

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

HELD ON 13th MARCH 2018 IN DUNGLOE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Michéal Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig
Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh
Cllr. Terence Slowey
Cllr. Seamus Ó Domhnaill
Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher
Cllr. Enda Bonner

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Michael McGarvey, A/Director Water & Environment
Brendan McFadden - S.E.E. Area Manager, Roads &
Transportation
Charles Sweeney - Area Manager, Community
Development
Barney McLaughlin - Administrative Officer, Donegal
Community Development
Frances Horkan - Executive Planner
David Friel - Coastal Officer
Mairead Cranley - Staff Officer, Community
Development
Michael Rowsome, S.S.O. Motor Tax/Corporate

APOLOGY: Eamonn Brown - A/Area Manager, Housing &
Corporate Services

GMD 19/2018

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY
2018**

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the minutes of the Glenties Municipal District Committee meeting held on the 13th February 2018 were confirmed.

GMD 20/2018

PLANNING

20.1

Development Applications

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner regarding the planning statistics as at the 31st January 2018.

20.2

Enforcement

The Committee noted the report on enforcement previously circulated.

20.3

Planning Clinics

Members welcomed the scheduling of planning clinics locally on the 28th of March and the 18th of April.

20.4

Central Planning Unit

Members noted the arrangement for both a Planning Workshop on 16th of April and a Special Plenary Council meeting on the 9th of May in relation to the County Development Plan Review.

20.5

Dungloe Local Area Plan

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Executive Planner.

Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Bonner expressed concern at the designation of opportunity site 3 in Tobin Engineers report as a flood risk and requested justification for this categorisation.

Cllr. Gallagher recommended the consideration of all land within the town boundary for multiple residential developments.

Cllr. Slowey recommended that the Council promote the development of serviced land, to facilitate indigenous communities to reside locally, to aid the preservation of local services and to prevent land price speculation.

20.6

National Planning Framework 2040

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested the Planning Service to organise a briefing seminar and to prepare a policy document in relation to the impact of the implementation of National Planning Framework 2040 on Donegal and in particular on rural housing in Donegal. The Committee unanimously agreed on the necessity for a seminar / workshop on this matter.

20.7

Conservation Grant Schemes

Members noted that applications for both the Built Heritage at Risk Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund Grants Scheme closed on 26th January 2018. All applications have been submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for final adjudication.

20.8

Hericoast Project

The Committee welcomed the report circulated previously and presented by the Executive Planner regarding the status of the Hericoast Project.

GMD 21/18

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018

The Committee considered the documentation circulated with the agenda and presented by the A/Director of the Water & Environment Service in relation to the proposed 2018 Glenties MD schedule of municipal district works.

The A/Director of the Water & Environment Service informed Members that;

- (i) The preparation and adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works is mandatory and requires consideration by the Municipal District Committee & adoption by resolution, with or without amendment, by Members of each MD
- (ii) If the schedule is not adopted, the SMDW reverts to the full Council for the elected Members consideration and adoption with or without amendment but in line with subsection 4 of Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001.
- (iii) The deadline date of the 31st March 2018 applies for adoption of SMDW 2018.

Members expressed disappointment at the;

- Lack of correlation between the SMDW & the Annual Revenue Budget
- Continuation of a similar process for 4 years notwithstanding Members apprehension
- Absence of resources, to progress the Greenways transformative project in West Donegal
- Absence of any favourable discrimination in terms of investment in the Glenties MD following consultations with the SMT
- Absence of any funding for an emergency task force in response to the Pobal Deprivation Index.

On the proposal of Cllr Ó Domhnaill, seconded of Cllr O Fearraigh, the Committee resolved not to adopt for the financial year ended 31st December 2018, the Schedule of Municipal District Works set out in the schedule presented at the meeting as required by Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and in line with the requirements of Circular LG27/2014/Fin 21/2014.

22.1

Cool Route

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner, Barney McLaughlin, Tourism Unit informed the Committee that the 'Cool Route' cruising ground is one of the most attractive coastlines globally, stretching from Cork to Norway. Members were informed of efforts to entice super yachts away from the Mediterranean and the potential economic benefits arising from this scenario.

22.2

Development Fund Initiative

The Committee agreed to convene a Workshop at 11 a.m. on Friday, 23rd March in Dungloe PSC and to arrange a special MD Meeting thereafter.

22.3

Droichead na nDeor' - 'Bridge of Tears'

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill reiterated previous requests to obtain a quote for works to restore the stone writing on the plaque at this locus, and to charge the cost to his Members fund in the absence of a service budget in this regard.

22.4

Gaeltacht Public Workshop 6th February

In response to a query from Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, regarding discussions in relation to island and coastal marine tourism on the 6th of February, Barney McLaughlin undertook to issue members with a report compiled by Tourism Development International.

22.5

Marine Tourism

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and prepared by Joy Harron, Marine Tourism Officer in relation to marketing and development of

marine tourism projects. Cllr. Gallagher requested an update on the status of the proposed Burtonport Marina development.

22.6

Donegal Tourism

The Committee discussed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by Barney McLaughlin in relation to ongoing marketing campaigns. Members were advised of staffing resources, budget availability and cooperation with external tourism agencies.

Cllr. Gallagher stated that festival funding of €50,000 from Fáilte Ireland is insufficient for successful promotion of the numerous annual events in Donegal.

22.7

Tourism Sectoral Forum Meeting

The Committee discussed the report previously circulated and Barney McLaughlin invited a representative from the MD to attend the next meeting rescheduled for the 12th of April at Donegal Airport.

22.8

Leader

Cllr. Gallagher outlined the potential for a cooperation project involving local action groups (LAG) in West Donegal and other Leader groups.

22.9

Community Needs Assessment

Cllr. Gallagher requested that a workshop be arranged to facilitate an in depth discussion in relation to the Community Needs Assessment Report.

22.10

Udarás na Gaeltachta

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Fearraigh, the Committee requested a meeting with Udarás na Gaeltachta.

23.1

Schedule of Roadworks 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Ó Domhnaill, the Committee agreed the schedule of Glenties Municipal District roadworks 2018, circulated at the meeting and agreed at the Workshop held on the 12th March 2018.

Members commended the Roads Section and in particular their diligence to preserving the road network during the recent adverse weather conditions. Cllr. Ó Domhnaill recommended that the Senior Management Team issue relevant staff with correspondence in this regard.

23.2

Public Lighting and Energy Efficiency

The Committee welcomed the public lighting and energy efficiency update circulated with the agenda and presented by the Roads Manager.

Members were advised of the benefits of improving the efficiency of lighting stock through the replacement of traditional Sox/Son type light bulbs with LED light bulbs.

23.3

Burtonport Car Parking

On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Bonner the Committee proposed that the Council lease land to facilitate the provision of a car park in Burtonport.

Cllr. Gallagher stated that this issue had been discussed at the July 2017 MD meeting and requested the Directors of the Roads (John McLaughlin) and the Planning Service (Liam Ward) revert to the Committee with a response to this matter.

Glenties Tidy Towns Deputation

The Committee welcomed a deputation to the meeting from the Glenties Tidy Towns consisting of Kieran Kennedy, Mary Thompson and Audrey Stafford.

The Deputation informed Members of the necessity for the renewal and regeneration of Glenties:

- To showcase the town on the 60th anniversary of Glenties initial success in the 1958 Tidy Towns Competition.
- To upgrade approach roads and pavements.
- To enhance and renovate the bridge.
- Preservation and refurbishment of the Courthouse and the old Firestation.
- To promote and enhance the enterprise centre.
- To address the increasing prevalence of signage, not in keeping with the character of a rural town.

Members commended the presentation and devotion of the Deputation to their local community and highlighted;

- Proposed investment in roads, public lighting and footpaths.
- Benefit of the sewage scheme to the locality.
- The Committee proposed that the deputation prepare a village enhancement scheme to facilitate further collaboration with the Council.

GMD 25/18

HOUSING

25.1

The Committee noted the reports circulated at the meeting in relation to the status of the grants, casual vacancies and acquisitions as at the 9th March 2018.

25.2

Housing Capital

Cllr. Gallagher acknowledged the benefit of the morning's Housing Capital Workshop and recommended the provision of adequate resources to enable the fulfilment of the Council's Social Housing obligations.

25.3

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh commended the Irish Language Officer and his staff on the success of their recent initiatives, and announcement of Gaeltacht Student Scholarships on Radio na Gaeltachta.

25.4

Flooding, Sheskinarone, Dungloe

Cllr. Mac Giolla Easbuig requested an update regarding flooding concerns at a residence adjoining a Council owned acquisition at this location.

GMD 26/18

ENVIRONMENT

26.1

Waste Management and Enforcement

The Committee noted the reports from the Waste Regulation Officer circulated with the agenda regarding:

- 2018 National priorities
- 2018 Enforcement statistics

26.2 **Big Donegal Clean Up**

Members welcomed the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Officer regarding the launch of the 2018 Clean-up Campaign.

26.3 **Green Schools**

Members noted the report circulated previously regarding the Green Schools Programme.

26.4 **Leave No Trace Workshops**

The Committee welcomed this outdoor ethics programme designed to promote and inspire reasonable outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships.

26.5 **Coastal Management**

The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and presented by the Coastal Manager regarding:

- Submission of application for Blue Flag and Green Coast beaches to An Taisce for 2018.
- Work in progress in relation to the risk assessment of all public conveniences.
- Rescheduling of site inspections in respect of proposals for provision of public conveniences on Inishboffin and Gola Islands.

26.6 **Bring Bank Site - Brinalack**

Cllr. Ó Fearraigh requested an update on the proposed provision of a bring bank site in Brinalack.

26.7

Tidy Towns

Cllr. Ó Domhnaill requested that the Council expedite a County Tidy Towns Competition as previously discussed.

26.8

OPW

In response to a query from Cllr. Bonner regarding the availability of the OPW to meet with the MD Committee, the Coastal Officer undertook to liaise with his colleagues in advance of the scheduled meeting with the OPW on the 22nd of March 2018.

26.9

Dune Awareness Roadshow

The Coastal Officer circulated a report at the meeting in relation to a Dune awareness roadshow planned for 20th March 2018 in Maghery involving the NPWS, pupils of Scoil Roisin and Ionad an Mhachaire.

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