

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2017

MDL 152/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael McBride
Cllr. James Pat McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell

MDL153/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer
Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer
Liam Ward, Director of Service

MDL154/17 MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr. Dessie Shiels
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

MDL155/17 OFFICIALS APOLOGIES

Martin McDermott, Executive Planner
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. James Pat McDaid,

MDL156/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 9th March, 2017 were adopted.

MDL157/17 RETIREMENT OF CLLR. MICK QUINN

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle expressed his best wishes to Cllr. Quinn, his wife Eileen and their family on his retirement due to health issues. He acknowledged his contribution from when he was first elected in 2009 to the Milford Electoral Area, Letterkenny Electoral Area and Municipal District of Letterkenny. Cllr. McMonagle spoke of Mick's friendly, witty approach, level headedness and the great work he did for his constituents.

Each Member concurred with Cllr. McMonagle and wished Mick, Eileen and their family all the best in his retirement.

Liam Ward, on behalf of the Executive, wished to be associated with the remarks and wished Mick, Eileen and their family well in his retirement.

The Members asked that a letter was issued from the Municipal District thanking him for his contribution and wishing him well on his retirement.

MDL158/17 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT CARRIGART

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

Calling on this Council to build public toilets in Carrigart as it was a vibrant town and had large volumes of tourists travelling through it.

The Members were advised that:

The budget available to the Council for public conveniences services was limited. No capital funding was currently identified for new facilities at Carrigart.

A desktop review of the Public Convenience services countywide was underway in conjunction with the Environment and Emergency Services SPC. Arising from that process, a likely focus for the Council would be to have certain existing facilities improved / upgraded and a source of funding secured for that programme.

On proposing the motion Cllr. John O'Donnell noted the number of people visiting Carrigart and the urgent need for public conveniences in the town. He asked that the Council explore the availability of and cost of providing these facilities at the old dispensary which was vacant. He advised that this building would also facilitate the new play area behind the Credit Union.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ian McGarvey fully supported the motion and said the local people were facilitating visitors at the present which was unacceptable. Cllr. McGarvey asked that the facility would have adequate parking and be convenient for the needs of people with disability.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that a meeting was held with him, Council Engineers and the residents in Carrigart in an effort to provide these facilities.

MDL159/17 DAVE GALLAGHER COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the following motion was adopted:

Calling on this Council to support the Dave Gallagher Committee in Ramelton to hold an event to mark 100 years this year since his death.

The Members were advised that:

The Development Officer had met with the Dave Gallaher Committee with a view to offering Council support and guidance for the event. The group was currently developing a breakdown of proposed costs for the commemoration and funding options were being examined.

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell noted the importance of supporting the Committee in funding the Commemoration which was to be held on 4th October, 2017 asked the Members to contribute towards the cost in the interest of tourism.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and stated the importance of working the diaspora.

Cllr. O'Donnell stated he would ask the Committee to contact the Members directly regarding supporting the Celebration financially.

MDL160/17 **D.F.I. ALLOCATION**

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the following motion was adopted:

Calling on this Council to put all monies from the D.F.I. that were not drawn down by allocated groups back into the pot so that Members got a chance to reallocate these monies again to groups which could draw down the monies.

The Members were advised that:

When groups were awarded funding under the Development Fund Initiative a Letter of Offer was issued. This Letter of Offer contained the following lines: "This grant must be drawn down in full by the 30th September unless specific, written permission was sought and same was provided in writing by the Council. The provision of such an extension would only be agreed to in exceptional circumstances". Only groups that Council officials were satisfied would be in a position to draw down the funding before year end were given an extension. Any de-committed funds were brought back to the Members for re-allocation.

On proposing the motion Cllr. O'Donnell advised that in 2015 funding agreed by Members was not re-allocated to groups who applied at the time. Cllr. O'Donnell stated that this did not happen in 2016 and wished to ensure that funding was re-allocated as outlined in the reply.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle accepted the response from the Council.

MDL161/17 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN LETTERKENNY

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

To look realistically at a Traffic Management system for Letterkenny

The Members were advised that:

Members were aware that there were key recommendations already identified in the ILUTS (Letterkenny Integrated Land Use and Transportation Study), some of which had been completed and many for which no funding had been identified or allocated to date. The Council continued to seek the progression of the key recommendations.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey spoke of the continuous traffic congestion in Letterkenny and stressed the importance of the Bonagee Link and the need for a wider relief road in Letterkenny.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle referred to the LUTS report which identified the need for new roads in Letterkenny and asked that the recommendations in this study were considered and funding sought from central Government. Cllr. McMonagle spoke of the importance of developing the south of the town, Lismonaghan, Leck and Dromore and location of new schools and shops.

MDL162/17 CARPARK FACILITIES AT BANK TERRACE, RAMELTON

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

To provide a Carpark at Bank Terrace Burial Ground in Ramelton

The Members were advised that:

There was currently no identified budget or location, for the construction of a carpark at Bank Terrace Burial Ground.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council to estimate the cost to develop Council property to provide adequate car parking in Bank Terrace when a funeral occurs. Cllr. McGarvey of the opinion that Council owned land in the vicinity. He also mentioned part of the wall on way to the graveyard that had partly collapsed.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion and said it was important that adequate parking was available at graveyards.

MDL163/17 FOOTPATHS IN RAMELTON

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

That this Council provided the necessary Footpath facilities for Ramelton

The Members were advised that:

No budget was allocated at plenary Council for footpath or new street lighting programmes. Some footpaths may be considered under the Urban Village Renewal grant administered by Community and Enterprise.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council repair the footpath outside the Post Office at Ramelton which was in poor condition. Cllr. McGarvey asked that a review was carried out of the footpath repairs necessary at various locations in Ramelton.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle said he fully supported the motion and asked that the Council approach Government in relation to funding available to the Council as there was little resources available within the Council and more central funding was needed for footpaths, roads and public lighting.

MDL164/17 N56 JUNCTION TO GLENVEAGH

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

That Donegal County Council finally complete the works at the junction of the N56 and the Glenveagh Road.

The Members were advised that:

These works were 90% complete and would be fully completed by the end of April.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said a lot of pedestrians and cyclists use this road and the surface was unfinished at present. Cllr. McBride welcomed the response that works would be fully completed by the end of April.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and said it was unfortunate that the works had taken so long to complete.

MDL165/17 PARKING FACILITIES AT GLENVEAGH NATIONAL PARK

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

That Donegal County Council Engineers engage with Glenveagh National Park to examine a solution to the car parking issues along the main road at peak business hours.

The Members were advised that:

Glenveagh National Park was within the Glenties Municipal District and the Motion had been forwarded to the Glenties Municipal District.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said there was a serious issue with the volume of visitors to Glenveagh and the lack of adequate parking which results in cars parked on both sides of the main road which was dangerous for motorists and pedestrians. Cllr. McBride asked that the Council request the National Parks & Wildlife Service to provide additional car park.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and asked that the Council request that a new car park be provided in the interest of safety.

MDL166/17 ROAD DRAINAGLE AT CHURCHILL

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

That Donegal County Council look at the drainage from the quarry in Churchill back towards the village where water was continually running on to the main road.

The Members were advised that:

The Council had identified the location referred to by the Member and would be progressing a solution over the coming weeks.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride asked that the Council provide adequate drainage to alleviate the constant flow of water from the entrance to Churchill Quarry towards the village. Cllr. McBride said the road was deteriorating and dangerous in frosty conditions.

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

MDL167/17 ROADS FUNDING FOR LETTERKENNY

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

That this Municipal District discuss the deterioration of the roads in Letterkenny and that we seek a meeting with Donegal County Councils Director of Roads and Finance to discuss same.

The Members were advised that:

This request would be referred to the Directors of Roads and Finance.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle said this motion to Letterkenny town and was agreeable to request from Cllr Liam Blaney to amend the motion to Letterkenny Municipal District. Cllr. McMonagle advised that the former Letterkenny Town Council had an annual block grant of c. €390,000 to maintain the roads within the town. He said the allocation based on km has left Letterkenny with inadequate funding as there was 7.2 km of road in the town area and the volume of traffic using these roads was not taken into consideration. Cllr. McMonagle said there was insufficient finance for footpaths, public lighting or roads within the town, that an increase in the allocation was required and requested that a meeting was arranged with the Directors of Roads and Finance with the Members of the Letterkenny Municipal District to discuss.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Kavanagh fully concurred with the points raised by Cllr. McMonagle.

MDL168/17 DEVELOPMENT OF BOARD WALK ALONG RIVER SWILLY

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

That this Council carry out a feasibility and costs survey for a Board Walk with Picnic Areas along the River Swilly from the Retail Park to the Old Railway Bridge above Oldtown Bridge.

The Members were advised that:

The Council had met with some local groups to examine developing a walkway on the Swilly River area. The next stage was a scoping exercise to discuss the feasibility of this with the main stakeholders including the OPW. Should these discussions be positive the Council can move to the next stage of process in partnership with the Walks Development Officer.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and asked that a costing was prepared in order to apply for funding. Cllr. McMonagle said it was important to incorporate the River into the town as an amenity and asked that support under the CE Scheme, TUS Schemes and Probation Services were considered. Cllr. McMonagle asked that a meeting was arranged with the OPW, Environment Groups and the Council and a report brought back to the Members within the next number of months on this.

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

MDL169/17 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

That this Council going forward outline a very strict contract in relation to traffic management, traffic flow and strict completion dates while major road works were planned for Letterkenny. The current congestions caused by ongoing roadworks in the Ballyraine area could not be allowed to happen again. These roadworks and delays were putting a lot of businesses under severe stress because of the loss of business as a result of delays.

The Members were advised that:

All major roads works were contracted under the Public Works Contracts which was a requirement of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Allowances for unforeseen conditions and penalties for non-performance and delays were dealt with, within the confines of the Public Works Contract.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid asked that future road works include a proper traffic management plan and penalties for delays as the delays incurred at Ballyraine were unacceptable. Cllr. McDaid said he welcomed the road works but found it unacceptable the delays in completing the works.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion asked for details on the penalties under the Public Works contract and had the Council an input into this. Cllr. McMonagle asked what the unforeseen works were and if the Council obtained the penalties or the TII.

Charlie Cannon advised that a commitment had been given that works would be completed by the end of May and the roundabout would be in operation in two weeks time. Mr. Cannon said the delays were as a result of Irish Water laying a sewer line from the Ramelton Road, a lot of rock was encountered in front of Mr. Price and ESB and Eir lines were laid underground without impacting on supply. Mr. Cannon advised that any penalties which were written into the contract would not be taken from the contract on completion of the works, but would be offset against any additional claims.

MDL170/17 SCARRIFHOLLIS BATTLE SITE

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. James Pat McDaid, the following motion was adopted:

That this Council resume the maintenance of the battle site at Scarrifhollis, which was badly neglected.

The Members were advised that:

The Council would be carrying out works over the next number of weeks and would liaise with the Probation Service thereafter regarding future maintenance.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh spoke of the historical value of this site and welcomed the response received.

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

MDL171/17 TRAFFIC CONGESTION LETTERKENNY

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

That this Municipal District arrange a Workshop with all the relevant parties to discuss and find solutions to the ongoing traffic congestion problems in Letterkenny.

The Members were advised that:

A workshop can be arranged in the event that an appropriate agenda was identified. Members are aware that there were key recommendations already identified in the ILUTS (Letterkenny Integrated Land Use and Transportation Study), some of which had been completed and many for which no funding had been identified or allocated to date. The Council continued to seek the progression of the key recommendations.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council would find a solution to the day to day traffic congestion in Letterkenny and asked that the Council examine the use of a drone during peak traffic to analyse the pressure times/locations for congestion and address the problem accordingly. Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council review the traffic lights at LYIT, consider signalling the Polestar Roundabout, provide a slip road to the left of the exit from Ballyrairie at the Polestar Roundabout. He also suggested provision of yellow boxes on Calhame and Pramerica Roundabouts and the provision of a bus lay by on opposite side of the road from Errigal College to ease traffic congestion.

Cllr. Blaney asked for a workshop to be held with Council Engineers, NRDO, TII, An Garda Siochana and Members in an effort to ease the traffic congestion in the short-term as he felt there was no political will to progress the Bonagee Link.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully concurred with the issues raised by Cllr. Blaney and stated that An Garda Siochana should have move involvement to ensure free movement of traffic in peak times.

It was agreed that a Workshop would be held on 9th May, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre and that all parties would be invited to attend.

MDL172/17 **ROAD MARKINGS**

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

That this Municipal District request that the road markings from the Mountain Top to Coolboy be refreshed as existing markings have faded.

The Members were advised that:

The Council will review and arrange for refreshment where required.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that in the interest of safety that roadmarking were refreshed on the Kilmacrennan road in particular right turning on the road heading towards Kilmacrennan.

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

Charlie Cannon advised that this section of the N56 was put on the GEO App for funding to do the lining renewal, but was not approved yet by the TII. However, under new regulations right turning lines and arrows were being removed on all National roads and that centre and edged lines would be renewed once approved by the TII.

MDL173/17 **TEN-T PROJECT**

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

That this Municipal District request a meeting with the Consultants appointed for the Ten-T Project.

The Members were advised that:

A request for such a meeting would be forwarded to the NRDO, on the identification of an appropriate agenda.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that a meeting was arranged with the Consultants to discuss any changes on the original plans for the proposed Bonagee Link road in particular he proposed that consideration be given to constructing a roundabout at Drumardagh and linking from there to new Bunagee Bridge rather than the Dry Arch Roundabout and also extending link from Bunagee further out the Ramelton Road than was originally proposed.

He also requested following be included on the agenda for the meeting:

- Manorcunningham to Lifford Road
- Lifford to Ballybofey Road

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion and stated the future development of Letterkenny depended on the Bonagee Link.

MDL174/17 MAYORS BUSINESS

Cllr. McDaid wished Cllr. Mick Quinn, his wife Eileen and his family well in his retirement.

Cllr. McDaid, Mayor advised that he attended the launch of the Cleaner Community Campaign 2017 hosted by Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee prior to the meeting and wished businesses well in the categories.

Cllr. McDaid, Mayor encouraged communities to get involved in the Big Clean Up National event which was supported and facilitated by the Council.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the Council write to Kilmacrennan N.S. to congratulate them on becoming national winners in the Credit Union Quiz.

MDL175/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Eunan Kelly advised that the following deputation requests were received:

- Good Morning Services had asked to defer their deputation to the May
- Rathmullan – The Way Forward Group
- Youth Council – request to attend May or June Meetings.

Members agreed that the Good Morning Service and Rathmullan – The Way Forward Groups attend prior to the meeting in May at 1.15 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. and the Youth Council attend prior to the June meeting.

MDL176/16 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Liam Ward advised that Martin Mc Dermott was in court representing the Council and was unable to attend but that he would relay any questions and arrange for responses.

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda which included:

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

Cllr. McGarvey asked for clarity on how the new Courthouse facility was granted planning permission without adequate parking. Liam Ward advised that the Council was seeking a presentation of the new Courthouse when completed.

MDL177/17 ENVIRONMENT

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda which included:

- Launch of Big Clean Up '17
- Waste Prevention Campaigne
- Farm Plastic Scheme
- Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign in Bundoran
- Waste Prevention Repair Directory
- Enforcement

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Blaney highlighted the large volume of plastic bottles in the community and suggested that a levy should be imposed on plastic bottles and refund given when returned which would be a great benefit to communities.

Cllr. Blaney reported ongoing problems with the sewage treatment plant at Errigal View Housing Estate and asked that the Council investigate and report back to him.

The Members commended the good work of the Litter Wardens, Environment staff and the local communities in carrying out clean ups in the area.

Cllr. McBride asked that the Council increase the number of dog fowling stations in Letterkenny and look at introducing these in other villages and towns.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Council organise collection centres for large bulky items, furniture, bedding which could be given to charities to recycle, etc. as the cost of disposing these items was expensive in the Recycling Centres.

MDL178/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Donegal Walks & Trails
- Community Facilities Scheme

The Members welcomed the report.

Liam Ward advised that the Council had sought an extension on the completion date for the Social Enterprise Building and the design brief was currently being finalised.

MDL179/17 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

127.1 CCTV Bernard McGlinchey Town Park

Charlie Cannon advised that the works would be completed within a fortnight. The Members welcomed this.

127.2 GEO APP Funding

Charlie Cannon informed the Members that the Roads office had secured €159,800 additional funding on national roads as follows:

ROAD	PROBLEM DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY	APPROVED BUDGET
N56	4 Lane Patches	Minor Pavement maintenance	€8,000
N56	Pedestrian Barrier damage – Mountain Top Roundabout	Safety Barrier/fences repairs & maintenance	€3,800
N13	Drainage works south of Cullion Rd junction	Drainage	€23,000
N13	South Knockbrack Junction drainage issue	Drainage	€36,000
N13	Drain on Dual Carriageway	Drainage	€36,000
N14	Vehicle activated sign needs repairing Mondoey Lower	Signs/Lines	€6,000
N56	Patch Repairs Kilmacrennan to Barnes Beg	Minor pavement maintenance	€18,000
N56	Footpath repair Kilmacrennan Town	Footpath repair	€29,000

The Members welcomed the additional funding.

127.3 Aughlihard Bridge

Cllr. Blaney asked for an update on Aughlihard Bridge repairs and Charlie Cannon advised that repairs were ongoing on the bridge which included pointing the arch, repairing the damage and removing overgrowth. Works were to be completed in three weeks approximately.

MDL180/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

180.1 SHIP 2017-2020 – Long Lane

Eunan Kelly advised that Stage 2 approval had been received from the Department on the project at Long Lane.

180.2 Casual Vacancies

Cllr. McMonagle asked why vacant houses were taken longer to turnaround. Eunan Kelly advised that the Council was availing of a Scheme from the Department to upgrade the energy efficiencies in the property and there was a short list of contractors available to the Council to carry out these works. The Council were seeking to increase this list. Where the property was in good condition Council Maintenance staff would carry out the works. The MD had experienced a high volume of vacancies in 2017 to date.

180.3 Turnkey Development

Eunan Kelly advised that the Council would be advertising for provision of social housing through turnkey acquisition details of which were circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr. Blaney said he did not have confidence in the Council managing the Turkey Projects in view of the manner in which the seeking of Expressions of Interest for acquiring land for Social Housing purposes was handled and asked that this was managed solely by the Department.

Liam Ward took issue with the comments made by Cllr. Blaney and advised that Members queries were all answered in relation to previous land acquisition process. Mr. Ward advised that the Department was involved in the previous process and would be involved in the Turnkey process as well. Mr. Ward agreed to bring Cllr. Blaney's view to the attention of Senior Management for Housing.

180.4 Meeting with Damien English, T.D., Minister of State for Housing & Urban Renewal

Cllr. McBride thanked Damien English, T.D., Minister of State for Housing & Urban Renewal for meeting the Members of Donegal County Council on 3rd April 2017. Cllr. McBride said it was a good opportunity for Members to discuss the Tenant Purchase Scheme Review, buying out S.I. Houses, college accommodation for people of Donegal and asked that the Council write to Minister English to thank him for this opportunity.

Questions

MDL181/17 TAKEOVER OF ROAD AT TERARGUS, TRENTAGH

In an answer to his question of when following his motion to take over the road at Terargus, Trentagh, which was passed by this M.D, would this take place as the road needed a number of pot holes etc addressed on this urgently, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that:

'It was intended that progression of the potential takeover of some nominated roads would proceed this year in accordance with the adopted take over policy. The takeover policy required that considerations in relation to public right of way, general public utility and financial implications would be considered. At this stage it was too early to establish a timeframe for when the road would be taken in charge or indeed if it would fit the criteria outlined in the take over policy. The road was currently a private road, and the Council did not recommend its non repair by the owners, pending the potential taking in charge or not by the Council'

MDL182/17 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT KILMACRENNAN

In answer to his question of where the survey report on installing traffic lights at the junction in Kilmacrennan, where there was a large number of accidents, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that:

Further to motion MDL100/16 calling for the installation of a controlled crossing at the Kilmacrennan 4 way junction, a pedestrian and vehicle count was carried out by Road Design at the junction, to establish if the requested pedestrian crossing could be justified under the current design guidance. Road Designs findings were that the counts were well below the requirements for a controlled pedestrian crossing with reference to NRA Publication "Pedestrian Crossing Specification and Guidance", and consequently would not attract funding from the TH.

MDL183/17 DEVELOPMENT OF RAMELTON & DISTRICT FISHING RESOURCES

In answer to his question on whether this Municipal District had any role in the development potential of the fishing resources of Ramelton and district, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

Inland Fisheries Ireland was charged with developing and promoting inland fishing in the county.

MDL184/17 HEDGES THAT ENCROACHED ON PAVEMENTS

In answer to his question of whether there was a safety aspect to hedges around Ramelton that encroached on the pavements, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

There was a safety aspect to hedges encroaching on the public road, and under the Roads Act 1993, it was the landowners responsibility to ensure that trees, hedges and other vegetation growing on their land did, or would, not become, a danger to people using the public road.

MDL185/17 HYDRO POWER ON RIVER LENNON

In answer to his question of whether a Survey could be carried out on the possibility of Hydro Power on the River Lennon, Cllr. I. McGarvey was advised that:

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) advised on their website that developers considering hydro power for the first time could benefit greatly from advice provided by consultants working in the area and that they had compiled a list of consultants who would be able to guide a developer through the process of building a hydro plant which was also available on their website..

The critical items associated with the building process for a hydro power plant included the following:

- *Hydro resource (how much power was available, was this commercially viable, what size turbine was appropriate?)*
- *Planning permission and environmental impact (contact local council authority for requirements)*
- *Power purchase agreement*
- *Permission to connect to the electrical grid (contact ESB Networks)*
- *License to generate electricity (contact Commission for Energy Regulation?)*

The Dept of Communication Energy and Natural Resources and Inland Fisheries Ireland released a report entitled “Guidelines on the Construction and Operation of Small Scale Hydro Electric Schemes and Fisheries”.

Further information available on: http://www.seai.ie/Renewables/Hydro_Energy/

MDL186/17 SPEED LIMITS AT ILLISTRIN AND LURGYBRACK

In answer to his question of when would the periodic speed limits at Illistrin and Lurgybrack as agreed by Council be implemented, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

Installation of amended speed limit signage on national roads was to be arranged directly by TII however no implementation date had been confirmed yet. TII have been informed that the new Bylaws would come into effect at the end of April.

MDL187/17 RAMELTON TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL PROGRAMME

In answer to his question of what was the latest on the proposed works in Ramelton as agreed by Council in the Town and Village Renewal Programme, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

Donegal County Council was currently finalising a brief for the appointment of a consultant to develop the Town and Village Renewal Plan for Ramelton.

MDL188/17 N56 COOLBOY TO KILMACRENNAN ROAD

In answer to his question of whether an updated report on the Blue Banks to Kilmacrennan N56, could be provided and how much was allocated and confirmed, how much it would cost to get this project to construction and total construction costs, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that:

The DNRDO have advised as follows:

This scheme proposed to upgrade 3.15 km of substandard alignment on the N56 National Secondary Road approximately 8km North of Letterkenny.

The new section of road would be a single carriageway with hard strips and independent cycle lanes (both northbound and southbound). The scheme would remove the notorious 'Blue banks' bends and other narrow, poorly aligned sections of the N56. This busy section of the N56 served North and West Donegal including for example Glenveagh National Park, Fanad, Gweedore and Dunfanaghy

The scheme was shovel ready. Tender Documents were completed subject to ongoing adjustment for Standards and PWC changes.

Currently it was proposed by Irish Water to replace both the existing principle water supply from Lough Salt to Letterkenny and the distribution mains for the entire area including Rathmullan.

DNRDO believed funding for this major and critical water project was committed. It was programmed for completion by 2019. To construct the designed N56 Coolboy to Kilmacreannan road scheme the entire trunk and distribution main must be re-laid. Significant other temporary/enabling works would also be required for the relocation of these mains. The estimated value of the separate watermain

element of the Contract is €2.71m (inclusive of VAT) and would be borne by Irish Water.

The current road construction estimate was €12.56m (excluding watermain. The CPO of land for the scheme was confirmed in May 2015. The allocation for 2017 was €900,000 and was predominantly for ongoing land acquisition.

The N56 Coolboy Kilmacreannan Road Scheme (incl. watermain elements) was not currently identified within the Governments Capital Plan 'Building on Recovery: infrastructure and Capital investment 2016 to 2021, a mid-term review of which was currently ongoing.'

MDL189/17 CCTV AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK

In answer to his question requesting an update regarding his motion on provision of CCTV for Bernard McGlinchey Town Park could be provided, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

Further to the MDL Meeting of February 2017, Members were advised that following a competition for the installation of a CCTV camera system in the Mc Glinchey Town Park, the successful tenderer commenced works shortly afterwards, in conjunction with the Parks and Open Spaces teams who installed the required underground ducting, such that phases 1 & 2 as discussed with Members at a workshop on 7th February could be installed. It was anticipated that the system would be in full working operation within the fortnight.

