

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
20 Samhain, 2018

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 26 Samhain, 2018, 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
20th November, 2018

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 26th November, 2018, 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 the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th September, 2018.
- b. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 3rd October, 2018.

2. 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 a plot of land at Straboy, Glenties.
- 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 of a plot of land at Croaghan, Ramelton.
- c) 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 land at Ballymacarry, Buncrana.
- d) 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 property at the former Lifford Army Barracks Complex to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.

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

To approve the carrying out of works with regard to the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub at the Former Buncrana Town Council Offices, St. Oran's Road, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co Donegal.

4. Community and Enterprise

To note the nomination of Mr Seamus Rodgers, Annagry, Co Donegal, to fill the vacancy on the Donegal Joint Policing Committee.

5. Finance

- a) To consider the Three Year Capital Programme for Donegal County Council for the period 2019 – 2021 inclusive.
- b) To agree Overdraft Accommodation of Eight Million Euro (€8,000,000) for full year ending 31st December 2019.

6. Corporate

To approve the Schedule of Council Meetings for 2019.

7. Planning

High Court Record No 2018/533JR.

Planree Ltd- v- Donegal County Council. (Report to be circulated)

8. Endorsement of Minutes

To note minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 17th September, 2018.

9. Attendance at Conference, Seminar or Event

Authorisation of representation at a seminar, meeting or event under Section 142 (5) of Local Government Act, 2001, S.I. No. 668 of 2006, Local Government (Expenses or Local Authority Members) Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 37 of 2010, Guidelines given by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010, and the Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations, 2014.

Conferences

- Co-operation Ireland – All Island Local Authority Forum Study Visit to Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy (Mid Ulster District Council) to be held Wednesday 28th November, 2018.
- Celtic Conferences – EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 to be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December, 2018 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar for Local Authorities, Local Govt. (Restoration of Town Councils) Bill 2018 to be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December, 2018 in the Whitford Hotel, Wexford.
- The future of “Cross- Border Co-operation” organised by ICBAN to be held on the 30th November, 2018 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan.

MOTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

10. Cllr Paul Canning

"I would ask that this Council in relation to the "Flemish Decree" engages with the Department on the proposed changes by the European Commission to the Planning Guidelines that were to be issued in 2017 in the form of a Circular Letter to the Planning Authorities with advice on the replacement text on section 3.2.3 of the Guidelines."

Cultural Services

11. Cllr Albert Doherty

"The First Dáil Éireann assembly constituted and mandated by the electorate in the 1918 General Election. Mindful and supportive of national intentions to mark this historical occasion, that Donegal County Council now,

- 1) Initiate and organise a comprehensive programme of celebration and commemoration of the First Dáil within the county in 2019,
- 2) Invite nearest next of kin of family member of the first TDs representing the Donegal Constituencies to an event in the Plenary Council Headquarters Lifford
- 3) Promote and sponsor a first and second level historical schools project on the First Dáil within all schools in the County."

Economic Development & Tourism

12. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council calls upon the OPW to recruit tour guides at areas with a significant tourism potential, such as Grianan of Aileach".

Corporate

13. Cllr Nicholas Crossan

"That Donegal County Council request the Road Safety Authority, to provide an additional full-time Driving Instructor to our County to alleviate the inordinate time it takes to secure a driving test"

Emergency Services

14. **Cllr Martin McDermott**

"To ask this Council to provide water tankers to hold 10,000 litres of water so that water can be taken to rural parts of the County when there is a fire and no access to water hydrants."

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

15. **Cllr Adrian Glackin**

"That this Council notes the importance of access to a car for those living in rural Ireland and recognises that the prohibitive cost of car insurance is making insurance unobtainable for many young people in this county. I ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Transport to urge the Government to take positive action which will regulate insurance companies and ensure they provide fair quotes for our young people".

16. **Cllr Ciaran Brogan**

"I propose that this Council seek a cross-party deputation with the Minister for Housing, and seek to have the Tenants Purchase Scheme reviewed immediately to allow people who have been living in homes the opportunity to purchase their home".

(Some tenants have been in their homes for over forty years and have the money to buy their homes but the scheme doesn't allow them to, particularly those tenants whose income is pension based)

Water and Environment

17. **Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh**

"That Donegal County Council promote tobacco free environments in particular in relation to our parks, beaches, playgrounds and leisure centres by voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws."

Planning

18. **Cllr Gerry McMonagle**

"That this Council in the light of growing Multiple Housing Developments Planning Applications ensures that we have adequate staff in the Planning Section of this Council to oversee these projects and ensure full compliance with any and all conditions laid down in the Planning Permission granted, and that adequate bonds are

deposited by the contractors to protect the Council from the costs we have faced in relation to the many Unfinished Estates across our County in recent years."

Roads and Transportation

19. Cllr James Pat McDaid

"That this Council use all the equipment they have and check to see if they can extend the gritting programme to facilitate roads on which rural schools are located."

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roads & Transportation

20. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"That this Council review its policy and procedures and consultation process in relation to major road work programmes before tendering and during construction."

Corporate

21. Cllr Frank McBrearty

"I am calling on the Government to deal with the serious problems with mental health services in Donegal and for them to inject what monies are necessary to deal with staff shortages and to reduce the times for people to avail of the appropriate counselling services"

22. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That this Council reasserts its support for the retention and supplementing of services and facilities at St. Joseph's, Lifford and Ramelton Community Hospitals."

Planning

23. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"That this Council take immediate action to take in charge all estates that are occupied over five years, prioritising estates with inadequate sewerage treatment plants which are a constant threat to the environment and residents across the County, and can the latest legal advice on taking in charge these long established estates be provided to the members of this Council on the day of or preferably prior to this motion being discussed on the 26th Nov."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

24. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That this Council noting the recent Cervical Check Scandal calls on the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4Women Campaign. These include legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure, independent of the patient safety bill, provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits."

25. Cllr Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig

"Molaim go dtugann Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall tacaíocht do na héilimh ón phobal fá choinne Acht Gaeilge sna Sé Chontae agus, má éiríonn leis an rún, go scaipfear an t-eolas sin ar na páirtithe poliatíochta uilig sna Sé Chontae agus ar na Comhairlí Contae agus Cathrach uilig fríd an tír".

