

MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2017 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey - A/Director Water & Environment
Eamonn Brown- A/Area Manager, Housing & Corporate Services
Brendan McFadden-S.E.E, Area Manager, Roads Service
Cathal Sweeney-Marine Engineer
Frances Horkan - Assistant Planner
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Alana Greene - Executive Planner
Sinead McGlynn - C.O. Hericoast
Michael Rowsome-S.S.O, Corporate & Motor Tax

GMD 250/17 **MINUTES OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District meeting held on 11th of July 2017 were agreed.

GMD 251/17 **REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 11TH JULY 2017**

The Committee noted the report from the Workshop held on 11th July 2017 regarding the Burtonport Foreshore CPO.

GMD 252/17

HERICOAST PRESENTATION

Alana Greene, Executive Planner made a presentation to Members regarding the current status of the Hericoast Project, to improve the management of coastal heritage through an integrated and participatory governance approach.

The Committee were updated in relation to:

- Stakeholder meeting on the 14th July 2017.
- Public Participation Application.
- Release of Promotional Video.
- Continued work with the international partners on the exchange of best practices between Partner regions.
- Further potential opportunities.

Members commended the Hericoast Project team and requested that they be kept abreast of future developments.

GMD 253/17

DEPUTATIONS

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed to receive a deputation from the Dunfanaghy Area Community Network on October 10th, 2017.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig informed the Committee that the Meenaleck Development Committee have requested a meeting with the Glenties MD Members and the Committee requested a written submission in this regard.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

GMD 254/17 **FOLLOW UP ISSUES**

Members welcomed the reports circulated in advance of the meeting.

GMD 255/17 **ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2017**

The Committee expressed appreciation for the status reports circulated at the meeting in relation to all projects in each overseer area.

255.1 Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to liaise with National Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to the necessity for increased car parking capacity at Glenveagh National Park.

255.2 On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended that the Council communicate with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to request a pedestrian walkway on the Inner side of the Ballina Bridge over the Tullaghobegley river.

255.3 In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding flooding at Stranbrooey and Stramartin and the necessity to clean the river to prevent blockages, the Roads Manager informed the Committee that the Council have sought funding for remedial works.

255.4 Cllr. Slowey requested the Roads Service to liaise with Glenties Comprehensive School in relation to difficulties with visibility lines, given the availability of CLÁR Funding.

255.5 Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the tarring of the Magheroarty Pier Road and the Roads Manager advised that he is liaising with the Marine Service regarding funding for the job.

- 255.6 Cllr. Ó Domhnaill reiterated previous recommendations for the creation of 'lay byes' at the back of the Muckish Road.
- 255.7 Cllr. Bonner and Cllr. Gallagher commended the temporary works carried out on the Pole Road and recommended completion of roadworks on finalisation of development works at the Radox site. The Roads Manager informed the Committee that funding is available for a permanent surface once settlement has been monitored for a suitable period.
- 255.8 In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the supervision of roadworks carried out by broadband contractors, the Roads Manager informed Members that the Roads Service are in communication with Eir in this regard.
- 255.9 Cllr. Ó Domhnaill highlighted the poor condition of the R256 from Bairds house to Devlin road.
- 255.10 Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig proposed the provision of 2 lay byes on the main Ranafast Road and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded this proposal.

GMD 256/17

WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Cllr. Gallagher proposed the addition of the Ranafast Road to the gritting programme and Cllr. Ó Domhnaill seconded this proposal. The Roads Manager advised Members that a countywide workshop in relation the Winter Maintenance Programme will be convened.

In response to concerns expressed by Cllr. Slowey regarding the absence of provision of gritting material at certain locations last year, the Roads Manager undertook to issue the Committee with a list of locations where gritting material is currently deposited to prevent any future issues in this regard.

GMD 257/17

SPEED LIMITS

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee recommended the extension of the speed limit at Acres from Robert Sweeney's to the railway walk entrance.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the extension of the speed limit at Lunnagh footpath.

The Roads Manager undertook to communicate speed limit issues to the Road Design Service.

GMD 258/17

HEDGE CUTTING

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted a health and safety issue due to overgrown hedges in proximity to Cashelnagor school.

Cllr. Gallagher praised the quality of work previously carried out by hedgecutting contractors in the Dungloe area.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the hedgecutting works in the Glenties MD, the Roads Manager undertook to issue a map detailing the sections cut last year and stated that the extent of hedgecutting work is at the discretion of Members who prioritise the allocation of maintenance monies.

GMD 259/17

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

The Roads Manager updated the Committee in relation to the recent request for submission of application for LIS 2017 eligible roads. The Department of Rural and Community Development have advised that it intends to implement an LIS Scheme in 2017 subject to:

- (i) the level of demand
- (ii) the level of available resources and
- (iii) the capacity of the Council to complete the scheme by the end of 2017.

GMD 260/17

PART 8 - L2863, DONEGAL ROAD, ARDARA

The Committee noted the circulation of the draft route selection report which will be presented at the September Plenary Council meeting.

GMD 261/17

NRDO Update

The Committee discussed the NRDO reports circulated at the meeting.

Cllr. Bonner reiterated previous requests to be issued with plans in relation to the Kilkenny to Letterilly Phase 3 Capital project.

Cllr. Slowey queried if viewing areas will be developed as previously agreed and stated that common sense needs to be applied in relation to tree planting in scenic areas to minimise visual impacts on locals.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the NRDO to liaise with TII to ascertain if they have any plans for development of the green area in Leitirmacaward.

The Roads Manager advised the Committee that an agenda will issue from the NRDO for a Workshop in respect of the N56 Capital Project.

GMD 262/17

DUNGLOE BAY

Cllr. Gallagher proposed that the Council apply for a foreshore licence for the development of a bridleway along the Dungloe shore and to facilitate clearance of rocks and debris. Cllr. Bonner seconded this proposal.

PLANNING

GMD 263/17 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and welcomed Frances Horkan, Assistant Planner to the meeting.

Members welcomed the declining refusal rate.

GMD 264/17 ENFORCEMENT

The Committee noted the enforcement statistics circulated previously and presented by the Assistant Planner.

GMD 265/17 PLANNING CLINICS

Members noted the scheduling of Planning Clinics on the 20th September, 4th October and 18th October.

GMD266/17 TOWN PLANS

Cllr. Gallagher requested the CPU to make public presentations during the public consultation process to encourage greater public input.

GMD 267/17 SITE VISITS

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh and Cllr. Bonner requested the Planning service to facilitate site visits to assist the public and Members.

The Assistant Planner advised the meeting that site meetings for development of a strategic cultural or economic value will be accommodated, but not one off rural housing visits.

GMD 268/17

PLANNING DECENTRALISATION

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended the decentralisation of the planning service to the local Public Services Centres.

The Assistant Planner advised that a Planner is available to deal with telephone calls every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and that planning clinics are held on a Wednesday.

ENVIRONMENT

GMD 269/17 ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE 2017

The Committee noted the report from the Waste Regulation Officer regarding the provision of funding by the Department of Communications, climate Action & Environment for clearing up of illegal dumping sites.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the valuable assistance provided by the Environmental Service to Coiste Forbartha Chnoc Fola during the clean up of 45 tonnes of illegally dumped material.

GMD 270/17 LITTER STATISTICS

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to litter fines issued and environmental complaints received.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh recommended the publication of names of offenders to act as a deterrent to illegal dumping.

GMD 271/17 REUSE MONTH - OCTOBER 2017

Members noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding this national environmental initiative which aims to educate and encourage the refurbishment, donation, sale or repair of old items.

GMD 272/17 FREE ELECTRICAL RECYCLING DATES

The Committee welcomed (i) the commitment of WEEE Ireland to support the victims of recent floods in Inishowen by the provision of an emergence collection of household electrical items and (ii) the organisation of free electrical recycling days during August in Glenties and Falcarragh.

GMD 273/17

LOCAL AGENDA 21

The Committee noted the award of Environmental Partnership Funding to various organisations by both the Council (50%) and Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (50%).

GMD 274/17

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee welcomed the scheduling of the 'Clean Coasts Big Beach Clean' weekend around the Donegal Coastline on the 15th to 17th of September. The removal of marine litter from the coastline assists in the protection of coastal habitats and marine life.

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig expressed disappointment that Sand Dune and Coast Protection measures at Braade/Carrickfinn have not progressed.

GMD 275/17

BATHING SEASON

Members commended the statistics circulated with the agenda in relation to 14 no. lifeguarded beaches. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill queried if the Council intend to apply for the awarding of Blue Flags for beaches at Dooley and Magheraarty. Cllr. Gallagher requested the implementation of a traffic management plan to improve access to Dooley beach.

GMD 276/17

BATHING WATER QUALITY

The Coastal Officer presented the report circulated previously regarding the weekly testing of bathing water in Dungloe Bay on samples lifted at the pool and pier. Members were advised that the water quality is excellent and Cllr. Gallagher stressed the importance of water rehabilitation for town development.

GMD 277/17 **CLEAN COASTS OCEAN HERO AWARDS 2017**

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer.

GMD 278/17 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the Committee requested the completion of the internal upgrading of the Dungloe Public toilets.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill regarding the provision of a portaloo at Port na Blagh pier the Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with the Marine Service in this regard.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to expedite the proper treatment of effluent from the public toilet at Burtonport Pier and to consider extending opening hours during tourist season.

GMD 279/17 **DUNGLOE RECYCLING CENTRE**

Cllr. Slowey informed the Committee that Bryson Recycling have extended their opening times to include the hours from 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a Tuesday. Cllr. Slowey further recommended a visit be arranged by the Committee and the Media to the centre to increase publicity for the additional opening times at this facility.

GMD 280/17 **TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested an update on his previous requests for a competition to recognise the efforts of environmental volunteers in the Municipal District.

GMD 281/17 **BOTTLE BANKS - LETTERMACAWARD**

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher, The Coastal Officer undertook to arrange for the relocation of bottle banks in the Chapel Car Park.

GMD 282/17 **BALLYNESS BAY**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill proposed that Ballyness Bay should be a designated discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh seconded this proposal.

GMD 283/17 **INVASIVE SPECIES**

Cllr. Gallagher praised the collaborative effort by the Environment Service and the Tidy Town Committee to treat Japanese Knotweed growth in the Dungloe area.

The Roads Manager also informed the Committee that a roads gang will be mobilised to treat invasive species growth along main roads in the Municipal District.

GMD 284/17 **RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Members noted the report circulated at the meeting and were advised by the Coastal Officer that an information day will be held on 9th October at 2 p.m. in the Letterkenny PSC.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

GMD 285/17 **ASCENT PROJECT**

The Committee considered the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community & Enterprise Manager who responded to queries in relation to the status of this project.

GMD 286/17 **PLAYGROUNDS**

The Committee discussed the report circulated previously and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager regarding the annual maintenance of playgrounds.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Community and Enterprise Manager advised that there isn't a current scheme to facilitate playground provision.

GMD 287/17 **AIRE DE SERVICE**

Members noted the reports circulated with the agenda and also at the meeting in relation to the status of specifically designed stopping places for motor homes in Maghera and Magheraarty.

GMD 288/17 **DUNGLOE TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME**

The Committee welcomed the status report circulated with the agenda regarding the proposed construction of a Bay Walk/Cycle lane along the shorefront.

GMD 289/17

TOURISM SECTORAL FORUM

Members noted the report previously circulated.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that the Council liaise with Udarás to ascertain if the newly appointed Gaeltacht Tourism Officer could be accommodated in the Dungloe PSC on a part time basis. The Community and Enterprise Manager undertook to communicate with Barney McLaughlin in this regard.

GMD 290/17

SOCIAL INCLUSION WEEK

The Committee noted that the annual Social Inclusion Week will take place from 6th to the 14th of October 2017, with the launch scheduled for 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd October in the Letterkenny PSC.

GMD 291/17

DONEGAL WALKS AND TRAILS

Members noted the report circulated and the Community and Enterprise Manager presented an update on the status of the proposed greenway from Letterkenny to Burtonport.

GMD 292/17

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Community welcomed the circulation of the draft Community Needs Assessment 2017 report.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended that a Workshop be convened to follow up on the findings contained in the report.

GMD 293/17

CONNECTING FOR LIFE DONEGAL CONFERENCE

The committee noted the report circulated at the meeting regarding the scheduling of a conference on 6th October in Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dore. The Conference aims to build connections and share good practice in suicide prevention.

GMD 294/17

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Members noted the PPN Newsletter which was circulated at the meeting.

CORPORATE AND HOUSING

GMD 295/17

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee agreed the arrangement of:

- Budget workshop on 6th October at 11 a.m. and
- Statutory budget meeting on 25th October at 11 a.m.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the issue of a detailed agenda to Members in advance of the meeting broken down on a service basis and to include provision for Island funding.

GMD 296/17

TRANSLATION SERVICE

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested provision of a translator at all future Workshops in the Glenties Municipal District.

GMD 297/17

CATALAN INDEPENDENCE

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested the Committee to support the Catalan Independence Referendum on the 1st of October and to fly the Catalanian Flag outside the PSC on the 1st of October. Cllr. Gallagher supported this proposal.

GMD 298/17

GRANTS

The Committee considered the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of grants at the 1st of September 2017.

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Housing Manager informed the Committee that the Divisional Manager has issued a revised grants policy to Area Management for feedback prior to submission to the Housing SPC.

GMD 299/17 **CASUAL VACANCIES**

Members welcomed the progress report circulated previously and presented by the Housing Manager in relation to the status of casual vacancies at the 1st September 2017.

GMD 300/17 **ACQUISITIONS**

The Committee welcomed the progress Report on acquisitions as at 1st September 2017 and commended the Housing Service for continuing positive developments.

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner the Housing Manager advised that the acquisition programme is based on need in conjunction with the Housing Assessment Officer's awareness of specific need within the Municipal District. In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher regarding the necessity to progress the development of additional units at the Respond facility in Dungleoe, the Housing Manager stated that a 'letter of comfort' from the HSE is necessary, prior to reverting to the Department for funding.

GMD 301/17 **CONSTRUCTION**

Members noted the report on the 8 unit project completed in Ardara and the proposed 13 unit development undergoing planning approval in Dunfanaghy.

GMD 302/17 **LAND PURCHASE**

The Housing Manager presented the report on land purchase to the Committee and informed Members of the council's intention to re-advertise for submissions.

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted the necessity for social housing provision in the Dungloe, Gweedore and Falcarragh areas.

The Housing Manager confirmed that 27 no. properties were acquired in 2016 and that negotiations are currently ongoing, the outcome of which could result in an acquisition of 19 units in 2017.

GMD 303/17 **RETROFIT PROGRAMME**

Members commended the ongoing success of the 2 no. retrofit contracts in the Municipal District.

GMD 304/17 **HOUSING SUMMIT**

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested a briefing note from the Chief Executive in relation to the outcome of the recent Housing Summit chaired by Minister Eoghan Murphy at the Custom House on 8th of September.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING