

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr. Enda Bonner  
Cllr John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh  
Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill  
Cllr. Mícheál Cholm Mac Giolla Easbuig  
Cllr. Terence Slowey

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Paul McGill - Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services  
Brendan McFadden – S.E.E Area Manager, Roads & Transportation  
Charles Sweeney – Area Manager, Community Development and Enterprise  
Frank Sweeney – Executive Planner, Enforcement  
David Friel – Waste Recycling Officer Environment  
Michael Rowsome – SSO Corporate Services

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher

**GMD 147/15**                    **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**

On the proposal of Cllr O Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr Slowey the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were agreed subject to the addition of the following location – ‘Top of the Town, Dungloe’ to minute GMD 110/15.

**GMD 148/15**                    **REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS**

The committee noted the reports from the workshops held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 regarding,

- (a) Public Lighting Upgrade Allocation
- (b) Restoration Programme Deferral
- (c) Maghery Coastal Erosion Damage

<b>ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>
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**GMD 149/15**

**ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manger detailing the status of the Surface Dressing and Restoration Improvement programmes. The Roads Manager also circulated an additional report at the meeting in relation to the status of ongoing works programme in each of the 4 No. overseer areas. Members were requested to submit a list of roads for consideration for inclusion in the 2016 Roadworks Programme.

**GMD 150/15**

**PAVEMENT SCHEMES**

The Roads manager informed the Committee that pavement schemes have been indentified for Falcarragh, Dunfanaghey, Crollly and Creeslough villages. Members highlighted further footpath/pavement improvement works required in the Caravan Road Dungloe, Ranafast, Front Street Ardara, and Lunniagh areas for consideration by the Roads Service.

**GMD 151/15**

**MULLANTYBOYLE BRIDGE SCHEME**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager, who informed the Committee that Ward & Burke have been awarded the contract which is due to commence in October with an anticipated 7 month construction period.

**GMD 152/15**

**N56 BOYOUGHTER SCHEME**

The Roads Manager circulated a progress report at the meeting detailing the nature of works currently being carried out by Willis Bros. Contractors. Members were advised that a 50kph speed limit order has been put in place for the duration of the works along with specific traffic management arrangements.

**GMD 153/15**

**ARDS TIDAL EMBANKMENT**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Roads Manager, regarding the authorisation of funding of €103,500 for the repair of the tidal embankment to protect in excess of 100 acres of farmland in Cloonbeg Glebe.

In response to a query from Cllr Ó'Fearraigh regarding the necessity to secure additional funding in the sum of €30,000 from the OPW, the Roads Manager advised that as the location is within an SAC that ecology, planning and foreshore fees have to be included in the project budget.

**GMD 154/15**

**TAKEOVER OF NON COUNTY ROADS**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding the lack of progress in relation to the adoption of a policy on the takeover of Non County roads, the Roads Manager advised that this major issue is on the agenda of the Roads Strategic Policy Committee. Members were also advised that there are no funding mechanisms available for the LIS or Bóithre Áise schemes.

**GMD 155/15**

**110KV EIRGRID LINE**

In response to a query from Cllr Slowey regarding the damage caused to road infrastructure during this project, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that a substantial bond has been lodged in this regard and that Eirgrid liaise satisfactorily with the Council to carry out necessary works.

**GMD 156/15**

**HEDGE CUTTING**

Members highlighted hedgecutting requirements in the Cashel na gCorr, Meenacuing, Glenveagh & Meendrain, Dungloe areas in the interest of public safety. Cllr Slowey requested the adoption of an updated uniform programme in the County to ensure that all Municipal Districts adhere to the same procedures and policies in respect of Hedgecutting works.

**GMD 157/15**

**DREDGING**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Domhnaill regarding necessary dredging of both the Rye and Glenea rivers, the Roads Manager undertook to refer this matter to the Marine Engineer.

**GMD 158/15**

**ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

Members highlighted the following issues for action by the Roads Service;

- Reinstatement of Football field road in Glenties.
- Provision of crash barriers at Meenacuing and An Errigal parking areas.
- Widening of back of Muckish Road and development of Lay-bye in conjunction with Coillte who are prepared to provide land.
- Prepare design for Rye bridge in conjunction with local landowners who are willing to dispose of necessary land to the Council.
- Repair of Lackagh Bridge road.

**GMD 159/15**

**DOCTORS ROAD, ARRANMORE**

Cllr Slowey welcomed the announcement of funding of the non county Doctors Road on Arranmore and the Roads Manager undertook to notify Members of details of funding on receipt of official notification from An Roinn.

## **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**GMD 160/15**

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the Agenda and presented by the Planning Manager listing 163 No. applications as having been received during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

**GMD 161/15**

### **APPEALS**

Members discussed the report circulated previously in relation to 1 No. Appeal received and 1 No. decision notified during the period from 4/7/15 – 28/8/15. Cllr Bonner expressed disappointment of the refusal of permission for the construction of a commercial vehicle testing centre in the Gweedore Area. The Planning Manager advised Members of the necessity of the Planning service to adhere to National Guidelines in addition to the County Development Plan.

**GMD 162/15**

### **TRANSBOUNDARY APPLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda.

**GMD 163/15**

### **UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES**

The Planning Manger updated the Committee regarding proposals for the tendering of works that will commence prior to the year end at Árd Na Gréine Ardara. Cllr Ó Domhnaill highlighted the dangerous condition of a Falcarragh Housing scheme not included in the list of unfinished housing estates, and requested that representations be made to the DOE to provide emergency funding to carry out urgent repairs at this locus in the interests of public safety. The Planning Manager undertook to revert to Cllr Ó Domhnaill in this regard and to determine if enforcement action can be progressed in this instance.

**GMD 16415**

### **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN RURAL HOUSING POLICY**

In response to a query from Cllr Ó Fearraigh regarding difficulties experienced by (i) a member of the local indigenous community wishing to dispose of his property & (ii) further information requests issued to a person as a consequence of the failure of the initial planning applicant to set back appropriate frontage at a junction, the Planning Manger undertook to ascertain if solutions could be achieved under the current development plan.

**GMD 165/15**

**NEW PLANNER**

The Planning Manager informed Members that John McFeely has been appointed as Assistant Planner to the Glenties Municipal District. Members requested the attendance of the new planner at the next Municipal District Meeting.

Cllr O Domhnaill requested that a letter issue to Sinead McClafferty commending her contribution to planning in the Glenties Municipal District.

Cllr Bonner requested the Planning service to improve the availability of site meetings with planners and insisted that this matter be referred to Senior Planning Management.

<b>COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE</b>
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**GMD 166/15**      **PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT AN EARAGAIL**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community Enterprise Manager regarding the objective of the Earagail Stakeholders Group led by the Council to examine ways to improve access to the mountain and also mitigating against habitat damage. Members were informed that the Council are examining potential sources of funding for the next phase of the project which will include detailed environmental studies and pathway design.

**GMD 167/15**      **DONEGAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and the Community Enterprise Manager responded to Members concerns in relation to the establishment of Municipal District level Public Participation Network structures.

**GMD 168/15**      **DONEGAL TOURISM AND LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested that both of the above organisations attend the next Municipal District Meeting to make a presentation to the Committee on their current work programmes.

**GMD 169/15**      **NARAN BLUE FLAG BEACH**

Cllr Slowey highlighted the utilisation of car parking spaces at Naran Beach by Campervans and requested that the County Development Plan be updated to strategically provide for a network of campervan facilities.

**GMD 170/15**      **CULTURAL SERVICES**

Members noted the current status of the Cultural Services activity programme.

## **HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**GMD 171/15**

### **SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME**

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the Housing Programme as at the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The Housing Manager updated Members regarding;

- (i) Ongoing retrofit programme in the Burtonport, Dungloe and Fintown areas.
- (ii) Tendering process in respect of 8 No. housing units in Ardara
- (iii) Approval for design of 7 No. units at Chapel Road Dunfanaghey. Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to incorporate the green area (reclaimed by residents) into the design of the Dunfanaghey scheme.

**GMD 172/15**

### **HOUSING LAND BANKS**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill criticised the inability of Housing Service Management to take advantage of relatively low land prices to proactively plan for Housing demand particularly in the Falcarragh and Dungloe areas. Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested the Council to purchase land banks in the Gweedore area to cater for local housing demand.

**GMD 173/15**

### **CASUAL VACANCIES**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies as at the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

Cllr Ó Domhnaill expressed frustration at the ongoing vacancy at Carrowcannon and requested the Council to carry out an audit process in respect of this vacancy to determine and address barriers to expeditious re-letting of Council properties. Cllr Ó Fearraigh requested additional information from Housing in relation to the status of casual vacancies to enable Members to help with queries from their constituents. The Housing Manager advised the Committee that all casual vacancies require either minor or major works and that all jobs have to be tendered.



**GMD 174//15**

**TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME**

Cllr Bonner expressed disappointment at ongoing delays to the provision of a new tenant purchase scheme.

**GMD 175/15**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda from the Director of Finance regarding proposed timelines for Municipal District Budget Workshops during October 2013.

Members unanimously requested the scheduling of the Glenties Municipal District Budget Workshop on the morning of the next Municipal District Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**GMD 176/15**      **NATIONAL LITTERING POLLUTION MONITORING SYSTEM REPORT 2014**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Waste Recycling Officer regarding the levels of national and local litter along with the main constituents and causes of litter pollution.

**GMD 177/15**      **WASTE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION**

The Waste Recycling Officer updated the Committee on the introduction of new primary waste management legislation which commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. However, the mandatory requirements for collectors and facilities accepting household waste to charge on a pay by weight basis will not impact operationally for waste enforcement authorities until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

**GMD 178/15**      **BRING BANKS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda regarding the 2015 summer Bring Banks Campaign to ensure that beaches, picnic areas and bring bank sites are kept clear of litter. Cllr Slowey requested the provision of additional recycling bins at all Blue Flag Beaches over the Summer months.

**GMD 179/15**      **ENFORCEMENT**

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting and presented by the Waste Recycling Officer in relation to the status of fixed penalty notices served in accordance with the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Cllr Slowey recommended that the Council liaise with the media to highlight the Councils utilisation of surveillance cameras to tackle illegal dumping.

**GMD 180/15**

**BEACHES**

Cllr Ó Domhnaill requested the Environment Services to source funding for the provision of adequate facilities at Drumnatinney Beach to enable further development of this location as a centre of water sport activity.

Cllr Bonner highlighted the importance of providing necessary infrastructure at Dooley Beach to enable achievement of Blue Flag status.

The Waste Recycling officer informed the Committee that Coleraine University have been appointed to carry out a consultative study in relation to Maghery beach, as a first step to addressing coastal erosion at this location. Cllr Bonner reminded the Waste Recycling Officer of the importance of providing adequate notice of Community Group meetings to all Councillors.

**GMD 181/15**

**BEACH MAINTENANCE**

Members welcomed the report circulated at the meeting regarding the 7 day week clearing programme by the mobile litter units, patrolling by beach lifeguards and litter wardens to ensure all beaches are adequately cleaned throughout the bathing season.

Cllr Ó Fearraigh recommended the publication of Council policies and procedures regarding the stranding of whales, dolphins and farm animals.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**