

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING,
HELD IN LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY,
11TH NOVEMBER, 2014 AT 2PM**

MDL 110/14 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr. Liam Blaney
Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh
Cllr. Michael Mc Bride
Cllr. James McDaid
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr Gerry McMonagle
Cllr. John O'Donnell
Cllr. Mick Quinn
Cllr. Dessie Shiels

MDL 111/14 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Frances Friel, Staff Officer
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Community & Enterprise
Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Michael Mc Bride.

MDL 112/14 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the Minutes of Draft Budgetary Meeting held on 7th October, 2014 were adopted.

MDL 113/14 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Kavanagh seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle, the Minutes of Municipal District of Letterkenny Meeting held on 23rd October, 2014 were adopted.

MDL 114/14 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDING ORDERS

Liam Ward outlined a number of proposed changes to the Standing Orders for Letterkenny Municipal District Meetings to bring them in line with Council Standing Orders. The Members agreed to amend the Standing Orders as presented subject to the following;

- (a) Reports to be noted only and questions asked only where clarification is required.
- (b) Answers to questions and motions to be circulated electronically prior to meeting.

MDL 115/14 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES

C. Martin briefed the Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following;

- Launch of booklet to commemorate Letterkenny Town Council to be launched in the County Museum on Thursday 27th November, 2014 at 7pm
- Date set for the 2015 Donegal Marathon – 23rd August, 2015
- Letterkenny Tourism Committee proposed the rolling out of a comprehensive marketing plan aimed at promoting the attraction of Letterkenny as a tourism destination and will focus primarily on the Northern Ireland population. Campaign focusing on the NI family and short stay sector. Planning for 2015, focusing on a digital strategy for the area.
- Letterkenny Retail Marketing Project would be focusing on domestic market for Christmas Shopping.
- Christmas lights to be switched on in Letterkenny on 28th November and a shopping supplement to be included in the Donegal News and Letterkenny Post.
- Irish Lights have recently been granted planning permission and were going to tender for the first phase of the development of Fanad Lighthouse. Consultants have been appointed by Irish Light to develop the brand and associated marketing as a major tourism location. Further meeting to be scheduled with community to discuss development of the site.
- SNAP (Special Needs Accessible Play Park) in partnership with former Letterkenny Town Council propose to improve the provision of accessible play equipment for children in the 2 Letterkenny Town Parks. Wheelchair accessible roundabout and see-saw has now been installed in Ballymacool Town Park. Sponsorship booklet has been drafted and will be distributed to local business to sponsor pieces for the Bernard Mc Glinchey Town Park with business having their name plate on these pieces.
- Planned works now complete on the Urban Garden on the Paddy Harte Road funded under the Public Area Enhancement Scheme and depending on accessing funding, it was hoped to provide extra screening for the site.
- The Donegal Community & Economic Plan being led by County Council and the new Local and Community Development Committee and will provide the basis for future funding programmes such as SICAP and LEADER/RURAL Development Programme
- Public Participation Network will provide representation from the community & voluntary sector onto Council structures, representation from the community & voluntary sector will be drawn from three electoral pillars, environment, social inclusion and community & voluntary. PPNs will be

established in Donegal at municipal district level and at county level. It was anticipated that the new structures would be established by the New Year.

- Donegal Age Friendly County Initiative –aims to significantly improve the quality of life of older adults living in the area and to engage them in shaping and enhancing their own communities. It was anticipated that the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy would be completed and launched by end of October 2014.
- Donegal County Council’s Annual Social Inclusion Week took place from the 6th-20th October, 2014 with themes including Health and Wellbeing, Family Supports, Cultural Diversity, Inclusion through Sport, the role of Community & Voluntary Sector and the voice of older people and carers.
- REN NET (Renewable Energy Network) The Renewable Energy Business Network is a network of local businesses involved in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Northwest. The Ren Net project was being delivered through Cross Border partnership, led by the North West Region Cross Border Group.

MDL 116/14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Members considered report previously circulated and noted the following items;

- Update on Smoky Coal Ban
- Bryson Recycling – Opening Hours including Christmas period

MDL 117/14 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

In relation to prioritisation of requests for expenditure in relation to remaining 2014 Roads Budget in the sum of approximately €30,000, on the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. C. Brogan the Members agreed to the following expenditure as discussed at previous Workshop;

- Kerrykeel Footpath
- Surface Patching Works
- Purchase of chips if monies left over

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation briefed Members on report previously circulated on following items;

- Follow up from Meeting held on 23rd October, 2014
 - Milford Town
 - Pedestrian Crossing between Gleneany House and Tesco
 - Lismonaghan Road
 - N56 between Doon Well exit and Lagoon, Termon

- Representation to the NRA in relation to ‘Periodic Speed Limits’ at Lurgybrack School

- Disposal of Land – **Glebe, Letterkenny**

Fergal Doherty updated Members regarding proposed disposal of land to Mr Vincent and Patricia O’Brien at Glebe, Letterkenny which involved a small triangular section of land which was not correctly transferred to the owner at the time during a road realignment at Glebe in the 1960’s, On the proposal of Cllr. C. Brogan seconded by Cllr. J. Kavanagh the Members recommended the disposal and that the disposal was referred to the full Council for sanction.

- Disposal of Land – **Tirhomin, Milford**

Fergal Doherty updated Members regarding proposed disposal of land at Tirhomin, Milford which was not correctly transferred to adjacent land owner at the time during the course of a previous realignment. “Ton Up” Petrol Station was now seeking to have title rectified. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney, seconded by Cllr. J. Mc Daid, the Members recommended the disposal and that the disposal was referred to the full Council for sanction.

MDL 118/14 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Conal Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner briefed Members on report previously circulated on following items;

- Development Applications Unit update
- Taking-in-Charge update
- Public Safety Initiative & SRF update

MDL 119/14 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

E. Kelly, Area Manager briefed Members on contents of report previously circulated and noted the following items;

- Progress Report – Casual Vacancies
- Progress Report - Grants

A brief discussion followed with the Members raising their concerns in relation to the increasing numbers of applicants refusing Council housing.

L. Ward advised that it was a much wider issue/society issue if a tenant was making life difficult for other tenants.

L. Ward, advised Members that as part of the 2015 Budget, the Government had indicated a focus on social housing and propose to recommence a construction programme in 2015. The Department

priority was for construction but the Council suggested an element of house purchase as well. The Chief Executive had requested to identify areas of greatest need and to look at options for progressing housing in these areas. This was welcomed by the Members but some members were not in favour of purchasing partly completed estates. Cllr. C. Brogan asking that the Council write to the Minister seeking confirmation if any new purchase scheme would be forthcoming. L. Ward, Director further advised that the Department did notify the Council regarding funding for 11 house purchases throughout the County for those with special needs. L. Ward, outlined that this was a difficulty time of the year to process etc but was confident that Council would be in a position to draw down monies. In relation to Tenant Purchase Scheme, L. Ward advised that legislation had recently been passed and it was hoped to have details of the new scheme in the near future.

- 119.1 **Application from Kilmacrennan Community Development Group**
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager referred to application from Kilmacrennan Community Development Group regarding the lease of land adjacent to Ard Na Glaise, Kilmacrennan. E. Kelly advised that Capital Section in Lifford dealt with land disposals and that application was being processed at present.

Motions

MDL 120/14 ALLOWANCE FOR WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

On the proposal of Cllr. I. Mc Garvey seconded by Cllr. L. Blaney the following motion was adopted;

That this Council write to the Dept. of Social Protection asking for additional allowance for Widows & Widowers living alone in our County.

L. Ward, Director advised the Members that this motion was not applicable at Municipal District level and going by Standing Orders that in future such a motion should read that “this Municipal District call on the Council.....”. However, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey asked that a letter be sent directly from Letterkenny Municipal District in this regard.

MDL 121/14 THORNBERRY ESTATE

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal District completes the Take Over of the Thornberry Estate in Letterkenny.

The Members were informed that;

An application for the taking in charge of Thornberry was submitted by the Receivers for the development company and is being considered under Ref no. TO.108. A bank bond for €50,000 was submitted for the satisfactory completion of the development. The planning authority made a claim on this bond and has since been in discussions with the Surety regarding the Surety's potential liabilities in addressing the outstanding issues with the development. On 17th October the Surety settled for the full €50,000 and this was subsequently paid to the Council. It is the planning authority's intention to utilise these funds to carry out the necessary upgrading of public lighting and patching of access road. There is a need to carry out a CCTV survey of the storm and foul drains within the estate and the bond will be utilised to do this and carry out any remedial works that the camera survey identifies. Once this is done the planning authority will initiate Section 180 procedures for the taking in charge of the estate.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle asked re the possibility of taking over the lights immediately to ease fear of residents over the winter months.

MDL 122/14 LETTERKENNY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted;

That this Municipal Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Alan Kelly to immediately intervene and direct Irish Water to immediately and without further delay comply with the legally binding direction of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Letterkenny PWS and install all necessary treatment systems to prevent THMs formation and to prevent contamination from Cryptosporidium.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey referred to the ongoing issue that EPA have with the Letterkenny Water Supply and requests the Minister to directly intervene.

MDL 123/14 FLOODING – LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Shiels seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted;

That this Council calls on the HSE to confirm in writing what precise measures it has taken to ensure that there will be no further flooding events at Letterkenny General Hospital and to confirm that it is now satisfied that no further flooding events will occur at Letterkenny General Hospital.

The Council were informed that

The CEO of the North West Hospital Group presented the 'Interim Report of the Flood Investigation Group', to local public representatives at the Hospital on 3rd October and consulted with them on the next steps that are being taken, as the report is being brought to a conclusion. Councillors and TDs were updated on the investigations and remedial works that are taking place within the grounds of Letterkenny General Hospital and the investigations that are being conducted or identified as necessary outside of the hospital grounds so that the risk of flooding at the hospital can be eliminated or reduced into the future. Cllrs were advised that the Group expects to be in a position to publish the results of the investigation in the near future, when the full report and all related documentation will be made available to the public.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. D. Shiels referred to the lack of accountability and that the public deserve confidence from the Council that procedures are in place and that digger is removed. Cllr. D. Shiels also referred to the public perception of a “cover up”. C. Mc Gettigan, A/Senior Executive Planner referred to the current works being carried out at the hospital advising that the Council do not feel it warrants planning permission. Cllr. G. Mc Monagle welcomed the digging of trench as a remedial measure. Cllr. C. Brogan outlined that he wished to distance himself as a member of the Regional Health Forum from previous remarks such as “cover up”. Cllr. C. Brogan referred to the hard work by management at the hospital to resolve this issue confirming that the digger was in place at the request of the Insurance Company. Cllr. D. Shiels wished to clarify that the issue lay with those involved in the planning of the hospital and its location and not with hospital staff.

MDL 124/14 ROAD SIGNAGE – ROSGUILL AND FANAD PENINSULA

On the proposal of Cllr. L. Blaney seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted;

That Donegal County Council review the road signage from Ramelton to the Rosguill and Fanad Peninsula's, as there are a lot of complaints, especially during the summer months by tourists.

The Members were informed that;

Further clarification on the specific complaints referred to is required. All locations in the county of Donegal were signed to the same specifications and consistency under the Regional Road Signage scheme a number of years ago, and any signs removed by others since have been replaced. Specific issues can be reviewed for further action if appropriate.

Cllr. J. O'Donnell advised that he has recently been informed that signs have been secured for the Mulroy & Harry Blaney Bridge. Cllr. L. Blaney welcomed signage for the Bridge advising that additional signage was also required.

MDL 125/14 BRIDGES – BREENAGH AREA

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. I. Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted;

That the Council give a update on three bridges on the (R250) in the Breenagh area which are very narrow and one bridge in particular in Altanerin, Breenagh which is very dangerous for road users with having no wall because it was tumbled and never repaired and there is huge drop below as it is an accident waiting to happen it needs to be addressed urgently.

The Members were informed that;

Subject to funding, Donegal County Council normally implement a programme of structural bridge repairs funded from Bridge Rehabilitation grants on the regional and local network. Currently there are in excess of 550 bridges on the five municipal district priority lists. The road design office shall begin consulting with members on a municipal district level and at a county level, to agree local priorities and a countywide works programmes for 2015 in the near future. Past experience has been that generally there is funding for structural repair to two bridges each year in the Letterkenny area, and generally the bridges that have been identified are of Condition 5 (The component has failed or is in danger of total failure, possibly affecting the safety of traffic.) or Condition 4 (Critical damage.) rating. With regards to the replacement of the Altanerin bridge parapet, this is on our programme of works for repair.

MDL 126/14 TRAFFIC HAZARD – GLENSWILLY GAA SPORTS CENTRE

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Mc Daid seconded by Cllr. J. O'Donnell the following motion was adopted;

That this Council considers taking appropriate action to address the serious traffic hazards on the R251 leading to the Glenswilly GAA Sports Complex and a number of private dwellings locally

The Members were informed that;

Further clarification on the specific hazards referred to on the R251 is required, before this location can be investigated to establish what if any appropriate measures can be taken, and an implementation cost be brought to a subsequent meeting. To qualify for Low Cost Accident

funding, an identified location must have a recorded history of recurring accidents and an identified remedial solution. The traffic accident database, does not show this location as having a high number of accidents.

On proposal the motion, Cllr. J. Mc Daid referred to the serious traffic hazard and the possibility of widening of slip road at the top or re-alignment and signage on Churchill and Glenties Road “No vehicle over 3 tonne” etc.

MDL 127/14 STREET LIGHTS - KILMACRENNAN

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O’Donnell seconded by Cllr. M. Mc Bride the following motion was adopted;

That this Council repair street lights in Kilmacrennan from the square to the top of the Grove before there is an accident.

The Members were informed that;

Further clarification on the specific hazards referred to on the R251 is required, before this location can be investigated to establish what if any appropriate measures can be taken, and an implementation cost be brought to a subsequent meeting. To qualify for Low Cost Accident funding, an identified location must have a recorded history of recurring accidents and an identified remedial solution. The traffic accident database, does not show this location as having a high number of accidents.

MDL 128/14 LETTERKENNY TOWN PARKING

Cllr. J. O’Donnell proposed the following motion

That the Council make Letterkenny town parking free 2 weeks before Christmas to boost shopping on the Main Street.

The Members were informed that;

Past experience, has proven that when the parking is free, the majority of the parking spots are taken up by local workers who park for the day thus not providing any benefit at all to shoppers, and disadvantaging businesses rather than proving an advantage. The current position of the first half an hour free, is proving successful in ensuring constant throughput of parking allocation. The projected loss of revenue were this to take place is over €12,000 in lost parking fees, which will ultimately have to be funded from the GMA.

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle outlined that in the past Traffic Wardens were a little more lenient during the x-mas period which worked quite well.

MDL 129/14 SUMMER TIME

On the proposal of Cllr. J. O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr. G. Mc Monagle the following motion was adopted;

That the Council send a letter to the Government to ask them to keep summer time all year round as this would improve road safety etc.

The Members were informed that;

In accordance with the Action Programme for Effective Local Government, generic aspects of relevant functions should be dealt with at plenary county council level, with aspects that require purely local decisions being confined to district level. Accordingly this motion should be dealt with at plenary council.

MDL 130/14 ENTRANCE GLENSWILLY GAA PITCH

In answer to his question if the Council can address the junction where you turn into Glenswilly GAA pitch as it needs widened urgently before causing any accidents, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advise that;

The entrance to the Glenswilly GAA pitch is not a public road, and consequently any widening of the entrance does not fall under the remit of the Council

MDL 131/14 BRIDGE END RAMELTON

In answer to his question if the Council can put some sort of speed reduction system at the Bridge End, Ramelton, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

This has been previously referred to the Road Design dept, for their report and an implementation cost will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 132/14 GLEANN RUA STREET LIGHTS

In answer to his question, if the Council can give an update on Gleann Rua streetlights, Cllr. J. O'Donnell was advised that;

New Streetlights have been installed, but have not been activated, ESB have been requested (by Airtricity on behalf of DCC) to connect the lights to the network. This process has commenced and when complete, a switch on can be implemented.

MDL 133/14 IRISH WATER

In answer to his question, as to what is our Council and our Councillors position on Irish Water collectively, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Members receive notification of a Special Meeting in relation to Irish Water and Water Charges this Friday at 3pm

MDL 134/14 PUBLIC TOILETS, RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question, if there has been any progress been made on Public Toilets for Rathmullan, Cllr. I. Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Council will prepare a proposal for a development at Rathmullan that will include public toilets and facilities for lifeguards. It is expected that the proposal including design etc can be progressed by Council staff. Work will commence shortly to scope out the proposal including design and funding.

MDL 135/14 IRISH WATER

In answer to his question, if there is any information available from Irish Water if still in existence through our Council on many of the proposed Sewerage Schemes in the M.D.L. if can we have an update, Cllr. I Mc Garvey was advised that;

The Members receive notification of a Special Meeting in relation to Irish Water and Water Charges this Friday at 3pm

MDL 136/14 ROADS CASTLESHANAGHAN

In answer to his question as to when will the Roads in the Castleshaganahan area destroyed by the recent floods be repaired, Cllr. G. Mc Monagle was advised that

Works are ongoing and majority of the drainage works will be completed by the end of the month. Due to the volume and timing of the work, some surfacing work will not be carried out until next year.

MDL 137/14 WATER - RATHMULLAN

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle queried what works were carried out by this Council to upgrade the water infrastructure supply network for Rathmullan prior to the take over of Irish Water and what outstanding works are needed to ensure a proper and safe supply of Drinking Water for Rathmullan.

L. Ward, Director advised that as this did not directly relate to Irish Water an answer will be available in advance of next meeting.

MDL 138/14 FLUROIDE – DRINKING WATER

Cllr. G. Mc Monagle queried if the Council can organise for us to get a report/presentation as soon as possible on the Advantages/ Disadvantages of putting Fluoride in our Drinking Water Supply?

L. Ward, Director advised that relevant group are willing to come in and talk to the Council in this regard.

MDL 139/14 WATER SUPPLY PIPES

Cllr. D. Shiels queried if the Council can confirm what water supplies in the Letterkenny Municipal District are served by asbestos concrete pipes and confirm how many people each water supply serves?

L. Ward, Director advised that as this did not directly relate to Irish Water an answer will be available in advance of next meeting.

MDL 140/14 TRAFFIC CALMING – COLLEGE FARM ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council can arrange to provide new and improved traffic calming measures on the College Farm Road, in particular on the lower section leading to the junction with the Glencar Road, Cllr. D. Shiels was advised that;

This location has been referred to Road Design to establish what if any appropriate measures can be taken, and an implementation cost will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

MDL 141/14 REPAIRS – PORT ROAD

In answer to his question if the Council has any plans to repair the road at Port Road where it has been opened due to burst on the water mains and very badly repaired, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that;

This repair has been carried out since the previous meeting.

MDL 142/14 ROAD NETWORK – LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question if the Council can give a report on the road network in the Letterkenny area as some of our roads are in a terrible need of urgent attention, Cllr. C. Brogan was advised that

With a total of 1248km of public road in the Letterkenny Municipal district, there are various roads in various states of disrepair, for which the Roads Dept submit ongoing application to the relevant Dept for funding to repair. In relation to the National network, the Roads Dept annually request funding from the NRA in relation to various locations. Specifically in 2014 we have requested funding for :

- Patch repairs at Manor Roundabout (Area 250 sqm)
- Patch Repairs on N14 between Ray School Junction and Dromoghill Junction (Area 1580 sqm)
- Patch Repairs on 4 lane Road..N56 (Area 480 sqm)
- Patch repairs on N13.Bunagee Roundabout to Lurgybrack (Area 157 sqm)
- Drainage works needed on N13 at Doobalagh (140 m total of 300mm diam + 4 manholes)
- Footpath repairs on 4 lane road from Port Bridge to junction past Clanree Hotel (Length is 1094m long x average 2.27m wide)
- Drainage needed on 4 lane Road in places and all the gullies (40 no. in total need repairs)
- N56. Pramerica roundabout towards Mountain top. Application for funding of complete overlay previously submitted unsuccessfully. Current application to do patch repairs only.
- Escape lane at Lurgybrack on N13. Replacement of materials.

In relation to the non-National roads, annual Restoration Improvement, and Restoration Maintenance grants are the sources for funding repairs to these roads to a programme to be agreed with the elected members.

MDL 143/14 BRIDGE PARAPETS

In answer to his question if this Council will build new Parapets on the Bridge dividing the Townlands of Devlinreagh and Carrick on the main Cranford to Carrigart road as there is only temporary security fencing there at the moment, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The replacement of the parapet at this location is currently on the program for repair by the end of the years.

MDL 144/14 ROAD MARKINGS – GARTAN

In answer to his question if the Council will put road markings at the junction at The Akibbon Bar in Gartan, as there are no markings in place at present, Cllr. L. Blaney was advised that;

The placement of lines at this location to be included in the next lining programme for this area.

MDL 145/14 RUBBISH NEAR CHURCHILL

In answer to his question if the Council can clean up the rubbish which has been dumped in Crahey area near Churchill. It is along a road which is used by many in the summer months when winning their turf and is a real eye sore, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

The Council will arrange to have this area cleaned up as soon as possible.

MDL 146/14 ROADS STAFF

In answer to his question in relation to the Letterkenny rural area with 1,249 kilometres of road - (a) what plans has the Council to replace the 3 workers who have retired and the 3 workers who are on long term sick leave (b) there are 7 temporary workers employed until Christmas will those workers be replaced in the new year or what plans does the Council have to make up these numbers, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

As per previous MD meeting, Council do not have control over recruiting staff at present, as there is an embargo set by Central Government on the recruitment of staff. Once this is lifted, it is the Letterkenny MD's intention subject to budgetary allocations, to replace on a permanent basis, the various outdoor roads staff who have retired over the past few years. Current part time outdoor workers are taken from a 'Seasonal Workers' panel set up to fulfil staffing requirements in the meantime.

It is likely that a number of temporary workers will be required from the 'Seasonal Workers' panel in the new year, however the exact number depends on the allocated budgets yet to be announced.

MDL 147/14 ROAD PATCHING – CONWALL./LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question as to when will the patching be completed on the road (R250) between Conwall and Letterkenny, Cllr. J. Mc Daid was advised that;

The identified section on the R250 for patching will be completed within the next 2 weeks if not before.

MDL 148/14 ON-LINE TRADING VOUCHERS

In answer to his question if the Council could advise on the uptake to date of the online trading voucher scheme, by businesses in the Letterkenny/Milford area, and also advise on the number of vouchers still available to businesses that may want to avail of the scheme, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

28 business have availed of the online trading voucher scheme with no further vouchers available at this stage.

Cllr. J. Kavanagh asked that a request be made to the Department to continue this Scheme in the New Year.

MDL 149/14 FOOTPATH – RAMELTON

In answer to his question if the Council could look into repairing/providing a footpath at the approach to the Presbyterian/Church of Ireland graveyard in Ramelton, and also look into clearing the area on the opposite side of the road, where a garden has collapsed onto the side of the roadway, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

The Council are continually investigating all means available of funding the provision of footpaths. This footpath is currently on the list along with others in Ramelton, as discussed at the previous LMD meeting.

MDL 150/14 COUNCIL TENANTS

In answer to his question if the Council have written guidelines on what their responsibilities are, and what the responsibilities of tenants are, with regard to repair and maintenance of Council houses. If such guidelines exist could they be made available to the members, Cllr. J. Kavanagh was advised that;

Every tenant signs a Letting Agreement on taking up a tenancy, the Letting Agreement includes the tenants responsibilities regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

All tenants are also given a copy of the Tenants Handbook which gives guidance to tenants in non legal language, outlining the respective responsibilities of the local authority and of the tenant in relation to maintenance.

A copy of the Tenants Handbook would be circulated to all members.

Eunan Kelly, Area Manager further advised that current handbook is 4-5 years old and that it was intended that a new draft would be prepared in the New Year to include the former Town Council properties. However, details of the current handbook would be circulated to Town Council tenants in the interim.

MDL 151/14 RECEPTION REQUESTS

M. Mc Bride, Mayor advised of requests received for Council reception with regard to the following;

- (a) Ulster Senior League Team
- (b) Philip Deignan

L. Ward, Director advised that the protocol for receptions would be considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

MDL 152/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Milford Public Services Centre on 13th January, 2015 at 2pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting with L. Ward, Director wishing Members and staff a Happy X-mas.