

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE  
LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017**

**MDL 286/17 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan  
Cllr. Adrian Glackin  
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. Michael McBride  
Cllr. James Pat McDaid  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle  
Cllr Dessie Shiels

**MDL287/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Joe Ferry, Executive Chemist, Water & Environment  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer

**MDL288/17 MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Cllr. John O'Donnell

**MDL289/17 OFFICIALS APOLOGIES**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer  
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

**MDL290/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey,  
the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 were adopted.

**MDL291/17 ADOPTION OF MINUES OF SPECIAL MDL MEETING HELD ON  
26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey,  
the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 were adopted.

***MDL292/17*** **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Liam Blaney referred to the serious concerns of Members and public regarding the low levels at Lough Colm, Milford and the need for immediate solutions. Cllr. Blaney asked that the public were made aware of the possible water restrictions in the area over the summer months. Cllr. Blaney asked that answers were given by Irish Water on this crisis.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh advised that a commitment had been given by Irish Water to meet Members before the next Plenary Council Meeting.

***MDL 293/17*** **MARKET SQUARE, LETTERKENNY**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Municipal District investigates what work needs to be carried out to make the Market Square in Letterkenny safer and free from vandalism.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Market Square was covered by the current CCTV system which was jointly operated by Donegal County Council and An Gardaí Siochana.*

*The existing tree line was extensively pruned back in 2016 to improve lighting and CCTV coverage, and was further maintained as necessary.*

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh's motion MDL 299/17 on this matter was taken along with this motion.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated he did not agree with the response and asked that a review was carried out on the function and accessibility of the Market Square as a community space for the public. Cllr. McMonagle asked that a meeting would be arranged to discuss the need for change and installation of effective CCTV.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh acknowledged the work carried out at the Square and asked that the square was made more open to the public and tourists. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the trees were trimmed annually and that a meeting is arranged to discuss the future of the Market Square.

Fergal Doherty advised that the trees were extensively cut back in 2016 and low energy lights installed. Landscaping was regularly maintained and agreed to organising a meeting to review this.

Cllr. McMonagle said the function of the Market Square had been diminished because of the trees and shrubbery and it's value was lost and unseen.

***MDL294/17*** **LAND ADJACENT TO LETTERKENNY SHOPPING CENTRE / ALDI**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Glackin, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Municipal District contact the owners of the land adjacent to Letterkenny Shopping Centre/ Aldi and request that they clear their site and make it safe to prevent further fires breaking out at the site.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Fire Authority had no objection in principal to writing to the owner / occupier of the referenced land (if the required details can be ascertained). However, in this specific case I am of the opinion that the Fire Authority would have no statutory powers to require any clearance of the site.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council contact the landowner under the Derelict Sites Act in order to make this site safe following a recent fire which posed a threat to a number of businesses in the area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin said the site is unsightly and fully supported the motion.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council write to the owner of the property and if the owner does not make the site safe that the Council carryout the necessary works and invoice the owner accordingly.

***MDL295/17*** **GLENMAQUINN N.S.**

On the proposal of Cllr. James McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council urgently act to address the vision lines at the dangerous junction at Glenmaquinn School, there had been a number of accidents recently at the junction and the issue needed to be addressed before a fatality happens.*

The Members were advised that:

*At the MDL Meeting of October 2016, a report from Road Design on design options for Glenmaquin Junction was presented and discussed with members, outlining the budget cost for the realignment works that were required to alleviate the junction at Glenmaquin. The report outlined a budget requirement of €120k or €230k to implement either of two identified minor works, or major works options*

*respectively. To date, there had been no identified funding for the implementation of either option.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid stated that the concerns of the locals had been raised numerous times regarding the safety at this junction. Cllr. McDaid said there had been a number of recent accidents and that the onus was on the Council to ensure safety and that there are no fatalities. Cllr. McDaid highlighted the need for improved vision lines and crash barrier at the school and urged the Council to seek funding to carry out the necessary works.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the local roads office to seek funding centrally or carry out the works use its own resources.

***MDL296/17 BALLYMACCOOL TOWN PARK***

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council erect a ball catch/netting system at the Ballymacool Town Park to put an end to the present dangerous situation where heavy footballs were being kicked from the Astroturf pitch into the small children's play area where very young toddlers were playing.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council would assess feasibility and develop costed options, for erection of a system.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council put a ball catching net as a solution to the ongoing problem of adults using the Astroturf pitch and balls hitting small children in the adjacent play area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and asked that a net was put in place.

***MDL297/17 BACK ROAD, LETTERKENNY SPEED LIMIT***

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council consider what measures could be put in place to reduce speeding on the steep down slope at Back Road, Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised that:

*This location was not known as a location for persistent speeding, however the Council would review what measures if any were appropriate, and refer the location to the Gardaí.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that rumble strips were put in place to reduce speed on this road and highlighted the congestion at the lower area of the Back Road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that rumble strips and ramps were no longer recommended solutions in urban areas.

Cllr. Shiels asked that this was reviewed due to the steep gradient of this road into a busy junction.

***MDL298/17 BALLYMACCOOL /NEWMILLS ROAD – FOOTPATH, CYCLE LANES***  
***INSTALLATION***

On the proposal of Cllr. Dessie Shiels and seconded by Cllr. James McDaid, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Council make plans to (a) complete a new footpath on the Ballymacool Road out as far as the New Mills Corn and Flax Mill and (b) complete cycle lanes in both directions on the Ballymacool Road between the Roundabout at the St Eunan's GAA Club and the New Mills Corn and Flax Mill.*

The Members were advised that:

*This location would be added to the list, for consideration to be included in the 3 year footpath programme as discussed at last months MDL Meeting.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels reported the high number of pedestrian, cyclists/cycling clubs and 24/7 Triathlon club using this road and the need for a cycle lane as proposed at Bluebanks and the 4 lane from the Polestar Roundabout to the Dry Arch Roundabout.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McDaid fully supported the motion.

Fergal Doherty advised that this would be added to the list of projects when guidelines were circulated as part of upcoming funding becoming available. Fergal Doherty advised although the funding was for footpaths the Council would like to build cycle lanes in tandem.

**MDL299/17 MARKET SQUARE, LETTERKENNY**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That the Council again cut back the trees at Market Square so that the area was opened up, could this work be scheduled and undertaken was needed to ensure the area remains open to view and is safely accessible to tourists and all members of the public at all times.*

The Members were advised that:

*The trees and landscaping at the Market Square were maintained on a regular basis, and the area remains open with safe accessibility at all times. Further hedge trimming was taking place this week.*

This motion was taken together with Cllr. McMonagle's motion MDL293/17

**MDL300/17 GLENCAR IRISH NAME PLAQUE**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That a stone or plaque with the name "Glencar Irish be placed at the area to identify it, also could a survey of estates etc., be undertaken to identify estates in the town that did not have nameplates of any description?*

The Members were advised that:

*Should the motion be passed the Council could work with the Councillor to progress this action and identify a budget for the Stone/plaque as well as the feasibility of an estate survey.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh asked that a name plaque was put in place to identify the 6 houses that runs adjacent to Dr. McGinley Road at the request of residents.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and highlighted that these houses were separate to Dr. McGinley Road.

**MDL301/17 GLENCAR IRISH CAR PARKING**

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That the Council take whatever measures necessary to ensure parking at Glencar Irish was for residents and visitors to those houses only.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council were not in a position to selectively determine who could or could not park on an available public parking space.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that this was regular during school hours and elderly residents were anxious when their access was blocked. This was a similar problem in Ard O'Donnell where residents can be blocked for the full day. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that this is looked at and a solution sought.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the public are more considerate of the residents in this area.

***MDL302/17 LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY***

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Dessie Shiels, the following motion was adopted:

*That the members of the Letterkenny Municipal District meet in workshop to discuss measures that could be implemented to upgrade the Lower Main Street in Letterkenny.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Donegal County Council had been awarded funding under the Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme to upgrade the Town Centre. Part of these works would include infrastructural improvements to the Lower Main Street.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride asked that the Council look at enhancing this area of town by improving lighting, painting buildings/empty premises. Cllr. McBride highlighted the need for a play area as there were a large number of families living in this area and asked for a report from the Gardai on this area of town. Cllr. McBride asked that a workshop was held and that the Garda Superintendent was invited also.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion and stated that the one-way system and development of the Neil T. Blaney Road had impacted on the Lower Main Street. Cllr. Shiels also spoke of issues relating to crime in this area, lack of amenities for children and welcomed a detailed discussion on this.

It was agreed that a Workshop would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

***MDL303/17 BARNES GAP SIGNAGE***

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

*That signage was erected on Barnes Gap for sheep crossing in both directions.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads would review and arrange for signs to be erected at appropriate locations.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride highlighted the need for warning signs as there are a lot of sheep on the hills in this area and a high volume of traffic on the road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

***MDL304/17 PUBLIC TOILETS AT LETTERKENNY RETAIL PARK***

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan, the following motion was adopted:

*That a site be identified for the provision of public toilets in the periphery of the Letterkenny Retail Park.*

The Members were advised that:

*The focus for the Environment Service over the years had been on the provision of public conveniences at beaches, which was a requirement for the award of Blue Flag status.*

*With the abolishment of the Town Councils some additional sites were included in the current maintenance programme. No budgets were currently included for additional sites. The current request for facilities at Letterkenny Retail Park could perhaps be directed back to the commercial operators in the vicinity.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride stated that the current lack of toilet facilities in this Retail Park was unacceptable and that commercial operators should not be left to provide this facility to the public. Cllr. McBride asked that the Council write to the owners requesting them to provide toilet facilities and also asked that planning permission was not granted without such facilities in the future.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and advised that this was discussed on numerous occasions in the former Town Council. He questioned how planning permission was granted and asked for a report at the next meeting on this.

Both members acknowledged the success of the Retail Park and considered the provision of public toilet facilities as an achievable request.

**MDL305/17 SPEED SIGNS AT MOYLE VIEW SPORTS CENTRE, MILFORD**

On the proposal of Cllr. Adrian Glackin and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That the Council investigated the possibility that the speed signs at entrance to Moyle View Sports Centre, Milford could be moved back to encourage traffic to slow down before reaching this busy entrance/exit.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council implemented a review of speed limits every few years. A review of speed limits had just been completed earlier this year. The current location of the speed limit signs at Moyle View were deemed the proper location. The Council would include this location in a future review.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin advised that locals have raised concerns that the speed limit signs were too close to the entrance of the Moyle View Sports Centre and asked that they could be moved further back to allow more time to slow down.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and asked that the signs are moved back approximately 50 metres to allow more notice to traffic.

Fergal Doherty advised that the Speed Limit Bye Laws determine the exact point speed limit signs were to be placed.

**MDL306/17 POLLET GREAT ARCH, FANAD**

On the proposal of Cllr. Adrian Glackin and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

*Motion was taken in conjunction with MDL 308/17.*

*What steps did this Council propose to take to ensure the Pollet Great Arch Fanad right of access that was enshrined in the 1902 land registry map remained open to the public.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Donegal County Council was working with local stakeholders to find agreement to develop a safe and accessible access to the Great Arch at Pollet.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin advised that while he takes on board the legitimate concerns of landowners he asked that a solution to the access was agreed and welcomed the proactive response received.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and had also submitted a similar motion which was included with this motion. Cllr. McGarvey asked that all measures were taken to ensure that this amenity was made available to the public and tourists to the area.

Cllr. Liam Blaney advised that he had been working with the landowner to get a solution which has been achieved. Cllr. Blaney advised that an improved route had been identified and anticipated the issue would be resolved and a car park would need to be developed. Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the difficulty landowners face regarding litigation and the importance for farmers to protect their own rights.

***MDL307/17 SIGNAGE AT MILFORD VOCATION SCHOOL***

On the proposal of Cllr. Adrian Glackin and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*The signage at the junction on Milford Town By Pass adjacent to the Old Vocational School for Carrigart and Downings lacks visibility, could the Council Roads Engineer investigate the possibility of improving this signage for the benefit of tourists/visitors to the area.*

The Members were advised that:

*Roads were addressing any restrictions on visibility with respect to existing signs, and were to erect additional directional signage for Carriag Airt and Na Dúnaigh.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin welcomed the response received.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion.

***MDL308/17 GREAT ARCH AT POLLAID, FANAD***

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Adrian Glackin, the following motion was adopted:

*I am asking Donegal County Council to take a more active role in the access obstruction to the Great Arch at Pollaid, Fanad.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Donegal County Council were working with local stakeholders to find agreement to develop a safe and accessible access to the Great Arch at Pollet..*

This motion was included with Cllr. Glackin's similar motion MDL306/17.

**MDL309/17 ROADS FUNDING FOR ISLANDS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Municipal District supported and made an application to the Dept and E.U. for special Funding for the Roads on our Islands specifically.*

The Members were advised that:

*The MDL had one island, Island of Roy, which was connected via a causeway. Recent funding was secured to implement repairs to the fencing along this causeway. The Island of Roy was included in any considerations for applicable funding that might arise specifically for islands, and the road network was part of the networks as maintained by the Roads section to which RI and RM programmes apply.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey welcomed the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motions and welcomed the response.

**MDL310/17 FLOOD RISK AREAS**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

*That all areas of risk flooding be dealt with in our Municipal District & county before winter.*

The Members were advised that:

*The management of flood risk was dealt with by the Office of Public Works (OPW) under a national programme of river Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies, in line with the European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risk (2007/EC/60) and Irish Law (Statutory Instrument No. 122 of 2010) and to deliver on core components of the 2004 National Flood Policy. At the last progress meeting for CFRAM (01-06-2017) OPW gave an indicative timeline for the end of 2017 to complete the prioritisation list for all AFA's based on current progress. This prioritisation process was currently with the minister's office and would not be revealed until it was signed off by the Minister. The funding of AFA's would be based on this prioritisation list. Members would be kept abreast of fundings in relation to MDL.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey advised that there has been no progress from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and was concerned that an expectation was given to the public concerned and follow through.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and stated that funding has been poor and little support given to people affected. Cllr. McMonagle advised that flooding happens in the summer months as well as winter and people are concerned in Ramelton area and nothing has been done to alleviate fears.

Cllr. McGarvey asked for an update on outlined proposals for the next MD and Plenary Council meetings.

***MDL311/17 RATHMULLAN TOILETS***

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

*Could an update on construction of Rathmullan Public Toilets be provided.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council was finalising the appointment of a contractor and was presently in a stand still period following notification of all tenderers.*

*That process would now be completed over the coming weeks. Following appointment of the contractor a construction programme would be determined taking representations from Councillors & the local Sailing School into account.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney welcomed the response and had been concerned that no progress was being made. Cllr. Blaney again asked that no works commence before the beginning of September.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion.

***MDL312/17 SUPPORT FOR MICA ACTION GROUP***

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

*That this Municipal District would support the Mica Action Group's call for a Redress Scheme for all buildings affected by Mica.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council was considering, as a matter of priority, the recommendations in the Report of the Expert Panel on Concrete Blocks in the context of preparing a programme of remedial works on affected Council housing stock. It was intended to present a proposal, in due course, to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government for funding for the works.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney stated that the perception was that this issue was in Inishowen however this was not the case and asked how many Council properties in this MD were affected by mica. Cllr. Blaney expressed disappointment that the Expert Panel Report did not include details of a Redress Scheme and asked that Members support the Members of the Inishowen MD in their demand for a Redress Scheme. Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council ask Revenue to ensure that anyone identified with mica in their property be exempt from paying Local Property Tax. Cllr. Blaney encouraged anyone concerned about their property and mica should register with the Mica Action Group.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and highlighted the need for an overall survey to quantify the enormity of the problem. Cllr. McGarvey asked where the responsibility now lies as the homeowners face a high financial burden and highlighted the need for Government intervention.

Eunan Kelly advised that the Council was monitoring a number of houses in the MD and that the Council had written to Revenue following a previous motion.

#### ***MDL313/17*** **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had attended the following in the past month:

1. Polish Ambassador & his wives visit to Errigal College and his long discussion on the Polish contribution in the famine years.
2. Parents & Friend in Abbey Village
3. St. Comcilles Hostel – 20 year anniversary
4. Chamber of Commerce Awards
5. Care of the Age Services
6. Information Session in De Exeter House on Mental Health
7. Donegal Vernacular Cottage Exhibition in the County Museum which runs to September 2017.
8. County Museum participant in an English Language Course to people from 20 countries – ‘Failte Isteach’
9. An Grianan Theatre – Youth Theatre Production
10. Letterkenny Athletic Club – Internation Field & Track event.
11. Launch of Lennon Festival
12. 75<sup>th</sup> Park Run – 5K run in Bernard McGlinchey Town Park.
13. North West 10K Presentation
14. Earagail Arts Festival Events
15. Community Action on Alcohol
16. L.A.C. International Track Meeting

***MDL314/17*** **CORRESPONDENCE**

Following a request of Members at the MD meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 Inland Fisheries had advised that they would attend the September meeting and it was agreed that this would be received prior to the MD meeting commencing.

It was agreed that a Deputation request from Blake Project Management would be received at 1.30 p.m. prior to the September meeting.

***MDL315/17*** **ENVIRONMENT**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda on the following:

- Bin you Gum when you're done Campaign was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> June in Letterkenny.
- Beach Wheelchair was introduced at Carrickfinn Beach.
- Public Convenience – public toilets in Dungloe had been completed.
- Water Safety – Beach Lifeguards in place in 14 beaches.
- Waste Management – Household Waste Collection Charging Arrangements

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked for details on the Brown Bin Collection and future charging scales. Cllr. McMonagle asked when the public would be advised on the charging scheme.

Cllr. Michael McBride welcomed the Beach Wheelchair recently launched in Downings. Cllr. McBride asked that any launches that were organised do not clash with other events organised for Members to attend.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked what role the Council would have in the proposed waste collection changes and asked for a presentation to Members at Plenary Council and MD meetings on the proposed new scheme. Cllr. Brogan also asked for a presentation from Bryson Recycling on the services to date in the county at Plenary Council and a MD Meeting.

Cllr. Brogan also acknowledged the great work done by Suzanne Bogan.

Cllr. Liam Blaney expressed concern on the brown bin waste collection and welcomed that a new Bill is being considered to introduce a 5c levy on plastic bottles and cans. Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council write to the Department of the Environment in support of a 10c levy being imposed on plastic bottles and cans.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh welcomed the new Beach Wheelchair in Carrickfinn.

## **MDL316/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Members noted the content of a report circulated with the Agenda.

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Letterkenny Retail Fund
- Donegal Marathon 2017
- Pride of Place
- Donegal Tourism
- Donegal Gathering
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the Chamber of Commerce would be invited to the Workshop on Lower Main Street.

## **MDL317/17 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

The Members noted the content of the Roads report circulated with the Agenda.

### **317.1 RI & RM Roadworks Programmes**

The Members were informed in the report that both programmes were on schedule with works approximately half completed and projected to be completed by end of September.

### **317.2 Footpath & Public Lighting Programmes**

The Members were requested to submit potential locations for assessment and inclusion where appropriate in the proposed 3 Year Footpath & Public Lighting Programme to be adopted in September

### **317.3 Japanese & Himalayan Knotweed**

The Members were advised of the treatment programme would be carried out again in September/October as part of the 5 year programme. Newly identified sites were continually added to the database such that their inclusion in the treatment programme can be progressed and identified sightings should be forwarded to the CSC.

### **317.4 Unauthorised Signs Removal**

The Members were advised of the significant removal of unauthorised signs that have been implemented in accordance with the adopted policy. Signs have been removed from hard shoulders, junctions and within towns/villages.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked for an update following the meetings on the infrastructure needs for Letterkenny town. Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council write to Joe McHugh, T.D. and the Minister for Transport as a follow up.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked if works were planned to reinstate the road at An Craoibhinn following the laying of pipes on the road from Termon to Gartan. Fergal Doherty agreed to get back to Cllr. McBride on this matter.

Cllr. Liam Blaney acknowledged the great work the Council had been doing in relation to the Japanese & Himalayan Knotweed.

#### ***MDL318/17 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

The Members noted the content of the Planning Report circulated with the Agenda which included:

1. Summary of planning applications for the District
2. Enforcement
3. Upcoming Month Schedule

The Members expressed disappointment that there were no planning staff at the meeting. Eunan Kelly advised that due to leave and the number of other MD meetings being held on the same day there was not enough staff to cover all the meetings.

#### ***MDL319/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

The Members noted a progress report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services.

##### **319.1 Disposal of Land under Section 183 at Magheradrumman, Milford to Hugh Ferry**

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey it was agreed that the Council dispose land at Magheradrumman, Milford to Hugh Ferry under Section 21 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

##### **319.2 Disposal of Land at Ballyraine to Ballyraine Community Group**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan it was agreed that the Council dispose land at Ballyraine, Letterkenny to Ballyraine Community Group under Section 21 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

##### **319.3 Repair & Leasing Scheme**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked for an update on the Repair & Leasing Scheme and the uptake of the scheme. Eunan Kelly advised that the Scheme was advertised in the newspapers and the Council's website however there was a low uptake to date.

## Questions

### **MDL320/17 PROPOSED BIN CHARGES**

In answer to his question of whether this Council could have an update on Proposed Bin Charges and when Householders would receive their Brown Bins, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

*This referred to the recent announcement by the The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten, T.D., on 27 June 2017 which confirmed that a more flexible framework for waste collection charges had been approved by Government. A copy of the announcement was attached.*

*The main change was that the all-in flat charge for waste collection was no longer an option. It was envisaged that the new collection charging would enable the waste collection industry to offer incentivised pricing structures which would help to reduce residual waste (to landfill) and to increase recycling and diversion of food waste from landfill.*

*The Council were awaiting a circular from the Department of Communications, Climate, Action and Environment on the implementation of the new changes.*

*It was planned to run an awareness campaign on the new changes and the roll out of the brown bin. Householders in agglomerations of 500 or more should expect the brown bins from their waste collector and could follow up with their service provider on same.*

### **MDL321/17 TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on whether there was any update from the Minister for Transport regarding a meeting with the Council to acquire funding to address the traffic problems in Letterkenny town Cllr. J. McDaid was advised that:

*‘On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017, the Roads office wrote to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, requesting a meeting to discuss funding for advancing options for the short term, medium term and long term solutions to traffic management within Letterkenny. No meeting had been agreed to date.’*

### **MDL322/17 ROADS PROGRAM ME IN THE MD OF LETTERKENNY**

In answer to his question on whether this M.D. was expecting any additional money for the roads programme this year Cllr J. McDaid was advised that:

*This office had no notice or indication of potential additional monies for the roads programme this year, over and above that already allocated in the RI and RM programmes.*

**MDL323/17 ROLL OUT OF BROADBAND IN RURAL AREAS**

In answer to his question on whether any update was available regarding his motion to get a meeting with Comreg to address the broadband roll out in rural areas Cllr J McDaid was advised that:

*The Council wrote to Chairperson, Commission for Communications Regulation on the 16th May 2017 and advised him that the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Letterkenny at their meeting held on the 9th May, 2017 adopted the following motion :-*

*"That this Municipal District seek a meeting with a representative from ComReg to outline and highlight all the areas receiving very poor broadband and mobile coverage and also get a run down on the plans going forward for the roll out of Broadband for certain areas."*

*We asked if ComReg staff were available to meet the Members of the Municipal District of Letterkenny to discuss this and would send a further letter to ComReg.*

**MDL324/17 TURNKEY HOUSING PROPOSALS**

In answer to his question on what turnkey housing proposals had been received by this Municipal Council and in respect of each such proposal: (a) who was the proposer, (b) where would each proposal be located, (c) how many housing units were proposed and what type(s) of housing units were proposed and (d) what was the cost of each proposed development Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that:

*Donegal County Council sought proposals for the provision of social housing through turnkey acquisition in April 2017. Proposals were invited from developers and building contractors for 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in 5 towns; Dungloe, Buncrana, Donegal Town, Letterkenny and Ballybofey / Stranorlar.*

*Four proposals were received for Letterkenny as set out in the attached. The proposals had been assessed and were considered to be valid, qualifying under the criteria set out. The next stage in the process would be to engage with the proposers to advise on the current housing need including the preferred mix of housing units and to enter into discussions/negotiations on price. On the basis of the current housing need in Letterkenny, Donegal County Council considered that subject to requisite considerations of value for money and confirmation of approval from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, that the four proposals submitted would be required to meet the current social housing need in Letterkenny in conjunction with other social housing projects.*

*The proposal brief required that all proposals are subject to planning permission. Subsequent to the grant of planning permission, a detailed breakdown of costs*

*incorporating; land costs, construction costs, design fees and legal fees would be sought. An Independent Quantity Surveyor would review the proposed costs.*

<b>Social Housing Through Turnkey Acquisition Letterkenny Proposals</b>				
<b>No. of Proposals Received</b>	<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units Proposed (per submission)</b>	<b>Breakdown of Proposed Units</b>
4	MBC Building Contractors Ltd.	Creevesmith	86	18 x 1 bedroom apartments 42 x 2 bedroom apartments 18 x 3 bedroom semi-detached houses 8 x 4 bedroom semi-detached houses
	GDC (Irl) Ltd.	Creevesmith	36	20 x 3 bedroom semi-detached houses 16 x 4 bedroom semi-detached houses
	Brendan McGettigan	Glencar	11	11 x 3 bedroom semi-detached houses
	Brendan McGettigan	Carnamogagh	22	14 x 3 bedroom semi-detached houses 8 x 2 bedroom duplex units
<b>Total No. of Units Proposed for Letterkenny MD</b>			<b>155</b>	

**MDL325/17 LETTERKENNY COURTHOUSE**

In answer to his question as to whether he could have a copy of the letter sent as a result of his previous request that: “This Council corresponded with the Courts Service and (1) requested that it review its decision not to provide on site car-parking at the new Courthouse on the High Road and (2) requested that it agree to transfer the existing Courthouse Building for nominal consideration to Donegal County Council to be used for civic and community purposes” and whether he could also have a copy of the response(s) received from the Courts Service, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that:

*The Council referred this matter to the Secretary General, Department of Justice & Equality and an acknowledgement of same had been received, copy of both correspondence had been uploaded on the Members Extranet.*

**MDL326/17 PUBLIC LIGHTING LISMONAGHAN ROAD**

In answer to his question on whether this Council could confirm when it was intended to complete the new public lighting on the Lismonaghan Road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that:

*The public lighting on the Lismonaghan Road would be added to the list, for consideration to be included in the 3 year public lighting programme as discussed at last months MDL Meeting.*

**MDL327/17 STOP SIGNS AT KERRYKEEL**

In answer to his question as to whether the Council could advise on why there were 3 stop signs at the 3 roads coming in to Kerrykeel, traffic from Fanad used to have right of way, Cllr J. Kavanagh was advised that:

*This junction was made an all Stop Junction as a Safety measure several years ago. This was introduced to bring all traffic to a stop approaching the junction, thus reducing speed of traffic going through the town. In accordance with the rules of the road, traffic should give way to traffic approaching from the right hand side.*

**MDL328/17 TOILETS AT PORTSALON**

In answer to his question as to whether the toilets at Portsalon were still being cleaned and secured at night time, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that:

*The toilets at Portsalon continued to be cleaned and secured at night time.*

**MDL329/17 FOOTPATH IN FRONT OF NOWDOC**

In answer to his question as to whether the Council could please provide dropped kerbing at the footpath in front of Nowdoc, as it was used on a regular basis by elderly and disabled persons, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that:

*The local Area Office would review the current footpath outside the Now Doc, with a view to installing a dropped kerb if deemed appropriate, at the end of the year.*

**MDL330/17 ACCESS TO TOURIST OFFICE FROM JOE BONNER ROAD**

In answer to his question as to whether it was possible to identify a second access road to the rear of the tourist office from the Joe Bonnar Road as it was often impossible for tourists to gain access from the Neil T Blaney road due to two lanes of traffic forming on the approach to the Polestar Roundabout, Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*The construction of the Neil T Blaney Road would provide an opportunity to open alternative accesses to surrounding lands. Funding was however only currently available for the construction of the Joe Boner Road. Access to the Tourist Office would depend on further development of alternative accesses and agreements with third party land owners. The roads office would continue to monitor developments with a view to advancing potential alternative access's.*

**MDL331/17 1500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF ST COLMCILLE**

In answer to his question on whether there had been any progress following his previous motion that Donegal County Council lead out on the 1500th anniversary

celebration of the birth of St Colmcille in conjunction with all other interest groups in the year 2021, Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*The Cultural Services Division of the Council met with their counterparts in Derry & Strabane District Councils on 5th July, 2017 and amongst the topics / themes / commemorations of mutual interest was the Colmcille 2021 Commemorations. This topic would be developed with Derry & Strabane District Councils and other, including the Colmcille Heritage Trust, to develop appropriate events to mark the occasion. Further updates would be provided as the programme evolved.*

**MDL332/17 HEDGING ALONG NEIL T BLANEY ROAD**

In answer to his question on whether the Beech hedging along the Neil T Blaney Road could be extended down past the existing entrance to the Letterkenny PSC so it would match the existing beech hedging in a short space of time, Cllr. M. McBride was advised that:

*The Town Gardener was planning to commence extending the Beech hedging along Neil T Blaney Road in the coming winter season 2017.*

**MDL333/17 LANDSLIDE AT BANK TCE, RAMELTON**

In answer to his question on what was being done about Landslide at Bank Tce. Ramelton, that was causing unsightly appearance and obstruction Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*This retaining wall was the responsibility of the landowner. The Area Engineer would further liaise with the relevant landowner with regards to addressing the issue.*

**MDL334/17 WATER SUPPLY LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

In answer to his question as to whether there was a serious Water crisis looming in this Municipal District, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*This was a matter for Irish Water who had advised that queries of this nature concerning Irish Water Plans and Operations should be directed through the 'localrepsupport' system provided by Irish Water.*

**MDL335/17 CARPARK AT BANK TCE BURIAL GROUND RAMELTON**

In answer to his question as to whether there was any progress in the proposed Carpark at the Bank Tce. Burial Ground, Ramelton, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

*There was currently no identified budget, for the construction of a carpark at Bank Terrace Burial Ground. Roads proposed to develop a budget estimate for the provision of a carpark in the event that funding became available.*

***MDL336/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator