

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Aras an Chontae
LEIFEAR
22 Eanáir, 2019

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ar siúl Dé Luain 28 Eanáir, 2019, 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
22nd January 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Meeting of Donegal County Council will be held on Monday 28th January 2019, 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 Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 21st November, 2018.
- b. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th November, 2018.
- c. Confirmation of the Minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th November, 2018.

2. Filling of Casual Vacancy in the membership of the Council

- a) Filling of Casual Vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Cllr John Campbell.
- b) Filling of consequential vacancies arising from a) above:-
 - Donegal Municipal District.
 - Coiste na Gaeilge.
 - Joint Policing Committee
 - Cultural Committee.
 - Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee.
 - County Donegal Education & Training Board
 - Conference Peripheral Maritime Regions

3. 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 Mulreany Terrace, Stranorlar to Damian & Paula Patton.
- 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 plot of land at Glebe, Killybegs to Norfish Limited.
- 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 lease the Seashell Unit Bundoran to Sinead Fox, Geraldine Patton and Michael Patton.

4. 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 so as to provide new and upgraded pedestrian and cycling facilities alongside the R264 Regional Road at Murlog and along the N14 and N15 National Roads from Drumbooy to the NI Border at Lifford Bridge so as to proceed with the North West Greenway Network – Route 3 Strabane to Lifford.

5. Community and Enterprise

To note the nomination of Ms Anne Mc Ateer and Mr Andrew Ward to the vacancies on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

6. Planning

Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (Draft RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Area (NWRA). (*Report to be circulated following workshop on the 25th January*)

7. Corporate

- a) To consider authorisation of Council representation at the St Patrick's Day Events in the USA.
- b) To note obligations on Members under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, to submit a Donation Statement by 31st January, 2019.
- c) To note obligations on Members (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework to submit declaration of interest by the 28th February, 2019.

8. Housing

Review of Housing Adaptation Grant and Mobility Aids Grant Schemes – To approve recommendations as agreed by the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee

9. Endorsement of Minutes

To note minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 5th November, 2018.

10. 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 of 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.

Training

- Module 1 -2019 AILG Training Programme – “Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies” to take place in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 17th January, 2019.
- AILG Annual Training Conference to be held on the 21st & 22nd February, 2019 in the Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street, Longford.
- LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on the 7th & 8th March in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences - A Guide to EU Educational Programmes to be held from the 8th -9th February, 2019 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR Representative at the meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau on the 7th March, 2019 in Brest, Brittany, France.

11. Conference Reports

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Leitrim County Council – “Smart Towns and Villages –held Monday 22nd October, 2018 in Lough Rynn Castle, Mohill, Co Leitrim.

Cllr Frank Mc Brearty Jnr

Celtic Conferences – “Towards a Hard Brexit and its Consequences” held from Friday 26th to Sunday 27th October, 2018 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork..

MOTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

12. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to review the current threshold earnings limits for social housing applicants with a view to raising them to enable those on low wages who cannot get mortgages to qualify for Social Housing"

Corporate

13. Cllr Adrian Glackin

"I'm calling on the Council to arrange an urgent meeting with senior HSE personnel to demand an increase in home help/care hours in our communities in Donegal with a view to alleviating pressure on acute services and beds in Letterkenny University Hospital and also to allow our elderly to receive the proper and dignified help they require, and also to highlight that the current waiting lists for home care in Donegal which are at unacceptable levels"

Housing

14. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"I propose that this Council does an audit of all its housing properties with a view to introducing a painting scheme or power washing scheme in conjunction with our residents associations and tenants in the interest of good estate management, and endeavour to source funding for this initiative immediately."

Planning

15. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

"I am asking that this Council amends the (a.) 'rural housing' and (b.) 'small businesses in the rural area' policies of the adopted Donegal County Development Plan, 2018-2024."

DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

16. Cllr Niamh Kennedy

"On behalf of Aitheantas, I am calling on Donegal Council to write to Minister Zappone's Department requesting that her Department

acknowledges adoptee identity rights and immediately allows adoptees access to their own information on health, history and heritage in line with the equality and personal autonomy rights of other citizens and as voted for in two referenda"

17. Cllr Noel Jordan

"I am asking Donegal County Council to call on the Minister for Health and the HSE to introduce a catch up programme for children up to eighteen years for the Meningitis B Vaccine to ensure that all children are covered".

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

18. Cllr Martin Harley

"I am calling on Donegal County Council to ask the Government to push forward legislation on the insurance industry regarding claims as it is closing small business in Ireland".

Environment

19. Cllr Gary Doherty

"That this Council opposes any introduction of a carbon tax which disproportionately affects middle and lower income households over industrial polluters"

Economic Development

20. Cllr Liam Doherty

"That Donegal County Council recognises the importance and value of tradespeople and skilled workers to the local economy and calls on Government to provide the appropriate level of investment needed to expand and develop the apprenticeship system here; that the failure to prioritise apprenticeships has contributed to the current skills shortage which exists across a range of industries and that failure to remedy this situation threatens to stifle economic growth."

Roads & Transportation

21. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"That this Council review the process by which works other than repairs to the dwelling are carried out county-wide in Local Authority Estates, e.g. road upkeep, funding provision and a clear policy on which section responsibility falls to."

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

22. Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

"That this Council sends solidarity and support to our nurses and midwives who have balloted for strike action beginning January 30th to demand a safe, fully staffed, functioning health service that values and pays them as essential skilled workers."

23. Cllr John S O' Fearraigh

" Go n-iarrfaidh an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas prótacal d'imircigh atá ag pilleadh abhaile a bhunú sa dóigh is go mbeidh saoránaigh ag pilleadh ar Éirinn in ann teacht ar eolas faoi na seirbhísí atá siad i dteideal."

"That this Council calls on the Government to establish a returning emigrant's protocol to enable citizens returning to Ireland access services which all those with Irish citizenship are entitled to."

24. Cllr Míchéal Mac Giolla Easbuig

"Go n-iarrfaidh an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas tús a chur le próiseas leis an aois vótála a laghdú go 16 bliain chun ionadaíocht níos féaráilte a thabhairt do dhaoine óga sa chontae agus sa stát seo".

"That this Council calls on the Government to start a process to reduce the voting age to 16 years old to allow for a fairer representation of young people in this County and State".

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

25. Cllr Jack Murray

"That Donegal County Council, in recognising the distress which homeowners who have suffered flooding are currently experiencing while waiting for flood defence measures to be constructed, commits to supplying flood barriers to those most in danger so that they can protect their homes"

Roads & Transportation

26. Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness

"That this Council discuss arterial drainage in the County."

Planning Services

27. Cllr Albert Doherty

"That Donegal County Council Planning and Housing Directorate arrange and convene at the earliest possible opportunity a forum of relevant stakeholders , i.e.: architects, Irish Water, builders / developers, local and public representatives to discuss, identify and reduce current barriers encountered by interested parties in public housing and private housing construction in Donegal."

Water & Environment

28. Cllr Martin Farren

"That this Council liaise with Irish Water to ensure that all new water supply systems in the County are expedited as quickly as possible"

29. Cathaoirleach's Business

30. Chief Executive's Management Report

QUESTIONS

LETTERKENNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community Services

31. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"Can I have an update on where the Riverine Project is currently at, and has the Council received any recent communication from SEUPB in relation to this application?"

Planning

32. Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle

"Do we have a Derelict Sites Register for the County and if so can I have a list of the sites registered per Municipal District?"

Economic Development

33. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Can I have a updated report on the progress of the new business support unit as agreed by this Council as to how many times it has met and what Senior Executives are sitting on it to help deal with the many economic challenges we have in our county, and to help to fast track planning applications in particular where we have jobs?"

34. Cllr Ciaran Brogan

"Can we have a report to this Council on the formation of a working group (As per motion of March 2018) to take advantage of any further/future opportunities that may become available as a result of the national planning framework of our needs towards 2040 and what we propose to do to address same?"

Roads & Transportation

35. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

"Will our Engineering Staff draw up a priority list of urgent need for funding in the areas that are experiencing an increased volume of traffic?"

Housing

36. Cllr Ian Mc Garvey

"Is it the policy to allow S. I. Housing and offer assistance to those who want to do so?"

STRANORLAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

37. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"Does this Council test or have tested its housing stock for the presence of radon gas?"

38. Cllr Gerry Crawford

"Has this Local Authority given any consideration to leading out on Sheltered Housing Projects which are considered as a way forward in caring for an ageing population?"

GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Corporate

39. Cllr Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuig

"An dtig leis an Chomhairle seo sonraí beacht cruinn a thabhairt ar na costais uilig a bhí le hóc maidir le gach Comhairleoir Contae a d'fhreastal ar thurais Lá Pádraig thar lear in 2015, 2016, 2017 agus 2018 agus na sonraí sin a mhiondealú de réir na gceannteidil seo a leanas: eiltí, lóistín, cothabháil, costais taistil ar bith eile agus rudaí eile nach iad".

"For the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 can Donegal County Council provide the amounts per councillor of all expenditure on

overseas St. Patrick's Day trips broken down by the following headings: flights, accommodation, subsistence, other travel and miscellaneous".

INISHOWEN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Housing

40. Cllr Jack Murray

"How many houses have been bought by the Council in each Municipal District in each year of the term of this Council?"

Environment

41. Cllr Albert Doherty

"This week, (15/01/19) French authorities, French food and environmental safety agency have introduced a cancellation authorisation on the sale of herbicide (Monsanto's) Round Up 360. Will Donegal County Council likewise ensure a ban and or cancellation of Round Up use in all council community activities?"

Economic Development

42. Cllr Jack Murray

"Is the Council still engaged in meetings, discussions and preparations with bordering council areas in the north in preparation for Brexit and what is the status of such?"

Corporate

43. Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness

"What progress has been made in re-establishing the Agriculture Committee in Donegal County Council?"

44. Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness

"What progress has been made in re-establishing the Fisheries Committee in Donegal County Council?"

Planning

45. Cllr Albert Doherty

"An additional tranche of housing developments were confirmed for Taking in Charge and advertised as estate roads to be public roads (section 11, Roads Act 1993) in December 2018.

What is the proposed number of Housing Estates that Donegal County Council proposes to take in charge in 2019 and has Irish Water been informed of this and committed adequate finance to take these in charge?"

46. Motions from Other Councils/Bodies

Monaghan County Council.

“That this Council asks the Minister for Health to request the Health Service Executive to include the Medical Report, required by a person over 70 applying for a driving licence for a car, to be included in the Medical Card services.

Currently, if you're under 70 the fee for a 10 year licence is €55. It is free for over 70's but a Medical Report is required. The cost is €40-€60 for a visit to your G.P. If the person over 70 has an illness that limits to 1 year, that means a visit to the G.P. each year for 10 years, costing nearly 10 times the fee to an under 70's person”.

Roscommon County Council.

“It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health, Mr Simon Harris to bring forward legislation in the Dáil, to make it a statutory entitlement that persons who qualify for Home Help Hours and Home Care Packages must be immediately provided for by the Health Services Executive”.

Sligo County Council.

“Recognising that the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (I.N.M.O), which representing 40,000 nursing professionals, have overwhelmingly balloted to strike in light of rejecting pay proposals brought forward by the Government in Budget 2019; and that the Government has failed to address matters such as pay equality and over reliance of hiring nurses;

That this Council clearly affirms its support of nurses and midwives and that we support them in their demand for a better health service which treats them as essential skilled workers with dignity and value”.

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL,
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD ON 28th JANUARY, 2019

C/1/19

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

C/2/19

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, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems, Richard Gibson, A/Head of Finance, Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, Bryan Cannon, Senior Engineer, Anne Marie Conlon, Communications Officer, Sean O'Daimhin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Róise Ní Laifeartaigh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.

C/3/19

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Cathaoirleach addressing the meeting paid tribute to former Cllr J.J. Reid whom, he advised, had served the Stranorlar Municipal District and the County with pride during his long and distinguished service with Donegal County Council.

He alluded also to the tragic loss of life which had occurred as a result of an accident in Magheraroarty and extended heartfelt sympathy to the families of those who had lost their lives.

Sympathy was also extended to the family of the late John Mc Bride, Water & Environment who also had passed away in tragic circumstances.

Members from the various groupings acknowledged the contribution that former Cllr JJ. Reid had made to both politics and the business sector in the County. He was, they advised, a man of his word who had represented the people of the Stranorlar area

admirably during his term in office. Sympathy was extended to his partner Fidelma, and immediate family circle.

There was acknowledgement also of the devastation caused by the terrible accident in West Donegal and impact on the community as a whole.

The Chief Executive extended sympathy on behalf of the management and Staff of Donegal County to all of the bereaved families.

He acknowledged the significant contribution made by former Cllr J.J. Reid to the County during his long and distinguished career in politics.

Sympathy was also extended to Mr Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment on the death of his aunt, Sheila O' Reilly.

On the proposal of Cllr O' Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Mc Brearty it was resolved to adjourn the meeting for 1 hour as a mark of respect.

A minutes silence was observed by all present.

The Cathaoirleach said that given his close association with West Donegal, he intended to complete the corporate business on the agenda, and then hand over the remainder of the meeting to the Leas- Chathaoirleach, Cllr Martin Harley.

C/4/19 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr McGarvey the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 21st November, 2018 were adopted.

C/5/19 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Kennedy, the minutes of the Adjourned September Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 26th November, 2018 were adopted.

C/6/19 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH NOVEMBER, 2018,

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by Cllr Naughton, the minutes of the November Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 26th November, 2018 were adopted.

C/7/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Crossan it was resolved to defer the item to later in the meeting.

C/8/19 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MULREANY TERRACE, STRANORLAR.

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Doherty, it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Mulreany Terrace, Stranorlar to Damian & Paula Patton 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/9/19 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT GLEBE, KILLYBEGS

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

On the proposal of Cllr Conaghan, seconded by Cllr Naughton it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Glebe, Killybegs to Norfish Limited 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/10/19 LEASE OF SEASHELL UNIT BUNDORAN

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Jordan it was resolved to lease the Seashell Unit Bundoran to Sinead Fox, Geraldine Patton and Michael Patton 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/11/19 TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS TO PROVIDE NEW AND UPGRADED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING FACILITIES ALONGSIDE THE R264 REGIONAL ROAD AT MURLOG AND ALONG THE N14 AND N15 NATIONAL ROADS FROM DRUMBOY TO THE NI BORDER AT LIFFORD BRIDGE

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

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr McGowan it was resolved to approve the carrying out of works so as to provide new and upgraded pedestrian and cycling facilities alongside the R264 Regional Road at Murlog, and along the N14 and N15 National Roads from Drumboy to the NI Border at Lifford Bridge so as to proceed with the North West Greenway Network – Route 3 Strabane to Lifford, 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/12/19 FILLING OF VACANCIES ON THE DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr McBride, members noted and approved the nominations of Ms Anne McAteer and Mr Andrew Ward to fill the vacancies on the Donegal Local Community Development Committee.

C/13/19 DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL & ECONOMIC STRATEGY (DRAFT RSES) FOR THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AREA (NWRA).

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services said that members at the workshop on the 25th January had received a presentation in relation to the above from representatives from the Northern & Western Regional Assembly. It was noted that the workshop had been addressed by the Director of the NWRA, Mr David Minton, the Assistant Director and Senior Planner, Mr Denis Kelly and Mr Conal Mc Gettigan, Senior Executive Planner. The draft submission collated as a result of the workshop had now, he confirmed, been circulated to members. There was still time, he said, to include further commentary, but that this had to be done by the 1st February, 2019.

A number of issues were then raised by members in the ensuing debate. These included:-

- That Tier Two Towns warranted further consideration especially those along the border.
- Rural housing is a major priority going forward.
- Rural dwellers are being pushed more and more into urban areas and that it was becoming more and more difficult to obtain planning permission in rural areas.
- Access to infrastructure needs to be adequately catered for.
- Current planning policy is difficult for returning emigrants, especially those that want to come home and build in their own localities.

Cllr Mc Brearty proposed, seconded by Cllr Gallagher that every effort be made to ensure that planning policy going forward is formulated in such a manner so as to positively discriminate in favour of those who want to return and live and work in Donegal.

C/14/19 TO CONSIDER AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS IN THE USA

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved that the Cathaoirleach, the Leas Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive or his representative attend the St Patrick's Day Events in the USA.

C/15/19 TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS UNDER THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS & EXPENDITURE) ACT, 1999 AS AMENDED, TO SUBMIT A DONATION STATEMENT

The Council noted member's obligations to submit a donation statement under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, by 31st January, 2019.

C/16/19 TO NOTE OBLIGATIONS ON MEMBERS (PART 15) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 ETHICS FRAMEWORK TO SUBMIT DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY THE 28TH FEBRUARY, 2019.

The Council noted member's obligations to submit a declaration of interest under (Part 15) Local Government Act, 2001 Ethics Framework, and to submit same by the 28th February, 2019.

C/17/19

REVIEW OF HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT AND MOBILITY AIDS GRANT SCHEMES

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved that the additional provisions outlined below be inserted into the eligibility criteria for the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme:-

“Where an applicant has a high level/complex care need ,which do not strictly come within the illnesses as specified within the eligibility criteria, such cases can still be considered on their own specific merits, within the terms of the scheme’.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved that the eligibility criteria in respect of ‘minor works’ which are primarily covered under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme be revised as follows:-

- Reference to specific illnesses to be excluded from the eligibility criteria.
- The remaining eligibility criteria to remain, which in summary requires an applicant to:
 - have a permanent and substantial mobility difficulty , which results in significant functional difficulties within their home, and
 - where basic works such as the provision of access ramp, handrail, or adaptation of bathroom to provide level access shower, are essential to improve the quality of life of the applicant.
- Such ‘minor works’ would be approved, where a GP certifies that an applicant meets the above criteria (and an amended application form will be devised to cater for same).Reference to specific illnesses to be excluded from the eligibility criteria.
- Note: It is not proposed to change other principles within the scheme, i.e. the grant is not available for persons who have a short term mobility problem, or where they are expected to recover their mobility following surgery,

It was further resolved that the amendments as outlined above would be effective from the 1st February, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Brearty, seconded by Cllr Mc Monagle it was resolved that the proposed adjustments to the standard cost

limits for specific elements of work under the Grant Schemes for Older People and for People with Disabilities be adopted and that the limits outlined in the report be applied for applications received on or after the 1st December, 2018.

C/18/19 ENDORSEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr McBrearty, seconded by Cllr McMonagle, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 5th November, 2018 were noted.

C/19/19 ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT

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 Blaney, seconded by Cllr McBrearty, 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.

Cllr Blaney requested that the 30th Colmcille Winter School to be held on the 21st & 22nd February, 2019 also be included under the conference heading. This was duly approved.

Training

- Module 1 -2019 AILG Training Programme – “Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies” to take place in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone on the 17th January, 2019.
- AILG Annual Training Conference to be held on the 21st & 22nd February, 2019 in the Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street, Longford.
- LAMA Spring Seminar to be held on the 7th & 8th March in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences - A Guide to EU Educational Programmes to be held from the 8th -9th February, 2019 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth.
- 30th Colmcille Winter School to be held on the 22nd & 23rd February, 2019 in the Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Co Donegal.

Travel Abroad

- Attendance of the CPMR Representative at the meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau on the 7th March, 2019 in Brest, Brittany, France.

C/20/19

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Members noted the following Conference Reports.

Cllr Niamh Kennedy

Leitrim County Council – “Smart Towns and Villages –held Monday 22nd October, 2018 in Lough Rynn Castle, Mohill, Co Leitrim.

Cllr Frank Mc Brearty Jnr

Celtic Conferences – “Towards a Hard Brexit and its Consequences” held from Friday 26th to Sunday 27th October, 2018 in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

The Cathaoirleach left the meeting at this juncture. The Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr Harley took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

C/21/19

REVIEW OF THRESHOLD LIMITS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING APPLICANTS.

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

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to review the current threshold earnings limits for social housing applicants with a view to raising them to enable those on low wages who cannot get mortgages to qualify for Social Housing"

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

He informed members that the current thresholds were far too low and were effectively forcing people into rented accommodation. There were, he noted, three threshold bands with Donegal languishing in the third band with a threshold of €26,250 combined for two adults working.

Many people in Donegal, he said, fell between two stools, in that they earned too much to be considered for social housing, but not near enough to qualify for a Council mortgage. He cited the need to lobby the Minister in relation to the matter and have Donegal upgraded in line with the limits for Cork and Kerry.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion noted that a number of schemes had been introduced over the years but that none had been relevant to the people of Donegal.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate, & Cultural Services said that it would be possible to elicit information on the basis of the applications received over the last number of years and that this analysis could be included in the report to be forwarded to the Minister. There were, he said, considerations around the designated income thresholds, and that the fact that there was a considerable difference in the limits between Donegal, and for example Kerry certainly needed to be brought to the Minister's attention.

Cllr Mc Monagle asked that the matter be referred to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government together with a request that the threshold be increased in line with those being implemented in other Counties.

C/22/19

URGENT MEETING NEEDED WITH SENIOR HSE PERSONNEL TO DEMAND AN INCREASE IN HOME HELP/CARE HOURS FOR COMMUNITIES IN DONEGAL

Cllr Glackin proposed that the following motion be adopted:-

"I'm calling on the Council to arrange an urgent meeting with senior HSE personnel to demand an increase in home help/care hours in our communities in Donegal with a view to alleviating pressure on acute services and beds in Letterkenny University Hospital and also to allow our elderly to receive the proper and dignified help they require, and also to highlight that the current

waiting lists for home care in Donegal which are at unacceptable levels."

Cllr Glackin advised that the number of home help hours had fallen by 3500 since 2016 and that there were currently up to 340 people waiting on home help approval in the County. He said that clients could have to wait up to 1 year for the implementation of approved hours.

The reality was, he added, that many elderly people could live at home if suitable healthcare was provided. The non-availability of hours, he added, impacted also on hospital discharges and contributed to the ever increasing waiting lists. Elderly citizens, he said, were not getting dignified care at home and he thus called for a meeting with the Health Service Executive to discuss the need for same level of service in Donegal as is being provided in Dublin / Cork etc. The level of homecare service when provided was excellent, he noted.

Cllr Albert Doherty supporting the motion said that the Council had a caring responsibility and that our elderly were entitled to live in dignity and as independently as possible. He alluded to the excellent level of care being provided in the St Colmcille Village in Clonmany and said this was a primary example of how to provide independent living in a caring environment. This model, he noted, was one that could be used to good effect across the County.

He asked that the motion be amended to include reference to Community Hospitals also

Thus on the proposal of Cllr Glackin, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

"I'm calling on the Council to arrange an urgent meeting with senior HSE personnel to demand an increase in home help/care hours in our communities in Donegal with a view to alleviating pressure on acute services and beds in Letterkenny University Hospital and our Community Hospitals so as to allow our elderly to receive the proper and dignified help they require, and also to highlight that the current waiting lists for home care in Donegal which are at unacceptable levels."

There was no objection to the motion.

Cllr Glackin thanked members for their support and said that an increase in home help hours was needed to ensure the provision of a dignified service to the elderly. This, he added, would also go some way in relieving the pressure on Letterkenny University Hospital and the various community facilities.

C/23/19

THE COUNCIL TO DO AN AUDIT OF ALL ITS HOUSING PROPERTIES WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING A PAINTING SCHEME OR POWER WASHING SCHEME.

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan and seconded by Cllr McGowan the following motion was adopted:-

"I propose that this Council does an audit of all its housing properties with a view to introducing a painting scheme or power washing scheme in conjunction with our residents associations and tenants in the interest of good estate management, and endeavour to source funding for this initiative immediately."

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

He welcomed the reply and said it was imperative that the necessary investment was made in housing maintenance. Additional staff, he said, were needed and this was something that had also been recognised by Minister Murphy himself. The Council's housing stock, he noted, was a valuable asset that generated considerable income and thus warranted the necessary investment. It was important also, he added, that respect was shown to Council Tenants who contributed to this significant income base. He requested that an audit be carried out in each MD and a report presented to members.

This work it was acknowledged could be carried out in conjunction with the many excellent residents associations.

Cllr Mc Gowan supporting the motion advised of the need for active engagement with tenants based on the condition of the properties in question.

There was no objection to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that the need to invest in the housing stock was widely recognised. He alluded also to the fact that an additional €500,000 had been provided in the 2019 budget for housing maintenance.

Members were informed that an external painting programme had been initiated in 2018 with an initial focus on older persons dwellings and that it was hoped to build on this so as to develop an annual programme of works. It was noted that there was continuing engagement with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in relation to the provision of funding for maintenance works of this nature,

He informed Cllr Brogan that there were approximately 5000 council houses with €12million rental income expected in 2019.

The funding of additional staff, he said, would be a revenue cost to the authority and was something that could be kept under review.

Cllr Mc Brearty drew attention to the fact that the Tenants Handbook clearly stated that the authority had to step up to the mark in situations where the tenant was not in a position to paint the property.

C/24/19

THE COUNCIL AMEND THE (A) RURAL HOUSING AND (B) SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE RUAL AREA POLICIES OF THE ADOPTED DONEGAL COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2024.

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

"I am asking that this Council amends the (a.) 'rural housing' and (b.) 'small businesses in the rural area' policies of the adopted Donegal County Development Plan, 2018-2024."

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

He said that he had introduced the motion as many people were encountering problems with the planning system and that difficulties were being encountered by architects, applicants and members in relation to the interpretation of individual policy issues within the plan. He alluded to a number of specific examples.

Concern was also expressed that small rural businesses were being discriminated against as the focus was on urban generated development.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that the implementation of the new Development Plan was causing problems for many Councillors and that the promised second workshop to review the difficulties being encountered had not materialised.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services acknowledged that there had been difficulties in securing a suitable date for the second workshop.

It was thus unanimously agreed to hold a workshop on Monday 11th February, 2019 at 11am in the County House, Lifford to consider the following County Development Plan policy areas:

1. Rural Housing Policy – Implementation and Interpretation
2. Small Rural Business Policy - Implementation and Interpretation

Cllr Mc Garvey welcomed the fact that workshop was going ahead and said that there were a number of serious issues that warranted discussion going forward.

C/25/19 ON BEHALF OF AITHEANTAS, CALL ON THE COUNCIL TO WRITE TO MINISTER ZAPPONE'S DEPARTMENT REQUESTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADOPTEE IDENTITY RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO THEIR OWN INFORMATION.

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

"On behalf of Aitheantas, I am calling on Donegal Council to write to Minister Zappone's Department requesting that her Department acknowledges adoptee identity rights and immediately allows adoptees access to their own information on health, history and heritage in line with the equality and personal autonomy rights of other citizens and as voted for in two referenda."

Cllr Kennedy informed members that “Aitheantas” is a voluntary advocacy group who is lobbying for change to this Country’s outdated adoption legislation.

Up to 100,000 people, she noted were affected by such legislation and as such were effectively being deprived of basic equality and civil rights. The right to an identity, she said, was a basic human right. The current system, it was acknowledged, served to stereotype adopted people and created an impression that they were not to be trusted with their own information.

The 2016 Adoption Bill, she contended, did not give adopted persons an automatic right to access their own information and for that reason was flawed.

It was noted that a similar motion had already been passed by Cork and Offaly County Councils.

Cllr Crossan outlined his support for what he said was a very worthwhile motion and a topic which was extremely important to a large number of people country wide.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Leas- Chathaoirleach advised that the motion as adopted would be forwarded to Minister Zappone for her attention.

C/26/19

MENINGITIS B VACCINE

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

“I am asking Donegal County Council to call on the Minister for Health and the HSE to introduce a catch up programme for children up to eighteen years for the Meningitis B Vaccine to ensure that all children are covered”.

Cllr Jordan noted that the Meningitis B vaccine had been provided free to children born after 2016, but had not been extended to older children, who now have to pay between €300 and €450 to avail of the vaccine. The president of the National Association of GPs had, he noted, said that the current situation was akin to medical apartheid and that protection needed to be provided to all of our children equally.

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

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said that its consideration was timely as many people were unaware of the anomaly in the distribution of the vaccine. It was imperative, she added, that there was a catch-up programme for the Meningitis B Vaccine

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Jordan concluding the debate thanked members for their support and asked that the motion as adopted be conveyed to the Minister as a matter of urgency.

C/27/19

REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT PUSH FORWARD
LEGISLATION ON THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN
RELATION TO SMALL BUSINESSES

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr McGuinness the following motion was adopted:-

“I am calling on Donegal County Council to ask the Government to push forward legislation on the insurance industry regarding claims as it is closing small business in Ireland”.

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

He advised that small businesses were being crippled by insurance claims and the legislation in force at present was doing little to help the situation.

Payouts for insurance claims were treble those of some European countries, he noted, and there seemed to be a particularly toxic culture especially in relation to personal claims. He cited the need to streamline current processes and payments and called for the legislation to be amended as soon as possible.

The impact on small business was enormous with insurance costs automatically spiralling for businesses with claims pending. This he added was leading to a situation whereby small businesses were not now in a position to afford the excessive insurance costs.

Cllr Mc Guinness supporting the motion said that small business ventures were being crippled and that a toxic claims culture had emerged in this country.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Harley advised of the need for set payment rates and agreed with Cllr Mc Guinness that the motion should be circulated to all other local authorities.

C/28/19

THE COUNCIL OPPOSES ANY INTRODUCTION OF A CARBON TAX

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty and seconded by Cllr L Doherty the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council opposes any introduction of a carbon tax which disproportionately affects middle and lower income households over industrial polluters."

Cllr Doherty received a reply from the Director of Water & Environment in relation to the above.

He contended that the tax was a regressive one and placed a burden on lower income households and rural dwellers. The fact that there were no viable alternatives, was, he added, a further complication. A broad suite of policy measures was needed, he said, if designated targets were to be met.

This it was acknowledged would require a significant behaviour change and the introduction of grant aid for insulation and the retrofit of older housing properties.

Other measures such as making electric cars more affordable, the expansion of the public transport network and associated fare reductions, he added, would be required to counteract the difficulties associated with the introduction of this tax.

Donegal, he contended, would be disproportionately affected as the Government had not put any meaningful alternatives in place.

Cllr Liam Doherty concurred with this assessment and said that the Government's failure to provide alternative sources of energy would be a major stumbling block.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Senior Engineer said that it would be possible to convey the sentiments of the members to the Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment.

Concluding Cllr Doherty said that he was not against a carbon tax but that suitable alternatives needed to be put in place to assist middle and lower income households.

C/29/19

THE COUNCIL CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF INVESTMENT NEEDED TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP THE APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM HERE

On the proposal of Cllr Liam Doherty and seconded by Cllr McMonagle the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council recognises the importance and value of trades people and skilled workers to the local economy and calls on Government to provide the appropriate level of investment needed to expand and develop the apprenticeship system here; that the failure to prioritise apprenticeships has contributed to the current skills shortage which exists across a range of industries and that failure to remedy this situation threatens to stifle economic growth."

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

He said that the Governments failure to invest and implement an apprenticeship scheme had contributed to the skills shortage and forced many young people to leave Ireland and work abroad. The impact, he added, was being felt across various sectors of the economy. Of the 1500 apprenticeships promised only 590 it was noted had materialised. The Government Cllr Doherty advised had failed to meet the set programme targets with more and more young people emigrating.

The impact, he advised was a growing skills shortage in the industrial sector.

Cllr Mc Monagle supporting the motion said that businesses needed to be encouraged to accept trainees and have adequate support systems in place.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Emergency Systems and Information Systems, alluding to his reply noted that both the Local Enterprise Office and the Donegal Education & Training Board had been actively engaged in training new entrants and upskilling existing workers.

He said that correspondence could be forwarded to the Minister regarding the issues raised by members and that there was a possibility also of further consideration through a workshop with the ETB.

Cllr Doherty said that he was hopeful that discussion around the motion would generate constructive debate and spark initiatives that would keep young people working in Donegal.

C/30/19

REVIEW THE PROCESS BY WHICH WORKS OTHER THAN REPAIRS ARE CARRIED OUT COUNTY-WIDE IN LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING ESTATES.

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford and seconded by Cllr Bonner the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council review the process by which works other than repairs to the dwelling are carried out county-wide in Local Authority Estates, e.g. road upkeep, funding provision and a clear policy on which section responsibility falls to."

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

He said that he was happy with the reply as it was an accurate reflection of the situation as it currently existed. Tenants felt abandoned, he added, with many estates not having any significant level of routine maintenance works carried out in the past number of years. The need for a consistent policy applicable to all services was needed, and all funding opportunities at departmental level needed to be explored. There was further acknowledgement that

the Housing, Roads and Environment Strategic Policy Committees needed to formulate a specific policy with regard to maintenance works on Council Housing Estates.

Cllr Crawford outlined the need for such a policy to be in place so that funding options could be considered as part of the 2020 budgetary process.

Cllr Bonner supporting the motion advised of the need for a policy change as the estates alluded to were valuable Council assets and needed to be treated as such. There were particular problems, he added with sewage treatment plants in the Glenties Municipal District that needed to be addressed urgently.

There was no objection to the motion.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that the Housing, Roads & Environment SPCS could collaborate and draw up a dedicated policy which would provide for systematic intervention by the various services. This could then, he advised, be backed up with a specific programme and an emphasis placed on sourcing the required funding. A combined meeting of the SPCS would, he contended, be required to formalise any such policy, which then could be considered as part of the annual budgetary process.

Cllr Crawford welcomed this response and said that he would like to see the matter progress as quickly as possible given the condition of many of the older housing estates.

Cllr Bonner noted that there were at least four estates in the Glenties Municipal District where the sewage treatment plants were not working. He asked that this be followed up on as a matter of urgency.

C/31/19

THAT THE COUNCIL SENDS SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO OUR NURSES AND MIDWIVES WHO HAVE BALLOTTED FOR STRIKE ACTION

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

"That this Council sends solidarity and support to our nurses and midwives who have balloted for strike action beginning January

30th to demand a safe, fully staffed, functioning health service that values and pays them as essential skilled workers."

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

The motion, she said, was self explanatory and highlighted the fact that there was a major crisis within the health service, People, she noted were working under great stress and the result was that patients were suffering. The I.N.M.O, it was acknowledged, needed to be taken seriously and nursing staff treated in a fair and equitable manner. Patient care, she added, was their priority and the impending strike was the last resort for those in the nursing profession.

Cllr Murray said that Irish nurses were working all around the world and that many would gladly return home if conditions improved.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Gallagher thanked all who had supported the motion and said that its adoption sent out the message that the people of Donegal were supportive of their call for decent wages and work conditions.

It was agreed to send correspondence to the I.N.M.O outlining the Council's support for their demands for a fully staffed and functioning health service.

C/32/19 THE COUNCIL CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A RETURNING EMIGRANT'S PROTOCOL

On the proposal of Cllr O'Fearraigh and seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

" Go n-iarrfaidh an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas prótacal d'imircigh atá ag pilleadh abhaile a bhunú sa dóigh is go mbeidh saoránaigh ag pilleadh ar Éirinn in ann teacht ar eolas faoi na seirbhísí atá siad i dteideal."

"That this Council calls on the Government to establish a returning emigrant's protocol to enable citizens returning to Ireland access services which all those with Irish citizenship are entitled to."

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

He outlined the need for a specific protocol given that many returning emigrants were encountering great difficulty in accessing basic services, such as driver licences, mortgages etc. There were obstacles also, he advised, in terms of obtaining the relevant planning permissions to live and work in their own localities.

Cllr Gallagher said that many of those who returned encountered difficulties in obtaining licences and highlighted the fact that there was no specific handover facility in place. People with full driving licences were being asked, she said, on their return to go through the whole driving test scenario again. Banking, it was noted, was often a problem as a current utility bill was needed to set up a bank account and access banking services. In many instances, she said, people got fed up and emigrated again.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach said that the motion could be forwarded to all relevant Government Departments.

Cllr O' Fearraigh welcomed the support and called on the Government to put in place immediately a support system for those who wished to return home.

C/33/19

REDUCTION OF THE VOTING AGE TO 18

On the proposal of Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Kennedy the following motion was adopted:-

"Go n-iarrfaidh an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas tús a chur le próiseas leis an aois vótála a laghdú go 16 bliain chun ionadaíocht níos féarálte a thabhairt do dhaoine óga sa chontae agus sa stát seo".

"That this Council calls on the Government to start a process to reduce the voting age to 16 years old to allow for a fairer representation of young people in this County and State".

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

This was an issue, he contended, that needed to be dealt with at national level and would demonstrate that the state had every faith in its young people.

Cllr Kennedy supporting the motion said that it would give young people an opportunity to participate in Local Government and have a say on decisions which affected their homes and families.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Joe Peoples, Meetings Administrator said that he would bring the motion to the attention of the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

C/34/19

PROVISION OF FLOOD BARRIERS AND DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO ARTERIAL DRAINAGE IN THE COUNTY.

It was agreed to consider items 25 and 26 together given that both dealt with flood related issues.

Cllr Murray proposed, seconded by Cllr Crossan that the following motion be considered:-

"That Donegal County Council, in recognising the distress which homeowners who have suffered flooding are currently experiencing while waiting for flood defence measures to be constructed, commits to supplying flood barriers to those most in danger so that they can protect their homes"

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

He said that the matter required urgent attention given the vulnerability of a number of estates in the Inishowen area with the Elm Park Estate in Bunrana being particularly in need of assistance.

The issue now, he said, was whether Donegal County Council would provide flood barriers to protect those houses most at risk. He alluded to the fact that a similar scenario in Mayo had been resolved through the intervention of Mayo County Council and the OPW with the funding for the works in question provided by the Department. He called for similar approach to be adopted in

Inishowen so that people could stop living in fear every time it rains.

Cllr Crossan said that the situation was becoming intolerable and that many families were unable to get insurance for their properties. A number of families, he noted, had not yet been able to return to their homes, something that was intolerable in this day and age.

On the proposal of Cllr McGuinness and seconded by Cllr McDermott the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council discuss arterial drainage in the County."

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

Donegal County Council, together with a number of other agencies he advised, had done great work in the aftermath of the 2017 floods, but much of the remedial work, he noted, was still outstanding. A number of legacy issues including insurance difficulties for those living adjacent to the river banks were causing problems, he added.

It was acknowledged that a co-ordinated response was needed from all the agencies involved and that the OPW should be contacted with a view to giving the Council permission to carry out specific drainage works in a number of particular areas. He highlighted the fact that many rivers in the Inishowen area had been blocked since the flood and that it was only a matter of time until another serious incident occurred. He called for a meeting/workshop of all the respective bodies concerned

Cllr Mc Dermott applauded all who been involved in the relief effort but said that the one aspect that had received little attention or funding was the clean-up of the rivers. This lack of intervention, he noted, was causing fear and anxiety with many homes now in jeopardy of flooding. The major stumbling block, he advised, was the lack of clarity as to who had overall responsibility for flooding issues. He outlined also the need for a pilot programme to tackle a number of the issues involved.

Mr Joe Peoples, Director of Housing , Corporate & Cultural Services informed members that the OPW had provided funding for flood relief works at various locations in the County . He said that a collaborative approach was being taken with some projects being carried out by the Council and some by the OPW. Funding it was noted would be provided by the OPW for the projects to be delivered by the Council. The OPW, he said, was designated as the lead agency for flood relief management with a significant budget available. The Council could not commit to providing flood relief barriers to property owners across the County.

Mr John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads & Transportation said that the plight of the residents in Elm Park was widely recognised but that there had ultimately to be a long-term solution to the problem. He said that it would be possible to arrange a meeting/workshop with all the relevant bodies so that a definitive way forward could be agreed. It was imperative, he added, that members were clear going forward exactly what they wanted from the process and the issues that the needed to be resolved.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Murray welcomed the response and asked that further clarification be sought from Mayo County Council as to how they had successfully dealt with flooding issues in Crossmolina.

Cllr Mc Guinness said the reply was a positive one and he welcomed the fact that negotiations were ongoing with the OPW in relation to the possible inclusion of Elm Park in the Bunrana Flood Scheme. He called for representatives from the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors to also be included in the process and cited the need for a dedicated committee to deal with the issue of coastal erosion.

C/35/19

THAT THE PLANNING AND HOUSING DIRECTORATE
ARRANGE A FORUM OF RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO
DISCUSS IDENTIFY AND REDUCE CURRENT BARRIERS IN
PUBLIC HOUSING AND PRIVATE HOUSING
CONSTRUCTION IN DONEGAL.

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty and seconded by Cllr Gallagher the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council Planning and Housing Directorate arrange and convene at the earliest possible opportunity a forum of relevant stakeholders , i.e.: architects, Irish Water, builders / developers, local and public representatives to discuss, identify and reduce current barriers encountered by interested parties in public housing and private housing construction in Donegal."

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

He informed the meeting that the refusal of planning permission was a major problem in the Inishowen Municipal District and that this was directly attributable to the fact that there was genuine confusion in relation to the interpretation of various aspects of the new County Development Plan. He cited specific examples of instances where planning agents had encountered difficulties with the process. There were calls also for the online site to be more facilitating and consideration given to looking at delays in the pre planning process. Inconsistencies in a number of appropriate assessments also needed to be addressed, he added. Cllr Doherty called for a workshop to be held early in 2019 to iron out the various inconsistencies raised.

Cllr Gallagher concurred with this assessment and said that another major stumbling block was Irish Water. People were paying out a considerable amount of money for connection fees etc, she said, and these were now so excessive that they were simply just water charges by another name. Irish Water, she contended, needed to be involved in any scheduled workshop discussions.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community & Planning Services said that his reply acknowledged the fact that a workshop with the various planning agents needed to be convened in a timely manner. He said that he wished to refute a number of issues raised during the debate in relation to the overall consideration of planning applications and the fact that a considerable number were being refused. The role of the Planning Authority, he said, was to facilitate development on all fronts. Whilst it was recognised that there were some frustrations at MD Level, steps were being taken internally to deal with the issue of workloads. A date for a workshop would, he confirmed, be set at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr Doherty welcomed the fact that a workshop was to take place at the earliest opportunity given the need to encourage economic development in the County. His motion, he said, was not a criticism but rather an appeal for co-operation from all involved.

C/36/19

THE COUNCIL LIAISE WITH IRISH WATER TO ENSURE ALL NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS ARE EXPEDITED IN THE COUNTY.

On the proposal of Cllr Farren and seconded by Cllr Murray the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council liaise with Irish Water to ensure that all new water supply systems in the County are expedited as quickly as possible.”

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

He acknowledged the fact that there were a number of projects county-wide, but said that he was particularly interested in the progression of the Greencastle Water Supply Scheme. He was, he said, unhappy with the response received to date from Irish Water and their reluctance to confirm details in relation to the progression of the project. The €5.8million pledged by Irish Water, he said, was to be welcomed but a contractor needed to be put in place as soon as possible to get the project over the line.

Cllr Murray supporting the motion called for the advancement of the project given the elevated levels of THMs in the water in Greencastle.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, Senior Engineer, Water & Environment said that the issues raised by members would be conveyed in a timely manner to Irish Water. Donegal County Council, he noted, had a large number of staff who worked the Service Level Agreement delivering a number of capital projects and who worked to ensure that the wishes of the Council were prioritised.

Cllr Farren welcomed the response and cited the importance of having the project underway by the middle of 2019. He asked that

members be kept updated in relation to the status of the project. There was further acknowledgement of the efforts of DCC staff seconded to Irish Water who worked tirelessly to ensure that THM levels were kept to a minimum.

C/37/19 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

- Mary Carbery, Housing & Corporate, Dungloe on the death of her mother, Rose Mc Gill.
- Mary Clyde, Community & Enterprise, Milford PSC on the death of her brother, Paddy Mc Bride.
- Pauline Mc Loughlin, Veterinary Section on the death of her sister, Angela Bravender.
- Michael Meehan, Council Secretariat on the death of his mother, Bridie Meehan.
- Jim Henderson (Retired Revenue Collector, Inishowen MD on the death of his son, Kieran Henderson.
- The family of the late John Mc Bride, Water Inspector, Letterkenny MD.
- Eddie Duffy, Traffic Warden, Bundoran on the death of his son Eddie.
- Michael Mc Garvey, Director Water & Environment on the death of his aunt, Sheila O' Reilly.

C/38/19 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above. An update was provided in relation to the following:-

1. Corporate Matters

- A. Update on the North West Strategic Growth Partnership Meeting held on 13th December 2018

2. Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems

- A. Donegal County Council Business Forum
B. 2019 Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Awards

3. Community Development & Planning Services

- A. Establishment of Regeneration & Development Programme and Delivery Team
- B. Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018
- C. Ireland's Most Enterprising Town
- D. LEADER funding

4. Water & Environment

- A. Waste and Litter Management
 - (i) *Christmas Recycling*
- B. Coastal Management
 - (i) *Seasonal Portaloo and Public Convenience Services*
- C. Water Quality

5. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

- A. Housing Capital Update
 - (i) *Minister Murphy opens new Social Housing Schemes in Donegal*
 - (ii) *Social Housing Developments*
 - (iii) *House Acquisition Programme*
 - (iv) *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
 - (v) *Approved Housing Bodies*
- B. Cultural Services
 - (i) *Creative Ireland*
 - (ii) *Library Fines Abolished from 1st January 2019*
 - (iii) *Read DL 2019*
 - (iv) *Regional Cultural Centre Exhibitions*
 - (v) *Letterkenny Trad Week*
 - (vi) *Display of Tullydonnell Gold Rings in Donegal County Museum*
 - (vii) *First Dáil Illustrated Booklet*
 - (viii) *Digitisation Project*
 - (ix) *Heritage Ireland 2030*

6. Roads & Transportation

- A. Roads Municipal Districts

- B. Special Submissions to Department of Transport
- C. National Road Design Office
 - (i) *Investment from TH delivered in 2018*
 - (ii) *National Roads 2019*
 - (iii) *Major Design 2019*
 - (iv) *Major Construction 2019*
 - (v) *Future Projects – NRDO*
 - (vi) *National Road Resurfacing and Pavement Strengthening*
 - (vii) *Bridges*
 - (viii) *Safety*
- D. Road Safety Art Competition

C/39/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved that Séamus Maguire fill the casual vacancy on Donegal County Council occasioned by the resignation of Cllr John Campbell.. This was unanimously agreed.

Representatives from the various groupings welcomed Cllr Maguire to the Chamber. They noted that it was a proud day for his own family and the electorate of South Donegal who were putting their faith in him.

Tributes were paid to former Cllr John Campbell with members acknowledging the excellent contribution he had made to the Council over the last number of years. There was acknowledgement also of the manner in which he had embraced the role of Cathaoirleach. Members wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Cllr Maguire addressing the meeting thanked his proposer and seconder and said that it was an honour to selected to replace former Cllr John Campbell both at plenary and Municipal District level. He thanked the members of his own family for their unflinching support.

He sent his condolences to the families of the four young men who had died in a tragic car accident in Magheraroarty.

He said that he hoped to continue the excellent work undertaken by Cllr Campbell with the assistance of all the elected members, and had a strategic vision going forward as to how he would represent the electorate in South Donegal. To this end, he advised, a five to ten year plan was needed in the Donegal Municipal District to maximise funding potential and enhance the strategic development of the area. He had, he said, a unique vision which offered a sustainable and innovative way forward.

There were a number of areas, he confirmed, that required specific attention over the coming months namely,

- Impact and fall out from the Brexit scenario.
- Decline of rural communities.
- Economic development and tourism.
- Effects of CAP reform on small rural communities.
- Housing provision.
- Education and health related issues.

Concluding, he said, that it was a great honour to be co-opted to the Council in the presence of his family, friends and neighbours and he pledged to represent the Donegal area to the best of his ability.

The Leas-Chathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Maguire to the Chamber and paid tribute to former Cllr John Campbell who, he said, had been a most capable representative for the people of South Donegal.

C/40/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the Donegal Municipal District Committee occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/41/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON COISTE NA GAEILGE

On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on Coiste na Gaeilge occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/42/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNTY DONEGAL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Crossan it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the County Donegal Joint Policing Committee occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/43/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
On the proposal of Cllr Naughton, seconded by Cllr Mc Bride it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the Cultural Committee occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/44/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE HOUSING AND CORPORATE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the Housing & Corporate Strategic Policy Committee occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/45/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE DONEGAL EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD
On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the County Donegal Education & Training Board occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

C/46/19 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS
On the proposal of Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved that Cllr Maguire fill the vacancy on the Conference Peripheral Maritime Regions occasioned by the resignation of John Campbell.

The following questions were noted.

C/47/19 UPDATE ON THE RIVERINE PROJECT
Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

"Can I have an update on where the Riverine Project is currently at, and has the Council received any recent communication from SEUPB in relation to this application?"

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

C/48/19 DO WE HAVE A DERELICT SITES REGISTER

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

"Do we have a Derelict Sites Register for the County and if so can I have a list of the sites registered per Municipal District?"

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

C/49/19 UPDATED REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can I have a updated report on the progress of the new business support unit as agreed by this Council as to how many times it has met and what Senior Executives are sitting on it to help deal with the many economic challenges we have in our county, and to help to fast track planning applications in particular where we have jobs?"

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

C/50/19 A REPORT ON THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY FURTHER/FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

"Can we have a report to this Council on the formation of a working group (As per motion of March 2018) to take advantage of any further/future opportunities that may become available as a result of the national planning framework of our needs towards 2040 and what we propose to do to address same?"

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

C/51/19 DRAW UP A PRIORITY LIST OF URGENT NEED FOR FUNDING IN AREAS WITH INCREASED VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

"Will our Engineering Staff draw up a priority list of urgent need for funding in the areas that are experiencing an increased volume of traffic?"

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation.

C/52/19 IS IT THE POLICY TO ALLOW S.I. HOUSING

Cllr McGarvey submitted the following question:-

"Is it the policy to allow S. I. Housing and offer assistance to those who want to do so?"

Cllr McGarvey received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/53/19 TESTING FOR RADON GAS

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

"Does this Council test or have tested its housing stock for the presence of radon gas?"

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C54/19 THE LOCAL AUTHORITY GIVE CONSIDERATION TO LEADING OUT ON SHELTERED HOUSING PROJECTS

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

"Has this Local Authority given any consideration to leading out on Sheltered Housing Projects which are considered as a way forward in caring for an ageing population?"

Cllr Crawford received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/55/19 EXPENDITURE ON OVERSEAS ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRIPS
Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig submitted the following question:-

"An dtig leis an Chomhairle seo sonraí beacht cruinn a thabhairt ar na costais uilig a bhí le hóc maidir le gach Comhairleoir Contae a d'fhreastal ar thurais Lá Pádraig thar lear in 2015, 2016, 2017 agus 2018 agus na sonraí sin a mhiondealú de réir na gceannteidil seo a leanas: eitiltí, lóistín, cothabháil, costais taistil ar bith eile agus rudaí eile nach iad".

"For the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 can Donegal County Council provide the amounts per councillor of all expenditure on overseas St. Patrick's Day trips broken down by the following headings: flights, accommodation, subsistence, other travel and miscellaneous".

Cllr MacGiolla Easbuig received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/56/19 HOW MANY HOUSES HAVE BEEN BOUGHT IN EACH MD
IN EACH YEAR OF THE TERM OF THIS COUNCIL
Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"How many houses have been bought by the Council in each Municipal District in each year of the term of this Council?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/57/19 WILL THE COUNCIL ENSURE A BAN AND OR
CANCELLATION OF ROUND UP 360 USAGE
Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

"This week, (15/01/19) French authorities, French food and environmental safety agency have introduced a cancellation authorisation on the sale of herbicide (Monsanto's) Round Up 360. Will Donegal County Council likewise ensure a ban and or cancellation of Round Up use in all council community activities?"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Water & Environment.

C/58/19 IS THE COUNCIL ENGAGED IN MEETINGS WITH BORDERING COUNCIL AREAS IN THE NORTH IN PREPARATION FOR BREXIT

Cllr Murray submitted the following question:-

"Is the Council still engaged in meetings, discussions and preparations with bordering council areas in the north in preparation for Brexit and what is the status of such?"

Cllr Murray received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Emergency Services & Information Systems.

C/59/19 WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RE-ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE IN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr McGuinness submitted the following question:-

What progress has been made in re-establishing the Agriculture Committee in Donegal County Council?"

Cllr McGuinness received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/60/19 WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RE-ESTABLISHING THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE IN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr McGuinness submitted the following question:-

"What progress has been made in re-establishing the Fisheries Committee in Donegal County Council?"

Cllr McGuinness received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services.

C/61/19 WHAT IS THE PROPOSED NUMBER OF HOUSING ESTATES THAT DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSE TO TAKE IN CHARGE IN 2019

Cllr A Doherty proposed the following question:-

“An additional tranche of housing developments were confirmed for Taking in Charge and advertised as estate roads to be public roads (section 11, Roads Act 1993) in December 2018.

What is the proposed number of Housing Estates that Donegal County Council proposes to take in charge in 2019 and has Irish Water been informed of this and committed adequate finance to take these in charge?”

Cllr A Doherty received a response from the Director of Community & Planning Services.

C/62/19

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

Monaghan County Council.

“That this Council asks the Minister for Health to request the Health Service Executive to include the Medical Report, required by a person over 70 applying for a driving licence for a car, to be included in the Medical Card services.

Currently, if you're under 70 the fee for a 10 year licence is €55. It is free for over 70's but a Medical Report is required. The cost is €40- €60 for a visit to your G.P. If the person over 70 has an illness that limits to 1 year, that means a visit to the G.P. each year for 10 years, costing nearly 10 times the fee to an under 70's person”.

Roscommon County Council.

“It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health, Mr Simon Harris to bring forward legislation in the Dáil, to make it a statutory entitlement that persons who qualify for Home Help Hours and Home Care Packages must be immediately provided for by the Health Services Executive”.

Sligo County Council.

“Recognising that the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (I.N.M.O), which representing 40,000 nursing professionals, have overwhelmingly balloted to strike in light of rejecting pay proposals brought forward by the Government in Budget 2019; and that the Government has failed to address matters such as pay equality and over reliance of hiring nurses;
That this Council clearly affirms its support of nurses and midwives and that we support them in their demand for a better health service which treats them as essential skilled workers with dignity and value”.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Dated