

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 12th JULY 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Terence Slowey

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community
Development
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Cathal Sweeney - Marine Engineer
Sinéad McClafferty - Assistant Planner
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing &
Corporate

GMD 58/18

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the proposal of Cllr. Bonner, seconded by Cllr. Slowey, Members agreed to adjourn the meeting to facilitate a Roads Workshop.

GMD 59/18

CATHAOIRLEACH OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh congratulated Cllr. Ó Domhnaill on his election as Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council and made a presentation to mark this significant achievement, on behalf of the Glenties Municipal District Committee. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill undertook to use his position as Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council to lobby for a fair distribution of funding to West Donegal and to entice inward investment to increase employment and develop tourism.

GMD 60/18

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GLENTIES MD HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner, the minutes of the meeting of the Glenties Municipal District Committee held on the 12th June 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 61/18

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

61.1

Pride of Place 2018

The Committee noted the report circulated previously and presented by the Community Development Manager regarding the status of the 2018 Pride of Place competition. Judges will be visiting the County during the period from the 31st of July to the 2nd of August to visit the 5 community groups chosen to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

61.2

Donegal Walks and Trails

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Community and Enterprise Manager regarding the proposed greenway from Burtonport to Letterkenny. Cllr. Slowey stated

that development of this greenway will be a 'game changer' for tourism in the County.

The Community Development Manager informed the Committee that;

- Interviews are in progress to recruit an engineer to develop this project and
- In order to develop the current network of local linear walks to a greenway in 3 phases, will require planning, assessments, route selection and negotiation with landowners.

61.3 **ASCENT Project**

The Committee noted the status of the ASCENT Project as per the report circulated previously.

61.4 **Rural Development Programme/Leader**

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh regarding the status of Island projects, the Community and Development Manager advised that a Comhar na nOileáin development officer is implementing this aspect of Leader.

61.5 **Marine Tourism Marketing and Development**

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda from Joy Harron, Marine Tourism Officer.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill welcomed proposals to develop a brochure promoting cruise tourism in various locations in Donegal along with research into the economic benefits of cruise tourism.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill also requested the Council to take a lead in liaising with local groups to provide tours for cruise passengers. The Community Development Manager undertook to liaise with the Tourism Section in this regard.

61.6

Age Friendly County

Members noted that the intergenerational choir "Ceol le Chéile" will be holding a performance on the 27th July in An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny.

61.7

National Bike Week 2018

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended Mairead Cranley for organising an event in the Dungloe PSC to promote National Bike Week, a national programme supported by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Council and Donegal Sports Partnership.

61.8

Gaeltacht Tourism Officer

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the proposed recruitment of a Gaeltacht Tourism Officer and requested additional details of the job description.

61.9

Festivals and Events

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted the extensive voluntary work carried out by the 'Mary from Dungloe' Festival Committee for 51 years and the resultant economic benefits accruing to the Rosses area.

Cllr. Gallagher proposed that the Council liaise with the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and Fáilte Ireland to seek designation of the festival as a National Event, marketed & supported financially by both bodies. Cllr. Bonner seconded this proposal.

61.10

Dubai Duty Free Irish Open

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill commended the success of the Irish Open held in Ballyliffin and all of the participants who contributed to showcasing Inishowen to a global audience. Members expressed disappointment at negative social media commentary regarding a brochure published in conjunction with the Golf competition.

62.1

WEEE Collection Day - 2018

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda from the Waste Awareness Officer regarding a free electrical recycling day on the 11th of August in Fawnmore, Falcarragh.

62.2

Regional Illegal Dumping Awareness Campaign

Members welcomed the awareness campaign to support the Anti Dumping Initiative campaign currently being undertaken by local authorities across the region.

62.3

Bring Banks and Recycling Centres

The Committee discussed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to:

- (i) Replacement of existing signage.
- (ii) Extension of opening hours at Dungloe recycling centres
- (iii) Relocation of textile bank to Gallaghers XL Shop and ongoing work with Community Groups to retain bring banks in Lettermacaward.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the provision of additional bins in Gweedore during the summer months along with an increased emphasis on bin emptying.

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with waste collectors to develop an initiative to assist in the collection of green waste bags left for collection by short term holiday home dwellers. Cllr. Slowey requested clarity on the disposal of original toner cartridges.

62.4

Climate Change

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda regarding development of a draft climate change adaptation strategy and recruitment of a regional climate action office team.

62.5

Litter Fines and Enforcement Action

The Committee noted the statistics circulated previously in relation to the status of litter fines issued and ongoing enforcement activity.

Members also welcomed the provision of funding in the sum of €69,119 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to clean up sites containing illegally dumped material.

62.6

Public Conveniences

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer.

Members commended:

- (i) The provision of seasonal portaloos throughout the Municipal District and on Gola Island.
- (ii) The community toilet initiative to ensure that clean, safe and easily accessible toilets are available to the public in addition to Council facilities already available.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill congratulated the Council on the upgrading of public conveniences at Malin Head and Rathmullan and requested the retrofitting of Dunfanaghy public toilet to a similar standard.

Cllr. Gallagher requested an assurance from the Environment Service that the refurbishment of Dungloe public toilets will be completed by the year end. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Council to provide a permanent public convenience at Port na Blagh Pier.

62.7

Beaches and Coastal Management

Members welcomed the reports circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer in relation to:

- (i) Coastal Water Safety
- (ii) Beach Wheelchairs
- (iii) Beach Maintenance
- (iv) Clean Coasts Week

Cllr. Gallagher commended the Environment Service for work undertaken at Cloughglass Beach.

Cllr. Slowey requested the Council to intensify their efforts to address illegal littering at Narin beach.

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill asked the Council for a costing to employ seasonal lifeguards at Magheroarty and Falcarragh beaches to encourage greater public use.

Cllr. Gallagher commended the assistance from the Marine Engineer with the Pond project in Dungloe and welcomed the update from the Director of Water & Environment regarding the excellent water quality results in Dungloe Bay.

62.8

Gola Island Water Supply

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh detailed the ongoing issues and safety concerns in relation to the submerged water pipe and requested that works be carried out as a matter of urgency in advance of the upcoming festival. The Water/Environment Director advised Members that funding has been secured and weights are on the pier to facilitate completion of necessary works during July.

62.9

Irish Water

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of communication from Irish Water regarding proposed projects in the Municipal District, and a lack of interaction with Public Representatives. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill queried the status of Falcarragh, Port na Blagh and Gweedore Sewerage Schemes.

Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on the status of treatment plant proposals in Burtonport, and highlighted treatment plant concerns at the Pole Road, Dungloe.

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh proposed the relocation of an Irish Water contact office to Donegal to provide a meaningful service to citizens in the County and queried the status of the proposed Water pipes in Brinaleck.

The Director of Water & Environment informed the Committee that:

- Meetings have been held with Irish Water at which the necessity for improved communications has been strongly emphasised.
- A meeting will be arranged with Irish Water following updated proposals from the Corporate Policy group.

62.10

Coastal Protection

In response to queries from Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner, the Coastal Protection Officer advised that OPW funding has been provided for a study at Maghery, Magheroarty, Gweedore and Carrickfinn which will be tendered in a package.

GMD 63/18

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

63.1

Follow-up Issues - June MD Meeting

Members welcomed the report previously circulated.

63.2

Roadworks Programme 2018

The Committee discussed the reports circulated previously and presented by the Roads Manager in relation to the status of the roadwork programme in the 4 no. overseer areas. Members commended the quantity and quality of work being carried out in the Municipal District.

63.3

Community Involvement Scheme 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended the prioritisation of schemes at Port Arthur and Ranafast Road widening for funding in 2019.

63.4

Donegal National Roads

The Committee discussed the reports from Garrett Doherty SEE, Fergus Towey SEE and Roger Ryan SEE, circulated with the agenda in relation to the following projects:

- Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal
- Proposed Footway on N56 Dungloe South
- N56 Dungloe to Glenties
- Dungloe Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Scheme
- Lettermacaward Public Lighting, Cycleway and Green area
- National Road Bridge Management

The Roads Manager informed the Committee that:

- TII has agreed to fund design and consultation of an appropriate pedestrian crossing to Supervalu, Dungloe
- Meetings are ongoing with Irish Water regarding reinstatement works and if issues remain outstanding, that an invitation will issue for their attendance at the September meeting.

Cllr. Slowey and Cllr. Gallagher requested immediate resolution of the foul sewer manhole issues adjacent to Glenties Bridge.

Cllr. Gallagher requested a meeting with Fergus Towey SEE, regarding outstanding matters to be resolved in Lettermacaward.

63.5

Dungloe River/Car Park /Bay Walk

In response to a query from Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner, the Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Marine Service regarding proposed works and costings for same. The Marine Engineer advised the Committee of the difficulties in obtaining a foreshore licence for any works proposed below the high water mark.

63.6

Burtonport Car Parking

In response to Cllr. Gallagher's recommendation for permanent car parking facilities in Burtonport, the Marine Engineer stated that a workshop will be convened regarding land acquisitions to enable development of necessary car parking facilities.

63.7

Piers and Harbours

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Marine Service to carry out the following works:

- Port na Blagh and Ballyness Pier maintenance
- Provision of water and electricity on Magheroarty Pier.

Cllr. Gallagher requested re-submission of a costing for rock removal at Maghery to the Marine Department for funding. The Marine Engineer informed the Committee that Capital funding in the sum of €230,000 was available to the Marine Service in 2018, mainly to execute safety works at the busiest piers in Burtonport, Bunbeg and Magheroarty.

63.8

Ballina Estate

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill welcomed traffic safety measures at this location and recommended ongoing consultation with residents.

63.9

Magheraroarty Non County Pier Road

The Roads Manager undertook to liaise with the Marine Service regarding costings for this road and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh informed the meeting of Udarás proposals for provision of minor funding.

63.10

Meenaroy Bridges

In response to concerns expressed by Members, the Roads Manager undertook to relay sentiments of the Committee regarding health and safety issues to the Letterkenny MD Roads Manager.

63.11

Local Improvement Scheme 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Slowey, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher, the Committee recommended that withdrawn LIS Scheme promoted by John Conlon be replaced by scheme promoted by John Thomas Morrow.

GMD 64/11

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING SERVICE

64.1

Development Applications

The Committee noted the statistics circulated with the agenda and presented by the Area Planner in respect of 2018 applications for the period ended 31st May 2018.

64.2

Enforcement

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

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill and Cllr. Ó Fearraigh highlighted issues relating to Campervans congregating at Port Arthur Beach and requested the Council to liaise with the Gardaí, NPW and OPW as a matter of urgency to support the local development committee and to initiate enforcement action.

64.3

Planning Clinics

Members noted that the next clinic will be held on the 18th of July.

64.4

Central Planning Unit

The Committee noted that the County Development Plan 2018-2024 became operative on the 5th of June 2018 and also noted the status of the seven strategic towns local area plans. Members also welcomed the update on the Hericoast project.

64.5

Conservation Officer

Members noted that the final decision on whether to add the proposed additions onto the Record of Protected Structures will be made by the Committee at the September 18th meeting.

GMD 65/18

HOUSING AND CORPORATE

65.1

Grants

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Corporate Senior Staff Officer regarding the status of Housing Aid for Older People, Housing Adaptation and Mobility Aids Grants as at the 29th of June 2018.

65.2

Casual Vacancies

The Committee welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Corporate SSO regarding the status of casual vacancies as at the 2nd July 2018. Members were advised that:

- 6 no. offers were made since the June meeting resulting in 5 no. refusals.
- Re-offers have issued in respect of the 5 refusals
- Tender submissions with a closing date of Friday 13th are awaited in respect of 10 vacancies.

65.3

Acquisitions

Members welcomed the progress report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Corporate SSO.

The Committee were informed that tenants have been identified for properties at Gortnamucklagh and Derryconnor and that offers will issue on completion of snagging works.

65.4

CAS Project

The Committee welcomed progression to Stage 3 approval and the Corporate SSO advised of a recent meeting of stakeholders to finalise details to facilitate E Tender listing in early August.

Cllr. Gallagher highlighted work carried out by the local committee and queried if a definitive budget has been agreed for this project.

65.5

Best Kept Housing Scheme

The Corporate SSO expressed appreciation to Cllr. Ó Fearraigh for his promotion of this scheme and advised Members to liaise with local resident groups to highlight the availability of funding for all entrants to the competition which has a deadline date of the 27th July.

65.6

Udarás Houses - Fintown

Cllr. Gallagher requested the Council to liaise with Udarás to address lack of water supply at these properties and to let out same as a matter of urgency. Cllr. Gallagher highlighted both the declining population and number of school going children in Fintown.

65.7

Special Olympics

On the proposal of Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee recommended that the Municipal District recognise the achievement of 4 local competitors at this event.

65.8

Ministerial Meeting

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested the attendance of Gaeltacht & Marine Ministers at the September MD meeting to discuss necessary improvements and funding of islands, piers, harbours, and ferry services.

65.9

Enterprise Event

The Committee congratulated local NUIG students Liane Greene & Caolan Ward for their launch of the 'Mary from Dungloe' Enterprise event which will enable local enterprises & businesses to showcase job opportunities. This initiative will form part of the 'Mary from Dungloe' festival and recommended that relevant Council officials in the Enterprise Section attend this upcoming event.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE
MEETING.**