunities for the sector in the county through co-operation and collaboration among cluster partners.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhancing the skills and innovation capabilities of the engineering firms through training, peer learning and management development. •Enhancing the attractiveness of the sector as a potential source for future employment opportunities and business start-ups. •Developing collaborative opportunities into meaningful outcomes and outputs for cluster members. •Promoting the cluster as a centre of engineering excellence both nationally and internationally. <p>Maura Toner commenced as Donegal Engineering Cluster Executive in September, 2022, on a 3-year contract, and is currently engaging with engineers and other stakeholders to assess the opportunities for the sector and their current challenges.</p> <p><u>Upcoming Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Your Own Business Programme – 10th January • Trading Online Voucher Workshop – 11th January <p><u>All bookings can be made here:</u></p> <p>https://www.localenterprise.ie/Donegal/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</p> <p><u>Donegal Stories:</u> Website highlighting the businesses of Donegal that have been supported by the LEO. https://donegalstories.ie/</p>
Contact Person	<p>Brenda Hegarty, Head of Enterprise</p> <p>Local Enterprise Office</p> <p>074 9160735</p> <p>Brenda.Hegarty@leo.donegalcoco.ie</p>

3. Division: Emergency Services - Fire Service

Activity	Number of: (November)*		Total for year	
<u>Fire Service Operations</u>				
Fire Brigade incidents within County Donegal**:	87		740	
Mobilisations (by Donegal Fire Service Brigades)**:	93		825	
Mobilisations into Donegal (by NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS))**:	9		81	
<u>Operational Activity Breakdown November 2022</u>				
	Turnouts		Incidents in County	
	Fires	Special Services	Fires	Special Services
Donegal Fire Service	36	57	29	48
Northern Ireland Fire Service	4	5	3	7
Sub Total	40	62	32	55
Total	102		87	
<u>Fire Prevention</u>				
Fire Safety Certificate applications received:	21		174	
Fire Safety Certificates waiting to be assessed:	38		N/A	
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed by Fire Officer and waiting for Further Information from Applicant / Agent:	62		N/A	
Fire Safety Certificate decisions made:	6		107	

Applications for Dangerous Substance Licences received:	1	9
Dangerous Substance Licences issued:	0	3
Form of notice received under the Explosives Act, 1875:	2	45
Inspections and Auditing carried out (Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, Annual Licensing, DSA 1972, Explosive Stores, Pyrotechnics, BCA 1992 & 2007):	18	197
Fire Safety Complaints received:	2	19
Fire Safety Complaints dealt with:	2	16
During Performance Inspections carried out:	0	4
Fire Safety awareness presentations delivered:	0	79

*** Current data only available up to end of November 2022.**



ENVIRONMENT REPORT – January '23

WASTE AND LITTER MANAGEMENT

Christmas Campaigns

**Activity /
Project Title**

**Project
Description/
Activity**

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 **household recycling bin**, together with paper and card and tins and cans, just remember to keep them clean, dry and loose.

Householders are also encouraged to use the local **Recycling Centres**, 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 www.donegalcoco.ie.

This time of year can be a busy time for the **bring bank network** 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>Make preventing food waste a New Year's resolution! Check out www.stopfoodwaste.ie 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 an advertising campaign 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>
Contact Person	<p>Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer sbogan@donegalcoco.ie</p>

**Activity /
Project Title**

**2023 Recycle your “Natural” Christmas Tree for Free!
6th – 28th January 2023**

**Project
Description/
Activity**

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE
DHÚN NA nGALL
Donegal County Council**

**RECYCLE
YOUR “NATURAL”
Christmas Tree**

**FOR FREE THIS JANUARY
(Friday 6th January – Saturday 28th January 2023)**

DOMESTIC TREES ONLY

LOCATION	SITE
CARNDONAGH	Carndonagh Recycling Centre
BUNCRANA	Nailors Row Car Park, Bunrana
MOVILLE	Council Chip Depot
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM	Council Chip Depot
LETTERKENNY	Letterkenny Recycling Centre
LIFFORD	Council Machinery Yard
MILFORD	Milford Recycling Centre
GLENTIES	Council Yard, Gortnamucklagh
DUNGLOE	Dungloe Recycling Centre
BUNBEG	Council Chip Yard, Coshclady
FALCARRAGH	Killult Quarry
STRANORLAR	Stranorlar Recycling Centre
KILLYBEGS	Council Yard, Bridge Street
LAGHEY	Laghey Recycling Centre
BALLYSHANNON	Council Yard, The Rock
BUNDORAN	Sea Front Car Park

OPENING TIMES

<p>Council Yards Monday – Thursday 9.00am – 4.00pm Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm</p>	<p>Laghey Recycling Centre Thursday 10.30am – 5pm (Lunch 12.30pm – 1.15pm) Friday 8.30am – 5pm (Lunch 12.30pm – 1.15pm) Saturday 8.30am-2.30pm</p>	<p>Milford Recycling Centre Wednesday & Friday 8.30am – 5pm Saturday 8.30am – 2.30pm</p>
<p>Carndonagh Recycling Centre Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 8.30am – 4.30pm</p>	<p>Letterkenny Recycling Centre Tuesday - Friday 8.30am – 5pm Saturday 8.30am-2.30pm</p>	<p>Stranorlar Recycling Centre Tuesday 8.30am – 5pm (Lunch 12.30pm – 1.15pm) Thursday 8.30am – 5pm (Lunch 12.30pm – 1.15pm) Saturday 8.30am – 2.30pm</p>
<p>Dungloe Recycling Centre Tuesday 10.30 – 5pm Thursday 10.30am – 5pm Friday 8.30am – 5pm Saturday 8.30am – 2.30pm</p>		

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE TREES OUTSIDE COUNCIL PREMISES AFTER THE SPECIFIED TIMES!
TREES LEFT AT SITES NOT LISTED ABOVE WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL DUMPING.**

www.donegalcoco.ie

There are 16 locations throughout the County where you can bring your “Natural” Christmas Tree for recycling free of charge from the 6th – 28th January 2023. Please ensure all decorations are removed. Trees will be collected and mulched and some of the trees will be reused by the Loughs Agency for soft engineering projects along the Deele River.

The locations are advertised in local papers and can be found on the Council’s website <https://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/environment/christmas/>

**Contact
Person**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer
sbogan@donegalcoco.ie

Activity /
Project Title

Solid Fuel Regulations 2022

Project
Description/
Activity



LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

Choosing low smoke fuel
is better for all of us.

Burning smoky fuels releases invisible toxins that damage our health. It increases air pollution, which can trigger asthma and lead to serious illness. So make sure you only use low smoke fuels. And remember to clean and maintain chimneys and heating appliances at least once a year.

Find out more at gov.ie/CleanAir



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

	<p>To improve air quality and reduce the associated health impacts, it is important to reduce the emissions into our air that is produced from domestic burning of solid fuels. This is what the new solid fuel regulations are designed to do, by ensuring that only higher quality and less polluting fuels will be legally available for sale.</p> <p>Burning solid fuels is a significant cause of poor air quality and is a factor in some 1,300 premature deaths in Ireland every year, according to the European Environment Agency. This demonstrates the extent to which the choices we make when heating our homes can impact on our own health and the communities in which we live.</p> <p>Donegal County Council will be raising awareness of these new regulations among householders and the commercial sector in the coming months. The Department have also produced a survey for householders to complete and this will be promoted on the Council's social media pages. For more information visit www.gov.ie/cleanair</p>
Contact Person	Suzanne Bogan, Waste Awareness Officer sbogan@donegalcoco.ie



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

Municipal District of Donegal

17th January 2023

1. Town & Village Renewal – Donegal MD
 - Donegal Town
 - Glencolmcille
 - Carrick
 - Bruckless
2. Clár 2022 - Donegal MD
 - Termon Complex Pettigo
 - Leitir Corn Mill River Walk, Kilcar
3. Playground Maintenance
4. Walks & Trails
5. Sliabh Liag Development Project
6. Leader/RDP Programme Update
7. Community Funding Opportunities



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

Municipal District: Donegal

Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2018 T&V Renewal – Donegal Town
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provision of a footpath2. Provision of lining trail markings / App3. Installation of interpretative panels / signage
Budget (<i>if applicable</i>)	€100,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of meetings have been held with Donegal Chamber of Commerce to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project.• Letter of Offer has been issued out to Group, signed and returned.• Design of the proposed footpath is currently been progressed and will be tendered in Q1 of 2021.• Designs and procurements are underway for the other elements of the project.• Tender assessment complete, successful contractor to be appointed.• Following further consideration, it is now proposed that footpath proposal at this time be deferred pending future development of adjacent lands
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further engagement with the Department in relation to the overall project
Contact Person (<i>to include telephone number & e-mail address</i>)	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2019 T&V Renewal – Glencolmcille
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a Town Plan• Upgrade existing footpaths• Provision of directional and interpretative signage• Provision of a bus shelter
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 25,000 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of meetings have been held with the community group for the area to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project.• Letter of Offer has been issued out to Group, signed and returned.• Designs of the proposed works are currently underway and will be presented to the community group.• The group have procured an architect/designer to progress the design and to prepare tender documents for a number of elements of the scheme.• Works designed and currently out to tender.• Tender evaluation report complete and successful contractor identified.• Site meeting with successful contractor.• Construction has commenced on site.• Construction work is substantially complete.• There are a few outstanding snags to be addressed.• The snags have been addressed and work is complete.• All signage has been ordered and installed by the group.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All works on site are completed
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



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

Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2020 T&V Renewal – Carrick
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinstatement of the pedestrian bridge crossing the Glen River• Commission and prepare a Town Health Check• Commission and prepare a Regeneration Strategy to inform the sustainable development of the town and immediate surrounding area
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 11,111 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A number of meetings have been held with the community group for the area to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project.• Letter of Offer has been issued out to Group, signed and returned.• Designs of the proposed pedestrian bridge works are complete.• The group are have procured and appointed a contractor to complete the pedestrian bridge• Procurement documents prepared to appoint a consultant(s) to prepare a Town Health Check & a Regeneration Strategy of the town and surrounding area.• The pedestrian bridge crossing is complete.• Consultant appointed to prepare a Town Health Check & a Regeneration Strategy of the town and surrounding area.• Additional works to the river walk is now completed.• The Masterplan is at final stage and final draft will be issued by end of Q1, 2023
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress the Town Health Check & a Regeneration Strategy of the town and surrounding area and hope to be complete by end of Q1, 2023.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2020 T&V Renewal – Bruckless
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: Landscaped garden park area with native trees, flowers, benches and pathways including the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railway feature area • Area with outdoor gym equipment • Wheelchair accessible Sensory garden • Wild meadow area • Small public grass area suitable for casual sports and games
Budget (if applicable)	€100,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 11,111 – Own Resources
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of meetings have been held with the community group for the area to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project. • Letter of Offer has been issued out to Group, signed and returned. • The group are have procured a design consultant to prepare contract documents to appoint a contractor to carry out the works on the proposed park. • Design work commenced and preparation of contract documents also commenced • Design of proposed park complete and approved by the community group. • Project is currently on E-tenders. 2 Contractors have submitted tenders and the tender report has been issued. • Contractor appointed. • Work has commenced on site and is progressing well and hope to be completed by the end of Q1, 2023
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to be completed by the end of Q1, 2023.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2022 Clár – Termon Complex Pettigo
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: Resurfacing of the MUGA Pitch, including the following works, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excavate existing surfacing• Removing depleted existing sand substructure• Access and install drainage requirements• Install geotextile membrane• Lay subbase material• Install the synthetic turf surface• Install infill fibres• Apply line marking
Budget (if applicable)	€50,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 5,000 – Match Funding
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Meeting was held with the community group for the area to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project.• Tender Documentation shall be prepared for e-tenders in the coming weeks.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works to be commenced in Q2, 2023.
Contact Person (to include telephone number & e-mail address)	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	2022 Clár – Leitir Corn Mill River Walk Kilcar
Project Description/Activity	Enhancements & Development Works Works consists of: Upgrade existing River Walk providing a wholly accessible path and associated infrastructure including the following, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance the ground and edging on the existing path• Install lighting along the path.• Install seating• Signage and story boards.
Budget (if applicable)	€50,000 – Department of Rural & Community Development € 5,000 – Match Funding
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<u>Current Status:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Meeting was held with the community group for the area to finalise the details of the project including the options available to deliver the various elements of the project.• Tender Documentation shall be prepared for e-tenders in the coming weeks.
Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works to be commenced in Q2, 2023.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Brian Keogh Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 074-9172569 E-mail: bkeogh@donegalcoco.ie



Activity / Project Update: December 2022

Activity / Project Title	PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE 2022
Project Description/Activity	Annual maintenance of Playgrounds <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Glencolmcille.2. Mall Park, Ballyshannon.3. Mall Park Outdoor Gym, Ballyshannon.4. Waterworld Playground, Bundoran.5. Westend Playground, Bundoran6. St. John Bosco, Donegal Town7. Kilcar Playground.8. Killybegs Playground.9. Bruckless Playground
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter -inclusive of current status <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Works consists of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement of broken and damaged equipment.• Replace worn safety tiles and remove trip hazards.• Grease all equipment that contains bushes, bearings, shackles, etc.• Carry out repairs along edges of safety surfaces. <p><u>Current Status:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful tender appointed to carry out Annual Rospa Inspections.• Annual Rospa Inspection Reports have been completed with necessary repairs identified.• Quick quotes tender issued on e-tenders to procure Maintenance contractor for 2022 maintenance contract works.• Maintenance contractor appointed and repair works are currently underway across playgrounds.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period <i>* Delete irrelevant reporting period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake playground repair works
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	John Deeney Executive Engineer Community, Development & Planning Services Tel: 087 7197619 E-mail: jdeeney@donegalcoco.ie

	<p>Work on the tendering documents shall commence in the next quarter of 2022 to hopefully have ready to start on site early spring 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent meet with a group in Bundoran has highlighted the potential for some additional walks in the area. <p>Rossylogan</p> <p>Coillte are continuing with small elements of works around the Entrance and parking area. We will advance with the development of tender package to reinstate the existing trail surfaces including waymarkers and Map boards.</p> <p>A stage 1 screening report has to be complete prior to commence of any tender documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to advance with purchase of counter units • Begin work on the tendering documents
<p>Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i></p>	<p>Darryl Connor (Outdoor Recreational Development Officer) 0873613811 dconnor@donegalcoco.ie</p>



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

Municipal District: Donegal

Activity / Project Update: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	Sliabh Liag Development Project
Project Description/Activity	The project has included the development of a Visitors Centre, Ranger Station and toilets, 2.5km of mountain paths works together with road improvement works from Carrick Village which represents a total investment of approx €5m
Budget (if applicable)	
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status	<p>The visitors centre opened to the public in May 2019 following the official opening. An operations manager was appointed in March 2019 together with 3 support staff since the summer of 2019.</p> <p>Remedial works have been completed on site. The shuttle service operated from July 4th to October 2nd 2022 transporting almost 17,000 visitors to the viewing area</p>
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly/quarterly* reporting period	Further funding of €269k has recently been awarded in respect of further works to the mountain path. Tender documents are currently being prepared in respect of these works.
Contact Person <i>(to include telephone number & e-mail address)</i>	Paddy Doherty Community & Planning Services Station Island, Lifford



Activity / Project Update- January 2023

Activity / Project Title	Rural Development Programme/LEADER
Activity / Project Description	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
Budget	€13,413,875 (Additional funding received 2019) <i>Note: Project costs €10,063,586, administration and animation costs €3,350,289</i>
Transitional Programme	1 st April 2021 – 31 st December 2022 €2,861,598 project costs € 953,866 for Administration & Animation.
Progress to date within the last two months-inclusive of current status	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 st 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.
Project Targets for the next bi-monthly reporting period	The next LCDC/LAG meeting will be held on 15 th February 2023. LDCs will continue to engage with promoters on the ground however no new projects will be developed as all funding awarded to the Donegal LAG under the Transitional LEADER programme and EURI programme has been allocated. Donegal LCDC has submitted an expression of interest to DRCD to be the LAG for the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027.
Contact Person	Seamus Canning 074 9172597. seamusc@donegalcoco.ie



Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council

COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Donegal County Council and Donegal LCDC invite applications in respect of the following funding Programmes: -

Development Fund Initiative 2023

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 <http://www.donegalcoco.ie/fundingforyourgroup> or can be requested by email: 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 3rd February 2023

Community Support Fund 2022

This Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas as follows:

- With their non-pay running costs such as utility or other non-pay operating costs from July 2022- June 2023.
- Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

Details of this fund are available at <http://www.donegalcoco.ie/fundingforyourgroup> or can be requested by email from lcddc@donegalcoco.ie or by phoning 087 3332193

The closing date for receipt of completed applications under this fund is 3.30pm on Thursday, 9th March 2023.

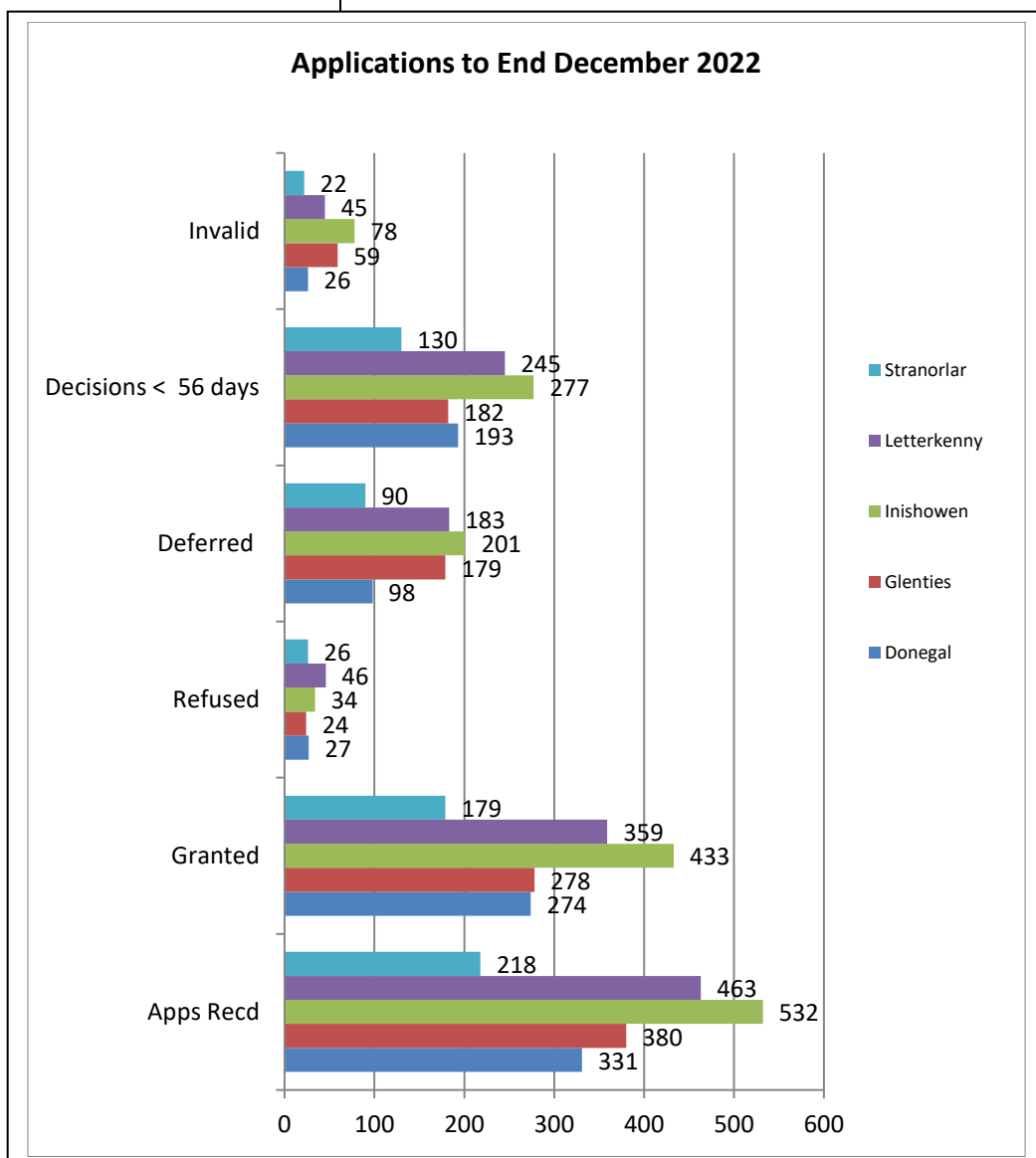


An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Donegal MD Meeting
10th January 2023

Item	Update														
1 Development Applications															
(1) Statistics	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Donegal MD Totals Year to End November 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td>331</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granted</td> <td>274</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deferred</td> <td>98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decided in under 2 months</td> <td>193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invalid</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donegal MD Totals Year to End November 2022		Applications received	331	Granted	274	Refused	27	Deferred	98	Decided in under 2 months	193	Invalid	26
Donegal MD Totals Year to End November 2022															
Applications received	331														
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2	Enforcement	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="611 248 1018 322">Donegal MD</th> <th data-bbox="1018 248 1321 322">To end November 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 322 1018 360">New Cases</td> <td data-bbox="1018 322 1321 360">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 360 1018 398">Closed Cases</td> <td data-bbox="1018 360 1321 398">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 398 1018 477">Outstanding cases on record since 2012</td> <td data-bbox="1018 398 1321 477">195</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donegal MD	To end November 2022	New Cases	2	Closed Cases	0	Outstanding cases on record since 2012	195
Donegal MD	To end November 2022									
New Cases	2									
Closed Cases	0									
Outstanding cases on record since 2012	195									
3	Notes & Monthly Schedule	<p>Pre planning clinics are on a telephone call only basis (ring 074 9153900) between 9.00am and 12.30pm on the dates outlined below.</p> <p>The pre planning clinic calls will be taken by the Executive Planners and shall be for substantial applications only.</p> <p>Planning Clinics 2023: 13th January 2023 27th January 2023</p> <p>Please see website for further dates. http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/planning-clinics/</p>								
4	Casual Trading	No Report								
5	Regeneration Report	See Appendix B								
6	Building Control & Taking in Charge Community Development & Planning Services	No Report								
7	Capital Projects Delivery Unit	See Appendix A								
8	Central Planning Unit	No Report								
9	Conservation Report	No Report								
1	Further Information <i>Click on web links to access information.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly List of applications and decisions: http://www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/weeklyplanninglists/ • Planning service email (to be used in correspondence with the planning service): planning@donegalcoco.ie • Planning Webpage: www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/ • Planning Application Online Query – planning reference number required: www.donegalcdb.ie/eplan/internetenquiry/rpt_querybysuforrecloc.asp <p>File Retrieval Form – to be used for file retrieval and when requesting planning searches: www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/planning/pdfs/fileretrieval/File%20Retrieval.pdf</p>								

Appendix A



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

CAPITAL PROJECTS DELIVERY UNIT

Community Development and Planning Services

Report to Donegal Municipal District Members: January 2023

Activity / Project Title	Killybegs 2040
Project Description/Activity	<p>Killybegs 2040 is a transformative town centre regeneration project which forms part of the longer-term regeneration strategy.</p> <p>The project elements are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The change of use, extension and modification of Island House (currently an existing derelict and vacant building) to provide a tourist information and reception centre, digital hub, public conveniences, café space, and all associated site development works. An extension is proposed at first and second floor levels and will include a glass viewing area.• Provision for a 1000 sq m civic space and alterations to road layout and car parking arrangements, including footpaths, open paved areas, planting, landscaping, public seating etc. The improved car parking and road layout will improve access to both Island House and the Civic Space to support overall regeneration plans.• Acquisition of key regeneration sites for the future delivery of appropriately located additional car parking and linkages between Main Street and Shore Road.
Budget	€5.4m
Progress to date within the last quarter - inclusive of current status	<p>Works are progressing on Island House. Demolition is complete and Piling operations are underway.</p> <p>Works on public realm have not yet commenced due to delays in obtaining materials, and the wish to prevent disturbance over the Christmas period.</p> <p>Discussions in relation to land acquisition are progressing and the CPO for the 'Coal Yard' site and adjacent lands has been published.</p>

Project Targets for the next Bi-monthly / quarterly reporting period	<p>It is anticipated that Piling works will be completed on Island House, with above deck construction works commenced.</p> <p>It is anticipated that works on public realm space will have commenced.</p>
Contact Person(s)	<p>Michael Quigley, A/Executive Engineer Ardal McDermott, A/ Senior Executive Engineer</p>

Appendix B



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Regeneration & Development Team
Community Development & Planning Services

January (2023) Municipal District Meetings Report to Elected Members

1.0 RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

1.1 EXISTING APPROVED CATEGORY 2 RRDF PROJECTS (2020)

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

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

Update: The Team continues to work towards (i) completion of the acquisition interest in Ballyshannon Town Centre, and (ii) the publication of a planning scheme, so as to develop this project as a shovel ready capital project targeted for future Category 1 RRDF funding.

Members were provided with a detailed progress update on the draft project plans at workshop on 27th September 2022.

As agreed the Regeneration & Development Team then opened a period of public consultation on the draft plans for the project on Tuesday 25th October 2022 with a drop-in event in St Anne’s Hall, Ballyshannon from 3-8pm. The event was very well attended on the night. Draft plans remained available for viewing at www.donegalcoco.ie/services/planning/regenerationprojects with submissions to be made before 4:30pm on Tuesday 15th November 2022. A total of 105no. submissions were received and the Team is now examining the feedback and the necessary arrangements for further engagement. Arrangements will also be made for a further workshop with Members to update them on the feedback from the public consultation process.

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

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

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

Detailed design and a tender package is now being completed by the successful consultant BDP.

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

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

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

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

Due diligence has been completed on this project and a formal letter of Offer together with an associated Funding Agreement was received on 10th May 2022. The Funding Agreement was subsequently accepted and formally returned to the Department on 18th May 2022. The project will now progress to procurement of the required consultancy services before commencement of the planning and statutory consents stages of this project enabled by the funding award. A successful public information event in respect of this project was held in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana on Monday 23rd May, 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

1.4 REGENERATION STRATEGIES & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WORK

The Regeneration & Development Team had undertaken with Members to progress Regeneration Strategies in a number of Tier 2 Strategic Towns as a part of our work programme. This work has been progressing through in house resources and capacities together with consultancy services. An update on this area of the work programme is provided hereinunder:

1.4.2 Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

The Ballybofey-Stranorlar Regeneration Strategy was endorsed by the Committee of BASICC, as project partners, on 7th February 2022 and subsequently endorsed by the Stranorlar-Lifford MD on 25th May 2022. The Strategy was launched 27th May 2022 and is available at [Donegal County Council \(donegalcoco.ie\)](http://DonegalCountyCouncil.donegalcoco.ie)

1.4.3 Ballyshannon Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

The Ballyshannon Town Centre Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan was formally published, launched and circulated to Members on the 20th April 2022. The Strategy & Action Plan, and associated Town Centre Masterplan, is available to view/download online at www.donegalcoco.ie and at Council offices. The Strategy was commissioned and funded by Donegal County Council and its delivery was led by GM Design Associates with the support and input of the Council’s Regeneration and Development Team.

1.4.4 An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan

The An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) Regeneration Strategy & Action Plan was formally published, launched and circulated to Members in September 2022. The Strategy & Action Plan, and associated Town Centre Masterplan, is available to view/download online at www.donegalcoco.ie and at Council offices. The Strategy was commissioned and funded by Donegal County Council and its delivery was led by GM Design Associates with the support and input of the Council’s Regeneration and Development Team.

1.6. Rathmullan RRDF Project Development work

A presentation on the Draft Design Report for this project was made to the Elected Members at a scheduled workshop on 2nd June 2022 in advance of an informal public consultation event which took place later the same day from 3pm to 8pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Centre, Rathmullan.

In accordance with the information note provided to Members, a formal Part 8 planning scheme for this project was published on Thursday 24th November 2022. The project plans and particulars are available for inspection at County House, Lifford; Letterkenny Public Services Centre; Milford Public Services Centre and online at: www.donegalcoco.ie until Tuesday 3rd January 2022. Submissions or observations may be made in writing on or before 4:30pm on Wednesday 18th January 2022.

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

For further information contact the Regeneration & Development Team at: regeneration@donegalcoco.ie or on 0749153900.

1.7. Milford Town Centre First Plan

In late 2021 the Department of Rural and Community Development sought nominations for towns to be considered as part of the 1st Phase of the Town Centre Masterplan Initiative. Minister Heather Humphries TD subsequently announced that Milford was successful in securing €100,000 under the call. The Regeneration & Development Team is now leading on the delivery of a Town Centre First Masterplan for the Town.

The tender to procure Architect Led Full Integrated Design Team, PSDP and Masterplanning Consultancy Services to prepare a Town Centre First Plan for Milford together with a statutory planning consent scheme for a selected priority project or projects which will emerge from the Town Centre First Plan, opened on eTenders on 28th October 2022 and closed on the 7th December 2022.

The tender assessment process is now underway and it is anticipated that the successful consultancy service(s) will be appointed, and the project will be formally launched at the beginning of January 2023 with a scheduled completion date of mid-2023.

2.0 URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (URDF)

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

This first application secured €1.9m in URDF monies, match funded by €600,000 for three sub-projects, the detail and progress of which is set out below.

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

(i) Preparation of a Regeneration Strategy for Letterkenny Town Centre.

The Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy was officially launched on Monday 5th December 2022 in the Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny attended by circa 100 guests including Minister McConalogue. This concludes the project which now transitions into project specific development and implementation.

The launch was followed by a cross- directorate Letterkenny Public Information Event where the public were invited to drop into the Radisson Hotel any time between 2pm-8pm to hear about the regeneration programme and also about other Council activities and services in Letterkenny. Staff from Housing, NRDO, Roads Central, Economic Development, Planning, Regeneration & Development, Community Development and Water, Environment & Emergency Services were in attendance throughout 2pm-8pm and available to talk to people about the various projects set out below. Circa 100 people attended the Public Information Event.

- Letterkenny 2040 Regeneration Strategy and programme.
- The Urban Adventure Park at the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park.
- ‘The Eat Out’ Outdoor Dining Project at An Grianán Theatre.
- Housing grants, Repair & Lease Scheme & Croí Cónaithe Fund.
- Letterkenny Active Travel Projects, the N56 Four Lane Road Project and the TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal.
- Business supports, Buy Donegal 2022, Donegal clothing range & Alpha/Beta Enterprise Centres Project.
- Waste management & recycling.
- The programme for the forthcoming publication of the Draft Letterkenny Plan and Local Transport Plan.

(ii) Acquisition of key town centre regeneration site.

The Donegal County Council (Letterkenny Strategic Urban Regeneration Site) CPO 2021 became operative on Tuesday 15th November 2022. Steps will be taken in January 2023 to serve Notices to Treat and then to Enter enabling Donegal County Council to take possession of the lands and enable the delivery of Phase 1 (Alpha/Beta) of the Strategic Urban Regeneration Site which was approved Part 8 planning consent at the Special Council meeting on 24th February 2022.

In addition, in collaboration with Housing, options are being explored as regards the business model for the residential component of the Concept

Masterplan relating to the remainder of the strategic site (Phase 2). Further updates will be brought to the Letterkenny-Milford MD in this regard as this work develops.

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

The Council's successful application to URDF Call 2, continues to progress through funding approval steps required under the Public Spending Code. This application entitled 'Letterkenny 2040 (Phase 1) 'Re-energise and Connect the Historic Town Centre' secured a provisional allocation of €13.6m match supported by match funding committed by the Council in the sum of €4.5m.

Specifically this new investment will help to advance five projects to varying stages of as follows:

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

In relation to requisite funding approval processes, a Preliminary Business Case (PBC) was submitted to DHLGH in March 2022 for review and approval. This was followed by submission of Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy on 29th July 2022.

The current status of the project is that the Preliminary Business Case secured approval of DHLGH on 11th August 2022. This represents approval under Decision Gate 1 in the project life cycle and '*approval in principle to Donegal County Council to proceed to Design, Planning & Procurement Strategy.*' It also secured approval for funding uplift to take account of estimated increases as a result of inflation leading to total project value of €19.3m.

As outlined, a **Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy has already been submitted to DHLGH on 29th July 2022 and is therefore actively under review and consideration by DHLGH.** A meeting with DHLGH officials took place on 5th December 2022 which confirmed that that review and consideration is ongoing.

Approval of Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy will lead to approval to proceed to tendering inclusive of satisfactory completion of the Final Business Case and thereafter each project will advance at varying paces dependent on nature, scale and complexity.

A FUNDING APPROVAL PROCESS



Alongside the above activity, a number of steps are being taken to develop each sub-project further. The table below sets out this activity. In terms of next steps for 2023, priority will be placed on advancement of acquisition interests.

Sub-project	Immediate next steps
A: The Cathedral Quarter-Making a Creative District	See breakdown for each of the 3 elements
Creative Hub and Urban Parkland	<p>Site-specific design concept via LKY 2040 Regeneration Strategy commission is now complete and forms part of the final publication launched 5th December 2022.</p> <p>The Design Concept will inform the design process to prepare Part 8 proposed development or application to An Bord Pleanala, as appropriate, via procurement of architect led design and supervision team following pre-tender and tender approval by DHLGH.</p> <p>Engagement has been undertaken with Failte Irelands 'Tourism Office Network Team' and Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce in relation to the tourist office element of this project.</p> <p>Design concept is also informing acquisition processes. Landowner consultation RE acquisition pathways has already significantly progressed. Further progression is dependant on receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH.</p> <p>It is intended to commence topographical survey where landowners have given permission to do so.</p>
Market Square	<p>Donegal County Council approved a Part 8 proposed development in respect of 'Letterkenny 2040-Reimagined Market Square' at a Special Council meeting on 26th October 2022.</p> <p>The next step in the delivery of the project is dependent on receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH and will involve the procurement of an architect-led design team to progress Detailed Design stage, followed by procurement of Construction Contractor.</p> <p>Following receipt of pre-tender approval, this project will handover to the Capital Projects Delivery Unit.</p>
Church Lane Shared Surface Scheme	This project will be packaged with the 'Creative Hub and Urban Parkland' as regards Architect-led design and supervision team and is dependent on receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH.

Sub-project	Immediate next steps
	<p>Part 8 is already secured through the work of Roads & Transportation and will be reviewed as part of the overall design process package with specific consideration to accessibility/threshold treatment.</p>
<p>B: Strategic acquisition in Lower Main Street</p>	<p>Site-specific design concepts for a number of Lower Main Street locations via LKY 2040 Regeneration Strategy commission are now complete and form part of the final publication launched on 5th December 2022.</p> <p>Landowner consultation RE acquisition pathways has commenced.</p> <p>Further engagement with Donegal Youth Service and Letterkenny Youth Club on future project development has also commenced inclusive of a meeting to agree collaboration in principle followed by site walk-around. The onward design of the project to Part 8 stage forms part of the future work programme of the Regeneration and Development Team to be advanced in Q2 of 2023 and subject to resources.</p> <p>In addition, the Regeneration Team is collaborating with Housing Design as regards a social housing scheme at Lower Main Street.</p>
<p>C: Revival at the Courthouse</p>	<p>Draft terms of reference are currently being prepared and reviewed for consultancy services to undertake a 'Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan' to define the nature of proposed tourist attraction. The opening of tendering process in this regard is dependent on receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH.</p> <p>The Draft Terms of Reference include for engagement with Members at MD level and are being informed by ongoing consultation with Failte Ireland inclusive of 'Attractions Team' and 'Tourism Office Network' team. The target is to complete the preparation of the Terms of Reference in advance of and in readiness of approval to proceed to tendering by DHLGH in order to fast track this stage as soon as possible.</p> <p>The 'Product Identification/Visitor Experience Plan' will include for consideration of concept options and identification of the preferred story to be told, analysis of potential markets, competitor analysis, best practice examples, preliminary pricing, preliminary revenue projections, operational model (public or private).</p>
<p>Sub-Project D: Enabling a Regional Transport Hub</p>	<p>Preferred location for future Regional Transport Hub has emerged through the LK 2040 Regeneration Strategy process in the Pearse Road area. A Design Concept in respect of a future Transport Hub and its integration with LK Green Connect walking and cycling infrastructure and a new civic space is now complete and forms part of the LKY 2040 Regeneration Strategy launched on 5th December 2022. This work has assisted in connecting with potential landowners affected.</p> <p>The Design Concept will inform acquisition processes and land owner consultation will now formally commence and is dependent on receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH.</p> <p>The Team continue to work to engage with Bus Eireann following an initial meeting in March 2022.</p>
<p>Sub- project E: LK Green Connect</p>	<p>Through the LKY 2040 Regeneration Strategy commission, a Design Concept in respect of LK Green Connect is now complete. The Design Concept integrates LK Green Connect with an urban wetland concept, future transport hub and new civic space. The Design Concept will</p>

Sub-project	Immediate next steps
	<p>inform engagement with landowners to progress acquisition interests supported under URDF as regards LK Green Connect.</p> <p>In addition, it is targeted to progress a Part 8 proposed development using in-house resources in respect of LK Green Connect walking and cycling infrastructure to link Phase 1 (currently under construction) to Pearse Road and therefore to secure Phase 2 to shovel ready status. The timeline for Part 8 is yet to be confirmed and is subject to availability of staff resources across both URDF and RRDF programmes. The preferred scenario is to commence this in-house design work in Q1 2023.</p> <p>Publication of a Part 8 proposed development in respect of the 'Cultural Corridor' section of LK Green Connect is advancing and will be in a state of readiness in January 2023 for presentation to Letterkenny MD workshop thereafter. In parallel, focussed efforts are being made as regards lease agreement in relation to Letterkenny Tennis Club which is targeted to be closed out prior to publication of Part 8 proposed development.</p> <p>Pasparakis Friel Architects has been appointed to assist in relation to Part 8 preparation for the Cultural Corridor, specifically to provide Part 8 drawings while the Regeneration and Development Team will manage and lead all other elements of the Part 8 process including AA and EIA screening. This also includes consultation with the Cultural Partners (An Grianan Theatre, the Regional Cultural Centre and Donegal County Museum) and will provide for a long term public realm scheme at the front of An Grianan Theatre and also for enhancements to the Boxing Club lane.</p> <p>Engagement with landowners has commenced as regards land acquisition interests necessary for the Cultural Corridor section of LK Green Connect and as supported under URDF and will be further advanced with greater certainty following Part 8 publication and following receipt of pre-tender approval by DHLGH.</p>

2.3 Future URDF call for applications

Although there is no confirmed date available for a 3rd call for URDF applications, a communication from DHLGH is anticipated before year end 2022/as early as Q1 2023. It is understood that the focus will be on reducing vacancy and supporting residential development.

2.4 'The Eat Out' Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Project, Letterkenny

A Chief Executives Report in relation to the consultation process on the 'Eat Out,' Letterkenny was considered at the Plenary Council meeting on 28th November 2022 at which time Donegal County Council decided to approve the proposed development in accordance with plans and particulars published 15th September 2022.

This project will now hand over to Community Development. The Regeneration & Development Team continue to work with the Community Development section to explore options to progress the next stage of Detailed Design to deliver the project on site.

2.5 Other

The Regeneration and Development Team continue to engage in other regeneration related work areas and support other sections of Donegal County Council as required and across a number of other activities.

**Regeneration & Development Team
January 2023**