

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2017 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Micheal Cholm Mac Giolla Easbaig

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - A/Director Water & Environment
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden - Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community, Culture & Enterprise
Sinéad McClafferty - Executive Planner
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community, Culture & Enterprise
Michael Rowsome - S.S.O Corporate & Motor Tax

GMD 01/17 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**
MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Meeting held on 11th November 2016 were agreed.

GMD 02/17 **REPORT FROM WORKSHOPS HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2016**

Members noted the reports from Workshops held on 11th November 2016 in relation to Maghera Coastal Erosion, EU-funded Hericoast Project and Tier 3 and Tier 4 Town and Village Regeneration.

WATER & ENVIRONMENT

GMD 03/17

Coastal Protection

The Coastal Officer informed Members that a cost benefit analysis study is due for submission to the Office of Public Works in relation to Maghery Coastal Erosion.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig highlighted Coastal Erosion concerns at Magheragallen and Carrickfinn.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh the Coastal Officer advised that the Marine Engineer is liaising with the NPWS in relation to flooding of the Ray River in Falcarragh.

GMD 04/17

Tidy Towns

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Council encourage the participation of towns in a countywide competition to complement the national competition and to encourage enhanced civic pride in the aesthetic appearance of all towns.

GMD 05/17

Blue Flags

Cllr. Slowey highlighted the necessity for retention and enhancement of the number of Blue Flag beaches in the county and the positive impact of Blue Flag awards on the local tourism industry.

Cllrs. Ó Domhnaill & Cllr. Bonner requested the Council to pursue and apply for Blue Flags for the beaches at Magheroarty and Dooley respectively.

The A/Director of the Environment Service updated Members in relation to a review of Beach Management Policy and the ongoing work at SPC level in this regard.

The Coastal Officer informed the Committee of a recent appointment by An Taisce to work solely on Donegal Coastal

projects and also in respect of the workings of the multi agency coastal management group.

GMD 06/17

Sewage Treatment and Infrastructure

The Committee expressed frustration at the absence of Irish Water officials at Municipal District Meetings to respond to queries raised by local communities in Annagry, Falcarragh, Burtonport, Gweedore, Fintown and Dungloe.

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher and seconded by Cllr. Bonner the Committee requested the Council to insist on the attendance of Irish Water officials at the next Municipal District Meeting in relation to the status of all projects and proposals in the Municipal District. Cllr. Bonner also recommended the attendance of representatives of Coffey Contractors in relation to the Dungloe Scheme. The Committee welcomed the positive developments in relation to the Lough Anna Water Scheme.

GMD 07/17

Oyster Farm Developments

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig raised the ongoing concerns regarding large scale Oyster Farm proposals for West Donegal and an absence of public consultation in relation to licence applications. Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Central Planning Unit develop a management plan for the strands in Donegal involving the local communities, the Department of the Marine and the aquaculture sector.

Roads and Transportation

GMD 08/17 **Follow-up Issues - Municipal District Meeting held on 11th November 2016**

The Committee welcomed the communication from the Roads Manager regarding issues raised at the Municipal District Meeting held on 11th November 2016 and noted that a roads workshop has been scheduled in the Dungloe Public Service Centre at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 19th January 2017.

GMD 09/17 **Pavement Schemes**

The Roads Manager circulated the Committee with a report on the status of all Pavement Schemes in the Municipal District.

GMD 10/17 **N56 Boyoughter to Kilkenny Road Scheme**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated at the meeting by the Roads Manager in relation to the substantial completion of this scheme.

GMD 11/17 **N56 Kilkenny to Letterilly**

The Committee discussed the report circulated at the meeting in relation to the current status of the road scheme. The Roads Manager advised Members that the project will be tendered in February 2017 with a projected commencement date for construction in the 4th quarter of 2017 with an estimated duration of 18 months.

GMD 12/17 **Road Maintenance Issues**

The Committee highlighted extensive road maintenance concerns throughout the Municipal District.

GMD 13/17

Windfarm Developments

In response to a query from Cllr. Slowey regarding the Tullymore Road, the Roads Manager advised that development charges are applied to planning conditions attached to permissions issued for Windfarm Developments to avoid additional demands on the Surface Dressing Programme.

<p>Moving Mevagh Forward - Deputation</p>
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GMD 14/17

The Committee welcomed Noel McBride and Janet McIver representing the Moving Mevagh Forward Community Group to the meeting.

Both representatives made an informative presentation to the Committee detailing the history, current status and future plans for the development of Doe Castle.

The Municipal District Committee were informed that Doe Castle has been designated as a discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way and were requested to assist with the following issues:

- Improvement of access roads to the Castle.
- Hedgecutting and Passing Bays along the roads.
- Fencing and picnic benches on the green area around the castle to improve visitor experience.
- Additional signage to promote location of the Castle.

The Committee praised the voluntary efforts of all the Community involved in the promotion and development of Doe Castle and undertook to arrange a visit to the Castle on the 8th of March 2017.

GMD 15/17 **Planning Service Availability**

The Committee welcomed back Sineád McClafferty to the Glenties Municipal District. The Executive Planner informed Members of the enhanced Planning Service that will be available both locally in the Public Service Centre & in HQ.

Cllr. Bonner highlighted the necessity for site visits and informed the meeting of ongoing outstanding difficulties on Arranmore.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig reiterated his previous request that all Irish language applications be responded to as Gaeilge to prevent complaints to the Irish Language Commissioner.

GMD 16/17 **Planning Applications**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner.

GMD 17/17 **Appeals**

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Executive Planner regarding 3 no. decisions notified by Bord Pleanála during the period from 29th October 2016 to 31st December 2016.

GMD 18/17 **Refusals**

Members discussed the list of refusals circulated with the agenda in respect of the period from 29th October 2016 to 31st December 2016.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Planning Service to utilise Further Information requests to reduce the number of refusals in the Municipal District.

Housing & Building

GMD 19/17 **Social Housing Programme**

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of the following grants as at the 9th January 2016

- (i) Housing Aid for Older People
- (ii) Housing Adaptation
- (iii) Mobility Aids

GMD 20/17 **Casual Vacancies**

Members discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager regarding the status of Casual Vacancies as at 9th January 2017. The Housing Manager informed the Committee of difficulties in securing contractors to expedite necessary work on voids due to stringent Health & Safety criteria.

GMD 21/17 **Tenant Purchase Scheme**

The Housing Manager provided Members with a verbal update on the status of applications and advised the Committee that the Department of Housing will be carrying out a review of the scheme during 2017.

GMD 22/17 **Section 183 Disposal - 45 Horn Head, Dunfanaghy**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee agreed to proceed with the sale of 45 Horn Head, Dunfanaghy in the sum of €92,000 and commencement of the formal process in relation to the disposal of the property vis à vis the issue of notice to each member of the Plenary Council.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disagreement with the sale of any Council Housing units. The Housing Manager informed Members of the exorbitant costs involved in upgrading this property to an acceptable standard and also of the engineering recommendation to dispose of the property.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh also recommended the disposal of Willow Cottage to a community group in the Dunfanaghy area.

GMD 23/17

Respond Building - Dungloe

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the committee requested the Housing Service to ascertain the reasons for the non-occupancy of a part of the building.

The Housing Manager informed the Committee that he met Alan McMenamin, Respond Manager and that the building design doesn't meet the needs of HSE clients and that further modifications will be required to facilitate the HSE.

GMD 24/17

St.Crone's Terrace, Quay Road, Dungloe

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Council to provide a drive way entrance to OPD's to facilitate elderly residents availing of a bus service.

Community & Enterprise

GMD 25/17 **Aire De Service Points**

The Committee welcomed the work in progress on the service points at Maghery and Magheroarty and the Community & Enterprise Manager stated that all service units will be operational in the 2nd quarter of 2017.

GMD 26/17 **Playground Equipment**

The Committee welcomed the provision of Capital Grant Funding for the provision of all inclusive equipment at St. Mary's, Derrybeg playground and also safety surfacing at the Dolmen Centre. Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with relevant Government departments to initiate a scheme to develop playgrounds as there are demands for playground infrastructure in Lettermacaward, Ranafast and Loughanure.

GMD 27/17 **Dungloe Bay Walk**

Members noted the status of the proposed Bay Walk /Cycle lane development along the shorefront.

GMD 28/17 **Donegal Public Participation Network (PPN)**

Members noted the status of the PPN which provides a link through which organisations from the community and voluntary sector have a voice on Council decision making bodies and other structures.

GMD 29/17 **ASCENT Project**

The Committee welcomed the status report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager regarding the ASCENT Project.

GMD 30/17

IPB Pride of Place 2016

The Committee noted the report and also that the Gala Awards ceremony will be held in Donegal in December 2017.

GMD 31/17

Donegal Age Friendly Strategy

Members welcomed the report circulated previously regarding the progress on the 3 year plan aiming to promote Donegal as a great location for elderly people.

GMD 32/17

Letterkenny - Burtonport Railway Walk

The Community & Enterprise Manager updated Members on the feasibility study to be carried out in the 1st quarter of 2017 to examine the possibility of developing a long distance trail between Letterkenny and Burtonport.

GMD 33/17

DFI Workshop

The Committee agreed to schedule the Development Fund Initiative at 10 a.m. on the 21st February 2017 in the Dungloe Public Service Centre.

GMD 34/17

Municipal District Meeting Schedule 2017

The Committee agreed the following dates for Glenties Municipal District Meetings during 2017:

- February 14th Municipal District only
- March 8th (Doe Castle)
- April 11th (Municipal District and Islands)
- May 9th (Municipal District and AGM)
- June 13th Municipal District only
- July 11th (Municipal District and Islands - Tory)
- September 12th Municipal District only
- October 10th (Municipal District and Islands)
- November 14th Municipal District only

GMD 35/17

Scór Na n-Óg

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee requested that a congratulatory letter issue to Conor Ó Gallchóir, Gort a Choirce, on the occasion of his recent success in the Ulster Scór na nÓg competition in the Scéalaíocht section.

GEA 36/17

Wild Atlantic Way Brochure

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig criticised the Wild Atlantic Way Northern Headlands brochure on account of the inclusion of a map incorrectly naming Derry City and County.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING