

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LETTERKENNY MEETING HELD IN THE LETTERKENNY PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE ON MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2017

MDL 399/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MDL400/17 OFFICIALS PRESENT

Fergal Doherty, S.E.E./Area Manager, Roads & Transportation
Eunan Kelly, Area Manager, Corporate & Housing Services
Ciaran Martin, Development Officer
Linda McCann, Senior Staff Officer
Donna McCorkell, Assistant Planner
Liam Ward, Director of Service

The meeting was chaired by Mayor, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh.

MDL401/17 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MDL MEETING HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by Cllr. Ian McGarvey, the Minutes of MDL Meeting held on 11th September, 2017 were adopted.

MDL402/17 BUS STOP AT STATION ROUNDABOUT

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

I propose that this Council improve facilities at the Bus Stop beside Michael Murphy Sports as of now there were no seats at all for bus passengers using the stop which was one of the busiest in the country.

The Members were advised that:

Roads had begun negotiations with the NTA with a view to upgrading the shelter and the provision of seating, and were currently awaiting a response from the NTA.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Brogan asked that the Council prepare a costings on the installation of seats and extension to the Bus Shelter making it more user friendly for students, elderly and disabled persons who use this shelter on a weekly basis and report back to a further meeting.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion. Cllr. O'Donnell advised that he had raised the same motion two years ago and nothing had been done. Cllr. O'Donnell stated that he did not submit any motions to this meeting as there was no follow up and no action on the motions that he has had passed.

Fergal Doherty advised that the bus shelters were a standard size and agreed to request that seats were put in place. Cllr. Brogan asked that the size and scaling of the shelter was doubled in size due to the number of people who use the Bus Stop and that a genuine effort was made to improve it.

MDL403/17 CRASH BARRIER ON BACK ROAD FROM GLEN TO MILFORD

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

That this Council would erect crash barriers and reflective corner indicators on an area from where there was a huge drop on the Back Road from Glen to Milford L1212. This road was used by school buses and there are fears that in icy weather, this would prove to be extremely dangerous and treacherous. There were currently some small reflective sticks which locals felt were inadequate.

The Members were advised that:

The Roads Department had constructed an earth bund and erected reflectors along the road to make the traffic aware of the potential hazard. There was currently no funded programme for the erection of safety barriers on non-national roads. The location had been referred for design, such that in the event that funding becomes available, works could be implemented.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. Glackin expressed his disagreement with the response given and described the road as dangerous and a lot of road users were unfamiliar with the layout.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Blaney supported the motion and agreed with Cllr. Glackin. Cllr. Blaney asked that funding was sourced to erect barriers as soon as possible.

Cllr. Glackin asked that safety should be put first to avoid fatalities due to the 10-15 ft drop.

MDL404/17 BALLYWHORISKEY PIER, FANAD

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

Calling on this Council to carry out necessary improvements on Ballywhoriskey Pier in Fanad. Currently there was one pontoon in operation but because it was placed on sharp rocks, only one boat was fit to be tied to it. I am asking for this area to be cleared of the sharp stones in order for second pontoon to be put in place, and efforts made to get the crane that was put in 2 years ago at considerable expense but which has never been used, up and running.

The Members were advised that:

This had been referred to the Marine Section for investigation.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin asked that the sharp stones were cleared and the issue with the crane resolved. Cllr. Glackin asked that a plan was put in place to have the crane operational.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and asked that a representative from the Marine Section attend the MDL Meetings to answer Members questions.

Liam Ward advised that there was a limited number of staff in the Marine Section and a number of MD Meetings taking place on the one day and suggested that a member of staff would attend a specific meeting and answers Members questions.

Cllr. Blaney asked that this be arranged for two meetings in the year.

MDL405/17 RABB'S PARK, KERRYKEEL

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

Calling on this Council to consider turning the bridge leading into Rabb's Park in Kerrykeel (Kerrykeel Soccer Pitch) into a one span bridge, as currently the 4 pipes under this bridge get blocked up with debris during heavy rain, leading to the river breaking its banks with the football pitch & houses level with the pitch adjacent to the bridge in Kerrykeel being flooded on a number of occasions in the past few years.

The Members were advised that:

This bridge was owned by and constructed by Kerrykeel Football Club. An application was previously submitted to the OPW to construct a replacement bridge

but no funding was received. A single span bridge would be at least 5m wide and a proper design would be required to see if a single span was necessary. The OPW are the national body tasked with the management of flood risk under the CFRAM programme. The OPW were aware of this location.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Glackin outlined the issue with trees coming down the river blocking the four pipes that run under the bridge. Cllr. Glackin thanked the Council for their assistance to date and asked that this is resolved as a priority as flash flooding is becoming more common in Kerrykeel.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and advised that the bridge was constructed by Kerrykeel Park Development and the adjoining facility was currently leased to the football club for their usage. Cllr. Blaney spoke of the serious flooding in the past and bridge was not capable of dealing with flow and that the OPW had advised that a two span bridge would resolve the issue and nothing had been done to date.

MDL406/17 ROAD SURFACE CONDITION LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council would provide a statement on what measures it takes in the Letterkenny Area to ensure that when laid have additional load bearing capacity to provide for the heavy volume of traffic in Letterkenny in particular areas such as at Ballyraine Road where the road surface was again showing premature signs of deterioration.

The Members were advised that:

Measures taken in relation to the load bearing capacity on a particular road, related to the funded programme under which the resurfacing of a road was to be undertaken. E.g. In relation to the funded RM Programme, this was a maintenance programme aimed at resealing existing roads to prolong their longevity with no structural improvement, whilst the RI Programme allowed for the improvement of the bearing capacity of a road under the direction and discretion of the Area Engineer to the extent of resources available. In relation to the National Roads, once a year the TII do a PAMS – (Pavement Asset Management Survey), which involved a mechanical survey of all their Nation Secondary and Primary Roads, giving information on profiles, scrim, cracking, rutting wheel depths info etc. All of this information was fed into the TIIs matrix and it highlights what sections of road warrants further investigation. The DNRDO then do a Pavement Asset Report (PAR) for each section of road highlighted at the request of the TII. To do a PAR the DNRDO visually inspected the road section and confirmed that it correlated with the PAMS, and undertake a structural survey which included the FWD (Falling Weight Deflectometer), coring and dynamic cone penetration. With this information, the road was designed in accordance with the DMBR for a 20yr

design life. This PAR was then sent to the TII, who make a decision to proceed to Tender or not. The Ballyraine Road was previously a Regional Road and had been classified as a National Road approximately 13 years ago. The TII had been advised of the deterioration of the Ballyraine Road, and requested to fund repairs. To date no funding had been committed.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels spoke of the deterioration of this road and the high volume of traffic using it. Cllr. Shiels asked when the Council requested funds from the TII and what was the response.

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

Fergal Doherty advised that the current means of applying for funding on National Roads was via the GeoApp electronic system, and agreed to forward to Cllr Shiels details on fund requests for the Ballyraine Road at the Roads Workshop on 19th October. Funding was requested a number of years ago and more recently on the GeoApp system.

Cllr. Shiels said there was now excessive traffic on this road following the newly constructed Unifi link and the lack of funding from TII was unacceptable.

MDL407/17 CULVERT WORKS AT CIRCULAR ROAD, LETTERKENNY

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

That this Council would write to Irish Water and request that it now immediately carry out the long planned Culvert Works at Circular Road, Letterkenny and making this Council's position clear that Irish Water would be directly responsible for any further flooding that arose in residential Estates in the Circular Road area as they had been on notice of the ongoing problem and risks to residents in the area ever since the previous flooding incidents but had not prioritised these urgent works but had instead focused on other less urgent projects.

The Members were advised that:

As per previous meetings, I.W. would be installing a new sewer along the route of the proposed culvert, along with which, D.C.C. Roads requested the culvert be included for pricing in I.W. 's Tender Documents for Letterkenny S.S. as an additional activity rate. If pricing of the culvert following tender process were to D.C.C. Road's satisfaction, D.C.C. and I.W. would complete agreement for culvert to be completed as confirmed works for the Letterkenny S.S. i.e. DCC would be paying for costs associated with culvert to I.W. I.W. had advised at this stage, It was expected the I.W. tender evaluation for Leterkenny SS would be completed in October /November, with construction in Q2 / Q3 2018, depending on I.W. securing the required wayleaves.

There was currently €200,000 set aside as per the former Town Council for the installation of this culvert. The returned price from the Irish Water tender would dictate the actual cost of installation and potential additional capital requirement if any from the MDL. Roads would advise of developments. I.W. had advised that they were progressing this as a priority.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels said that he had received a different reply to this motion when raised back on 9th September, 2014 which he read and asked why there has been no progress made three years on. Cllr. Shiels asked for clarity on the response.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney asked that the works were done earlier than Q1 or Q2 2018 and expressed concern on the length of time for wayleaves to be finalised.

Fergal Doherty advised that at least three separate updates had been given to Members at MDL Meetings since 9th September 2014, and that in 2014 the former Letterkenny Town Council had set aside €200,000 for this work which was still available for this project. Since 2014 the recommendations from design consultant were that the size of the proposed waste water pipe be increased to 750mm diameter, which would increase installation costs. Mr. Doherty advised that Irish Water were installing a sewer pipe in the centre of Circular Road as part of the sewerage upgrade programme around Letterkenny, and that the Council have been progressing the inclusion of the 750 dia. Storm water pipe as part of their contract which was more feasible to carry out as one project. It would not make sense to do the two jobs separately.

Mr. Doherty stated that until the tenders had been returned, the Council do not know the cost to the Council for installation of the 750 pipe but the cost over €200,000 would need to be funded. Combining the works would reduce the overall cost of the project as the resurfacing costs of the road would be shared between the Council and Irish Water.

The tender process for IW would be completed in November. The Council had no control over when I.W. programme the works. Subject to identification of funding, there would be a shared trench from Glenwood to Long Lane, and storm water only from Long Lane to Oatfield Crescent. The Council was liaising with the OPW to fund upgrading of the culvert Chamber at Oatfield Terrace and box culverts through Oatfield Crescent green and also down the High Road along the Sprackburn. Previous applications to the OPW for funding these sections were unsuccessful

Cllr. Shiels took issue with the response and the delay outlined, expressing the concerns of the residents of flooding due to the delays. Cllr. Shiels asked that the Council write to Irish Water on foot of this motion requesting that they prioritise this project in the event of any flooding happening.

MDLA08/17 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – LETTERKENNY TOWN

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

That this Council consulted with professional traffic management consultants to determine a strategy for installation of a peak travel times traffic lights system at all entry points to the Polestar Roundabout, Letterkenny to reduce congestion in an organised, safe and cost effective way with a view to such a system being rolled out throughout Letterkenny in other very congested areas such as at the Mountain Top Roundabout, Pramerica Roundabout, the Hospital Roundabout, Circular Road Roundabout, Tesco Roundabout and Oldtown Roundabout.

The Members were advised that:

The first step in undertaking reviews and progressing work in relation to junctions (be it minor improvements/traffic light solutions) was to complete traffic counts – the counts were to be taken at similar locations as the original LUTS counts and this would firstly verify the LUTS accuracy and secondly help advise on the detailed design of the traffic light system and signalling requirements. The traffic counts company was currently appointed and counts were currently ongoing. Further details of the ongoing traffic counts would be discussed at the MDL workshop on the 19th October, 2017.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Shiels acknowledged that the Polestar Roundabout works well outside of peak times but was not working to capacity during peak times. Cllr. Shiels highlighted the non-consistent movement of traffic and asked that this was looked at by a traffic management consultant or by Council staff with the same expertise.

On seconding the motion Cllr. Blaney fully supported the motion and noted that he had raised this issue since May 2017 and had not received any update reports from the Council on the traffic management in Letterkenny despite requesting same for the September meeting. He acknowledged that a workshop on Infrastructure Needs of Letterkenny that was proposed for 4th October 2017 had been rescheduled to the 19th October 2017

Cllr. Blaney suggested that a slip road was put in place on the Ballyraine Road to free traffic from the Ramelton Road to the four lane as a short-term measure. Cllr. Blaney raised concern on traffic movement during the proposed Irish Water works on the proposed watermain from Pollan Dam and the installation of the central median on the four lane. Cllr. Blaney also highlighted concern on the impact of the traffic lights at the LYIT.

Cllr. Shiels stated that the Oldtown Junction was also a major problem in the town and asked when the 80 kph signs would be erected on the four lane.

MDL409/17 BARRACK CROSSROAD, GLENSWILLY & GLENKEERAGH JUNCTION

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

That this MD considered erecting extra lighting for safety concerns at junction at Barrack Crossroads in Glenswilly and also the Glenkeeragh Junction at the White Hill entrance.

The Members were advised that:

The proposed locations would be included in the Three Year Programme currently being developed for prioritisation by members. It was anticipated that a workshop would be arranged in November for prioritisation of identified locations

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid said a number of residents had raised concern about the hidden dip on the Barrack Junction and requested additional lighting.

Cllr. Brogan fully supported the motion.

MDL410/17 GARDA BARRACKS, CHURCHILL

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

That this MD write to the Minister for Justice asking that they consider purchasing a suitable premises for a Garda Barracks in Churchill and reopen as it was deemed as 1 of the Garda Barracks that should be considered for reopening in the recent Garda report on crime.

The Members were advised that:

If the motion is passed this MD would write to the Minister for Justice asking that they consider purchasing a suitable premises for a Garda Barracks in Church Hill.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid said that Churchill was listed as one of 78 towns nationally that should have a Garda Barracks re-opened. Cllr. McDaid said that regrettably the former barracks in Churchill had been sold and that there needed to be a local point of contact in the village for residents.

On seconding the motion Cllr. McGarvey fully supported the motion and said it was similar to Rathmullan, Ramelton, Kilmacrennan, Kerrykeel and Carrigart where the local Garda Station was removed. Cllr. McGarvey stated the best form of security was having a Garda presence in the town and said this needed to be restored.

Cllr. McBride said that in the past, the Churchill Garda Station had one Garda and the Kilmacrennan Garda Station had three Gardai. The station in Kilmacrennan was not now manned and he understood that there was a family considering moving out of the town due to anti-social behaviour and lack of law and order.

MDL411/17 JUNCTION AT GLENSWILLY GAA GROUNDS

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

That this Council put up additional safety signs/Slow signs Dangerous junction ahead on the Churchill side of the entrance to Glenswilly GAA Grounds. Local Residents in the area are very concerned with the speed and the possibility of a fatal accident happening.

The Members were advised that:

This request had been referred to Road Design to carry out an Audit. The findings of this safety audit would determine the measures to be implemented, after which time the area would seek to implement findings.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McDaid said he raised this previously and asked that the Council erect slow / warning signs due to the constant flow of traffic into the GAA grounds and the speed of traffic coming from Churchill direction.

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

Fergal Doherty advised that Road Design was currently looking at this road and carrying out a safety audit. Cllr. McDaid asked that this is done at peak times when bingo, training, etc is on.

MDL412/17 DISABLED PARKING LOWER MAIN STREET, LETTERKENNY

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

That the Council provide a disabled parking spot in the vicinity of Harkin's Chiropody Practice, Lower Main Street, Letterkenny.

The Members were advised that:

Area Roads would include this disabled parking bay at Lower Main Street Letterkenny as part of an upcoming Road lining programme.

On proposing the motion Cllr. Kavanagh welcomed the reply and asked when this would be done.

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

MDL413/17 CLEARING DRAINS IN LETTERKENNY

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

That we carry out a cleaning operation of all drains in estates in our MD after the recent storms as a lot of them are blocked with leaves and dirt.

The Members were advised that:

The Roads Section would continue to clean out drains on an ongoing basis as part of the maintenance schedule, on all public roads in estates. Many estate drains had been cleaned out since the recent storms.

On proposing the motion, Cllr. McMonagle stated there were a lot of blocked drains in estates in the town and residents were fearful of flooding. Cllr. McMonagle stated that the resident association in Hawthorn Heights, was willing to clear the gullies however were unable to do so as they were locked. Cllr. McMonagle asked for a list of the estates that had been done to date as part of the Council' programme.

On seconding the motion, Cllr. Glackin asked that the Council worked with residents associations in an effort to be proactive and not reactive in times of flooding.

Fergal Doherty advised that a list of the estates would be forwarded to Cllr Mc Monagle at the upcoming Roads Workshop on the 19th October, 2017. Mr. Doherty advised that the gullies were locked under Health & Safety and that the Council would work with the residents in Hawthorn Heights on their concerns.

MDL414/17 RAMELTON TOWN

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

Can I have the opportunity to ask that the many issues requested for Ramelton over a period be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The Members were advised that:

Ramelton issues raised by Cllr Mc Garvey over the years were dealt with as funding was made available for them. E.g. As per the recently issued report on the DCS allocation, the section of footpath agreed, was to be constructed in the coming weeks.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey spoke of the many issues in Ramelton, sewerage, traffic, footpaths, street markings, car parking, derelict buildings, and the closure of the Garda Station and library.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion and spoke of the lack of action on the motions raised.

Fergal Doherty advised that when funding becomes available programmes were agreed by Members and work was carried out and that the Council can only carry out works when funding was available.

Cllr. O'Donnell disagreed and stated that the Roads Overseers were dictating the programme of works and not the Members.

Cllr. McGarvey said that the Council did not have the funding available to have the motions addressed.

Liam Ward acknowledged the frustrations of the Members and the difficulty of making things happen in the absence of identified funding.

MDL415/17 **PURCHASE OF HOUSING ESTATE IN RAMELTON**

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

That this M.D considered the possibility of buying the Housing Estate above Coylin Court in view of the Housing crisis.

The Members were advised that:

The Council was considering all options to meet the housing need in the county including construction of housing developments, purchases, Capital Assistance Schemes, Capital Advanced Leasing Facility, Buy & Renew, Long Term Leasing etc.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said as there was a major demand for housing asked that the Council considered purchasing this estate to meet the demand in Ramelton. Cllr. McGarvey expressed disappointment that Donegal had not received funding under the recently announced Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund which Donegal was one of 21 local authorities that made an application of which 15 were approved.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion.

Liam Ward advised that the Council was considering all options to meet the demand for social housing and noted that an additional fund had been announced in

the Budget under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund of €75m and the Council would consider making a submission to same.

MDL416/17 **GROUP WATER SCHEMES**

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

That this M.D clarified the present position on all Group Water Schemes in their area.

The Members were advised that:

Group Water Schemes that had not been taken over by Irish Water would continue to be considered a Group Water Scheme until such time as they were approved under the Irish Water takeover process. Irish Water had recently developed a standard procedure for the takeover process. The three main criteria for group water schemes to be eligible to be taken over by Irish Water were compliance with all Technical, Legal and Financial requirements.

Donegal County Council provided a coordination role in the takeover process in the transition of a group water scheme to the Irish Water public supply. Donegal County Council encouraged group water schemes promoters to progress their schemes towards takeover. Any Group Water Scheme requesting take over should do so by writing to the Rural Water Liaison Officer, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford. Irish Water and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes provide guidance and advice about the takeover process.

On proposing the motion Cllr. McGarvey said that many Trustees/Promoters were no longer available and asked if the Scheme was not up to standard for take-over who was responsible.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion and asked why the Council was requesting €650 to connect to a new watermain where there had been a Group Water Scheme in place.

Cllr. Blaney said that he was aware of a Group Scheme that applied to be taken over in 2013, met the criteria and nothing had been done since and asked was it the Council or Irish Water that now owned it.

Cllr. Brogan said this issue was affecting everyone and expressed dissatisfaction in Irish Water, and its call centre in Cork and the system for dealing with elected members queries. Dooballagh Group Water Scheme was in a similar position, as was the extension of sewer line to Bonagee which was committed to 20 years ago. Cllr. Brogan said that Group Water Schemes helped sustain rural Ireland and that Irish Water was not interested in them as there was no financial gain.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that I.W. Forms be made available in the local Public Services Centres as a lot of people were unable to complete forms online.

Joe Ferry advised that there was an Irish Water office in Donegal PSC and that Irish Water is a national utility as is the ESB and this was the way it had been set up.

MDL417/17 SEWERAGE MAIN AT LEITIR CROSSROADS, KILMACRENNAN

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

That this Council recommended that Irish Water extend the existing sewerage main to the Leitir crossroad in Kilmacrennan in conjunction with the upgrading of the N56.

The Members were advised that:

This request should be raised directly with Irish Water.

The Capital Office were aware that

- *Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan review does not include for any network extensions in Kilmacrennan – only 1 no upgrade (Milford Road and cross connection (Back road)).*
- *the tender date for the NRA (Roads) project may already have passed.*
- *The extents of the Road Contract does not extend through the village and stops approximately 100 – 150m short of bridge (River Lennon),*

On proposing the motion Cllr. McBride said he would raise the issue directly with Irish Water. Cllr. McBride requested that the line was extended a further 100 yds as it would be more cost effective when the road would be opened.

On seconding the motion Cllr. O'Donnell fully supported the motion.

MDL418/17 MAYORS BUSINESS

Cllr. Kavanagh advised that he had attended the following in the past month:

1. Attended the handover of the Pan Celtic Charter on 19th September, 2017 with Cllr. McMonagle, Cathoirleach.
2. Enterprise Town Presentation in Co-Lab.
3. Jigsaw Launch on 26th September
4. Official Opening of Pieta House on 29th September
5. Launch of Social Inclusion Week
6. Chamber of Commerce Halloween Shopping Launch
7. Launch of One Act Drama Festival on 3rd October
8. North West Simon Sleep Out on 6th October
9. HSE Flu Vaccine Launch on 9th October
10. Culture Night on 29th September

Cllr Liam Blaney asked that a letter issue to Milford GAA on winning the Intermediate Championship.

MDL419/17 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members were informed of the upcoming meetings agreed as follows:

Letterkenny Town Forum Meeting to be held on 12th October, 2017 at 4.00 p.m.

Statutory Budget Meeting to be held on 19th October, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

Infrastructure Needs of Letterkenny Workshop to be held on 19th October, 2017 following the Budget Meeting.

The Members agreed to receive a presentation from Paul McGill, County Secretariat's office on the new Draft Polling Scheme at the next meeting on 14th November, 2017.

The Members agreed to hold a Workshop on the Take Over of Housing Estates on 14th November, 2017 at 11.30 a.m.

MDL420/17 **ENVIRONMENT**

The Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda on the following:

- Litter Statistics - September 2017
- Historic Tyre Stockpile Clean Up
- Anti-Dumping Initiative 2017 – Phase 1
- Meenaclady Clean Up
- Re-branding Recycling Bring Banks
- Re-use Month October 2017
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection 2017
- Coastle Management

The Members welcomed the report.

Cllr. Blaney complimented the local community groups in their work on community and beach clean ups and the staff of the Council for their support to these groups.

MDL421/17 **COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

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

- Social Enterprise Building
- Fanad Lighthouse
- Pan Celtic Festival

- Letterkenny Retail Fund
- Walks Development
- Healthy Ireland
- Rural Development Programme / LEADER
- Community Facilities Scheme Recommendations

The Members welcomed the report.

Ciaran Martin advised that Donegal LCDC received a fund of €64,500 for the Community Facilities Grant Scheme and had agreed that this fund would be divided equally between each Municipal District.

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh it was agreed that the fund of €12,900 would be divided as recommended to the successful applicants as outlined in the report circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. Blaney asked that any future funding received under this fund was divided based on the size of each Municipal District.

Liam Ward agreed to take this feedback to Donegal LCDC.

MDL422/17 **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION**

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

422.1 LIS Allocation

The Members were informed by Fergal Doherty that Letterkenny MD had been allocated €248,566 and a list of proposed roads was presented to the Members in a Workshop prior to the MDL Meeting. The qualify applications were ranked in accordance with the extensive qualification and ranking criteria and were allocated as near as possible to the allocated budget. He recommended the list as presented be approved.

Cllr. Blaney asked that the criteria used to select the roads was put into the public domain. Cllr. Blaney did not consider the approach taken to be a fair approach and understood the roads with the worst condition would be done. Cllr. Blaney said that the Members had two options, 1) was to reject the recommendation in front of them and risk losing the funding or 2) For 2018 to seek full clarity on the criteria used in selecting roads under this Scheme. Cllr. Blaney asked that the full list of applications was circulated in order that he could advise applicants in relation to the cost of their road.

Fergal Doherty explained the criteria used in association with the Memorandum issued by the Department. The proposed list of 17 schemes was chosen from the

264 applications on the principle of treating the poorer roads whilst also maximising the number of beneficiaries. To that end the following steps were taken: All application locations were visited on site by an Engineer or Overseer who carried out a cost estimate of the scheme. The list of schemes was then ranked in order of cost per linear metre (taking into account set up/plant movement costs), and prioritised in accordance with the following:

- Ranked in order of worst roads based on the cost per linear metre from costings, Roads below €60/m eliminated.
- To spread the benefit, and ensure deliverable within the time, jobs where total cost was above 1/3 of Overseers area allocation were eliminated in each area (Appendix 2 –Scheme criteria).
- Ranked in respect of number of beneficiaries - owners. (Appendix 2-Value for Money)
- Where number of beneficiaries was the same, identified hardship in the application form was considered.

The resulting 17 schemes proposed would benefit in excess of 80 beneficiaries.

Cllr. Brogan asked for a complete list of the roads submitted for funding as requested at the Workshop held in the morning. Cllr. Brogan advised that he had looked at a road on the proposed list and considered that it should not be given priority over other roads.

Fergal Doherty advised that the list was not available due to the meetings running all day.

Cllr. O'Donnell asked that the meeting would be adjourned for 15 minutes so that the list could be made available.

Fergal Doherty advised that there was considerable work in compiling the list as it had been prioritised three times in line with the criteria used. Mr. Doherty advised that the Members were disputing the interpretation of the guidelines and suggested to hold a workshop on Thursday morning to discuss this in an effort to potentially come up with an alternative interpretation of the guidelines that the Members would accept, within an auditable selection procedure that the Council can stand over.

Cllr. McGarvey expressed frustration at the inadequate funding received and only 17 roads to be funded out of 246 applications.

Cllr. McDaid said that the Members were not being listened or given any consideration in this matter. Cllr. McDaid said that the allocation of €248,566 for Letterkenny MD was not sufficient when applications to the value of €6m had been received in the area and €22m needed countywide. Cllr. McDaid asked who had

made the decision to submit applications to the Department to the value of €1m. He felt that role of the Councillors was getting less and less.

Cllr. Glackin stated that he was aware of the condition of some of these roads and it would not be possible to obtain a consensus with the low allocation received to meet the demands.

Cllr Blaney stated that there was a lot of frustration with the criteria which he did not agree with and which were not set by Donegal County Council. He could agree with the criteria if worst roads were being done. He acknowledged the amount of work by Council staff on all the applications that were made. He also requested a full list of applications made.

Cllr. Brogan said the LIS was a massive scheme in Donegal and people were delighted when it was announced although he was sceptical. The Council applied for €1m initially when the Council had received applications to the value of over €20m. Cllr. Brogan said it was not the fault of the Members that the Executive took the decision not to apply for full value of the applications. The single biggest issue in the Council is roads. Cllr. Brogan said he would not accept the list circulated at the Workshop and that the Executive took the decision to mislead Members, that the most need was not being accommodated, that he had no confidence and was being treated with arrogance. Cllr. Brogan supported the adjournment of the meeting to Thursday morning.

Cllr. O'Donnell proposed that the meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes to allow full list to be prepared and allow members to give the public answers on their queries. Cllr. Blaney seconded this proposal.

Cllr. McBride said that there had been a lot of discussion on the nature of the scheme, applications and time of year to have the work completed. Cllr. McBride said the scheme needed to be equitable and that geographically the public were not getting fair treatment. Cllr. McBride said external contractors should have been allowed to carry out the works to the standards set by the Council to allow a larger turnover of roads prior to the end of year. He asked that the list of applications received to date remain and any new applications received next year would go at the bottom of the list.

Liam Ward said that he was concerned at some of commentary by members and there was a commitment to a further meeting on Thursday morning and said that the timing given on the LIS funding was extremely tight as it had to be spent by the end of the year. Mr. Ward said there was a full day of meetings and staff were in attendance for the full duration of same, and as a consequence it was not possible to have the full list at the meeting. Mr. Ward asked if an adjournment of this item would be sufficient and in the interim the Committee would proceed with the remaining items on the Agenda.

Fergal Doherty advised that it would take approximately two hours to compile the list and agreed to circulate same to the Members by noon the following day along with a copy of the LIS Memorandum and Appendix which the Members needed to reach agreement on criteria in order to agree a revised list of schemes.

Cllr. McGarvey asked if the memorandum stated that Members did not have a say on the agreed list.

Fergal Doherty advised that the guidelines circular from the Department states that “the priority to be accorded to projects are matters to be determined by the Councils engineering staff” and “ in no circumstances, should allocations be divided amongst elected representatives either individually or be divided between electoral areas on the basis of the number of elected representatives in each”. Fergal Doherty also advised that the proposed list discussed at workshop was prepared by the Roads Engineers and could not be distributed by Supervisor areas. Fergal Doherty advised that the guidelines could be interpreted in different ways, and the prioritised list as presented to members at the workshop, was just one interpretation of the guidelines. He fully stood over the executive’s interpretation, as it treated roads in need whilst maximising beneficiaries. He advised that given the level of Cllr dissatisfaction, that a workshop be held on Thursday to potentially come up with an alternative interpretation of the guidelines that the Members would accept, within an auditable selection procedure that the Council can stand over. Any alternative proposal would not suit all members.

He further advised that one alternative interpretation was that they simply take the top schemes from the cost prioritised list, however that would result in fewer schemes being completed with fewer beneficiaries. It was agreed to hold a further workshop on 12th October.

Cllr. Shiels said that it did not state that Members did not have a say but that applications could not be distributed by their areas.

Cllr. Brogan agreed that it did not say that Members did not have a role and asked for details on where in the guidelines it said to send certain applications to the Department and keep others out.

Cllr. Blaney said there was a lack of respect for Councillors otherwise the list would have been provided before the meeting. Cllr. Blaney said he would have not been aware that only €1m was applied for initially only that Deputy Joe McHugh announced that the Council had received 88% of funding applied for. They were then advised Council had applied for €2.5m. Cllr. Blaney said that Members were led to believe that every effort would be made to deliver the works on all applications. Cllr. Blaney believed that workers could do more than two to three jobs per area if the willingness was there at a higher level.

It was agreed to have a Workshop at 9.00 a.m. on 12th October 2017 in the Letterkenny PSC to consider the matter further.

422.2 Winter Maintenance

The Members were informed that the 2017/2018 Winter Maintenance season would commence on Monday, 16th October, 2017 and terminate on the 30th April, 2018 and there was no agreed changes to routes this year from last year. Full details of the routes were available on line with regular updates on social media and the Council's website.

422.3 Update on Identification of Low Cost Traffic Measures for Letterkenny

The Members were informed that a Workshop with Road Design staff would be held on 19th October, 2017 on the current status of developments in relation to low cost identification of measures aimed at reducing traffic congestion in Lettekenny.

Cllr Liam Blaney suggested that drop off points for children be considered from where they could be bussed to school.

422.4 Replacement of High Energy Public Lighting

The Members were updated on the Council's programme of lighting upgrades and circulated a summary of LED Upgrade Works done in MD of Letterkenny as part of the energy saving programme which included the following:

Network Only:

Main Road Pier, Downings – 45 upgraded

Port Road, Letterkenny – 11 upgraded

Housing Estates:

Longlane, Slieve Sneacht, Meadowbank – 34 upgraded

Hazelwood Drive, Letterkenny – 14 upgraded

Hillview, Kilmacrennan – 3 upgraded

Milltown Estate, Kilmacrennan – 5 upgraded

Bracken Lea, Ballaghderg – 15 upgraded

Hazelbrook Crescent, Letterkenny – 8 upgraded

Manorview Park, Letterkenny – 9 upgraded

422.5 One Way System at Rathmullan & Letterkenny

The Members were informed that the one-way system for Letterkenny and Rathmullan was at Part 8 Planning stage.

Cllr. Brogan asked that the proposed one-way system in Letterkenny was sent to the residents in College Row, bus users and the media.

425.6 Carrigart/Downings Footpath

The Members were informed that the proposed footpath from Carrigart to Downings was at Part 8 Planning stage

MDL423/17 PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Members noted the content of the Planning Report circulated with the Agenda which included:

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

Donna McCorkell advised that next planning clinic was on 18th October, 2017 which she would be covering for Martin McDermott.

MDL424/17 HOUSING & CORPORATE SERVICES

The Members noted a progress report circulated with the Agenda on Housing and Corporate Services which included updates on the following:

- HAP
- Grants
- Loans
- Casual Vacancies
- Social Housing Investment Programme – SHIP 2015 – 2020 / Rebuilding Ireland 2021

424.1 Section 183 Notice – Sale of S.I. House at Golan, Milford

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Blaney and seconded by Cllr. James Pat McDaid approval was agreed to proceed to issue formal Notice under Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 and Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 to Plenary Council.

Questions

MDL 425/17 TADGH CULBER CAR PARK, HIGH ROAD, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question on whether he could have an update report on the schedule of works and timescale for the Tadgh Culbert Car Park on the High Road in Letterkenny, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

Works were commencing this week on the new carpark at the former Fire Station. The works would be carried out by Roads Staff in conjunction with ongoing programmes, and would entail construction of a retaining wall, kerbing, public lighting, drainage and surfacing. It was envisaged that works would be substantially completed by end of the year.

MDL 426/17 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CENTRE

In answer to his question on whether he could have an updated report on the proposed schedule of works and timescale of ERDF funding for New Social Enterprise Centre, Joe Bonner Road, improving linkages between the new and established town centre areas in Letterkenny and with specific improvements to areas along Port Road, Lower Main Street and Oliver Plunkett Road, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

As outlined in the question, there were three distinct parts to the funding received by Letterkenny under the Designated Urban Grants Scheme (DUGS):

- 1. The provision of a Social Enterprise Centre. The procurement of the integrated design team for the Social Enterprise Building had gone to tender. Tender documentation had been published to the e-tenders website and tenders were due to return on Friday 10th November 2017 at 12.00pm, giving tenderers a 5 week period to respond.*
- 2. The development of the Joe Bonnar Link Road. The Joe Bonnar Road would soon see the issue of a contract for the provision of ground stabilisation works to be followed by sewage infrastructure works by Irish Water.*
- 3. The improved linkages (footpaths and lighting) with the Town Centre. Road Design were currently at survey and design stage with regards the Town Centre improvements and these would proceed to Part VIII Planning in due course.*

MDL 427/17 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT LYIT

In answer to his question of whether he could have a report on the workings of the traffic lights at LYIT, Cllr. Ciaran Brogan was advised that:

Analysis of the workings of the traffic lights had been undertaken by the installers, and further analysis was ongoing. It was proposed that a report be taken to the arranged workshop on 19th October 2017.

MDL 428/17 TAKE OVER OF WILLOW PARK ESTATE

In answer to his question on whether there were plans for the Council to take over the Willow Park Estate in Letterkenny, Cllr Adrian Glackin was advised that:

The Planning Authority intended to take in charge the Willow Park Housing Estate in Upper Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny. Public lighting had already been taken in charge and the Planning Authority would consult with Area Roads as the surfacing of the estate road (given its age) required attention.

MDL 429/17 BOXING CLUB LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question on whether it was possible that repair work could be carried out on the lane up to and steps leading up to the Boxing Club in Letterkenny from the Port Road as they had gotten into a bad state of repair and he felt the steps were currently a health and safety issue, Cllr. Adrian Glackin was advised that:

Letterkenny Roads would assess the condition of the lane and steps at this back lane in Letterkenny and include any works in the Maintenance schedule

MDL 430/17 TAKE-OVER OF ESTATES AT AN GARRAN & WILLOW PARK

In answer to his question on whether he could have an update on the status of estate takeover for An Garran, Long Lane and Willow Park, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

The Council was not in receipt of a Taking in Charge application for An Garran, Long Lane. As the Development Company and Management Company had been dissolved the residents should make an application – in this regard the majority of homeowners (51%) needed to sign the application. Public lighting had been certified by Airtricity could be taken in charge if Planning Authority were in receipt of TIC application. There was a bank guaranteed bond on €17,773 which the Planning Authority had a claim on.

The Council was in receipt of an application to take-over Willow Park and it was included in the next tranche of estates to be considered for take-over in the MD of Letterkenny. It was an old estate and there were deficiencies in the road surfacing. It was planned to progress the take-over of these estates in the coming months. Public lighting in the estate had already been taken in charge.

MDL 431/17 MARKET SQUARE, LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question on whether there was any update on the agreed work at Market Square specifically cutting down the large trees at the front, and cutting back the other trees in the area and other tasks as per previous motions from both Cllr. McMonagle and him, Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Roads had agreed a programme with the Town Gardener for the trees to be regularly pruned. Given the length of time for trees to mature, there was a reluctance to cut down the mature trees in the square. It was anticipated that in the course of an upcoming review of CCTV cameras in the area, that any apparent deficiencies would be addressed.

MDL 432/17 ROAD AT OLD DUNNES STORES TO ROCKHILL

In answer to his question on whether the Council could put a centre line on the road from Old Dunnes Stores out to Rockhill, Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh was advised that:

Roads would be putting centre lines on parts of this road where appropriate. In other locations where the width was narrow, centre lines were not appropriate, and edge lines only would be applied.

MDL 433/17 RAHAN ROAD & OLDTOWN / LECK ROAD

In answer to his question on whether the Council had considered putting a yellow box junction in place at the junction between the Rahan Road and Oldtown/Leck Road, Letterkenny to improve traffic flow and safety at this junction at peak traffic times where backed up heavy traffic was preventing traffic travelling from the Rahan Road from travelling onto the Oldtown/Leck Road in the normal way, Cllr Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The Council had reviewed this junction and deemed that a yellow box was not appropriate. When backing up of traffic occurred on the Oldtown/Leck Road, this was generally in the morning with traffic approaching town, when traffic entering from the Rahan Road was also approaching town. The placement of a yellow box did not provide an improvement when placed in a location where both lines of traffic were competing for the same road space.

MDL 434/17 KINNEGAR BEACH, RATHMULLAN

In answer to his question on whether the Council could carry out improvement works at the Entrance to Kinnegar Beach Rathmullan to improve the amenity use of Kinnegar Beach, to include a name sign, 'no littering' signs, litter disposal facilities and also repair the large potholes on the Road at the entrance to the beach, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The Environment Section would investigate options for waste related signage and infrastructure for Kinnegar Beach and would look at options regarding the potholes on the access road.

MDL 435/17 LETTERKENNY COURTHOUSE

In answer to his question on whether he could have a statement from the Council with specific and clear details of what the Council planned to do with the existing Letterkenny Courthouse building immediately upon it being vacated by the Courts Service in the next few months and of what immediate use it would be put to and what monies it had budgeted to deal with the building immediately at that time as regards any maintenance /repairs/ conversions works etc that were then needed, Cllr. Dessie Shiels was advised that:

The future use of the Letterkenny Courthouse building was currently being considered by Donegal County Council following the confirmation that the building would revert to the Council, when it ceased being used as a Courthouse and was vacated by the Courts Services. It was anticipated that this would occur in 2018.

MDL 436/17 GLENMAQUINN SCHOOL JUNCTION

In answer to his question on whether he could have an update on funding for safety works at Glenmaquinn School, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

There was currently no funding for the required realignment works as identified in the report brought before members and discussed at various MDL meetings. In the event that members identified the required funding at upcoming budget meetings for 2018, then the Roads Section would programme works for 2018.

MDL 437/17 SEACOR CROSSROADS, GLENSWILLY

In answer to his question on whether the Seacor Crossroads in Glenswilly had been sign posted, many tourists and visitors were getting lost in this area, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

Roads were currently investigating with a view to erection of appropriate signage.

MDL 438/17 STREET LIGHTING GLENSWILLY

In answer to his question on when would the Lighting be erected at McFaddens Shop in Glenswilly, Cllr. James Pat McDaid was advised that:

As per the recently issued report in relation to DCS agreed programme, the lighting at Mc Faddens Shop in Glenswilly was programmed to be erected by the end of October.

MDL 439/17 CCTV SYSTEM IN LETTERKENNY

In answer to his question on whether there was any update on expansion of CCTV system in Letterkenny, Cllr Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

The Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce were proposing to make a funding application to expand the CCTV system in Letterkenny under the Community CCTV funding programme announced earlier this year. Such applications required the support of Donegal Co. Council and the Joint Policing Committee and it was anticipated that this support would be forthcoming.

MDL 440/17 DERELICT LANDS ADJACENT TO LETTERKENNY SHOPPING CENTRE

In answer to his question on whether he could have an update in relation to his motion reference clearing the Derelict lands adjacent to Letterkenny Shopping Centre/Aldi, Cllr Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

The Fire Authority operated under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 and this act included a definition which stated that a 'potentially dangerous building' meant any building which would, in the event of a fire occurring therein, constitute a serious danger to life for any of the following reasons ... As the referenced land was not a building, the reasons had not been listed and the Fire Authority had no statutory powers to compel any action in this case i.e. clearance of any lands, derelict or otherwise.

However, as previously stated the Fire Authority had no issue, in principal, in writing out to the owner of the referenced land. The letter, which would be advisory only, would have no subsequent enforcement action possible on foot of it. The letter should be issued by the end of this week or early next week.

Consideration would be given to using other legislation i.e. Derelict Sites Act 1990 or the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

MDL 441/17 PURCHASE OF REPOSSESSED PROPERTIES

In answer to his question on whether this Council had been in contact with Lending Institutions of the State (Banks, Building Societies etc) in relation to the many vacant properties that they owned across Letterkenny with a view to purchasing houses that they repossessed, Cllr Gerry McMonagle was advised that:

The agreed procedure was that the lending agencies contacted the Housing Agency in the first instance. The Housing Agency would then contact the relevant Local Authority querying demand in the area where the houses were available. If suitable houses could be offered to the Local Authority or an Approved Housing Body. The Council had been offered a number of properties which were being considered and this process was ongoing.

MDL 442/17 TREATMENT PLANT AT GORTLOUGH

In answer to his question on what was intended with the proposed Treatment Plant at Gortlough and where would it serve, Cllr Ian McGarvey was advised that:

A response was being prepared by Irish Water and would be circulated shortly.

MDL 443/17 LOUGH COLM

In answer to his question on what was the position with Lough Colm and had it got back to full capacity, Cllr Ian McGarvey was advised that:

A response was being prepared by Irish Water and would be circulated shortly.

MDL 444/17 SEWERAGE TREATMENT

In answer to his question on what was the update in Sewerage Treatment for the three Towns – Rathmullan, Milford & Ramelton, Cllr. Ian McGarvey was advised that:

Irish Water had directed that they would respond on all such queries in relation to Water Services. The question should be raised directly with Irish Water.

MDL 445/17 5 YEAR HOUSING PLAN

In answer to his question on what was the Housing Plan for the next 5 years for the Letterkenny Municipal District and how many houses were proposed and in what area, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

Social Housing Investment Programme- SHIP 2015-2020/Rebuiding Ireland 2021

Letterkenny, Long Lane – 29 Units

The proposed social housing scheme at Long Lane, Letterkenny had received Part VIII planning approval and was currently at design stage. The Department had granted stage 2 approval for this social housing development with a budget of €4,966,234 for the construction of 12 two bed units, 15 three bed units and 2 four bed units on this site. Donegal County Council, having taken into consideration the extent of the overall Social Housing Investment Programme 2015-2021, had decided to procure external Consultants to carry forward the project to tender and construction stage. This process was ongoing and it was expected that the appointment of the successful Architect Led Design Team would be made shortly. The proposed development would proceed in accordance with standard departmental approval processes and it was expected that construction would commence on this development in the 2nd quarter of 2018.”

Carrigart

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.

A detailed site investigation had been carried on existing Donegal County Council owned lands, which established very poor ground conditions including peat and blue till with rapid ingress of water and collapsing trenches. The feasibility of a housing project on this site was currently being reviewed in the context of technical challenges and costs associated with the adverse ground conditions.

Donegal County Council were also examining other lands in Carrigart for compliance with social housing design guidelines, cost and value for money and have had discussions with the Department in this regard.

Further options forthcoming in future ie purchases of suitable properties would also be considered.

CAS (Apex) Letterkenny – Willowbrook - 40 Units

Stage -1 (Approval in Principle) approval for €4,753,782 for this CAS proposal was received on 13.10.16. Apex Approved Housing Body had appointed a design team through the Office of Government Procurement framework for the detailed design which was underway.

Stage 2 submission (preplanning approval) for the scheme was projected for November 2017 with start on site anticipated for first quarter of 2018.

Turnkey Acquisition

The turnkey delivery model had the potential to delivery significant units in Donegal in a timely way. Donegal County Council was actively pursuing turnkey acquisitions as a model of social housing delivery in Letterkenny and in other towns in the County, submissions were currently being assessed following a call for proposals earlier this year.

Donegal County Council was currently progressing a new procurement procedure for turnkey acquisitions which would include a number of towns in each of the five Municipal Districts, on the basis of identified housing need. The Council would seek to purchase 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and 1 and 2 bedroom apartments for social housing.

It should be noted that proposals are subject to approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

House Acquisition Programme

The House Acquisition Programme was continuing in 2017. To date, fourteen suitable properties had been identified in the Letterkenny MD and were currently progressing through the conveyancing process. Five of these conveyances had been completed to date this year. The Letterkenny Housing Office would continue to monitor the market with the aim of identifying and acquiring additional properties.

The Council was also working with a number of Approved Housing Bodies to advance housing projects in the MD.

MDL 446/17 JAPANESE KNOTWEED PROGRAMME

In answer to his question on whether he could have an update on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed programme including a map of the areas to be treated, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

The treatment of Japanese Knotweed on public roads was ongoing and at different stages in all RSS areas of the MDL. It was anticipated that the treatment programme would be completed by the end of next week, but was highly weather dependent. The maps issued to the Areas are large in size and a shortcut link for

their downloading in PDG would be forwarded to the members Extranet. Members might enquire of a particular area, of concern, if apparently not shown on the map.

MDL 447/17 STREET LIGHTING CHURCHILL

In answer to his question on when did the Council propose to change the street lights in Churchill to LED lights, Cllr. Michael McBride was advised that:

As part of on-going efforts to meet the Government's target of 33% energy reduction in the Public Sector by 2020, the Council had embarked on changing public lighting from traditional SOX/SON lanterns to more energy efficient LED lanterns. Priority was being given to locations where the greatest energy savings was available so as to achieve the greatest contribution towards meeting targets. Hence, there had been an emphasis on changing higher wattage lanterns and/or older lanterns. With over 16,500 lights across the county, a complete changeover was a long term goal.

There were circa 15 street lights in Churchill (excluding housing estates), almost all of which were 55w SOX lanterns - which happened to be the most common lantern type in the County. So far, there wasn't a timeline for the lights in Churchill being changed as they hadn't yet reach priority status in terms of energy efficiency. However, the situation would be kept under review as progress was made. The pace at which the changeover could be rolled out would depend very much on available resources. While TII was providing some funding for changing lights on National Routes, so far changing of lights on Non National Routes was reliant on own resources.

MDL448/17 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next MDL Meeting would be held on 14th November, 2017 at Milford Public Services Centre commencing at 2:00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor

Meetings Administrator