"I propose that Donegal County Council support the demands from the public for an Irish Language Act in the Six Counties and if the motion is carried, that this information is circulated to all the political parties in the Six Counties and to all the City and County Councils throughout the country".

26. Cathaoirleach's Business

27. Chief Executive's Management Report

QUESTIONS

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

28. Cllr Paul Canning

"Has any correspondence arrived from any Government Department issuing guidelines on the proposed boundary changes within this county to allow engineers to budget accordingly?"

29. Cllr Jack Murray

"How many schoolchildren did the Council assist in registering to vote subsequent to my motion at the plenary Council Meeting in July, 2018?"

30. Cllr Jack Murray

"Will the Council be making a submission regarding proposed Airbnb legislation and what is the Council's view on the matter?"

31. Cllr Albert Doherty

"The State's first centre for Lyme Disease is to open this month (Nov.2018) in the Mater Hospital in Dublin.

Family members affected by Lyme disease have presented to members both at Municipal and Plenary Council in the past.

What practical steps have Donegal County Council taken, and continue to take to promote awareness and information sharing on Lyme disease,

a) solely as a local authority body?

b) in co-operation with other state and statutory bodies in the county?"

Roads and Transportation

32. Cllr Paul Canning

"Have any requests been made to the Department to reintroduce the Specific Road Grants for works that are falling between other funding mechanisms?"

Planning

33. Cllr Albert Doherty

a)"How many housing estates and developments have been taken in charge by Donegal County Council this year to date, (Jan to Nov 2018) and will be taken in charge by year's end (Dec 2018) and

b)Will the Council confirm the Municipal areas and locations?"

Emergency Services

34. Cllr Martin McDermott

"Can I get a breakdown of how many staff that are working in each MD from Community and Culture and what grades they are at?"

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Planning

35. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

How much money have we been granted by Central Government in relation to addressing Unfinished Estates, how much have we acquired through bonds etc, and finally how much of our own resources and money has it cost the Council to deal with Unfinished Estates?

36. Cllr Gerry McMonagle

"Can I have an update on the number of Unfinished Estates that our Planning Section have identified and are currently working on across the county?"

Finance

37. Cllr James Pat McDaid

"What is the total revenue being collected by this Council in respect to Wind Turbines in this County?"

Economic Development

38. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Can I have a report on the progress of the new business support unit agreed by this Council earlier this year and to have senior management from each directorate fast track and facilitate planning applications to this Council to ensure every effort is made to accommodate future and current jobs in our county?"

Corporate

39. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Have we a timeframe as to how long it takes to reply to Councillors and Constituents queries and if so can we have a report on the response times for same?"

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development & Emergency Services

40. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"What plans will this Council put in place to deal with various emergencies over the Christmas - New Year period."

41. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"Has there been any increase in cross border business enquiries to the relevant sections of this Council in respect of the border areas?"

Planning

42. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"What is the delay with progressing CCTV for Donegal considering Ballybofey-Stranorlar has been waiting almost two years and can a meeting be requested with the Department of Justice immediately to discuss the reasons for the CCTV scheme not being progressed in Donegal?"

Roads and Transportation

43. Cllr Frank McBrearty

"What checks and balances do the Council do on monies granted to roads from applications for LIS Programmes county-wide?"

Water and Environment

44. Cllr Patrick McGowan

"Following my earlier motions and questions on taking in charge Group Water Schemes across the County, please give an update on each scheme waiting to be taken over, outlining the reason for the unacceptable delay?"

45. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kilkenny County Council fully supports the immediate implementation of 24/7 Cardiac Care in UHW and will encourage fellow Councillors in neighbouring counties of Carlow, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford.

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kilkenny County Council supports the proposal from historian Catherine Corless for a full DNA analysis of the children found in the septic tanks in Tuam and that they be given a proper dignified and Christian burial."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

"Sligo County Council calls on the Government to intervene now to prevent An Post using a very restrictive anti-rural definition of a "settlement" taken from the Central Statistics Office 2016 Census report, as part the criteria for establishing a post office in an area. An Post has stated that no settlement over 500 people will be left without a post office. A settlement is defined as "having a minimum of 50 occupied dwellings, with a maximum distance between any dwelling

and the building closest to it of 100 metres, and where there is evidence of an urban centre.” This is too restrictive and rules out vast areas of rural Ireland including many medium sized towns.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Given the continued efforts of Department of Local Government to undermine local authorities and the increased centralisation of power in Ireland, this Council calls on the government to establish an independent convention on the future of local government, that will examine powers, autonomy and funding.

In the event of the failure of government to act, this Council calls on LAMA and the AILG to establish such a convention and to seek cross party support.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Education and Skills to recognise the important role that outdoor educational centres play in the education and development of our youth by funding all staff salaries of outdoor educational centres directly from department funds.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council calls on Government to:

1. Enact ‘Private Members Dáil Motion of the 11th November, 2016.’ (a call previously supported by Wexford County Council, October 2017)
2. Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed.
3. The results of this Council motion to be promptly conveyed to the Minister for Communications Climate action and Environment and Deputy Hildegard Naughton, Chair of Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
4. That this motion will be circulated to all local authorities.”

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 26th
NOVEMBER, 2018

C/360/18 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs S Ó'Domhnaill (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, E Bonner, C Brogan, J Campbell, P Canning, T Conaghan, G Crawford, N. Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, M Doherty, R Donaghey, M. T. Gallagher, A Glackin, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F McBrearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, J P McDaid, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, P McGowan, B McGuinness, G McMonagle, M Naughton, J S O'Fearraigh, B O'Neill and T Slowey.

C/361/18 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, Joe Peoples, Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, Liam Ward, Director of Community & Planning Services, Michael Mc Garvey, A/Director of Water & Environment, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/362/18 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr O' Fearraigh the minutes of the September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 24th September, 2018 were adopted.

C/363/18 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan the minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 3rd October, 2018 were adopted.

C/364/18 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT STRABOY, GLENTIES

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

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Slowey it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Straboy, Glenties to Breid Herron, in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/365/18 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CROAGHAN, RAMELTON

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

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Conaghan it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Croaghan, Ramelton to Patrick Redmond Smyth, Peter Daniel Byrne and Elizabeth Patricia Cunningham. in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C366//18 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BALLYMACARRY, BUNCRANA

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

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to dispose of land at Ballymacarry, Buncrana to Leo Grant in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/367/18 DISPOSAL BY WAY OF LEASE PROPERTY AT THE FORMER LIFFORD ARMY BARRACKS

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr McBrearty it was resolved to dispose by way of lease property at the former Lifford Army Barracks Complex to The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in accordance with the provisions of Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended).

C/368/18 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE INISHOWEN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB

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

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Canning, members approved the carrying out of works with regard to the Inishowen Digital Innovation Hub at the Former Buncrana Town Council Offices, St. Oran's Road, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/369/18 FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE.

On the proposal of Cllr Bonner, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, Mr Seamus Rodgers was selected to fill the vacancy on the Donegal Joint Policing Committee.

C/370/18 THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2019-2021 INCLUSIVE

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

A lengthy discussion took place during which members raised a number of issues.

The Cathaoirleach asked that clarification be provided in relation to same and circulated when available to members.

Cllr O' Neill advised that Minister English would be visiting the County and it was thus agreed that the Chief Executive, the Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Services and the Chief Fire Officer would meet with the members of the Donegal Municipal District prior to their meeting with Minister English regarding Ballyshannon and Bundoran Fire Stations.

C/371/18 MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – IRISH WATER TRANSFORMATION AND FEBRUARY 2019 DEADLINE

A request signed by Cllrs Donaghey, Mc Dermott, Mc Gowan, Crawford, Canning, Mc Daid ,Bonner, L Doherty, Mc Monagle, Glackin, Gallagher, O' Fearraigh, Campbell, Conaghan, Harley, Slowey, Mc Garvey, Crossan, Kennedy, M Doherty , Mc Brearty

Jnr, and Mc Bride to have the following motion discussed as urgent business in accordance with Standing Order No 28 was submitted to the Meetings Administrator:-

“That this Council in accordance with Standing Order No 27 and in response to the proposed Irish Water Transformation and the February 2019 deadline by Minister Eoghan Murphy;

That Donegal County Council demand a certainty, security and proper consultation process for all the employees of Donegal County Council, Sanitary Section seconded under the Service Level Agreement (SLA), to Irish Water until 2025”.

On the proposal of Cllr Donaghey, seconded by Cllr M Doherty it was agreed to consider same prior to the close of business.

C/372/18 TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF EIGHT MILLION EURO (€8,000,000) FOR FULL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2019.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Harley it was resolved in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government that:

- (a) It is in the best interests of the Council and in line with its statutory rights and obligations to avail of the facility and provide the Guarantee up to an amount of eight million euro (€8,000,000).
- (b) Accordingly, the Council agrees to avail of the facility and provide the Guarantee.
- (c) Each of the persons undertaking the roles of Donegal Chief Executive and the Head of Finance from time to time be authorised, together and separately, to negotiate the terms of each of the facility letters put, and to be put, in place to document the facility (each, a “Facility Letter” and together, the “Facility Letters”), together with any amendments or variations to the Guarantee or replacement Guarantee, and to sign each such Facility letter and Guarantee by way of acceptance of the terms of such document (including, without limitation, all terms and conditions referred to in each such Facility letter) and that

each such signed Facility letter and Guarantee shall be fully binding on, and enforceable against, the Council; and
(d) The Council ratifies the availing of the Facility by the Council, within the limits specified, and confirms the execution of all Facility Letters together with the Guarantee.

C/373/18 TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2019

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr McBride the Schedule of Council Meetings for 2019 was agreed.

Cllr Gallagher queried if there had been any response in relation to a number of motions adopted at the September Council Meeting regarding Post Office closures in the county. It was agreed that responses received would be circulated to all members of the Council.

C/374/18 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

On the proposal of Cllr O' Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until 2.15pm

C/375/18 HIGH COURT RECORD PLANREE LTD –V- DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Members considered the report circulated prior to the meeting in relation to the above

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan, seconded by Cllr Crawford it was resolved to initiate a variation to the County Development Plan 2018-2024 having regard to the outcome of the recent High Court challenge.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that if the recommendations provided by the Chief Executive had been taken on board initially, the Council would not now be in this position. It was, he said, uncalled for and a waste of taxpayers money.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the Council's wishes to initiate the variation process. He said, that he would contact the Department in relation to the status of the new National Guidelines and assess whether it was prudent to await the publication of same before initiating the variation process. It was noted that another body of work relating to the Local Area Plans was also in the

process of being finalised and would impact on work schedules at the beginning of 2019. He informed members that there were no details available as of yet in relation to the legal costs.

C/376/18 ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by Cllr Canning the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on 17th September, 2018 were noted.

C/377/18 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/EVENTS

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 2006-2018 as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by Cllr McBride, 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.

Conferences

- Co-operation Ireland – All Island Local Authority Forum Study Visit to Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy (Mid Ulster District Council) to be held Wednesday 28th November, 2018.
- Celtic Conferences – EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 to be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December, 2018 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- The Institute of Professional Training – Training Seminar for Local Authorities, Local Govt. (Restoration of Town Councils) Bill 2018 to be held from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December, 2018 in the Whitford Hotel, Wexford.
- The future of “Cross- Border Co-operation” organised by ICBAN to be held on the 30th November, 2018 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan.

C/378/18

PROPOSED CHANGES BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
TO THE PLANNING GUIDELINES THAT WERE ISSUED IN
2017

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott the following Motion was adopted:-

"I would ask that this Council in relation to the "Flemish Decree" engages with the Department on the proposed changes by the European Commission to the Planning Guidelines that were to be issued in 2017 in the form of a Circular Letter to the Planning Authorities with advice on the replacement text on section 3.2.3 of the Guidelines."

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

He said that there were serious anomalies in the planning system and alluded to the fact that "no change of use permission" was required to allow a hotel in Moville be used to house asylum seekers. It was ridiculous, he added, that an application from the Muff area had been turned down on the basis that the applicant in question was defined as not being "local".

Decisions, he added, were being taken based on guidelines which had been called into question by the EU itself.

Cllr Mc Dermott also alluded to the situation in Moville and the fact that local representatives had not been consulted in relation to the proposals. This was, he contended, a major oversight on the Departments behalf with no attempt made to discuss the situation at local level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, advised that there had been regular consultation with the Department but nothing received to date. Another request could be made, he added, and an update on progress of the review of the Guidelines would be circulated as soon as it became available.

C/379/18 COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST DAIL

Cllr A Doherty proposed that the following motion be adopted:-

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

"The First Dáil Éireann assembly constituted and mandated by the electorate in the 1918 General Election. Mindful and supportive of national intentions to mark this historical occasion, that Donegal County Council now,

- 1) Initiate and organise a comprehensive programme of celebration and commemoration of the First Dáil within the county in 2019,
- 2) Invite nearest next of kin of family member of the first TDs representing the Donegal Constituencies to an event in the Plenary Council Headquarters Lifford
- 3) Promote and sponsor a first and second level historical schools project on the First Dáil within all schools in the County."

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

He said that given the historical significance of the occasion, the event needed to be marked in a significant and dignified way. It was suggested that the day in question should be treated as a national holiday and that any local response should include commemorative events geared towards first and second level students. He called also for a significant effort to be made to bring the next of kin of the first TDs from the Donegal Constituencies to a dedicated event in Lifford.

At this juncture, he said, that he wished to amend the motion and include a reference also to the fact that the Minister for Education & Skills had called for a review of the decision to remove history as a mandatory subject in the Junior Certificate Syllabus.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion said that the occasion afforded a great opportunity for first and second level students to participate in a schools history project.

Thus on the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"The First Dáil Éireann assembly constituted and mandated by the electorate in the 1918 General Election. Mindful and supportive of national intentions to mark this historical occasion, that Donegal County Council now,

- 1) Initiate and organise a comprehensive programme of celebration and commemoration of the First Dáil within the county in 2019,
- 2) Invite nearest next of kin of family member of the first TDs representing the Donegal Constituencies to an event in the Plenary Council Headquarters Lifford
- 3) Promote and sponsor a first and second level historical schools project on the First Dáil within all schools in the County."
- 4) That the Minister for Education & Skills, Joe Mc Hugh, T.D in light of the recent decision to revisit the decision to make History an optional subject in the Junior Certificate Syllabus acts to ensure that it is treated as a mandatory subject at Junior Certificate level.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services confirmed that plans were ongoing in relation to a suitable commemoration and that it was intended to work to the objective of the motion. The Museum and Archives Section, he said, had secured funding under the Peace IV initiative to organise a programme of workshops, exhibitions and events in 2019.

Cllr Doherty concluding the debate asked that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Education & Skills, the National Council for Curricular Assessment and to all other local authorities for consideration.

C/380/18 RECRUITMENT OF TOUR GUIDES FOR THE GRIANAN OF AILEACH

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following Motion submitted by Cllr Murray was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council calls upon the OPW to recruit tour guides at areas with a significant tourism potential, such as Grianan of Aileach".

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems in relation to the above.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/381/18 ADDITIONAL FULL TIME DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

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

"That Donegal County Council request the Road Safety Authority, to provide an additional full-time driving instructor to our County to alleviate the inordinate time it takes to secure a driving test"

Cllr Crossan received a response from the Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He said that the crux of the matter was that rural Ireland was once again under attack and that young people were becoming more and more disadvantaged through lack of access to essential services. The cost of obtaining a licence was prohibitive for many young people, he added, thus effectively denying them access to social and economic opportunities.

He alluded also to the fact that Buncrana and Donegal Town Centres could not facilitate Category C Testing thus forcing people to travel to Letterkenny. Waiting times were a major issue, he added, with a 23 week waiting period recorded in Buncrana in April 2018.

Cllr Kennedy supporting the motion said that the average waiting times in towns across the county were far too high and that the centralising of jeep and trailer tests in Letterkenny was not practical.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Cathaoirleach asked that the issue be raised with the Road Safety Authority.

Cllr Crossan thanked members for their support.

C/382/18 PROVIDE WATER TANKERS TO HOLD 10,000 LITRES OF WATER IN RURAL AREAS

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Canning the following Motion was adopted:- _

"To ask this Council to provide water tankers to hold 10,000 litres of water so that water can be taken to rural parts of the County when there is a fire and no access to water hydrants."

Cllr Mc Dermott received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems in relation to the above.

He referred to a particular incident in his own area whereby a Fire Tender was forced to make 6 runs to a water source 2kms away from the scene of a fire. This, he said, was inexcusable in this day and age and argued strongly that the provision of water tankers must be a priority in 2019. He praised Fire Service personnel for their efforts to date.

Cllr Canning concurred with this assessment and said that additional funding needed to be sourced immediately from the Department.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems noted that funding had been sought for this resource previously but to no avail. Ideally, he said, an area the size and scale of Donegal would need a number of these tankers thus giving some level of confidence to the general public. A fetch and carry approach was used, he said, in situations where there was a limited supply of water and in urban areas further appliances were on hand to combat any such water shortages.

Cllr Mc Dermott welcomed the response and asked that every effort be made to prioritise the acquisition of tankers in 2019.

C/383/18

COST OF CAR INSURANCE

On the proposal of Cllr Glackin, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council notes the importance of access to a car for those living in rural Ireland and recognises that the prohibitive cost of car insurance is making insurance unobtainable for many young people in this county. I ask that this Council writes to the Minister for Transport to urge the Government to take positive action which

will regulate insurance companies and ensure they provide fair quotes for our young people".

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

He alluded to the fact that the astronomical cost of car insurance was unacceptable for many young people, particularly those in rural areas who had to travel to the larger towns seeking employment. Greater regulation, he said, was needed so that young people in rural areas could avail of adequate insurance cover at a fair and equitable rate. People returning to live in Ireland were also, he said, actively disadvantaged by such exorbitant charges.

Cllr Mc Monagle concurred with his comments and noted that AA Ireland had actively campaigned especially for those who live in rural areas. Government recommendations in relation to same had, he confirmed, been ignored. He asked that the Minister for Transport be asked to follow up in relation to same.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Glackin thanked members for their support and outlined the need for an equitable and fair solution going forward.

C/384/18

REVIEW THE TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

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

"I propose that this Council seek a cross-party deputation with the Minister for Housing, and seek to have the Tenants Purchase Scheme reviewed immediately to allow people who have been living in homes the opportunity to purchase their home".
(Some tenants have been in their homes for over forty years and have the money to buy their homes but the scheme doesn't allow them to, particularly those tenants whose income is pension based)

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

He said the issue was an emotive one for many families as it was often in the later stages of life that they were in a position to buy their own home, yet the current scheme discriminated negatively

against such applicants. It was noted that a cross party delegation had met with the Minister in 2016 regarding a review of the criteria. A resolution was needed, he added, as the issue continued to cause much stress and anxiety for many families.

Cllr Mc Dermott said it was clear that the Tenant Purchase Scheme was not working and that the review requested two years ago had not taken place. The lack of S.I Housing, he contended was also a problem.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services informed members that the matter at been discussed by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, but that the Council operated the Scheme based on the terms set by the Department. A meeting, he said, would be sought with the Minister in order to outline the various concerns raised to date. It was agreed that issues raised earlier at the Adjourned September Meeting regarding the provision of downstairs bedroom en-suite facilities in social housing projects could also be included on the agenda for the meeting.

Cllr Brogan said it was important that the message went to the Minister that such schemes were not working and that a review needed to be completed as soon as possible.

C/385/18 PROMOTION OF TOBACCO FREE ENVIRONMENTS

On the proposal of Cllr Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr Harley the following Motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council promote tobacco free environments in particular in relation to our parks, beaches, playgrounds and leisure centres by voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws."

Cllr Kavanagh received a response from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

He called on Donegal County Council to take the lead in this initiative as statistics indicated that the number of people smoking had reduced significantly from 50% in the 1970s to 20% in 2018.

The target going forward, it was acknowledged, was to have this figure reach 5% or less by 2025.

With over a 1000 hospital admissions per week directly related to smoking the burden on both the Health Service and the Exchequer was enormous. He noted that the Cessation Programme run by the HSE had been most successful to date. The provision of a budget for No Smoking signage was also something, he advised, which needed to be looked at.

Cllr Harley referred to the ongoing cost to the Exchequer and said that a message needed to go out that it was not acceptable any longer to smoke in our Parks, Beaches, Playgrounds etc.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment said that it would be possible to meet with the HSE Cessation Group for an exchange of ideas and to look at the various options available.

Cllr Kavanagh thanked all who had supported the motion.

C/386/18 ADEQUATE PLANNING STAFF TO OVERSEE MULTIPLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr Glackin the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council in the light of growing Multiple Housing Developments Planning Applications ensures that we have adequate staff in the Planning Section of this Council to oversee these projects and ensure full compliance with any and all conditions laid down in the planning permission granted, and that adequate bonds are deposited by the contractors to protect the Council from the costs we have faced in relation to the many unfinished estates across our County in recent years."

Cllr Mc Monagle received a response from the Director of Community & Planning Services.

Alluding to the rise of multiple housing development applications, he said, that there was a need for additional staffing to get such projects to the crucial stages of development. Lessons needed to be learned from the unfinished estates saga, he added, and the way

forward was to employ clerks of works who would liaise with individual contractors at each stage of development. This, he contended, would be money well spent and would afford some form of protection to citizens who wanted to buy their own homes.

Cllr Glackin advised of the need to be proactive in relation to this matter and outlined the need for regular meetings with contractors involved. This, he said, would save the Council money in the long term and provide confidence to those seeking to build homes.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services said that there had been discussion recently on the matter at a Letterkenny Municipal District Workshop. The message was clear, he added, that lessons needed to be learned from past mistakes and that it was imperative that a similar scenario did not arise in the future with regard to unfinished estates.

He said that he would explore the matter with the Department so that an assessment could be made as to how the request fitted in with the overall national process.

Cllr Mc Monagle thanked members for their support and asked that clarification be sought as soon as possible

C/387/18 EXTENSION OF THE GRITTING PROGRAMME TO FACILITATE ROADS ON WHICH RURAL SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan , seconded by Cllr Crawford the following Motion submitted by Cllr Mc Daid was adopted:-

"That this Council use all the equipment they have and check to see if they can extend the gritting programme to facilitate roads on which rural schools are located."

Cllr Mc Daid received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/388/18 REVIEW OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO MAJOR ROAD WORK PROGRAMMES

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council review its policy and procedures and consultation process in relation to major road work programmes before tendering and during construction."

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

He said that he had raised the matter on the basis that businesses were often affected financially by the implementation of the respective Roads Programmes. He referenced one particular case, the details of which had already been provided to the Director of Service. In this particular instance a request by the business people concerned to meet with all relevant parties had not materialised or the suggested on site meeting. He expressed concern that timeframes provided for the completion of works often changed on a daily basis Whilst recognising that there were many complexities involved, he said, that was an onus on the Council to ensure that such disruptions were effectively managed and timeframes adhered to.

Cllr Mc Dermott outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation acknowledged that there were difficulties associated with traffic management on two lane roads and that this inevitably led to delays. He said that he could appreciate that there were frustrations associated with such delays. The Roads SPC, he advised, had already discussed the matter and had agreed to discuss the issues involved at its next scheduled meeting in February 2019. This, he contended, would provide an opportunity to assess how things could have been done differently and look at options for streamlining the process including a review of the methods of communication. It would be possible, he said, for other members to attend this meeting and he would inform all concerned closer to the time.

Cllr Crawford welcomed the response and acknowledged the assistance given to date by the Director of Service and the Senior Engineer, Mr Damian Mc Dermott. He asked that the accuracy of

the information provided to the public be carefully checked so as to allow people plan their journeys in an effective manner.

C/389/18 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN DONEGAL

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride the following Motion was adopted:-

"I am calling on the Government to deal with the serious problems with mental health services in Donegal and for them to inject what monies are necessary to deal with staff shortages and to reduce the times for people to avail of the appropriate counselling services"

Cllr Mc Brearty received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

He informed the meeting that at least one in four people suffer or are likely to suffer from a mental health illness at some point in their lives. Presently, he confirmed, there was a 6-8 week waiting period for access to mental health services in Donegal. This was scandalous, he said, for a county which had previously piloted some of the most advanced services in the country. The lack of one to one counselling was also deemed inexcusable .

He had, he said, during his time as Mayor held a very successful Mental Health Conference aimed at lifting the taboo associated with mental health problems. People at national level in Government were not listening, he said, and mental health services in Donegal were effectively broken. He urged the Council to contact the Minister for Health regarding additional funding for psychiatric and counselling services in the county.

Cllr Mc Bride, seconding the motion agreed that underfunding was a major problem for both mental health an autism services.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Brearty pleaded with the Minister to address the issues concerned, advising that this was essential in a county such as Donegal with many isolated rural areas and a high rate of youth unemployment.

C/390/18 RETENTION OF SERVICES AT ST. JOSEPH'S,
STRANORLAR, LIFFORD AND RAMELTON COMMUNITY
HOSPITALS

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty , seconded by Cllr L Doherty the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council reasserts its support for the retention and supplementing of services and facilities at St. Joseph's, Lifford and Ramelton Community Hospitals."

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

The facilities mentioned, he advised, provided much needed services within their respective communities. There was currently, he noted, great anxiety and fear that patients would be moved from the institutions concerned.

He paid tribute to all those who had campaigned for the retention of services in these hospitals over the past few years.

There was currently, he contended, anger and resentment in the Lifford area that the HSE had not communicated long term plans for service provision in Lifford Community Hospital.

Cllr Liam Doherty said that local Community Hospitals provided a vital service for the elderly and infirm and were generally staffed by people living locally. This worked well for all concerned, he added, and ensured that people were cared for within their own community network.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Doherty concluding asked that a copy of the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Health and the relevant Departments.

C/391/18 TAKING IN CHARGE HOUSING ESTATES

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan , seconded by Cllr Canning the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council take immediate action to take in charge all estates that are occupied over five years, prioritising estates with inadequate sewerage treatment plants which are a constant threat to

the environment and residents across the County, and can the latest legal advice on taking in charge these long established estates be provided to the members of this Council on the day of or preferably prior to this motion being discussed on the 26th Nov."

Cllr Mc Gowan received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

He said that a dedicated programme for sewage and water services was needed to remedy issues in a number of the older estates. He asked that all funding options be explored under the National Taking in Charge Initiative so as to progress work on these estates in 2019.

Cllr Canning alluded to the fact that there seemed to be a problem with stand alone treatment plants and as to whether or not Irish Water was willing to take responsibility for same. He said that Irish Water was dragging its heels in relation to many of the smaller issues and that the Council needed to tease this out with the utility going forward.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services acknowledged the various issues raised and paid tribute to the team headed by Frank Sweeney, Senior Executive Planner for their efforts and work to date in moving the takeover process forward. An excellent programme of work, it was acknowledged, had been carried out over the past few years

It was hoped, he said, to have issues at Dromore Park resolved as soon as possible. There were, he noted, particular difficulties with stand alone treatment plants . Going forward, he said he was hopeful that there would be further funding opportunities in the New Year under the national taking in charge initiative.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Concluding, he expressed concern that estates with sewage problems were inevitable being left to the latter end of the takeover process.

C/392/18

STANDING 4 WOMEN CAMPAIGN

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the following Motion was adopted:-

"That this Council noting the recent cervical check scandal calls on the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4Women Campaign. These include legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure, independent of the patient safety bill, provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits."

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

She said she was delighted to support the Stand4Women Campaign which called for the introduction of policy and legislation on mandatory disclosure independent of the Patient Safety Bill.

This, she said, was crucial now more than ever in light of the recent death of Emma Mhic Mhathúna, and the consequences of the scandal for many families throughout the country.

Full disclosure was needed, she added, in terms of the 1800 smears yet to be audited. The lack of answers from both the HSE and the Government, she said, was staggering and it was an insult to those families who were suffering that mandatory open disclosure had been included in the Patient Safety Bill which could take anything up to three to four years to process. Stand alone legislation for mandatory disclosure, it was acknowledged, was the only way forward.

Cllr Kennedy said the motion was an extremely important one as it was a matter of life or death for the families involved. The Medical Council Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics, she noted, stressed the importance of open and honest communication. The onus on all concerned now, she added, was to acknowledge that the event happened, investigate it in a proper and fair manner and reduce the risks involved for all concerned.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Gallagher thanked members for their support and asked that it be forwarded to An Taoiseach and the Minister for Health.

C/393/18 IRISH LANGUAGE ACT IN THE SIX COUNTIES

On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride the following Motion was adopted:-

“Molaim go dtugann Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall tacaíocht do na héilimh ón phobal fá choinne Acht Gaeilge sna Sé Chontae agus, má éiríonn leis an rún, go scaipfear an t-eolas sin ar na páirtithe poliatíochta uilig sna Sé Chontae agus ar na Comhairlí Contae agus Cathrach uilig fríd an tír”.

“I propose that Donegal County Council support the demands from the public for an Irish Language Act in the Six Counties and if the motion is carried, that this information is circulated to all the political parties in the Six Counties and to all the City and County Councils throughout the country”.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

It was important, he said, that this County and this Council offered support to those campaigning for Irish language rights in Northern Ireland.

Cllr Mc Bride also outlined his support.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig thanked members for their support advising that it was important that the official status of the Irish Language was recognised in Northern Ireland.

C/394/18 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following and a minutes silence observed by all present.

- The family of the late Laurence Nash, former Safety Advisor, Donegal County Council.
- Traolach Ó Fionnáin , Cultural Services on the death of his mother, May Fanning.
- Cllr Enda Bonner on the death of his father, Dom Bonner.
- The family of the late Bernie Campbell (Library Service)

- Eamonn Kelly, Water Services on the death of his father, Eddie (Ned) Kelly.
- Breid Rodgers, Milford Call Centre on the death of her father, Dan Rodgers.
- The family of the late Jean Henderson, Magherabuoy, Raphoe.
- Sean Canning, Housing, Donegal PSC on the death of his mother, Annie Canning.
- Liam Mc Crossan formerly Housing Construction on the death of his son Eamonn Mc Crossan.
- Aidan Mc Grenra, Housing, Inishowen M.D the death of his mother, Essie Mc Grenra.
- Owenie Ferry, Water Works Inspector, Dungloe on the death of his mother, Nora Ferry.
- Margaret Todd, Customer Service Centre, on the death of her mother, Nan Todd.
- Cllr Noel Jordan on the death of his father, Jack Jordan
- Eunan O' Donnell, Roads Central on the death of his father Finbar.

Attendance at Events

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he had attended the following events:-

- *Launch of Social Inclusion Week on the 2nd October, 2018.*
- *National Pride of Place Awards in Cork City Hall on the 17th November.*
Tribute was paid to Ray Community Centre on winning first place in the village with a population under 300 category. Ceol le Chéile Older Persons Council, Bunrana and the Ard Mc Gill Housing Estate, Glenties MD both of whom were runners up in the towns over 5000 category. The efforts of all concerned were noted.
- *Joint Trade and Investment Mission led by Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council with other parties to the USA in November 2018.*
The Cathaoirleach advised that this had been a very successful initiative and that as a result Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council were launching a new

research project led by Gareth Doherty, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD), to investigate how the cross-border city-region of Ireland Northwest can be shaped in light of the economic, political, and social realities of Brexit. This research he said would assist the Councils in their ambitions to realise the potential of Ireland Northwest as a centre for growth and prosperity and a great place to live in, to work in and to invest in.

He had, he said, been honoured to collect a cheque for \$14,000 from the Donegal Association in Philadelphia on behalf of the Donegal Hospice and acknowledged the generosity of the Philadelphia Irish Community.

Cllr Mc Bride asked that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Donegal Association in Philadelphia

During the course of the week, the delegation, he noted had met with the Mayor of Boston, Mr Marty Walsh. There had been meetings also with members of the Donegal Diaspora and representatives of the Undocumented Irish.

The Group, he advised, had also attended the Golden Bridges Conference in Boston.

- *Opening of Finn Footbridge on the 19th November*
- *Attendance the Chambers Ireland Awards on the 22nd November in Santry.*

Congratulations were extended to all involved with the Wainfest Project and for being nominated under the Best Library Category.

C/395/18 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members considered the following items as outlined in the contained in the September and November Management Reports:-

September Report

1. Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems.

- Tip O'Neill Awards.
- Donegal Signature Dish Event.

2. Community Development & Planning Services

- Seven Signature Towns Local Area Plan.

3. Water & Environment.

- Environmental Awareness
Donegal Mattress Amnesty
- Recycling Ambassador Programme
- “Bin your Gum When Your Done”-Launch.
- Coastal Management.
- Bathing Season
- Bathing Water Quality
- Coastal Erosion.
- Water Quality
- Water Quality Public Service Announcements
- The Local Authority Scientific Advisory Team (LAWSAT)

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- Housing Capital Update.
- Social Housing Developments.
- House Acquisition Programme.
- Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition.
- Library Services.
- Wainfest.
- “Getting children off to a great start” Workshop.
- Bookworm Babies-5th Birthday Celebration.

Cultural Services

- Creative Ireland
- Cultural Night
- 18th Annual Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival.

Museum Services

- Exhibition on Women’s Emigration.

County Donegal Heritage Office.

- Heritage Week in County Donegal.
- Launch of Scealtai Booklet.

5. Roads & Transportation.

- Letterkenny Southern Relief Fund.

- TII Public Lighting LED Upgrade Programme.
 - Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2018.
 - NW Greenway Project.
 - Low Cost Traffic Calming Pilot Schemes 2017.
 - CLAR 2018 Funding.
 - NRDO Update.
 - Pavement Schemes.
 - N56 Construction and Design.
 - TEN-T Route Improvement Project.
 - Safety.
 - Local Improvement Schemes
 - Winter Maintenance.
 - Cockhill Bridge Official Opening.
6. Application Proposals to Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) & Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) 2018.
- 7 Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Launch of Children and Young People's Plan 2018 – 2020.
- 8 Children and Young People's Services Committees.
- 9 Twinning of Letterkenny, Co Donegal with Rudolstadt, Germany.

November Report

1. Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems

- Local enterprise Office.
- Local Enterprise Brexit Supports.
- DELTA Accelerator Programme
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur.
- Malinbeg Mobile Phone Coverage
- EMERGREEN PROJECT
- Dital Innovation Programme.
- TIDE Project.

2. Community Development & Planning Services.

- Town and Village Renewal Schemes 2018.

- Donegal PEACE IV Grants Schemes
- IPB Pride of Place 2018.

3. Water & Environment

- Environment Awareness
- Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Bikes 4 Africa Campaign
- Donegal Men's Sheds Showcase
- Coastal Management.
- Improved Beach Access at Culdaff Beach.

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

- Housing Capital Update.
- Social Housing Developments
- House Acquisition Programme.
- Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition
- Cultural Services.
- Creative Ireland
- Local Creative Youth Partnerships
- Creative Clusters
- National Creativity Fund.
- 18th Annual Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival.
- Lived Lives: Conversations about Suicide in the North West
- RCC Autumn Concert and Exhibition Series.
- Letterkenny Trad Week.
- Community Donegal's role in the First Dail.

5. Roads & Transportation.

- Letterkenny Southern Relief Road.
- Letterkenny Traffic Management Plan.
- Greenways.
- Tir Connall Bridge.
- Fintra Bridge.
- Bridge Collapse- Ivy Bridge, Cloghan.
- 2018 Surface Dressing and Strengthening.
- Local Improvement Scheme.
- Road Safety Road Show.
- Road Safety Award.

Responding to a request for clarification in relation to the Letterkenny Traffic Management Plan, the Chief Executive noted

that a delegation, from Donegal County Council had met with the Minister for Transport but no formal response had been received to date with regards funding options. It was noted that specific measures had been put in place in the Budget Book to kick start the design process.

It was further agreed in response to a query from Cllr Bonner that all members be provided with a copy of the report presented by the DCC delegation to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Members noted the following questions.

C/396/18 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES WITHIN THE COUNTY
Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

"Has any correspondence arrived from any Government Department issuing guidelines on the proposed boundary changes within this county to allow engineers to budget accordingly?"

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Housing Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/397/18 REGISTERING TO VOTE
Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"How many schoolchildren did the Council assist in registering to vote subsequent to my motion at the plenary Council Meeting in July, 2018?"

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

C/398/18 PROPOSED AIRBNB LEGISLATION
Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"Will the Council be making a submission regarding proposed Airbnb legislation and what is the Council's view on the matter?"

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

C/399/18 PROMOTE AWARENESS OF LYME DISEASE
Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

"The State's first centre for Lyme Disease is to open this month (Nov.2018) in the Mater Hospital in Dublin.

Family members affected by Lyme disease have presented to members both at Municipal and Plenary Council in the past. What practical steps have Donegal County Council taken, and continue to take to promote awareness and information sharing on Lyme disease,

- a) solely as a local authority body?
- b) in co-operation with other state and statutory bodies in the county?"

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

C/400/18 REINTRODUCE THE SPECIFIC ROAD GRANTS

Cllr Canning submitted the following question:-

"Have any requests been made to the Department to reintroduce the Specific Road Grants for works that are falling between other funding mechanisms?"

Cllr Canning received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/401/18 HOUSING ESTATES TAKEN IN CHARGE

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

- a)"How many housing estates and developments have been taken in charge by Donegal County Council this year to date, (Jan to Nov 2018) and will be taken in charge by year's end (Dec 2018) and
- b) Will the Council confirm the Municipal areas and locations?"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/402/18 NUMBER OF STAFF IN COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Cllr McDermott submitted the following question:-

Can I get a breakdown of how many staff that are working in each MD from Community and Culture and what grades they are at?"

Cllr McDermott received a response from the Director of Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/403/18 UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How much money have we been granted by Central Government in relation to addressing Unfinished Estates, how much have we acquired through bonds etc, and finally how much of our own resources and money has it cost the Council to deal with Unfinished Estates?

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/404/18 NUMBER OF UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

"Can I have an update on the number of Unfinished Estates that our Planning Section have identified and are currently working on across the county?"

Cllr McMonagle received a response from the Director of Community & Planning in relation to the above.

C/405/18 TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED IN RESPECT OF WIND TURBINES

Cllr McDaid submitted the following question:-

"What is the total revenue being collected by this Council in respect to Wind Turbines in this County?"

Cllr McDaid received a response from the Head of Finance in relation to the above.

C/406/18 REPORT ON PROGRESS OF THE NEW BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can I have a report on the progress of the new business support unit agreed by this Council earlier this year and to have senior management from each directorate fast track and facilitate planning

applications to this Council to ensure every effort is made to accommodate future and current jobs in our county?"

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Economic Development , Emergency Services & Information Systems in relation to the above.

C/407/18 TIMEFRAME FOR RESPONSES TO COUNCILLORS

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Have we a timeframe as to how long it takes to reply to Councillors and Constituents queries and if so can we have a report on the response times for same?"

Cllr Brogan received a response from the Director of Corporate in relation to the above.

C/408/18 WHAT PLANS ARE IN PLACE FOR EMERGENCIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

"What plans will this Council put in place to deal with various emergencies over the Christmas - New Year period."

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Economic Development and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/409/18 HAS THERE BEEN AN INCREASE IN CROSS BORDER BUSINESS ENQUIRIES IN RESPECT OF THE BORDER AREAS.

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

"Has there been any increase in cross border business enquiries to the relevant sections of this Council in respect of the border areas?"

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Economic Development and Emergency Services in relation to the above.

C/410/18 CCTV NOT BEING PROGRESSED IN DONEGAL

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

"What is the delay with progressing CCTV for Donegal considering Ballybofey-Stranorlar has been waiting almost two

years and can a meeting be requested with the Department of Justice immediately to discuss the reasons for the CCTV scheme not being progressed in Donegal?"

Cllr McGowan received a response from the Director of Planning in relation to the above.

C/411/18 LIS PROGRAMMES

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

"What checks and balances do the Council do on monies granted to roads from applications for LIS Programmes county-wide?"

Cllr McBrearty received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/412/18 GROUP WATER SCHEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN CHARGE

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

"Following my earlier motions and questions on taking in charge Group Water Schemes across the County, please give an update on each scheme waiting to be taken over, outlining the reason for the unacceptable delay?"

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

C/413/18 MOTIONAS FORM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES

Members noted the following motions from other Councils:-

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kilkenny County Council fully supports the immediate implementation of 24/7 Cardiac Care in UHW and will encourage fellow Councillors in neighbouring counties of Carlow, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford.

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

"That Kilkenny County Council supports the proposal from historian Catherine Corless for a full DNA analysis of the children found in the septic tanks in Tuam and that they be given a proper dignified and Christian burial."

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sligo County Council calls on the Government to intervene now to prevent An Post using a very restrictive anti-rural definition of a “settlement” taken from the Central Statistics Office 2016 Census report, as part the criteria for establishing a post office in an area. An Post has stated that no settlement over 500 people will be left without a post office. A settlement is defined as “having a minimum of 50 occupied dwellings, with a maximum distance between any dwelling and the building closest to it of 100 metres, and where there is evidence of an urban centre.” This is too restrictive and rules out vast areas of rural Ireland including many medium sized towns.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“Given the continued efforts of Department of Local Government to undermine local authorities and the increased centralisation of power in Ireland, this Council calls on the government to establish an independent convention on the future of local government, that will examine powers, autonomy and funding.

In the event of the failure of government to act, this Council calls on LAMA and the AILG to establish such a convention and to seek cross party support.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Education and Skills to recognise the important role that outdoor educational centres play in the education and development of our youth by funding all staff salaries of outdoor educational centres directly from department funds.”

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Council calls on Government to:

1. Enact ‘Private Members Dáil Motion of the 11th November, 2016.’ (a call previously supported by Wexford County Council, October 2017)
2. Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed.

3. The results of this Council motion to be promptly conveyed to the Minister for Communications Climate action and Environment and Deputy Hildegard Naughton, Chair of Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
4. That this motion will be circulated to all local authorities.”

C/414/18

MOTION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS – IRISH WATER TRANSFORMATION AND FEBRUARY 2019 DEADLINE

Cllr Donaghey said that after consultation with the Director of Water & Environment the Inishowen Members had decided to deal with the matter in another format and thus wished to withdraw the motion.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Dated

