

**MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING, HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014.**

**MDL 12/14 MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MDL 13/14 OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services  
Linda McCann, Staff Officer  
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Michael Mc Bride.

Liam Ward advised that the meeting would be attended by himself, Fergal Doherty, Eunan Kelly and Linda Mc Cann and that following the recent meeting in Lifford that the Chief Executive would be presenting proposals to the Members at the September Council Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014 on staff attendance at future Municipal District Meetings.

**MDL 14/14 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr. Liam Blaney the minutes of Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 were agreed.

**MDL 15/14 CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF A.G.M. OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gerry McMonagle and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Letterkenny held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 were agreed.

**MDL 16/14 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT STANDING ORDERS FOR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY**

Liam Ward advised that the changes discussed had been included in the Standing Orders and copies would be circulated. On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle the Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Letterkenny were agreed.

**MDL 17/14 CONSIDERATION OF THE THREE CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2014-2016**

Liam Ward advised the members that this item had been referred to the M.D.L. from the Full Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The Members raised a number of concerns primarily in relation to the capital funding required to address the Unfinished Estates and the Take-Over of Housing Estates throughout the County. It was agreed that a Workshop would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 11.00 a.m. in the Milford Public Services Centre to receive updates in relation to:

- Unfinished Housing Estates in Letterkenny MD
- Take Over Process & Procedures

**MDL 18/14 COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

Eunan Kelly gave a summary of the report that was circulated by email on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and at the meeting and noted the following items:

- M2D2 Medical Science Research and Development Project situated at the CoLab to be launched by U.S. Senate President Therese Murray at L.Y.I.T. on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2014
- The Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh's would visit to Donegal, in particular, Letterkenny Public Services Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 from 2:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.
- Planning Permission has been granted and Irish Lights were about to go to tender for the first phase of the development of Fanad Lighthouse as a key tourism facility and major "Destination Point" on the Wild Atlantic Way". Interreg funding of €650,000 for Phase 1 led by Irish Lights.
- Work has commenced on the Donegal Community & Economic Plan. The work is being led by Donegal County Council Economic Development Committee and the new Local and Community Development Committee (L.C.D.C.)
- The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award 2014 to presented to Massachusetts State Senate President Thesese Murray in Buncrana on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2014
- A delegation from Worcester State University will visit L.Y.I.T. on 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September. L.Y.I.T. and the University in detailed discussions with regard to collaboration and partnership across a range of issues.
- The Assembly of European Regions (AER) Conference to be held in Radisson Blue Hotel, Letterkenny on 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2014. A.E.R. is the largest independent network of regional authorities in wider Europe bringing

together nearly 230 regions from 35 countries along with 15 international organisations. D.C.C. is the only local authority in Ireland that is a member of A.E.R.

- Donegal Age Friendly County Initiative – The Age Friendly Cities and Counties programme aims to make Ireland one of the best places in the world to grow old. One of the actions is to develop Letterkenny as Age Friendly Town.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. John O'Donnell, it was agreed that Cllrs. Ian McGarvey and Cllr. Gerry McMonagle would represent Municipal District of Letterkenny on the Letterkenny Age Friendly Town Steering Committee.

### ***MDL 19/14*** **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Members considered the report circulated at the meeting and noted the following items:

- Litter Warden's Report, August 2014
- Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Members congratulated all the Tidy Town Committees on their work and commitment in towns, villages and rural areas. The Members thanked Martin Roarty, Litter Warden and the Mobile Litter Unit for their assistance to all the groups.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be issued to all towns in the Municipal District of Letterkenny that entered the National Tidy Towns Competition acknowledging all their efforts in keeping their towns and villages looking so well.

### ***MDL 20/14*** **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

Fergal Doherty explained the contents of the report circulated with the Agenda on the following items:

- Street Lights on footpath at Ballymacool, Letterkenny
- Footpaths at Various Locations in Letterkenny Municipal District
- Review of Speed limits at Elm Court, Ramelton
- Coastal Storm Damage of January 2014 Update
- Kerrykeel Storm Damage of 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 Update
- Traffic Calming
- Winter Maintenance Programme Update
- Road Lining at Gambles Square, Ramelton
- Update on Glassagh Bridge, Rinmore & Magherawarden Bridge
- Pedestrian Crossing Municipal District of Letterkenny
- Flooding Event (Various Locations Letterkenny) on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 Update

- Appendix 1 - Pedestrian Crossings in the Letterkenny Municipal District

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle asked for a breakdown of the cost of providing an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and supported the use of Community Involvement Schemes in Providing Crossings.

Cllr. Liam Blaney requested:

- That funding be sought to repair footpath at Kerrykeel.
- That signage at Carrigart/Downings crossroads be changed to divert traffic on the Wild Atlantic Way to include Mevagh. Fergal Doherty stated that this was a defined route set by Bord Failte under the Wild Atlantic Way and there were no current proposals to deviate from this route. Roads would include this as part of any review of routes in the future.
- That the Crossroads at Kilmacrennan Road, Milford be made more visual from Main Street to ensure pedestrian safety when crossing. Fergal Doherty agreed to follow up on this.
- That a sign for Town Centre be erected coming off the one-way system at Milford beside the old Tech.

Cllr. Michael McBride requested that

- A traffic speed survey be carried out off the Glenveagh Road from An Craobhan onto N56.
  - That the manhole cover at Kilmacrennan National School be repaired/replaced.
  - That a Stop sign is put in place at Doherty's Garage, Pluck onto the Glenmaquin Road.
- The Council examine the possibility of re-locating the crossing point at Gleneany House, Letterkenny.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey requested that the speed limit at Loughnagin, Letterkenny be reviewed.

#### ***MDL 21/14    PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

Liam Ward explained the contents of the reports circulated by email on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 on the following items:

- Special Resolution Fund Update
- Take-Over of Housing Estates
- Planning Statistics & Planning Enforcement Statistics

Liam Ward also updated Members on the Special Resolution Fund as per report circulated by e-mail on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014.

Cllr. Liam Blaney requested an update on the three schemes in the Letterkenny Municipal District approved under the Special Resolution Fund be circulated.

Cllr. Blaney also requested that houses with pyrite be exempt from the Household Charge.

The Members requested that Planning Service be represented at the Municipal District of Letterkenny Meetings going forward. Liam Ward advised that the Chief Executive would present proposals to the Members at the Full Council Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September on a number of issues including attendance at Municipal District Meetings.

It was agreed to include the Take Over of Housing Schemes on the agenda for the Workshop to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

***MDL 22/14 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES***

Eunan Kelly explained contents of the report circulated with the agenda and noted the following items:

- Long-Term Leasing Update
- Rental Accommodation Scheme Update
- Voluntary Housing Update
- Donegal Fabric Upgrade Programme 2013/2014 Update
- Reports on Housing Adaptation Grants, Mobility Aid Grants & Housing Aid for Older People Grants
- Loans Report at 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014
- Casual Vacancy Report at 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that Fairgreen Hill, Dr. McGinley Road and Leck Cottages be considered under the Fabric Upgrade Programme.

The Members expressed concern on the high number of refusals of offers of tenancy.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle raised his concerns on the Long-Term Leasing Scheme and asked that the Council consider purchasing houses rather than entering into long-term leases in the current economy.

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan asked that adequate resources and staff were made available for housing maintenance.

Cllr. Brogan also asked for an update on the proposal to transfer managing the Rent Supplement Allowance to Local Authorities and requested a workshop for Members on the new Scheme.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey proposed that the Council consider borrowing money to purchase houses.

Cllr. James Pat McDaid requested that an annual maintenance inspection be carried out on all Council housing stock.

Cllr. Liam Blaney proposed that the Council applied for funding for extensions to S.I. Cottages.

Liam Ward informed the Members that Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 had been enacted including H.A.P. System which came into operation for Cork, Limerick and Waterford from the 15<sup>th</sup> September. This would be extended to the rest of the country on a phased basis.

This would mean that all future Rent Allowance payments would be made by Local Authorities.

Liam Ward advised that the Council was granted approval by the Department to construct 4 no. S.I. Cottages and commence a small scheme of house in Letterkenny. The Council also applied for funding for extensions and he had received an e-mail confirming approval of €160,000. He would clarify what this related to.

#### ***MDL 23/14    ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING***

The Members agreed to adjourn the meeting to receive a Deputation from Letterkenny Town Centre Project to make a presentation on the Letterkenny Town Centre Project. The deputation consisted of Dessie Larkin, Town Centre Manager, Mark Bundschu, Chair of Letterkenny Town Centre Project and Amanda McNamee, Project Officer.

Dessie Larkin thanked the Members for agreeing to receive the Deputation and made a PowerPoint presentation on the project and circulated copies to the members.

Dessie Larkin informed the Members that the Town Centre Project was currently drafting a Strategic Plan and would update Members on this when it was presented to the Members of the Chamber of Commerce. The focus of the Project would include the following:

- Liaise with Policy & Research Unit of Donegal County Council on Audit, Strategy and work with the Council on the review of Letterkenny Town Plan;
- Introduce the Purple Flag Scheme – which include Garda, Retailers and Local Authority;
- Write to Oireachtas Members that Gateway Fund can be invigorated
- Be the accommodation base for the Wild Atlantic Way;
- Create Quarters and Districts in the town;
- Develop a Linear Park between the Cavern and Yellow Pepper;
- Review the functionality of the Market Square and review trimming the trees.

Dessie Larkin asked that the Members give support to the Project. The Members welcomed the initiative and pledged their support going forward.

Dessie Larkin also requested that the Members consider funding a structure for St. Colmcille at Cathedral Car Park under the Percentage for Arts Scheme which had funding agreed for Rockhill which was no longer required.

Cllr Michael Mc Bride thanked the deputation for attending and for making the presentation. The deputation then left the meeting.

***MDL 24/14    SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS***

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan seconded by Cllr McMonagle, it was agreed to suspend Standing Order Number 5 and to continue with the meeting after 6.00 p.m. until agenda was completed.

The M.D.L. Meeting then recommenced.

Members noted the following questions:

***MDL 25/14    AVAILABILITY OF PERCENT FOR ARTS FUNDING FOR KILMACRENNAN***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Michael Mc Bride

“Are there any funds available from the percent for arts fund and if so could Kilmacrennan Tidy Towns be considered for a project erecting signs highlighting its cultural history?”

Cllr. McBride was informed that:-

“Any applications forthcoming from this or other groups can be assessed in the context of their eligibility and the availability of funds under relevant programmes. Community and Enterprise can meet with the group to discuss their proposals and advise on how best they might proceed.”

Cllr Mc Bride requested clarification on whether funding was available.

***MDL 26/14    PROGRESS REPORT ON WORK AT THE FAIRWAYS ESTATE***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

“Could I have an update on progress with work in the Fairways Estate, to alleviate sewage problems?”

Cllr. Kavanagh was informed that:-

“As a consequence of the potential for environmental pollution or where a public health issue may arise as a result of the discharge of sewage effluent the Council has intervened from time to time at a number of locations. It is currently

reviewing the scale of this issue and the potential to use available resources to carry out remedial works to prevent these ongoing incidents. Emergency works are planned at a number of locations to alleviate recurring problems including at the Fairways and it is expected that work will begin in the coming weeks.

As advised at the July Council Meeting, a full report will be brought to the Council in due course on the matter for consideration.”

Cllr Kavanagh requested a more definitive start date for this work.

***MDL 27/14*** ***REQUEST FOR WORKS ON SEWAGE ISSUES AFFECTING ROSEMOUNT, LETTERKENNY***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Dessie Shiels

“Can the Council confirm what it intends to do to resolve the serious sewage issue affecting the Rosemount area of Letterkenny?”

Cllr. Shiels was informed that:-

“This sewage issue affecting Rosemount is due to the condition of a pipeline serving several properties on the Main Street. It is a private sewer, which is not in the charge of Irish Water.

In an effort to get the issue resolved, the Council is in contact with each of the owners through which the sewer transverses and has facilitated a number of meetings between them. The council, in conjunction with the various property owners, will be carrying out some survey work to establish the full extent of the issues and when same is determined, plans can be drawn up to implement the remedial works required.”

Cllr Shiels requested clarification on what was proposed.

***MDL 28/14*** ***UPDATE ON TAKE-OVER OF ESTATES IN THE LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

“Could I have an update on the takeover of estates in the area (Letterkenny MD), how many applications for taking in charge have been received and processed and the names of the estates involved?”

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gerry McMonagle

“How many estates have applied in the last 18 months to be “Taken over by Council” How many of them have been “Taken Over” and how many were outstanding?”

Cllr. Kavanagh and Cllr. McMonagle were informed that:-

“Countywide there have been 217 no. of applications for taking in charge of housing estates, 96 no. of which have been submitted since the new Taking in Charge Policy was adopted in July 2013.

The table below illustrates the no. of Taking in Charge applications in each of the Municipal Districts and the no. of estates that have been adopted within the last 12 months.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	No. of Taking Charge applications received	No. of estates taken in charge within last 12 months
Inishowen	97	
Letterkenny	63	2
Stranorlar	27	
Donegal	23	3
Glenties	4	
COUNTY TOTAL	214	5

A copy of the Taking in Charge Register for Municipal Districts was also given to Cllr Kavanagh and Cllr. McMonagle. This register detailed various information including the name and address of the estate, developer responsible, connection to sewer or on-site treatment systems, availability of bonds and whether public lighting associated with the estate has already been taken in charge by DCC already.”

Cllr. Dessie Shiels asked that the Council draft a Policy that ensures all future planning applications should have all services in place before houses are constructed and appropriate Bonds are in place by Developers. Cllr. Ian McGarvey agreed.

Cllr. Gerry McMonagle agreed that the services should be in place and expressed disappointment that out of 63 estates applied for take-over only 2 have been taken in charge.

Cllr. Ian McGarvey asked how many estates were in the County and Liam Ward confirmed that there were in excess of 700.

Cllr. Mick Quinn asked for an update on the current status of The Racecourse, Kilmacrennan.

The members noted that a Workshop on Unfinished & Take-over of Housing Estates will be held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Milford Public Services Centre.

***MDL 29/14    UPDATE ON TAKE-OVER OF PUBLIC LIGHTING IN ARD GLAS & GLEBE CRESCENT***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

“Could the Council advise on the takeover of public lighting in Ard Glas and in Glebe Crescent?”

Cllr. Kavanagh was informed that:-

“The Ard Glas estate on the Long Lane is a private estate, still in the ownership of the developer. The Council are prepared to take over the lights in this estate ahead of the official takeover of the estate. To that effect, an estimate has been procured from Airtricity of the cost to bring the lights up to a standard that Airtricity will accept, which has been forwarded to the developer to arrange to get the works completed and then to apply to get the lights taken over

Glebe Crescent, on the Ramelton Road. These lights installed 4/5 years ago were not installed by the DCC or the LKTC. An application has been submitted for their takeover, which is currently being reviewed by Airtricity to establish whether all is to required standard. Timing of the take over will depend on Airtricity’s findings and whether there are outstanding works to be completed by the developer/residents committee.”

**LMD30/14 UPDATE ON WORKS NECESSARY & CARRIED OUT AT GLEANN RUA & KILLYLASTIN HEIGHTS, LETTERKENNY**

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gerry McMonagle

“Can we have an Update on the work done and the outstanding works still to be completed at Gleann Rua and Killylastin Heights Letterkenny?”

Cllr. McMonagle was informed that:-

“In the context of the broad update report provided for the meeting the specific update in respect of each site is as follows.

**An Gleann Rua**

Council officials have been engaged in extensive negotiations with a senior representative of the key lending institution involved at the site with a view to agreeing a clear roadmap towards full resolution of the site. Although these negotiations have not been concluded, significant progress has been made. The provisional proposal at this stage is that the Council will finish out work that it has already started in relation to public lighting, effluent disposal and fencing (work for which funding was successfully obtained under the Public Safety Initiative), whilst the lending institution would address all remaining completion issues including road surfacing, footpaths, open space etc. In terms of the Council's work, the required statutory notices have already been served on all relevant parties. Further consultation will also be conducted with residents.

In terms of practical work on the ground, Council engineers have begun assessing the condition of the existing on-site pumping system with a view to this

information informing the design of a replacement system (it is anticipated that such new system will be required). It is anticipated at this stage that the preparation of the design and tender documents for such new system will be completed by the end of September/early October with a view to this aspect of the site resolution being put up on eTenders immediately thereafter.

With regard to lighting, a full survey of the entire development was carried out recently by Airtricity staff accompanied by Council officials. This survey concluded that a total of 13 new lights are required and quotations were invited from 3 tenders for this work. The closing date for the tenders is Friday 5th September, 2014. The tender invitations stressed that the Council was seeking that the work be carried out during the month of September, 2014. It should be noted also that Council staff have carried out some enabling works in this regard at the site.

Finally, at the time of drafting this reply, fencing and boarding up work was programmed to commence in early course.

#### **Killylastin Heights**

The Council successfully drew down on a significant development bond for this development. This bond will be use to finance the site resolution with the works being tendered out to private contractor.

This development would appear to be a more straightforward case to resolve than the neighbouring An Gleann Rua. Notwithstanding, a CCTV contract is about to be tendered to identify any issues that there may be beneath the surface so that such issues, if any such issues are so identified, can be built into the contract and addressed prior to above ground road surfacing etc. works being carried out.

The programme at this stage was that the overall contract would go out to tender in early October with a view to work commencing on-site in mid-November, 2014.”

#### **MDL 31/14 NEW ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY UNIT AT LETTERKENNY GENERAL HOSPITAL**

The following question was submitted by Cllr Dessie Shiels

“Can the Council confirm why it permitted the development at Letterkenny General Hospital of the new Accident and Emergency Unit building when it had extensive knowledge of serious flooding risks at the Hospital?”

Cllr. Shiels was informed that:-

“The planning application for the new emergency department at Letterkenny General Hospital was received in September 2007 and Plan.Reg.No. 07/80149 refers. This application was considered and determined having regard to the statutory development plan for the area, being the Letterkenny & Environs

Development Plan, 2003-2009 (as varied), the relevant Department Guidelines and inter alia, submissions and reports received following the statutory consultation process. The Council determined that the proposed development of the emergency department was in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area having regard particularly to compliance with Policy CF1 of the said Plan which guides the provision of health services and therefore decided that planning permission be granted subject to certain conditions on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008.”

Cllr Shiels stated that the question was not answered and he thought that the Council was aware that the area was liable to flooding.

***MDL 32/14 PUBLIC STREET LIGHT AT HARBOUR BAR, DOWNINGS***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Liam Blaney

“Will Donegal County Council replace the public street light above the Harbour Bar in Downings which was removed when improvements were made to the road a number of years ago?”

Cllr. Blaney was informed that:-

“The Council will replace the public street light in question. A quotation has been received from Airtricity for the supply of a 6m pole and lantern with micro Pillar and connection. Roads are currently arranging to carry out the civil works with the plan to have the light erected by the end of November 2014.”

***MDL 33/14 PUBLIC MEETING ON IMPROVEMENT OF CAR PARK AT PORTSALON & REPLACEMENT OF BOTTLE BANKS***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Liam Blaney

“Will Donegal County Council facilitate a public meeting to look at the possibility of getting another site for the bottle banks at Portsalon and clean up the car park at the above location with a view to making it an enclosed car park which is a complete eyesore at present?”

Cllr. Blaney was informed that:-

Donegal County Council will look at the possibility of getting an alternative location for the current bring bank recycling site at Portsalon. In 2013 this site saw 39.52 Tonnes of glass and 1.74 Tonnes of cans/tins recycled. It is great to see the facility used to this extent and the community recycling these materials rather than sending over 40 tonnes of materials to landfill unnecessarily. If necessary, a public meeting can be considered, should no alternative location be identified Roads Section had arranged to remove any material that was present on the car park. It was not currently proposed to hold a public meeting, pending the identification of an alternative suitable site, and any proposed alternative locations should be forwarded to the Council for consideration. With regards to the

enclosing of the car park, in the event that funding was identified for the enclosure of this car park to a design that was suitable for the location, the Council would arrange to carry out.

Cllr Blaney requested that consideration be given to re-locating the Bring Banks to a different part of the car park and to surround them with a picket fence.

***MDL 34/14 IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT LONG KESH ROAD, KERRYKEEL***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Liam Blaney

“When will the improvement works to the Long Kesh Road, Kerrykeel be completed?”

Cllr. Blaney was informed that:-

“Works are ongoing at present. The preparation and initial drainage works have been carried out and the road is currently passable. Installation of 900 pipes is required for approx. 60m of this road (approx. €9k) and is due to commence soon, prior to surfacing works taking place. All works will be completed by the end of October.”

***MDL 35/14 UPDATE ON PLANS TO REPAIR FLOOD DAMAGE OF 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2014***

The following question was submitted by Cllr Michael McBride

“Can I have details of the plans put in place to repair the damage done by the flood of 5th of August?”

The following question was submitted by Cllr Gerry McMonagle

“How much will be needed to repair the recent flood damage to our roads and bridges and have the council prepared an emergency funding request to Government to help deal with the damage that was caused by the flooding?”

Cllr. McBride and Cllr. McMonagle were informed that:-

“Following an extensive assessment of the damage caused to the roads network following the floods of 5th August 2014, the estimated assessments of the cost for the implementation of identified remedial measures, preventative measures and cleanup costs, at approximately 55 locations is €417,360. A report documenting same has been issued to the DOTT&S with a request that emergency funding be sanctioned. A further number of applications are currently being prepared for submission to the OPW under the “Non-Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Measures” scheme, in relation to locations where flooding of residences has occurred, such as Ramelton.”

Cllr. Dessie Shiels asked that a list of the 55 flood damaged locations, funding applied for be circulated to Members outlining the estimate cost of each location

and priority. Cllr. Shiels asked that same be done in respect of Pedestrian Crossings, public lighting and Footpaths for the area.

The Members paid tribute to Council staff and public for their efforts in dealing with the flooding 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.

Fergal Doherty confirmed that this would have implications on current roads funding if the full amount of the grant applied for was not received.

The Members asked that a list of roads with serious deterioration caused by flood damage and roads that need strengthening in the Municipal District of Letterkenny be drawn up in order that a deputation can be arranged with all local Oireachtas Members in an effort to secure more funding in 2015.

**MDL 36/14 PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

The following question was submitted by Cllr Michael McBride

“What projects were funded under the community improvement scheme and what criteria was used to select these projects?”

Cllr. McBride was informed that:-

“In the Letterkenny EA, applications were submitted for the following 7 schemes, for which funding was granted for the 4 noted. The Dept of Transport Tourism and Sport, have been requested to advise on the criteria for selecting successful applications, but have not yet responded. Roads Central who makes the applications has advised that 6 of the 7 rejections involved footpaths, and the Department gave explicit permission for footpath projects in 2013 on the basis that the Scheme was at “a pilot stage”.

<b>Road Name and/or Townland Name</b>	<b>Brief Description of works involved including nature of non-monetary contribution</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Applied For</b>	<b>Granted</b>
Abbeyview Housing Estate Abbey View, Rathmullan	Group will supply labour and plant to allow the kerbs and footpaths to be constructed	1	€16,997	Yes
Aughnish Road, Castle Street, Church St, Rectory RD, St Mary's School Road Ramelton	Group will supply labour and some materials to allow the kerbs and footpaths to be constructed	2	€95,046	No
Link Road Rosemount Estate, Church Road and Estate Paths off Church Road	Group will supply labour and some materials to allow the kerbs and footpaths to be constructed	3	€32,235	No

Kilmacrennan				
Branch to Gortnavern Bog Garrymore, Kerrykeel	removal of grass verges site preparation works generally maintaining drains opening inlets pothole repair Resurfacing works	4	€12,950	Yes
Lagg to Lough Colm The Lagg/Loughross	generally maintaining drains pothole repair Resurfacing works	5	€32,886	Yes
Branch Towards Drumfad Drumfad, Letterkenny	Pipe drain adjacent to the county road and backfill the drain. Build up embankment to provide support to the road that is subsiding. Overlay and surface the section of the road that is drained	6	€28,700	Yes
Big Isle Road Rosbracken Manorcunningham	group will supply machinery ( excavators and tractors and trailers ) and areas to dispose of excavated materials as well as labour to remove verges and open drains	7	€85,697	No

**MDL 37/14 REPAIRS NECESSARY TO TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT GLENCAR**

The following question was submitted by Cllr Dessie Shiels

“Can the Council confirm when all broken traffic lights at Glencar (in particular opposite Dorrians’ Filling station premises) will be fixed/ put back in working order?”

Cllr. Sheils was informed that:-

“The Council are currently rectifying the traffic lights in the short term. However these lights are of older design and technology by today’s standards and consequently are continuously problematic. Having reached their design life, consideration will have to be given to their replacement, in conjunction with the various other requests for the installation of pedestrian crossings.”

**MDL 38/14 SURFACE DRESSING AT R250 ROAD AT GLENSWILLY NATIONAL SCHOOL**

The following question was submitted by Cllr James Pat McDaid

“When will the main road (R250) at Glenswilly national school be surface dressed and the road marked so it is safe and the third lane for the school entrance is clearly visible for road users?”

Cllr. McDaid was informed that:-

“This work is programmed to be completed at Glenswilly by end of September. The bitmac was currently being monitored (too fresh to surface dress) with a view to surface dressing it in the next fortnight and then apply the road markings a week or so later.”

***MDL 39/14 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELP PREPARE FOR THE ALL-IRELAND FINALS***

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

“That the Council again play their part in the preparations for the All-Ireland finals, by making sure that public structures etc., are decorated for the occasion.

***MDL 40/14 ENSURE STAFF OPERATING COUNCIL OWNED FACILITIES ARE GARDA VETTED***

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

“That this Council contact all private companies operating council owned facilities where children attend for recreation or other purposes to request that all staff in those facilities be Garda vetted or confirmation that all staff have already been Garda vetted.”

***MDL 41/14 FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN RATHMULLAN & BUNCRANA***

On the proposal of Cllr Ian McGarvey, seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the following motion was adopted:-

“Explore all funding options for the operation of the Ferry Service between Rathmullan and Buncrana.”

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council will continue to explore all potential options for the funding of the ferry service between Rathmullan and Buncrana. Efforts in this regard have not proved successful to date. All funding up to now has been provided by Donegal Co Council and Buncrana Town Council.”

Cllrs. Liam Blaney and Ian McGarvey expressed disappointment that the Buncrana/Rathmullan ferry service did not operate this summer. The Members asked that this service is advertised early in 2015 to allow sufficient time for tender process and the funds allocated to this service in 2014 under the DFI be re-allocated to other eligible groups. Liam Ward agreed to get an update from Community & Enterprise.

***MDL 42/14*** **ADVERTISE FOR TENDERS FOR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN RATHMULLAN & BUNCRANA**

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

“That Donegal County Council advertise for Tenders for Rathmullan/Buncrana Car Ferry in January or February 2015, if and when monies are provided in the Budget for that year.”

Members were informed that:-

“Donegal County Council can arrange to go to tender for provision of the Rathmullan to Buncrana ferry service once any confirmation of funding for this service is received.”

***MDL 43/14*** **PROVISION OF TOILETS AT RATHMULLAN**

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

“That Donegal County Council ask our Engineers to prepare plans for Rathmullan Toilets.”

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

“That Donegal County Council explores all options available (Including Development Charges) to secure funding for public toilets in Rathmullan which were suppose to be part of the EIS that took place there a number of years ago.”

Members were informed that:-

“Efforts have been made, without success, to find a funding source for the provision of permanent toilets for Rathmullan. In the event, that a funding source is identified, a suitable site will be sought and a design procured.”

***MDL 44/14*** **REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN ELECTED MEMBERS & IRISH WATER REPRESENTATIVES**

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

“That Donegal County Council (amended to Municipal District of Letterkenny) makes a request again that Irish Water comes to meet the Elected Members of this Council to discuss water metering and charges as they gave us an understanding that they would meet us in March 2014 and to date this has not materialised.”

Members were informed that:-

***MDL 45/14*** **ADDRESS FLOODING AT GLENWOOD PARK / BEECHWOOD AREA**

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

“That we as a matter of urgency address the continuing flooding of Glenwood Park/Beechwood area by extending the Storm/Sewer pipeline from the hospital up to the entrance of Glenwood Park.”

Members were informed that:-

“An initial design report puts the cost estimate for the installation of a 586m long 600 dia pipe that will alleviate potential flooding of Glenwood Park at €196,430. In the event that this funding is secured, the Roads Department will seek to have the pipe laid along with the proposed Letterkenny Sewerage Improvement Scheme (Trunk Sewers - Phase 3), which is scheduled to be undertaken by Irish Water.”

***MDL 46/14*** **SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COUNCIL HOUSING**

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Shiels, seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council urgently apply to all relevant state bodies for additional funding for the provision of Council housing given the current undersupply of available council housing.”

Members were informed that:-

“On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, the Council received notification of an allocation of €208,915 under the Social Housing Investment Programme 2014 to cover existing contractual commitments only.

This allocation provided for the completion of two S.I. houses currently under construction, and further monies in relation to the housing development in Newtowncunningham and a small balance relating to a previous acquisition.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, as part of an Infrastructure Stimulus Package that would achieve high economic impact in the medium term and provide significant employment opportunities in the construction sector, the Council received a further allocation of €1,410,853.00. This allocation provided for the advancement of a small scale Scheme of six units at Glendale Drive, Letterkenny, and the construction of four single rural dwellings (S.I.'s).

Indicators are that these are the only monies which will be made available for new projects in 2014 – 2015.”

***MDL 47/14 TAXI PARKING AT OLD DUNNE’S STORES, LETTERKENNY***

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

“That the Council look into changing the Taxi Parking spot at Old Dunne’s Stores to an ordinary parking space.”

Members were informed that:-

“The change of this spot to a parking space will require an amendment to the Taxi Bye Laws, public consultation etc. There are no current plans to amend the Taxi Bye Laws.”

***MDL 48/14 BACK LANES MUCKISH AVENUE & SLIEVE SNEACHT***

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

“That the back lanes at Muckish Avenue and Slieve Sneacht be included for tarring in the next roads programme.”

Members were informed that:-

“As per every year, it is proposed to hold a Workshop around November/December where the Cllrs will prioritise the proposed 2015 Restoration Maintenance programme based on the recommendations from the Area Roads Engineering Staff. The prioritised list agreed here will represent the programme for 2015.”

***MDL 49/14 RESOLVE FLOODING ISSUES IN THE LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL AREA***

On the proposal of Cllr Dessie Sheils, seconded by Cllr. Ciaran Brogan the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council make substantial provision in its budget to prioritise the resolution of all known flooding issues in the Letterkenny Municipal Council area, with priority to be given to residential areas such as Glenwood Park, Letterkenny and the Ramelton Town Hall area.”

Members were informed that:-

“In relation to Glenwood Park, an initial design report puts the cost estimate for the installation of a 586m long 600dia pipe that will alleviate potential flooding of Glenwood Park at €196,430. In the event that this funding is secured, the Roads Department will seek to have the pipe laid along with the proposed Letterkenny Sewerage Improvement Scheme (Trunk Sewers - Phase 3), which is scheduled to be undertaken by Irish Water. In relation to Ramelton, an application is currently being prepared for submission to the OPW under the “Non-Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Measures” scheme, where any funding matched identified measures will be implemented. This location has further been referred to the OPW under the CFRAM Programme.”

***MDL 50/14 EXPAND REMIT OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES TO SMALLER TOWNS & VILLAGES***

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

“That the remit of the parks and open spaces be expanded to include the smaller towns and villages of the new Letterkenny Municipal area.”

Members were informed that:-

“The former Letterkenny Town Council budget for the operation, maintenance and improvement of parks and open spaces in 2014 was €937,100. The extent of the remit expansion beyond Letterkenny will depend on the extent of the allocated budget over and above this figure for 2015.”

***MDL 51/14 RESOLVE FLOODING ISSUES IN THE LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL AREA***

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

“That this meeting discusses as a matter of urgency the recent flood damage to our roads on Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> and what plans are in place for the essential repairs.”

Members were informed that:-

“Following an extensive assessment of the damage caused to the roads network following the floods of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014, the estimated assessments of the cost for the implementation of identified remedial measures, preventative measures and cleanup costs, at approximately 55 locations is €417,360. A report documenting same has been issued to the DOTTS with a request that emergency funding be sanctioned. A further number of applications are currently being prepared for submission to the OPW under the “Non-Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Measures” scheme, in relation to locations where flooding of residences has occurred, such as Ramelton.”

***MDL 52/14    ENGINEERING PLAN FOR ROAD DRAINAGE & MAINTENANCE***

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

“To discuss if our engineering plan for road drainage and maintenance is now fit for purpose because of the freak weather conditions. And to discuss if we have the necessary resources and manpower to deal with the problem.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Letterkenny Municipal District road drainage and maintenance plan, is based on the allocated National Road Maintenance, Regional Road Maintenance and Local Road Maintenance budget allocations which in 2014 totals €1.36m, This is used for such emergency responses as the flooding of 5<sup>th</sup> August, as well as oil spill cleanup, post accident road cleanup, sign/light replacement, repair of potholes, minor drainage works, street cleaning, gully cleaning, grass/hedge cutting for sightlines/safety, maintenance of safety barriers, bridge maintenance, outdoor labour costs etc. Pending the granting of any emergency funding, a €417k hit to a €1.36 budget means that repairs have to be carried out over time, with priorities on maintaining a safe road network.”

***MDL 53/14    FLOODING AT LITTLE BRIDGE IN RAMELTON***

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

“Flooding at Little Bridge in Ramelton, Housing and Community Centre. Will Donegal County Council provide financial support and do they have an obligation to deal with the channel.”

Members were informed that:-

“An application is currently being prepared for submission to the OPW under the “Non-Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Measures” scheme, in relation to Ramelton, where any funding matched identified measures will be implemented. This location has further been referred to the OPW under the CFRAM Programme.

CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) programme is the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk in Ireland, which is lead by the OPW, the aims of which are to:

- assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;
- identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole;
- prepare a strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk;”

***MDL 54/14    CARRY OUT A DISABILITY ACCESS SURVEY IN LETTERKENNY TOWN***

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

“That we carry out an extensive survey on Disability Access for those with Disabilities in and around Letterkenny Town and report back to our next meeting of the Municipal District with a plan of work and budget needed to ensure that Letterkenny Town is Disability Accessible Town.”

Members were informed that:-

“An Accessibility Audit was carried out by a specialist consultancy for the Letterkenny Town Council in 2007, whereby identified findings were subsequently carried out by the Town Council shortly after. A Walkability Survey was carried out in Letterkenny Town on 29/8/14 by Age Friendly Ireland. The findings will be reviewed upon receipt and required budget estimate established. A further survey relating to disability issues on the public roads can be carried out to further establish outstanding measures, and an associated budget requirement.”

***MDL 55/14    CARRY OUT SURVEY OF UNGERGROUND CULVERT FROM OATFIELD ROUNDABOUT TO PORT ROAD***

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

“That this Council carry out a survey on the underground culvert which runs from the Oatfield Roundabout to Stewart Mac Lochlainn Accountants office Port Road

to establish if there is any blockage which may have contributed to the recent flooding of the Letterkenny Shopping Centre.”

Members were informed that:-

“The Council will survey to the extent possible, however due to the flow, low gradient, and long length between manholes, this pipe is not suitable for CCTV survey. The Sprackburn has been referred to the OPW for study under the CFRAM Programme.”

***MDL 56/14    DATE OF NEXT MEETING***

It was agreed that the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting of Municipal District of Letterkenny would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Letterkenny Public Services Centre.

It was agreed that a Workshop on Unfinished Housing Estates in Letterkenny MD and the Take Over Process & Procedures would be held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Milford Public Services Centre.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Municipal District of Letterkenny would be held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Milford Public Services Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.