MDL190/17 TRAFFIC LIGHTS JUSTICE WALSH ROAD

In answer to his question of whether there were any updates on the proposed traffic lights at the bottom of Justice Walsh Road, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

The signalisation of the bottom of Justice Walsh Road was to be included as part of the DUGS (Designated Urban Grant Scheme) funding, granted last year. The Road Design office had initiated design works and Letterkenny Roads planned to install all of associated ducting by the end of April in order to allow the Pearse Road Overlay to proceed this year. It was anticipated that Road Design would be involved in the procurement and installation of MOVA traffic signals before the end of 2018.

MDL191/17 NEW COURTHOUSE IN LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question of when was the new Courthouse in Letterkenny due to open and whether the Council could get a presentation on the facilities and services that would be available when it opened, Cllr. G. McMonagle was advised that:

The Council would follow up with the Courts Service in relation to the timeline for the opening of the new facility and would request that a presentation be made to the

Letterkenny Municipal District on the facilities and services that would be available from the new facility.

MDL192/17 INVITATION TO PRESIDENT TO VISIT FANAD LIGHTHOUSE

In answer to his question of whether he could be provided with an update on his motion from the January meeting regarding the invite to President Michael D Higgins to Fanad Light House, Cllr. J McDaid was advised that:

The letter from the Fanad Lighthouse and the accompanying letter from the Letterkenny Municipal District Mayor would be forwarded to the President on Wednesday.

MDL193/17 REPAIRS TO GLENKEERAGH ROAD

In answer to his question of whether this Council could repair/patch the broken part of road at Glenkeeragh that was continuously breaking up after being filled, this area of road was on a straight part of the road which vehicles hit very suddenly, Cllr. J McDaid was advised that:

The Council proposed to implement repairs in the coming weeks at this location.

MDL194/17 ROAD SIGNAGE FOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

In answer to his question of whether any progress had been made regarding signage improvement with the OPW and Glenveagh for our tourist attractions in this area, Cllr. J McDaid was advised that:

The Council were liaising with the OPW and were pricing the replacement of the OPW owned signage.

MDL195/17 ROAD MARKINGS ON CIRCULAR ROAD

In answer to his question of whether this Council could refresh the road markings on Circular Road, Cllr. J Kavanagh was advised that:

The Circular Road would be heavily impacted by the Irish Water contract anticipated to start in the last quarter of 2017. The area offices were restricting works to safety related, pending the completion of works by Irish Water. Road markings would be reviewed and refreshed where necessary on that basis.

MDL196/17 SIGNAGE AT CASTLESHANAGHAN NATIONAL SCHOOL

In answer to his question of whether this Council could please provide a "slow school ahead" sign before the crossroads on the Letterkenny side of Castleshaganahan National School, Cllr. J Kavanagh was advised that:

As per previous meeting, measures were in hand for the erection of signage at this school.

MDL197/17 MARKING OF PARKING SPACES

In answer to his question of whether this Council could make single marked parking spaces available on Main Street and High Road to prevent motorists from taking up more space than they needed to, Cllr. J Kavanagh was advised that:

This matter was discussed in detail at the recent workshop held with Members in relation to marking parking spaces.

Donegal County Council had in the past received requests for the lining of individual parking spaces on Letterkenny Main Street in the belief that this would increase the number of spaces available. However it was Council's experience, cars can park in smaller spots than the regulatory parking length of 6.0m, and consequently the individually marking out of spaces would reduce, rather than increase the number of parking spaces along the Main Street. Observed experience was that where space for more than one vehicle was available, drivers generally park such that room was left for another vehicle, and the occurrence of a vehicle straddling multiple spaces was very rare.

MDL198/17 RATHMULLAN PUBLIC TOILETS

In answer to his question of whether an update could be provided on the construction of the Rathmullan Public Toilets, Cllr. L Blaney was advised that:

Agreement on issues of concern had been made with the local community groups and arrangements had been made for the project to be tendered week commencing 3rd April 2017. Construction stage would follow over the coming months, dates were not determined at this time.

MDL199/17 RATHMULLAN BUNCRANA FERRY

In answer to his question of whether this Council would request the Rathmullan to Bunrana Ferry Operator to consider operating the ferry over the Easter period and the May Bank Holiday, Cllr. L Blaney was advised that:

The Council was currently engaged in a contract with the Ferry operator running from June to September.

MDL200/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 9th May, 2017 at Letterkenny Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator