

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE MILFORD PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2017

MDL 449/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL450/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT

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
Martin Mc Dermott, Executive Planner

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

MDL451/17 APOLOGIES

Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Liam Ward, Director of Service

MDL452/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 13th OCTOBER, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Ian McGarvey and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 13th October, 2017 were adopted.

MDL453/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL BUDGET MEETING HELD ON 19th OCTOBER, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the Minutes of MDL Budget Meeting held on 19th October, 2017 were adopted.

MDL454/17 BANDSTAND AT MARKET SQUARE

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

That the Council would install lighting at the Bandstand at the top of Market Square Letterkenny

The Members were advised that:

This location was one of a number of proposed lighting locations discussed at the workshop of 14th November 2017 for prioritisation by members, on the 3 year plan.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and spoke of the ongoing anti-social behaviour in this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion and welcomed the recent cutting back of the trees.

MDL455/17 FAIRGREEN HILL – ENTRANCE TO ESTATE

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

That this MD would carry out remedial works at the green areas at Fairgreen Hill which had become unfit for purpose due to dumping and being overgrown with briars.

The Members were advised that:

There were a number of shared areas in Fairgreen Hill which were generally well maintained and the Council would arrange to inspect and assess what works were required.

The Council encouraged tenants of estates to get involved in Residents Association and assist residents with setting up Residents Association where none existed.

Residents Associations usually look after shared areas in estates including green spaces, fences, walls and organise regular clean ups. Council may be able to assist residents associations with maintaining and improving shared areas.

The Council holds a Best Kept Housing Estate Competition every year and winning estates get prize money as part of the prize.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council clear the overgrown area and lift the rubbish that had been illegally dumped at the entrance to the estate and work with the residents in the estate to help set up an association. Cllr. McMonagle asked that the policy on grass cutting was reviewed in order to support resident associations as grass cutting was currently not eligible for funding from Members Development Fund.

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

MDL456/17 VACANT HOUSES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

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

That this MD contacted the Banks and other lending institutions to ascertain how many vacant houses they had on their books in this MD with a view to negotiating the buying of those houses for social housing.

The Members were advised that:

In relation to vacant properties owned by banks or lending institutions, I can confirm that there were communication protocols already in place which involved the lending institutions liaising with the Housing Agency in the first instance. The Agency then liaise with the relevant local authority in order to ascertain the suitability of available dwellings for social housing purposes. Where the local authority deemed the units to be suitable, the Housing Agency pursued same with the lending institution with a view to acquiring for social housing purposes. In general terms, the Council continued to be active in acquiring vacant dwellings. In relation to Letterkenny MD, we had agreed to acquire 24 units during 2016 and 2017 so far. 17 of these purchases had been concluded, with the remaining 7 were pending. The Council was continuing to identify and pursue suitable properties in this regard.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and spoke of the high demand for housing in Letterkenny and the large number of vacant houses in the town of which some were attracting anti-social behaviour. Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the acquisition of new houses by the Council.

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

MDL457/17 BANK LANE, LETTERKENNY – NAME CHANGE

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

That the Council considered changing the name of Bank Lane, Letterkenny to Kinnear Lane.

The Members were advised that:

The authority to change the name of a street was a power conferred on the Elected Members. Donegal County Council may with the consent of at least four sevenths of the "qualified electors" in a street, change the name of that street. On checking historical records it was noted that Bank Lane extends from the Main Street down

to the boundary with the "Golden Grill" property and probably derives its name from the adjacent bank building (currently A.I.B) on the Main St., which dates back to 1835.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh advised that this was proposed by the Letterkenny Historical Society as a result of the walking tours in 2016 and gave an outline of the great works of Dr. Kinnear. Cllr. Kavanagh advised that there were no electors or businesses in this area and asked that this would be progressed.

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

MDL458/17 TRAFFIC WARDEN AT BALLYRAINE N.S.

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

That this Council provided a Traffic Warden at Ballyraine National School for fifteen minutes each morning and evening

The Members were advised that:

A controlled pedestrian crossing was installed some years ago following analysis of the pedestrian movements at Ballyraine National School at drop off and collection times. The controlled pedestrian crossing was internationally recognised as one of the safest means of conveying pedestrians across a road. There were currently no plans for the provision of a Traffic Warden at this location in addition to the controlled pedestrian crossing.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh expressed the serious concern of the school Principal, parents, teachers and Board of Management on their fears that a serious accident could happen at this crossing as motorists were breaking the red light. Cllr. Kavanagh asked that the Council provide a Warden to ensure the safety of the children using this crossing.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Glackin fully supported the motion and asked that safety is given priority.

In summing up Cllr. Kavanagh asked that as this motion had been passed the Council should progress putting a Warden in place.

MDL459/17 FOOTPATH AT ELM COURT HOUSING ESTATE TO RAMELTON N.S.

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

That this Council considered implementing a footpath from Elm Court Housing Estate in Ramelton to the local National School

The Members were advised that:

This location was one of a number of proposed footpath locations discussed at the workshop of 14th November 2017 for prioritisation by members, on the 3 year footpath programme.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin stated that the Members had been contacted by residents in this area. Cllr. Glackin stated that €85,000 had been set aside by contractors for this footpath when building the estate and asked if this funding was still available. Cllr. Glackin asked that this footpath was given top priority.

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

MDL460/17 ROAD REPAIRS AT BRIDGEND HOUSES, RAMELTON

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

That this Council implements repair work to the road at the back of Bridgend Houses, Ramelton as it was in a state of disrepair and dangerous for some elderly residents.

The Members were advised that:

There were a number of roads at the back of Bridgend Houses, none of which were public. Further clarification required in respect of what road was referred to.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin advised that this was across from the Salmon Inn, houses 266 to 272. Cllr. Glackin said elderly residents lived in this area and the road was in very poor condition.

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

MDL461/17 JUNCTION AT CASHEL PARK HOUSING ESTATE

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

That this Council examined the junction exiting Cashel Park Housing Estate at Lisnennan as many drivers continued out to the centre white line before stopping due to poor signage and the rising junction.

The Members were advised that:

The Council would review the matter raised, to establish if corrective measures were appropriate.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said the problem was when exiting the estate onto a wide road and that lining and signage was required

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

MDL462/17 RIVER LENNON

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

That rivers such as the River Lennon were cleaned and drained. Currently there was no plan to deal with these River Basins as CFRAMs only deals with costal flooding.

The Members were advised that:

The River Lennon did not fall under any statutory maintenance regime and was not maintained under Maintained Channels by OPW or by any other Authority.

In 2011 the OPW completed a national screening exercise, called the PFRA, using all available information including:

- reviewing records of floods that had happened in the past,*
- undertaking analysis to determine which areas might flood in the future, and what the impacts might be,*
- site inspections by suitably qualified professionals, and*
- consulting with the Local Authorities, other Government departments and agencies and the public.*

This exercise resulted in 300 communities being identified as being at potentially significant risk from flooding in the future, 90 of which are coastal communities but CFRAM is not just for Coastal Flooding and inland areas have also been included in the study.

Along the Lennon, Kilmacrennan and Ramelton were assessed as part of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) in 2011. Ramelton has been included as an AFA in the current CFRAM study and is currently being considered as part of a priority list for funding by the Minister.

The review at Kilmacrennan concluded that, in conjunction with findings of the site visit, historical and anecdotal evidence suggests that the flood risk to properties in Kilmacrennan was not nationally significant at the time of the assessment.

It was therefore concluded that Kilmacrennan should not be recommended for further investigation as part of the current CFRAM study now coming to its conclusion and moving into its next phases of design and construction.

The CFRAM studies are cyclical and are repeated on a 6 year cycle and Kilmacrennan and other areas along the Lennon would be assessed again and may be included in the next CFRAM programme as an AFA due to flooding that had occurred since 2011 and most recently in 2015.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said that CFRAMS was concentrated on coastal flooding and that there was a serious problem with rivers in the area, for example the Kerrykeel football pitch, the Nine Eyed Bridge above Kilmacrennan and did not want to see a repeat of the impact of the Bridge giving way in the recent flooding in Inishowen. Cllr. McBride stated that someone needed to take responsibility to clean the river and prevent further flooding and asked that banks of rivers were cleaned to avoid future flooding.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and asked for an update on what was happening on this.

MDL463/17 HARBOUR MASTER

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

That this Municipal District supports the request for a Harbour Master at the Ports of Ballywhoriskey, Downings and Rathmullan.

The Members were advised that:

The Council currently employed Harbour Masters at just two locations in the County: Greencastle and Burtonport. Both were busy harbours with a variety of activities year-round. In order to justify the employment of a Harbour Master at other locations, such as Ballywhoriskey, Downings and Rathmullen, a case would have to be made based on the level of activity arising at these locations and the benefits that would accrue from such an investment. If another HM post were to be created, a suitable budget provision would have to be made. The costs involved would be quite substantial, not alone the wage costs but also accommodation and other sundry expenses that would arise.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said the local fishermen were keeping order and condition at present and that Rathmullan was a pier with a lot of activity that would warrant a Harbour Master that could oversee these piers. Cllr. Blaney said a small fee could be imposed to help fund the Harbour Master.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and said that Rathmullan was a very busy harbour during the summer months and that he had raised this matter in previous motion to the Council.

MDL464/17 PIPEWORK REPLACEMENT AT CARLAND, KERRYKEEL & DOAGHMORE

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

That this Municipal District would write to Irish Water to get confirmation of a completion date of pipe replacement at Carland, Kerrykeel and Doaghmore, Fanad which I was informed as being mid 2018.

The Members were advised that:

This had been forwarded to Irish Water Communications Department for their response.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney said that road works were put on hold because of pipe replacement works and asked that Irish Water would give a written commitment that this work would be completed in mid 2018 as the road was in very poor condition and residents were very annoyed at the delay.

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

MDL465/17 PLANNING PERMISSION COMPLIANCE AT LUH – EMERGENCY DEPT.

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

That this Council advise (a) whether it was satisfied that the HSE had fully complied with planning permission 07/80149 (New Accident and Emergency Department at Letterkenny University Hospital) given that it previously identified by its report of March 2015 that condition no.4 to that planning permission 07/80149 (specifically requiring that the HSE ‘take steps to ‘ensure that no public road water discharges’ from the R229 Regional (Mountain Top) Road onto the Hospital site) had not been complied with and that the Council considered by its report of March 2015 that further works were required to fully comply with that that condition no.4 to planning permission 07/80149 with particular reference to the construction of a slotted drainage channel at the Hospital Boundary and (b) if compliance with condition no.4 to planning permission 07/80149 remains outstanding, what planning enforcement proceedings had been taken by the Council against the HSE.

The Members were advised that:

This matter would be examined in detail again over the coming weeks and a response to the question will be provided to a future Municipal District meeting.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels read the motion and referred to a previous motion to full Council in November 2014. Cllr. Shiels stated that the requested drainage channel had not been put in place and the HSE need to account for flooding and the loss of €10m of public funds because of this flooding. Cllr. Shiels asked for a report on the matter to be circulated at the January meeting.

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

MDL466/17 **ROAD LINING AT LECK ROAD, LETTERKENY**

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

That this Council line the middle of the Leck Road, Letterkenny which was now a very busy road with high volumes of traffic especially at peak travel times and the lack of road lining and its inconsistent road widths over its length are contributing to a dangerous ongoing problem of certain motorists travelling well over the middle of the road when meeting oncoming traffic.

The Members were advised that:

Where the carriageway width was not wide enough at all locations for passing traffic, in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual, a centreline should not appear. Roads were reviewing signage in relation to this road.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said that this road was being used more frequently to avoid the main road from Drumkeen. Cllr. Shiels welcomed the widening works in some areas of the road but said the narrow parts of the road needed to be widened also. Cllr. Shiels asked that the road is lined as it is becoming more of a main carriageway into and out of the town.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and asked if lay byes could be provided.

Fergal Doherty said that if the area of road was too narrow it could not be lined and the Roads Section was currently assessing the road. Sections of the road would be lined and sections would not be lined, signage would also be erected.

MDL467/17 **ASSET REGISTER**

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

That this Municipal Council provided to the November 2017 Municipal District Meeting (a) a list of all Council owned non-residential real properties (i.e. (i) land not presently developed for housing and (ii) commercial buildings and commercial land) in the Letterkenny area and (b) details of whether each specific property was currently leased out and the terms of each such lease and how much income was generated from each such letting; and (c) if any such assets were not currently leased out, a detailed explanation of why any such asset was not leased out and details of when each such asset was last leased out or if never leased out with an explanation why it had never been leased out.

The Members were advised that:

There were over 300 non residential assets in the Letterkenny Municipal District listed on the Councils fixed asset register spread over nine different asset groups (broadband building, computers, equipment, heritage, land, parks, plant and roads). While the vast majority of these assets would of course not be available for leasing, the following table sets out details of the operational leases in 2016/2017 with a total value of €51,756.70.

6LS001	Land at Kilty - Letterkenny
6HS009	Letterkenny Relief Road
6LS012	Land at Milford (Formerly IDA)
6LS023	LAND @ BALLYRAINE LETTERKENNY(CEB)
6LS025	LAND @ TAMNEY H2268
6LS040	Land @ Big Isle - Manorcunningham
6LS056	LEASING OFFICES - LETTERKENNY PSC
6LS057	LEASING OFFICES - MILFORD PSC
6LS060	LAND AT NEIL T BLANEY ROAD

It had been acknowledged by management that while progress had been made on work in the area of asset management (land and property), a considerable body of work including the introduction of new systems that reflect best practice was required.

This was presently being developed through a project headed up by a Senior Executive assigned to the office of the Chief Executive. It was envisaged that the future day to day management of the assets would be in the Roads Directorate and the development of specifications for a system to support the Service in the whole of life management of the assets from acquisition to disposal stage, including leasing are now nearing completion. This would provide a much more integrated and co-ordinated approach to the management of assets generally thereby enabling strategic decisions to be taken as regards the future use of any unused assets including the potential leasing thereof.

In conjunction with the development and advancement of this programme of work, a limited number of small land parcels had already been identified during 2017 for

disposal and these have been presented to the Members. A much more programmed approach was however envisaged as the project progresses.

In relation to land bank generally, this of course was already reviewed on an ongoing basis in the context of the existing social housing need, availability of infrastructure and compliance with the County Development Plan, taking cognisance of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Donegal County Council's Roads Programmes and Irish Water's Capital Programme.

Existing land banks in towns where there is a housing need which was identified as suitable for social housing development with available water, sewerage and road infrastructure would continue to be prioritised for submission to the Department for approval, subject to necessary infrastructure being available

On proposing the Motion Cllr. Shiels asked who had prepared the answer and asked that this person would attend the next meeting of the MD in January to provide answers to the questions outlined in his motion. Cllr. Shiels advised that he had previously submitted this motion as a question and as he had not received the answer to his question he resubmitted this as a motion outlining in detail what he wanted. He asked if the Council did not know what assets it owned or were just avoiding questions. Cllr. Shiels said he was only interested in Letterkenny and its environs and not the MD as a whole. Cllr. Shiels asked for openness and transparency and requested a full answer at the next meeting.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey said he fully supported the motion as outlined by Cllr. Shiels.

Eunan Kelly agreed to request someone to attend the next MDL Meeting on this and would clarify to them that the motion referred to the Letterkenny area only and not the MD. Mr. Kelly also noted that the report acknowledged that a body of work was ongoing in the development of a system to support the management of assets generally and that pending the completion of this work with all of the data populated, the information may not all be readily available in the format requested.

In summing up Cllr. Shiels advised that there was assets in Letterkenny that were not tendered out or rented out. He again requested the information sought and stated that this was not the first time that questions and motions were being ignored.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan added that his party had asked for a list of assets of the Council and did not receive an answer. Cllr. Brogan said he could easily identify a number of sites which could be used commercially or for social housing and that no genuine effort was being made by the Council to address this and needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh asked that a comprehensive report was made available for the January meeting.

MDL468/17 LINKAGE BETWEEN AN GRIANAN THEATRE/REGIONAL CULTURE CENTRE

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

I propose that this Council invest in and improve linkages between An Grianan Theatre/Regional Culture Centre and High Road / Boxing Club to Port Road because of the new Courthouse development this areas needs to have improved footpaths and lighting in this area.

The Members were advised:

This location was one of a number of proposed footpath/lighting locations discussed at the workshop of 14th November for prioritisation by members, on the 3 year plan.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan asked that Members would support his proposal to install two lights at Letterkenny Boxing Club land and asked that the Roads Section advise on what was needed to improve this area with lighting, footpaths. Cllr. Brogan asked that a report was presented at the January meeting.

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

MDL469/17 RAPID NATIONAL CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

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

I propose that this Council apply for improvements in facilities for disabled children in our town parks under the Rapid National Capital Grants Programme.

The Members were advised:

Following consultation with the Department of Rural and Community Development, it was confirmed that Local Authorities are prohibited from applying for this fund. Donegal LCDC have been allocated €64,500 to award under the scheme and have agreed that this would be equally divided between each MD. It is open to groups in Disadvantaged Towns with a population in excess of 1,000 (as per Census 2016). Towns in the Letterkenny MD in this category are Milford, Ramelton and Letterkenny. This scheme is open to the public to make an application and the closing date is 24th November.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Brogan asked that the motion was amended to support SNAP to make an application for this funding and that the Council make contact with them accordingly.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Kavanagh fully supported the motion.

MDL470/17 **RAMELTON TOWN**

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

That the Council dealt with the issues requested over a period for Ramelton.

The Members were advised:

In relation to the various roads matters, these were dealt with under the various programmes agreed with members, and where funded, were implemented. Further discussion took place at this morning's workshop in relation to the agreement of the three year footpath and lighting prioritisation list.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McGarvey raised his concern at a number of issues in relation to derelicts buildings, footpath repairs, lack of public lighting and asked that more action was taken as the town was getting dilapidated.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motions and said that these issues had been raised by Cllr. McGarvey and other Members previously and no action was being taken.

MDL471/17 **TOWN PLAN - RAMELTON**

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

That this Council produce a Town Plan for Ramelton and it's environs.

The Members were advised:

Ramelton is specifically provided for within the County Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied) as a Tier 3 settlement. The town is further identified as a Tier 2b town in the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2024 where it is identified as a "Strategic Town due to their special economic function". In Ramelton the town's heritage town status and significant built heritage resources are cited as the key basis for its identification as a Strategic Town. This designation is reinforced by the suite of Objectives and Policies set out in sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Draft County Development Plan that provides a distinct framework for the future development of the town. As is the case with the majority of towns identified as 'Strategic' it is not proposed to prepare individual town plans as part of the forthcoming work programme and to rely on the policy framework provided by the County Development Plan to guide development and respond to opportunities.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said that a Town Plan would be important for Ramelton due to its history which made it attractive for people to visit. Cllr. McGarvey said that it was downgraded to a Tier 2b from Tier 3 in the County Plan and should be at least at Tier 2 and that Ramelton and Kilmacrennan should be provided as outlets that would benefit Letterkenny.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels said that Ramelton was becoming a satellite town of Letterkenny and there was an opportunity to bring its heritage to the fore.

MDL472/17 SEWERAGE SCHEMES – VARIOUS TOWNS

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

That this Council expedite through Irish Water for sewerage schemes in Ramelton, Rathmullan, Kerrykeel, Kilmacrennan, Carrigart, Downings and Glen Village.

The Members were advised:

This has been forwarded to Irish Water Communication Department for their response.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said that this was a huge issue in the areas for a long time and requested an update from Irish Water on what plan is in place for the future.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion and asked if the Council was taking Irish Water to task on the issue of water quality in Rathmullan.

MDL473/17 MAYORS BUSINESS

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

1. Jigsaw Wellbeing
2. Chamber of Commerce Halloween Shopping Launch
3. Letterkenny Enterprise Awards on 3rd November
4. James Duffy Memorial on 10th November

MDL474/17 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to consider.

MDL475/17 ENVIRONMENT

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

- Coastal Management
- Litter Statistics - September 2017

- Environmental Awareness

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Blaney asked why only one project was ongoing under the Coastal Manager Schemes in the Letterkenny MD and asked that David Friel attend the January meeting.

Cllr. Brogan asked why Minister Kevin Boxer Moran did not visit Letterkenny MD and why the Mayor and Cathaoirleach were not aware of his visit. Cllr. Brogan asked for information on who decided what areas the Minister would visit and the protocol for his visit.

Cllr. McBride said the flooding problem was not being addressed in Letterkenny and said that there was an extra €10m demand on the Council because of the recent flooding. Cllr. McBride said no funding was coming from Central Government unlike the Shannon area.

Cllr. Shiels asked for a report on the sewerage issues in Rathmullan.

MDL476/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Pan Celtic Festival
- Letterkenny Retail Fund
- Walks and Trails
- Healthy Ireland
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Public Participation Network
- One Donegal Social Inclusion Weeks
- Pride of Place Awards

The Members welcomed the report.

Ciaran Martin advised that the Pride of Place Awards were to be held on 2nd December, 2017 and that the Ray Community Centre and Letterkenny Youth & Family Services were nominated by Donegal County Council.

Cllr. Blaney wished Ray success in the Pride of Place Awards.

Ciaran Martin updated the Members on the new funding scheme announced called the Rapid National Grant Fund and asked that public groups in disadvantaged town with a population over 1,000 submit an application. Donegal LCDC had been

allocated €64,500 to award under the scheme which would be divided amongst the 5 municipal areas. The closing date was 24th November, 2017.

Cllr. Shiels asked if the tender for the construction of the new Social Enterprise Centre would be a fixed price contract and what measures would be put in place to ensure that that the construction costs would not exceed the awarded tender price. Ciaran Martin agreed to have James Kelly, Project Manager, e-mail Cllr. Shiels with a reply to his query.

Cllr. Brogan asked for an update on when works would commence and spoke of the important of improving linkages between the Upper Main Street and new town centre.

Ciaran Martin confirmed that the project was at design state and the focus was on meeting the deadline to draw down the available funds by the end of December 2018.

MDL477/17 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

477.1 Takeover of Roads

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Members agreed to take over Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny and Trá Mor Beach that conform with the adopted policy and make them a public road in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.

477.2 Three Year Footpath and Public

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the Members agreed the three year footpath and public lighting priority programme considered at the Roads Workshop It was agreed that a detailed costing would be carried out by the Executive.

MDL478/17 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Martin McDermott advised that the next planning clinic would be held on 29th November, 2017.

Cllr. Brogan noted the high number of invalid applications and asked if this was a common occurrence. Martin McDermott advised that the Senior Planner was currently looking at the number of invalid applications and would be coordinating a workshop for agents if necessary.

Cllr. Blaney acknowledged the benefit of the planning clinics for Architects and the public. Cllr. McGarvey agreed with Cllr. Blaney and asked if the clinics could be extended to the Milford PSC. Martin McDermott agreed to follow up on this with the Senior Planner.

MDL479/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members noted a progress report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services which included updates on the following:

- HAP
- Grants
- Loans
- Casual Vacancies
- Social Housing Investment Programme – SHIP 2015 – 2020 / Rebuilding Ireland 2021
- Works carried out under Refurbishment/Remedial Works & Planned Maintenance

479.1 Maintenance of Council Stock

Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council consider employing apprentices in order to provide more assistance to tenants. Cllr. Brogan felt that 5 maintenance staff for 1,500 properties was not sufficient and asked that more resources were provided. Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council implementing a regeneration programme in the Long Lane area of Letterkenny due to the number of properties boarded up for a considerable time.

Cllr. McBride commended the Housing staff on the low number of vacant properties currently needing improvement works. Cllr. McBride asked that a priority list could be developed in order that members could advise applicants on when they may be likely to be allocated a house.

Cllr. Blaney commended the Council on the high standard of windows and doors replaced under the refurbishment programme.

479.2 Homeless Services

Cllr. Brogan highlighted the issue of homelessness in Letterkenny and commended the great work of St. Colmcille's Hostel. Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council

contact the HSE to arrange a workshop in order to develop a further Hostel in Letterkenny due to the scarcity of private rented accommodation in the town.

Eunan Kelly advised that there is ongoing engagement with the service providers and agreed to contact the HSE to arrange a workshop which would include the Approved Housing Bodies, Hostel staff, etc.

Cllr. Kavanagh concurred and said information on the services available would be beneficial to members if they receive a call from the public for assistance.

Cllr. Blaney seconded Cllr. Brogan's proposal to hold a workshop considering the number of repossession orders now listed in the Courts.

479.3 Fire Safety

Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council carry out an inspection of Cluid Housing Scheme at Fortwell to assess the existing fire escape following concerns raised to him by residents in the complex.

479.4 House Acquisitions

Cllr. Blaney asked where the properties were acquired and asked that an exception was allowed for the higher purchase price in seaside towns.

479.5 Section 183 Notice – Dispose of Plot of Land at Newmill, Ramelton

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael McBride and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan approval was agreed to proceed to issue formal Notice under Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 to Plenary Council.

479.6 Review of Polling Scheme for County Donegal

Paul McGill, County Secretariat's office, advised that a detailed examination has been carried out of the Polling Districts and the appointed polling places for each of these districts. A small number of amendments were proposed in each Municipal District as follows:

- As a consequence of the abolition of the Town Councils, where practically possible, townlands would no longer be "split".
- Where possible appointing the nearest polling place for electors.
- Changes arising as a result of amendment to the Dáil Constituency boundaries.

It was proposed to proceed to public consultation in mid December with the approval of the Members at Municipal District level and following on from that consultation a Draft Polling Scheme for County Donegal would be published and

copies of the scheme would be available for inspection for a period of 5 weeks. It was proposed to bring the Draft Scheme before the Plenary Council meeting in January 2018.

The Members welcomed the review and asked that if the polling station was to be changed that this would be well communicated in advance.

479.7 Workshop on Estate Takeover

It was agreed to hold Workshop on 9th January 2018 at 11.30 a.m.

Questions

MDL 480/17 PLANNING PERMISSION FOR PUMPING STATIONS

In answer to his question on seeking clarification in relation to policy around Granting Planning Permission for multiple houses that would need a Pumping Station for Water and Sewage Treatment, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

Generally, applications for multiple housing were required to submit proposals that can access an existing gravity fed sewerage network or to a network served by other facilities (pumping stations etc) that were in the control of Irish Water and have the capacity to accept additional loadings from a development. All proposals were subject to separate applications to Irish Water for new network connections. In instances where new infrastructure was proposed, including pumping stations, these can generally only be considered acceptable where they provide wider network improvements and where Irish Water had no objection to the proposal to provide new network infrastructure.

MDL 481/17 GLEN PARK, MOUNTAIN TOP

In answer to his question requesting that in the interest of Health and safety arrange for the potholes at Glen Park, Mountain Top an unfinished estate be filled in as the road into the estate was in a dangerous state, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

The planning authority had recently completed the upgrade of public lighting within Glen Park and was aware of the poor condition of the access road serving this development. It was currently considering the use of security bond monies to provide a surface course along the initial 20m of the access road which was badly potholed.

MDL 482/17 SLIABH SNEACHT ROAD & SLIABH SNEACHT CLOSE

In answer to his question requesting that the Back Lane behind the houses at Sliabh Sneacht Road and Sliabh Sneacht Close would be finished, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

These lanes were not funded directly on any RI or RM budgets, Letterkenny Town Roads do however, refurbish back lanes in conjunction with funded programmes for other works. Works on these lanes were ongoing.

MDL 483/17 BALLYMACOOL WOOD ESTATE

In answer to his question on could the Council provide a report and proposed solution to the ongoing issue of sewage seeping into the back gardens of some properties in Ballymacool Wood Estate, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Ballymacool Woods was not formally Taken In Charge by the Planning Authority. There was a complaint made in October which has been resolved. All queries of this nature should be sent to IW for a formal response.

MDL 484/17 GLENWOOD ESTATE

In answer to his question if the issue of the foul smell in Glenwood Estate had now been dealt with as per my previous requests, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

All queries of this nature should be sent to IW for a formal response and the complainant had been advised to this effect. The matter would be investigated following registering of the complaint.

MDL 485/17 ILLEGAL PARKING ON DISABLED SPOTS

In answer to his question, having rejected my previous motion regarding introducing a text alert system to deal with illegal parking on disabled parking spots in Letterkenny, had the Council any alternative plan for tackling this problem as it continued to occur, apparently unchecked, on a daily basis, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

The Council continued to enforce illegal parking on disable parking spots in Letterkenny through the issue of Fixed Charge Notices (FCN's), by the two Traffic Wardens currently employed by the Council. Whilst the geographical layout of the town ensures that not all infringements are detected, the matter does not go unchecked on a daily basis. From the 1st of January 2017 to the end of October 2017 a total of 1069 FCN's were issued in Letterkenny. 109 of these were for Parked in a disabled persons parking bay, representing approximately 10% of all FCN's.

MDL 486/17 RATHMULLAN TOILETS

In answer to his question seeking a progress report on Rathmullan Toilets, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that:

Rathmullan Public Toilets were on schedule and due to be open at Easter 2018.

MDL 487/17 COITIN ROAD, KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question, requesting that the necessary upgrades be made to the Coitin Road (Kilmacrennan Road towards Churchill via the Nine Eyed Bridge towards the Piggery) and to the Clareman's Junction prior to the commencement of work on the Blue Banks (N56) as there would be a massive increase in traffic volumes on this road during construction period, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

This was referred to the TII for their consideration. It was likely however that any improvements to these roads would have to be agreed by members as part of the RI and/or RM programmes.

MDL 488/17 STREETING LINING AT LARKIN'S LANE AND LOWER MAIN STREET

In answer to his question, requesting the Council to consider lining the middle of the road between Larkin's Lane and the bottom of Lower Main Street to create a 2 lane entry point into what was a very busy junction? At peak times most traffic was going through the junction and was causing unnecessary delays for persons wishing to travel left towards the Oldtown Bridge, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

Roads had assessed and confirmed that the current carriageway width along the Lower Main Street was too narrow to facilitate two lane traffic

MDL 489/17 SIGNAGE

In answer to his question, requesting that this Council erect a suitable sign at the Paddy Harte Road junction with Leckview Lane advising motorists of the location of the grounds of Letterkenny Rovers Soccer Club and that this Council similarly erect a suitable sign at a suitable location at Ballymacool near the junction with the Back Road directing motorists to the location of (1) the Aura Leisure centre, (2) the grounds of St Eunan's GAA Club; and (3) Ballymacool Town Park, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

Letterkenny Rovers Soccer Club, St Eunans GGA grounds and Aura Leisure were not public organisations, and these organisations may apply for permission to erect signage in accordance with Section 245. Full details are on the DCC web site. The Council would review existing directional signage for Ballymacool Park.

MDL 490/17 STREET LIGHTS AT LISMONAGHAN ROAD, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question, when would the new lights at the Lismonaghan Road, Letterkenny now be turned on given that the short winter evenings had now commenced, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The order had been placed with the ESB for energisation. ESB had advised that energisation was imminent, but the Council does not have a date.

MDL 491/17 COUNCIL OWNED LANDS

In answer to his question, seeking an updated report on progress on the list of Council owned lands and the proposed future use of these assets in our MD of Letterkenny, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

It had been acknowledged by management that while progress had been made on work in the area of asset management (land and property), a considerable body of work including the introduction of new systems that reflect best practice was required.

This was presently being developed through a project headed up by a Senior Executive assigned to the office of the Chief Executive. It was envisaged that the future day to day management of the assets would be in the Roads Directorate and the development of specifications for a system to support the Service in the whole of life management of the assets from acquisition to disposal stage are now nearing completion. This would provide a much more integrated and co-ordinated approach to the management of assets generally thereby enabling strategic decisions to be taken as regards the future use of any unused assets.

In conjunction with the development and advancement of this programme of work, a limited number of small land parcels had already been identified during 2017 for disposal and these have been presented to the Members. A much more programmed approach was however envisaged as the project progresses.

In relation to land bank generally, this of course was already reviewed on an ongoing basis in the context of the existing social housing need, availability of infrastructure and compliance with the County Development Plan, taking cognisance of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Donegal County Council's Roads Programmes and Irish Water's Capital Programme.

Existing land banks in towns where there was a housing need which was identified as suitable for social housing development with available water, sewerage and road infrastructure would continue to be prioritised for submission to the Department for approval, subject to necessary infrastructure being available.

MDL 492/17 DERELICT BUILDINGS

In answer to his question, asking if the Council had taken any steps to acquire properties in Letterkenny where we have a lot of vacant/derelict houses where I believe we could have a regeneration program that would improve our residential areas, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

The Council had been actively examining options to acquire vacant dwellings, over the last few years. In relation to Letterkenny MD, we had agreed to acquire 24 units during 2016 and 2017 so far. 17 of these purchases had been concluded, with the remaining 7 pending. We were continuing to identify and pursue suitable properties in this regard. In relation to run down / derelict properties, we were also considering options under the Repair and Leasing initiative. In some instances we were looking to acquire properties, as opposed to repair and lease, with a view to refurbishment / regeneration, in consultation with property owners.

MDL 493/17 FUNDING FOR MOTION PASSED

In answer to his question, requesting a report on motions passed at this MD and what steps had been taken to include these actions in our future budget proposals, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

The roads budgets were allocated from Plenary Council to the Municipal Districts using the "per km" model, in accordance with members agreement, and no account was taken therein, of motions passed by members at Municipal District level. With Letterkenny Town having approx. 8% of the road length within the MDL, this resulted in a less than required allocation for the overseers area of Letterkenny Urban

With regards to the various motions passed by members, the Executive sought to implement these within the maintenance budget where possible, or sought to identify alternative streams of funding for their implementation, where some were successful and others remained unfunded.

MDL 494/17 LIBRARY / CITIZENS ADVICE FOR RAMELTON

In answer to his question, was it intended to provide funding for a Library with Citizens Advice in Ramelton at least 3 days per week in the Budget, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

The immediate priority for the library service was to maintain the existing levels of service and the current network of service points. The potential to enhance the level of service and the means through which service was made available to the public was kept under review.

MDL 495/17 HYDRO POWER FOR RAMELTON & DISTRICT

In answer to his question, would this M.D. investigate the possibility of Hydro Power for Ramelton & District, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

Inland fisheries Ireland had informed the Council that Hydro-power applications have generally been made by the private sector and to a lesser extent the ESB. They were not aware of any nationally that were developed by the Local Authority. The Council role in Hydro-power had been as the Planning Authority. All applications

were sent to Inland Fisheries Ireland the National Parks and Wildlife and must satisfy a number of environmental conditions relating to fish migration and natural habitats before they are considered.

MDL 496/17 PUBLIC TOILETS - RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question, would the Public Toilets in Rathmullan be available for the tourist season in 2018, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

Rathmullan Public Toilets was on schedule and was expected to be open at Easter 2018.

MDL497/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 9th January, 2018 at Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator