

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2017

MDL 100/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL101/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Collette Beattie, Acting Conservation Officer, Central Planning Unit
Suzanne Bogan, Waste Information Officer
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Martin McDermott, Executive Planner
Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer
Liam Ward, Director of Service

MDL102/17 MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Cllr. John O'Donnell

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

MDL103/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 14th February, 2017 were adopted.

MDL104/17 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT BALLYMACCOOL ROAD

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

That this Council access and explore what safety measures could be put in place to reduce speed from the Ballymacool Roundabout to the bottom of the Convent Road, while also exploring all funding avenues available to have a proper Pedestrian Crossing at the Aura Leisure Centre.

The Members were advised that:

Roads would review signage in the area although the reported instances of speeding were not widespread. The location would also be referred to the Gardaí for monitoring. Works completed in this area in recent years included the improvement and widening of the footpath from the town out to the Aura Leisure Centre and the installation of an uncontrolled crossing at the Aura. A count study of the location at the time indicated that the number of pedestrians crossing the road, were well below figures that justified the installation of a controlled crossing. In addition, space restrictions on the footpath side further prohibited the installation of controlled crossing traffic lights.

On proposing the motion Cllr. James McDaid asked that the Council look at speed reduction measures in the interest of pedestrian safety. He noted the facilities that were frequently used in the area, Aura Leisure Centre, St. Eunan's GAA, Ballymacool Town Park, large residential area in Ballymacool and Kirkstown. Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council erect signage and install a pedestrian crossing as soon as possible at the Aura Leisure Centre and that an audit is carried out on the volume of traffic using this road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Ciaran Brogan fully concurred with the motion and advised that this was raised on numerous occasions in the former Town Council.

MDL105/17 GRITTING AT CHURCHILL BRAE

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

That this Council revisit the gritting route for Churchill with the view to including the Churchill Brae as well as the route which was originally agreed earlier this year. I am led to believe that there is capacity in the lorry to include this stretch of road. It is very important that we cover as many roads as possible in our gritting routes for the safety of our road users.

The Members were advised that:

Roads would review and report findings to Members.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid asked that the Council grit this area as a number of school buses use this road.

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

MDL106/17 ROAD SIGNAGE AT SEACOR CROSSROAD, GLENSWILLY, GAP, TERMON & DRUMACANOO JUNCTION

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

That this Council erect appropriate signage at the Seacor Crossroads in Glenswilly. Tourists and people unfamiliar with the area were getting lost at this junction. Also erect Sheep Warning Signs in the Gap Termon, and repair the signage at the Drumacanoo Junction pointing to Kilmaccreannan

The Members were advised that:

Further information was required in relation to the requested tourist destinations to be signed. Roads would review existing signage in the context of regional road signage in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid asked that signage was erected as tourists and people unfamiliar with the area were getting lost and appropriate signage was required. Cllr. McDaid expressed concern of local farmers on speed on the Gap, Termon.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McBride fully supported the motion and asked that Deer Warning signs were also erected at the Gap, Termon.

Fergal Doherty agreed to examine the road related signage once clarification obtained as to what signage specifically was being requested.

MDL107/17 BRIDGE STRENGTHENING AT UPPER AUGHLIARD, PLUCK

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

That this Council requests the Bridge Engineer to do a survey of the Old Railway Bridge on the Upper Aughliard Road, Pluck as there were concerns locally to the safety aspect of this structure.

The Members were advised that:

This road had been closed and diversions put in place pending the implementation of solutions to the damaged bridge. The Council Bridge Engineer was currently preparing recommendations with costings.

On proposing the Motion Cllr. Blaney welcomed the response advising that the road was closed and diversions in place as there were serious concerns about the safety of the bridge with stones falling off. Cllr. Blaney asked that the findings of the report be circulated to Members.

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

MDL108/17 **RATHMULLAN TOILETS**

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

That this Council appoints a contractor immediately so construction could begin on the long awaited Public Toilets and Showering Facilities at Rathmullan.

The Members were advised that:

The Council was progressing these to final design now and doing that in conjunction with the interest groups at Rathmullan, including the Rathmullan District Resource Centre and the Rathmullan Sailing & Water Sports Club. It was hoped to tie down any issues of concern from the community in the coming week and move then to having the project tendered followed by construction over the coming months.

On proposing the Motion Cllr. Blaney expressed his disappointment and frustration at the lack of progress on providing public toilets in Rathmullan. He advised that this was promised in 2004/2005 as part of the Environmental Improvement Scheme in Rathmullan and was advised in September 2015 at a public meeting in Rathmullan that the facilities would be in place for Easter 2016. Cllr. Blaney stated that the misinformation given in replies to questions at recent meetings was unacceptable. Cllr. Blaney advised that the local groups had advised him that they were not consulted with until very recently.

On seconding the Motion Cllr. McGarvey fully concurred with the points raised by Cllr. Blaney. Cllr. McGarvey stated that over 65,000 visitors came to Rathmullan in 2016 and businesses were providing these services to the public.

Liam Ward agreed to bring the concerns of the Members that this project had not progressed at the rate the public expected back to the relevant department dealing with this and fully acknowledged the issues raised by the Members.

MDL109/17 **PUBLIC LIGHT AT CARRIGART HOTEL**

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

That this Council explained why the Public Light opposite the Carrigart Hotel never worked since the Environmental Improvement Scheme was completed and that this problem was remedied as soon as possible.

The Members were advised that:

It was not clear why this light was not energised, as order was placed and Roads would follow up to ensure that the light was energised.

On proposing the Motion Cllr. Blaney said he welcomed the response received to his motion.

On seconding the Motion Cllr. McGarvey questioned the current service available for the maintenance of public lighting throughout the Municipal District.

MDL110/17 LETTERKENNY TO MILFORD ROAD

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

That this Council request an upgrade of the road from Letterkenny to Milford.

The Members were advised that:

Further specifics were required in relation to what the motion refers to.

On proposing the Motion Cllr. McGarvey highlighted the ongoing problems with agricultural vehicles and cyclists on the road leading to a build up of traffic as there are no pull in areas. Cllr. McGarvey asked that work was carried out on dangerous corners and junctions and pull in areas be provided.

On seconding the Motion Cllr. Blaney fully concurred with Cllr. McGarvey and stated this road was the busiest non-national road in the county and asked that a traffic count was carried out.

Fergal Doherty advised that the major road improvement funding scheme was discontinued a number of years ago and until such time as it was reinstated there would be no funding source available.

MDL111/17 PUBLIC TOILETS RATHMULLAN

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

That this Municipal District demanded a start on the proposed Public Toilets for Rathmullan

The Members were advised that:

The Council was progressing these to final design now and doing that in conjunction with the interest groups at Rathmullan, including the Rathmullan District Resource Centre and the Rathmullan Sailing & Water Sports Club. It was

hoped to tie down any issues of concern from the community in the coming week and move then to having the project tendered followed by construction over the coming months.

This Motion was taken in conjunction with Motion 6 submitted by Cllr. Liam Blaney.

MDL112/17 HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE POLICY

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

That this Council introduce a more flexible approach to Housing Aid for Older People Applications.

The Members were advised that:

Grant under the Housing Aid for Older People were available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. An elderly person (persons living alone) who wishes to carry out general repairs to the dwelling in which they were residing in order to prolong the useful life of the house for some ten years rather than requiring the elderly occupants to seek re-housing. The occupant must be 66 years of age or older.

The policy on grants was last reviewed in November 2015 when revised costings were agreed.

It was also agreed at that time that these costings would be reviewed after a period of 18 to 24 months to determine their impact on the grant schemes generally.

Any changes which Members wish to put forward could be considered as part of this overall review.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey highlighted the requirement for contractors to be tax compliant at time application was assessed and at payment stage and asked that flexibility was given. Cllr. McGarvey also raised the issue of where carers live in the home of the applicant this leaves them ineligible for the grant. Cllr. McGarvey asked that the existing policy be examined.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney said the issues raised should be included in a review of the policy which would be due to take place in the coming months.

Eunan Kelly advised that a response was received from the Revenue Commissioners in response to a previous motion on the tax compliance requirements which was circulated to Members.

MDL113/17 SHELTER AT LETTERKENNY TOWN PARKS

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

That this Council provided sheltered areas at both Letterkenny Town Parks, in particular to provide for parents and minor children who attended the parks as pedestrians and who at present had nowhere suitable to shelter when it rained.

The Members were advised that:

There were currently no plans for the installation of shelters at both parks. Roads would review current guidance in relation to installation of shelters as there were often disadvantages and antisocial problems associated with the installation of shelters in public areas.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that a shelter was provided at Ballymacool Town Park in particular as this would add to the amenity of the park and to provide shelter to people who visited the park without vehicles.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully agreed and asked that the Council report back to Members on the cost involved and when this would be provided.

MDL114/17 TRAFFIC CALMING AT BALLYMACOOL ROAD

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

That this Council provided at least one speed bump (and more if considered necessary) between Skittle Alley and the Aura Leisure Centre to slow traffic down in this congested area to improve pedestrian and motorist safety and residential amenity for long established residents in the Ballymacool area.

The Members were advised that:

Roads would review signage in the area although the reported instances of speeding were not widespread. The location would also be referred to the Gardaí for monitoring. Works completed in this area in recent years included the improvement and widening of the footpath from the town out to the Aura Leisure Centre and the installation of an uncontrolled crossing at the Aura. The installation of speed bumps on the regional road was not advocated or recommended in the current road design guidelines.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels asked that speed bumps were installed at Ballymacool between Skittle Alley and the Aura Leisure Centre in the interest of safety for pedestrians, runners, etc. as there was a large volume of traffic using the road and that speed was also a factor.

On supporting the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully concurred with Cllr. Sheils highlighting the high volume of pedestrians and motorists and the need to reduce the speed of traffic. Cllr. McMonagle also stated that parking and sightlines were also an issue and asked that the Council install trial cushion type ramps.

Cllr. Shiels said he would welcome the installation of trial ramps like those installed on the Glencar Road.

MDL115/17 **FOOTPATH AT LISMONAGHAN**

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

That this Council confirm when the footpath works at Lismonaghan between The Maples estate and Rowan Park estate would now finally be finished and furnish a detailed breakdown of (a) the cost of all works carried out and (b) the number of days/hours spent on this short section of footpath.

The Members were advised that:

The footpath between The Maples and Rowan Park was programmed for completion next week. Underground ducting had been installed that would allow for the future installation of public lighting. As at present, there was no identified budget for the installation of new public lighting. Costs and time were not currently available pending the completion of the works.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Sheils welcomed the response received to his motion and asked that funding was found to install public lighting on this stretch which joins two large estates.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the response and asked that more public lighting was installed on the Lismonaghan Road.

Fergal Doherty advised that there had been no allocation from Plenary Council for public lighting and footpaths. The works carried out on this footpath was from the existing maintenance budget and further funding was needed to install the public lighting.

Cllr. Shiels asked for the number of hours/days taken to carry out the works and noted that traffic lights were installed for 5 to 6 weeks and construction works was not evident during this period. Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council would be aware of the impact of this on locals and thus reduce length of time take to carry out works in future.

Fergal Doherty noted the favourable response received from locals on the construction of the footpath and agreed to forward costings and breakdown of time

taken to Cllr. Shiels. He also advised that lining would be redone in next number of weeks.

MDL116/17 **HIGH ROAD CAR PARK NAMING**

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

I propose that we name the High Road Car Park, when complete, after the late Cllr Tadgh Culbert who was first elected to Letterkenny UDC in 1985 and unfortunately passed away as a sitting Councillor in 2013 of Letterkenny Town Council and would of spent the best part of his 40 years in Letterkenny living in this area.

The Members were advised that:

This was a matter for Members to agree on prior to initiation of formal process.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan spoke of the pride Tadgh Culbert held as Councillor and the work he did for the people of Letterkenny during his time and highlighted the great tribute this would bring to his family.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully supported the motion and described Tadgh as a good friend and colleague who done a lot for the people of Letterkenny.

MDL117/17 **BALLYARE WOODS**

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

I propose that this Council actively engaged with the National Parks and Wildlife Services to improve access facilities and include parking and enhance their lands at Ballyare Woods and report back to us.

The Members were advised that:

The Development Officer and the Walks Officer would arrange to meet the NPWS on the issue and report back their findings to the Members.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan spoke of the huge asset and great recreational area this wood as which was central to Letterkenny, Milford, Kilmacrennan and Ramelton. Cllr. Brogan asked for a report on the potential of what could be done in Ballyare Woods and if a route could be developed in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Services. Cllr. Brogan encouraged the public to visit and use this area.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and asked that Drumonaghan Wood be included also.

MDL118/17 CORRAVADDY & GLENKEO FORESTS

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

I propose that this Council actively engaged with Coillte to discuss the possibility of tourism development and activities on their lands in Corravaddy and Glenkeo and other areas within our Municipal District.

The Members were advised that:

The Development Officer and the Walks Officer would contact Coillte to investigate their plans for the Corravaddy Woods and Glenkeo area and to determine if they were open to developing the tourism options in these areas.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Brogan spoke of the potential at both locations to the area and asked that the Council work with Coillte to develop possible bike tracks and walking trails and work with Failte Ireland to promote the hidden gems around Letterkenny. Cllr. Brogan requested a report back on his motion.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McMonagle fully concurred with Cllr. Brogan on the tourism potential in these areas.

MDL119/17 FOOTPATH AT MOUNTAIN TOP

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

That the Council extended the footpath from the Mountain Top Roundabout to Mc Cafferty's Pub in the interest of pedestrian safety.

The Members were advised that:

This matter was previously referred to the NRA for consideration and potential funding. At the time, it was determined that there was insufficient justification to warrant a footpath on the N56 National Secondary road outside the Letterkenny urban development and speed limit zones/boundaries. The matter was now referred to the TII via the Geo App system. Members would be advised if there was a favourable outcome.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle referred to a previous motion passed to provide a footpath on the N56 to Illistrin School on the left hand side of this road and asked that the same measure were implemented on this stretch of road in the interest of pedestrian safety and supporting local businesses.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Quinn fully supported the motion and referred to the large population in the area asked what criteria was used in making this decision.

Fergal Doherty advised that the TII do not advocate extending footpaths and public lighting on national roads beyond what would be considered as the town boundary. Mr. Doherty stated that this matter was referred to the TII and agreed to circulate Members of their response when received.

MDL120/17 ROADWORKS AT MIDDLE ROAD, BALLYRAINE

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

That this Council discuss the traffic management plan and ongoing works at Middle Road, Ballyraine, Letterkenny.

The Members were advised that:

The traffic management plans were a component of the commercially tendered contract in place between the TII and the contractor SIAC and as such developed and changed as the contract progresses.

As part of the contract, SIAC were required to, and do, monitor traffic flows and respond and make adjustments accordingly. To that end there was ongoing liaison between SICA/Gardai/TII/DCC Roads and RPS, with traffic management plans discussed and agreed before their implementation. The works by their nature were staged, and every effort was made to maximise the flow of traffic. In general, traffic flows were reasonable however there had been several minor events which had caused short term disruption.

During the remaining weeks in March there would be considerable changes to the existing traffic management arrangements as the works progress and these had been discussed with both the Site Supervision Team and Local MD Engineering Staff.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McMonagle welcomed the works at Ballyraine and agreed that this was a necessary piece of infrastructure however questioned the traffic management that was in place. Cllr. McMonagle requested that the contractors be asked to review the system currently in place as traffic was congested throughout the town and back to the Polestar Roundabout. Cllr. McMonagle stated that the congestion created from these works highlights the need for the Bonagee Link Road.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Shiels fully supported the motion and asked that warning lights were provided and that the Gardai had an input into the traffic management. Cllr. Shiels asked that in considering tenders that the residents and

businesses are considered in the traffic management plan and not just the needs of the contractors.

Fergal Doherty stated that this was a very difficult project and advised that extensive works were underground including a new foul sewer and water main along with broadband and electricity cables. He confirmed that there was ongoing liaison with the Gardai, Council and SIAC and numerous efforts had been made to improve traffic management where possible during the project. The project was managed by TII and it was anticipated that the majority of the works would be completed in April/May.

MDL121/17 SEWAGE IN KILMACRENNAN – HILLHEAD & LENNON VIEW

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

I propose that the Letterkenny Municipal District ask Irish Water to compile a full report on sewage in Kilmacrennan in light of the ongoing problems being experienced by residents in the Hillhead and Lennon View areas of the village where vile fumes had risen on a regular basis

The Members were advised that:

This would be referred to Irish Water for investigation.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride advised that families have had to leave their homes overnight because of the fumes coming into their house and three homes were particularly affected by this. Cllr. McBride asked that the source of the problem is identified and remedial works should be carried out to alleviate this. He acknowledged that Irish Water had contacted him looking for additional information on the matter.

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

MDL122/17 MAYORS BUSINESS

Cllr. McDaid, Mayor advised that he attended the launch of the Conservation Plan for the Cathedral Quarter and wished the Committee success with this.

He also attended the Hidden Hearing Launch on Monday 6th March, 2017 when public were invited to avail of free checks.

Cllr. McDaid wished the 10K Committee and chosen charities success following their official launch of the 10K which would take place on 30th April, 2017.

MDL123/16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Eunan Kelly advised that Good Morning Services had asked to defer their deputation to the April meeting and Members agreed that they attend at 1.30 p.m.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh permission was given to early school leavers of the YMCA Donegal to hold a Leprechaun Hunt in the Bernard McGlinchey Town Park on 11th March, 2017.

Eunan Kelly advised that a letter received from Kieran Kelly had been circulated to Members.

MDL124/16 **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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
4. Additions to the Record of Protected Structures – Phase 1

124.1 **Additions to the Record of Protected Structures**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the Members agreed to proceed to Public Consultation on the following six additions to the Record of Protected Structures circulated at the meeting:

1. House at Oak Park, Roughpark, Letterkenny
2. Newmill Bridge, Rathmelton
3. Milford Presbyterian Church, Kilmacrennan Road, Milford
4. The Old Rectory, Main Street, Rathmullan
5. Rathmullan Abbey and Graveyard, Main Street, Rathmullan
6. Kilmacrennan Old Church and Franciscan Friary and Graveyards, Kilmacrennan

MDL125/17 **ENVIRONMENT**

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

- Launch of Big Clean Up '17
- Stop Food Waste Challenge – Get Involved
- Tidy Towns (Sustainable Waste & Resource Management category)
- Enforcement
- Coastal Management – Marram Grass Transplanting

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the aerosol for removing graffiti was made available to groups doing clean ups.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked that the access road to the recycling facilities at Moorefield, Ramelton was improved and potholes filled.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle welcomed the work on the Marram Grass Transplanting and asked if this was to be rolled out in other areas.

Cllr. Dessie Shiels asked that the Council assist the public who wish to have their septic tank inspected in order to avail of grant assistance to upgrade their septic tank.

Cllr. Liam Blaney queried as to whether the practice on reporting back on issues raised at previous MDL Meeting had been discontinued. He advised that he had raised four separate matters at the previous MD Meeting and these matters had not been reported on. Cllr. Blaney asked that matters raised by members at an MD Meeting should be reported on at the next meeting.

Suzanne Bogan agreed to report back to the Members on the matters raised.

MDL126/17 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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

Ciaran Martin informed the meeting of the following:

126.17.1 Walks & Trails Development

The Council was working closely with community groups in Churchill, Loughside, Fanad and Rathmullan in developing walks and trails in their areas.

126.17.2 Donegal Tourism

Donegal Tourism was commencing their domestic advertising campaign on TV3, 3Be and 3e on the 13th March, 2017.

126.17.3 Use of Land at Neil T. Blaney Road

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle permission was given to request by an Events Company to use Council land on the Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny on the 20th May, 2017 for a Country Music Jamboree subject to usual conditions.

126.17.4 Development Fund Initiative Allocations 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the Development Fund Initiative Allocation for 2017 previously circulated was agreed.

126.17.5 *Fanad Lighthouse*

Cllr. Liam Blaney enquired on why the turning of the sod at Fanad Lighthouse was cancelled. Ciaran Martin advised that this was cancelled by the Minister and was coordinated through Failte Ireland. This had not been rescheduled.

126.17.6 *Rockhill House*

Cllr. Michael McBride asked that the Council write to John Molloy to wish him success in his new venture at Rockhill House.

MDL127/17 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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

127.17.1 *Illistrin N.S.*

Fergal Doherty advised that proposals were currently being developed prior to the submission of a planning application that would incorporate a one way system and a new exit from the school onto the N.56 with much improved vision lines. This would require the extinguishment of the existing exit adjacent to the filling station and the completed layout would be presented to Members at a future meeting.

127.17.2 *Kilmacrennan Junction Controlled Crossing*

Fergal Doherty advised that as a follow up to Motion MDL 100/16 requesting the installation of a controlled crossing at the Kilmacrennan four way junction that a traffic count was carried out. The counts were well below requirements for a controlled pedestrian crossing and therefore would not attract funding.

127.17.3 *Entrance to Mc Glinchey Town Park*

Fergal Doherty advised that Roads had been requested to examine the entrance to the Mc Glinchey Town Park. This has been completed and the Council have moved location of crossing and installed pedestrian railings to improve safety.

MDL128/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

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

128.17.1 *Long Lane, Letterkenny Update*

Eunan Kelly updated the Members on the Social Housing Investment Programme and that Stage 2 approval had been lodged with the Department and Part-8 submission would be before the Members at the Plenary Council meeting at the end of March 2017.

128.17.2 *Carrigart Update*

Eunan Kelly advised Members that Stage 1 approval had been received for a social housing project at Carrigart. The feasibility of this was currently being examined incorporating detailed site investigations, ground conditions and cost ceilings.

MDL 129/17 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan seconded by Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 as circulated with the agenda was adopted.

Questions

MDL130/17 DEVELOPMENT FUND INITIATIVE

In an answer to his question, on how much D.F.I. monies from the 2015 and 2016 were still not drawn down and where were these monies now, Cllr. John O'Donnell was 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 next Members for re-allocation.

MDL131/17 CAR PARKING LETTERKENNY TOWN

In an answer to his question seeking an update on the serious breach of parking on the Main Street of Letterkenny and what measures were being put in place to avoid people blocking Disabled Bays and half the road during deliveries, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

With two wardens for the town, instances would occur on occasion, where breaches go undetected the Council enforced parking by-laws in the context of a busy town where the Council, with finite resource, seeks to achieve an appropriate balance between enforcement, the needs of the local community, the needs of the local economy, and the facilitation of efficient traffic flows throughout the town.

MDL132/17 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CARRIGART

In an answer to his question on when work would start on the new Housing Scheme of 17 houses in Carrigart, Cllr. John O'Donnell was advised that:

The Department of the Environment, Capital Works Management Framework for the delivery of Social Housing Construction projects had a four stage approval process as follows;

Stage 1- Capital Appraisal

High level business case project appraisal in advance of approval in principle for the project.

Stage 2- Pre Planning

Pre planning check on procurement, the consistency of design with design guidelines, cost and value for money.

Stage 3-Pre Tender Design Stage

Review of tender documentation including costs in advance of approval to proceed to tender.

Stage 4-Tender Report

Final assessment on cost and procurement prior to award of tender.

Donegal County Council received a Stage 1 Approval (Approval in Principle) from the Department on 1st March 2017 for a social housing project in Carrigart. The feasibility of a housing project on the existing Council owned lands to the rear of the Cluid Housing Scheme was currently being examined incorporating a detailed site investigation, ground conditions and cost ceilings, in advance of further discussions with the Department.

MDL133/17 RATHMULLAN TOILETS

In an answer to his question for an update on the Rathmullan Toilets and if a time frame was in place to start and finish the project, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

The Council was progressing these to final design now and doing that in conjunction with the interest groups at Rathmullan, including the Rathmullan District Resource Centre and the Rathmullan Sailing & Water Sports Club. It was hoped to tie down any issues of concern from the community in the coming week and move then to having the project tendered followed by construction over the coming months.

MDL134/17 DRAINAGE / RESURFACING

In an answer to his question on when was the Council intending to carry out further drainage works and resurfacing on the Milford to Kilmacrennan Road and resurface the road from the end of the Thorn Road to the Arena, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

RI and RM programmes were agreed with members for 2017. With respect to the R245, development funding from granted planning permission in relation to adjacent premises would allow for an overlay of the section between the Thorn Road and the Arena. This would be overlaid in conjunction with the RI programme to be implemented between April and September.

MDL135/17 **CLAR ALLOCATION**

In an answer to his question in relation to the recent Clar money allocations, and when did this Council intend to carry out the work, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

These works would be implemented in conjunction with the RI and RM programmes to be carried out between April and September?

MDL136/17 **GLEN VILLAGE**

In an answer to his question, requesting the Council to engage with the residents and businesses in Glen Village to see if they can come up with a solution to the lack of proper Sewerage facility in the village as he believe the septic tank serving the two Council houses may need upgrading, Cllr. Liam Blaney was advised that:

This would be referred to Irish Water for investigation

MDL137/17 **DERELICT BUILDING RAMELTON**

In an answer to his question was a report available on Derelict Buildings in Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

There was no easy solution to the dereliction that exists across the county save for encouraging positive redevelopment and reuse of properties where appropriate and these properties are mostly in private hands.

Council staff were available to individual property owners that may have been development proposals for advice on a pre-planning basis.

The Council would attempt to identify a number of potential properties in each Municipal District under the recently Buy & Renew Scheme particularly in towns where we had no plans to meet the need through new build or potential turnkey projects. Derelict properties in particular could be identified and Council would look at the approach we might take to acquiring same.

MDL138/17 **DERELICT BOAT, QUAY, RAMELTON**

In an answer to his question on progress made on the derelict Boat still lying at the Quay in Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

Donegal County Council had not been able to determine from the owner of the vessel as to what proposals he had for it. As the vessel was secured by the owner the Council would seek legal advice on what steps it could take to have this vessel removed from the river at Ramelton.

MDL139/17 WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

In an answer to his question for information on the many Waste Water treatment for the many Towns and Villages in our MD, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

This will be referred to Irish Water for investigation.

MDL140/17 FOOTPATH AT LISMONAGHAN

In an answer to his question, requesting that this Council confirm when the footpath works at Lismonaghan between The Maples estate and Rowan Park estate would now finally be finished and furnish a detailed breakdown of (a) the cost of all works carried out and (b) the number of days/hours spent on this short section of footpath, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The footpath between The Maples and Rowan Park is programmed for completion next week. Underground ducting has been installed that will allow for the future installation of public lighting. As at present, there is no identified budget for the installation of new public lighting. Costs and time are not currently available pending the completion of the works.

MDL141/17 ROAD RELATED WORKS FUNDING

In an answer to his question, that the Council provide a full explanation of how it seems to had some sort of discretionary fund of some nature which allowed it to carry out various types of expensive road related works without such works having been first costed and presented to elected Members for approval and in circumstances where there appeared to be no budget for such works that was ever presented to elected Members for approval, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The full roads budget and breakdown, available to the MDL was presented to Members at the January and February MDL.

In relation to minor capital works, this matter was discussed in detail at a previous workshop. In previous years, Members agreed at Plenary budget to allocate allowances specifically for installation of footpaths (€50k), and new public lighting in each MD that allowed for a detailed programme of footpath construction to be agreed with Members and carried out accordingly. In 2016 and 2017, no such budgets were allocated, with the result that there were currently no specific programmes for the installation of new footpaths and/or installation of new street lighting.

As discussed at the January MDL meeting, Members were advised of the budgetary allocations for 2017 whereby the current "per km" model of distribution left the Town of Letterkenny unable to carry out significant capital works over and above the allocations for routine maintenance, such as drainage works, road surface

repair, verge maintenance, sign maintenance, emergency RTC and flooding response, street cleaning etc.

In the course of the years maintenance works however, roads continually strive to identify where small capital works, could be constructed without severely impacting on the maintenance works, and to that end capitalising on identified opportunities, such as the section of footpath at Lismonaghan that was made possible through agreement with the local landowner, avoiding the costly and lengthy process incumbent in CPO. Roads would continue to strive to identify where additional small capital works could be squeezed from the maintenance budget, with works to be carried out on the basis of H&S prioritisation or from identified needs raised by the Members, the public and executive.

MDL142/17 TRAFFIC CONGESTION LETTERKENNY

In an answer to his question had Roads Design responded to his motions on improving traffic problems in and around Letterkenny and how they proposed to address this with a short and medium to long term plan, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

This matter had been referred to Road Design and it was intended that a report be presented for future meeting.

MDL143/17 INSULATION UPGRADES COUNCIL HOUSING

In an answer to his question requesting how many of our housing stock had the Council applied to do improvements in insulation in this years national allocation and how many were left to do, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

The current Council owned housing stock is 4,661 units in the county.

Fabric Upgrade work has been completed out to 1,574 properties since the scheme was introduced and work is ongoing at a number of houses.

Fabric Upgrade Works had been completed/ongoing to 597 Council owned units out of a total of 1,277 Council owned units in the MDL.

This was a rolling programme and would continue until all houses were completed.

MDL144/17 UPDATE ON KILTOY ROUNDABOUT

In an answer to his question requesting an updated report on the new Roundabout and improvements works at Kiltyoy, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

Almost 80% of all underground works for Irish Water (Watermain & Sewers), Eircom, ESB, Broadband, Drainage and Public Lighting were complete. The Roadworks were also progressing well although behind schedule due to difficulties

with all of the services and utilities and good progress towards completion was expected in March and April.

MDL145/17 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT OLDTOWN ROAD

In an answer to his question for a report as promised on his proposal for a crossing at Oldtown Road, Letterkenny, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

Indicative figures indicate that there was insufficient pedestrian crossing numbers for the justification of a controlled crossing. Roads were investigating the justification and potential safe positioning of an uncontrolled crossing.

MDL146/17 UPDATE ON KILTOY ROUNDABOUT

In an answer to his question on when the new Kilty Roundabout would be finished, Cllr. Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

TII expect the works to be substantially completed in April although finishing works would take place in May.

MDL147/17 ILLISTRIN NATIONAL SCHOOL

In an answer to his question was there any update on when the new periodic speed limits, warning lights etc., would be operational at Illistrin School, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Roads had requested of TII, that funding be provided for the installation of the electronic selective restrictive speed limit signs. As of writing we had no date for the provision of the signage.

MDL148/17 KILLYGARVEN GRAVEYARD, RATHMULLAN

In an answer to his question, requesting that a sign for dangerous bends be erected at Killygarven Graveyard, Rathmullan, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Roads would review and erect if deemed required.

MDL149/17 RESERVOIR AT LEATHERDAN HILL, RATHMULLAN

In an answer to his question, if the Council had any plans to introduce safety measures at the unused reservoir at Leatherdan Hill, Rathmullan as children play in the area, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

The site will be examined to evaluate the risk, following which, the most appropriate action would be decided

MDL150/17 TIDY TOWN GROUPS / DERELICT BUILDINGS

In an answer to his question, could Tidy Town groups find out where the ownership of derelict and vacant properties lie with a view to liasing with them with a view to tidying, painting and securing these properties, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

The Property Registration Authority was the responsible body for maintaining the register of ownership of property in the State.

The Authority provided an online service (landdirect.ie) whereby ownership of property could be checked.

MDL151/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 4th April, 2017 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator