

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
23 Bealtaine, 2017

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 29 Bealtaine, 2017, ag **11.00 r.n.**
in Áras an Chontae, Leifear

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag an chruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clár an chruinnithe leis seo.

Beidh Clár Orduithe an Phríomh-Fheidhmeannaigh le feiceáil ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

Seosamh O’Piobla
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of Meetings Administrator
County House
Lifford
23rd May 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 29th May 2017, at **11.00am in the**
County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

The Register of Chief Executive’s Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Confirmation of the Minutes of March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th March, 2017.
- b) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 2nd May, 2017.

2. Filling of Casual Vacancy in membership of the Council

- a) Filling of Casual Vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Mick Quinn.
- b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from (a) above:-
 - Letterkenny Municipal District Committee
 - Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee
 - Standing Orders Sub Committee
 - Coiste na Gaeilge
 - Islands Committee
 - Cultural Committee
 - Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee

3. Corporate

- a) To resolve to nominate Cllr Jack Murray as a member of the Water and Environment SPC.
- b) To resolve to nominate Cllr Gerry McMonagle as a member of the Community, Social and Cultural SPC.
- c) To resolve to nominate Cllr Jack Murray as chair of the Water and Environment SPC.
- d) To afford a Civic Reception to Gavin Shevlin World Dancing Champion 2015 and 2017 and the Senior Mixed Céilí World Champions, comprising Gavin and Niamh Shevlin, Conor Rodgers, David McNamee, Nadine Doherty, Ciaran Rodden, Niamh Peacock and Tara Callaghan, in recognition of their success at the World Dancing Championships in Montreal, Canada.
- e) To approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €142,010,769 on Table 3, Page 3 when compared to the revised budget of €143,517,515 (Adopted Budget as amended by net increases and funding received for 2016) for all divisions in accordance with Subsection 7 of Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

- f) To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Report, 2016 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- g) To consider and approve the adoption of the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017 in accordance with Section 134(A) of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- h) Programme of Municipal District Works for Insurance Risk Reduction.

4. Disposal of Land – Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

- a) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001- To dispose of 5 acres of land at Commons, Lifford to O’Neill’s Sportswear Inc, Strabane, Co Tyrone.
- b) Notice under Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001- To dispose by way of lease for 10 years lands at Church Hill Village to Church Hill Community Development Group Company limited by Guarantee.

5. Taking of decision pursuant to Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Part XI), and Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (Part 8).

- a) To approve the carrying out of proposed construction works so as to replace Glashagh Bridge, Derrybeg which currently consists of a multiple span masonry structure, crossing an unnamed river, with a suitably sized precast concrete box culvert within the townland of Glashagh in the Glenties Municipal District.
- b) To approve the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Ardun Bridge, which currently consists of a twin span masonry structure, crossing an unnamed river, with suitably sized twin plastic pipes within the townland of Ardun/Mullanmore in the Glenties Municipal District.
- c) To approve the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Pinch Bridge, with a 1.2 meter diameter twinwall pipe within the townland of Straid, south west of Clonmany Town in the Inishowen Municipal District.
- d) To approve the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Brookfield Bridge, which is currently constructed from a combination of concrete and plastic pipes, crossing an unnamed river, with a suitably sized precast concrete box

culvert within the townland of Brookfield in the Donegal Municipal District.

- e) To approve the carrying out of proposed construction works to implement a Safety Improvement Project on the N15 at Cappry and Dooish in the Stranorlar Municipal District.
- f) To approve the construction of a footway at Magheracar, Bundoran, Co Donegal so as to extend the existing pedestrian footway along the R267 Regional Road from a point 40m west of Portbeg Holiday Homes for a distance of 380m to the junction of Cois Farrage and River Walk in the townland of Magheracar in the Donegal Municipal District.
- g) To approve the construction of a combined cycle/ footway so as to extend the existing cycle/footway public amenity at Magheracar, Bundoran, Co Donegal in respect of the Magheracar Coastal Walkway Scheme in the Donegal Municipal District.

6. Water & Environment

To note ongoing River Basin Management Plan consultation process.

7. Endorsement of Minutes

- a) To note the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 2nd February, 2017.
- b) To note the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 23rd January, 2017.
- c) To note the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 24th March, 2017.

8. Request for Deputation

- a) To consider request for reception of a deputation from the Community Implementation Group to present the “Connecting for Life Strategy” to the members of Donegal County Council.
- b) To consider request for reception of a deputation from the Union of Students in Ireland regarding publically funded education and the possibility of a loan scheme being introduced in 2018.
- c) To consider request for reception of a deputation from the Donegal Branch of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in relation to the work carried out by the society , the current situation in Donegal, the shortfalls that exist in the provision of support and possible initiatives that could alleviate the situation.

9. Authorisation of attendance at Seminar, Training or Event

Conferences

Home

- Celtic Conferences “The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office LAWCO to be held from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th June, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Celtic Conferences “What Does a Hard Brexit mean for Ireland” to be held from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th June, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Laurentic Conference “Sustaining Coastal Communities a Comparative Ananalysis” to be held Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June, 2017 in the Inishowen Gateway, Bunrana and the Maritime Museum/ National Fisheries College, Greencastle.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Training for Local Authority Members “Corporate Governance and the Councillor” to be held from Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July, 2017 in the Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford.

Abroad

- To approve the attendance of the CPMR Representative at the CPMR Political Bureau Meeting in Stavanger, Norway from 21st to 23rd June, 2017.

MOTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads and Transportation

10. Cllr Ian McGarvey

"That Donegal County Council carry out a complete survey of the entire road structure in our County and Islands to establish where money should be spent to derive the maximum benefit for our people and visitors."

11. Cllr John O'Donnell

"Calling on this Council to write to the Minister again to reintroduce the LIS Scheme for rural non county roads."

12. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that senior management would look at making more funding available in next years budget to allow for more discretionary members funding for footpaths and lighting improvements in each MD so that we can adopt maybe a 2 year programme."

Water and Environment

13. Cllr Michael McBride

“That Donegal County Council ask Irish Water as a matter of urgency to inform us of all trunk works undertaken during the recent dry spell and give us the road map going forward to guarantee a water supply to all in County Donegal.”

Corporate

14. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

“That this Council:

Sends solidarity to the over 1,600 Palestinians prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli prisons since 17 April 2017;

Extends its condolences to the family of Mazan al-Maghrebi who has become the first to die on the hunger strike after suffering from a kidney disease that he got after going on the hunger strike;

Notes with concern recent media reports which state that several of the hunger-striking inmates had lost 10 kilograms of their weight and a number of the hunger strikers in the Ofer prison in Israel are suffering from low blood pressure, severe headaches as well as stomach and joint problems;

Recognises that the hunger strikers are protesting against the inhumane and degrading treatment that they experience daily, including the torture and medical negligence that they face;

Also recognises that the prisoners’ demands include the installation of a public telephone in all prisons to allow them communication with relatives, the resumption of bi-monthly family visits, increasing the duration of the visits, and allowing prisoners to take photographs with their families;

Further recognises that other demands include installing air conditions in prisons, restoring kitchens, allowing detainees to keep books, newspapers and clothes, as well as ending the policies of administrative detention and solitary confinement;

Notes that administrative detention is basically internment on remand and nearly 550 Palestinians are currently imprisoned without trial under this inhumane system;

Further notes that according to Addameer, the human rights and prisoners group NGO, more than 800,000 Palestinians have been imprisoned or detained by Israel in the last 50 years;

Is concerned that today Israel continues to detain about 6,500 Palestinians. These include 300 children, 53 women, and parliamentarians, activists, journalists, human rights defenders, academics, political figures, militants, bystanders, and family members of prisoners; Calls on Israel to stop its mass detention of

Palestinians, and abide by international and human rights law; Further calls on the Israeli authorities to urgently address and agree to the reasonable and humane reforms that the Palestinian hunger strikers are demanding; Requests that the Irish Government urgently raises the hunger strike with the Israeli authorities and pressures them to urgently address the just demands of the Palestinian hunger strikers. Also calls on the Irish Government to urgently recognise the State of Palestine in line with the wishes of the Dáil who unanimously passed a Sinn Féin motion in this regard on 10 December 2014.”

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water and Environment

15. Cllr Noel Jordan

"I am asking this council to review our beach bye-laws."

Roads and Transportation

16. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to provide for burial grounds for all religions and none in each of the Municipal Districts of County Donegal.”

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

17. Cllr Liam Doherty

"That this Council would seek a separate fund for the repair of the roadways and footpaths of all council owned estates.”

Community and Enterprise

18. Cllr Gary Doherty

“That Donegal County Council plant a "Tree of Hope" in each of the five Municipal Districts as a memorial and a symbol of support to those affected by Suicide or living with mental health issues.”

Water and Environment

19. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"That this Council give a report on the state of existing group water schemes so that a case can be put to Government for the take over of schemes especially where the promoters are not in a position to continue running the scheme."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

20. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That this Council develop a rural recreation strategy in conjunction with other state agencies with a remit to provide rural recreation amenities in the County."

Cultural Services

21. Cllr John Sheamais O'Fearriagh

"Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall in iúl cén cuidiú agus tacaíocht airgid a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ar fáil ionas go bhforbrófaí Dánlann Ealaíne in áit ar leith laistigh den chontae.

That Donegal County Council outline what support and financial assistance might be available to assist with the establishment of an Art Gallery at a designated location within the county."

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

22. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council recognises the significance of the strong historical links between Grianan of Aileach and Tullyhogue Fort in County Tyrone and resolves to pursue all necessary avenues - in conjunction with Mid-Ulster District Council, and all other relevant agencies - to seek a twinning arrangement between both historical landmarks as a means of tourism promotion and inter-council co-operation."

Corporate

23. Cllr Martin McDermott

"To call on this Council to organize a delegation to meet with the Minister of the Marine to put forward proposals for small fishing boats up to 36 foot that they would be able to gill net for white fish during the summer months so that it would ease the over fishing of crab."

Roads and Transportation

24. Cllr Albert Doherty

"CENSUS 2016,

That this council in response to Apr 6th 2017 first results which confirms for Donegal during the period 2011/2016

1) Population decline of 1.2%

and

2) largest outward migration (-6731),

demand from government special financial and infrastructure support for Donegal to include an extension and inclusion of further County DEDs to the Ceantair Laga Ard Riachtanas Scheme and the allocation annually of separate Road Grant to allow commencement of Local Improvement Schemes in County Donegal.”

25. Cathaoirleach’s Business

26. Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report

QUESTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Enterprise

27. Cllr Ian McGarvey

“Can this Council jointly ask our national politicians to make every effort to ensure that employment is located in Donegal?”

28. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

“Has any progress been made by this Council in relation to my motion requesting that the Council identify lands for the development of Municipal Playing Pitches across the County?”

29. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

“What progress have been made since my motion that we engage with our other Councils with a view to opening our office in Brussels in light of Brexit so as to attract additional funding to improve and build on our infrastructure here in the North West and also clarify the €5 million funding agreement to both Councils for innovation fund?”

Water and Environment

30. Cllr Ian McGarvey

“Is there any hope of having the many pollution problems around the County sorted and can I have an outline of what is being done to tackle same?”

Corporate

31. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

“What progress has been made following my motion and questions with the Court Services on Donegal County Council taking over the Court House in Letterkenny when they move to the new Courthouse?”

Cultural Services

32. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

“What are the current opening hours in respect of the Research Areas within the Donegal County Libraries?”

Housing

33. Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh

“Is the Regional Cultural Centre available for charity events organised by community groups across the County?”

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

35. Cllr Patrick McGowan

“How many applicants have successfully purchased their houses in Donegal since the new TP Scheme was introduced in early 2016, what is the update position with the Council and Department on the Tenant Purchase Scheme right now and what are the main causes of concern?”

36. Cllr Gary Doherty

“Can I have a list of all roads maintenance works carried out in housing estates over the last five years?”

Planning

37. Cllr Patrick McGowan

“Can I have a list of all housing schemes taken in charge since 2011 and a report on the other schemes listed for taking in charge?”

Emergency Services

38. Cllr Gary Doherty

“Does this Council have an emergency response protocol for instances such as floods, gorse fires, storms etc?”

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water and Environment

39. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"Has any progress been made with the OPW to address the coastal erosion issue in the county?"

Roads and Transportation

40. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

“Can the Council identify funding opportunities to address invasive species in the County?”

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

41. Cllr Jack Murray

“Can Donegal County Council reduce the asking price for houses in flood plains which won't be addressed by the OPW for tenants wishing to buy their home and/or address the problems faced by said residents in accessing house insurance?”

42. Cllr Albert Doherty

“What is the number of applicants for Specific Instance housing currently with Donegal County Council and what is the number relevant to each Municipal District in the County?”

Finance

43. Cllr Albert Doherty

“The government has indicated that counties and regions significantly impacted by Brexit will be highly considered within the review plan period.

What infrastructure and Capital investment funding projects have been forwarded by Donegal for government attention and will the Council ensure that costings for pier extension and other related works are included in the County Council submission .”

Planning and Economic Development

44. Cllr Jack Murray

“What is the current status of the stated plans to connect problematic housing estates to the main sewers in the county, with specific details with regards to those in Tier 2 Towns?”

Community and Enterprise

45. Cllr Martin McDermott

“To ask the Council to forward me all the Clar applications for the County and the reasons for any application that did not meet the criteria?”

Motions from Other Councils

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council write to Irish Rail and Bus Eireann to strongly object to any downgrading of bus or rail services that will affect any town or village in County Galway.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council would write to the Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar TD and urge him to allow those over 55 on Community Employment Schemes to continue to do so until they reach 65.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government Mr Simon Coveney, T.D. to make available additional resources to Sligo County Council to support the increased social and economic demands due to Brexit and that passed it should be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

And

“That Sligo County Council writes to the Minister for Local Government, Simon Coveney T.D., requesting the following:

Additional resources to be made available to each Local Authority to support the increased social and economic demands due to Brexit.

Further additional resources for Local Authorities along the Border, including Sligo.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council notes that, under current arrangements, a member who is unable to attend a meeting is listed either absent or that they have sent apologies. Medical certification is not recorded or taken into account.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Minister to authorise the following amendments:

- 1) In cases of medical issues/illness, a member can submit their certification and it is recorded as such.
- 2) In cases of medical issues/illness which is certified, the meetings missed are deleted from the overall meetings total for the particular member so that the 80% attendance rule is calculated on the basis of all meetings for the year minus those meetings that are missed on certified medical grounds.
- 3) Meetings that are not attended on the basis of certified medical grounds are recorded and published separately.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council supports the legalisation of the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. It further supports that the scope of such use is left to the professional discretion of the medical practitioner involved and the consenting patient.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council would request Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar to re-instate the telephone allowance for the elderly.”

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 29TH MAY, 2017

C/144/17 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs Terence Slowey, Cathaoirleach, L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M T Gallagher, A Glackin, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F McBrearty, M Mc Bride, J P Mc Daid, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, J Murray, S O'Domhnaill, J O'Donnell, J S O'Fearraigh, J Ryan.

C/145/17 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads and Transportation, Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services, Garry Martin, Director of Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Patricia McIntyre, Area Manager, Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaelige, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/146/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27TH MARCH 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Garvey , seconded by, Cllr G Doherty the minutes of March Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th March, 2017 were adopted.

C/147/17 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 2ND MAY 2017

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty the minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 2nd May, 2017 were adopted.

Cllr Campbell proposed and it was agreed that Minute C143/17 be amended as follows:-

Cllr Campbell addressed the meeting and asked members to consider the Wind Energy Policy in conjunction with a number of amendments as set out in his document entitled "Option 3:Revised

Incorporating Variation No 2 of the County Development Plan circulated on the 29th April, 2017, by e-mail and submitted during the meeting.

He asked also that the full text of the resolution as proposed by himself and seconded by Cllr O' Domhnaill at the meeting on the 2nd May, 2017 be included to read as follows:-

“Whereas, the members, of Donegal County Council have considered the report relating to the “OPTION 3 Revised” amendment to the Donegal County Development Plan working draft; and

Whereas having satisfied themselves that the amendment is strategic in nature for the purposes of developing the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan, and takes account of the statutory obligations the local authority, and any relevant policies or objectives or guidelines for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government; Therefore it is resolved pursuant to Section 11 (5) (C) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to amend the working draft to incorporate the alterations outlined in the “OPTION 3 Revised” amendment and any consequent amendments necessary to the working drafts of the Environmental Reports and Natura Impact Report”.

C/148/17 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MICK QUINN

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher it was resolved that Adrian Glackin fill the casual vacancy on Donegal County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr Mick Quinn.

Cllr Mc Monagle acknowledged the excellent contribution made by Cllr Quinn to politics in Donegal and his unfaltering work for the electorate not only in the Letterkenny MD but throughout the county.

Member extended their best wishes to former Cllr Quinn and wished him well in his retirement.

Cllr Gallagher said that Donegal County Council was lucky to get someone of Cllr Glackin's calibre as he had a wealth of experience

and that this was something which would serve him well in his role as a councillor.

Representatives from the various groupings paid tribute to former Cllr Mick Quinn. They welcomed Cllr Glackin to the Chamber and wished him every success for his term in office.

The Chief Executive extended best wishes on behalf of the management and staff of Donegal County Council and assured Cllr Glackin of their ongoing support and assistance going forward.

Cllr Glackin paid tribute to his predecessor, affirming that he had been an excellent role model, and wished him well in his retirement.

He acknowledged the help and support provided by his family and friends. It was an honour, he said, to represent Sinn Fein and he thanked his party colleagues for their nomination. He would, he confirmed, strive to do his best for the electorate and work at all times on their behalf.

It was his intention, he said, to work with all members of the council for the benefit of the county as a whole.

C/149/17 FILLING OF CONSEQUENTIAL VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MICK QUINN

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by, Cllr Murray it was resolved that Cllr Glackin fill the casual vacancies on the following committees arising from the resignation of Cllr Mick Quinn:-

- Letterkenny Municipal District Committee
- Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Committee
- Standing Orders Sub Committee
- Coiste na Gaeilge
- Islands Committee
- Cultural Committee
- Housing and Corporate Strategic Policy Committee

C/150/17 TO NOMINATE CLLR JACK MURRAY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, it was resolved that Cllr Jack Murray fill the vacancy on the Environment and Emergency Services SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle.

C/151/17 TO NOMINATE CLLR GERRY MCMONAGLE TO THE COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SPC

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by, Cllr Jordan it was resolved that Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle fill the casual vacancy on the Community, Social and Cultural SPC arising from the resignation of Cllr Jack Murray.

C/152/17 TO NOMINATE CLLR JACK MURRAY AS CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved that Cllr Jack Murray be appointed chair of the Environment & Emergency Services SPC occasioned by the resignation of Cllr John O' Donnell.

C/153/17 TO AFFORD A CIVIC RECEPTION TO GAVIN SHEVLIN WORLD DANCING CHAMPION 2015 AND 2017, AND THE SENIOR MIXED CÉILÍ WORLD CHAMPIONS, COMPRISING GAVIN AND NIAMH SHEVLIN, CONOR RODGERS, DAVID MCNAMEE, NADINE DOHERTY, CIARA RODDEN, NIAMH PEACOCK AND TARA CALLAGHAN, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SUCCESS AT THE WORLD DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MONTREAL, CANADA

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Daid, seconded by, Cllr Mc Bride, it was resolved that a civic reception be afforded to Gavin Shevlin, World Dancing Champion 2015 and 2017 and the Senior Mixed Ceili World Champions (Gavin Shevlin, Niamh Shevlin, Conor Rodgers, David Mc Namee, Nadine Doherty, Ciara Rodden, Niamh Peacock and Tara Callaghan in recognition of their success at the World Dancing Championships in Montreal.

C/154/17 TO APPROVE THE ACTUAL GROSS EXPENDITURE FIGURE OF €142,010,769 ON TABLE 3, PAGE 3 WHEN COMPARED TO THE REVISED BUDGET OF €143, 517,515 (ADOPTED BUDGET AS AMENDED BY NET INCREASES AND FUNDING RECEIVED FOR 2016) FOR ALL DIVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION 7 OF SECTION 104 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Systems responding to member's queries confirmed the following:-

That there was an under realisation of income from Non Principal Private Residences in the sum of €435,000.

The significant increase in insurance costs, he said, was directly related to the general increase in the level and extent of public liability and assorted claims. There was now, he added, an excess of €6500 on all DCC insurance policies. He confirmed that it was not related in any way to flooding which had occurred in the Finn Valley Area. It was noted however that there was a project ongoing nationally to review and manage the whole area of public liability claims.

With regard to public lighting costs it was noted that there had been a reduction in expenditure of €128,000 which could be directly attributed to the reduction in the overall tariffs. It was acknowledged that Members had an input in determining demand and that overall provision was something that needed to be considered in the context of the Annual Budget.

The €169,000 under spend in Unfinished Estates it was acknowledged was down to a timing issue but that a sum of €165,750 had been included under this heading in the 2017 Adopted Budget to ensure the delivery of the intended outcomes.

Mr Martin advised of the need to ensure that any surplus monies were used as efficiently as possible.

The increase in the provision for Bad & Doubtful debts it was confirmed was related to the fact that there was now a requirement to reflect debts which were 75% to 80% doubtful including those in receivership or with liquidation pending.

Members were informed that the collection rate for commercial rates had increased to 68% but that there was now an onus at national level to take a standard approach to debt collection.

The increase in housing rents, it was confirmed was a result of additional stock but that there was no direct correlation between rents collected and the funding available for housing maintenance.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved to approve the actual gross expenditure figure of €142,010,769 on Table 3 when compared to the revised budget of €143,517,515 (Adopted Budget) as amended by net increases and funding received for 2016) for all divisions in accordance with subsection 7 of section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

C/155/17 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT, 2016 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 221 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by, Cllr Campbell the indicative text for the Donegal County Council Annual Report 2016 was approved in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Campbell was informed that the Performance Indicators for 2016 could not be added to the report until such time as they had been approved by the National Oversight & Audit Commission.

C/156/17 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2017 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134(A) of the Local Government Act, 2001

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Guinness, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy the Donegal County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017 was adopted in accordance with Section 134(A) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services advised in relation to Clar funding that 20 applications

had been forwarded to the Department but as yet no feedback had been received.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation drew attention to the fact that in 2016 €331,000 had been applied for under CLAR in respect of the road safety programme .The overall amount approved by the Department, he confirmed was €351,000.

C/157/17

TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMME OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR INSURANCE RISK REDUCTION

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above.

A number of issues were raised including:-

- Why funding was being allocated on the basis of population as the protocol generally was to allocate monies on the basis of roads mileage.
- An equal division of the monies per Municipal District it was suggested was a fairer method of distribution and would ensure that the funding would go where it was most needed.
- Rural areas would lose out at the expense of the larger towns.
- Query as to whether the money could be spent on new projects.

Cllr Brogan noted that the areas of greater population had pro rata more claims and called for the Programme of Municipal District Works for Insurance risk reduction to be approved.

The Chief Executive thanked members for their observations and said it was obvious from the discussion that they were anxious to progress issues such as footpath maintenance and other improvements at local level.

Funding of €2.25m over three years was, he confirmed, the minimum amount that could be made available. There was room, he advised, to amalgamate the monies allocated under the Town and Village Scheme (€250,000 pa) with the IPBMI allocation to create a total fund within the Capital Works Programme of €1,000,000 per annum for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. This, he contended, would assist in the carrying out of capital works and progress a range of improvements aimed at reducing the

number of public liability claims. He would, he added, be happy to provide further details as soon as they became available.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to approve the Programme of Municipal District Works for Insurance Risk Reduction for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. It was further agreed that each Municipal District would draw up and adopt a three-year programme of expenditure targeted at making improvements to reduce public liability claims.

C/158/17 DISPOSAL OF 5 ACRES OF LAND AT COMMONS, LIFFORD TO O'NEILLS SPORTSWEAR INC, STRABANE, CO TYRONE
Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by, Cllr McBrearty, it was resolved to dispose of 5 Acres of Land at Commons, Lifford to O'Neill's Sportswear Inc, Strabane, Co Tyrone, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Crawford said that the issue here was not the value of the land but rather that the disposal would hopefully create economic and employment advantages and encourage others to locate in the Finn Valley area particularly in light of the Brexit scenario.

Members said it was important that border areas were included and not excluded given that the traditional industrial heart of the county had always been along the line of the border. They alluded to the importance of zoning lands properly in this region given the need to maximise the job creation potential.

Members queried whether the Council had specific land banks and a dedicated team in place to deal with businesses looking to locate to Donegal.

The Chief Executive said that there had been considerable work carried out to date with regards the possible implications of Brexit, and that this included a dedicated analysis of the current situation. This report, he added, was currently sitting on the desk of every senior public official in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

There had been to date, he acknowledged, a number of enquiries from companies interested in having a base in Donegal.

It was fair to say, he added, that there was now an opportunity along the border generally to maximise job creation and he called on all members to ensure that specific policies were included in the Draft Development Plan to facilitate such an approach.

He acknowledged that the creation of a land bank was a good idea and said that the Council was willing to engage with any company interested in relocating to Donegal.

C/159/17 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE FOR 10 YEARS LANDS AT CHURCHILL VILLAGE TO CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McDaid, seconded by, Cllr McBride, it was resolved to dispose by way of lease for 10 years, lands at Churchill Village to Churchill Community Development Group, Company Limited by Guarantee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr Mc Daid said that the group in question had excellent plans to provide a playground and other amenities at the above location and wished them every success in their endeavours.

C/160/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS SO AS TO REPLACE GLASHAGH BRIDGE, DERRYBEG WHICH CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF A MULTIPLE SPAN MASONRY STRUCTURE, CROSSING AN UNNAMED RIVER, WITH A SUITABLE SIZED PRECAST CONCRETE BOX CULVERT WITHIN THE TOWNLAND OF GLASHAGH IN THE GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Ferraigh, seconded by, Cllr O'Domhnaill, the carrying out of proposed construction works so as to replace Glashagh Bridge, Derrybeg which currently consists of a multiple span masonry structure, crossing an unnamed river,

with a suitably sized precast concrete box culvert within the townland of Glashagh in the Glenties Municipal under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/161/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS SO AS TO REPLACE ARDUN BRIDGE, WHICH CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF A TWIN SPAN MASONRY STRUCTURE, CROSSING AN UNNAMED RIVER, WITH SUITABLY SIZED TWIN PLASTIC PIPES WITHIN THE TOWNLAND OF ARDUN/MULLANMORE IN THE GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Domhnaill, seconded by, Cllr Bonner, the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Ardun Bridge, which currently consists of a twin span masonry structure, crossing an unnamed river, with suitably sized twin plastic pipes within the townland of Ardun/Mullanmore in the Glenties Municipal under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that this bridge was currently on the Bridge Programme and that every effort would be made to get the work done early in the year.

C/162/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO REPLACE PINCH BRIDGE, WITH A 1.2 METER DIAMETER TWINWALL PIPE WITHIN THE TOWNLAND OF STRAID, SOUTHWEST OF CLONMANY TOWN IN THE INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McGuinness, seconded by, Cllr Donaghey, the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Pinch Bridge, with a 1.2 meter diameter twinwall pipe within the townland of Straid, south west of Clonmany Town in the Inishowen Municipal District under Part XI of the Planning &

Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/163/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO REPLACE BROOKFIELD BRIDGE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTED FROM A COMBINATION OF CONCRETE AND PLASTIC PIPES, CROSSING AN UNNAMED RIVER, WITH A SUITABLY SIZED PRECAST CONCRETE BOX CULVERT WITHIN THE TOWNLAND OF BROOKFIELD IN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by, Cllr Conaghan, the carrying out of proposed construction works to replace Brookfield Bridge, which is currently constructed from a combination of concrete and plastic pipes, crossing an unnamed river, with a suitably sized precast concrete box culvert within the townland of Brookfield in the Donegal Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/164/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO IMPLEMENT A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON THE N15 AT CAPPY AND DOOISH IN THE STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by, Cllr Harley, the carrying out of proposed construction works to implement a safety Improvement Project on the N15 at Cappry and Dooish in the Stranorlar Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/165/17 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTWAY AT MAGHERACAR, BUNDORAN, CO DONEGAL SO AS TO EXTEND THE EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FOOTWAY ALONG THE R267 REGIONAL ROAD FROM A POINT 40M WEST OF PORTBEG HOLIDAY HOMES FOR A DISTANCE OF 380M TO THE JUNCTION OF COIS FARRAIGE AND RIVER WALK IN THE

TOWNLAND OF MAGHERACAR IN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, the carrying out of proposed construction of a footway at Magheracar, Bundoran, Co Donegal so as to extend the existing pedestrian footway along the R267 Regional Road from a point 40m west of Portbeg Holiday Homes for a distance of 380m to the junction of Cois Farrage and River Walk in the townland of Magheracar in the Donegal Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

C/166/17 TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED CYCLE/FOOTWAY SO AS TO EXTEND THE EXISTING CYCLE/FOOTWAY PUBLIC AMENITY AT MAGHERACAR, BUNDORAN, CO DONEGAL IN RESPECT OF THE MAGHERACAR COASTAL WALKWAY SCHEME IN THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members considered the report circulated in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by, Cllr Jordan, the construction of a combined cycle/footway so as to extend the existing cycle/footway public amenity at Magheracar Coastal Walkway Scheme in the Donegal Municipal District, under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) were approved.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Finance, Information Systems and Emergency Services confirmed that capital had been reserved in the transfer from Bundoran Town Council to Donegal County Council for the extension of the existing cycle/footway at Magheracar.

C/167/17 TO NOTE ONGOING RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION PROCESS

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and noted dates for the forthcoming public consultation meetings.

- C/168/17 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM HELD ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 2017
Members noted the Minutes of the County Donegal Heritage Forum held on the 2nd February, 2017.
- C/169/17 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD JANUARY, 2017
Members noted the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 23rd January, 2017.
- C/170/17 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH MARCH 2017
Members noted the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 24th March, 2017.
- C/171/17 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION FROM THE COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP TO PRESENT THE “CONNECTING FOR LIFE STRATEGY” TO THE MEMBERS OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by, Cllr Harley, it was resolved that the Community Implementation Group be invited to a future meeting of the Council to present the “Connecting for Life Strategy” .
- C/172/17 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION FROM THE UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND REGARDING PUBLICALLY FUNDED EDUCATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A LOAN SCHEME BEING INTRODUCED IN 2018
On the proposal of Cllr McBready, seconded by, Cllr McBride, it was resolved that the Union of Students in Ireland be invited to address a future meeting of the Council in relation to publically funded education and the possibility of a loan scheme being introduced in 2018
- C/173/17 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECEPTION OF A DEPUTATION FROM THE DONEGAL BRANCH OF ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND IN RELATION TO THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SOCIETY, THE CURRENT SITUATION IN DONEGAL, THE SHORTFALLS THAT EXIST IN THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND POSSIBLE INITIATIVES THAT COULD ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by, Cllr McBrearty, it was resolved that the Donegal Branch of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland be invited to address a future meeting of the Council in relation to the work carried out by the society, the current situation in Donegal, the shortfalls that exist in the provision of support and possible initiatives that could alleviate the situation.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services informed Cllr Blaney that it had not been possible to accommodate the deputation from the Donegal Lyme and Co-infection Group at this meeting but that arrangements were being made to deal with a number of outstanding presentations to Council.

Members at this juncture enquired as to the status of the interim arrangements for the Council Chamber as the facilities at present were unsatisfactory.

Mr Peoples said that proposals could be worked up for improvements to the temporary chamber and could be presented to the members at a workshop.

The Chief Executive noted that members had examined a number of preliminary options but that as the Cathaoirleach had suggested there was a need to come together and review the options.

With regards the provision of a new facility it would take he confirmed, at least 2- 3 years to get to the final scoping and tendering stage to deliver a new facility.

It was agreed that a workshop would be held to consider the interim arrangements and County House Phase 2.

C/174/17

CONFERENCES

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, introduced by the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006 -2014 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by, Cllr Kennedy, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences, subject to the normal procedures:-

- i. Individual members not exceeding their annual budget for

attendance at conferences.

- ii. Payment of expenses for attendance to be conditional on the member furnishing documentary evidence of attendance.
- iii. Submission of a Conference Report.

Home

- Celtic Conferences “The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office LAWCO to be held from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th June, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Celtic Conferences “What Does a Hard Brexit mean for Ireland” to be held from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th June, 2017 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
- Laurentic Conference “Sustaining Coastal Communities a Comparative Ananalysis” to be held Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June, 2017 in the Inishowen Gateway, Bunrana and the Maritime Museum/ National Fisheries College, Greencastle.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Training for Local Authority Members “Corporate Governance and the Councillor” to be held from Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July, 2017 in the Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford.

Abroad

- To approve the attendance of the CPMR Representative at the CPMR Political Bureau Meeting in Stavanger, Norway from 21st to 23rd June, 2017

C/175/17 CALL FOR A COMPLETE SURVEY OF THE ENTIRE ROAD STRUCTURE IN OUR COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Ian McGarvey, seconded by, Cllr O’ Domhnaill, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council carry out a complete survey of the entire road structure in our County and Islands to establish where money should be spent to derive the maximum benefit for our people and visitors.”

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Garvey said that Donegal as a large rural county needed additional funding to deal with issues such as traffic congestion

particularly in Letterkenny which was one of the main arteries into the County. He alluded to a range of projects in the Letterkenny Municipal District which, he contended, required additional investment and would benefit the county as a whole.

Cllr O' Domhnaill concurred with this assessment and said that increased investment in roads infrastructure was essential if the county was to progress from an economic and tourism perspective. Donegal County Council, he said, needed to be more proactive on this front.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that the results of the completed county-wide survey of roads could be considered at the next round of MD Meetings.

Cllr Mc Garvey said it was imperative that all funding opportunities were fully explored and availed of and that the members and the executive collectively had an obligation to ensure that this happened.

C/176/17 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL WRITE TO THE MINISTER SEEKING THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE LIS SCHEME FOR RURAL NON COUNTY ROADS

On the proposal of Cllr John O'Donnell, seconded by, Cllr Mc Garvey, the following motion was adopted:-

“Calling on this Council to write to the Minister again to reintroduce the LIS Scheme for rural non county roads.”

Cllr O'Donnell received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He called for separate funding to be provided and outlined the necessity of providing incentives so that repairs could be carried out on rural non-county roads which were falling into disrepair.

Cllr Mc Garvey supporting the motion acknowledged that there was little or no money available in the first instance for top slicing and thus provision needed to be made at national level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that the reply was still current but that he would write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport highlighting the fact that additional monies were needed to prevent rural roads from falling into further disrepair.

Concluding Cllr O' Donnell said he was firmly of the opinion that the current model for LIS funding was inadequate and did not suit a rural county such as Donegal.

He highlighted the necessity of having mainstream funding for LIS Schemes.

C/177/17 AVAILABILITY OF MORE FUNDING FOR MEMBERS
DISCRETIONARY FUNDING OF FOOTPATH AND
LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS WITH A VIEW TO
INTRODUCING A TWO YEAR PROGRAMME

On the proposal of Cllr Ciaran Brogan, seconded by, Cllr Mc Dermott, the following motion was adopted:-

“I propose that senior management would look at making more funding available in next years budget to allow for more discretionary members funding for footpaths and lighting improvements in each MD so that we can adopt maybe a 2 year programme.”

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

He outlined the need for further discussion in relation to public lighting. He welcomed the fact that a programme would be put in place in each Municipal District and said that the financial injection of €1.2 to €1.6m represented a significant investment for local communities.

Cllr Mc Dermott in seconding the motion said that the programme as outlined was the way forward and would be hugely beneficial for the communities concerned.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that a detailed programme would be developed in each Municipal District to accommodate same.

Cllr Brogan said that the programme represented a considerable investment and that there was a need also to capitalise on our own resources.

C/178/17 THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ASK IRISH WATER TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF ALL TRUNK WORKS UNDERTAKEN AND GIVE A ROAD MAP OF THOSE WORKS IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A WATER SUPPLY TO ALL IN COUNTY DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Michael McBride, seconded by, Cllr Mc Brearty, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council ask Irish Water as a matter of urgency to inform us of all trunk works undertaken during the recent dry spell and give us the road map going forward to guarantee a water supply to all in County Donegal.”

Cllr McBride received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

Addressing the meeting Cllr Mc Bride said that there were ongoing supply issues in the Milford and Letterkenny areas. Concern was also expressed in relation to the emergency pipe at Goldrum.

He queried the timeline for the provision of Pollan Dam water into Letterkenny. He was, he confirmed, happy with the measures put in place to deal with the Milford issues but said it was imperative that Irish Water kept the general public informed in relation to general water supply issues.

Cllr Mc Brearty advised that the matter was a county-wide problem and called on Irish Water to look at the deficits in question together with the associated water storage facilities.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services speaking for the Director of Water and Environment noted that there had already been engagement with Cllr Mc Bride and

agreed to pass on Cllr McBride's concerns regarding the situation in Milford, Churchill and Glenswilly.

Concluding the debate, Cllr Mc Bride reiterated his call for Irish Water to keep the general public informed regarding water supply issues.

C/179/17

CALL FOR A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

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

“That this Council:

Sends solidarity to the over 1,600 Palestinians prisoners on hunger strike in Israeli prisons since 17 April 2017;

Extends its condolences to the family of Mazan al-Maghrebi who has become the first to die on the hunger strike after suffering from a kidney disease that he got after going on the hunger strike;

Notes with concern recent media reports which state that several of the hunger-striking inmates had lost 10 kilograms of their weight and a number of the hunger strikers in the Ofer prison in Israel are suffering from low blood pressure, severe headaches as well as stomach and joint problems;

Recognises that the hunger strikers are protesting against the inhumane and degrading treatment that they experience daily, including the torture and medical negligence that they face;

Also recognises that the prisoners' demands include the installation of a public telephone in all prisons to allow them communication with relatives, the resumption of bi-monthly family visits, increasing the duration of the visits, and allowing prisoners to take photographs with their families;

Further recognises that other demands include installing air conditions in prisons, restoring kitchens, allowing detainees to keep books, newspapers and clothes, as well as ending the policies of administrative detention and solitary confinement;

Notes that administrative detention is basically internment on remand and nearly 550 Palestinians are currently imprisoned without trial under this inhumane system;

Further notes that according to Addameer, the human rights and prisoners group NGO, more than 800,000 Palestinians have been imprisoned or detained by Israel in the last 50 years;

Is concerned that today Israel continues to detain about 6,500 Palestinians. These include 300 children, 53 women, and

parliamentarians, activists, journalists, human rights defenders, academics, political figures, militants, bystanders, and family members of prisoners; Calls on Israel to stop its mass detention of Palestinians, and abide by international and human rights law; Further calls on the Israeli authorities to urgently address and agree to the reasonable and humane reforms that the Palestinian hunger strikers are demanding; Requests that the Irish Government urgently raises the hunger strike with the Israeli authorities and pressures them to urgently address the just demands of the Palestinian hunger strikers.

Also calls on the Irish Government to urgently recognise the State of Palestine in line with the wishes of the Dáil who unanimously passed a Sinn Féin motion in this regard on 10 December 2014.”

Cllr Mc Monagle noted that since the submission of the motion a compromise had been reached in relation to the hunger strike. He said that many of the other issues highlighted in the motion were still ongoing and he thus called for the Irish Government to contact the Israeli authorities regarding the imprisonment without trial of nearly 550 Palestinians. He asked also that a letter issue to the Mission of Palestine in Ireland informing them in relation to the adoption of the motion and also requesting that the Council’s condolences be extended to the family of the late Mazan al Maghrebi.

He asked that correspondence issue to the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting the following:-

1. That contact be made with the Israeli Government regarding the injustices suffered by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.
2. An update be provided regarding the Government’s plans to formally recognise the State of Palestine in line with the Sinn Fein motion passed in the Dail on the 10th December, 2014.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion echoed the sentiments expressed by Cllr Mc Monagle. It was an important motion, he said, as it sent a message of support and solidarity to the people of Palestine who had been living in an Apartheid State for the last fifty years.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Monagle thanked members for their support and asked that correspondence be forwarded as soon as possible to the Irish Government and the Mission of Palestine in Dublin.

C/180/17 CALL FOR A REVIEW OF THE BEACH BYE-LAWS

On the proposal of Cllr Noel Jordan, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher, the following motion was adopted:-

“I am asking this Council to review our beach bye-laws.”

Cllr Jordan received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation the above.

Whilst this, he said, was a county-wide issue there were a number of issues at Rossnowlagh Beach which warranted immediate consideration. He cited the need to call a meeting of all relevant stakeholders, community groups and business people so that a dedicated plan for the beach could be put in place.

It was imperative, he added, that Donegal County Council identify lands for use as a public car-park and that litter bins were put in place earlier in the year. The need to update litter signage was also acknowledged.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion cited the need for a specific plan going forward, given that the successful marketing of the Wild Atlantic Way had placed an increased focus on the County’s beaches. The key to many of the problems outlined, she added, was effective enforcement and a comprehensive template for the beaches across the county.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise and Planning Services speaking for the Director of Water and Environment acknowledged that there was a need to review the existing bye-laws and that he would brief the Director of Water & Environment on the issues raised.

Cllr Jordan said that there was need for immediate action at Rosstown and called for a temporary traffic management system to be put in place over the summer months.

C/181/17 PROVISION OF BURIAL GROUNDS BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL IN EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

On the proposal of Cllr Niamh Kennedy, seconded by, Cllr Crossan, the following motion was adopted:-

“I am calling on Donegal County Council to provide for burial grounds for all religions and none in each of the Municipal Districts of County Donegal.”

Cllr Kennedy received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation the above.

She said that the matter was a sensitive one and required immediate review. The 2016 census, she said, had demonstrated that the number of Catholics in the population had fallen, whilst the number of Muslims and those of no religion had increased.

The matter had been broached before, she added, in 1999 and in 2008 but nothing had come out of the discussions.

The matter was now timely, she said, and noted that a submission in this vein had been made under the auspices of the County Development Plan.

Cllr Crossan said he was of the opinion that the Council should provide non-denominational burial grounds in the interest of social inclusion and equal rights for all sections of the community.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that it would be possible to examine the matter through the SPC process with the aim of bringing a recommendation back to plenary Council. Provision, he added, would also have to be made in the 2018 Budget and suitable locations identified.

Cllr Kennedy said it was essential that provision was made for all of the Municipal Districts.

C/182/17

THAT THE COUNCIL SEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE ROADWAYS AND FOOTPATHS OF ALL COUNCIL OWNED ESTATES

On the proposal of Cllr Liam Doherty, seconded by, Cllr G Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council would seek a separate fund for the repair of the roadways and footpaths of all council owned estates.”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above. He advised that many of the older estates were being neglected and that tenants who consistently paid their rent were being treated unfairly in terms of basic service provision.

Tenants who had bought out their houses were effectively in limbo, he added. Another area of concern, he contended, was the neglect of back laneways which caused major problems for elderly tenants.

He was, he said, appreciative of the response and asked that a review be carried out as soon as possible and funding aspects explored.

Cllr G Doherty said that there was an equality issue here and that there was a need to ensure parity of esteem for all tenants. In many cases, he confirmed, there were active residents associations but the issues in question were outside of their remit and control.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services informed members that there had been a significant budget allocated to housing maintenance works over the last number of years.

The matter, he said, could be looked at in the context of the 2018 Revenue Budget and consideration given to establishing a fund which would enable works to be carried out on older estates which had lost out under the various funding initiatives over the years.

C/183/17 THAT THE COUNCIL PLANT A “TREE OF HOPE” IN EACH OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE OR LIVING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

On the proposal of Cllr Gary Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Mc Monagle , the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council plant a “Tree of Hope” in each of the five Municipal Districts as a memorial and a symbol of support to those affected by Suicide or living with mental health issues.”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

He contended that the Council had a responsibility to reflect on and create an awareness of mental health issues. The planting of the trees would, he advised, be an appropriate gesture and a means of showing solidarity with those who experienced mental health issues and whilst also being symbolic for those affected by suicide.

The sad reality, he said, was that more people died from suicide than road traffic accidents, a statistic, which reflected the severe nature of the problem.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion cited the need for empathy and some form of commemoration for those who had died. He commended the work done to date by Donegal County Council in this field.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning said that the Council would liaise with the “Connecting for Life Group in terms of implementing the proposal and that the trees could be planted to coincide with Social Inclusion Week in October 2017.

Cllr Doherty said that the planting of the trees would be symbolic for all involved.

C/184/17 THAT THE COUNCIL GIVE A REPORT ON THE STATE OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES IN THE COUNTY WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING A CASE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE TAKE OVER OF THE SCHEMES FROM PROMOTERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE RUNNING THE SCHEMES

On the proposal of Cllr Patrick McGowan, seconded by, Cllr Donaghey, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council give a report on the state of the existing group water schemes so that a case can be put to Government for the take over of schemes especially where the promoters are not in a position to continue running the scheme.”

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

He stated that there was a need to ensure parity of treatment for those schemes connected to the public mains and those with their own private water supply. Concern was also expressed that many of the existing Group Water Schemes were going to fall into a state of disrepair given the lengthy delay in the takeover process with many of the groups now anxious to hand over the management of the schemes. Schemes, he advised, often found it difficult to satisfy the technical, legal and financial requirements of the takeover process as laid down by Irish Water.

Cllr Donaghey said that Donegal County Council had over the years carried out great work in this field and had helped bring water to many of the more rural areas of the County. There were, she added, a number of schemes sitting in limbo as they had been deemed uneconomically viable yet it was everyone's entitlement to have a clean and potable water supply.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community, Enterprise & Planning Services noted that the Director of Water & Environment had already spoken to Cllr Mc Gowan in relation to the matter. A National Working group, he confirmed, had been set up to address the issues and it was anticipated that that the group would issue a report within the year.

Cllr Mc Gowan asked that the National Working Group be contacted with regard to the specific timeframe for the publication of its findings and requested that a list be circulated outlining those schemes that had applied for takeover.

The Chief Executive reminded members that there were a number of different constituents within the Group Scheme Sector in terms of those who wanted to hand over their assets and those who wanted to retain overall control. The National Working Group were, he advised, looking at the issues and putting a mechanism in place to deal with these nationally.

Donegal County Council would, he confirmed, be feeding into the national group.

Members at this juncture asked for updates in respect of the Sewage Scheme at Coolatee and the Maghera GWS.

The need to continue with the existing arrangements for Irish Water Clinics was highlighted.

C/185/17 PROVISION OF RURAL RECREATION AMENITIES IN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, seconded by, Cllr Jordan, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council develop a rural recreation strategy in conjunction with other state agencies with a remit to provide rural recreation amenities in the County.”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

She said that she had been inspired to submit the motion as there were a number of voluntary groups out there extremely anxious to develop rural recreation amenities in the County.

She said that there was currently no comprehensive guide or audit of such amenities and called for an audit of same to be carried out county-wide.

Cllr Gallagher welcomed the response and the fact that the matter could be progressed through the LCDC and a co-ordinated approach taken. Connectivity, she said, was the key to the success of this particular initiative.

Cllr Jordan supporting the motion said that the initiative was vital for rural Ireland and said that there was room for collaboration in terms of the Town & Village Renewal Programme.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services said that the LCDC was well placed to examine the proposal and could also look at ways of adding additional funding groups.

Cllr Gallagher said that the strategy as proposed would be beneficial across the County and could be developed fairly quickly as the groups concerned were all on the same wavelength.

C/186/17 OUTLINE OF THE SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ART GALLERY AT A DESIGNATED LOCATION WITHIN THE COUNTY

On the proposal of Cllr John Sheamais O’Ferraigh, seconded by, Cllr Gallagher , the following motion was adopted;-

“Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall in iúl cén cuidiú agus tacaíocht airgid a d’fhéadfadh a bheith ar fail ionas go bhforbrófaí Dánlann Ealaíne in áit ar Leith laistigh den chontae.”

“That Donegal County Council outline what support and financial assistance might be available to assist with the establishment of an Art Gallery at a designated location within the county.”

Cllr O’Ferraigh received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Welcoming the response, he said, that he was particularly anxious that an Art Gallery be established on Tory Island given that it had a rich history of art, language and music. He alluded also to the fact that the artist Derek Hill had spent a lot of time there and that a number of islanders including Patsy Dan Rodgers had produced a considerable portfolio of work down through the years.

The current gallery, he advised, was not up to standard and thus called on the Council to provide funding to improve the facility.

Cllr Gallagher said that this unique heritage needed to be retained and said that with the right investment and support the gallery could be a huge success particularly in terms of the tourism product.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that it would be possible to look at potential sources of funding and that this could be done through the Arts Service.

Cllr O' Fearraigh said that the project if pursued could have a pioneering effect for Tory Island. He asked that every effort be made to explore the relevant funding opportunities.

C/187/17

CALL FOR THE TWINNING OF AN GRIANAN, THE RINGFORT AND TULLYHOGUE FORT IN COUNTY TYRONE

On the proposal of Cllr Jack Murray, seconded by, Cllr A Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council recognises the significance of the strong historical links between Grianan of Aileach and Tullyhogue Fort in County Tyrone and resolves to pursue all necessary avenues - in conjunction with Mid-Ulster District Council, and all other relevant agencies - to seek a twinning arrangement between both historical landmarks as a means of tourism promotion and inter-council co-operation."

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services in relation to the above.

This proposal, he contended, offered a unique opportunity to twin with Tullyhogue, whilst enhancing the tourism potential of An Grianan . He outlined the rich historical connection between both forts and the fact that they both each year held festivals which attracted a large number of tourists. He had, he said, met with two groups from County Tyrone who were involved in promoting Tullyhogue and it was obvious that there was huge potential out there for both attractions if promoted on a cross-border basis.

This was an exciting prospect, he added, given that An Grianan attracted up to 100,000 tourists annually with very little promotion or advertising.

Cllr A Doherty said that the OPW were the custodians of An Grianan and that the local community also had a part to play in the overall process.

A twinning arrangement would, he contended, encourage other groups to promote their heritage and history.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning Services said that it would be possible to meet with the relevant parties and tease out what was required to put the necessary twinning arrangements in place.

C/188/17 CALL FOR THE COUNCIL TO ORGANISE A DELEGATION TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER FOR THE MARINE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF GILL NET FISHING DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS FOR BOATS UP TO 36 FOOT AS TO EASE THE OVERFISHING OF CRABS

On the proposal of Cllr Martin McDermott, seconded by, Cllr Mc Guinness, the following motion was adopted:-

“To call on this Council to organize a delegation to meet with the Minister for the Marine to put forward proposals for small fishing boats up to 36 foot that they would be able to gill net for white fish during the summer months so that it would ease the over fishing of crab.”

Cllr McDermott said that this would allow fishermen to supplement their income and also help alleviate the overfishing of crab. Fishing was, he contended, a way of life in North Donegal but that something needed to be done to preserve this way of life.

He asked that a meeting be sought with the Minister for the Marine to discuss the possibility of gill netting for white fish over the summer months and to discuss the problems facing fishermen in the North West.

Cllr Mc Guinness supporting the motion called for the re-establishment of the Fisheries and Agriculture Committees and said that questions needed to be asked as to why fishermen in North Donegal could not diversify.

He said it was imperative that a meeting with the Minister was arranged and that all interested parties, including representatives from the fishing industry, fishermen's co-ops, inshore fishermen together with the boat owners were invited to attend. This was also timely, he added, given the impending Brexit scenario.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Dermott alluded to the fact that the marine industry in the County was under represented and noted that there was currently no fishing representative on the LCDC.

It was confirmed that the background information would be put together and the views of members forwarded for the Minister's attention.

C/189/17 CALL FOR SPECIAL FINANCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR DONEGAL TO INCLUDE AN EXTENSION AND INCLUSION OF FURTHER COUNTY DEDs TO THE CEANTAIR LAGA ARD RIACHTANAS SCHEME AND THE ALLOCATION ANNUALLY OF SEPARATE ROAD GRANT TO ALLOW COMMENCEMENT OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR DONEGAL FROM CENSUS 2016

On the proposal of Cllr Albert Doherty, seconded by, Cllr Murray, the following motion was adopted:-

“CENSUS 2016,

That this council in response to Apr 6th 2017 first results which confirms for Donegal during the period 2011/2016

1)Population decline of 1•2%

and

2)largest outward migration (-6731),

demand from government special financial and infrastructure support for Donegal to include an extension and inclusion of further County DEDs to the Ceantair Laga Ard Riachtanas Scheme and the allocation annually of separate Road Grant to

allow commencement of Local Improvement Schemes in County Donegal.”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

The Clar Scheme, he contended, was vital for a rural County such as Donegal and he thus called for the extension of further DEDs to the scheme so as to counteract the effects of population decline. It was imperative also, he added, that separate Local Improvement Schemes were introduced and that arrangements were put in place to relaunch and reapprove a significant LIS spend in the County. The key to both, he acknowledged, was a dedicated funding mechanism.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation confirmed that arrangements would be made to contact the relevant Government Departments.

C/190/17 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Bernadine Mc Gee, Motor Tax, Letterkenny PSC on the death of her father James Mc Gee.
- Eileen Kelly, LEO Office , Letterkenny on the death of her father, Hugh Kelly.
- Bridgeene Caulfield, Reception, Lifford HQ on the death of her sister Jacinta Kelly.
- Claire Mc Geever, Stranorlar Roads on the death of her father Joe Mc Geever.
- Joe Gallagher, Housing, Letterkenny PSC on the death of his mother, Veronica Gallagher.
- Karen Logue, Water & Environment, Letterkenny PSC, Brenda Sheridan, Human Resources and Tony Blake, Road Design, Lifford on the death of their father Eunan Blake.
- Eibhlinn Mc Guinness, Community & Enterprise , Donegal PSC on the death of her mother, Teresa Mc Clafferty.

- Fergal Doherty, Roads, Letterkenny on the death of his mother Vera Doherty.
- Cllr Frank Mc Brearty on the death of his Great Aunt, Mary Jane Patton.
- Joy Moore, Machinery Yard, Lifford on the death of her mother Violet Wilkin.
- The family of the late Packie Glackin, former Roads Overseer, Dungloe Roads Area.
- Marianne Lynch, Library Service on the death of her mother, Mary Lynch.
- The family of the late Patsy Friel, Retired Lorry Driver.
- Caroline Carr, County Museum and Liam Carr, Falcarragh Fire Station on the death of their sister, Marie Brennan.
- Noel Mc Bride on the death of his father-in law, Jimmy Boyce.
- Gerry Boyle, Fire Service, on the death of his mother, Sheila Boyle

Creative Ireland Four Year Plan Launch

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that he had attended the launch in Dublin and that Donegal County Council's Wainfest Programme had been identified on the night as an event which best illustrated the values and inspirations underpinning the new Creative Ireland Programme.

Opening of Bunagee Marine Development

Members were informed that the official opening of the Bunagee Marine Development at Culdaff would take place on Friday 9th June, 2017 at 2.30pm.

Presentation to Jason Quigley

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that there would be a homecoming reception for Jason Quigley in the Finn Valley Centre on the 31st May, 2017 and that he would be represented by the Chair of the Stranorlar Municipal District.

Visit to Mesen Belgium

The Cathaoirleach said that he had been invited to attend the Battle of Messines Ridge ceremony at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Belgium on the 7th June, 2017. This, he advised, was a joint Ireland - United Kingdom commemoration event and the invite had

been received from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Attendance at the event was approved.

Obituary Notices

Members asked that they be kept informed in relation to all staff obituary notices.

Cllr Harley took the chair for a brief period at this juncture.

C/191/17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and received an update in relation to the following:-

1. Corporate Matters

- Mid-Term Review of Capital Plan 2017

2. Community, Enterprise & Planning

- Update on Preparation of County Development Plan 2018-2024
- Donegal County Council Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2020 launched at National Conference
- Works on the Malin Head Access & Amenity Improvement Project commenced
- Hiking Europe

3. Finance, Emergency Services & Information Systems

- Donegal Civil Defence wins regional competition

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- Turnkey Acquisition
- Social Housing Developments
- Repair & Leasing Scheme
- Buy and Renew Scheme
- Voids Programme for Vacant Council Housing Stock
- Traveller Accommodation
- Creative Ireland Programme
- 1916 digitised minutes

- Conservation without Frontiers' Cross-Border Built Heritage Summer School
- In Search of the Donegal Vernacular Cottage' Exhibition
- Study of Lime Kilns in County Donegal
- Audit of Oral History Recordings County Donegal

5. Roads & Transportation

- 2017 Road Works Programme
- Official opening of the Blackburn Bridge Realignment Scheme Phase 1
- Official Opening of the N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny Road Scheme
- Removal of Illegal Advertising Signs

Cllr Slowey returned to the chair.

Members debated the report and raised the following issues;-

- That one bed roomed housing was not an option in this day and age.
- The Housing Disability Grant Allocation for Donegal did not compare favourably with other counties.
- Outlined the need to ensure that every effort was made to regain Blue Flag status for Lisfannon Beach.
- Query as to what efforts had been made to attain Blue Flag status for Dooey Beach and why Kinnagoe Beach had not been prioritised.
- Need to re-evaluate the illegal signage policy as clarification needed in relation to a number of issues.
- Enforcement of the Hedge cutting policy a priority going forward.
- Suggested that Portaloos be located at all piers in the County.

The Chief Executive informed members that specific criteria had to be satisfied in order to obtain blue flag status and that this was evaluated on a cumulative basis over a number of years. A number of beaches, he noted, were at the stage where a small level of investment would bring them up to blue flag status and this was something, he said, that could be looked at again.

There was acknowledgement also that a balance needed to be achieved in terms of the overall signage policy and that this comprised two elements, namely the policy as adopted by the Council in relation to signage on public roads and general enforcement legislation.

The issue of the chamber, he advised, was being kept under review and the Executive were open to responding to the needs of the Council. He alluded to previous discussions in relation to the modification of the old chamber but noted that this was not a runner in practical terms as it would necessitate the removal of structural walls and render first floor space above the chamber unusable. He would, he said, be happy to meet with the members to discuss and progress the matter further.

The Cathoirleach reminded members that the Freedom of the County would be awarded to Seamus Coleman in the County House Lifford at 5pm on Friday 3rd June, 2017.

The Annual General Meeting of the Council, he added would be held at 3pm on the 14th June, 2017.

The following questions were noted.

C/192/17 LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN DONEGAL
Cllr Ian McGarvey submitted the following question:-

“Can this Council jointly ask our national politicians to make every effort to ensure that employment is located in Donegal?”

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/193/17 PROGRESS ON CLLR MCMONAGLE’S MOTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF LANDS FOR THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL PLAYING PITCHES ACROSS THE COUNTY

Cllr Gerry McMonagle submitted the following question:-

“Has any progress been made by this Council in relation to my motion requesting that the Council identify lands for the development of Municipal Playing Pitches across the county.”

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation the above.

C/194/17 PROGRESS ON CLLR BROGAN'S MOTION WITH A VIEW OF OPENING OUR OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

Cllr Ciaran Brogan submitted the following question:-

“What progress have been made since my motion that we engage with our other Councils with a view to opening our office in Brussels in light of Brexit so as to attract additional funding to improve and build on our infrastructure here in the North West and also clarify the €5 million funding agreement to both Councils for innovation fund?”

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/195/17 OUTLINE OF THE RESPONSE TO THE MANY POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTY

Cllr Ian McGarvey submitted the following question:-

“Is there any hope of having the many pollution problems around the County sorted and can I have an outline of what is being done to tackle same?”

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Water and Environment in relation to the above.

C/196/17 PROGRESS ON THE MOTION AND QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY CLLR BROGAN PREVIOUSLY ON THE TAKEOVER OF THE OLD COURT HOUSE IN LETTERKENNY BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Ciaran Brogan submitted the following question:-

“What progress has been made following my motion and questions with the Court Services on Donegal County Council taking over the Court House in Letterkenny when they move to the new Courthouse?”

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/197/17 CLARIFICATION ON THE OPENING HOURS WITHIN THE RESEARCH AREAS OF DONEGAL COUNTY LIBRARIES

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh submitted the following question:-

“What are the current opening hours in respect of the Research Areas within the Donegal County Libraries?”

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/198/17 AVAILABILITY OF THE REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE FOR CHARITY EVENTS ORGANISED BY COMMUNITY GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh submitted the following question:-

“Is the Regional Cultural Centre available for charity events organised by community groups across the county?”

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/199/17 REPORT ON THE TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME INTRODUCED IN 2016

Cllr Patrick McGowan submitted the following question:-

“How many applicants have successfully purchased their houses in Donegal since the new TP Scheme was introduced in early 2016, what is the update position with the Council and Department on the Tenant Purchase Scheme right now and what are the main causes of concern?”

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/200/17 TO PROVIDE A LIST OF THE ROADS MAINTENANCE WORKS OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

Cllr Gary Doherty submitted the following question:-

“Can I have a list of all roads maintenance works carried out in housing estates over the last five years?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/201/17 UPDATE ON THE HOUSING SCHEMES TAKEN IN CHARGE SINCE 2011 AND THE SCHEMES TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE
Cllr Patrick McGowan submitted the following question:-

“Can I have a list of all housing schemes taken in charge since 2011 and a report on the other schemes listed for taking in charge?”

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/202/17 COUNCIL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR INSTANCES SUCH AS FLOODS, GORSE FIRES AND STORMS
Cllr Gary Doherty submitted the following question:-

“Does this Council have an emergency response protocol for instances such as floods, gorse fires, storms etc?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from Head of Finance & Information Systems and Director of Emergency Services.

C/203/17 PROGRESS MADE WITH THE OPW TO ADDRESS COASTAL EROSION ISSUES IN THE COUNTY
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher submitted the following question:-

“Has any progress been made with the OPW to address the coastal erosion issue in the county?”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/204/17 IDENTIFICATION BY THE COUNCIL OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE COUNTY
Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher submitted the following question:-

“Can the Council identify funding opportunities to address invasive species in the County?”

Cllr Gallagher received a response from the Director of Roads and Transportation in relation to the above.

C/205/17 REDUCTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE PRICE OF HOUSES LOCATED IN FLOOD PLAINS THAT WONT BE ADDRESSED BY THE OPW FOR TENANTS WISHING TO BUY OUT THEIR OWN HOMES

Cllr Jack Murray submitted the following question:-

“Can Donegal County Council reduce the asking price for houses in flood plains which won’t be addressed by the OPW for tenants wishing to buy their homes and/or address the problems faced by said residents in accessing house insurance?”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/206/17 BREAKDOWN OF THE FIGURES FOR SPECIFIC INSTANCE COTTAGES FOR DONEGAL BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr Albert Doherty submitted the following question:-

“What is the number of applicants for Specific Instance housing currently with Donegal County Council and what is the number relevant to each Municipal District in the County?”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/207/17 CLARIFICATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDING PROJECTS FROM THE COUNTY SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE IN BREXIT REVIEW PLAN

Cllr Albert Doherty submitted the following question:-

“The government has indicated that counties and regions significantly impacted by Brexit will be highly considered within the review plan period.

What infrastructure and Capital investment funding projects have been forwarded by Donegal for government attention and will the Council ensure that costings for pier extension and other related works are included in the County Council submission .”

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Head of Finance & Information Systems, Director of Emergency Services in relation to

the above.

C/208/17 UPDATE ON THE CONNECTING OF PROBLEMATIC ESTATES TO THE MAIN SEWERS IN THE COUNTY WITH SPECIFIC REGARDS TO THE TIER 2 TOWNS

Cllr Jack Murray submitted the following question:-

“What is the current status of the stated plans to connect problematic housing estates to the main sewers in the county, with specific details with regards to those in Tier 2 Towns?”

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/209/17 BREAKDOWN OF THE CLAR APPLICATIONS IN THE COUNTY AND THE REASONS FOR ANY APPLICATIONS THAT DID NOT MEET THE CRITERIA

Cllr Martin McDermott submitted the following question:-

“To ask the Council to forward me all the Clar applications for the County and the reasons for any application that did not meet the criteria?”

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Community, Enterprise and Planning in relation to the above.

C/210/17 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions received from other Councils:-

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Galway County Council write to Irish Rail and Bus Eireann to strongly object to any downgrading of bus or rail services that will affect any town or village in County Galway.”

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council would write to the Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar TD and urge him to allow those over 55

on Community Employment Schemes to continue to do so until they reach 65.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government Mr Simon Coveney, T.D. to make available additional resources to Sligo County Council to support the increased social and economic demands due to Brexit and that passed it should be circulated to all Local Authorities.”

And

“That Sligo County Council writes to the Minister for Local Government, Simon Coveney T.D., requesting the following:

Additional resources to be made available to each Local Authority to support the increased social and economic demands due to Brexit.

Further additional resources for Local Authorities along the Border, including Sligo.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council notes that, under current arrangements, a member who is unable to attend a meeting is listed either absent or that they have sent apologies. Medical certification is not recorded or taken into account.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Minister to authorise the following amendments:

- 1) In cases of medical issues/illness, a member can submit their certification and it is recorded as such.
- 2) In cases of medical issues/illness which is certified, the meetings missed are deleted from the overall meetings total for the particular member so that the 80% attendance rule is calculated on the basis of all meetings for the year minus those meetings that are missed on certified medical grounds.
- 3) Meetings that are not attended on the basis of certified medical grounds are recorded and published separately.”

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Waterford City and County Council supports the legalisation of the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes. It further supports

that the scope of such use is left to the professional discretion of the medical practitioner involved and the consenting patient.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council would request Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar to re-instate the telephone allowance for the elderly.”

