

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2021 (ONLINE)

C/188/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs J Murray (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M McMahon, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, M Naughton, J O'Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

C/189/21 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, A/Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Bryan Cannon, A/Director, Water & Environment, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Roíse Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

C/190/21 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 9TH JULY, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr A Doherty, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 9th July, 2021 were adopted.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that he wished to clarify the following in respect of Minute C124/21:-

That the reference to the letter dated 23rd February, 2021 from Dr Mc Closkey was circulated to the Acting Senior Engineer, Mr John Gallagher and not the Chief Executive as referred to in the minute.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH JULY, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr M Farren, the Minutes of the July Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 19th July, 2021 were adopted.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH JULY, 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Coyle, the Minutes of the Adjourned July Meeting of Donegal County Council held on the 27th July, 2021 were adopted.

C/191/21 **DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND AT KINLETTER, BALLYBOFEY TO MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Harley it was resolved to dispose of a plot of land at Kinletter, Ballybofey to Martin McLaughlin 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/192/21 **DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN THE DONEGAL PSC, DRUMLONAGHER, DONEGAL TOWN BY WAY OF LEASE TO DONEGAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to dispose of property in the Donegal PSC, Drumlougher, Donegal Town by way of lease to Donegal Local Development Company Ltd 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/193/21 **DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT BALLYMAGAN, BUNCRANA BY WAY OF LEASE TO DONEGAL HYDRO HARVESTING LTD.**

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

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr N Crossan, it was resolved to dispose of lands at Ballymagan, Bunrana by way of lease to Donegal Hydro Harvesting Ltd. Ltd 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/194/21 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE DROMORE PARK PUMPING STATION UPGRADE AT DROMORE, KILLYGORDON**

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

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Harley, the carrying out of works with regard to the Dromore Park pumping station upgrade at Dromore, Killygordon was approved under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended)

C/195/21 **TO APPROVE THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS WITH REGARD TO THE ERRIGAL VIEW PUMP STATION UPGRADE AT BALLAGHERG LETTERKENNY.**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Blaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle, the carrying out of works with regard to the Errigal View Pump Station upgrade at Ballaghderg, Letterkenny was approved under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/196/21 **TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY SANDBAG DEPOT AT LURGANBOY, DONEGAL TOWN.**

It was unanimously agreed to defer item 3(c) to the November meeting of the Council.

C/197/21 **TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FOOTBRIDGE ADJACENT TO AND DOWNSTREAM OF MILLTOWN BRIDGE ON THE LP-2994 (MONELLAN ROAD)**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Harley, the construction of a new footbridge adjacent to and downstream of Milltown Bridge on the LP-2994 (Monellan Road) was approved under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/198/21 **TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FOOTBRIDGE ADJACENT TO AND DOWNSTREAM OF SESSIAGHONEILL BRIDGE ON THE LP-3054**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Harley, the construction of a new footbridge adjacent to and downstream of Sessiaghoneill Bridge on the LP-3054 was approved under Part XI of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended).

C/199/21 **TO AGREE DATE FOR 2022 STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Harley, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved to hold the 2022 Statutory Budget Meeting on Thursday 25th November, 2021.

C/200/21 **TO AGREE OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF €10,000,000 FOR THE FULL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2022**

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

Mr Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, said that the request was similar to the one presented in 2020. This, he said, would provide additional opportunity for boosting cash flow if required in 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mc Gowan it was resolved in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage 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 ten million euro (€10,000,000).
- 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/201/21 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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

On the proposal of Cllr McBride, seconded by Cllr Farren it was resolved to adopt the Donegal County Council Annual Report 2020 in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

C/202/21 **TO ADOPT THE DONEGAL STRATEGIC ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2030**

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

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr I Mc Garvey, it was resolved to adopt the Donegal Strategic Enterprise Development Plan 2021-2030.

C/203/21 **TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP HELD ON THE 12TH JULY, 2021.**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on the 12th July, 2021 were endorsed.

C/204/21 **ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE, SEMINAR OR EVENT**

Having noted the revised arrangements under Section 142 of the Local Government Act, 2001, together with the Local Government (Remuneration & Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2010 -2021, as amended and directives issued by the Minister in that regard, on the proposal of Cllr Mc Gowan seconded by Cllr N Crossan, it was resolved to authorise any member, if he/she so wished, to attend the following conferences/ events, 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.

Training

- Module 1 of the 2021 AILG Elected Members Training Programme - Briefing on the Reform of Remuneration payable to Local Authority Elected Members.
- LAMA Autumn Training Seminar to be held in “The Sligo Park Hotel” Pearse Road, Sligo from the 3rd - 4th November 2021.

Conferences

- Celtic Conferences – “A Practical Guide to Budget 2022” to be held in O’ Donavan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork from the 15th - 17th October, 2021.
- Celtic Conferences – “Housing for All- How will it help people find homes” to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth from the 29th - 31st October, 2021.

C/205/21 **DESIGNATED TRADING AREAS IN PARTICIPATING TOWNS AND VILLAGES.**

On the proposal of Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr N Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

“That this Council will investigate the potential of designating trading areas in participating towns and villages where there has been increased activity in trading over the last number of years”

Designated trading areas were needed, she advised, as increased activity had created problems in a number of other areas namely parking, environmental issues and the economic development of many towns and villages

She welcomed the response and noted that a considerable amount of work had been carried out on this topic to date. She advocated the necessity of adopting a cross directorate approach and called for a plenary workshop to be held following detailed discussion at MD level.

Cllr Crossan said that specific designations needed to be in place for the next tourist season. He cited the need to be mindful of the implications for rate payers who in essence were the backbone of Donegal County Council.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture thanked Cllr Kennedy for her fair and balanced presentation in relation to what was a growing industry with many new outlets springing up.

He noted that a review of the Casual Trading Bye-laws was ongoing and that an input would be sought from members over the coming months. There was acknowledgement also of the emerging trend in pop-up trading activity and the fact that consideration had to be given to changing trends in the way people shopped and commuted.

Cllr Crossan said that the designation of specific trading spots would be of benefit to all, though warned that effective enforcement would be needed.

It was hoped, he said, to work on the preparation of the Draft Bye-laws in the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022 with a report back to members in quarter 2 of 2022.

Cllr Kennedy asked that a plenary workshop be held as soon as the next round of MD workshops had taken place. Designated trading areas, she said, needed to have specific amenities such as public conveniences and refuse collection facilities so that a pleasant market atmosphere could be created and a balance struck between our streets and our trading areas.

C/206/21 **CONDUCT A REVIEW OF MARITIME CRAFT BYE-LAWS**

On the proposal of Cllr Sweeny, seconded by Cllr Kavanagh it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Donegal County Council conducts a review of Maritime Craft Bye-Laws introduced in May 2009 with a view to introducing a speed limit for personal water craft (jet-skis) of 5 knots to a distance of 300 metres from any launch site around the coast of Donegal".

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

Cllr Sweeny said that a review of the bye-laws was to take place but that this had not materialised. He said that whilst the number of jet skis in use along the coastline had reduced, there had been an increase in the

number of swimmers and as a result increased risks for water enthusiasts. He said that there was an onus on water craft users to adhere to the relevant codes of practice, but that this needed further reinforcement.

It was important, he added, that a sense of awareness in relation to the dangers involved was created. He called for a pilot scheme to be put in place initially at a number of dedicated locations to cater for a speed limit for personal water craft (jet-skis) of 5 knots to a distance of 300 metres from any launch site. It was noted that further discussion was also warranted at SPC level.

Cllr Kavanagh supporting the motion alluded to recent incidents that had taken place in the Letterkenny /Milford MD and the fact that the Gardai had to be called on one occasion when a number of swimmers were put in danger by the activities of jet-ski users. Safety, he said, was paramount and this needed to be reinforced given the growth in the tourism market.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Water & Environment welcomed the discussion and said that it would be possible to look at how the spirit of the motion could be added to and improved in line with the relevant enforcement measures. He said that it would be possible to take the matter to the next Climate Action & Environment SPC due to be held on the 1st November, 2021.

Cllr Sweeny welcomed the response and outlined the need to have revised bye-laws in place before the advent of the next tourist season.

C/207/21 **REVIEW OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND WITHIN THIS PROCESS ADOPT A POLICY WHICH IS IN KEEPING WITH T.I.I. POLICY IN RELATION TO THE N56**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr G Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council start without delay the process of reviewing the present County Development Plan and within this process adopt a policy which in keeping with TII policy allows for access and intensification on national secondary roads namely the N56 and also address the serious concerns outlined through the working group process".

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

She acknowledged that considerable work had been carried out to date by the various working groups and that the review of the plan was scheduled for 2022. The issue was, she said, that there was now clarification in national legislation to allow access rights on certain low access roads, something, she said, which would have major implications for those who wanted to build on family owned lands. The fact that T.I.I could now

facilitate access for these residents was something that needed to be addressed, she contended, within the context of the Development Plan. There were a number of other issues, she said, that needed to be reviewed namely, town limit designations, town centre regeneration, wind energy guidelines and specific considerations with regard to the overall housing need in light of the ongoing mica situation.

Cllr G Doherty noted that there had been considerable discussion in relation to the County Development Plan and that there were issues in relation to Irish Water and the Wind Energy Policy that needed to be updated.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services responding confirmed that this issue and the other areas of concern highlighted had been raised on many occasions. The Planning Directorate was committed, he said, to addressing same in the forthcoming CDP review which would commence with the publication of a formal review notice in May 2022. Significant preparatory work would be undertaken, he said, and this would also involve extensive engagement with the sectoral working groups that had met in recent months. These, he said, had focussed on issues such as access to the National Secondary Road Network. Contact would also be made, he confirmed, with the NRDO in relation to sections of roadway where the traffic volume was below the recommended threshold. He noted that members had asked for the review process to commence earlier, but said that unfortunately the timeline for this review was statutory bound.

Cllr Gallagher advised of the urgency of the situation and said that she hoped that the process could commence earlier than May 2022.

C/208/21 **PROGRESSION OF MARINE PROJECTS IN THE COUNTY**

On the proposal of Cllr Farren, seconded by Cllr McDermott it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Donegal County Council strive to ensure that all major marine projects in the County are progressed in a timely and proactive manner".

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

He thanked the Minister for Agriculture & Food, Charlie Mc Conalogue TD for his help in securing funding for a number of important projects in the County.

He alluded specifically to the Greencastle Breakwater Project which had received significant funding a number of years ago but as yet remained unfinished. It was extremely important, he stated, that this was progressed for the protection of the breakwater and the fact that the harbour had

enormous potential with regards to the fishing and tourism industries. This would allow it to develop, he added, in a manner similar to Killybegs and also accommodate cruise ships which at present can only dock at Lisahally.

Acknowledging that efforts were being made in relation the foreshore licence he asked that every effort be made to progress the project in 2022 so that Greencastle Harbour could reach its full potential.

Cllr Mc Dermott outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/Director Roads & Transportation advised that there were particular challenges with marine engineering projects and that these tended to be complex in nature and generally took an extended period of time to complete. Efforts were being made, he confirmed, to move things along as quickly as possible and to short circuit aspects of the project where possible. He said that a large project of this nature would take time and that a careful approach was needed to ensure that the project did not go into backward mode.

Members would, he said, be updated in relation to the progress of the matter.

Cllr Farren welcomed the response and asked that every effort be made to expedite the matter.

C/209/21 **THAT ROAD DESIGN CLARIFY ITS POSITION IN RELATION TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AS EXPLAINED WITHIN CHAPTER 4.3.2 OF THE DESIGN MANUAL FOR URBAN ROADS**

On the proposal of Cllr Canning, seconded by Cllr Brogan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That Road Design clarify its position in relation to Pedestrian Crossings as explained within Chapter 4.3.2 of the Design Manual for Urban Roads insofar as the possible roll out of raised crossings within all our small towns".

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

He said that it was clearly identified in the manual that pedestrian crossings were the most important aspect of the design, yet Donegal County Council refuses to put in ramps in our smaller towns and villages. Ramps, he said, were a very effective method of slowing traffic down and were working very well in specific locations. He identified the need for ramps in Bridgend, Killea, Carrigans and Manorcunningham.

Cllr Brogan said that it was clear that ramps worked well as evidenced in a number of other Local Authorities and that the matter could be addressed with willingness on behalf of the Road Design Section.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/ Director Roads & Transportation said that he could appreciate that there were frustrations, but that design and road safety measures were not taken in isolation with respect to a single chapter of a single design manual. Cognisance, he advised, had to be taken of the relevant standard operating guidelines.

Cllr Canning concurred with the suggestion from Cllr Brogan that a workshop was needed to progress the matter further.

C/210/21 **MICA, PYRITE, PYRRHOTITE RESPONSE**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite Response

"Donegal County Council calls on An Taoiseach to establish a dedicated Government "Task Force" to initiate, coordinate, fund and promote a north west housing, health and family welfare response to tackle the many societal ills resulting from Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite that is prevalent in many family homes and adversely affecting many farming buildings, educational and community facilities in the region."

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

Cllr Doherty said that an early intervention response was needed and that that collaboration between the various Government departments, Local Authorities, Health Service Executive, and the various housing bodies, homeless charities, education board etc was essential so that a cross-sector approach could be taken in relation to the delivery of the various supports needed.

Significant financial investment, was also required, he said, to deal with the social and societal issues that had arisen as a result of the mica crisis.

He asked that the motion be forwarded to all other Local Authorities for consideration.

Cllr T Crossan supporting the motion said that a Task Force was urgently required given that the impact of the mica, pyrite, and pyrrhotite crisis would be with us for many years to come.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services said that a copy of the motion would be forwarded to the office of An Taoiseach for his attention.

Cllr Doherty asked that every effort be made to establish a Task Force similar to the one formed after the departure of Fruit of the Loom in 2006.

C/211/21 **STRINGENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT OUR WATERWAY, RIVERS, LAKES AND COASTAL WATERS ARE MONITORED MORE CLOSELY FOR INCIDENCES OF POLLUTION**

On the proposal of Cllr Crossan, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"I propose that Donegal County Council take more stringent measures to ensure that our waterways, rivers, lakes and coastal waters are monitored more closely for incidences of pollution, whether accidental or otherwise, and that they follow up with robust enforcement measures where appropriate".

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

Cllr Crossan alluded to a particular incident that had occurred in the Inishowen MD and thanked Joe Ferry, Executive Scientist for his prompt action in dealing with the situation. He said that continued co-operation in such matters was the key to dealing with situations such as this.

Cllr A Doherty outlined the need for effective enforcement and alluded to the positive engagement that was taking place in Inishowen with the Inishowen Rivers Trust.

Cllr N Crossan said that he was in agreement with the motion but expressed disappointment that a particular farmer had been blamed for an incident in Fahan when in fact it had been Irish Water's fault.

Cllr T Crossan said that there had been an incident at the Causeway in Inch reported to him by a member of the public, but at no time had any blame been attributed to any local farmer.

There was no opposition to the motion

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/Director Water & Environment confirmed that an investigation was ongoing in relation to the incident at Inch level and that all reported incidents of pollution were investigated. He encouraged the public and all relevant stakeholders to co-operate so that action could be taken in a timely manner.

He alluded to the Catchment Care Project which aimed to improve water quality in local rivers and which was being lead out by Donegal County Council together with the work carried out by the Inishowen Rivers Trust.

It was noted that flood relief assessments were also taking place in Buncrana as part of the Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme.

Cllr Crossan welcomed the reply and thanked Joe Ferry, Executive Scientist for his prompt action when contacted. As a Councillor, he said, that he had a duty of care to follow up on complaints received from his constituents.

C/212/21 **FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY TO PAUL MC GINLEY**

On the proposal of Cllr Brogan, seconded by Cllr Canning it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"I propose that this Council agree to give the Freedom of the County to Paul Mc Ginley in recognition of his massive contribution to Donegal over many years and his promotion of our county as a golfing destination, especially with the Irish Open in Ballyliffin and more recently with his fellow Legends Tour at the Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort".

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

Cllr Brogan said that the motion was self explanatory and served to highlight the enormous contribution that Paul Mc Ginley had made over the years to the promotion of Donegal. He alluded to his involvement in the 2017 Irish Open in Ballyliffin and his support for the Legends Tournament held recently in Rosapenna.

This honour, he said, would allow the County show its appreciation for the work and initiatives undertaken by Mr Mc Ginley, who had proved to be a great ambassador for Donegal.

Cllr Canning supported the motion said that tourism product in the County had time and time again been bolstered by Mr Mc Ginley whose status and massive presence in the world of golf needed to be sufficiently recognised.

The Cathaoirleach added his support for the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, A/Director Housing, Corporate & Culture said that the executive would look at making the relevant arrangements.

C/213/21 **THAT THIS COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE CALL OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE TO WRITE TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE REQUESTING THEY SET UP AN ANNUAL FUNDING PROGRAMME FOR JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES TO USE FOR LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES.**

On the proposal of Cllr McMonagle, seconded by Cllr T Crossan it a resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council supports the call of the Joint Policing Committee and writes to the Minister of Justice requesting that they set up an annual funding programme for Joint Policing Committees to use for local crime prevention initiatives and crime awareness raising campaigns across the country". The funding could be realised and redirected from assets seized by Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) from those involved in criminal activity". He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Monagle alluding to the recent Cyber Crime Awareness Week event which had taken place in Letterkenny, said this was an example of the excellent work that could be carried out by the Joint Policing Committee with a partnership approach. A full allocation each year would, he confirmed, go a long way and committees if adequately resourced would be able to carry out a lot more work in the area of crime prevention. He asked that the motion also be circulated to the Minister for Finance, Mr Pascal Donohoe, T.D and the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Mr Michael Mc Grath, T.D.

Cllr T Crossan also advocated a partnership approach and said that with the closure of local Gardai stations there was need for a greater emphasis on community policing. The JPC, he advised, could assist with this but enhanced funding would be needed to develop same.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, said that he concurred with this assessment and that the lack of funding made it difficult to promote and undertake various initiatives. He said that he would contact the Ministers concerned with regard to the setting up of an annual funding programme.

Cllr Mc Monagle thanked members for their support and said the setting up of a programme as alluded to in the motion would not place any extra burden on the taxpayer.

Cllr Mc Gowan outlined his support for the motion and said that it was imperative that JPC sorted out the ongoing issues in relation to CCTV footage.

C/214/21 **EMPLOYMENT MORE FULL TIME ROAD WORKERS**

On the proposal of Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"Calling on this Council to employ more full- time road worker staff as a matter of urgency".

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

He said that he had spoken to the A/ Director of Roads & Transportation and was happy with the response received.

C/215/21 **THAT THE COUNCIL REQUEST THE TII AND THE NRDO TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH HOMEOWNERS WHOSE HOMES ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE TEN-T PROJECT**

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the NRDO to actively fully and urgently engage with homeowners who have been made aware that their homes are to be demolished to make way for the TEN-T Project".

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

He said that there were over 20+ houses now scheduled for demolition and that the TII and the NRDO needed to engage in a more meaningful way with the families concerned. A greater effort, he said, was required to ensure that adequate compensation packages were put in place to accommodate homeowners who wanted to move on with their lives. Lack of information and movement, he said, was putting an increased strain on homeowners.

Cllr Blaney supporting the motion said that many families had been left in limbo and needed closure sooner rather than later. He alluded to the fact that premises had been bought previously in respect of the Bonagee Link and that a certain precedent had been set with those purchases in terms of pre agreed compensation packages.

There was no opposition to the Motion.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/Director Roads & Transportation said that all the homeowners impacted by the project had been consulted on a regular basis during the design development process. There was general acknowledgement that the process was an emotive one for those homeowners whose properties were marked for demolition. He noted that the Donegal Land Liaison Team had been available to address any issues raised by the homeowners and that this arrangement would continue as the project progressed. He confirmed that an advance negotiation process had been agreed with the T.I.I and it was hoped that this would allow the possible agreement of a compensation package at an earlier stage than generally anticipated. He informed members that they should direct any queries that they received to the Land Liaison team.

Cllr Coyle welcomed the reply and thanked members for their support.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/216/21 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved in accordance with Standing Order No 28 to suspend Standing Order No 3 and extend the meeting beyond 6pm to complete the remaining business on the agenda.

C/217/21 **THAT THIS COUNCIL DISCUSS THE PROCESS WITH REGARD TO THE VALIDITY AND DUTY OF CARE AND PROTECTION AFFORDED TO PEOPLE IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITES**

On the proposal of Cllr I Mc Garvey, seconded by Cllr Blaney it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council discuss the process with regard to the validity and duty of care and protection afforded to people in relation to environmentally sensitive sites".

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Garvey said that he had over the years brought numerous issues to the attention of the planning authority and was disappointed that many of these had still not been resolved satisfactorily. He alluded to the following matters which, he contended, had not been treated with the sensitivity required and remained in the public consciousness as a result of same:-

- Right of Way at Aghador.
- Retention issues re Caravan Park in Downings.
- Right of Way at Drumnacraig Beach
- Access issues at the Great Arch in Fanad.
- Right of Way in respect of a property at Bridgend, Ramelton
- Erection of telephone mast at Drumonaghan Wood
- Sewage discharge into Lough Swilly

He said that it needed to be recognised that there were issues and difficulties with the planning system and called for greater engagement, and assistance from all concerned.

He said that he had written to the Attorney General in relation to a number of the decisions taken and other decisions had been appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr Blaney seconding the motion said that Cllr Mc Garvey was frustrated by the systems in place and that these were issues which had been brought to the fore on many occasions. It was unfortunate, he noted, that 90% of the County Development Plan was made up and dictated to by national guidelines leaving planners no option but to comply with the guidelines in place. He said that he had full confidence in the planners in his own area who were readily accessible to assist when requested. He

noted that there were on occasion issues that warranted further deliberation by An Bord Pleanála, and that often in such cases the outcome in these cases was not palatable to the members.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services said that it was not possible to deal with all the issues raised in the motion but the reply as presented had tried to give an overview of the current situation. He acknowledged that Cllr Mc Garvey had raised the matters alluded to on numerous occasions and that he appreciated that there were frustrations with the processes involved. There had been considerable debate on the items concerned at Municipal District level also, he added.

He drew attention to the fact that where a planning application was before the Planning Authority it could not be discussed in any public forum by the elected members and furthermore that the executive were not in a position to comment on live applications. He noted that there had been some inference that planners had been negligent in dealing with the development at Drumonaghan Wood. This, he contended, was not the case and was unfair as they were statutory bound to consider applications in line with the County Development Plan as adopted. The decision in this case, it was noted, had been appealed to An Bord Pleanála and the Council's decision upheld.

He said that he concurred with the comments made by Cllr Blaney who noted that there was a process in place for people to participate in planning clinics and to get a general sense of direction in relation to their application.

Cllr Mc Garvey said that he had nothing but respect for the planning staff but that there were flaws within the process itself. He had, he advised, tried to represent his constituents in the best possible manner, but was disappointed at the outcome and the manner in which people had been treated in the cases highlighted above.

He apologised if he had stepped over the mark and said that this had been done solely on the basis of trying to represent his constituents to the best of his ability.

C/218/21 **HOLDING OF A LIVE MUSIC EVENT TO RUN ALONGSIDE THE #LOVE DONEGAL DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr G Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"Following the huge success of #LoveDonegal day on social media over the last number of years, that this Council commits to holding a live music event to run alongside the social media campaign in 2022 to help showcase the vast musical talent within the County".

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

Cllr Doherty congratulated all involved with the Love Donegal Day initiative and noted that it had been a great success and a fantastic way of promoting the county. He said that this response needed to be capitalised on and expanded to showcase the rich musical history and talent that existed within the county. A musical event held the same day could, he confirmed be live streamed on social media with highlights shown on national television showcasing different vistas of Donegal so as to seize the momentum created by the Love Donegal Day promotion.

Cllr Gallagher supporting the motion said that this was a valuable opportunity which should not be missed given that the entertainment industry had been hit extremely hard by the Covid-19 pandemic

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Garry Martin, Director Economic Development, Information Services and Emergency Services confirmed that he was happy to look at the proposal in 2022 and explore various options in conjunction with the elected members.

Cllr Mc Mahon said that he was fully supportive of the motion but asked that every effort be made to ensure that a link was included for the undocumented in the USA who were now more isolated than ever with the current restrictions.

C/219/21 **THAT THE COUNCIL CALL ON MINISTER EAMON RYAN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNICATIONS TO SUBSIDISE THE COST OF DISPOSING OF LARGE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THROUGH CIVIC AMENITY SITES**

On the proposal of Cllr McGowan, seconded by Cllr Crawford it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council call on Minister Eamon Ryan and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Communications to subsidise the cost of disposing of large household items through civic amenity sites across the country, the cost of which would easily be offset by savings cleaning up illegal dumps and more importantly saving our rivers and scenic areas".

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

Cllr Mc Gowan noted that there had been issues recently in relation to the disposal of household items, particularly heavy items such as old mattresses etc which can be difficult to dispose of. Something had to be done, he said, to encourage more recycling and to make the whole process more user friendly. The fact that centres currently operated on a

cash only basis was not user friendly, he added, and changes were needed to make the process simpler and more readily accessible. He called on the Minister to make additional funding available so that the reuse, recycle, reduce policy could be effectively implemented in Donegal.

Cllr Crawford concurred with this assessment.
There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Bryan Cannon, A/ Director Water & Environment thanked members for their contribution. He said that the Climate Action and Environment Strategic Policy Committee had shown excellent leadership in this field to date and that considerable effort had been made locally to try and deal with the waste issue. He alluded to the success of the Anti Dumping Initiative and the reduced costing incentives for the dumping of bulky goods such as mattresses, carpets, sofas etc. The Council he said would write to the Department to seek funding for similar initiatives in 2022.

Responding to a number of queries he confirmed that the contact for the operation of the various recycling centres was being renewed and that provision was being made to accept credit card payments and materials such as old paint tins etc.

Cllr Mc Gowan welcomed the response and paid tribute to Caroline Meehan, local litter warden for her ongoing efforts and assistance. He asked that issues in relation to the appointment of a permanent litter warden in the Lifford/Stranorlar Municipal District be resolved as soon as possible. He outlined also the necessity of supporting local environmental groups.

C/220/21 **EXTENSION OR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LENGTHS OF FOOTWAYS IN CERTAIN AREAS WHILE ROAD STRENGTHENING WORKS ARE TAKING PLACE UNDER MINOR CONTRACTS.**

On the proposal of Cllr Crawford, seconded by Cllr McGowan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council request that Transport Infrastructure Ireland give consideration to the extension or construction of new lengths of footways in certain areas while road strengthening works are taking place under minor contracts". This is requested under public health and safety.

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

Cllr Crawford alluded to recent works in Lifford and the fact that there was about 150m to 200m of additional footway that could have been laid as the existing contract was being completed. The reply in these situations time and time again was, he confirmed, that existing protocols prevented the carrying out of any such additional works..

Cllr Mc Gowan supporting the motion said that there was an opportunity now to flag the issue and have it included on the forthcoming proposed meeting with T.I.I.

Mr Brendan O' Donnell, A/ Director Roads & Transportation said that he would be happy to engage with TII in relation to the matter.

He advised however that the introduction of new lengths of footway or the extension of an existing footway beyond scheme limits could potentially bring about significant delays to a project as additional requirements would have to be met in terms of obtaining the relevant planning approvals, implementing safety audits & safety assessments etc. It might also, he added, impact on the number of projects that could be completed in any calendar year. He urged caution with regard to the introduction of any new elements, but confirmed that it was something that could be teased out with the TII going forward and included for discussion by the forthcoming delegation.

Cllr Crawford said that consideration needed to be given to the fact that in many such instances the plant and machinery had to be brought back at an extensive cost to do such works long after the main element of the project had been completed.

C/221/21 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following;-

- Liz Devenney , Information Systems on the death of her father, David.
- Noel Patton, Building Facilities on the death of his father, Francie.
- Katriona Patton, Corporate, Letterkenny on the death of her father, Francie.
- Geoffrey Browne formerly Information Systems on the death of his mother, Edith.
- The family of the late Liam Mc Grath, retired Roads Services Supervisor, Letterkenny MD.
- Eamon Boyle, Housing Engineer, Dungloe PSC on the death of his mother Una.
- Aisling Nibbs, Senior Library Assistant on her death of her brother Gregory Mitchell.
- Martin Quigley, Road Design , Lifford on the death of his mother, Majella.
- Liam Ward, Director of Service on the death of his mother, Delia.
- Deirdre Ward, Finance on the death of her mother Delia.
- Declan Gallagher, Income Collection, Letterkenny on the death of his mother Margaret.

Letter of Condolence

The Cathaoirleach read into the record a letter of condolence from Mayo

Yazan R. Rimawi, West Bani Zaid Municipality, State of Palestine extending sympathy on the death of Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness.

United Nations Climate Change Conference (Cop26) – Glasgow 31st October to 12th November, 2021

The Cathaoirleach informed members that Donegal County Council as a member of the Association of European Regions, Donegal County had been invited to put forward a nomination for a representative to attend the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow from the 31st October to the 12th November, 2021. He said that he had received the invitation on behalf of the Council and with members approval hoped to attend the event for 3 to 4 days week beginning 8th November, 2021.

This was unanimously agreed.

Inishowen Innovation Hub

Members were informed that the proposed date for the turning of the sod in respect of the Inishowen Innovation Hub was Monday 1st November, 2021.

This was unanimously agreed.

Transport Ireland Infrastructure Delegation

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Donaghey it was resolved that a request be forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland seeking approval for a delegation of members from Donegal County Council to meet with the body in relation to various roads and funding issues.

C/222/21 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT (JULY AND SEPTEMBER)**

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda in relation to the above and were updated in relation to the following:-

1. Community Development & Planning Services
 - A. Regeneration & Development Team Update
 - B. Fort Dunree – €12.5 million Investment: Fáilte Irelands, Capital investment scheme Platform for Growth
 - C. Funding announced for the conservation of five archaeological monuments

2. Finance Directorate
 - A. Phased Expiry of Non-Principal Private Residence Charges (NPPR)

3. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems
 - A. Emergency Services – Civil Defence

B. Emergency Services – Fire Service

- (i) *Operations*
- (ii) *Fire Prevention*

4. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

A. Housing

- (i) *Mica in Council Houses*
- (ii) *Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme*

B. Cultural Services

- (i) *Creative Ireland Programme*
- (ii) *Library Service*
- (iii) *Arts Service*
- (iv) *Donegal County Museum*
- (v) *Archives Service*
- (vi) *Donegal Heritage Office*
- (vii) *Colmcille 1500*

5. Roads & Transportation

- A. Official Openings
- B. N56 Four Lane Project
- C. TEN-T Project
- D. Rathmullan Pier
- E. Roads Areas Update

6. Water and Environment

A. Litter and Waste Management

- (i) *MyWaste – Anti Dumping and Summer Campaign*
- (ii) *Catherine Fulvio's Summer Cookery Demonstration*
- (iii) *Love this Place, Leave No Trace Campaign*
- (iv) *Half Price Bulky Goods Event*
- (v) *Bryson Recycling – Charity Donations*

B. Coastal Management

- (i) *Blue Flag Success*
- (ii) *UN World Drowning Prevention Day*
- (iii) *Beach Lifeguard Service*
- (iv) *Narin Blue Flag Beach*
- (v) *Beach Wheelchair Launch at Fintra Beach*
- (vi) *New Initiatives in Bundoran*
- (vii) *Respect the Dunes Awareness Campaign*
- (viii) *Ballyheirnan Water Safety Signage*

B. Flood Relief Schemes

- (i) *Na Dúnaibh (Downings) Flood Relief Scheme*
- (ii) *Kerrykeel Flood Relief Scheme*
- (iii) *Ramelton Flood Relief Scheme*

- (iv) *Lifford Flood Relief Scheme*
- (v) *Castlefinn Flood Relief Scheme*
- (vi) *Raphoe Flood Relief Scheme*
- (vii) *Ballybofey – Stranorlar Flood Relief Scheme*
- (viii) *Buncrana-Luddan Flood Relief Scheme*
- (ix) *Burnfoot Flood Relief Scheme*
- (x) *Clonmany Natural Water Retention Measures*

7. Addendum to Management Report

- A. Update on Council Processing of Defective Blocks Grant Scheme.
- B. Increasing the Participation of Women in Local Government – Call for Funding

8. Community Development & Planning Services

- a. CLÁR 2021
- b. Regeneration & Development Team Update

9. Economic Development, Emergency Services and Information Systems

- A. Fire Services
 - (i) *Incident Activity*
 - (ii) *Training*
 - (iii) *Fire Prevention*
- B. Donegal Digital
- C. WiFi4EU Network Launch
- D. #LoveDonegal 2021
- E. Irish American Business Chamber Network (IABCN)

10. Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services

C. Housing

- (iii) *‘Housing for All – A new Housing Plan for Ireland’*
- (iv) *Social Housing Developments*
- (v) *Social Housing through Turnkey Acquisition*
- (vi) *Lands/Property for Social Housing Purposes*
- (vii) *Specific Instance*

D. Cultural Services

- (xi) *Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022*
- (xii) *Creative Ireland Programme*
- (xiii) *Library Service*
- (xiv) *Arts*
- (xv) *Donegal Heritage Office*
- (xvi) *Colmcille 1500 Programme*

10. Roads & Transportation

- F. Donegal National Roads Office Update
- G. Regional & Local Road Works Programme

- H. Local Improvement Scheme
- I. Winter Maintenance
- J. Piers and Harbours
- K. Greenways Update

11. Water and Environment

A. Litter and Waste Management

- (i) *My Waste – Summer Anti-Litter Campaign*
- (ii) *My Waste – Upcycle Challenge*
- (iii) *EPA Stop Food Waste “Stretch & Save” Campaign*
- (iv) *2021 Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign Launch*
- (v) *Summer Greenpiece*

B. Coastal Management

- (i) *Blue Flag/Green Coast Inspections*
- (ii) *Voluntary Sector Support*
- (iii) *Beach Accidents and Incidents*
- (iv) *Minor Works Funding*
- (v) *Sand Dunes – ‘They Protect Us, Let’s Protect Them’ Campaign*
- (vi) *Public Conveniences*

C. Irish Water

- (i) *Change to Contact Telephone Number*

D. Flood Relief Schemes

The following questions were noted.

C/223/21 **HOW MANY DESIGNATED TRADING AREAS EXIST IN CO.DONEGAL?**

Cllr Kennedy submitted the following question:-

How many designated trading areas exist in County Donegal at present?

She received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/224/21 **HOW MANY MOBILE FOOD/COFFEE/ICE CREAM UNITS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE COUNCIL IN 2020 AND 2021?**

Cllr Kennedy submitted the following question:-

How many mobile food/coffee/ice cream units were identified by the Council in 2020 and 2021?

She received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/225/21 **WILL THE COUNCIL WRITE TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING OUTLINING OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS ON THE REPURPOSING OF THE POTENTIAL 2 BED UNITS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RESPOND AND CLUID HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS IN CO. DONEGAL?**

Cllr Gallagher submitted the following question:-

Will this Council write to the Minister for Housing outlining our serious concerns regarding little or no progress on the repurposing of the potential 2 bed units in conjunction with the Respond and Cluid Housing Associations in County Donegal?. This item has been raised for over ten years, and public monies spent on developing accommodation over fifteen and twenty years ago but as yet the AHB's have failed to repurpose the vacant accommodation to provide much needed social housing?

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

C/226/21 **HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE AND HOUSING PROVISION**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

*Homelessness Response and Housing Provision.
What is the current number of families; individuals deemed homeless in the county and how many units of council housing are currently designated and available in the county to respond to the homeless issue? Also are the housing units available in each council municipal region and what council personnel are dedicated and available to provide counselling assistance to homeless individuals and families?*

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

C/227/21 **RRDF & COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECTS APPROVED APRIL 19th 2021 (CARNDONAGH TUS NUA REGENERATION, BURTONPORT REGENERATION AND BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

*RRDF & County Council projects approved April 19th,2021.
(Carndonagh Tus Nua Regeneration, Burtonport Regeneration and Ballybofey/Stranorlar)
The council have returned the letters of offer to DRCD and must now prepare and submit a procurement strategy for approval and in order for the project to commence.
What are the timelines required that will enable the Council to submit the necessary strategy documents and when does the Council envisage contract works commencing on each project?*

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/228/21 **HOW MANY QUARRIES ARE LICENSED TO DISPOSE OF MICA INFECTED BLOCKS IN DONEGAL**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

How many quarries are licensed to dispose of mica infected blocks in Donegal and can you list them?

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

C/229/21 **CAN DCC IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN GARDAI MONITOR TRAFFIC SPEED THROUGHOUT BORDER VILLAGES**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council in conjunction with An Gardaí, monitor traffic speed throughout border villages in light of growing concerns from the public and with a view to introducing calming measures to ensure the safety of pedestrians?

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

C/230/21 **HOW MANY HOUSING APPLICANTS/TRANSFERS REQUESTS ARE CURRENTLY AWAITING A FOUR BEDROOM OR MORE HOUSE ACROSS THE COUNTY**

Cllr G Mc Monagle submitted the following question:-

How many housing applicants/transfers requests are currently awaiting a four bedroom or more house across the county, and can I have a MD breakdown of the numbers and what is the Housing Section's strategy for meeting this demand?

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

C/231/21 **HOW MANY SOCIAL HOUSES TODATE HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR MICA, WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED AND THE FINDINGS OF THOSE TESTS**

Cllr G Mc Monagle submitted the following question:-

How many social houses to date have been tested for mica and where are they located and what are the findings of those tests?

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

C/232/21 **WHERE ARE THE 8 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE EXPERT PANEL TO ASSESS THE CONCRETE QUALITY BEING USED FOR BLOCKS IN HOUSE BUILDING**

Cllr I Mc Garvey submitted the following question:-

Where are the 8 recommendations made by the expert panel to assess the concrete quality being used for blocks in house building with regard to standards of control by this Irish authority and why have they not been published? I hope these can and will be addressed for public information.

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

C/233/21 **UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED TEN-T PROJECT (BALLYBOFEY, STRANORLAR, BONAGEE LINK AND MANORCUNNINGHAM TO STRABANE).**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we have a updated report on the proposed Ten-T Project (Ballybofey, Stranolar, Bonagee Link and Manorcunningham to Strabane) including a timeframe for our next steps going forward?

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

C/234/21 **WHEN IS IT EXPECTED THAT OUR ROADS PROGRAMME WILL REACH THE EXPECTED STANDARD REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC NOW AND GOING FORWARD**

Cllr I McGarvey submitted the following question:-

When is it expected that our Roads Programme will reach the expected standard required to accommodate additional traffic now and going forward?

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

C/235/21 **CAN WE GET A UPDATED REPORT ON OUR LEGAL SERVICES AND PROVISION OF INHOUSE LEGAL SERVICES**

Cllr Brogan submitted the following question:-

Can we get an updated report on our legal services and provision of in-house legal services?

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

C/236/21 **CAN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OUTLINE WHAT PLANS THE COUNCIL HAS TO START IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW HOUSING STRATEGY**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Can the Chief Executive outline what plans the Council has to start implementing the Government's new housing strategy considering that

Local Authorities are being questioned about their commitment to deliver on social and affordable housing? The situation in Donegal is unprecedented with the low levels of housing availability, rents rising rapidly and existing rented properties being offered for sale leaving tenants with no options.

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

C/237/21 **CAN THE COUNCIL START DOCUMENTING RIGHTS OF WAY IN BOTH MAP AND LISTING FORMAT IN THE LIFFORD-STRANORLAR MD AS A PILOT SCHEME**

Cllr McGowan submitted the following question:-

Under the Planning Act Local Authorities are required to document public rights of way in both map and listing format in the Development Plan. Can the Council start with the Lifford - Stranorlar MD as a pilot scheme and progress to the other MDs when completed?

He received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above.

C/238/21 **HOW DOES THE COUNCIL ENVISAGE THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC INTERACTION WITHIN THE CHANGING GUIDELINES ON COVID 19**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How does this Council envisage the provision of public services and public interaction within the changing guidelines on Covid-19?

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

C/239/21 **HOW MUCH FUNDING HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR FACILITIES FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS FROM ALL SOURCES IN 2020 AND 2021**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

In this county how much funding has been approved for facilities for cyclists and pedestrians from all sources in 2020 and 2021?

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

C/240/21 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Re Streetscape Enhancement Grant Scheme 2021, that Clare County Council call on Heather Humphries, Minister of Rural and Community Development to extend the date for works to be completed from 5th

November, 2021 to allow successful applicants sufficient time to complete same.”

DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

“That Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the ‘Rights of Nature’ aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.

Council recognises that ‘Right of Nature’ can help catalyse and innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, no extra-activist economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Council commends the excellent work already being done by Council officers on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis but recognises the need for a rights based approach to nature.

Council will, over the next 6 months, collaborate with civic society (including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland and trade unions) to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the Council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders including DAERA, NFU, UFU, IFA and any local farming groups to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the Council area to be brought back before Council for adoption.

Council asks for a report to come to Council on embedding “Rights of Nature” as a keystone concept into Council’s operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.

Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention and so invites Donegal County Council, in addition to all Councils in the North to also explore “Rights of Nature” for their Council areas”.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council call on the government to introduce a comprehensive housing grant scheme for the renovation or reconstruction of old and derelict houses in rural areas and in towns and villages”.

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Leitrim County Council write to the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and the Minister for Agriculture seeking to have our river drainage boards reinstated, in this County, in order to alleviate the serious water-logging of agricultural land and very serious flooding in many areas. Also, that this motion be forwarded to the Councils of all neighbouring counties, as they, too, are in the same predicament”.

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Limerick City and County Council support the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address longstanding issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Limerick today, namely: (1) Access to Free Travel; and (2) Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy”.

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Sligo County Council write to the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach requesting that without delay the work of Frontline workers be remunerated”.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wicklow County Council acknowledges the need for a new national maternity hospital (NMH) to provide healthcare in the Greater Dublin Area, including County Wicklow”.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wicklow County Council notes the lack of legal clarity regarding ownership and management of the hospital and also acknowledges the concerns regarding the employment rights for those who will work in the hospital, many of whom live in Wicklow”.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“Wicklow County Council calls for the proposed new publicly funded NMH to be constructed on lands owned and governed by the State”.

This concluded the business of the meeting.