

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2017**

**MDL 201/17 MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Blaney  
Cllr. Michael McBride  
Cllr. James Pat McDaid  
Cllr. Ian McGarvey  
Cllr. Gerry McMonagle  
Cllr. Dessie Shields  
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

**MDL202/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Charlie Cannon, Executive Engineer, Roads  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Fiona Kelly, A/Administrative Officer, Water Environment  
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer  
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer  
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

**MDL203/17 MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh  
Cllr. John O'Donnell

**MDL204/17 OFFICIALS APOLOGIES**

Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer  
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the meeting commenced and was adjourned to allow the Deputation from "Rathmullan The Way Forward" complete their presentation.

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

**MDL205/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Michael McBride, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 were adopted.

**MDL206/17 CLLR. JOHN O'DONNELL MOTIONS**

The Members agreed to Cllr. O'Donnell's request to defer the motions put forward by him to the June MDL Meeting as he was unable to attend the meeting.

**MDL207/17 FOOTPATH LOWER PORT ROAD, LETTERKENNY**

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

*That the Council Engineers survey and repair the footpaths on the Lower Port Road that had been broken up and were in a dangerous condition.*

The Members were advised that:

*Footpath repair and/or new construction prioritisation order, subject to budget, was as discussed in the workshop prior to this meeting.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride raised his concerns regarding condition of the footpath and the high number of pedestrians using the area in front of Specsavers and asked that this was repaired.

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

**MDL208/17 CAR PARK AT BERNARD MCGLINCHEY TOWN PARK**

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

*That Donegal County Council explore the possibility of expanding the car park at the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park.*

The Members were advised that:

*A grassed area behind the current carpark, was used for overflow parking during the summer time. The Council would explore the possibilities of converting this to a hard standing area and revert with a budget estimate.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride asked that the Council provide more parking spaces as there were a high number of people using the park and finding parking difficult.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey spoke of the increase in population and access to the park causing congestion and fully supported the motion.

**MDL209/17 N56 BLUE BANKS – CYCLE LANES**

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

*That Donegal County Council contact the T.I.I. asking if they had purchased enough land to include cycle lanes on the proposed road realignment at the Blue Banks/Kilmacrennan stretch of the N56.*

The Members were advised that:

*Cycle lanes were being provided. The current scheme incorporated independent separate cycle ways in both verges and/or utilises existing sections of the N56 where a new realignment had been separately provided.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride welcomed the announcement of funding the Blue Banks road and welcomed the response received to his motion.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that the TII provide a cycle lane on the full road as part of these works.

**MDL210/17 ROADS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC**

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

*That material would be provided where some Roads in our M.D were unfit to use.*

The Members were advised that:

*As per previous meetings, there was no LIS Programme in operation in the MDL*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that the Council provide materials to ensure that older people did not become isolated due to the poor state of roads accessing their property.

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

**MDL211/17 LETTERKENNY REVENUE OFFICE PUBLIC COUNTER SERVICE**

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

*That the Council request restoration of the service that existed previously to the public in Letterkenny Revenue Office.*

The Members were advised that:

*This will be referred to Revenue if the motion is passed.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey spoke of the fully automated service now held by Revenue and stated that the public were being deprived of a service in person.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle supported the motion in particular the lack of access in areas of the Municipal District to broadband and on-line services.

***MDL212/17 ROADS SERVICES STAFFING***

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

*That our Roads Supervisors in the M.D.L had access to more workers when necessary.*

The Members were advised that:

*A seasonal panel of General Operatives was in place, from which additional workers could be employed for four month periods, subject to the required budget being in place within that particular sector.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey asked that Roads Supervisors are support with adequate staffing during busy times and that temporary workers were employed for extended periods in order that works was done.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and asked that temporary staff were employed from June to September when tarring was done.

***MDL213/17 CARRAIG CRAOIBH ESTATE, LETTERKENNY***

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

*That this Council carry out a Health and Safety check on all of the Retaining Walls, Footpaths and Road in Carraig Craoibh Estate in Letterkenny and bring that report back to this Council for discussion.*

The Members were advised that:

*Letterkenny MD and Housing Construction staff had inspected the public open space within this site and had determined that the fence on the boundary of the open space was in need of repair. A tender was currently being prepared to have this fence replaced.*

*The Council would seek legal advice on the extent of any additional works that could be carried out.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle stated that the Council had a number of housing applicants and tenants residing in this estate. Cllr. McMonagle stated that an agreement had been made by the former Letterkenny Town Council and the developer in relation to footpaths, public lighting in order that the estate would be taken in charge however this had not been taken in charge when the developer carried out the works. Cllr. McMonagle said he was unhappy with the response given and again raised concerns regarding the fence in the green area and the retaining walls, one of which collapsed and others were bulging. Cllr. McMonagle asked that a metal fence / crash barrier was erected in the interest of safety around the green area and that manholes were checked and a more focussed response was received from the Council.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported motion.

Liam Ward fully acknowledged the issues raised and advised that as the estate was not formally taken in charge the Council could not carry out any works as this estate remained a private estate. Mr. Ward advised that the works relating to the repair of the fencing had gone out to tender.

#### **MDL214/17 CAR PARK & SOCIAL HOUSING**

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

*That this Council would not allow part of the existing upper carpark serving St Eunan's Cathedral and Conwal Parish Church in Letterkenny to be offered to private contractors for the construction of housing as proposed by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government as part of its State Housing Land Management Strategy revealed on 27 April 2017 especially in circumstances where there was a shortage of public parking in the area and where the Council was already operating an effective overflow carpark at the old Mart site at Sentry Hill Road.*

The Members were advised that:

*Donegal County Council had no plans to develop a Social Housing Scheme on the existing upper carpark serving St Eunan's Cathedral and Conwal Parish Church in Letterkenny as part of the Social Housing Investment Programme.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked how this carpark was identified to the Department as a site to develop social housing and asked that this would not develop any further as the existing car park was necessary to alleviate parking congestion in the town. Cllr. Shiels asked for clarification that the Council would not develop this site for social housing.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride said this carpark was a necessity for parking in the town and fully supported the motion.

**MDL215/17 COMMERCIAL RATES – VACANT UNITS**

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

*That this Municipal District Council was opposed to plans by Minister Simon Coveney to direct by new legislation that minimum commercial rates of 25% be charged and collected by Local Authorities on vacant rated properties where such properties were not generating an income to pay such rates when vacant.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Council was aware of proposals by the Government to introduce new commercial rates legislation, which was due to consolidate and update rating legislation, some of which dates back to the 1800s. However, to date a Bill had not been introduced by the Minister and, therefore, the content of the bill or any proposals were not know at this stage. Therefore, at this stage, it would have been speculative to assume any conclusive content of be contained in any legislation.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council oppose this Government proposal before it is legislated due to the severity of this levy in recessionary times.

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

**MDL216/17 SEPTIC TANK – UPGRADE FUNDING**

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

*That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to roll out a grant scheme for all persons with Septic Tanks who wish to upgrade their existing outdated septic tanks systems to modern environmental standards.*

The Members were advised that:

*The septic tank grant is available only in the following circumstances:*

- 1. The septic tank must have been inspected as part of the National Inspection Plan, (i.e. scheduled by DCC in a certain area, based on risk zone, e.g.- Water Framework Directive river, lake, Drinking Water or pearl mussel catchment, no requests are allowed).*

2. *The system had been recorded as a failure, confirming that either the tank or associated infiltration area was not acceptable.*
3. *The system had been registered by the owner prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013.*
4. *The owner met the income threshold, earning <€50,000 per annum for a full grant, or < €75,000 for a lesser grant.*

*Total grant available was €4,000.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said it was misleading to the public stating that a grant was available to upgrade septic tanks registered as the applications would only be considered where inspection had been carried out. Cllr. Shiels asked that this grant is made widely available to the public who request an inspection be carried out of their septic tank.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that the Council inspected septic tanks when requested to do so by householders who wished to avail of the grant.

***MDL217/17 MEETING WITH COMREG***

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

*That this Municipal District seeks 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.*

The Members were advised that:

*The Plenary Council was due to receive a presentation from Eir as regards their plans for rural broadband. As regards the National Broadband Plan, this was being jointly implemented by the Department of Communications and the Department of Rural Affairs. The Plenary Council last received a presentation on this topic in March 2015. It was intended to invite Officials from the Department of Rural Affairs to update the Plenary Council on this.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid highlighted the lack of broadband services and phone coverage in area within the Municipal District and the demand for these services for employment.

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

***MDL218/17 DOG FOULING – LETTERKENNY TOWN***

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

*Dog fouling: That this Council work on a action plan to try reduce dog fouling in this MD and make dog owners more responsible.*

The Members were advised that:

*Donegal County Council actively encouraged dog owners to be responsible and clean-up after their dogs.*

***Poop Scoop Bins & Dispensers:***

*This campaign was carried out in a number of ways including the installation of Poop Scoop Dispensers / Bins at;*

*Letterkenny (7 Bins and dispensers)*

*Kilmacrennan (2 Bins)*

*Ramelton (2 Bins 1 dispenser)*

*Milford (2 Bins)*

*Kerrykeel (2 Bins 1 dispenser)*

*Downings (2 Bins 1 dispenser)*

*Rathmullan (earmarked for 2 bins and 1 dispenser).*

*The Council worked closely with local community groups with the provision of this service. The Council also provided poop scoops free of charge to the public through the Council Public Service Centres and they were provided at lifeguarded beaches during the summer season when lifeguards were in duty.*

***Media:***

*During the month of April 2017 as part of the anti-litter awareness campaign the Council ran an advert campaign on local radio stations reminding dog owners to clean-up after their dogs. There was also an online advert on dog fouling on Donegal Daily. This campaign would run again during the summer months.*

***Leaflet:***

*The Council would review and organise a re-print of the "Be a responsible Dog Owner" leaflet.*

***Litter Wardens:***

*In recent times the Litter Wardens had in conjunction with local community groups spent time along popular walking routes talking to dog owners about the importance of cleaning up after their dogs. This was a piece of work that the Council was happy to carry out and was happy to discuss suitable locations.*

*The Council was also engaged with our Environment counterparts in Derry City & Strabane District Council and had been discussing the issue of dog fouling and awareness campaign they had used in the past that we could also put in place here.*

*The Council was happy to discuss any particular areas of concern that members had.*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid raised the concerns of constituents in the Oldtown area of Letterkenny and asked owners to be more responsible. Cllr. McDaid commended the work of Environment staff and asked that they focus on this area for a period.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion and asked that more bins are put in place in Letterkenny.

***MDL219/17*** **MAYORS BUSINESS**

Cllr. McDaid asked that a vote of sympathy was sent from the Municipal District to the family of the late Cllr. Sean McEniff.

On the proposal of Cllr. McDaid and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney it was agreed that that the Members of the Municipal District of Letterkenny request a meeting with Oireachtas Members, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Management in Roads and Finance Department to highlight the traffic congestion and pressures in Letterkenny.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the TII, An Garda Siochana and roads staff look at minor improvements that could be done to alleviate traffic congestions and improve traffic flow.

Cllr. McDaid proposed a Civic Reception be held at Plenary Council in Lifford for Niamh & Gavin Shevlin and Taragh Callaghan from the Bradley School of Dancing who competed in the Works Championship Irish Dancing, and Gavin winning his category.

Cllr. McDaid wished the North West 10k Committee and charities success in the upcoming annual 10k.

Cllr. McDaid commended the organisers and participants in the Darkness into Light Walk.

Cllr. McDaid announced that Adrian Glackin would be the new Councillor to the Municipal District replacing former Cllr. Mick Quinn.

Cllr. McMonagle asked that the Members seek to attend a meeting with Minister O'Donovan and Members of the Municipal District of Inishowen to discuss funding for the Swilly & Foyle Ferries.

***MDL220/17*** **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Donegal Youth Council Deputation**

Eunan Kelly advised that it was previously agreed that a deputation from Donegal Youth Council would attend the June MDL at 1.15 p.m..

**MDL221/17 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Members agreed to a Workshop on the Hericoast Project on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. in the Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

**221.01 Part 8 on Four Lane Scheme, Letterkenny**

Cllr. Shiels advised that the Four Lane Scheme was now at Part 8 of the Planning process and that the public should be aware of the proposals of this scheme, reducing the speed limit to 60kph, central barriers, bus stops and pedestrian crossings. Cllr. Shiels stated that businesses and residents should make their submissions known as part of this process.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that a meeting was arranged with Irish Water in relation to proposals planned for water supply to Letterkenny along the Four Lane Road, the need to extend the main sewer to Bonagee and to give an update to Members of Capital projects planned for the MDL. The Members fully supported this request.

**221.02 Draft County Development Plan**

Liam Ward advised that Members of the Plenary Council at a special meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 agreed to publish the Draft County Development Plan for public consultation and schedule events will be held throughout the county with Planners available. The Plan would be published on the Council's website.

**221.03 Reports Circulated**

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

**MDL222/17 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.

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 Blaney requested that consideration be given to delaying construction of the Rathmullan toilets until September to avoid disruptions during the tourist season and to the ferry.

***MDL223/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES***

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Ramelton Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Donegal Marathon 2017
- Donegal Tourism
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Members welcomed the report.

**223.01 Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

Liam Ward advised that the Town & Village Renewal Scheme was advertised on the Council's website and applications had to be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The features of the scheme were that the Council submit up to 15 applications which in turn compete nationally with applications received in the Department from other counties. Mr. Ward advised that the applications had to have a clear positive economic impact on the town and create employment opportunities. Town and Villages should make enquires to Eamonn Boyle on the Scheme and Ciaran Martin was also available to assist groups.

**223.02 Social Enterprise Building**

Ciaran Martin advised that the start date for the Social Enterprise Building was put back to early 2018. The Health Impact Assessment was being carried out currently. Liam Ward advised that the Council would be engaging in a public procurement process for design team for the building and Part 8 of the planning process at which time the public could make submissions. The end date had been extended to 2019.

**223.03 Clar Funding in the Letterkenny Municipal District**

Cllr. Blaney expressed his disappointment that only three groups received Clar funding in the Letterkenny Municipal District. Cllr. Blaney advised that groups were informed that their applications were incomplete and asked that a workshop is held to discuss why the applications were rejected as ¼ of the Clar area was in the MD of Letterkenny and MD of Glenties was successful in 14 applications.

The Members fully supported this.

Liam Ward advised that the criteria was set by the Department and the scheme was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. The Council had four working weeks to receive and consider the 80 applications received. This included the Easter period and fully

understood why the Members were aggrieved with the poor success of the applicants in the MD of Letterkenny.

## ***MDL224/17*** **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

### **224.1 Removal of Unauthorised Signs**

Charlie Cannon read the report circulated with the agenda and advised Members of the Council's adopted policy on Unauthorised Signs on Public Roads and the implementation of same over the next few months on a countywide basis with the removal of unauthorised signage along public roads and car parks.

### **224.2 Pedestrian Crossings at Towns**

Charlie Cannon informed the Members that following a motion at Plenary Council to carry out a survey of all the towns in Donegal that were having problems getting the traffic to slow down and to carry out an investigation as to whether a pedestrian crossing within these towns would alleviate this problem. Locations previously identified in the past in the MDL Meetings would be forwarded to Roads Central for inclusion in the county-wide review and requested Members to advise of other locations that had come to their attention.

### **224.3 Development Contribution Scheme**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. James Pat McDaid the members unanimously agreed to allocating the Development Contribution Scheme (DCS) as follows:

Footpath on Castle Street Ramelton	€3,500
3 Lights on Lismonaghan Lower Road, Letterkenny	€5,750
3 Lights on Rowan Park to Hill View Road, Lismonaghan	€6,500
1 Light at St Eunan's College, Letterkenny	€2,000
1 Light at Lurgybrack Entrance to Cullion Road	€2,000
2 Lights at Mc Fadden's, Breenagh	€4,000
2 Lights at Ray Bridge, Rathmullan	€3,250
3 Lights at Glenwood Park Back Lane, Letterkenny	€6,000
3 Lights at Millbrook Mews, Rathmullan	€6,000
3 Lights from Nora's Pub to Abbey Village	€6,000

### **224.4 Kilty Roadworks**

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the Council reconsider closing the existing access to the Local Enterprise Building and asked that an emerging lane was put in place. Cllr. James McDaid supported this request.

**MDL225/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

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

**225.1 Section 183 Notice**

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle Notice under Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 – 2010 as amended and Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Proposal for Disposal of Land at Churchill Village to Churchill Hill Community & Social Development Group to develop a playground/gym trail and community gardens was approved.

**225.2 Municipal District of Letterkenny AGM**

The Members agreed that the AGM of the Municipal would be held following the June meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

**225.3 Provision of Social Housing Through Turnkey Acquisition**

Tenders due to be opened and assessed.

**Questions**

**MDL226/17 FORESHORE LICENCE DOWNINGS BEACH**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on the application for the Foreshore Licence in Downings Beach which was needed to apply for Planning Permission for the promenade from the pier to the beach entrance of Downings beach, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

*The application had been submitted together with various other documents required by the Foreshore Unit. Their latest request however was as follows:*

- *Establish the impact of sea level change on the inshore wave conditions*
- *Assess the impact of the Works on normal wave, tidal, and sediment transport regimes of the area and on the existing coastal processes.*

*To do this required Hydrodynamic Modelling which would cost in the region of €16,000. This figure relied on us having sufficient bathymetric and topographic survey data available and that no additional surveys would be required. This model would be constructed using digital data provided by Donegal Co. Council, Ordnance Survey Ireland and UKMO. We could provide the topographical survey details that was previously carried out however it was quite old and did not cover*

*the full extent of the proposed promenade. A new survey would most likely be required and would cost a further €1,500.*

*We did not have any bathymetric data and if this was not available through Ordnance Survey Ireland or UKMO, we would have to carry out a bathymetric survey and the cost of this survey would be in the region of €2,500 based on others we had recently carried out in other parts of the county.*

*To progress the application further would require approx. €20,000.*

**MDL227/17 BOARDWALK TO DOWNINGS BEACH**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on when the wheelchair accessible boardwalk to the beach in Downings and platform would be constructed as the summer season was upon us and it would be great to this complete soon, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that

*Donegal County Council had proposals to construct a boardwalk at Downings Beach. This proposal was unlikely to go ahead in 2017, due to the complexity of the design and the processes required to fulfil the criteria for the boardwalk, e.g. Referral to the National Parks and Wildlife and Tender for the Design of the boardwalk and retaining walls and at set-backs. It was Donegal County Council's intention to progress this design ASAP and to have the boardwalk in place for summer 2018.*

**MDL228/17 FOOTPATH FROM CARRIGART TO DOWNINGS**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on the survey to be carried out for the footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that

*The Appropriate Assessment in relation to the footpath between Carrigart and Downings was currently being carried out, and the Environmental consultant was currently liaising with the Council with respect to its completion. It was anticipated that the report would be completed within the coming weeks.*

**MDL229/17 TRAFFIC CONGESTION LETTERKENNY**

In an answer to his question had this Council intended to address the future Traffic demand going forward for Letterkenny with a suitable Ring Road even to be done on a phased basis, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that

*The current Town Development plan had a number of adopted corridors around Letterkenny Town which were designed to function as a "Ring Road". These roads were*

- 1. The Northern Relief which incorporates Bonagee link, the Business Park Rd, to the realigned Windyhall Road up to Killyclug (development driven)*

2. *The Southern relief incorporates the Leck Road, and Swilly relief (beside old Dunne's Stores) and linking to the R250 at Ballymacool*
3. *The Western Relief from Killyclug down to the R250 at Ballymacool*

*The current primary objective was that the 'Bunagee link' be constructed. The status of this was reported in a recent previous meeting.*

**MDL230/17 LAND ZONING**

In an answer to his question was there enough Land Zoned in Letterkenny for housing to meet demand as predicted over the next 10 years, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that

*The supply of housing lands currently identified in the Letterkenny and Environs Development Plan amounts to 66 ha yielding a potential supply of 1435 units. While there had been a very limited number of housing developments in the plan area in recent years it was anticipated that provision would have to be made for significant future growth in the Town. With this in mind, and working in the context of the regional importance of Letterkenny to the County and the North West, the demand for housing over the next 10 years and beyond would be assessed through the forthcoming review of the plan for Letterkenny. It was anticipated that this work would commence during the latter half of 2017 to address the strategy for the development of the town including an adequate provision of suitably located housing lands that have access to necessary infrastructure and local amenities.*

**MDL231/17 CIRCULAR ROAD CULVERT WORKS**

In an answer to his question asking when would the Culvert Works begin on the Circular Road, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that

*There was currently no date for the construction of the sewer upgrade, by Irish Water. As previously advised, Irish Water, were designing and constructing improvement works to the existing wastewater collection network at various locations within the town and environs, with the construction of the Circular Road Storm Culvert included in the contract as an 'additional item' to be funded by the MDL. There was currently €200k set aside as per the former Town Council for the construction of this culvert. The returned price from the Irish Water tender would dictate the actual cost of installation and potential additional capital requirement if any, from the MDL. Roads would advise of developments.*

**MDL232/17 LEADER/SPORTS CAPITAL GRANTS**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on his motion seeking funding from Leader/ Sports Capital grants to enable us to provide outside Gym Equipment, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that

*The Local Authority applied under the Sports Capital Programme for outdoor gym equipment for Bernard McGlinchey Town Park. There had not yet been any communication back to the Council as to whether this application was successful. The Local Authority was unable to apply for this equipment under LEADER funding*

**MDL233/17 ROAD LINING LISMONAGHAN ROAD**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on when the Road Lining of Lismonaghan Road be carried out, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that

*Replacement of sections of the Lismonaghan Road surface was to take place under the RI programme as agreed with members. This programme takes place over the months of April to September. Road lining would be carried out following the completion of the surfacing works.*

**MDL234/17 RATHMULLAN TOILETS**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on the public toilets at Rathmullan, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that

*The project was currently out to tender which closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. This would be followed by tender assessment and in due course the appointment of a contractor. At that stage the Council would be in a position to determine with the Contractor a suitable construction programme taking into account the various activities in the vicinity of the site on the pier over the coming months. We would endeavour to keep the MDL Committee informed as this develops further*

**MDL235/17 PATCHING WORKS LISMONAGHAN ROAD**

In an answer to his question seeking an update on when the planned patching works to roads in the Lismonaghan, Letterkenny area would be completed to include the badly damaged area of road surface at the junction with the Leck Road, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*Replacement of sections of the Lismonaghan Road surface was to take place under the RI Programme as agreed with members. This programme takes place over the months of April to September, with specific dates subject to change, depending on progress of other schemes/weather etc. This particular scheme was currently programmed for completion in August.*

**MDL236/17 COUNCIL LAND AT NEIL T. BLANEY ROAD**

In an answer to his question seeking a list of all persons/companies/organisations who have had use of the Council owned site at Neil T Blaney Road in the last calendar 12 months and details of what use was made of the site in each case and what consideration was received by the Council for each use and details of what

type of contract the Council enters into with each person/company/organisation for each such use, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that

***List of events held or to be held in the Events Grounds during 2016 & 2017***

<b>Event</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>2016</b>				
Duffy's Circus	13/04/2016	17/04/2016	€ 750.00	Circus
Circus Gerbolda	19/08/2016	21/08/2016	€ 450.00	Circus
Fossetts Circus	13/10/2016	18/10/2016	€ 900.00	Circus
<b>2017</b>				
Duffy's Circus	19/04/2017	23/04/2017	€ 750.00	Circus
Country Show (Jamboree)	17/05/2017	21/05/2017	€ 750.00	Music Show
Fossetts Circus	10/10/2017	15/10/2017	€ 900.00	Circus

*The Council charged a fee of €150 per day or part thereof, for the hire of the site for the period, and the organisation submit a bond of €1,000 that was refunded less any water charges, subject to various conditions, such that they leave the site as they found it, and remove any litter/advertisements. A written agreement was entered into, whereby the organisations are also required to submit to the Council copies of their PL and PI insurances and proof of indemnification of the Council with respect to their occupation of the site and any activities that take place on the site.*

**MDL237/17 CAR PARKING AT NEW COURTHOUSE**

In an answer to his question requesting the Council to correspond with the Courts Service and (1) request that it review its decision not to provide on site car-parking at the new Courthouse on the High Road and (2) request that it agree to transfer the existing Courthouse Building for nominal consideration to Donegal County Council to be used for civic and community purposes Cllr Dessie Shiels was advised that:

*The Council can write to the Courts Service and request that it review its decision in relation to on-site car parking at the new Courthouse. The Council will also engage with the Courts Service in due course in relation to the arrangements for the existing Courthouse Building when the Court Service relocates to the new building.*

**MDL238/17 ELMWOOD DOWNS ESTATE**

In answer to his question if this Council would liaise with the Residents Association in Elmwood Downs Estate to help address their issues of concerns Cllr James Pat Mc Daid was advised that:

*Council would liaise with residents and identify concerns with a view to addressing where possible. Cllr Mc Daid was requested to forward contact details for the Residents Association.*

**MDL239/17 RATHMULLAN FERRY SERVICE**

In answer to his question as to what date is the Rathmullan Ferry was due to commence Cllr James Pat Mc Daid was advised that:

*The Swilly Ferry would start operating on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 for a period of 13 weeks.*

**MDL240/17 SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES**

In answer to his question for an update to his motion about speed reduction measures being put in place at the road passing the Aura Leisure Centre and the possibility of putting in a proper pedestrian crossing Cllr James Pat Mc Daid was advised that:

*This location had been referred to the Gardai. Roads were to carry out speed checks on this section of road to identify the extent of any speeding issues. An uncontrolled crossing in accordance with guidelines, was in existence at the Aura. Additional lining was to be implemented at this crossing. A previous investigation, brought to Council concluded that the numbers and location of the existing crossing did not warrant a controlled crossing.*

**MDL241/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

The Members agreed that the AGM of the Municipal would be held following the June meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator